

TRANSPORT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

18 May 2012

The meeting commenced at 9.20 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

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

Officers: Alastair Smith, Assistant Director of Transportation and Engineering
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director of Regeneration and Planning
Craig Thelwell, Waste and Environmental Services Manager
Peter Frost, Traffic Team Leader
Vicky Bosley, Democratic Services Officer

25. Review of Dog Control Orders (*Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Key – test ii applies

Purpose of report

To seek approval to introduce amendments to the Dog Control Orders currently in force across the Borough of Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

It was reported that in 2011 the Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder gave approval to amend the existing dog control orders following requests from local Councillors and the public for changes to be made to existing orders and for the introduction of new orders in specified parts of Hartlepool.

The proposed new orders included on leads orders at North Sands which was seasonal, Redheugh Gardens and Thomson Street Linear Park and a dog exclusion order at Fens Field. Full details of responses received following the placing of a public notice in the Hartlepool Mail on 6 January 2012 in relation to the proposals were appended to the report.

The Mayor was advised that there were no financial considerations associated with these changes other than the maintenance of appropriate signage. The

report included the legal, equality and diversity considerations as well as staffing, asset management and Section 17 considerations.

Natural England and the RSPB considered the introduction of a Dog Control Order on North Sands to be important in the mitigation of disturbance to ecological features along the coastline and Natural England would not remove its objection to the proposed development of the site until an order was in place. It was in the interest of the Council to seek a suitable resolve to the continuing problems of anti-social behaviour at this location, and to improve the visual amenity of the area. The Waste and Environmental Services Manager highlighted the level of opposition to the proposed 'on Leads' Order on the North Sands; however, the introduction of an Order was a statutory requirement, which had been placed upon the Council by Natural England.

Following discussion as to the objection raised by Natural England in relation to North Sands, the Mayor was happy to approve Fens Field, Redheugh Gardens and Thornton Street Linear Park. However, in relation to North Sands the Mayor was of the view that this should be deferred to enable further clarification to be sought from Natural England regarding the suggested harm to nesting birds, given that this issue had not been raised in the past.

Decision

- (i) That the proposed Dog Exclusion (Amendment) Order 2012 for Fens Field be approved.
- (ii) That the Chief Solicitor makes necessary arrangements to bring the above Order into force.
- (iii) That the proposed Dogs On Leads (Amendment) Order 2012 be approved in respect of Redheugh Gardens and Thornton Street Linear Park. However, the decision with regards to North Sands is deferred pending receipt of further information from Natural England.
- (iv) That the concerns of Headland Parish Council and the public relating to the proposed seasonal 'On Leads' Order on North Sands, be noted.

26. Household Waste – Assisted Collections *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Mayor of proposals to introduce a more-robust assessment process for assisted household waste collections.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided concise details of the present arrangements for assisted household waste collections and highlighted the main concerns surrounding

this service. The report also detailed proposals to address these concerns through a revised scheme, aimed at improving efficiency within the Waste Management section.

The Waste and Environmental Services Manager reported on the present assisted household waste collection list, which currently stood at around 1000 households and was steadily increasing. However, it was apparent that many residents were in receipt of an assisted collection service where there was no obvious reason for this to be the case. This situation had evolved through the lack of an effective system of identifying individuals with a genuine need for assistance, or possibly as a result of inadequate monitoring. A recent review of waste services provided by Hartlepool Borough Council identified a number of changes that had the potential to realise significant savings for the Council.

Proposals to introduce a revised assisted collection scheme that required verification of an individual's needs, prior to any assistance being granted. Details of automatic qualification were provided in the report. Non-automatic qualification may be given for other reasons, determined by a home visit assessment. All instances of assisted collections would be closely monitored by the Waste & Environmental Services and furthermore, every case would be reviewed automatically on an annual basis.

The Mayor was advised of the identified potential for significant savings through the way in which it delivered its service. The report included the legal, equality and diversity considerations as well as staffing, asset management and Section 17 considerations.

The Mayor questioned if the more robust assessment process for assisted collections would increase the level of the administration process. The Mayor was reassured that the robust assessment process would not increase administration levels.

Decision

- (i) That the proposals to introduce a more robust assessment process for assisted household waste collections be approved.
- (ii) The immediate longer-term benefits of the proposals were recognised.

27. Arncliffe Gardens Area Proposed One Way System (Assistant Director, Transportation and Engineering)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval to the implementation of a one way traffic system along Arncliffe Gardens, Belmont Gardens, Eamont Gardens and Wansbeck Gardens, as detailed in Appendix 1.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the background to the scheme, the consultation undertaken and the scheme proposals. The Assistant Director of Engineering and Transport provided a detailed report on the background information, including a 'resident led' consultation that had been submitted to the Council on behalf of the residents of Arncliffe Gardens. The consultation indicated the majority of the residents were in favour of the road becoming a one way street, allowing access from the north end of Park Road only. Details of the consultation reported that out of 114 letters sent out, only five residents expressed concerns. It was reported the scheme would utilise illuminated signage to identify each of the 4 streets as having a one way access, plus no entry signage at the opposite ends of each road. It was anticipated that this should cost no more than £5,000 in total, which would be met from the Council's Local Transport Plan.

The Mayor was supportive of the one way system however, raised concerns regarding the proposed direction of the one way system. It was decided after discussions between the Mayor, Assistant Director of Engineering and Transport and the Traffic Team Leader that there would be no advantage of amending the proposed direction and that once the one way system was in place it would be an improvement.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the introduction of the one way scheme.

The meeting concluded at 9.40 am

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 24 MAY 2012