

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PLANNING PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

9th December 2011

The meeting commenced at 10.15 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

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

Officers: Garry Hutchinson – Building Control Manager
 Helen Williams – Planning Officer
 Sally Forth – Community Safety Manager
 Jo Stubbs – Democratic services Officer
 Vicky Bosley – Democratic Services Officer

6. Update with Regard to a Rejected Joint Tees Valley Building Control Merger Proposal (Assistant Director Regeneration and Planning)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder of the current situation with regard to the previously proposed merger between all five Tees Valley Building Control sections, which Hartlepool withdrew from in December 2010.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Building Control Manager set out the current position with regards to the proposed joint review and merger of the Building Control services by the remaining four Tees Valley local authorities, following Hartlepool's withdrawal in December 2010.

Initially Redcar and Cleveland and Middlesbrough Councils had merger discussions which started around 2006. Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington Borough Councils then separately commenced talks in 2010 regarding a

merger of their statutory services. From this it was agreed that it would be an ideal opportunity to investigate the viability of merging all five Council's Building Control services across the Tees Valley and an initial approach was made to Hartlepool on the 15th March 2010.

Several meetings and a workshop took place with a business case and the financial information upon which it was based received in October 2010.

However upon consideration of this information it was found that the proposals did not provide any advantages to Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) and in fact were likely to jeopardise the current service provision. Therefore, Cabinet agreed that HBC would withdraw from discussions for the merger with immediate effect.

Merger discussions between all other interested parties broke down in late June 2011, due to the same reasons that Hartlepool had withdrawn several months earlier, namely finance and governance / stakeholder issues.

The Portfolio Holder asked whether pulling out of the merger had made an impact on the service Building Control provide. The Building Control Manager assured the Portfolio Holder that pulling out of the merger was the correct decision.

Decision

That the report be noted.

7. Tanfield Nursery (Southern Site) Planning and Development Brief (Assistant Director Regeneration and Planning)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

The report sought the Portfolio Holder's endorsement to the draft planning and development brief for Tanfield Nursery (south site) and requested authorisation to carry out public consultation on the draft brief.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Planning Officer outlined the intention to dispose of the site for housing purposes and highlighted issues relating to land ownership, housing need and design. Authorisation was requested to carry out public consultation on the

draft brief. The Planning Officer confirmed that the land was already on the market.

The Portfolio Holder suggested that 'bundles' of properties owned by the Council should be made available as packages, for developers to bid on and suggest various solutions, as this could be more beneficial for the Council. The Portfolio Holder suggested a bundle could include Tanfield, Briarfields Paddock and other properties/land for example. The Portfolio Holder indicated that he would discuss the issue of the joint marketing with the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods.

Decision

That the draft planning and development brief for the purpose of public consultation be approved.

8. Briarfields Paddock and the Former Ambulance Station Draft Planning and Development Brief (Assistant Director Regeneration and Planning)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To seek Portfolio Holder's endorsement to the draft planning and development brief for Briarfields Paddock and the adjacent former Ambulance Station that has been shaped following a public consultation exercise.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Planning Officer detailed the consultation which had been carried out, the responses received and any significant alterations that had been made to the brief. A summary of the consultation responses and the revised planning and development brief were appended to the report.

Decision

That the planning and development brief, for the purposes of marketing the land, be approved.

9. Domestic Violence Strategy 2012-2015 (Assistant Director Neighbourhood Services)

Type of decision

Key decision (test ii applies)

Purpose of report

To provide the Portfolio Holder with an opportunity to comment on the draft Domestic Violence Strategy which was being developed through consultation with service users, partners and stakeholders, and to request that the Portfolio Holder consider the process outlined in the report in relation to consulting with relevant partners on the draft strategy.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Community Safety Manager provided an overview of the issue of Domestic Violence, as it affected the people of Hartlepool, and gave a summary of the content of the Strategy. The strategy has four key objectives aimed at tackling all aspects of Domestic Violence. Details were given of the consultation process and time frame for implementation.

The Portfolio Holder asked if the Strategy was fully funded as he was conscious that funding had been cut across the board. The Community Safety Manager stated that the funding allocation for domestic violence had not suffered a cut to date, and that she was aware of an organisation that had accessed lottery funding for five years, who could deliver some part of the work at no cost to the Council. Some elements of the service were funded from the Early Intervention Grant, and she understood that a report on the strategy linked to this grant was being submitted to Cabinet on 19 December 2011. However, should funding sources be reduced, delivery of the services would need to be increasingly targeted on the priorities of the strategy.

The Portfolio Holder expressed his concern at the continued need to explain the situation in Hartlepool to the funding agencies, especially the Police and Crime Commissioner, who may have little appreciation of the scale of domestic violence in Hartlepool. It was also indicated that the Council need to be aware of any problems and tackle them; and create strong cases for the future, in preparation for the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2012.

Decision

1. That the Portfolio Holder's comments be noted.
2. That the draft Domestic Violence Strategy (submitted as Appendix 1 to

the report) be approved for consultation.

The meeting concluded at 10.30am

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 15th December 2011