

TRANSPORT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

28th September 2009

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

Present:

Councillor Peter Jackson (Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services
Peter Frost, Traffic Team Leader
Kate Ainger, Pride in Hartlepool Officer
Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Also present: Councillor Tim Fleming, Elaine and Scott Gatey.

24. St Mary's Street / High Street, Headland – Road Closure Petition *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the introduction of parking restrictions on High Street and to report a petition objecting to the proposed closure of St Mary's Street.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

A complaint was received through the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum regarding parking on High Street, Headland, adjacent to the old pump in the centre of the carriageway. Consultation was duly carried out on the possible introduction of double yellow lines on either side of the pump. During this consultation process a ward councillor highlighted the fact the traffic leaving St Mary's Street sometimes exited onto High Street by cutting across the pump, therefore on the wrong side. As a result reconsultation was undertaken with residents and businesses giving 3 options:

- Parking restrictions
- The closure of St Mary's Street and parking restrictions

- No action

Of the 5 residents consulted 3 responses were received, each giving a different option. The Parish Council had indicated they would be against the road closure. Given the inconclusive nature of these responses it was proposed that St Mary's Street be closed on a 6 month trial basis with parking restrictions also implemented. In response to this a 37 name petition objecting to the closure was received. This was tabled at the meeting. In view of this petition and the previous consultation responses it was proposed that parking restrictions be implemented and St Mary's Street remain open.

A ward councillor and two residents attended the meeting and were invited to speak by the Portfolio Holder. They stated that there had never been an accident on that stretch of road in 17 years and to close the road would lead to problems with access into the car park.

The Portfolio Holder noted that the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum had originally asked for yellow lines only and the closure was the suggestion of an elected member. Concerns had been raised about the number of residences consulted but only those who would be directly affected had been included and the Portfolio Holder was satisfied with this explanation. In view of the response from residents and the feelings of the Parish Council he would be asking officers to leave St Mary's Street open and install yellow lines. The Portfolio Holder also referred to a recent email from the elected member in question in which reference was made to the Portfolio Holder ratifying a decision made by officers. He clarified that this was not the case – officers put forward suggestions but ultimate responsibility for decisions rested with him.

Decision

That the implementation of parking restrictions on High Street be approved and that St Mary's Street remain open.

25. Guidance on the appropriate selection and positioning of street furniture (*Head of Neighbourhood Management*)

Type of decision

Key – test ii applies

Purpose of report

To seek approval of the proposed guidance on the appropriate selection and positioning of street furniture.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The main purpose of the guidance was to help the delivery of good design and management of streetscapes without compromising road safety or accessibility for all. It also provides a framework for ensuring that designs and

reviews cover all of the necessary requirements for providing an uncluttered and attractive streetscape. A copy of the guidance was appended to the report.

The Portfolio Holder praised officers for their work, particularly the inclusion of the design process checklist. .

Decision

That the guidance on the appropriate selection and positioning of street furniture be approved.

26. Household Waste Recycling (*Head of Neighbourhood Management*)

Type of decision

Key – test ii applies

Purpose of report

- I. To seek approval to increase the number of recyclable materials available for collection through the Council's kerbside collection service
- II. To seek authorisation from the Portfolio Holder in respect of the communication campaign to advertise the expansion of the recycling service and change in branding
- III. To seek approval to carry out enforcement activities in relation to domestic household waste recycling

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided an update on actions which arose from the investigation into the current operation of the Council's kerbside recycling scheme. Recommendations included increasing the number of recyclable materials involved, changes to branding and enforcement measures against residents who refuse to recycle.

In terms of enforcement activities the Portfolio Holder queried whether the creation of a new post, Recycling Enforcement Officer, would lead to increased budgetary pressures. The Head of Neighbourhood Management advised that this would be done as part of ongoing restructures of the department and as such no additional funding would be needed. The Portfolio Holder expressed his support for all the recommendations, including enforcement measures as and when required. However he did ask that care be taken to target only those residents who wilfully refused to recycle rather than those who may have mistakenly deposited their refuse. The Portfolio Holder requested that the presentation be taken to the Neighbourhood Forums for information so that the message was disseminated across Hartlepool. He thanked officers for their good work in this area thus far.

Decision

- I. That the contents of the report be noted and the proposals to carry out enforcement activities in relation to domestic household waste recycling be approved.
- II. That the increase in the number of recyclable materials to the Kerbside Collection Service be approved
- III. That the Communication Campaign and the change in branding be authorised

27. Pride in Hartlepool Proposals (*Head of Procurement, Property and Public Protection*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To consider the recommendations of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group in respect of proposals for community projects.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The RIFTY Youth Project had requested £1,000 in funding to adopt a section of the Waverley Terrace Community Garden. Members of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group had recommended that this be approved in full.

Decision

That the recommendation of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group be approved.

28. Minor Works Proposals, Neighbourhood Consultative Forums (*Head of Neighbourhood Management*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To consider recommendations of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums in respect of Minor Works funding.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report set out the Minor Works proposals considered by the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums. The following schemes were proposed:

North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

- i. Various Wards – North Trees Strategy - £50,000
- ii. Various Wards – Dropped Crossings - £3,500
- iii. Various Wards – Pride in Hartlepool - £5,000
- iv. Hart Ward – Sandbanks Drive – tarmac grass verge - £18,000

Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

- v. Stranton Ward – Burbank Street – zebra crossing - £8,000
- vi. Rift House Ward – Garrick Grove – car parking improvements - £13,024

South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

- vii. Various Wards – Dropped crossing - £3,500
- viii. Various Wards – Pride in Hartlepool - £5,000
- ix. Fens Ward – Innes Road – tarmac grass verge - £2,230
- x. Fens Ward – Coningsby Close – removal and replanting of trees - £600
- xi. Owton Ward – Duncan Road – tarmac grass verge - £4,000
- xii. Owton Ward – Lovat Grove – tarmac grass verge - £3,830
- xiii. Owton Ward – Greenock Road – tarmac grass verge - £2,400
- xiv. Owton Ward – Hamilton Road – tarmac grass verge - £4,300
- xv. Rossmere Ward – Pickering Grove – tarmac grass verge - £6,400
- xvi. Rossmere Ward – Callendar Road – tarmac grass verge - £7,930
- xvii. Seaton Ward – Farndale Road – tarmac grass verge - £8,400
- xviii. Seaton Ward – Bransdale Grove – horticultural scheme - £900
- xix. Seaton Ward – Elizabeth Way Service Road – bollard scheme - £2,000

Decision

That the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums be approved.

29. Proposed Bus Stop Locations *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for additional bus stops at various locations, to improve accessibility to the new “10 minute services” introduced by Stagecoach recently.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In order to give easier access to the amended routes Stagecoach had requested the installation of six new bus stops at the following locations:

- Navigation Point
- Raby Road, opposite Morrisons
- Elwick Road, east of Wansbeck Gardens
- Balmoral Road, outside Balcary Court
- Balmoral Road, opposite Balcary Court
- Warrior Drive, north of Station Lane

Public consultation had been undertaken on all the proposed sites with the following results:

- Navigation Point – 10 for, 10 against (73 households consulted)
- Raby Road – no objections (2 businesses and 1 household consulted)
- Elwick Road – 1 for, 6 against (16 households consulted)
- Balmoral Road – 8 for, 6 against (16 households consulted)
- Warrior Drive – 1 against (4 households consulted)

The Portfolio Holder requested that the proposals for Raby Road and Warrior Drive be implemented as written. In the case of the proposals for Navigation Point, Elwick Road and Balmoral Road he requested that officers install temporary bus stops at these locations pending further discussions with Stagecoach. He and the Mayor were due to meet with Stagecoach later in the week but he asked that the head of Technical Service also arrange to meet with Stagecoach. He requested that all appropriate safety issues be taken into consideration when the temporary stops were being installed.

Decision

- I. That the proposed bus stop on Raby Road be approved
- II. That the proposed bus stop on Warrior Drive be approved
- III. That a temporary bus stop be installed on Navigation Point pending further discussion between Stagecoach and the Local Authority
- IV. That a temporary bus stop be installed on Elwick Road pending further discussion between Stagecoach and the Local Authority
- V. That temporary bus stops be installed on Balmoral Road pending further discussion between Stagecoach and the Local Authority.

30. Keep Britain Tidy Deprived Areas Perception Project and Big Tidy Up Champion *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

- I. To advise the Portfolio Holder that Hartlepool had been successful in its application to be considered as part of the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign to focus on public perception of local environmental quality.
- II. To advise the Portfolio Holder that Hartlepool had also been chosen as a Local Authority Champion of Keep Britain Tidy's Big Tidy Up campaign

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report advised on the success of two recent applications to Keep Britain Tidy aimed at improving the perception of cleanliness in the town and community involvement. The Keep Britain Tidy campaign would measure reality and perception data over time at a neighbourhood level whilst carrying out a series of initiatives based on the baseline findings. This evaluation would be completely independent with no council involvement at all and it was hoped that new residents could be engaged in this rather than Resident Representatives and regular attendees at Neighbourhood Forum meetings. Details were also given of the requirements and benefits of becoming a Local Authority Champion of the Big Tidy Up campaign. Hartlepool was one of only 11 local authorities chosen from 50 applications.

The Portfolio Holder praised officers for their success in both applications. He commented that Hartlepool was cleaner than a lot of other town's in the UK

and requested that officers keep up the good work.

Decision

That the report be noted and regular progress reports brought throughout the programme.

31. National Indicator 196 Improved Street and Environmental Cleanliness – Fly Tipping (*Head of Neighbourhood Management*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide a concise overview of the National Indicator 196, Improved Street and Environmental Cleanliness with respect to fly tipping and inform the Portfolio Holder of Hartlepool Borough Council's current performance standing.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

National Indicator 196 measures how effective Local Authorities are in dealing with the issue of fly tipping. This is based on a combination of calculating its year on year change in total incidents of fly tipping dealt with compared with its year on year change in enforcement actions taken against fly tipping. A weighting is applied to each type of enforcement action ranging from 1 point for a warning letter and 5 points for a statutory notice, up to 100 points for a prosecution or injunction. Due to a significant increase in enforcement actions and their severity Hartlepool had achieved Grade 1 status – 'very effective' This was expected to place Hartlepool in the top quartile of Local Authorities assessed. The Portfolio Holder praised officers for this achievement.

Decision

That the report and success achieved by the Neighbourhood Action Team in addressing the issue of fly tipping in Hartlepool be noted

32. Skills for you project (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To brief the Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder on the Skills for you Project

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Skills for You Project aims to provide staff with the opportunity to gain a level 2 NVQ tailor made to their specific area of work, making the most of available funding. Details were given within the report of progress made within the department, including staff who had completed NVQs or signed up for them. Aside from being a good opportunity for staff it also provided for income generation through payments made to the local authority by Hartlepool College of Further Education for each successful candidate.

The Portfolio Holder commented that this was a fantastic opportunity for the workforce and urged officers to publicise it.

Decision

That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 9:45am

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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