

# **CABINET**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

6 April 2010

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

### **Present:**

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond) - In the Chair

Councillors: 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: Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive  
Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor  
Chris Little, Chief Finance Officer  
Joanne Smithson, Head of Performance and Partnerships  
Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Sue Johnson, Assistant Director, Planning and Service Integration  
Paul Hurwood, Climate Change Officer  
Alistair Rae, Public Relations Officer  
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

### **217. Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Robbie Payne (Deputy Mayor) (Finance & Performance Portfolio Holder) and Pam Hargreaves (Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio Holder).

### **218. Declarations of interest by members**

None.

### **219. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2010**

Confirmed.

## **220. Falcon Road Traffic Management Options** *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

The report gave an update on the traffic management options for Falcon Road and outlined the progress made to date, and other potential options for implementation.

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

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods reported that in June 2008, Cabinet took the decision to close Falcon Road to vehicular traffic at its junction with Throston Grange Lane. Since that time, discussions have taken place with residents (of both viewpoints) to consider potential alternatives and to seek to find an acceptable compromise. As part of this process, the following measures have been implemented:-

- An HGV ban has been introduced on Falcon Road.
- A restriction has been placed on all Council vehicles using the road, other than those accessing the road for operational reasons.
- The temporary speed humps on Merlin Way, at the northern end of the estate, have been removed to make access more attractive at this point.

There are still a number of residents of Falcon Road, however, who still wish to see the original closure implemented, as approved in June 2008. The report included updated traffic survey results which showed that an increasing number of through vehicles were using Falcon Road.

Set out in the report were the three options being put forward for Cabinet's consideration. These were: -

- 1 Additional traffic calming measures on Falcon Road, Moorhen Road and Lapwing Road.
- 2 Traffic calming on Merlin Way.
- 3 New estate access from Easington Road.

The new estate access road was a long term aspiration as it would require significant finance. A combination of options 1 and 2 was being proposed as a solution to the current problems. A plan showing the location of the proposed restrictions was circulated at the meeting.

Councillor Jackson, the Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder and Ward Councillor for Throston commented that while all parties had worked well since this issue was raised, the agreed measures had not had any effect and the current traffic survey showed that the situation had showed that it had actually got worse. Those using the access road, and those who wanted it to remain open, were not the residents affected by the traffic on a daily basis. Councillor Jackson commented that while he supported the

proposed new traffic calming measures, so long as there was a strict timetable for their implementation, he did still foresee a situation where there would be no alternative but to close the road.

The Mayor commented that he had spoken to the Police District Commander in relation to dealing with those abusing the current restrictions. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods commented that he understood that Police had been present in the area but were issuing warnings to drivers rather than tickets.

There was a concern that closing the road may have an impact on a wider area through the displaced traffic and that road humps didn't always reduce traffic speeds. The Director commented that in addition to road humps build out restrictions were also to be used. In restricting the flow of traffic in one direction, these had an impact on speeding traffic. Members did think it would be worthwhile to monitor the traffic in adjacent areas to assess the impact of the proposed restrictions.

The Director indicated that there was no requirement to advertise the proposed restrictions, so subject to giving a four week notice period to residents and allowing two weeks for the works to be undertaken. The restrictions could be in place for the beginning of June. Cabinet suggested that a period of four months should be allowed for the restrictions to have an affect on local drivers and then a further report should be brought to Cabinet with details of a further traffic study, so the actual changes in traffic could be displayed.

### **Decision**

1. That additional traffic calming measures on Falcon Road, Moorhen Road and Lapwing Road together with traffic calming on Merlin Way be implemented at the earliest opportunity and that after being in place four months, a further report be submitted to Cabinet with the results of a further traffic survey.
2. That following the introduction of the additional traffic calming measures above, traffic assessments in the surrounding areas be undertaken to assess the impact on the wider area of these restrictions.

## **221. Local Authority Carbon Management Programme - Carbon Reduction Strategy and Implementation Plan** (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

### **Type of decision**

Key decision. Tests (i) and (ii) apply.

### **Purpose of report**

The report introduced the Carbon Reduction Strategy and Implementation Plan, explained the benefits that it would bring, and outlined the main elements within the document.

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

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that in April 2009, Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) was accepted onto Phase 7 of the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACMP). Through the programme, the Carbon Trust provides technical and change management support to help Local Authorities realise carbon emissions savings. The primary focus of the strategy was to reduce emissions under the direct control of the Council arising from building energy use, street lighting, vehicle fleet and water use. The programme was also designed to embrace and engage all Council services and encourages the staff to be actively engaged and involved in “making a difference” to reducing carbon emissions. The Director indicated that it was this that was the main target of the strategy. Changing the ethos and habits of staff would be the greatest contributor to the programme.

Cabinet asked how the targets set for the Council compared with those of other authorities in the programme. The Climate Change Officer indicated that Hartlepool was at the top end of the targets set but not the highest. Some had set very ambitious targets. It had been decided that setting a target for the authority that was challenging but achievable would have greater long term benefits. As much relied on changing the mindset of staff to energy consumption, setting a target that could not realistically be achieved was seen as counterproductive. The council would also be relying on schools to achieve a significant proportion of the savings proposed.

In response to Cabinet Members questions it was indicated that the new school designs that were coming through Building Schools for the Future had been built into the programme. Many of the measures were already in place in Council buildings, such as lights automatically switching off. Members questioned if the costs of home working had been accounted for. It was indicated that they hadn't as it was impossible to calculate the energy usage of home workers. There was seen to be an advantage in that such workers were not creating CO2 through travel to and from work, though there were the costs of them being at home when they would not normally be to be offset against this.

### **Decision**

That the Carbon Reduction Strategy and Implementation Plan, and the delivery of the actions involved, be approved.

## **222. Youth Offending Service – Core Case Inspection** (Corporate Management Team)

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide Cabinet with details of the improvement plan associated with the

recommendations from the Core Case Inspection of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and to consider the most appropriate future location of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) within one of the HBC Departments. The service currently operates as part of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods department.

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

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that on 22nd December 2009, Cabinet received a confidential report on the results of the Core Case Inspection of youth offending work as the report had not been made public at that point and was subject to embargo and a verbal update on the result of the inspection was provided. The Inspector's report was under a publication embargo until 13th January 2010. Cabinet asked that a further report be submitted once the improvement plan addressing the recommendations within the Inspection report had been developed and this was submitted with the report. The Director commented that several of the actions set out in the report had already been implemented.

The Corporate Management Team had reconsidered again in detail the placement of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) within the council structure. The driving force for suggesting that it was now time to relocate the service within the Child and Adult Services Department was that it was clear from the guidance that YOT's should be a discrete team, however, if a child is looked after whether they are a young offender or not, and they kill or are killed, it is the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and Lead Member, in conjunction with the Chief Executive who are effectively accountable. It would be the Director of Children's Services who would take a lead in terms of a serious case review and who would be seen as accountable at law. The report considered by Cabinet identified the statutory and legal considerations around the location of this function and three identified options for the location of the function in conjunction with the identified strengths and weaknesses of such proposals.

Cabinet acknowledged the proposed move was appropriate at this time and that it would not be worth delaying the move until after the next inspection. Officers highlighted that a further announced inspection was expected in the summer, twelve months after the unannounced inspection that had led to the adverse report. The Mayor was concerned that the focus was on the location of the YOT rather than tackling the issues that had been highlighted by the inspection. The Director reiterated that several of the actions from the submitted plan had already been implemented to tackle the major issues raised from the inspection. It was hoped that the move would further impetuous and tackle some of the communication issues that had been highlighted. The Mayor requested that a further report on the implementation of the action plan be brought to Cabinet in advance of the next inspection.

It was highlighted that the Council's success in intensive intervention was excellent and a Cabinet Member questioned if it was a disproportionately small number of individuals that were causing a disproportionately high

level of problems. If this was the case intensive intervention could have a very significant affect. The Mayor commented that he had received through his portfolio those details and would circulate them to Cabinet Members.

#### **Decision**

1. That the Improvement Plan, based on the Inspector's recommendations which were submitted as Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
2. That the results of the thematic youth crime inspection results which were submitted as Appendix 2 to the report be noted.
3. That the Corporate Management Team recommendation that Option B in the report be progressed, in that the Youth Offending Team be relocated to Child and Adult Services, Safeguarding and Targeted Services Division.
4. That a further report be submitted to Cabinet updating the progress being made on the action plan in advance of the next inspection of the Youth Offending Service

### **223. Quarterly Review of Strategic Risk Register** (Head of Performance and Partnerships)

#### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

#### **Purpose of report**

The report described the current position with regard to the Council's Strategic Risk Register following a review by Corporate Risk Management Group (CRMG) and Corporate Management Team Support Group (CMTSG). The review involved examining risk ratings of existing risks in terms of impact and likelihood and effectiveness of control measures in place to mitigate the risk in conjunction and the identification of any new risks.

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

The Head of Performance and Partnerships reported that a comprehensive review of the Strategic Risk Register took place at the end of 2008/09. Today there are currently thirty-four risks on the Strategic Risks Register, seven Red, 20 Amber and 7 Green risks. The full register was submitted as Appendix 1 to the report.

The continued inclusion of the Flu Pandemic as a Red risk was questioned. The Head of Performance and Partnerships indicated that this had been reviewed and indeed the risk had been reduced nationally and the national 24 hour telephone helpline closed. The Assistant Chief Executive commented that the Emergency Planning Officer considered the risk should remain Red at this time. The inclusion of the failure to realise the plans for Victoria Harbour as a Red risk was also questioned. It was indicated that the risk did need amending due to the change to the future of the site, but the development of the site in the long term was still a risk that needed to

be monitored.

Cabinet noted that the number of Red risks this year had doubled since the previous year and queried whether this was due to factors such as the recession or did some of the red risks need downgrading. Cabinet was also concerned at the recent departure of a number of officers through early retirement or voluntary redundancy and how this was being monitored as a risk for the council. The Assistant Chief Executive commented that there were a number of factors and risks were always being questioned; as had been highlighted with the flu pandemic risk. The recession had had an affect on some risks and there were new risks to be accounted for in the future in relation to potential changes to central grant allocations. The Business Transformation process included a process for assessing the situation with changes in staffing.

Cabinet also questioned if there were any of the Amber risks that had the potential to become red risks that Members would need to monitor more closely. It was indicated that there were some Amber risks in this situation and these would be highlighted in future reports.

#### **Decision**

That the review and amendments to the Council's strategic risk register and actions being taken to manage risks be noted.

## **224. Business Transformation – Service Delivery Options Review Programme** *(Assistant Chief Executive)*

#### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

#### **Purpose of report**

The report contained the Delivery plans for a number of the Year Two Service Delivery Options (SDO) reviews previously agreed as being part of year two of the programme for this element of the Business Transformation programme and outline timescales for these first reviews.

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

The Assistant Chief Executive reported that the programme of SDOs had been broken down into a three year schedule of reviews which encompassed the operations of the authority. In addition, and as has been considered by Programme Board previously, a "How to Guide" had been developed for those officers leading each of these reviews.

The programme has commenced and submitted with the report were the summaries of the delivery plans for the following year 2 SDOs: -

- Social inclusion, vulnerable pupils, special educational Needs
- Children's Centre's and early years
- Legal, Elections and Land Charges.

The Year Two programme also included the following delivery plans which would be reported to Cabinet through the forthcoming months: -

- Benefits, mean tested services,
- Neighbourhood management
- Street Cleansing, Grounds maintenance
- Public Protection
- Adult social operations / provider services
- Libraries
- Sports and recreation
- Grants to community and voluntary organisations.

All these reviews had been included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

**Decision**

That the scope, inclusions and timescales for the reviews be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.00 a.m.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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