

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

21 March 2011

The meeting commenced at 9.15 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond - In the Chair

Councillors: Jonathan Brash (Performance Portfolio Holder)
Robbie Payne (Deputy Mayor) (Finance and Procurement Portfolio Holder)
Pamela Hargreaves (Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio Holder)
Gerard Hall (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)
Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Also Present: Councillors Stephen Thomas, Chair of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum and Kevin Cranney, Chair of Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

Officers: Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive
Alyson Caman, Legal Services Manager
Nicola Bailey, Director of Child and Adult Services
Graham Frankland, Assistant Director, Resources
Alastair Smith, Assistant Director, Traffic and Transportation
Alison Mawson, Assistant Director, Community Safety and Protection
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning
Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager
Chris Hart, Drug and Alcohol Manager
Danielle Swainston, Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager
Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

189. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Peter Jackson (Cabinet Member without Portfolio) and Hilary Thompson (Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Tourism).

190. Declarations of interest by Members

Councillor Cath Hill declared a prejudicial interest in minute 201 and indicated she would leave the meeting during the consideration of that item.

191. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2011

Confirmed.

192. Matters arising from the minutes

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Procurement informed Members that it had been brought to his attention that concessionary fare tickets issued on local buses did not state the journey destination that the passenger had requested. The Assistant Director (Resources) indicated that enquiries would be made to ascertain the reason for this anomaly.

193. Final Report – 20's Plenty – Traffic Calming Measures *(Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to outline the findings and conclusions of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into '20's Plenty – Traffic Calming Measures'.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum presented the report which outlined the overall aim of the scrutiny investigation, terms of reference, methods of investigation, findings, conclusions and subsequent recommendations. The Chair of the Scrutiny Forum informed Members that one of the key issues identified during the investigation was the importance of engagement of the local community and education of all road users. It was highlighted that the investigation had taken account of the current financial position faced by the Council and had recommended a roll out programme across 3-4 years costing around £150k which would be funded out of the transport fund.

A Member questioned how the scheme would be implemented to the areas identified. The Chair of the Scrutiny Forum confirmed that it had been

suggested that the 20mph zones be implemented across all residential areas with the exception of main arterial routes in the town to avoid any significant impact on the flow of traffic through the town. Members' attention was drawn to a survey undertaken in the Burn Valley Ward which identified that where 20mph zones had been introduced, monitoring had shown that speeds had increased. The Chair of the Scrutiny Forum indicated that evidence from other local authorities had shown that where 20mph zones had been introduced in a small batch of streets, this had the affect of diluting the initiative. This was partly the reason for the Scrutiny Forum's recommendation to roll out the initiative across the whole town. It was reiterated that the 20's plenty initiative was about changing people's attitude to the speed they drive in residential areas and promotion of this initiative was key to its success.

A discussion ensued in relation to the enforcement of the 20 mph speed limit and how this would be undertaken. The Chair of the Scrutiny Forum informed Members that the Police had indicated that although the enforcement of 20mph zones would not be a priority for them, they would work in partnership with other agencies and local authorities to target particular areas affected by problem driving. Other authorities who had implemented 20 mph zones had noticed an incremental improvement with speeds reducing by a mile or two per year after implementation. Although this figure was not a significant reduction in speed, it had resulted in a 10% reduction in accident statistics in those areas which demonstrated that the introduction of the zones was impacting on the behaviour of drivers. In addition, other authorities had continued to introduce physical traffic calming features in areas with higher accident statistics.

Members were asked to note that since the introduction of the 20mph zones in the Burn Valley Ward, driving speeds had reduced by 5.5 mph. This was in part thought to be due to the zone being around a local primary school. However, this speed limit should be promoted as a way of driving in all residential areas, not just where local schools were located. There was some concern at the recommendation not to install any new physical traffic calming measures unless following speed surveys or accidents when it may be thought necessary. To alleviate these concerns, it was emphasised that consultation with local residents should always be undertaken when consideration was being given to the implementation of traffic calming measures, which should remain an option should the residents of the area be in favour of it.

A Member commented that drivers were more likely to take alternative routes to avoid any 20 mph zones and questioned whether this had been taken into account. The Chair of the Scrutiny Forum confirmed that this was the reason that it had been suggested that the implementation of 20 mph zones be on a wider basis than just pockets of streets to avoid transferring the problem to other streets.

There was general support for the implementation of 20 mph zones in residential areas across the town but Members were keen that a wider

public consultation exercise be undertaken including driving instructors and taxi drivers. It was noted that officers were currently examining the de-cluttering of road signs across the town and the issue of on-street parking and parking on pavements. It was suggested that any roll out of the 20 mph zones be looked at in conjunction with the above to ensure that any signage was combined. The Chair of the Scrutiny Forum informed Members that in the Jesmond area of Newcastle where 20 mph zones had been introduced the signs were located at the beginning of the zone only and this worked very effectively.

A Member sought clarification on whether 20 mph zones had been introduced around all local schools. The Chair of the Scrutiny Forum indicated that around 23 schools in the town had traffic calming measures in place and this programme would continue to be rolled out, separately to the implementation of the 20 mph zones in residential areas. There had been some difficulties with the roll out of traffic calming measures around some schools, for example Catcote Road. However, it was suggested that this issue could also be included in any public consultation undertaken.

The Assistant Director (Resources) confirmed that the public consultation could be undertaken by the end of July and reported back to Cabinet before the beginning of September this year.

Decision

That the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum into 20's Plenty – Traffic Calming Measures as set out below, be approved and adopted;

- (a) That the Council implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so:-
 - (i) undertakes a full public consultation (before the scheme is rolled out) with Councillors, residents, the emergency services; schools; businesses and all other relevant bodies and that this should be reported back to Cabinet following its conclusion;
 - (ii) discusses and shares information with regional local authorities to develop the best way possible for Hartlepool to roll out 20mph speed limits;
 - (iii) does not install any new physical traffic calming measures in residential areas, unless, following speed surveys or accidents it is thought necessary in order to slow traffic down further and following consultation with local residents;
 - (iv) when it becomes necessary to replace speed humps, the most appropriate cost effective solution be used;

- (v) continues to deliver school safety schemes;
 - (vi) develops a set of criteria (including accident statistics, schools in the area, local street patterns and existing traffic calming provision) to assess how the scheme will be rolled out;
 - (vii) publicises the roll out of 20mph limits in the Council's magazine, Hartbeat; through the local press, radio and schools; and on the Council's website to encourage a change in driver behaviour and attitude; and
 - (viii) reviews the planning requirements relating to the installation of physical traffic calming measures on new housing developments with a view to implementing 20mph speed limits as opposed to physical traffic calming and works with developers to implement 20mph limits on new housing estates where the roads have not yet been adopted by the Council.
- (b) That the costs for the 20mph scheme be funded through the Local Transport Plan and appropriate funding streams and be phased over a number of years with the aim of full implementation by March 2014;
 - (c) That the Council explore all possible options to try and secure further funding for the delivery of the 20mph scheme, such as the Sustainable Transport Fund; the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums; the Neighbourhood Action Plans and partnership working with other organisations;
 - (d) That the Council work with local schools to stop inconsiderate parking and raise awareness of road safety in conjunction with the Council's Parking Strategy, given the strength of public opinion in this area; and
 - (e) That the Council circulate an accident map and ward based accident information to all Councillors as a means of communicating this information to residents.

194. Action Plan – 20's Plenty – Traffic Calming Measures (*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 Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into '20's Plenty – Traffic Calming Measures'.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report provided brief background information into the '20's Plenty – Traffic Calming Measures' Scrutiny Investigation and provided a proposed Action Plan, attached at Appendix A in response to the Scrutiny Forum's recommendations.

Decision

The Action Plan attached at Appendix A in response to the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum investigation – '20's Plenty – Traffic Calming Measures' was approved.

195. Final Report – Working Neighbourhoods Fund *(Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to outline the findings and conclusions of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum presented a report which outlined the overall aim of the scrutiny investigation, terms of reference, methods of investigation, findings, conclusions and subsequent recommendations. It was highlighted that a lot of good partnerships had been developed over the years through the Working Neighbourhoods Fund implementing initiatives supporting people and helping them back into employment and training. Members were asked to note that some of the recommendations contained within the report had already been implemented as part of the 10 year strategy plan for jobs and the economy. A key recommendation of the report was to establish a jobs and the economy themed social enterprise which would build on the work already undertaken by Hartlepool Works. This would enable bids to be placed for the commissioning of services to continue to support people into employment. The Economic Development Manager informed Members that Tees Valley works had already successfully secured £630k of funding towards NEET activities (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and it

was hoped that this success would secure further resources depending on how the programme developed.

As Members were aware, the Council had given a commitment to eradicate child poverty within the town and the continuous support of the jobs and economy theme would confirm this commitment. It was acknowledged that the local authority was already undertaking a facilitator role through knowledgeable and experienced officers enabling organisations and social enterprises to secure funding.

One of the recommendations referred to the availability of hardship assistance for businesses through business rate relief and officers were asked to proceed with caution and avoid any companies using bankruptcy as an easy way out of their financial difficulties. The Economic Development Manager confirmed that there was an excellent system of financial criteria in place for any requests for non-domestic rate relief. Members were asked to note that the first two years of any new business were the most difficult and it was important that this was promoted to ensure all new businesses were aware of the support available. A Member emphasised that engagement with the Federation of Small Businesses and the Chamber of Commerce was vital in providing assistance to businesses and social enterprises. Members were informed that a number of workshops were being developed and this would provide a further opportunity for Members of the Scrutiny Forum to be involved.

It was recognised that whilst there was a large and vibrant community voluntary sector within Hartlepool, the need for assistance with the procurement and tendering process was emphasised, especially for smaller local companies. Members were asked to note that an e-Procurement system was being introduced which would ensure that local companies were given the opportunity to submit tenders for.

A Member questioned what measures were in place to ensure that hard to reach people were being reached. The Chair of the Scrutiny Forum confirmed that Hartlepool had excellent partnership working through the local authority and community and voluntary sector but acknowledged that this would be more difficult with private sector prime providers. It was noted that Hartlepool was a victim of its own success with any funding achieved being ingrained within the Council's core funding budgets to maximise the benefit of the funding, which caused problems when facing budget cuts. Members were reminded that round 2 of the Regional Growth Fund should provide an opportunity to secure funding of services, potentially through a coalition of community and voluntary sector organisations. The Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) confirmed that bids for round 2 of the Regional Growth Fund were being developed both on a town wide and Tees Valley wide basis.

Decision

That the recommendations of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund as set out below, be approved and adopted;

- (a) That where organisations can independently apply for funding that Hartlepool Borough Council should provide assistance with this process;
- (b) That promotion of support and assistance available for local businesses is undertaken including:-
 - (i) Increasing the awareness of hardship assistance available to businesses from Hartlepool Borough Council, for example through the prominent inclusion of information with business rates demands; and
 - (ii) Ensuring Hartlepool Borough Council staff who deal with local businesses can signpost people to appropriate sources of information and advice at the first point of contact.
- (c) That to encourage and support local businesses in Hartlepool:-
 - (i) The use of local providers to supply goods and services to Hartlepool Borough Council, where economically sensible, is explored; and
 - (ii) The e-quotations system is prominently highlighted to all relevant local businesses.
- (d) That the development of a 10 year jobs and the economy strategy for Hartlepool be explored and that at the outset of this, a working group of voluntary and private sector organisations is established;
- (e) That work is undertaken to establish a jobs and the economy themed social enterprise building on the work of Hartlepool Works, encompassing a partnership between the local authority, private enterprises and the voluntary sector, to bid for and commission services to support people into employment.

196. Action Plan – Working Neighbourhoods Fund *(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 Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund'.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report provided brief background information into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund Scrutiny Investigation and provided a proposed Action Plan, attached at Appendix A in response to the Scrutiny Forum's recommendations.

Decision

The Action Plan attached at Appendix A in response to the recommendations of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum investigation into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund was approved.

197. Draft Final Third Local Transport Plan *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (i) and (ii) apply.

Purpose of report

To consider and approve the final draft of the third Hartlepool Local Transport Plan.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Portfolio Holder for Performance presented the report which detailed the process towards the development of the third Local Transport Plan and provided a brief summary of the contents of the plan and the associated financial implications.

Decision

- (i) The draft final third Hartlepool Local Transport Plan and Delivery Plan for 2011/15 was approved.
- (ii) The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods was authorised to

approve the final text versions of both for implementation from 1 April 2011.

198. Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2011-2016 and Annual Action Plan for 2011/12 (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (ii) applies.

Purpose of report

To seek Cabinet's approval to the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2011-2016 and the associated annual action plan for 2011-12.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Mayor presented a report which provided information on the achievements from Hartlepool's 2006 Strategy. It outlined how the strategy for 2011-2016 had been developed, gave details of the evidence of needs, identified the sectors of the population specifically affected by alcohol consumption and gave information on actions and objectives included in the annual action plan for 2011-12, both attached by way of Appendix.

A discussion ensued on minimum pricing of alcohol and it was highlighted in the report that the introduction of a minimum unit pricing strategy for alcohol in Hartlepool would be explored as a priority. It was noted that Council recently approved a far more stringent Licensing Policy and further investigation would be undertaken on implementing a local byelaw in relation to minimum pricing which would affect all alcohol sales, including supermarkets. Members were asked to note that the Safer Hartlepool Partnership were also supporting treatment and prevention services and had been lobbying the Primary Care Trust to secure further funding for this. In addition, it was noted that the funding received for drug treatment allowed spend on alcohol and could be utilised to prioritise support around severe dependant alcohol misuse. A Member noted that three wards in the town had been highlighted as areas specifically affected by alcohol consumption and it was commented that all wards in the town were affected.

During the discussion that followed Members referred to the Magistrates and the Licensing Committee decisions overturned by them. Members were informed that the Magistrates were unable to overturn decisions that were in line with the Council's Licensing Policy and now that this policy had been developed and made more stringent, there was less scope for overturning of decisions.

A Member referred to a presentation given by Balance North East which highlighted the staggering health affects of alcohol misuse and suggested that other Members may wish to have sight of this presentation. The work undertaken by Balance North East highlighted the costs not only to the NHS but also to the local authority and police.

Decision

- (i) The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2011 to 2016 was approved.
- (ii) The Annual Alcohol Action Plan for 2011/12 was approved.

199. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2010-11 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (ii) applies.

Purpose of report

To advise Cabinet of the overall results of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2010-11 including actions for further work.

To seek approval for publication of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2010-11 as per regulations detailed in Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services presented a report which highlighted that the Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities to undertake a number of duties one of which was to shape and support the development of childcare provision in their local area in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. The overall aim of the Childcare Act is that parents would be able to find childcare locally that met their needs and enabled them to make a real choice about training and work.

The Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager commented that this assessment very much linked back and underpinned child poverty. Members were informed that a report had been released on 17 March 2011 by the national Child Poverty Action Group and Hartlepool was highlighted as 1 out of 6 at the most high risk of child poverty increasing. In response to a question from a Member, the Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager commented that parents were often reluctant to seek financial help as a lot of errors were made when working tax credits were introduced with recalculations having to be made and parents often having

to pay back money. In addition to this, the forms that parents have to complete were onerous.

The promotion mechanisms of child care vouchers were questioned. The Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager confirmed that the Families Information Service (FIS) worked with employers to promote these vouchers and marketing information was sent to all families. In addition to this, all referrals had a benefit check undertaken to ensure benefit entitlement was being maximised. Work was also being undertaken promoting the child care vouchers with all local schools.

Clarification was sought on why particular wards were highlighted as needing to encourage additional childminders. The Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager confirmed that there was a lack of child minding support in those specific areas and they were highlighted as this often was affected by which schools child minders would do pick-ups from.

Decision

- (i) The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and associated actions were approved.
- (ii) The publication of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2010/11 was agreed.

Councillor Hill left the meeting during the consideration of minute 201 due to her earlier declaration of interest.

200. Inquorate Meeting

It was noted that the meeting was not quorate. The Mayor indicated that (as permitted under the Local Government Act 2000 and the Constitution) he would exercise his powers of decision and that he would do so in accordance with the wishes of the Members present, indicated in the usual way. Each of the decisions set out in the decision record were confirmed by the Mayor accordingly.

201. General Sure Start Grant – Early Years Capital *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval to allocate £5,000 of Sure Start Early Years Capital Grant to Golden Flatts Primary School in order to contribute to the refurbishment of the former caretaker's bungalow into a building fit for family services.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Mayor presented a report that highlighted a number of reports had been presented to the Children's Services Portfolio Holder in relation to Sure Start Capital Grant spend. There was £5,000 left of the grant to spend and due to grant conditions, must be spent by 31 March 2011. The grant conditions specify that it must be spent on either Sure Start Children's Centre services or free nursery entitlement providers. The report set out the proposed allocation of the remaining £5,000 Early Years Capital Grant.

It was proposed that the £5,000 be offered to Golden Flatts Primary School to contribute to the refurbishment of the former caretaker's bungalow into a building fit for family services.

Decision

That £5,000 of Sure Start Early Years Capital Grant be allocated to Golden Flatts Primary School in order to contribute to the refurbishment of the former caretaker's bungalow into a building fit for family services.

Councillor Cath Hill rejoined the meeting, the meeting was now quorate.

202. Adult Drug Treatment Plan 2011/12 *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

The report provided information and detail on the Adult Drug Treatment Plan 2011/12 and sought the support of Cabinet to the activity illustrated in the Plan which was the performance management framework between the local drug treatment system and the National Treatment Agency.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Mayor presented a report which outlined the findings of the needs assessment which informed the Plan, identified the key objectives of the new national Drug Strategy and detailed the priorities and activity for 2011/12 to deliver an effective drug treatment and support service to the town.

During the discussions that followed there was some concern expressed by Members at the treatment for heroin addicts which was through the regular supply of methadone. It was questioned whether this was the most appropriate treatment for drug users. It was noted that the plan did focus on this area and adopting a 'recovery' approach, particularly to allow resources to be targeted and provide support to enable people to secure suitable accommodation, jobs and stability around their social life. The Drug and Alcohol Commissioner added that there were other evidence based treatments being used and not everyone was prescribed methadone although it was acknowledged that the debate on using methadone as a treatment was ongoing both nationally and locally.

A Member sought clarification on the number of children currently in care due to neglect as a result of alcohol misuse. The Director of Child and Adult Services confirmed that a lot of cases of children in care did tend to be as a result of parent/carer alcohol and substance misuse. The Drug and Alcohol Manager added that alcohol misuse was a major cross cutting issue which had a significant impact on families. There were a number of changes being undertaken involving Public Health for England and the introduction of GP Consortia and it was thought that this would have a significant impact on the framework and resources available for drug and alcohol treatment.

Decision

The activity and performance management framework for the Hartlepool Drug Treatment Plan 2011/12 was endorsed.

203. Localism Bill (*Assistant Chief Executive*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To brief Cabinet on the content of the Localism Bill and its potential impact on Hartlepool Borough Council.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Portfolio Holder for Performance presented a report which provided a breakdown of the following parts, chapters and schedules of the Localism Bill and summarised its potential impact on Hartlepool Borough Council:-

Part 1: General Powers of Local Authorities:

- The General Power of Authorities
- Governance
- Rules on Predetermination
- Abolition of the Standards Board
- Pay Accountability.

Parts 2 and 3: EU Fines and Non Domestic Rates:

- Payment of EU fines
- Amendment of regulations concerning Non Domestic Rates

Part 4: Community Empowerment:

- Referendums
- Council Tax Referendum
- Community Right to Challenge
- Assets of Community Value / Community Right to Bid

Part 5: Planning

- Regional Spatial Strategies
- Infrastructure Planning Commission and power Secretary of State takes the final decision on major infrastructure proposals of national importance
- Community Infrastructure Levy
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Neighbourhood Development Orders

Part 6: Housing

- Abolish the Home Improvement Pack
- Housing Revenue Account system
- Tenure arrangements for social housing tenants
- Meeting needs of homeless people
- Allocation of social housing and ability to move
- Responsibilities of the Tenant Services Authority and the Homes and Communities Agency
- Complaint process for social tenants

With much of the detail of the Localism Bill will be provided through regulations, order making powers, statutory guidance and requirements on local authorities there is uncertainty about its real impact on the Council. It is, however, clear from the detail of the Bill as it stands that its implementation would potentially require a wide reaching review of the Councils strategies / policies, governance / democratic structures and overall operational practices.

These changes will include:-

- i) A review of the Councils Constitution if necessary to reflect changes to democratic processes (i.e. the abolition of the Standards Board) -;
- ii) A review of the Councils buildings and land holdings as part of the formulation of a list of 'assets of community value' - (Sections 3.19.9 and 3.22 in the main report);
- iii) A review of the way in which the Council interacts/operates with the community and voluntary sector in the provision of services (i.e. to accommodate the 'community right to bid and challenge') - (Sections 3.19.6 and 3.21 in the main report);
- iv) At an appropriate time establish Council policy in relation to a number of proposals in the Bill such as housing allocations, and Neighbourhood Areas

The local authority would need to adapt significantly to cope with these changes when they become law.

Decision

The report was noted.

204. 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 205 – OFSTED Unannounced Inspection of Safeguarding Services (*Director of Child and Adult Services*) This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information which (a) falls within any paragraphs 1 to 7; and (b) is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9, was exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in mainlining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information (para 10).

Minute 206 – HM Inspectorate of Probation – Re-inspection of Youth Offending Work in Hartlepool (*Director of Child and Adult Services*) Officer This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information which (a) falls within any paragraphs 1 to 7; and (b) is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9, was exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in mainlining the exemption

outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information (para 10).

- 205. OFSTED Unannounced Inspection of Safeguarding Services** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*) This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information which (a) falls within any paragraphs 1 to 7; and (b) is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9, was exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in mainlining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information (para 10).

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To brief Cabinet on the results of the unannounced inspection of safeguarding services undertaken by Ofsted on 15 and 16 February 2011.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Director of Child and Adult Services indicated that the embargo on the results of the inspection was now removed as Ofsted had now published the inspection results. Members were asked to note that the inspection had a very positive outcome, and noted the volume of work that comes through to the Duty Team. The amount of work referred through to them relating to safeguarding concerns was significant. The only area of development was related to the need to further embed the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) across all partner agencies and organisations as this early identification of issues in a family may be able to prevent more intensive intervention at a later stage. Often the quality of information coming through to the Duty Team was not always as detailed as should be and often was not linked to a completed CAF. In conclusion, the inspection found that throughout the safeguarding process, officers were doing a good job and were keeping children and young people as safe as they could.

Members suggested that the Mayor write to all officers involved in the provision of Safeguarding Services commending them for their commitment and hard work to the provision of a service in what must often be difficult circumstances. It was recognised that this was unseen work which was critical to the well-being of the town and the excellent results of this inspection should be acknowledged.

In response to question from a Member, the Director of Child and Adult Services confirmed that the inspection included all referrals to the Duty Team whether via police, courts or neighbours. The Inspectors chose a

high level of **anonymised** cases to randomly check the quality of the assessment process and decision making and in some cases spoke to everyone involved in that individual process.

Decision

- (i) The findings of the unannounced inspection of safeguarding services in Hartlepool were received.
- (ii) The Mayor to write to all officers involved in Safeguarding Services commending them for their commitment and hard work which had resulted in such a positive Ofsted inspection.

206. HM Inspectorate of Probation – Re-Inspection of Youth Offending Work in Hartlepool (*Director of Child and Adult Services*) This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information which (a) falls within any paragraphs 1 to 7; and (b) is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9, was exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information (para 10).

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To brief Cabinet on the results of the re-inspection of the Youth Offending Service undertaken by HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) in January 2011.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

Further details were included within the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

Details were included within the exempt section of the minutes.

The meeting concluded at 11.19am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 25 March 2011