

FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD 20 JUNE 2012

The meeting commenced at 4:00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor, Paul Thompson (Finance and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Alastair Smith, Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering)
Chris Little, Chief Finance Officer
Lisa Anderson, Information and Consultation Officer
Colin Bolton, Building Consultancy Manager
Dave Wilson, Engineering Consultancy Manager
Sam Durham, PA to Chief Executive Management Team

**1. New Deal for Consideration (NDC) Trust – Empty
Property Purchasing Scheme -** (Chief Finance Officer, Director
(Regeneration and Neighbourhoods) and Chief Solicitor)

Type of decision

Key Decision (test (i)). Forward Plan Reference No: CE51/12

This item was withdrawn as NDC Trust have been unsuccessful in their bid for Homes and Communities Agency funding which was necessary to make the proposed business case viable.

**2. Seaton Carew Coast Protection Works Amendments
to Route** (Assistant Director (Resources), Assistant Director (Transport
and Engineering) and Chief Finance Officer)

Type of decision

Non Key.

Purpose of report

To request the Portfolio Holders approval to amend the relevant procurement route and agree an exception to the Contract Procedure Rules in respect of the procurement of Reinforced Earth elements of the project.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods presented the report on the Seaton Carew coast protection work amendments to the procurement route.

Engineering Consultancy recently secured £3.5m Environment Agency grant funding along with £0.3m private sector contribution towards a project to upgrade sea defences of Seaton Carew against coastal erosion and flooding for the next 100 years. The grant funding is available on the basis of the scheme being delivered during 2012/13 and 2013/14.

After research and preliminary discussions held to date the specialist company 'Reinforced Earth Company' have demonstrated the necessary technical capability and financial benefits to warrant further inclusion in the project.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the exception from the Contract Procedure Rules on the basis of urgency and the specialist nature of the reinforced earth element of the works and authorised Officers entry into a negotiated contract with the Reinforced Earth Company.

3. Integrated Transport Unit (ITU) - (Assistant Director (Resources) Assistant Director (Transport and Engineering) and Chief Finance Officer)

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of arrangements and development proposals to ensure maximum opportunities are achieved in the further development of strategic transport by commissioning the specialist services of PKR Associates and seek approval for an exemption to the contract Procedure Rules in their appointment.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods presented the report on

Integrated Transport Unit and identified the study carried out by Hartlepool Strategic Transport Group which had examined a move towards an integrated Transport Unit during February 2009, to ensure the development procurement arrangements across Children's Services, Adult Services, Transport Services and Transportation Services to ensure clear links with Public Passenger Transport within Hartlepool Borough Council.

PKR are a firm of specialist transport consultants who were commissioned to set up and develop an Integrated Transport Unit for the Council and deliver an ongoing programme of improvement, savings and income generation. The company provide resources to undertake the Council's transport requirements.

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods outlined the revision of contract with PKR associates which can be found in section 4.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the report and approved exemption to the Contract Procedure Rules in the appointment of PKR.

4. Capital Work Programme 12/13 Amendments to Procurement Route - (*Assistant Director (Resources)*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To request the Portfolio Holders approval to amend the relevant procurement route and agree an exception to the Contract Procedure Rules in respect of procurement of the proposed construction works for a number of projects.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report set out the background to amend the relevant procurement route and agree an exception to the Contract Procedure Rules.

Building Consultancy have been working closely with in-house Facilities Management, client departments and end users to produce this years capital and corporate planned work programme in such a way that maximises the amount of work that can be carried out by the Facilities Management section where they prove value for money.

This year's capital and corporate planned work programme (including the schools capital programme – Phase 1 – approved and Phase 2 awaiting approval) has around sixty projects with a combined budget of £5.4m.

The Council has in place a partnership framework contract agreement with three contractors to undertake all works under £100k. Occasionally exemptions have been secured for works over £100k to be included where time is of the essence and a tender exercise would not achieve desired outcomes.

The Facilities Management section do not currently have the resources to carry out all the schemes detailed in 3.8 of the report and under normal circumstances we would invite tenders for work over £100k but in this event due to tight timescales necessary for completion and financial spend an exception is required.

The Portfolio Holder questioned the current scheduled work be carried out at West Park Primary School. The Building Consultancy Manager explained that this involved the creation of a new foundation unit which is in part new build with some internal alterations.

The Portfolio Holder received clarification that the work would be complete by the end of the financial year.

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed to the Portfolio Holder that the work is Capital funded.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder gave approval to amend the relevant procurement route.

5. 37th Phase of Viewpoint – Citizen's Panel Results (Assistant Chief Executive)

Type of decision

None – for information only.

Purpose of report

To provide the Portfolio Holder with an explanation of why the topics included in Viewpoint 37 were included, and what departments plan to do with the results.

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the results from the 37th phase of Viewpoint that was distributed to panel members in December 2011.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In December 2011 Viewpoint 37 was sent to 1,397 active members of the panel. A response rate of 68 per cent was achieved with 922 questionnaires being returned.

The Viewpoint panel is currently undergoing a refresh, and will be ready to

use with Viewpoint 38 in June/ Jul 2012.

The Research Officer provided a summary of the feedback from previous Viewpoint surveys covered in Section 7 of the report.

The Portfolio Holder questioned how the selection process for Viewpoint was carried out. The Information and Consultation Officer explained that surveys are sent out to a random sample of the edited electoral register, selected to meet quotas which are designed to provide a representative sample of Hartlepool residents.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the report and acknowledged the results of Viewpoint 37 and feedback received from previous surveys.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 7 – Land at Monmouth Grove - This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.)

Minute 8 – Market Hotel - This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.)

7. Land at Monmouth Grove (*Assistant Director (Resources)*) This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any

particular person (including the authority holding that information (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.)

Type of decision

Key Decision test (i) applies. Key decision reference number RN 13/09.

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update the Portfolio Holder as to the current position in relation to the sale of the land at Monmouth Grove and seek direction on relation to the current disposal options.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report set out the background in relation to the sale of Monmouth Grove.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder agreed the best option would be to accept the bid from Vela outlined in section 6.2 of the report.

- 8. Market Hotel** (*Assistant Director (Resources)*) This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.)

Type of decision

Key Decision - test (i) and (ii) applies.

Purpose of report

To seek the Portfolio Holder's approval for the sale of the property.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods presented the report on the Market Hotel.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder suggested that the Market Hotel is not put up for sale until other options are looked into.

The Portfolio Holder requested a report is submitted to a future meeting to review options.

The meeting concluded at 16:20 p.m.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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