

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

22 February 2010

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 & Performance Portfolio Holder)
Pamela Hargreaves (Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio Holder)
Gerard Hall (Adult and Public Health 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)
Andrew Atkin (Assistant Chief Executive)
Peter Devlin (Chief Solicitor)
Nicola Bailey (Director of Child and Adult Services)
Graham Frankland (Assistant Director, Resources)
Stuart Green (Assistant Director, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)
Pam Gazeley (Child and Adult Services)
Dale Clark (Estates Manager, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)
Denise Wimpenny (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

192. Apologies for Absence

None

193. Declarations of interest by Members

None

194. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2010

Confirmed

195. Extra Care Housing: Provision of Care and Support Services *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (ii) applies.

Purpose of report

To seek approval of the tendering process for the provision of care and support services within Housing Hartlepool extra care housing schemes.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder presented the report which provided background information on the development of extra care housing in Hartlepool and the proposal for the letting of the contract for the provision of care and support to residents of the schemes.

It was proposed that a contract for the care and support to all four Housing Hartlepool extra care sites be awarded following a competitive tender process. The estimated volume of care hours over the four schemes was between 1,000 and 1,600 hours per week. This would be dependent upon the needs of individual residents.

Details of the financial considerations were provided as set out in the report.

Decision

That the tendering process for the provision of care and support services within Housing Hartlepool extra care housing schemes, be approved.

196. Provision of Domiciliary Care Services *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (ii) applies.

Purpose of report

To seek Cabinet approval of the tendering process for the Provision of Domiciliary Care Services contracts for Older People and other Vulnerable

Adults.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report provided an overview of the existing contractual arrangements for domiciliary care services in Hartlepool, the views of users of the services and details of the proposed tender process to be followed for the award of contracts that were to commence in October 2010. The contracts would focus on a number of outcomes, as detailed in the report, which may be subject to review/amendment depending upon the changing agenda.

The forecasted gross annual cost for the services to be delivered by this tender process was £2.3 million per annum. This figure did not take into account the contributions by people using the services.

Members were pleased to note that areas for improvement and flexibility would be addressed through the new contract arrangements, as detailed in the report.

In response to a query as to how the process would recognise good quality services by existing providers, the Director of Child and Adult Services provided clarification of the evaluation process and the measures in place to assess quality of care.

Following discussion in relation to brokerage arrangements, the use of specific providers for individuals with complex needs and the level of choice and control for individuals, Members were advised that individuals had an option to choose services from other providers including those not contracted by the Council by the use of personal budgets.

A Member asked whether unannounced inspections were undertaken to which the Director of Child and Adult Services stated that unannounced inspections were carried out regularly as part of the contract monitoring process which included feedback from service users families and Links.

Decision

That the proposed tendering process for the Provision of Domiciliary Care Services contracts for Older People and other Vulnerable Adults be approved.

197. Review of Risk Management Strategy *(Assistant Chief Executive)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek Cabinet approval of the review of the Risk Management Strategy.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report indicated that risk management was the process of assessing and managing risks which could prevent the Council from achieving its objectives.

The Risk Management Strategy described how risk management was undertaken in Hartlepool Borough Council. The Strategy had been reviewed with only minor amendments being made including taking into account the restructure and the development of the Corporate Risk Management Group. The updated strategy was attached at Appendix 1.

Attached at Appendix 2 was a briefing note which provided examples of the role of Members within risk management and Appendix 3 showed the current Strategic Risk Register at the end of quarter 3, 2010.

Decision

That the draft Risk Management Strategy, be approved.

198. Cleveland College of Art and Design: Expansion Plans – Potential Sale of Leadbitter Buildings, Archive Building and Municipal Buildings *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (i) and (ii) apply.

Purpose of report

The report informed Cabinet of recent discussions between Cleveland College of Art and Design (CCAD) and the Council and sought approval for the sale of Council-owned properties, namely the Leadbitter Buildings, the Archive Building and the Municipal Buildings, to the College to accommodate the expansion and the enhancement of the College's facilities.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report outlined the background to the expansion plans of the CCAD and how they fit in with the regeneration of Hartlepool.

The regeneration, planning and asset management considerations were included in the report together with the Council's accommodation and property rationalisation programme. The approach by the CCAD presented an opportunity to secure a purchaser for the properties in question where previously the market had been doubtful. Leadbitter Buildings and the Archive Building could be made available for sale immediately and vacated over the next 2 to 3 months. The Municipal buildings were required for Council accommodation in the short term. However, it would be possible for the Council to sell all three buildings as a package and rent back the areas required at the Municipal Buildings until January 2012. Alternatively, the Council could sell Leadbitter and Archive Buildings and retain the Municipal Buildings with an agreement in place to transfer the Municipal Buildings in January 2010.

The rationalisation of property would achieve savings in running costs which contributed to the business transformation target savings, details of which were included in the report. The financial implications of this proposal were attached as a confidential appendix to the report [paragraph 3, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)]

In conclusion, the approach by the CCAD to purchase the building presented an opportunity to deliver the Council's rationalisation strategy in a difficult property market and significantly contributed to the regeneration of Hartlepool.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the various options and benefits of selling the properties. Whilst the majority of Members were supportive of the principle of selling these buildings and thereby helping to reinforce the Art College's presence in the town, Members were keen to ensure the detailed terms of disposal reflected the Council's normal approach to asset disposal, including consideration of such matters as future use and disposal of the property.

Decision

The decision was set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

199. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during part of the discussion on the previous item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

The meeting concluded at 10.05 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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