

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

7 September 2010

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

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond (Community Safety and Housing Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)
Alison Mawson, Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)
Sarah Scarr, Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

5. Locally Important Buildings – *Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To provide information to the Portfolio Holder on the proposal to establish a list of locally important buildings.

Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Hartlepool has 200 listed buildings which are properties which have been designated by the Government as structures which are of 'special architectural or historic interest'. English Heritage and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) encourage the development of Local Lists. Some locally important buildings are not of national significance however they may merit protection because they contribute to the local heritage. It was clarified that the Local List would include not just buildings, but also other structures or landscapes. The recently introduced Planning Policy Statement 5 should ensure that if a building was considered Locally Important then this would be a material planning consideration.

In addition to suggestions made by the Local Authority, public consultation with residents and local groups should identify further buildings. Consultation would take place with the owners of the properties and it was proposed that the final selection of buildings would be carried out by an independent panel

comprising of individuals with specialist knowledge in conservation, architecture or history. It was hoped that there would be support from residents for the establishment of a Local List.

A similar report would be given to the next meeting of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and then the consultation process would commence. It was envisaged that it would be approximately one year before the List would be completed.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder agreed to the processes outlined in the report to establish a list of Locally Important Buildings in Hartlepool.

6. Heritage Regeneration Manager Project – *Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To inform and seek support from the Portfolio Holder in principle to an initiative to source funding of up to £500,000 for vacant heritage buildings (both listed and unlisted) Part of the report sought consent to give support to the Cleveland Building Preservation Trust (CBPT) by way of political representation on the Board of Management of the Trust and to use Compulsory Purchase powers available to the Council to purchase properties as part of 'back to back deals' with CBPT or Groundwork.

The project has still to be developed further particularly the relationship between CBPT and Groundwork, but was brought to the Portfolio Holder for information and to allow the Portfolio Holder to indicate commitment to future actions to support the project.

Issues for Consideration

The project which was a joint partnership between the CPBT, Groundwork (North East), the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF), English Heritage (the latter two as sources of funding) and the local authorities within the Tees Valley (Hartlepool, Stockton, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Darlington). The project was to consist of the employment of a Heritage Regeneration Manager by Groundwork. The role of the Manager was to investigate viable new uses for unused heritage buildings and then to source funding by way of a loan of up to £500,000 per building from the AHF via either the Cleveland Building Preservation Trust or Groundwork.

The role of the partnering local authorities in the Tees Valley which includes Hartlepool will be to use those legal powers available to them to compulsorily

acquire properties and undertake 'back to back' deals with willing development partners. They would also provide direction to the project by way of political representatives on the Board of Management of the CBPT (which its constitution allows) and to become involved in the CBPT's activities generally. Partnering authorities may also provide financial support to feasibility studies and works if the costs of either feasibility studies or works exceed the maximum grant or loans available from the AHF. Each project will be considered on its individual merits on the basis of a completed feasibility study identifying a viable use, costs and end value.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder deferred this item to a future meeting.

7. Government Review of Anti-Social Behaviour – Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To update the Portfolio Holder on recent developments nationally in the field of anti-social behaviour.

Issues for Consideration

The report gave an overview of the speech made on 28 July 2010 by the Home Secretary in which she indicated that Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) were to be ended. This had caused confusion with residents who were unsure whether current ASBOs would remain in place. The report highlighted that the Home Office are to review the raft of powers used to deal with anti-social behaviour, but in the meantime, Hartlepool Anti Social Behaviour Unit in conjunction with Police, would continue to use ASBOs, and other similar measures such as Dispersal Orders and Drink Banning Orders as long as they remain in place.

The definition of ASB was likely to be changed to 'any aggressive, intimidating or destructive activity that damages or destroys another person's quality of life'.

The Place Survey which used to be carried out biennially had been put on hold and this would lead to new methods of measuring how effective ASBOs were. Hartlepool Borough Council would continue to use its own methods of evaluation of their worth.

The Portfolio Holder commented that local residents showed support for ASBOs and were forthcoming with information on perpetrators of ASB. It was highlighted that of current ASBOs, approximately three quarters of these

were held by adults.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that Hartlepool Borough Council remained committed to dealing with Anti Social behaviour using the full range of tools at its disposal.

The Portfolio Holder agreed that the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit should publicise local evidence to demonstrate that ASBOs are believed to be effective.

The Portfolio Holder noted that all current ASBOs in Hartlepool remain in force.

The Portfolio Holder noted that Hartlepool Borough Council in consultation with Cleveland Police would continue to use this legislation so long as it remained on the statute book.

8. Safer Hartlepool Partnership Community Cohesion Fund Proposals – Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To consider the recommendations of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP) Community Cohesion Grants Panel in respect of applications for community cohesion funding.

Issues for Consideration

The proposed awards for community cohesion grants were as follows:-

St Joseph's Church proposed to hold a Summer festival in September to bring together Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) residents and the wider community, to promote physical exercise and eating. The Filipino and Polish communities would be encouraged to attend. The Grant Panel recommended that St Joseph's Church should receive £500 towards this event.

Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group required funding for a volunteer to undertake a British Sign Language level 3 Language Skills course. The volunteer would in turn pass on knowledge to other members of the group. The Grants Panel recommended that £2,100 should be awarded.

It was noted that should these grants be approved, there would be a further £7,315 to allocate.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder agreed the recommendation of the SHP community Cohesion Grants Panel in respect of the application for funding to support community cohesion related projects totalling £2,600.

The meeting concluded at 10.21 am.

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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