

REGENERATION, LIVEABILITY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

23rd June 2006

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Officers: Graham Frankland, Head of Procurement and Property Services
Geoff Thompson, Head of Regeneration
Chris Barlow, Principal Community Strategy Officer
Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager
Paul Johnson, Employment Development Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

3. Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) – 2005/06 Final Outturn Report (*Head of Community Strategy*)

Type of decision

Key,

Purpose of report

To notify the Portfolio Holder of the final NRF Financial Outturn for 2005/06 and seek endorsement for the Hartlepool Partnership decision on the use of the carry over from 2005/06 into 2006/07.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder was advised that the total NRF available to Hartlepool for 2005/06 was £5.4 million and that the final outturn involved a carry forward of less than 1% of the total allocation, well within the 5% level set by government. Details were given of the planned usage for the carry over in 2006/07.

Decision

That the 2005/06 final financial outturn position be noted and the recommended use of 2005/06 carry over funding into 2006/07 be agreed.

4. Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) – 2006/08 programme *(Head of Community Strategy)*

Type of decision

Key

Purpose of report

To seek Portfolio Holder endorsement to the Hartlepool Partnership approval of a range of interventions to be funded through NRF for 2006-2008.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report indicated that in July 2005 Government Officer had announced that Hartlepool would continue to receive NRF for a further two years. Hartlepool would receive £4.8 million in 2006/07 and a further £4.3 million in 2007/08. The Hartlepool Partnership and the Portfolio Holder had previously agreed the majority of the programme. Information on projects and funding was detailed under the following themes:

- Community Safety
- Health and Care
- Jobs and Economy
- Lifelong Learning
- Environment

The Portfolio Holder was informed that an additional project had been added to the Jobs and Economy Theme, namely funding of an HVDA Business Development Project at a cost of £15,000.

The report also indicated that the Council and Hartlepool Partnership would benefit from significant additional financial resources to 2008. The funding had enabled successful elements of the current NRF programme to continue although the mainstreaming of interventions into partners core budgets was increasingly becoming more important and would be critical in 2008.

Decision

That the funding of the projects outlined in the report be agreed.

5. Headland Environmental Improvements 2006/07 *(Head of Neighbourhood Management)*

Type of decision

Key

Purpose of report

To seek approval to proceed with the implementation of the Environmental Improvement schemes forming part of the North Hartlepool Partnerships Headland Environmental Improvement Programme.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Head of Neighbourhood Management sought consideration of the following Environmental improvement schemes, as recommended by the North Hartlepool Partnership:

- i) Croft Gardens – replace paving at existing entrances and provide new entrance adjacent to the Harbour of Refuge Public House - £18,500
- ii) Fish Sands – provide new lighting and paving to Sandwell Gate and provide down-lighting onto Fish Sands promenade area - £19,500
- iii) Fairy Cove Terrace – an environmental improvement scheme to include a Gun to reflect the link to the Heugh Gun Battery- £37,000
- iv) Plaque next to Heugh Gun Battery – refurbish plaque honouring the fall of the first soldier on British Soil during WW1 - £1,000
- v) St Mary's Church Railings – replace existing railings and copings to Church boundary - £8,200
- vi) Graham Street – provision of a car parking area to the rear of the CO-OP - £50,000

Details of public consultation were also outlined.

Decision

That the implementation and adoption of the proposed works, as already approved by the NHP board, be approved.

6. Department and Work and Pensions City Strategy
(Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development))

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To provide the Portfolio Holder with details of the Department of Work and Pensions City strategy programme and highlight the opportunities this presents for Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report presented a brief summary of the aims of the Department for Work and Pensions City Strategy Programme, set out the implications for Hartlepool, and outlined the key information that would be required in an expression of interest. Financial implications were also outlined in the report.

Decision

That approval be granted to submit Expression of Interest

7. Local Enterprise Growth Initiative Round 2 *(Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development))*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the progression of Hartlepool's Round 2 Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI)

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Assistant Director's report outlined the background and outcome of the unsuccessful first round LEGI bid submitted by the Council on the 9th December 2006. Details were given of the national objectives and local arrangements for developing a Round 2 proposal for Hartlepool including a timeline and financial implications. Implications for Hartlepool were also outlined.

Decision

That the submission of a Round 2 Local Enterprise Growth Initiative proposal be authorised with details of the content to be referred to the Portfolio Holder prior to submission

8. Tees Valley Single Programme – Progress Report
(Head of Regeneration)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To seek the Portfolio Holder's agreement for the Borough Council to continue its role as the Accountable Body for the Hartlepool Single Programme package and provide a progress update on the Hartlepool package for 2005/06 and 2006/07

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Head of Regeneration gave a brief background to the Council adopting the role as Accountable Body for the Hartlepool Single Programme Package and advised on the need to renew this commitment in relation to the current three-year programme. Information was also given on progress and expenditure on the Hartlepool Package in 2005/06 and proposals for 2006/07.

Decision

- I. That the Council's continued role as Accountable Body for the Hartlepool Single Programme Package be approved
- II. That progress on schemes included in the 2005/06 programme be noted
- III. That the proposals included in the 2006/07 programme be endorsed.

9. National Strategic Reference Framework Consultation *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To seek the Portfolio Holder's endorsement of the response made by the Director of Regeneration and Planning Services to the Government's National Strategic Reference Framework Consultation document.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report outlined the National Strategic Reference Framework consultation to date and the response from Hartlepool Borough Council. The Tees Valley response to the consultation was attached as an appendix to the report.

Decision

That the response to the National Strategic Reference Framework consultation by the Director of Regeneration and Planning Services be endorsed.

**10. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan Update
March 2006** (*Head of Neighbourhood Management*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To agree the update on performance of the Neighbourhood Services Departmental plan for 2005/06 covering the period from 1st April 2005 to 31st March 2006

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided a brief description of services and the progress achieved to the end of March in reaching the targets. The Departmental Plan was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Portfolio Holder said he was pleased with the department's progress particularly in relation to issues such as removal of abandoned vehicles and fixed penalty notices for dog fouling.

Decision

That the Departmental Plan update report be approved

11. Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) – Fee Structure and Delegation of Powers *(Head of Public Protection and Housing)*

Type of decision

Non-Key,

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the fee structure in respect of licensing Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and approval for the scheme of delegation

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Head of Public Protection and Housing gave detailed information on the background and enforcement of HMO licensing. A proposed fee structure and scheme of delegation were also outlined, with the proviso that ultimate delegation would rest with the Director of Neighbourhood Services.

Decision

That the fee structure for charges in respect of HMO licensing and the scheme of delegation be approved

12. Compulsory Purchase of an Empty Property – 45 Lancaster Road *(Head of Public Protection and Housing)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To consider compulsory purchase action in respect of 45 Lancaster Road

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Head of Public Protection and Housing gave information on the condition of 45 Lancaster Road and detailed the available options. Human Rights Act considerations were also outlined. The Portfolio Holder expressed his support for the proposals. The property had been empty ten years and all attempts to improve the situation had been unsuccessful. Properties in this condition were a magnet for anti-social behaviour and hopefully this action would send a message to other landlords.

Decision

That the recommendation to apply for a Compulsory Purchase Order on 45 Lancaster Road be approved

13. Regeneration and Planning Departmental Plan 2005/06 – Outturn Report (*Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To show the performance of Regeneration and Planning Services in 2005/06 against a number of key actions and targets set out within the annual Departmental Service Plan.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided a brief description of services and the progress achieved to the end of March in reaching the targets. The Departmental Plan was attached as an appendice to the report.

The Portfolio Holder noted the good progress made in the majority of actions contained within the Department and also the additional tasks successfully taken on board to enable Hartlepool to operate a Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Decision

That the report be noted

14. Current Position on Untidy/Derelict Land and Buildings (*Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development)*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To explain briefly the progress on ten problematic untidy/derelict buildings and sites identified in the Borough for action.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Assistant Director reported that Consultants had been engaged to enquire into and write to landowners requesting a programme of works to secure environmental enhancements in relation to the following sites –

- Golden Flatts Public House
- Longscar Centre, Seaton Carew
- Crown House, Surtees Street
- Former Gas Showroom, Victoria Road
- Former Odeon Cinema, Raby Road
- The New Fleece Public House, Northgate
- Victoria Buildings, Middlegate
- Morrison Hall, Church Close
- Old United Reform Church, Durham Street
- Niramax Tyre Depot, Mainsforth Terrace

Details were given of current progress and it was clear that property owners were responding to the approach taken. However there remained a need for officers and the Council's consultants to continue to monitor and chase progress.

The Portfolio Holder noted the positive public response he had received when the original decision to take action against these sites had been made. Officers were asked to consider if action could be taken against any more sites in a state of disrepair.

Decision

That the report be noted

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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