

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

30 April 2010

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

Present:

Councillor Robbie Payne (Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Joanne Machers, Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer
John Morton, Assistant Chief Finance and Customer Services Officer
Philip Timmins, Estates and Valuation Officer
Peter Turner, Performance and Consultation Manager
Israr Hussain, Economic Development Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

156. Single Status Agreement Appeals – *Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on progress on appeals received and obtain ratification of Appeals Panel outcomes in respect of High Priority Appeals.

Issues for Consideration

The report provided a background to the Appeals Procedure together with an update on the progress of appeals received, and requested ratification of Appeals Panel outcomes in respect of high priority appeals. The panel consisted of a manager, trade union representative and an independent chair from outside the Authority and there was an established process for all appeals. Details of the individual appeals were outlined in a 'not for publication' appendix attached to the report.

This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006) namely, Information relating to the individual.

The Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer said that previous decisions had been implemented and there was some reaction to the impact of some of the appeals where employee bands had been reduced. There had been approximately 100 high priority appeals which were now almost complete. Work was about to begin on the approximately 200 medium priority appeals and following that, the remaining low priority appeals would be progressed. She acknowledged that this process had taken longer than expected.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the progress made and ratified the Appeals Panel outcomes in respect of Council employees (as detailed in the 'Not for Publication' schedule attached to the report).

157. Place Survey 2010 – Joint Procurement – *Performance and Consultation Manager*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the proposed procurement arrangements for the 2010 Place Survey.

Issues for Consideration

As part of national performance management requirements the Council has a statutory requirement to undertake a Place Survey every 2 years. Discussions had been held with officers within the Tees Valley to consider the benefits of jointly procuring the 2010 Place Survey and the view was that this approach would offer the best mix of costs and benefits, although no decision had as yet been made as to whether the Authority intended to take a joint approach. If the Authority followed a joint procurement approach this would save on officer time and costs of preparation of contracts and potentially contractor costs although it is not possible to know the exact level of savings.

The Portfolio Holder was unconvinced that a joint approach was best for Hartlepool as he would rather adopt an approach that gave local discretion for eliciting the views of Hartlepool residents. He was informed that in 2008 97% of the questions were standard Central Government questions, but the other 3% could be pertinent to Hartlepool.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder was unwilling to waive the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in order to procure the 2010 place survey on a joint Tees Valley basis.

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

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order

Minute 159 – Approval for Compulsory Redundancy – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority (paragraph 4)

Minute 160 – Employees in Tied Accommodation - This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority (paragraph 4)

Minute 161 – Landscaping Scheme at Hindpool Close Surestart Children's Centre – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Minute 162 – Support for Businesses - This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

159. Approval for Compulsory Redundancy (Para 4) – *Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To seek a decision regarding the future employment of an employee in the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department affected by the implementation of the Business Transformation Programme.

Issues for Consideration

The report set out the background to the Business Transformation Programme, restructuring decisions which had been made and the impact on a specific post and postholder.

Decision

This was outlined in the exempt section of the minutes.

160. Employees in Tied Accommodation (Para 4) – *Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To obtain Portfolio Holder ratification, in principle, to the proposed Single Status Agreement amendment following the Tied Accommodation Review.

Issues for Consideration

The report outlined the background to the Single Status Agreement and outcomes of the subsequent review.

Decision

This was detailed in the exempt section of the minutes.

161. Landscaping Scheme at Hindpool Close SureStart Children's Centre (Para 3) – *Assistant Director (Resources)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to acquire land and to seek approval for the construction of a community garden and play space.

Issues for Consideration

Details of the proposals were outlined in the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

The decision was detailed in the exempt section of the minutes.

162. Support for Businesses (Para 3) – Chief Financial Officer

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To seek the Portfolio Holder's approval to award hardship relief via the Business Rates scheme to 2 local businesses.

Issues for Consideration

The proposals were outlined in the exempt section of the minutes

Decision

The decision was contained in the exempt section of the minutes

The meeting concluded at 10.37 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 10th May 2010