

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

14 June 2011

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

Present:

Councillor Robbie Payne (Finance and Procurement Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Chris Little, Chief Finance Officer
Graham Frankland, Assistant Director (Resources)
Mike Blair, Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager
Dale Clarke, Estates and Asset Manager
Philip Timmins, Principal Estates Surveyor
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

1. Additional Highway Maintenance Funding 2011/12

(Assistant Director, Transportation and Engineering)

Type of decision

Key – tests 1 and 2 apply

Purpose of report

To advise on additional funding received from Central Government towards the repair of highways damaged during the extreme winter weather and to seek approval for a programme of works using this funding.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In March 2011 the Chancellor of the Exchequer made provision of £200 million of funding for local authorities to assist in repair of highway damage following the extreme winter weather over the previous 2 years. Hartlepool's share was calculated at £240,413 and each authority must provide a brief public statement detailing how the money has been spent by 30th September 2011. Schemes have been selected on the basis of condition survey results and inspector reports together with requests from elected members and the public through the Neighbourhood Forums. Available funding has been distributed evenly throughout the 3 neighbourhood forum areas as much as possible. Information as to the specific roads selected was appended to the report.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the five year rolling programme of highway improvements which he had approved in April 2011. He asked why some of the schemes due for completion in years 3, 4 and 5 of that programme had been brought forward for completion while schemes due for completion in year

2 had not. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager advised that some of the year 2 schemes had been brought forward while other schemes had been brought forward through the neighbourhood forums. The Portfolio Holder commented that he would have been happier to see the additional funding spent on repairing potholes around Hartlepool. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager indicated that pothole repairs were carried out on a rolling programme basis, prioritised through the neighbourhood forums. However the repairs needed to be at a specified level before they could be carried out.

The Portfolio Holder expressed his reservations at approving the additional programme of highway maintenance works as attached without being certain of which schemes included in the previously agreed 5 year rolling programme had not been included. He requested that officers bring the list of those schemes approved for completion in year 2 to the next meeting for his consideration.

Decision

That the decision be deferred and that officers provide the Portfolio Holder with details of those schemes approved for completion in year 2 of the 5 year rolling programme in April 2011.

2. Insurance Renewals and Strategy (*Chief Finance Officer and Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To confirm the selection of the Council's Insurance providers and to determine the Council's insurance strategy.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

At his meeting in December 2010 the Portfolio Holder approved a joint procurement exercise with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council for the renewal of all its insurance policies, many of which were due to expire after a 5 year contract period. It was agreed that Redcar and Cleveland would lead using the e-portal. Requests were made for separate premiums for each type of insurance for each Council thereby giving transparency. Broker costs would be shared between the 2 councils. Detailed financial information was given in a confidential appendix. The Chief Finance Officer advised that at the time the 2011/12 budget was being prepared the insurance tendering exercise was not expected to provide a saving given the upward trend of insurance premiums at that time. However the exercise had resulted in an overall saving on the previous year's premium of approximately £195,000. This reflected the insurance markets assessment of the Councils insurable risks, claims history and effective risk management arrangements. The net benefit to the General Fund after reflecting saving in insurance costs for non General Fund budgets would be £148,000. This saving would be built into the budget strategy for

2012/13 with a proportionate saving for 2011/12.

The Portfolio Holder asked that a letter of thanks be passed on to the Assistant Chief Finance and Customer Services Officer, the Insurance and Risk Manager and the Shared Services Manager for their work and the fantastic result they had achieved.

Decision

That the delegated decisions taken by the Chief Finance Office within the framework of the approved Insurance strategy to appoint the following Insurers on a 3-year contract with an option to extend for a further 4-year period as detailed below be noted:

- I. St Paul's Travellers to provide Combined Liability Insurance and associated Claims handling
- II. Zurich Municipal to provide Motor Insurance and claims handling
- III. Risk Management Partners (RMP) to provide Property, Engineering, Personal Accident & Travel, School Journey Travel, Fidelity and Contractors All Risks

3. Chief Executive's Departmental Plan 2010/11 – 4th Quarter Monitoring Report *(Chief Finance Officer and Chief Solicitor)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the key actions identified in the Chief Executive's Departmental Plan 2010/11 for the period up to 31 March 2011.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the progress against the actions contained in the Chief Executive's Departmental Plan 2010/11 that are the responsibility of the Finance and Legal Services Divisions for the fourth quarter. All actions were deemed to have been achieved, on target or making acceptable progress. There were no key Performance Indicators which were the responsibility of the divisions which could be monitored quarterly.

Details were also given of notable actions carried out by the divisions including the review of CIPFA and CLG guidance on Treasury Management and the successful introduction of the Petition scheme.

Decision

That the progress on key actions and key performance indicators and the current rating of risks be noted.

4. Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan Monitoring Report – April 2010 to March 2011 *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

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 2010 to March 2011.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the progress against the key actions and performance indicators contained in the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan 2010/11 over the period April 2010 to March 2011. Of 28 actions 27 had been completed or were on track. The target which had not been achieved related to the review of the 5 year procurement plan, however it was no longer intended to produce this plan in its original form as Procurement Plans were to be produced as part of individual Service reviews within departments. required intervention. Details of the proposed revised date and the reasons for this were given within the report. Five of the 7 performance indicators were completed or on track with only 2 indicators requiring intervention. Details were given within the report.

Decision

That the year end position of key actions and performance indicators along with the latest position with regard to risks be noted.

5. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

Under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) order 2006

Minute 6 – West Hartlepool Rugby Football Club (para 3), namely information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Minute 7 – Blakelock Hostel (para 3), namely information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

6. West Hartlepool Rugby Football Club *(Chief Finance Officer)*

Type of Decision

Non-key

Purpose of Report

To enable the Portfolio Holder to consider a request from West Hartlepool Rugby Football Club.

Issues for Consideration

Details were set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

The decision was set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

7. Blakelock Hostel *(Assistant Director, Resources)*

Type of Decision

Non-key

Purpose of Report

Details are set out in the exempt section of the minutes

Issues for Consideration

Details were set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

The decision was set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

The meeting concluded at 10.30am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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