

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

10 May 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),
Pam 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),

Also Present:

Councillor Jane Shaw, Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Forum
Councillor Chris Simmons, Chair of Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum

Officers:

Paul Walker (Chief Executive)
Andrew Atkin (Assistant Chief Executive)
Dave Stubbs (Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)
Nicola Bailey (Director of Child and Adult Services)
Denise Ogden (Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services)
Chris Little (Chief Finance Officer)
Catherine Frank (Local Strategic Partnership Manager)
Beth Storey (Youth Work Manager)
Joan Nominton (Scrutiny Manager)
Alastair Rae (Public Relations Manager)
Angela Hunter (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

237. Announcements

The Mayor wished to pass on his gratitude to ex Councillor Tumilty for his services to the Cabinet and commiserations at not being re-elected at the recent local elections.

238. Apologies

None.

239. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

240. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2010

Received.

241. Final Report – Putting People First – The Delivery of Personalised Adult Social Care Services *(Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

The report outlined the findings and conclusions of the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Putting People First – The Delivery of Personalised Adult Social Care Services'.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Chair of the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum presented the Final Report which outlined the overall aim of the scrutiny investigation, terms of reference, methods of investigation, findings, conclusions and subsequent recommendations. The Chair drew particular attention to the conclusions and noted that the Forum complemented departmental staff for their hard work and commitment in leading this new initiative in Hartlepool. It was further noted that as a result of the leadership within the department, Hartlepool was recognised as a leading authority in the country in progressing this initiative and changing the culture of supporting people.

Decision

That the recommendations of the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into Putting People First – The Delivery of Personalised Adult Social Care Services as set out below, be approved and adopted;

- (a) That the Council continue to raise awareness of the Putting People First agenda;

- (b) That the Council publicise the services which are available through self directed support along with the associated costs and how to access these services;
- (c) That the Council work in partnership with the relevant organisations, partners and members of the public to deliver all the elements of the Putting People First agenda specifically through universal services and early intervention and prevention;
- (d) That the Council monitor and evaluate the effect and impact that self directed support has on:-
 - (i) existing providers and their ability to respond to the changing needs of users; and
 - (ii) the individuals with a personal budget
- (e) That the Council explore ways to stimulate and encourage the availability of appropriate services from both smaller and larger providers that reflect the evolving needs and requirements of service users.

242. Action Plan – Putting People First – The Delivery of Personalised Adult Social Care Services (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To agree an Action Plan in response to the findings and subsequent recommendations of the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Putting People First – The Delivery of Personalised Adult Social Care Services'.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services presented a report which provided brief background information into the 'Putting People First – The Delivery of Personalised Adult Social Care Services' Scrutiny Investigation and provided a proposed Action Plan, attached at Appendix A, in response to the Scrutiny Forum's recommendations. The Portfolio Holder noted that when Hartlepool was announced as a total transformation site for the personalisation agenda it was seen as a great challenge. However, evidence from this inquiry has shown that staff have responded in

a magnificent way to the challenge with 45% of service users being given their own personalised budget against the Government's target of 30%. This agenda had resulted in service users being given more freedom and variety in the choice of services they can access to cater for their individual needs.

The Portfolio Holder drew Members' attention to the recommendation in the action plan to monitor and evaluate the impact on providers and individuals and it was hoped that this would enable the need for this service to be emphasised in view of possible future budget constraints. It was noted that this inquiry had raised awareness of the 'hidden' and important work the Council did through the provision of care and support.

A discussion ensued in which the need to balance the wider choice now available for service users against maintaining the traditional services was recognised and it was acknowledged that partnership working with other organisations and providers would ensure the best choices were available to all service users.

The Director of Child and Adult Services commented that service users were conscious of value for money in the choice of service provision available to them through the personalising of budgets and this had resulted in service providers having to continuously evaluate the way in which their services were provided.

Decision

The Action Plan attached at Appendix A in response to the recommendations of the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Putting People First – The Delivery of Personalised Adult Social Care Services' was approved.

243. Final Report – Targeted and Detached Youth Work in Hartlepool (*Children's Services Scrutiny Forum*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To outline the findings and conclusions of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into provision of Targeted and Detached Youth Work provision in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum presented the Final Report which outlined the overall aim of the scrutiny investigation, terms of reference, methods of investigation, findings, conclusions and subsequent recommendations. The Chair highlighted the importance of 'chill out' areas to young people to enable them to gather somewhere safe to sit and talk whilst acknowledging the need to ensure the young people understand the impact that groups of young people gathering together can have on elderly residents. The report also noted the need to develop and build on the working relationships and communication mechanisms in place between young people and other agencies, including the Police, possibly through informal 'get-togethers'.

The Chair concluded by thanking all the officers and young people who had been involved in the inquiry and for their valuable contributions.

Decision

That the recommendations of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into Targeted and Detached Youth Work in Hartlepool as set out below, be approved and adopted;

- a) That officers be commended on the provision of detached and targeted youth work in Hartlepool;
- b) That the provision of a larger youth bus on a shared (time) basis with partner organisations / bodies be explored (e.g. the PCT);
- c) That there is no 'one size fits all' method of providing services and as such, consideration needs to be given to how services can be provided for young people that simply wish to 'chill out' with friends in an environment where they are not moved on by other agencies;
- d) That as a means of developing the working relationship and routes of communication between young people, the police and other agencies, the introduction of informal 'get-togethers' to enable both sides to come to a better understand each other be explored;
- e) That in the changing economic climate, ways be explored to encourage partner organisations / bodies and the wider community to support the provision and development of services that are sustainable beyond any possible budgetary cuts; and
- f) That ways of improving the advertising of youth services be explored further, including the use of advertising space in and on Council property or buildings.

247. Scrutiny Investigation into Targeted and Detached Youth Work in Hartlepool – Action Plan (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To agree an Action Plan in response to the findings and subsequent recommendations of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the provision of Targeted and Detached Youth Work provision in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services presented a report which provided brief background information into the 'Targeted and Detached Youth Work Provision in Hartlepool scrutiny investigation and provided a proposed Action Plan, see Appendix A in response to the Scrutiny Forum's recommendations.

The Portfolio Holder noted the need to further publicise the facilities available to young people as well as encouraging participation and reiterated the previous comments in relation to the need for 'chill out' areas for young people to enable them to hang out with friends, preferably in the presence of youth workers. It was highlighted that communication was key to ensuring that young people were more aware of the impact they have on elderly people as well as explaining to elderly people that the young people may well just be sitting around chatting to each other and encouraging positive attitudes towards young people. The importance of the provision of the youth service was emphasised as should this service be reduced or not available, the young people would draw on resources from elsewhere.

The work undertaken by Superintendent Andy Summerbell of Cleveland Police in engaging with young was highlighted and it was hoped that his successor would continue this good work. It was noted that Cleveland Police had recently been successful in bidding for £10k for increasing participation with young people and had committed £20k of their own resources for this project also.

It was noted that there were a number of organisations across the town providing services for young people and it was suggested that stronger links with these organisations be forged to raise awareness of the services available as well ensuring there was no unnecessary duplication. In relation to recommendation b) for the provision of a larger youth bus, it was noted

that discussions were already underway with the PCT and Cleveland Police with a view to purchasing an additional bus and it was suggested that this be linked into the Action Plan.

Decision

The Action Plan attached as Appendix A in response to the recommendations of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into targeted and detached youth work provision in Hartlepool was approved.

241. Corporate Plan and Departmental Plans 2010/11 *(Assistant Chief Executive, Director of Child and Adult Services and Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Corporate Plan – Budget and Policy Framework
Departmental Plans – Non-key

Purpose of report

To enable Cabinet to:-

- (i) consider and comment on the proposed Corporate Plan for 2010/11;
- (ii) agree the three Departmental Plans for 2010/11.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Council's suite of Service Planning documents for 2010/11 were attached by way of Appendix, including: The Corporate Plan at Appendix A, the Chief Executive's Departmental Plan at Appendix B, the Child and Adult Services Departmental Plan at Appendix C and the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan at Appendix D. The proposed Corporate Plan had been considered by Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting on 16 April 2010 and the comments received were attached at Appendix E along with officers responses to those comments.

All of the plans contained a detailed action plan which set out how the Council, or individual departments, proposed to deliver the priority outcomes. Key Performance Indicators were also included which will be used to monitor progress throughout 2010/11. The Departmental Plans also contained a section listing the Risks that could prevent the Department from delivering the priority outcomes.

These documents will be used as the basis for the quarterly monitoring

reports that will be presented throughout the year to Cabinet (Corporate Plan) and the relevant Portfolio Holders (Departmental Plans).

A Member commented that the inclusion of the comments received from Members as part of the consultation with scrutiny had proven really useful. In addition, the Child and Adult Services Department were complemented on the inclusion of photographs of the departmental management team and it was suggested that this be replicated across the other departments.

It was noted that the target for the take-up of school lunches did not increase across the 3 years within the plan and the reason for this was questioned. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) indicated that the school meals service was performing very well and to sustain the current levels of service provision would be good as there had recently been a dip in numbers and other neighbouring authorities were envious of the level of take-up of school meals in Hartlepool. However, it was agreed that the targets would be revisited in the future.

Decision

- (i) The Corporate Plan 2010/11 was approved for consideration by Council in June/July 2010.
- (ii) The Chief Executive's Departmental Plan for 2010/11 was approved for distribution.
- (iii) The Child and Adult Services Departmental Plan for 2010/11 was approved for distribution.
- (iv) The Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan for 2010/11 was approved for distribution.

241. Neighbourhood Management and Empowerment Strategy (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (ii) applies.

Purpose of report

The report set out a Neighbourhood Management and Empowerment Strategy for Hartlepool that is based on current local working practices and strategies, along with national drivers, a sound knowledge of what works, and most importantly the needs of the neighbourhoods we serve.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods presented a report

which provided a concise description of the local and national drivers, explained what Neighbourhood Management was and demonstrated the Hartlepool model and the linkages between the Neighbourhood Action Plans, the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums through to the Local Authority and the Strategic Partnership.

Consultation events had been held with elected Members, Resident Representatives and members of the public and partners and stakeholders had also been involved in its development.

The strategy aimed to ensure the Authority met both National and local challenges with respect to enabling local residents to have a greater say and influence the services that affect them on a daily basis. To deliver on this the authority needed a clear and robust Neighbourhood Management strategy for the future that was understood by all, that was capable of being measured, was achievable in light of existing resources, and had realistic aims and targets.

The Neighbourhood management vision is for Hartlepool to be 'a place where people have pride and want to live and say, with everyone taking part, and everyone understanding each others needs.'

The proposed strategy for achieving this vision is threefold:

- Community Engagement and Empowerment mechanisms
- The integration and reconfiguration of key neighbourhood services
- Neighbourhood Renewal and Community Planning

The strategy was supported by an Action Plan which demonstrated how the Strategy would be implemented and how we measure ourselves against our objectives.

It was noted that this was the first Neighbourhood Management and Empowerment Strategy and included a lot of the good work undertaken in Hartlepool during the last 10 years. It was acknowledged by Members that the introduction of Neighbourhood Managers had proved very successful and that Hartlepool had been ahead of the game in engagement with residents through the introduction of Neighbourhood Consultative Forums.

Decision

- (i) The Neighbourhood Management and Empowerment Strategy and its associated action plan was adopted.
- (ii) An annual progress report in relation to its implementation to be presented to Cabinet.

242. Public Consultation for 2011/12 Budget *(Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet of a proposal to undertake consultation to inform decisions on the budget for 2011/12 and seek an in principle decision to further develop an approach for budget consultation for 2011/12.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Performance Management presented a report which outlined the key questions on which views could be sought, an outline budget/consultation timetable and possible approaches.

The significant budget decisions likely to be required for 2011/12 and beyond is creating the requirement to undertake consultation to understand public views and provide information that will support decision making. The resource implications of this consultation were detailed within the report.

In response to a Member's question, the Assistant Chief Executive confirmed that although it was suggested that £60k should be set aside for this consultation, it was thought that in reality this was a conservative estimate it the total cost should be considerably less than this. For Members information, the consultation undertaken in 2004/5 had cost in the region of £30-35k and it was hoped that this consultation exercise would cost less than that due to the use of online arrangements and the utilisation of Viewpoint. Members were asked to note that any surplus remaining from the allocated £60k would be returned to the strategic risk reserve.

The Assistant Chief Executive asked Members to note that the relevance of the results of the previous consultation was questionable due to the length of time elapsed and the fact that the people consulted may well have changed their views. It was confirmed that the use of any external support would depend on the mechanism identified as the most appropriate as the aim was to do as much in-house as possible. However, any consultants would be working to a specific brief and specification.

One of the key issues highlighted by Members was the need to ensure that respondents understood the implications of their choices and priorities and Members were keen to ensure that young people were included within the consultation. The Assistant Chief Executive referred to one of the models

being considered which was a budget simulator that provided the opportunity to identify or protect something, or increase/decrease funding with the implications and consequences of those decisions, including the impact on the level of council tax to be levied, being highlighted. It was confirmed that officers were working on the detail of how the consultation would be undertaken, including consideration of the mechanisms used by other local authorities and an in principle decision would enable this to be progressed further and a package of consultation developed.

Decision

- (i) The further development of an approach for budget consultation for 2011/12 was approved.
- (ii) It was noted that the funding proposal would be considered as part of the final outturn strategy, to be reported to Cabinet on 24 May 2010.

243. Local Area Agreement Delivery and Improvement Plan 2010/11 *(Head of Performance and Partnerships)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

The report presented the Local Area Agreement (LAA) Delivery and Improvement Plan for 2010/11 to Cabinet for agreement.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Mayor presented a report which highlighted that Local Authorities had a statutory duty to prepare a LAA in partnership with Local Strategic Partnership. The report presented the Delivery and Improvement Plan for 2010/11 that will help to deliver the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. It will also provide a strong platform to achieve the targets set out in the LAA and ensure action was taken to tackle the key challenges.

In relation to children in poverty, it was noted that the national indicator of number of children in poverty was not really reflective of the Council's aim toward reducing child poverty. The Assistant Director (Child and Adult Services) and the Head of Performance and Partnerships were exploring the inclusion of a more meaningful indicator and this would be included in future reports.

Decision

The Local Area Agreement Delivery and Improvement Plan for 2010/11 was approved.

The meeting concluded at 10.16 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 14 May 2010