

TRANSPORT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

30 March 2012

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: The Mayor, Stuart Drummond (Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods
Alastair Smith, Assistant Director of Transport & Engineering
Denise Ogden Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services
Fiona Stanforth, Regeneration Officer
Vicky Bosley, Democratic Services Officer

Also in Attendance: Julie Rudge, Secretary, Dent / Derwent Area Residents Association

17. Dent / Derwent Area Residents Association Action Plan Evaluation *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

For information only

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress that has been made toward the Dent / Derwent Area Residents Association Action Plan and provide an overview of the evaluation process that has been undertaken.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services provided an overview of the evaluation that had taken place on the Action Plan (2008-2011) which the Dent / Derwent Area Residents Association had been working towards for the last three years. Key achievements and findings as well as how the Residents Association action plan would be taken forward were outlined within the report.

The Secretary of Dent / Derwent Area Residents Association delivered a comprehensive presentation covering the following:

- Historical Aspects
- Crime
- Cleaning Activities and Litter Picking
- Family Activities
- Building Links into the Community
- Findings of the Survey
- Priorities
- Future of the work of Dent / Derwent Area Residents Association

The Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that the Resident Association planned to use the evaluation to help them prioritise and identify issues to work towards in the future and to build upon the success they have achieved through the actions associated with addressing their priorities. However, due to the forthcoming changes with regard to the ward boundaries and all out elections in May 2012 the resident association had decided to wait until these changes had been implemented before starting work on future documents. This approach ensured that the development of any future action plan could be done in partnership with new ward members and other service providers who worked in the Dent / Derwent Area Residents Association area.

The Dent / Derwent Area Residents Association action plan had been reported to the Regeneration and Liveability and Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder in September 2008. The period of the action plan had elapsed and the association had undertaken an evaluation to see what impact it had, it was timely to report their findings for information.

Decision

That the Portfolio Holder noted the report.

18. Additional Local Transport Plan Funding 2011/12 (Assistant Director, Transport and Engineering)

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To provide details of an additional settlement by Central Government towards the Integrated Transport Block of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) for 2011-12.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Assistant Director of Transport and Engineering provided details of the extra £50million funding which had been allocated to the Integrated Transport Block for 2011/12. It had been calculated through the current Integrated Transport Block needs-based formula, that the allocation for Hartlepool was £88,000. This money had recently been received and allocated to the Integrated Transport Block of the Local Transport Plan (LTP).

The Assistant Director of Transport and Engineering reported that objective two of the LTP was “Reducing the impact of transport on the environment and tackling climate change” and one of the potential interventions identified was to “look at the energy efficiency of the Council's fleet and contracted services and seek to make improvements”. The additional funding had provided a means for the Council to acquire three of vehicles on the basis that this would address Objective two of the LTP. It was proposed that two small vans and one car would be purchased. The Assistant Director of Transport and Engineering confirmed that the use of one-off capital funding to finance the two vans would generate temporary annual revenue savings of approximately £12,000, as a result of reduced costs on vehicle finance charges, maintenance and fuel. There would also be a reduction in mileage claim expense of approximately £3,500.

Decision

That the Portfolio Holder agreed the additional funding be utilised for:

- (i) The purchase of 3 electric vehicles for use in the Council fleet
- (ii) The provision of 3 rapid charging points
- (iii) The upgrade of 3 existing charging pods
- (iv) The enhancement of cycling facilities and infrastructure

19. Covenant of Mayors *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To introduce the European Union's (EU's) Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative and to gain approval of the CoM Baseline and Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP).

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services provided an outline of the principles of the CoM and associated SEAP and an update on the Council's current position. It was reported that the CoM was an initiative introduced by the EU to raise awareness of the need to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, and to initiate local action to deliver CO₂ reductions. Signatories of the CoM had made a public commitment to exceed the EU CO₂ emission reduction target of 20% by 2020 within their respective Local Authority areas. Hartlepool's Emissions Baseline Inventory was attached to the main report as Appendix 1 and allowed progress to be measured.

It was anticipated that the regional adoption of the CoM would lead to high profile publicity, with the potential of attracting investment to the area and to create jobs in the growing green economy. The SEAP was attached to the main report as Appendix 2 and outlined actions and projects that would enable a 23% CO₂ emission reduction, against a self-set target of 21%. It was noted that the SEAP was a working document, and would continue to be so throughout the lifetime of the programme. The Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services reported on the progress under CoM, the future of CoM, financial considerations and risks. If the Council wished to remain a signatory of the CoM, it was essential that the Portfolio Holder agreed the content of the SEAP, as requested by the EU CoM Office in Brussels. Participation in the CoM must be beneficial to the Authority. If it was found that this was not the case, then a decision may be made in the future to focus attentions on other more effective ways of reducing carbon emissions.

Decision

- (i) That the Portfolio Holder noted the content of the report and formally approved the SEAP.
- (ii) That the Portfolio Holder monitors the credibility of the scheme, due to the disappointing UK response to CoM and the fact that the funding resulting from CoM participation was yet to materialise.
- (iii) That the Portfolio Holder may wish to reconsider future participation of CoM if funding did not materialise in the coming months and years.

20. Grange Area 20 mph Zone Proposals *(Assistant Director, Transport and Engineering)*

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To report the consultation results for a proposed 20mph zone in the Grange area of town, and the options for implementation.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Assistant Director of Transport and Engineering reported that in September 2010 the Council's Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum commenced an investigation into 20's Plenty, (20mph speed limits on a town-wide basis), which built on the existing 20mph outside schools policy. A brief outline of the background to the 20's Plenty proposals was given. The consultation undertaken had identified three distinct areas exhibited strong support for a 20mph limit:

- Clifton Avenue (32 for, 3 against)
- Hutton Avenue (25 for, 5 against)
- The Oval/ Glendale Ave/ Grange Ave (48 for, 2 against)

Three different options were possible as a result of the consultation:

- Option One – Introduce a 20mph zone over the whole area that had been consulted on
- Option Two – Do nothing
- Option Three - Introduce a 20mph limit on Clifton Avenue, Hutton Avenue and The Oval/ Glendale Avenue/ Grange Avenue as these areas had indicated clear support from the consultation exercise, and would also support the wishes expressed by the residents associations.

The option promoted by the Assistant Director of Transport and Engineering was option three as it was the most sensible approach and the best way forward in this case.

Decision

That the Portfolio Holder approved option three for implementation.

21. Big Local Funding Programme (Dyke House) (Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services)

Type of decision

For information only.

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the recent announcement that Dyke House (boundary outlined in Paragraph 3.2 and **Appendix 1**) has been successful in securing £1 million over the next 10 years, from the community based initiative Big Local.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that Big Local was a £200million Lottery funded expendable endowment and was a 10 year programme aimed at providing lasting change to 150 disadvantaged areas across England; through supporting communities to identify issues in their area, and to plan and develop long term sustainable solutions to make their neighbourhood a better place to live.

Alongside six key features (encompassing continuous involvement of local people, accountable long term partnership, maximising long term benefit, building ability and sharing learning, flexible and realistic and additional to public money), the outcomes of the Big Local programme were outlined as:

- Communities identify local needs and take action.
- People will have increased skills and confidence so that they can continue into the future.
- The community will make a difference.
- People will feel that their area is a better place to live

It was confirmed that after considerable analysis of local neighbourhoods against the Big Local programme criteria, Hartlepool Borough Council submitted the Dyke House, Owton Manor and West View areas to the Big Lottery for selection in October 2011; the Dyke House neighbourhood was subsequently chosen by Big Lottery for Committee consideration. It was announced by the Big Lottery Fund on 29 February 2012 that the Dyke House community (boundary outlined in Appendix 1, attached to the main report) would receive £1 million worth of Big Local funding over the next 10 years to improve their area and tackle local issues and priorities.

Decision

That the Portfolio Holder noted the contents of the report.

22. Hartlepool Rural Plan *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

For information only

Purpose of report

To provide the Portfolio Holder with an update on how the Rural Neighbourhood Plan is being delivered at a local level.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that Neighbourhood Planning was central to the Coalition Government's Localism Act 2011. It was intended to give local people greater ownership of plans and policies that affected their area, and provided communities with the opportunity to influence how their neighbourhood was developed in the future.

In May 2011, Hartlepool was successful in securing £20,000 from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to develop and produce a Development Plan Document (DPD) for the rural area of Hartlepool.

The rural area encompasses the five parishes of Dalton Piercy, Elwick, Hart, Greatham and Newton Bewley with the addition of Greatham Creek and Queens Meadow Wildlife Site, and the exclusion of the urban areas of South Fens, Wynyard and Kingfisher Close. The Hartlepool Rural Plan Working Group had been established to drive the development of the Plan, and represents the communities living within the proposed Hartlepool Rural Plan Area.

The report outlined the progress and process undertaken to date in the development of the Hartlepool Rural Plan, and included details of the Hartlepool Rural Area Working Group. The Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services confirmed that the Council had applied for funding for the Headland Parish Council and were unsuccessful. However, no formal letter had been received informing the Council of this decision.

Decision

That the Portfolio Holder noted the contents of the report in relation to the progress of Neighbourhood Planning in Hartlepool through the development of the Rural Plan.

23. Minor Works Proposals – Neighbourhood Consultative Forums *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

For information only

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums schemes undertaken in respect of Minor Works funding during 2011/12.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In June 2010 the Portfolio Holder delegated powers to the Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services with regard to approving Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Minor Works Schemes.

The Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services report on the Minor Works Schemes implemented during 2011/12. It was noted that the Capital contribution was reduced from £52,000 to £25,000 as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy in March 2011. The Minor Works budget also received a contribution from the Local Transport Plan and Highway Maintenance budget to the sum of £33,000.

A breakdown of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums Minor Works schemes undertaken to date during 2010 – 2012, for North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum, Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum and South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum were detailed within the report.

Decision

That the Portfolio Holder noted the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums Minor Works schemes undertaken to date during 2010-12.

The meeting concluded at: 2.30 pm

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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