

# CABINET

## MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

27 September 2010

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

### **Present:**

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors: Jonathan Brash (Portfolio Holder for Performance Portfolio Holder)  
Robbie Payne (Deputy Mayor) (Finance and Procurement Portfolio Holder),  
Pam Hargreaves (Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio Holder),  
Gerard Hall (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder).  
Peter Jackson (Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder),  
Hilary Thompson (Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder),

Officers: Paul Walker, Chief Executive  
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive,  
Chris Little, Chief Finance Officer  
Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor  
Joanne Machers, Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer  
Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration & Planning)  
Derek Gouldbum, Urban and Planning Policy Manager  
Alan Dobby, Assistant Director (Support Services)  
Julian Heward, Public Relations Officer  
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer  
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

**The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Robbie Payne, in the Chair**

### **59. Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder).

### **60. Declarations of interest by members**

Councillors Hargreaves and Brash declared a personal interest in Minute No. 64, "Suspension of Greatham Clinic – Final Report and Action Plan" as members of Hartlepool Families First Board.

## **61. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2010**

The meeting of 13 September had been cancelled and the date appeared in error on the agenda.

## **62. Revision to the Local Development Scheme** *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

### **Type of decision**

Budget and Policy Framework.

### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval for a revision to the current Local Development Scheme (LDS) of July 2009 to take account of recent changes within planning at a national and regional level and changing circumstances locally.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet**

The Local Development Scheme sets out the Council's programme for the preparation of development plan documents forming part of the Development Plan which is part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

Government Office advises that the LDS is a definitive programme management document which will only expect to be departed from in exceptional circumstances or as agreed in response to the Annual Monitoring Report. It is, however, important that the document is kept up to date through regular review. Technically, Supplementary Planning Documents do not need to be included within the LDS, however it is considered that their inclusion clearly illustrates the work which is being carried out within the Council and helps in effectively managing workloads. The proposed changes and additions to the Local Development Scheme are as follows:

#### **Amendment to the Core Strategy DPD**

Cabinet (6th September 2010) has requested that a 2nd Preferred Options Document be produced for public consultation. This clearly impacts on the timescales for the production of this document and these changes are reflected in table 1 within the revised LDF (submitted as Appendix 1 to the report). The other major change in relation to the Core Strategy document is the inclusion of a policy on Affordable Housing. The previous LDS included a separate Affordable Housing DPD, however, following advice from Government Office it is proposed to incorporate policies on affordable housing within the Core Strategy DPD.

#### **Deletion of Housing Allocations DPD from the LDS**

It is considered that given the relatively small number of housing sites within Hartlepool, that sufficient detail on scale and timing of the delivery of housing sites is included within the Core Strategy. It is therefore considered

that this DPD is no longer necessary.

#### Changes to the timetable of the Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plans Documents

These DPDs were published in August 2009 to allow public representations on them and some of the responses, together with changed circumstances since that time, mean that further changes are necessary before the DPDs can be submitted to the Secretary of State

#### Victoria Harbour Supplementary Planning Document

This document has been developed to an advanced stage, however, due to changes in circumstances relating to Victoria Harbour and its inclusion within the Core Strategy as a site for port related uses rather than for a mixed use development this document is no longer required.

#### Completed Documents

The Statement of Community Involvement and the Transport Assessment and Travel Plans SPD have now been formally adopted and no longer need including within the LDS.

#### Supplementary Planning Documents Updates

The timetable for completion of the Planning Obligations SPD has been re-profiled to allow time to consider changes in legislation relating to Section 106 legal agreements and to consider the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) by the previous government. The issue around CIL is now further complicated by the new government indicating that it plans to scrap CIL and replace it with an alternative, although no timescales have yet been set for this.

Since the previous LDS in 2009, Cabinet has given approval for a Green Infrastructure SPD and for a Central Area SPD to be produced. The timetables for these documents are now included within this revised LDS. A further two SPD's are also included within the LDS, namely the Seaton Carew SPD and the Design SPD.

Cabinet Members indicated that while they understood that the policies relating to affordable housing were now incorporated into Core Strategy, there was concern that the focus on affordable housing could be lost without a separate DPD.

#### **Decision**

1. That the Revised Local Development Scheme (September 2010) be approved for consultation with the Planning Inspectorate and, subject to their acceptance of the programme, the revised LDS be submitted to the Secretary of State.
2. That a Seaton Carew SPD and a Design SPD be produced to the timescales outlined within the LDS.

**The Mayor, Stuart Drummond, in the Chair.**

**63. Hartlepool Assistive Technology Strategy** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

**Type of decision**

Key Decision – Test (ii) applies. (Forward Plan Reference Number CAS80/10).

**Purpose of report**

To approve the “Hartlepool Strategy for Assistive Technology: - The way forward for Telecare and Telehealth 2010 – 2015” as the direction of travel for developing Assistive Technology across the borough.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet**

The Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder reported that Assistive Technology was a collective term used to describe a variety of services that use information and communication technology (ICT) and linked response services to support people to live in their own homes. Other terms were also used for this such as: telecare, telehealth, tele-monitoring and telemedicine. They are often used interchangeably with telecare being the name in most common usage.

In its simplest form Assistive Technology can be just a basic community alarm system but is usually used as additional support to a health or social care package to prolong and maintain a person's independence. Some examples might include:

- Alarms e.g. siren or flashing light.
- Sensors that detect flood or fire
- Sensors that turn off a cooker or turn on a table light during the night.
- Sensors that shut off a gas supply or provide an alert for flooding.
- Monitors that send a message to a carer and or the control centre as an alert.
- Live/voice communication that maintains an open line to a control centre for the user to talk to in an emergency.
- Additional or secondary responses for other emergency services e.g. carer to visit, ambulance service.
- Reminders to take medication
- Monitoring of long term medical conditions remotely by health care practitioners

The Portfolio Holder highlighted that the make up of the population was changing significantly. In Hartlepool, over the next 20 years the number of older people, especially those over the age of 80, will nearly double from 3,600 to 6,700 and increase significantly as a proportion of the overall population from 3.9% to 6.6%. Experience showed that this group of people are more likely to need support. The numbers of people with illness

and disability will rise also. At the same time the number of people likely to be unpaid carers will not increase in line with the demand and may even reduce. This means that there will be growth in people needing care but not in carers. Assistive technology has a vital role if we are to be able to cope.

There was concern expressed by Cabinet Members at the lack of detail of the costs associated with the implementation of the strategy. The Assistant Director (Support Services) indicated that funding for the introduction of telecare had already been approved. The existing funding for telecare would be increased from the savings created in other care budgets. It was anticipated that telecare would be an option chosen by those on personal budgets. Choosing telecare would reduce the costs for the department in terms of carer provision but there would still need to be the staff to attend when individuals needed them.

Cabinet supported the strategy but requested that an implementation plan together with the costs associated with telecare be the subject of a further report to Cabinet.

#### **Decision**

1. That Cabinet approves the Hartlepool Strategy for Assistive Technology as a basis for the development of Assistive Technology for the next 5 years.
2. That an implementation plan together with the costs associated with telecare be the subject of a further report to Cabinet.

## **64. Suspension of Greatham Clinic – Final Report and Action Plan** (*Health Scrutiny Forum*)

#### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

#### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to outline the findings, conclusions and action plan of the Health Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the 'Suspension of Greatham Clinic'.

#### **Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet**

The Final Report outlined the overall aim of the scrutiny investigation, terms of reference, methods of investigation, findings, conclusions, and subsequent recommendations. The Action Plan (set out at Appendix A to the report), outlined the recommendations agreed with NHS Hartlepool in response to the Scrutiny Forum's investigation.

Cabinet Members highlighted that the limited non-clinical service was not being provided by the local authority but by Hartlepool Families First, a charitable group. Members also asked for feedback on the consultation being undertaken with General Practitioners (GPs). It was suggested that this could be undertaken through submission of the six-monthly scrutiny

review report to Cabinet.

**Decision**

That the Final Report and Action Plan in response to the recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the 'Suspension of Greatham Clinic' be noted.

**65. Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment – Final Report** (*Health Scrutiny Forum*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key.

**Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to outline the findings and conclusions of the Health Scrutiny Forum's investigation into Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet**

The Final Report outlines the overall aim of the scrutiny investigation, terms of reference, methods of investigation, findings, conclusions, and subsequent recommendations.

Cabinet Members noted that it had taken some time for the report to be submitted to Cabinet. It was indicated that this was due to the time taken for the Health Authority to respond to the proposed actions that fell within its remit. The Mayor considered that most of the actions were already being implemented or outdated as much had changed in recent months.

It was suggested that Cabinet should consider taking a lead on this important issue by consideration of supporting the introduction of a minimum price per unit for alcohol sales and a reduction in the late night opening hours. The Mayor reported that in conjunction with the Chief executive and local Police Commander, he had written to the local licensees promoting a reduction in late night closing to 2.00 a.m. This had found considerable favour but due to one licensee not supporting the proposal, an agreement was presently unlikely. Cabinet was also concerned that government and health providers did not ring-fence monies that supported alcohol treatment. The Council had developed its own alcohol strategy to tackle the issue and support treatment services but funding was at risk.

The Mayor commented that the new coalition government were considering issuing legislation in this area which may give additional powers to the local authority. The Chief Executive stated that it was expected that the government would transfer preventative health management local authorities and that it would be prudent to await such guidance before revisiting this issue.

**Decision**

That the Final Report of the Health Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the 'Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment' be noted.

**66. Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment – Action Plan** (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key.

**Purpose of report**

To agree an Action Plan in response to the findings and subsequent recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment'.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet**

To assist the Cabinet in its determination of either approving or rejecting the proposed recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment', submitted as Appendix A to the report was the proposed Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendations. Recommendations (a)-(d) and (g)-(h) have been prepared in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s). Recommendations (e)-(f) in the Action Plan had been agreed with NHS Hartlepool.

**Decision**

That the Action Plan for recommendations (a)-(d) and (g)-(h) attached as Appendix A to the report in response to the recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment' be approved.

**67. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006**

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 68 Equal Pay Risk Update; information relation to a particular applicant, or recipient or former recipient of, any service provided by the Council (para 4) and information in relation to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (other than the Council) (para 7).

## **68. Equal Pay Risk Update** (*Corporate Management Team*)

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

The report updated Cabinet on the various risks facing the Council in the light of the ongoing litigation surrounding equal pay and equal value claims.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet**

A detailed report on Equal Pay risks was presented to Cabinet on 25th January 2010 and this report provides an update on these issues. Further details were set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

### **Decision**

That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 9:50 a.m.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2010**