

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PLANNING PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD 18 November 2011

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor Stuart Drummond (Community Safety and Planning Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
 Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning
 Denise Ogden, Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services
 Sarah Scarr, Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager
 Sally Forth, Community Safety Manager
 Nick Stone, Senior Anti Social Behaviour Officer
 Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

1. Community Cohesion Framework 2012-15 (*Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Key Decision – test (ii) applies.

Purpose of report

To consider the Community Cohesion Framework for 2012-2015 and the proposed consultation process.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided an overview of the background of Government policy since 2001 in relation to the need to develop and engender 'good community cohesion', including a brief outline of initiatives and new Government policy to date. The Community Cohesion Framework sets out 8 objectives, which form the vision and aim to develop good community cohesion whilst tackling poor community cohesion where it exists.

The report provided an outline of the consultation process and a time frame for implementation. A questionnaire would be provided to consultees and would include a range of questions in relation to key elements of the

Community Cohesion Framework and this was attached at Appendix 1.

Decision

The draft Community Cohesion Framework and associated consultation programme were endorsed.

2. List of Locally Listed Buildings (*Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning*)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the progress being made compiling a list of Locally Listed Buildings, and to agree the final list of buildings.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report outlined the background to the local list and the public consultation that had taken place. It explained the progress made compiling the draft list. A summary of the work carried out by an independent panel to compile the final list was provided including those nominations on the list, nominations excluded from the list and where objections had been raised were outlined. The Portfolio Holder was asked to agree the final list.

The Portfolio Holder sought clarification on what implications the Localism Bill would have on locally listed buildings. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods highlighted that as the Localism Bill had very recently been enacted, it was not yet clear what implications any changes in regulations would have. The Portfolio Holder was informed that officers were in the process of producing a précis of the implications of the Localism Bill to be provided for Members.

As a result of the recent introduction of the Localism Bill and resulting changes in legislation, the Portfolio Holder deferred the item until such time as the ramifications for the local authority were known.

Decision

The report was deferred to the January meeting of the Portfolio Holder to enable a full analysis to be undertaken of the implications to the Local Authority of the introduction of the Localism Bill.

3. Review of Anti-Social Behaviour Policy and Procedures *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To seek Portfolio Holder approval for a revised policy with associated procedures for dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided an overview of key changes and the reasons they were being proposed including the introduction of a three tier process which it was hoped would indicate the degree of anti-social behaviour being suffered.

The Portfolio Holder commented that as resources were reducing it was more important to ensure that resources were targeted appropriately whilst not losing sight of what some people may perceive as low level issues that still affect people's quality of life. Officers were asked to provide the Portfolio Holder with a detailed update in six months' time on how the introduction of the tiered process had progressed and whether there were any patterns of anti social behaviour developing across the town. The need to explore all appropriate avenues for dealing with what was perceived as anti-social behaviour was highlighted in order to ensure that the most suitable solution was found.

Decision

- (i) The revised policy and procedures for dealing with anti-social behaviour were approved.
- (ii) That an update be provided to the Portfolio Holder in six months time including how resources had been targeted to deal with anti social behaviour and any emerging patterns of anti social behaviour across the town.

4. The Commissioning of Domestic Violence Prevention and Intervention Services in Hartlepool *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To advise the Portfolio Holder that the decision to commission domestic violence prevention and intervention services by the Council as one contract was agreed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Procurement on 13 October 2011.

The contract will be tendered, subject to funding, for three years with an option to extend for a further two periods of twelve months each.

To advise the Portfolio Holder of the weightings to be used in the tender evaluations.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided background information with regards to the nature and extent of domestic violence in Hartlepool, current domestic violence services provided, and indicated why it had been agreed that the services be consolidated into one contract.

The Portfolio Holder acknowledged that dealing with domestic violence was the biggest challenge community safety in Hartlepool had to tackle. One of the main issues was the big difference in perception of how big the problem was against what the actual problem was. It was noted that a lot of work had already been undertaken to reshape how domestic violence was tackled and it was important that whoever takes on the contract adapted and improved what was already in place.

Decision

The report was noted.

5. Strategy for the Former Odeon Cinema (*Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning*)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To provide information to the Portfolio Holder on a strategy developed to address the issues surrounding the former Odeon Cinema on Raby Road.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder was informed that officers met with English Heritage earlier this year to discuss the former Odeon Cinema and the approaches which could be taken to find a solution for the site. English Heritage suggested putting together a strategy for the site to provide a clear plan of the actions that the Local Authority intends to take. The report provided an outline of the contents of that strategy.

It was noted that English Heritage were positive about the Council's suggested approaches to be undertaken to find a solution for the site and were aware of the current aspirations for the site. They also acknowledged that it was a long term process. The Portfolio Holder commented that the co-operation of the owners of the building was integral to finding a solution to the future use of the building. However, the instigation of a compulsory purchase approach would be explored should this be necessary. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services confirmed that works had recently been undertaken to ensure the safety of the building, the cost of which would be borne by the owners of the building.

The Portfolio Holder commented that finding a solution to the future of this particular site would strengthen the approach to finding a solution of the wider mill house area including the possible land transactions at Victoria Park. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services indicated that a lot of work had already been undertaken by New Deal for the Communities to develop a housing strategy for the area and this would need to be taken into account as part of any future development of the area.

Decision

The strategy to secure a future for the former Odeon Cinema, Raby Road was noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.27 am

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 22 NOVEMBER 2011