

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

6 January 2011

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

Present:

Councillor Robbie Payne (Finance and Procurement Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Graham Frankland, Assistant Director (Resources)
Alastair Smith, Assistant Director (Transport and Engineering)
Dale Clark, Estates and Asset Manager
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: John and Dorothy Graham
Keith Large

37. Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan Monitoring Report – April to October 2010 – *Assistant Director (Resources)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan 2010/11 over the period April to October 2010.

Issues for Consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the progress against the actions contained in the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan 2010/11. Of 28 actions 24 had been completed, were on track or were progressing within acceptable limits however 4 had been highlighted as requiring intervention. Information as to the reasons for this was given within the report along with revised completion dates. Seven of the 8 performance indicators had been completed on target or were expected to be, the remaining indicator relating to the percentage of municipal waste landfilled. The Assistant Director (Resources) advised that this was due to a series of waste to energy plant shut downs necessitating the diversion of waste to landfill. The Portfolio Holder was assured that there were no cost implications to this.

Each division also assesses risks identified within the Chief Executive's Risk Register and these are reported quarterly as having either red, amber or green status. None for which the Portfolio Holder had responsibility were identified as high (red) risk.

Decision

- I. That the progress of key actions and the latest position with regard to risks be noted
- II. That the proposed Action date changes be approved

38. Seaton Carew Coastal Strategy – 1st Phase of Works – *Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To advise the Portfolio Holder that urgent works are required to upgrade a section of coastal defence in Seaton Carew and detail steps taken to commission the works.

To advise that a further report covering the whole coastal strategy will be taken to Cabinet shortly

Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Seaton Carew Coastal Strategy Study, by Scott Wilson Consultants, had commenced in October 2008 covering the frontage from Newburn Bridge in the north to the Tees Estuary in the south. The formal process required that the strategy was recommended for approval by the Environment Agency's National Review Group (NRG),

During the formation of the strategy it had become apparent that urgent works were needed to upgrade a section of coastal defence in Seaton, details of which were given within the report. It had been decided to carry out a specific Project Appraisal Report in parallel with production of the overall strategy. This would look at the individual scheme in great detail, producing a robust business case for the work to be presented to the Environment Agency's Project Assessment Board for technical approval. This had duly been submitted to the Environment Agency who had agreed to fund the work, valued at 1.8 million, in its entirety through their Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding stream. Furthermore HBC had been asked to act as a mentor to other local authorities in how to negotiate external funding. It was anticipated that the work could begin in March 2011, pending receipt of planning

permission.

A resident of Town Wall attended the meeting and raised concerns about the erosion of the Heugh Breakwater. He felt that inferior materials had been used in previous repairs and felt the only way to completely rectify the situation would be to reinstate the breakwater to its original state. He felt inferior workmanship had placed the Town Wall in danger and that the importance of the breakwater could not be emphasised enough. The Assistant Director for Transport and Engineering acknowledged these concerns but indicated that this report related to the successful approval of the Project Appraisal Report for these works at Seaton Carew and was completely unrelated to the Headland. The Town Wall Study was ongoing and would be dealt with at another time. The Portfolio Holder noted that he had only recently inherited responsibility for these matters as part of his portfolio and asked if a report could be prepared by officers outlining the ongoing situation to him. The Assistant Director for Transport and Engineering suggested that officers set up an awareness discussion of which Mr Graham could be a part. The Chair agreed with this course of action and asked that Mr Graham be contacted when a suitable date had been identified.

In terms of the success of the funding bid the Portfolio Holder congratulated officers on their hard work, commenting that any additional funding was good news particularly in the current economic climate.

Decision

- I. That the actions taken by the Assistant Director to progress the implementation of urgent coastal works in Seaton Carew be noted
- II. That an information session for the Portfolio Holder on the Town Wall Study and related matters be arranged for a future date and that Mr Graham be invited to attend.

39. Eamont Gardens Garage Site – Assistant Director (Resources)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To seek Portfolio Holder approval to dispose of Eamont Gardens Garages site for redevelopment.

Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder

A previous survey of the garages had confirmed that they required substantial work if there were to continue to be occupied. The Portfolio Holder had asked that the current tenants of the garages be consulted as to their preferred options for the site. Following 2 rounds of consultation the disposal of the site for redevelopment was identified as the preferred option. This viewpoint was shared by the ward councillors who felt it would help mitigate anti-social behaviour in the area. Of the 3 options this would be the most cost effective, the only negative could be a reduction in off street parking in Eamont Gardens. However as only 6 of the residents resided in Eamont Gardens this was not felt to be of significant impact. Housing Hartlepool as the Council's managing agent were also in agreement with the proposed demolition and redevelopment.

The Portfolio Holder queried whether tenants would have access to alternate garages. The Assistant Director for Resources confirmed that Housing Hartlepool had agreed to work with tenants to identify any garages that became available and would continue to work with them to identify new sites. The Portfolio Holder queried whether consideration had been given to replacing the garages. The Assistant Director indicated that this would not be possible without raising rental fees to cover rebuild costs as there was no funding available. He also noted that the majority of residents had chosen demolition as the preferred option. The Portfolio Holder commented that it was a shame to demolish as the garages were well used. However the preference of residents and Ward Members was clear and funding was unavailable.

Decision

That approval be granted for the disposal of the Eamont Gardens Garages Site.

40. The West Hartlepool Technical Day School Old Boys RUFC – Assistant Director (Resources)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To consider a review to the lease arrangement with West Hartlepool Technical Day School Old Boys (WHTDSOB) during its period of transition.

Issues for Consideration

West Hartlepool Technical Day School Old Boys Rugby Union Football

Club (WHTDSOBRUFC) have leased land at Wiltshire Way from the Council since 1983. In 2005 the lease was renewed for 25 years subject to 5 year rent reviews. In recent years there had been a dramatic reduction in the amount of rugby teams using the pitches which has had a major impact on the revenue generated. In response to this the club had changed its emphasis to football and were adopting a more commercial approach to income generation through initiatives such as hiring out rooms for functions. Ways to reduce the clubs overheads were also being considered however while these moves had reduced operating costs and generated revenue the sustainability of the club was still problematic. To this end the Council were being asked consider a review to the lease arrangements to support the club during this period. Keith Large attended the meeting on behalf of the club. He thanked the Portfolio Holder for considering their request, particularly in the current economic climate. He gave details of a number of initiatives the club were considering such as working with other clubs. The Portfolio Holder praised the club for their proactive approach to their current dilemma. He asked that the club's rent be suspended for one year and then the situation would be reviewed. The money would be recovered proportionately over a 5 year period. He also asked that officers from the Sport and Recreation Department provide help and guidance to the club.

Decision

- I. That the rent be suspended for one year and the situation reviewed at that time.
- II. That the money be recovered proportionately over a 5 year period.

The meeting concluded at 10.35 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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