

# REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

## DECISION RECORD 11 FEBRUARY 2011

The meeting commenced at 3.30 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor Pamela Hargreaves (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development)

Officers: Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning  
Alastair Smith, Assistant Director, Transportation and Engineering  
Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager  
Diane Martin, Principal Economic Development Officer (Employment)  
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **39. Parking Strategy** *(Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering))*

#### **Type of decision**

Key – test ii applies

#### **Purpose of report**

To consider and approve the parking strategy document for Hartlepool.

#### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The report outlined the Parking Strategy for Hartlepool until 2021. This was first considered by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods in October 2010 who requested that the strategy be taken to the three Neighbourhood Consultative Fora for comment prior to approval. This consultation took place in December 2010 and the draft report was amended to reflect any views expressed during this period. The strategy set out 7 key objectives and 20 specific policies. A copy of the strategy was appended to the report.

In response to a question from the Portfolio Holder, the Assistant Director, Transportation and Engineering confirmed that the majority of the feedback received as a result of the consultation with the Neighbourhood Consultative Fora had been site specific and detailed. However there had been a number of subtle amendments made to the strategy as a result of

the consultation undertaken.

The Portfolio Holder sought clarification on the allocation of car parking spaces as a result of the essential car users allowance being abolished. The Assistant Director confirmed that this review was currently being progressed along with the car sacrifice scheme and would be reported back to the Portfolio Holder in the future. The Assistant Director clarified that the ratio of disabled car parking spaces to disabled badge holders was well above the required standard.

A discussion ensued on the car parking arrangements for businesses and the Portfolio Holder commented that the issues of cost and availability of car parking for businesses had been raised at the FSB and Economic Forum. The Economic Development Manager confirmed that although there were no major concerns from businesses in relation to car parking provisions, some businesses would always comment that more spaces were needed. It was noted that moving forward, availability of car parking space needed to tally with demand near to the shopping centre, paying particular attention to the safety of car park users.

The Portfolio Holder was not in favour of the use of car parking meters that did not provide change and questioned when Council would be looking to move towards a cash-less system. The Assistant Director confirmed that car parking spaces can be paid for using a mobile phone and this was operated in conjunction with a private company. It was confirmed that a cashless system was being examined including the operation of a smartphone application to pay for car parking. The Assistant Director confirmed that further reports would be submitted to the Portfolio Holder outlining how this strategy would be progressed especially in relation to ICT and sustainability.

### **Decision**

The Parking Strategy was approved with further reports to be submitted as the detail within the Strategy was progressed.

## **40. Hartlepool Economic Assessment** *(Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning))*

### **Type of decision**

Key – test ii applies

### **Purpose of report**

To consider and endorse the draft Hartlepool Economic Assessment prior to submitting to Cabinet

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill of 2009 places a statutory duty with relevant local authorities to complete a Local Economic Assessment by April 2011. This will set out the economic vitality and conditions of an area, providing an insight into the opportunities that the town could maximise and analysing how the town makes a significant contribution to sub-regional and regional functional markets. Hartlepool's assessment had largely been undertaken in house by the Economic Development Team with assistance from Durham University Business School. It would adopt the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy visions and the Jobs and Economy themed aims. A summary of the key finding was given within the report with the full Economic Assessment document and an Executive Summary appended to the report.

The Portfolio Holder acknowledged that there had been significant changes in the business and employment rates in the last year and noted that recognition should be given to the hard work undertaken by the Economic Development Team to achieve this. The Economic Development Manager indicated that due to the relationship the Council had with the business community, it was able to make a judgement on business growth in view of the support provided to that community. It was noted that tourism was worth around £46m per year in the town and was continuing to show significant growth. The Economic Development Manager confirmed that the Eat Guide which was published and reviewed annually promoted restaurants in the town, with the Marina area doing particularly well. The guide was promoted to businesses via the Restaurant Group and Business Forum. It was suggested that consideration should be given to utilising satellite navigations systems for the promotion of the Eat Guide using symbols to display where the restaurants were located.

It was suggested by the Portfolio Holder that the Economic Assessment be considered by the relevant scrutiny forum for comment and feedback. The Portfolio Holder passed on her thanks to the whole team for their hard work and input into the production of this document.

### **Decision**

- (i) The draft Economic Assessment was endorsed for submission to Cabinet on 21 March 2011.
- (ii) That the Economic Assessment be considered by the relevant Scrutiny Forum.

**41. Dunston Road Bus Lay-By** *(Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering))*

**Type of decision**

Non-key.

**Purpose of report**

To consider an objection received to the proposed installation of a lay-by for an existing bus stop on Dunston Road.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The existing northbound bus stop on Dunston Road had led to road safety concerns, particularly at school times as the width of the road meant buses waiting at the stop could cause traffic to back up. The proposal was to move the existing stop into a lay-by thereby allowing 2 way traffic flow at all times. During the consultation process 1 letter of objection had been received, this was appended to the report. The scheme had an estimated cost of £50,000, to be covered by the Local Transport Plan and Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum.

The Portfolio Holder questioned the estimated cost of undertaking the installation of this lay-by and whether it could be reduced. The Assistant Director, Transportation and Engineering confirmed that this was a maximum estimate and it was hoped that this scheme would be complete for less than the estimated budget required.

**Decision**

The provision for the bus lay-by in Dunston Road was approved.

**42. Proposed Alleygate Scheme Rear of Marske Street/Stockton Road** *(Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering))*

**Type of decision**

Non-key.

**Purpose of report**

To seek a decision as to whether alleygates should be erected to the back street of Marske Street/Stockton Road, taking into consideration objection received from residents during the consultation process.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

In 2006 the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Housing and Transportation approved the erection of alleygates to the rear of Marske Street and Stockton Road, with the proviso that further liaison on the arrangements and timings of the operation of the gates should take place with affected businesses. As agreement could not be reached with all parties at that time the scheme was not implemented. Given the passage of time a further consultation had been undertaken to ascertain whether circumstances had changed. 21 letters had been sent out with 10 replies in support and 4 objections. A brief summary of reasons for the objections was given within the report. Ward members were supportive of the proposals which it was felt would ensure additional security to the rear of homes in an area which was a hotspot for crime and disorder. Should the alleygates be erected they would remain open at such times as to accommodate the operation of businesses located in Stockton Road. The opening and closing of the gates would be organised between the residents and business owners. Funding for the scheme would come from New Deal for Communities.

The Portfolio Holder noted that there were more people in favour of the proposed alleygate scheme than against and that the scheme would be funded by the New Deal for Communities and on that basis indicated her support for the scheme.

### **Decision**

That the proposed alleygate scheme to the rear of Marske Street and Stockton Road be approved.

## **43. Academy and Apprentice Opportunities** *(Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning))*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

To update the Portfolio Holder on the development of the Hartlepool Academy proposal and subsequent apprentice project proposal.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

At the Hartlepool Skills Partnership on 13 September 2010 it was agreed that the Chair of the Partnership and the Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer with employers would scope out the feasibility of the project. A number of meetings had been held with large and small

businesses which resulted in support for the principle of driving up the demand for apprenticeships. Discussions were held with Hartlepool College of Further Education (HCFE) and the College agreed to lead on the development of the Management Training Agency (MTA) and the Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA). It was noted that discussions were also held with Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) to identify if there was a need for a Tees Valley wide intervention and as a result of this, Hartlepool, Stockton and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Councils, the Skills Funding Agency and the National Apprentice Service met on 13 January 2011 to examine this in more detail. The report provided an update on the current status of progress with the proposals.

The Portfolio Holder supported the proposals in principal but commented that there was a lot of information contained within this report that was new information and noted that since attending a meeting some months ago about this issue, this was the first update to be provided. With this in mind, it was suggested that regular briefings with the Portfolio Holder be arranged along with the Portfolio Holder for Performance and Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer being invited also.

It was acknowledged that the Council had two roles within this proposal, one as a major employer and the other to progress the economic development of the town. The Portfolio Holder was fully supportive of the proposal for one point of contact with the idea of a flexible framework providing diverse opportunities for young people and was interested in exploring this further with HCFE.

### **Decision**

- (i) The development of the Academy and Apprentice Opportunities to date were noted.
- (ii) That officers involvement in future developments regarding Hartlepool Borough Council and the Tees Valley Unlimited proposals were noted.
- (iii) That regular briefings on the progress of this proposal be arranged for the Portfolio Holders for Regeneration and Economic Development and Performance with the Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer.

## **44. Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) – Quarter 3 (2010/11) Update - (Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning))**

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

To update the Portfolio Holder on the position of the Working

Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) programme at the end of Quarter 3 of the 2010/11 financial year

**Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

Cabinet and Council agreed the 2009/10 budget (£5,167,838) and 2010/11 indicative budget (£5,646,049) for the WNF programme in February 2009. In May 2010 the coalition government announced a cut of £1.662 million in Hartlepool's Area Based Grant. As the WNF budget is part of this grant an in-year budget reduction of £706,549 was agreed by Council in August 2010 leading to a revised 2010/11 WNF budget of £5,022,196. This amount included £83,696 carried forward from the 2009/10 WNF budget. Detailed information on the final budgets for 2010/11 and the financial position at the end of quarter 3 was appended to the report. These showed that £3,712,123.99 had been spent by the end of quarter 3, 74% of the available grant. Expenditure provided directly to Primary and Secondary Schools had been fully spent.

The Portfolio Holder sought clarification on the allocation of any final underspend resulting from the WNF at the end of the programme. The Economic Development Officer confirmed that a decision on this would be reached as part of the area based grant allocation and would be subject to a further report with the final position at Quarter 4.

**Decision**

The spend position of the WNF programme as at the end of Quarter 3 (2010/11) was noted.

The meeting concluded at 4.19 pm

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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