

TRANSPORT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

21 June 2010

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

Present:

Councillor Peter Jackson (Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Alastair Smith, Assistant Director (Transport and Engineering)
Denise Ogden, Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

1. Additional Highway Maintenance Funding 2010/11 – Assistant Director (Transport and Engineering)

Type of Decision

Key (tests i and ii apply)

Purpose of Report

To advise on additional funding received from Central Government towards the repair of highways damaged during the extreme winter weather together with additional Council funding and to seek approval for a programme of works using this funding.

Issues for Consideration

The Government has made provision for funding for local authorities to assist in repairs to highways damaged during the extreme weather conditions over the previous months and Hartlepool was allocated £108,300. The Authority was required to provide details to the public on how this allocation had been spent. It was intended to utilise the money for resurfacing rather than patching works, thereby providing longer term benefits to the town. An underspend on highway maintenance had provided a further £200,000 for works. Appendix A to the report detailed the roads which were in the most need of repair. Funding had been distributed evenly on schemes in each of the three Neighbourhood areas.

It was clarified that the monies allocated would be sufficient to complete all the works outlined in the appendix to the report. The Portfolio Holder commented that the resurfacing work would benefit the town.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the additional programme of highway maintenance works.

2. Highway Planning Maintenance Works (Five Year Programme) – Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering Services)

Type of Decision

Key Decision (Test ii applies)

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to the five year planned highway maintenance programme for the period April 2010 to March 2015

Issues for Consideration

The report provided the background as to the testing methods utilised to identify the condition of a highway and identified which highways in the town would be included in the five year programme based on the test results, highway inspections, risk management information and customer feedback. It was noted that highway maintenance funding had suffered a decline and therefore it had not been possible to achieve the targets set by the Government in its ten year plan. The identified roads were outlined in Appendix A to the report although this list could be adjusted should a need be identified.

The Portfolio Holder queried whether Catcote Road would be resurfaced and was informed that this would be brought forward. It was highlighted that the Authority would be spending almost £1.5 million on maintenance of highways and footpaths over the coming years.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the amended five year programme for planned maintenance.

3. Adoption of Highways Hartlepool Marina – Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To provide an update in respect of the proposals to adopt the highways on

Hartlepool marina and seek approval to pursue adoption through the legal process contained within Section 53 of the Highways Act 1980.

Issues for Consideration

The report outlined the history of previous negotiations with landowners and stakeholders, financial implications and legal options. Adoption of the roads, footways and car park at Navigation Point had been planned for July 2009, however the sewers were to remain the responsibility of the developer. The developer however, indicated that the adoption process would only be completed if the Authority took responsibility for the sewers as well as the roads and footpaths. Northumbria Water had refused to adopt the sewers as these were seriously substandard. Because of the associated financial risk the Council was unwilling to take responsibility for the sewers and hence negotiations in respect of adoption had broken down. It was therefore proposed that the Council, as the Highway Authority, make application to the Magistrates Court, under Section 53 of the Highways Act 1980, to adopt the highways on the Marina. Once adopted the responsibility of all future maintenance and cleansing would fall on the Authority and would be met through current maintenance budgets. A recent inspection of the area had indicated that the roads and footpaths were in a similar condition to how they were in July 2009. This would indicate that an immediate maintenance requirement of £50,000 would be needed to bring the area to an acceptable standard, with further investment possible should full reconstruction become necessary.

The Portfolio Holder queried with the Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering) whether there was any possibility of a negotiated settlement but was informed that despite intervention from the Mayor, negotiations had broken down and therefore this was the only recourse left to the Authority. The Portfolio Holder expressed disappointment with this outcome but concurred that this action was the way forward.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved action to pursue the adoption of the roads and footways on Hartlepool Marina by way of application to Magistrates Court under Section 53 of the Highways Act 1980.

4. Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Minor Works Budget 2010/2011 – Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to delegate powers to the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood

Services) with regard to the approval of Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Minor Works Schemes.

Issues for Consideration

The report provided an overview of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Minor Works Schemes which were proposed by Members, Residents, Resident Representatives or Officers and then approved by the Forum prior to authorisation from the Portfolio Holder. The report highlighted areas where improvements could be made to enable the process to function in an more efficient way.

The Portfolio Holder commented that the Forums should decide how the Minor Works budget was spent in their area and was happy to delegate the powers as long as the criteria was adhered to.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder delegated authority to the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) to approve Minor Works Schemes in line with the criteria contained in section 2 of the report and agreed to receive bi-annual reports detailing the Minor Works Schemes carried out across the three Forum areas. This delegation was to be approved annually.

5. Pride in Hartlepool Small Grants Scheme – Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) to sanction projects funded by the Pride in Hartlepool Small Grants Scheme.

Issues for Consideration

The report provided an overview of the Pride in Hartlepool Small Grants Scheme and highlighted a number of areas where improvements could be made to enable the scheme to function in a more efficient way. It was highlighted that because of the timing of the Steering Group meetings and the Portfolio meetings, applications could take up to four months to process.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder delegated powers to the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) to sanction projects funded by the Pride in Hartlepool Small Grants Scheme and agreed to received 6 monthly reports. This delegation was to be approved annually.

6. Revised Local Transport Plan (LTP) Budget Allocations for 2010/11 – Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To provide information on the local transport capital outturn expenditure in 2009/10 and seek approval for the revised LTP budget allocations and programme for integrated transport and structural maintenance in 2010/11.

Issues for Consideration

The report provided details of the 2009/10 local transport capital allocations, the revised budget allocations and the actual allocations as from April 2010.

The Portfolio Holder expressed surprise that only half of the allocation had been spent and asked whether the ring fenced allocation could be lost. He was assured that the allocation was safe and asked that the schemes be progressed without delay.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the revised distribution of local transport capital funding for 2010/11

7. Neighbourhood Action Team – Environmental Enforcement – Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the key activities and performance of the Neighbourhood Action Team over the past 12 months and of new initiatives introduced by the Neighbourhood Action Team, aimed at improving the environment and providing a safer cleaner place for people to work and live.

Issues for Consideration

The Neighbourhood Action Team's achievements contribute significantly to providing a safer cleaner environment for the people of Hartlepool. The team is therefore fundamental to the Council's key aims and objectives.

Initiatives such as the Waste Site Initiative to combat illegal burning at waste sites, the joint initiative with Housing Hartlepool on responsible dog ownership Owner and the education of school children regarding littering were outlined to the Portfolio Holder. Details were also given of the Team's monitoring of the Household Waste Recycling Centre which was regularly subjected to break-ins.

The Portfolio Holder stated that he had seen first hand the work of the team. He pointed out that it was a relatively small team and wished that the Authority had the resources to expand it.

Decision

The Portfolio noted the contents of the report and expressed his thanks to the Team.

The meeting concluded at 9.30 am

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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