

REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

26th February 2010

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

Present:

Councillor Pamela Hargreaves (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development)

Officers: Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager
Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services
Adrian Hurst, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Patrick Wilson, Employment Development Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

11. Proposed Improvements to the Hartlepool Open Markets *(Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection))*

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of report

To investigate the possibility of amalgamating the Wednesday and Thursday markets and consider the relocation of the market onto the Westside car park site, York Road.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

As this decision fell under the remit of the Adult and Public Services Portfolio the Portfolio Holder requested that this item be deferred to a joint meeting of the Adult and Public Health Services and Regeneration and Economic Development portfolio holders, to take place on Monday 1st March at 9am.

Decision

That the decision be deferred.

12. Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan 2009/10 – Quarter 3 Monitoring Report *(Assistant Director (Resources))*

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the key actions identified in the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan 2009/10 and outline the progress of relevant performance indicators for the period up to 31st December 2009.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the progress against the actions contained in the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan 2009/10 and the third quarter outturns of key performance indicators. All actions had been, or were expected to be, achieved as were 8 of the 10 performance indicators. However two of the performance indicators, relating to Hartlepool's unemployment rate and the number of business start up were not expected to be achieved. Details of this had been presented to the Portfolio Holder in the quarter 2 report.

Decision

That progress against key actions and indicators at Quarter 3 be noted along with the latest position regarding risks.

13. Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) – Quarter 3 Update *(Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development))*

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the position of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) programme at the end of the 3rd quarter of the 2009/10 financial year.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report set out the spend position of the projects within the WNF and Neighbourhood Element programmes at the end of December 2009. In total

£5,343,168 had been available to spend in 2009/10, including £175,330 carried forward from the previous year. At this point there was £1,856,432 remaining to the end of the financial year. However the majority of projects were reporting that their allocation of funding would be fully spent by the end of the financial year. Verification visits were currently being undertaken on the 60 projects which had so far not had a yearly review. In addition a new WNF financial spreadsheet had been designed to enable project leads to report on their financial performance each quarter.

The Portfolio Holder queried when the final figures would be confirmed. The Employment Development Officer advised that all verification visits would be completed by the end of March. There was not expected to be any overspend from external providers as these were paid by the Council on a quarterly basis. The Portfolio Holder queried if any underspend could be carried over. The Economic Development Manager indicated that there was not a specific condition relating to this however he did not anticipate too much underspend. If there were major underspends however questions would be asked by the WNF.

The Portfolio Holder commented that her concern was that the original outputs be achieved and that the money be spent however she did not want funding to be spent frivolously just for the sake of spending it. She queried whether most of the projects were due to finish by years end. The Economic Development Manager advised that many had originally been scheduled to run over a number of years. However the Corporate Management Team would be considering this and financial support could be withdrawn if there were serious concerns. The Portfolio Holder asked that any areas of concern in terms of underspend or non-achievement be brought back to her Portfolio for information. The Economic Development Manager was not aware of any major issues but acknowledged that the original outputs may have proven hard to achieve given the current economic climate.

Decision

That the spend position of the WNF programme at the end of December 2009 be noted.

The meeting concluded at 3:15pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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