

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

3 May 2011

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

## **Present:**

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond (Community Safety and Housing Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Gemma Day, Principal Regeneration Officer  
Tracey Rowe, Regeneration Officer  
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

## **40. Dyke House/Stranton/Grange Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update (Final for Endorsement) – Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)**

### **Type of Decision**

Key (test ii applies)

### **Purpose of Report**

To seek endorsement of the Neighbourhood Action Plan update for the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange area

### **Issues for Consideration**

The Regeneration Officer described the background to NAPs with a specific focus on the Plan for Dyke House/Stranton/Grange. It was noted that even though the area had undergone substantial change and improvement, there were still evident deprivation gaps in particular theme areas, namely community safety, education and unemployment as well as service issues around levels of resident satisfaction. A comprehensive consultation process had been undertaken in order to develop the Plan from an initial community consultation event to the consultation process on the draft NAP, all of which have enabled the final version to be produced. The format of the NAP differed from any previously considered by the Portfolio Holder and was now felt to be more user friendly and informal. The monies allocated to the NAP from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund had ceased at the end of March 2011 however it was expected that despite this the NAP would continue to be influential in the future allocation of resources. The NAP provides a strategic analysis of the community priorities and gaps in current

service provision and an impact would continue to be made through efficient use of existing mainstream resources and alternative sources of funding. The Regeneration Officer also highlighted the current review of the Neighbourhood Management framework and its potential impact on the NAP boundary.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the recent budget cuts, suggesting that the biggest problem now would be managing the residents' expectations without any funding attached to NAPs. The Regeneration Officer felt that the residents were aware of the pressures currently facing the council and as a result were even more determined to continue making a difference in their neighbourhood. Alternative funding sources were being sought and people were thinking more strategically in the long term rather than looking for short term solutions. The Principal Regeneration Officer indicated that the NAP officers Group would be undertaking a mapping exercise of funding which might be available to address residents' priorities. There had also been discussions around reconstituting the NAP Forums so they were able to apply for funding, with support from Council officers.

The Portfolio Holder queried the current communications strategy around housing market renewal. The Principal Regeneration Officer advised that this was being undertaken by herself and the Neighbourhood Manager for the North area, in partnership with Housing Hartlepool and the Council's Housing section. A mapping exercise and site appraisals had been carried out. The intention was to make residents aware of what was happening in their area, through various means, in order to minimise rumour and speculation. Jargon would also be reduced in favour of a more user friendly and informal format.

### **Decision**

That the NAP update for the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange area be endorsed subject to endorsement from the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in May 2011.

## **41. Throston Community Forum – Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)**

### **Type of Decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of Report**

To outline a proposal with regards to the future of the Throston Community Forum and seek endorsement of this approach.

## **Issues for Consideration**

The Principal Regeneration Officer described the background to the development of the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) for Throston. As part of the implementation a local Community Forum had been formed in September 2009, meeting on a quarterly basis. A key function of the group was to commission local initiatives based around the NAP themes and using contributions from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF). Statistics from 2010 showed improvements in Jobs and the Economy and Lifelong Learning and Skills while Health and Wellbeing remained static.

Historically, officers had found it difficult to engage with Throston residents and overall attendance numbers at the Forum since its inception had been consistently low. This may have been due to differences in how the Forum operated in comparison to other Forums across the town. In addition, unlike other NAP orientated community groups in Hartlepool, there had been no core collection of regular attendees around which the future of the Forum could be built. Over the past two financial years attendee numbers had been at their highest during the project commissioning periods where residents had sought to secure assistance for schemes that they are associated with.

As resources were now limited and no funding available to the area for the foreseeable future it was proposed that the Community Forum cease in its entirety. Officers would still continue to work around fulfilling the key objectives of the Throston NAP but this would be done without the involvement of a dedicated Forum. In the long term, consideration would be given to amalgamating the Throston NAP with another NAP Forum in the North area. However, nothing would be done regarding this until the completion of reviews of the NAPs and local boundaries.

The Portfolio Holder approved the recommendations. He acknowledged that operationally, this NAP process had been run differently to other NAPs across the town and appreciated efforts to engage residents from this neighbourhood.

## **Decision**

That the proposed plan of action regarding the future of the Throston Community Forum be endorsed.

The meeting concluded at 2:30 pm

**PETER DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011**