

# REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

## DECISION RECORD

30<sup>th</sup> April 2010

The meeting commenced at 3.00pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

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

Officers: Alastair Smith, Assistant Director (Transport and Engineering)  
Mick Emerson, Principal Economic Development Officer (Business)  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

### **15. Empty Shops Fund** (*Assistant Director (Housing and Regeneration)*)

#### **Type of decision**

Non key

#### **Purpose of report**

To request the Portfolio Holder's approval on the use of the Empty Shops Fund resources

#### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

Hartlepool had been awarded £52,631 unringfenced revenue grant to help mitigate the impact of empty shops within the Town Centre. To date 2 schemes had been funded – an expansion of the Indoor Market initiative and a multi-use drop-in unit. The relocation of the Outdoor Market had been scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010 and a scheme had been developed to provide banners directing people to the indoor and outdoor markets and to provide sheeting for the outdoor market stalls thereby ensuring a consistent appearance. Proposals to improve the wall which would provide a backdrop to the relocated outdoor market were also being considered. In total these proposals would cost no more than £11,000 and officers were recommending a contribution of £7,361 from the Empty Shops funding. This would be the remainder of the funding provided.

In terms of the sheeting for stalls on the outdoor market the Portfolio Holder asked that use of consistent sheeting be made a stipulation for future tenants. At the same time however she expressed concern that the cost of this should not dissuade new stallholders. The Principal Economic Development Officer indicated that there would be flexibility with stallholders who were resident in Hartlepool while stressing the importance of consistency. The Portfolio Holder suggested that any Empty Shops Fund monies remaining be used to help with this. The railings should also be painted in a matching colour.

The Officer further advised that following the recent move of the outdoor market 1 new tenant had taken up residence with a further 3 expected. 2 additional tenants had also moved into the indoor market. The Portfolio Holder was pleased to hear this, saying it was a direct response to moving the market and putting the investment in. The Portfolio Holder requested that any future appointee review the management of the indoor and outdoor markets to ensure clarity as to where departmental responsibilities lay.

It had been agreed previously that officers would research the benefits other areas had received by offering funding to improve this appearance of shop fronts. This was ongoing and in the meantime alternative funding sources were being considered.

### **Decision**

- I. That the use of the Empty Shops Fund resources on the basis set out in the report be approved
- II. That any remaining Empty Shops Fund resources be used to aid stallholders in their purchase of standard stall sheeting.

## **16. Tees Valley: Plugged In Places Initiative** *(Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering Services))*

### **Type of decision**

Non key

### **Purpose of report**

To advise the Portfolio Holder of the developments relating to the Plugged in Places Initiative following a successful funding application made through the Regional Development Agency One North East and the Office for Low Emission Vehicles.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

A fund to roll-out electric vehicle charging points across the UK was announced by the Regional Development Agency One North East and the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). Funding of £2,978,000 had been

confirmed and consequently 1,300 charging points would be installed across the region over the next 3 years. Significant funds would be provided by Plugged in Places to establish an electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the region.

The Portfolio Holder recommended strongly that an electric vehicle should be used as the Council Chair's official car when one became available. The Assistant Director supported this, saying plans to generate awareness of a 'green' fleet throughout the council were being considered. The Portfolio Holder asked that consideration be given to ways in which the business community could be given support to maximise the opportunities presented to them by this initiative. Promotion of the service should also be considered. The Assistant Director confirmed that signage was being looked at, including a possible universal symbol recognised nationally.

The Portfolio Holder queried when the charging points would be in place and was advised between 6 and 12 months. A possible change of government was not expected to affect the plans adversely. The Portfolio Holder indicated she would like to receive reports on this initiative in the future.

### **Decision**

That the details of the initiative be agreed and a further report with details of progress be received by the Portfolio Holder in September 2010.

The meeting concluded at 3:30 pm

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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