

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

9 January 2012

The meeting commenced at 9.15 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond - In the Chair

Councillors: Jonathan Brash (Housing and Transition Portfolio Holder)
Robbie Payne (Deputy Mayor) (Finance and Procurement Portfolio Holder),
Pam Hargreaves (Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder),
Gerard Hall (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder).
Cath Hill (Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder),
Peter Jackson (Regeneration and Economic Development and Skills Portfolio Holder),
Chris Simmons (Children's Services Portfolio Holder),
Hilary Thompson (Performance Portfolio Holder),

Officers: Nicola Bailey, Acting Chief Executive
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive
Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning
Denise Ogden, Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services
Alistair Rae, Public Relations Manager
Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

202. Apologies for Absence

None

203. Declarations of interest by Members

None at this point in the meeting. However, Councillor Brash declared a personal interest later in the meeting (Minute 208 refers)

204. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2011

Confirmed.

205. Budget and Policy Framework

No items.

206. Moving Forward Together – The Vision for Adult Social Care In Hartlepool *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision (CAS 104/11) – Tests 1 and 2 apply

Purpose of report

To seek endorsement for the strategy document Moving Forward Together – The Vision for Adult Social Care in Hartlepool 2011-2014

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio presented the strategy which set out the direction of travel for adult social care in Hartlepool for the next three years. The document looked at what had been achieved in recent years, set out the vision for adult social care and outlined the priorities for 2011-14. A high level action plan reflected these priorities and would be used as a framework to deliver more detailed implementation plans for each service area. Adult Social Care services would be delivered in partnership with other local authorities, the NHS and a large range of statutory, voluntary and private providers as well as people who used services, carers, families and local communities.

The views of local stakeholders in respect of the Moving Together document were sought through a consultation process as detailed in the report, responses from which were set out in Appendix 2. The priorities identified by the Department in the Moving Together Vision document were broadly agreed with by those who participated in the survey.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the budget pressures and demographic challenges facing the Council as well as how this future budget pressure would be managed by central and local government. Thanks were expressed to the staff involved in developing the strategy to its conclusion.

In the debate that followed Members went on to discuss the strategy including the vision, demographic challenges, together with achievements and future priorities. Cabinet questioned the adaptability of the strategy to reflect the national position, the proposal by central government to integrate health services with social care and the impact on local authorities as a result.

Members provided feedback in relation to the consultation process which included the need to provide details of responses by number to reflect a

more accurate picture and the importance of providing social care information by a range of methods acknowledging that a number of elderly residents may not have access to on-line facilities.

A Member commented on the benefits of monitoring responses to the consultation process to determine how well individual needs had been met.

With regard to future priorities, a Member emphasised the importance of access to services and facilities and the need to ensure the relevant transport links were in place to facilitate such access.

In response to a request for clarification, the Assistant Director provided details of the performance assessment process undertaken by the Care Quality Commission in 2010 when the Council achieved an overall assessment of Excellent.

Some concern was expressed in relation to the potential difficulties in establishing what constituted a health issue and what constituted a social care issue and the financial implications as a result. The Assistant Director advised that this issue had been the subject of extensive debate with neighbouring health colleagues. However, in the majority of cases agreement was reached by both parties.

Decision

That the Strategy document Moving Forward Together – The Vision for Adult Social Care in Hartlepool 2011-14, be endorsed.

207. Local Infrastructure Plan *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

The report sought Cabinet approval for the Local Infrastructure Plan which formed part of the Core Strategy evidence base.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Mayor presented the report which outlined the purpose of the Local Infrastructure Plan (LIP) together with the main elements of the Plan which was attached as an appendix to the report. The report provided a summary of the key issues arising from the key stakeholder consultation that took place between August and September and sought Cabinet's endorsement of the Plan.

Members were pleased to note the comprehensive response to the consultation from Greatham Parish Council.

With regard to the areas where improvements may be needed to the

highway network, as detailed in Table 1 to the report, a Member expressed concern that the proposal to close the A19 central reservation at Dalton Piercy and Elwick would not necessarily improve safety and would result in more farm vehicles on the road and requested that the implications of this proposal be further explored. Cabinet expressed mixed views in relation to the benefits of closure questioning whether this was a priority hotspot in terms of safety. Following further discussion, Members requested that a report be provided to Cabinet Members in response to the issues raised to include accident statistics for further consideration.

In response to a Member request for clarification as to whether funding previously allocated to the Tees Valley Metro Scheme was still available, the Mayor agreed to investigate this query following the meeting.

Decision

- (i) That the Local Infrastructure Plan, be endorsed.
- (ii) That delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning to approve any final small amendments following the finalisation of the update work by Tees Valley Unlimited on the Areas Action Plan (AAP) in relation to the Highways Network.
- (iii) That further information be provided, in response to the issues raised in relation to the proposal to close the A19 central reservation at Dalton Piercy and Elwick, as detailed above.

208. Neighbourhood Management *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

The report sets out a range of changes to the Local Authority's Neighbourhood Management approach.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder provided a summary of the report which responded to recent decisions taken by Cabinet including retaining a focus on the 5% most disadvantaged areas. The report explored how Neighbourhood Management would respond to the introduction of Neighbourhood Plans under schedule 9 of the Localism Act.

It was noted that previous funding arrangements for Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) were no longer in place and Members had raised concerns as to how residents' expectations would be managed and how the NAPs could be made useful without having budgets to allocate.

In order to reduce the burden on Members, it was proposed that a number

of Neighbourhood Action Plan Forums be merged to ensure there was only one NAP Forum in any of the new wards. Changes were also proposed to some of the current NAP boundaries. The key elements of reducing the NAP Forum areas from 10 to 5 were set out in the report.

The report considered the concept of ward profiles and outlined the new Neighbourhood Management boundary following Cabinet's decision to move to two Neighbourhood Management areas.

At this point in the meeting Councillor Jonathan Brash declared a personal interest in this item of business as Chair of one of the Neighbourhood Action Plan Forums.

Members considered in detail the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal to transfer the minor works budget to wards as set out in paragraph 5.5 of the report. The importance of allocation based on need was emphasised. Concerns were expressed that the low level of budget allocation of £5,000 per ward may create disagreement in terms of how the budget should be spent and projects would be limited.

Given the comments of Members, the Mayor sought alternative suggestions on how the funding should be utilised. Members considered a number of options including the option to allocate the minor works budget on a town wide basis, the option to utilise the funding as a saving as well as the benefits of seeking the views of other Ward Councillors. Following further discussion, Members were of the view that the decision relating to the minor works budget should be deferred pending consultation with Ward Councillors as part of the budget setting process.

Decision

- (i) That the introduction of Neighbourhood Plans, as determined by the Localism Act and the new Neighbourhood Management Boundary, as set out in the report, be noted.
- (ii) The transfer of the minor works budget to wards be deferred pending consultation with Ward Councillors as part of the budget setting process.

The meeting concluded at 10.28 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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