

TRANSPORT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

17th May 2010

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

Present:

Councillor Peter Jackson (Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Denise Ogden, Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)
Alastair Smith, Assistant Director (Transport and Engineering)
Kate Ainger, Pride in Hartlepool Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Also present Mr G Waller

77. Burn Road Roundabout *(Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering Services))*

Purpose of Report

To give an update on the proposed improvement scheme for the A689 Burn Road roundabout.

Type of Decision

Non-key

Issues for consideration

In February 2010 a report had been presented to the Portfolio Holder which proposed the removal of the A689 / Burn Road roundabout and its replacement with traffic signals. A financial contribution had been secured from Tesco toward the scheme. The Portfolio Holder had asked that a direct comparison between the existing roundabout and the proposed signalised junction be undertaken and brought back to him. External Consulting Engineerings had been commissioned. The findings showed that in comparison to the current roundabout a signalised junction would:

- Increase queues and journey times – it was noted that this was normal when changing from a roundabout to traffic signals
- Manage the capacity of the junction better
- Remove the current oversaturation

- Provide safer pedestrian crossing facilities

Resident Mr G Waller attended the meeting and expressed his support for the retention of the existing roundabout.

The Portfolio Holder commented that he was still not convinced that replacing the roundabout in favour of a traffic signalised junction would improve the traffic flow. He asked that the roundabout remain in place but that officers look at improving pedestrian access to the site. He also asked that slip road coming onto Belle Vue Way to be looked at as a potential hazard. The Assistant Director (Transport and Engineering) advised that he would approach Tesco regarding a possible monetary contribution toward safety improvements to the slip road.

Decision

- I. That the original option as presented to the Portfolio Holder at the February 2010 meeting be refused and the current roundabout be retained.
- II. That consideration be given to improving pedestrian access to the Tesco site
- III. That consideration be given to safety improvements to the existing slip road

78. Minor Works Proposals – Neighbourhood Consultative Forums *(Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services))*

Purpose of Report

To consider the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums in respect of Minor Works funding during 2009/2010.

Type of Decision

Non key.

Issues for Consideration

The report detailed the schemes put forward for consideration.

Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

Dunston Road – Lay-by - £15,000

Blakelock Road – Puffin crossing - £15,000

Milton Road – back street resurfacing - £9,000

Various – Tactile crossings - £3,500

Various – Pride in Hartlepool contribution - £5,000

Decision

That the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums in respect of Minor Works proposals be approved.

79. Pride in Hartlepool Proposals *(Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services))*

Purpose of Report

To approve the recommendations of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group in respect of proposals for community projects

Type of Decision

Non key.

Issues for Consideration

The Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group recommended the following projects for approval:-

- “Real Life Options” Community Integration Project – a contribution of £500 towards the purchase of soil, seeds and adapted hand tools to be used by people with learning and physical disabilities at an allotment on the Brierton Lane site
- Marmion Estates Residents Association Hanging Basket Project – a contribution of £800 toward a hanging basket project
- Roaring Mouse Drama Group – a contribution of £460 toward development of a garden site for use by people with learning disabilities
- Friends of Peebles Avenue Hanging Basket Project – a contribution of £220 toward a hanging basket project
- Waldon Street Area Residents Association Beautification Project – a contribution of £920 toward a hanging basket and container project
- Children’s Centre Stay and Play Project – a contribution of £2,000 toward development of a play area and garden site

- Hartlepool Police Secret Garden Project – a contribution of £1,500 toward installation of a garden designed by the winner of a competition for young people in a communal area of Hartlepool police station to be used by the police force when working with groups of young people.

The Portfolio Holder expressed his support for the proposals, commenting that he was pleased with the calibre of projects being recommended for support by the Steering Group

Decision

That the recommendations of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group be approved.

80. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2009/10 – Quarter 4 Monitoring Report *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2009/10 to the end of the fourth quarter of the year.

Type of Decision

Non key

Issues for Consideration

A detailed report was provided on the progress against the actions contained in the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2009/10 and the fourth quarter outturns of key performance indicators. Of a total of 66 actions for which the Portfolio Holder was responsible 4 were not expected to reach their target. The reasons for the anticipated failure to achieve these targets were outlined within the report and new dates for completion proposed. A separate report detailing the progress of Performance Indicators would be included in a comprehensive year end Performance report, due for production in July 2010.

Decision

That the progress of key actions and the latest position with regard to risks be noted

That the changes to the actions as detailed within the report be approved

81. Powlett Road Area Flood Alleviation *(Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering Services))*

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the outcome of a study undertaken to determine possible solutions to flooding of the rear gardens of properties in Powlett Road and gain approval to implement the preferred solution.

Type of Decision

Non key.

Issues for Consideration

Powlett Road residents had reported problems with wet and waterlogged rear gardens and standing water under floors for a considerable period of time. Following meetings and discussions with residents in June 2009 Scott Wilson Consultants were commissioned to work alongside staff from the Engineering Consultancy in identifying the cause of the problem, considering options and developing a preferred solution. The resultant draft report identified the possible cause of the problem was being related to localised raising of the ground level in the Bakers Mead development cutting off flow routes from the Powlett Road area. The only option to alleviate the flooding problem involved constructing a land drain in the rear gardens of the properties in Powlett Road which would connect to the Northumbrian Water surface water sewer in the Bakers Mead estate via existing private drainage located in a parking area on the estate. Grant application bids to cover the costs of implementing the scheme were made to the Environment Agency but were unsuccessful. A local contractor had estimated the cost at approximately £35,000. This would be covered by monies in the Council revenue budget for land drainage and coastal protection.

The properties in Powlett Road are privately owned and provision was available under the Land Drainage Act 1991 as amended by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 for local lead authorities to carry out flood risk management in certain circumstances. Northumbrian Water had agreed to accept flows from the land drainage works into their surface water sewer in Bakers Mead. Agreement would need to be reached with the owner of the private drainage into which the land drain would connect.

The Portfolio Holder indicated his support for the proposal commenting that it had been a long time coming. The Assistant Director (Transport and Engineering) advised that while these works would not alleviate the problem completely they would go some way

to addressing it.

Decision

- I. That the outcome of the study and the availability of budget provision be noted
- II. That the scheme be implemented subject to the necessary approvals and agreements

82. Review and Rationalisation of Tourism Signage (Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering Services))

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the brown tourism signage review and to outline the proposal to review the pedestrian and interpretation signage within Hartlepool.

Type of Decision

Non key.

Issues for Consideration

The review of brown tourism signage across Hartlepool was established as a result of actions arising from Scrutiny investigations into the marketing of Hartlepool and railway approaches and following recommendations made by the Hartlepool Central Area Investment Framework. An officer-working group had been established to undertake the review. The findings in relation to the review into brown signage had been completed and the results placed onto a town plan tabled at the meeting. The rationale was to show broad summaries of Hartlepool's tourism on the outskirts of the town with more detailed signage detailing individual attractions further into town. Signage to the railway station and transport interchange had also been reviewed with additional signs planned and existing signs reviewed, rationalised and re-sited where possible in an attempt to declutter the highway. Funding from the Local Transport Plan would be used to implement these recommendations with the signage relating to the Railway Station and Transport Interchange financed using the Transport Interchange budget. The total cost had been estimated at £40,000 approximately.

The second phase of the review would involve examination of pedestrian signage and signposting including tourist interpretation and information points. The possibility of Electronic Information Terminals at key tourism locations would be examined. The results of this review would be reported back to a future portfolio meeting.

Decision

That the review and the plan to rationalise and update the brown tourism signage within Hartlepool be noted

The meeting concluded at 9.15 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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