

# **COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD**

19 November 2010

The meeting commenced at 10.20 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)  
Peter Graves, Townscape Heritage Initiative Manager  
Chris Wenlock, Parks and Countryside Manager  
Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager (North)  
Brian Neale, Community Safety Manager  
Lynda Igoe, Principal Housing Advice Officer  
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

## **14. Church Street Conservation Area Management Plan** – Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)

**Type of Decision**

Non key.

**Purpose of Report**

To provide information to the Portfolio Holder on the draft Management Plan that has recently been produced for the Church Street Conservation Area and request permission to take the draft document out to public consultation.

**Issues for Consideration**

English Heritage had indicated that an appraisal of a conservation area needed a set of policies, strategies and actions identified to actively manage change in a conservation area. The purpose of a management plan was to direct this changes in such a way as to strengthen rather than undermine the conservation areas special quality. The Visual Appraisal for Church Street indicated that progress had been made in improving the functioning and appearance of Church Street. However there were particular problems affecting the quality of the area which needed specific responses. The draft Management Plan highlighted these problems as follows and proposed ways to address them:

- Vacant and under used buildings
- Building maintenance
- Shop front shutters and advertising
- Adverts
- Maintenance of street environment

All properties in the area would receive a leaflet summarising the management plan and a letter inviting comments. These documents would also be available on the Council website and copies sent to interested parties.

### **Decision**

That the report be noted and the public consultation for the Church Street Conservation Area Management Plan approved.

## **15. Homelessness Strategy 2010-2015 – Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)**

### **Type of Decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of Report**

To seek authorisation for publication of the Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan for 2010-2015 following final amendments as recommended by Cabinet at their meeting on 28 June 2010.

### **Issues for Consideration**

In June 2010 Cabinet approved the Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan for 2010-2015. During their discussion Cabinet members had focused on ways in which the Strategy helped tackle child poverty therefore further information had been provided within the document, specifically in terms of the links to local strategies and initiatives. The Action Plan had also been produced as a separate document and the key strategic links for each aim and objective of the Strategy clearly identified. The final Strategy and Action Plan were appended to the report.

### **Decision**

That the publication of the final Strategy and Action Plan be authorised.

## **16. 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:-

ADDvance required funding for a pilot project to bring together a grandparents' group to pass on skills such as gardening and cooking to young people on the group's farm. The Grants Committee unanimously recommended that £2,000 should be awarded, the total cost of the project being £4,450.

Headland Future required funding for structured diversionary activities for young people from West View, Headland and the Central Estate for 16 weeks on Friday evenings between 6.46pm and 9.30pm. The Grants Committee unanimously recommended that £1,368 should be awarded, the total cost of the project being £2,507.

Manor West Youth Project required funding for a Fun Day event in partnership with Cleveland Fire Brigade and the West View Project. The event would be open to all young people aged up to 19 and would include such activities as five-a-side football, speed ball cage, bouncy castles and face painting. The Grants Committee recommended that £680 should be awarded, the total cost of the project.

The Mayor noted that support for the Manor West Youth Project application from the Community Cohesion Grants Panel was not unanimous. The Mayor questioned the proposal which seemed nothing more than a fun-day with little post event community or inter-generational cohesion. The Mayor indicated that he did not support the application from this fund.

Hartlepool Deaf Centre required funding for the Focus on Health project, which would offer classes to improve fitness and reduce the stress levels of people from different generations and cultures with various physical, psychological and sensory disabilities. The Grants Committee

unanimously recommended £1,153 should be awarded, the total cost of the project being £1,473.

Hartlepool Chinese Association required funding for Chinese language classes and other integration activities. The Grants Committee recommended £2,100 should be awarded, the total cost of the project being £18,949.

The Mayor noted that support for the Chinese Association application from the Community Cohesion Grants Panel was not unanimous. The Community Safety Manager commented that he had been informed that the language classes had already commenced. The community group was new to the department and in light of this the Mayor requested further detailed information for his next portfolio meeting.

### **Decision**

1. That the following applications be approved: -

ADDvance	£2,000
Headland Future	£1,368
Hartlepool Deaf Centre	£1,153
2. That the application from Manor West Youth Project be refused.
3. That the application from Hartlepool Chinese Association be deferred pending the receipt of further detailed information at the next meeting of the Portfolio Holder.

## **17. Stranton Conservation Area Appraisal** – *Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)*

### **Type of Decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of Report**

To seek Portfolio Holder approval of a visual assessment that has recently been carried out in the Stranton Conservation Area.

### **Issues for Consideration**

The report outlined the background to the appraisal, summarising the public consultation that was carried out and the responses to it. These responses had been incorporated into the document by officers who carried out physical surveys as well as looking at existing documents. The conclusions drawn in the appraisal were outlined along with action plans addressing the main issues which had arisen.

The Mayor questioned if the Comet/Allied Carpets building on Stranton

should be added to the derelict buildings list. The Townscape Heritage Initiative Manager indicated that he understood that there was an application to bring the building back into use. The Mayor commented that the building should be monitored by the Derelict Buildings Group.

### **Decision**

That the appraisal be noted and the action plan approved.

## **18. Neighbourhood Action Plans – Performance Update 2009/10 – Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)**

### **Type of Decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of Report**

To update the Portfolio Holder on the progress made by each of the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Forums in 2009/10/

### **Issues for Consideration**

The report included identified key achievements for the ten NAP forums during 2009/10. Areas for improvement in 2010/11 were also highlighted including community facilities, health inequalities, unemployment and housing renewal. Copies of the Action Plan reports for each of the NAP areas were appended to the report along with information on the Big Society Learning Network.

Neighbourhood Manager (North) commented that the NAPs had proved to be an excellent mechanism for engaging and empowering local people. The challenge was how to sustain that after the withdrawal of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. Despite the withdrawal of WNF, there appeared to be a willingness in the local communities to maintain the strong foundations the NAPs had developed. The Assistant Director also indicated that at a recent Tees Valley Unlimited meeting it had been acknowledged that there was a need to retain the good management that the NAPs had brought to communities.

The Mayor commented that there may be a need to work differently in the future to allow as much of the good work already undertaken to be carried forward. These issues could, however, not be looked at in isolation but in the wider context of community engagement pursued by the Council in the future.

### **Decision**

That the progress made by each NAP Forum be endorsed the full set of

Annual Reports provided be noted.

## **19. Progress Report – Ground Work North East – Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)**

### **Type of Decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of Report**

To inform the Portfolio Holder on performance activities and work carried out by Groundwork North East since we entered into the agreement.

### **Issues for Consideration**

In January 2010 Hartlepool Borough Council became a Company Member of Groundwork North East. This is a partnership between the public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver programmes that bring about concurrent social, economic and environmental benefits. The Hartlepool programme had focused on the environmental regeneration of local communities in areas of need including Thorpe Street garden, Jutland Road play area and Middleton Road Estate. The GreenStart project had also been delivered. In the first 6 months of 2010/11 £61,000 worth of external funding had been secured for projects across the borough with a further funding bid in the final stages of assessment. Details were given of current and future projects.

The Mayor noted the close working with the Neighbourhood Action Plan groups. Officers highlighted the benefit of the Groundwork Project Coordinator being embedded within the authority, particularly in accessing other funds.

### **Decision**

That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.50 a.m.

**PETER DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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