

REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

29 JUNE 2012

The meeting commenced at 10.15am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor The Mayor, Stuart Drummond (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Services)

Officers: Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)
 Antony Steinberg, Economic Regeneration Manager
 Patrick Wilson, Employment Development Officer
 Denise Ogden, Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)
 Karen Kelly, Principal Housing Strategy Officer
 Amy Waller, Principal Housing Regeneration Officer
 Nigel Johnson, Housing Services Manager
 Mike Blair, Highways, Traffic and Transport Manager

Kirsty Swanson, PA to the Chief Executive

1. **Review of Public Open Space CCTV** (*Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Key Decision (test ii applies)

Forward Plan Reference Number – RN3/12

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to inform the Portfolio Holder of the current position with respect to the provision of open space Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras in Hartlepool. This includes all the cameras that are monitoring by Housing Hartlepool at the Community Monitoring Centre, and a small number of remotely accessed cameras commissioned through the Safer Hartlepool Partnership.

The report has been prepared following an internal review of CCTV provision which was undertaken as a result of staff changes within the Community Safety Service area.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder noted that there are now 117 public space Council owned cameras across the borough, this was noted as one of a number of tools available in crime prevention and community safety. The Council currently has a fixed location, non-covert, public space CCTV camera system distributed around the town at various locations, the majority of which are monitored by Housing Hartlepool at the Community Monitoring centre which is located within their Stranton offices. The location of the cameras is split into five main area types: Town Centre, Shopping Parades, Residential, Industrial and Other.

A detailed breakdown and total of where the cameras are located is included within the report.

The CCTV Strategy was adopted in 2008, which sets out the key strategic objectives which are supported by the operating principles for the delivery of the service. The strategy incorporated recommendations of the CCTV Scrutiny Investigation (2008), which were included within the Strategies associated Action Plan. The Strategic Objectives and the proposals from the action plan were detailed within Section 4 of the report.

The aim of the internal review was to identify possible changes to the way the current Community Safety CCTV public open space camera service was provided, to ensure it is providing value for money and provided an up-to-date service which is appropriate to the needs of Hartlepool. The report identified a number of issues in terms of compliance against the Information Commissioners Code of Practice, insufficient performance monitoring arrangements regarding the SLA with Housing Hartlepool for the monitoring of CCTV cameras, lack of contractual arrangements for the provision of a CCTV maintenance service and the ability to incorporate a bank of re-deployable cameras that could be sighted as operational needs change depending upon the outcome of a location justification survey.

The Portfolio Holder queried Section 9.1 within the report. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) explained that if the review recommendations were not introduced and we were challenged by the Information Commissioner of an FOI request the Council could be at risk for non-compliance with the Code of Practice for CCTV (2008) which could result in a fine.

The financial considerations and legal implications of the recommendations are noted within the report.

The Portfolio Holder expressed concern with regards to recommendation F. The Portfolio Holder expressed that he would want this recommendation to be used with caution as the cameras reduce the fear of crime in a community as they are a crime preventative method. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) confirmed that this recommendation would only

be undertaken in extreme situations.

It was noted that the strategy would be updated and a new Action Plan compiled. These would then be presented to Cabinet in September 2012

Decision

The Portfolio Holder agreed to implement all recommendations.

2. Local Transport Plan 2011 – 12 Out-turn and 2012-13 Programme *(Highways, Traffic and Transport Manager)*

Type of decision

Key Decision (test i and ii apply) Forward Plan Reference No RN 19/12

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of progress made under the Local Transport Plan delivery programme, and seek approval for the 2012/13 allocation.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The third Local Transport Plan set out how a safe and sustainable transport system could be delivered within Hartlepool. It was recognised that funding, particularly in the short to medium term, is significantly reduced from the second LTP period, a whilst this represents a significant barrier to delivering the Council's aspirations for improving the transport network in Hartlepool, it provides opportunities to work more closely with out partner organisations for the overall benefit of the town.

The strategy is not limited to the 5 year timescales of previous LTP's but was designed to look towards 2026 and evolve over this period. The strategy would be kept under review within this time period to ensure that it remained current, responding to any changes in circumstances, and took into account any revisions in guidance and best practice.

The minor amendments were noted to the 2012/13 programme and the budget allocations for the 4 year programme from 2011/12 to 2014/15 were noted.

The portfolio holder questioned the arrangements for the Shopmobility scheme. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Manager confirmed that they were opening an additional unit rather than relocating.

Decision

That the Portfolio Holder noted the contents of the report and approved the programme for 2012/13.

3. Nordic Pioneer (*Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Non Key Decision

Purpose of report

To report on the proposed collaborative working between the Council and Nordic Pioneer to develop a six month Environmental Apprenticeship pilot programme.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Nordic Pioneer has previously met with the Mayor to review potential collaborative working between both parties to implement the 'Urban Blitz' Apprenticeship programme in Hartlepool. As part of this initial proposal, Nordic Pioneer had asked for a financial contribution from the Council to deliver the Urban Blitz programme. However, no agreement was reached on this matter as the Council could not commit, particularly at a time of year-on-year reductions in Departmental Budgets.

Council officers then met again with Nordic Pioneer in May 2012, to discuss the Urban Blitz programme again. Within this meeting, Nordic Pioneer proposed to develop a six month pilot programme in partnership with the Council. The main points of the pilot are noted within the report.

In response to the challenge of youth unemployment, the Government announced a £1 billion Youth Contract to help young unemployed people get a job. From April 2012, wage incentives worth up to £2,275 each, will be available for employers who can offer an 18 to 24 year old from the Government's Work Programme, a job lasting at least 26 weeks.

Nordic Pioneer has a contract with the Work Programme provider Avanta to deliver the Youth Contract on their behalf and can access the wage incentive as detailed within the report.

Each apprentice will be employed by Nordic Pioneer and will adhere to their terms and conditions, but each learner will be placed and will be directly supervised by our Neighbourhood Services division.

An interim progress report will be submitted to the Portfolio Holder in October 2012.

Decision

That the Portfolio Holder noted the contents of the report.

4. High Street Innovation Fund – Initial Proposals *(Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning)*

Type of decision

Non Key Decision

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to seek the Portfolio Holder's views on the initial list of projects proposed by the Economic Regeneration Forum Working Group for the £100k awarded to Hartlepool through the High Street Innovation Fund.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

As reported to the Portfolio Holder in May 2012, Hartlepool has been awarded £100k through the High Street Innovation Fund which aims to address empty properties on the High Street. The fund has been created by the Government in response to the Portas Review.

The Economic Regeneration Forum Working Group agreed that the High Street Innovation Fund should be carefully targeted at projects that will draw people into the town centre and create a unique offer.

The Portfolio Holder noted that a number of potential projects have been discussed within the working group and are detailed within the report.

The options detailed within the report were discussed at length but it was suggested that the bigger picture be looked at for the Town and discussions to include the retail market within Hartlepool as a whole.

The Portfolio Holder agreed that the Working Group meet again to consider greater potential options for the town centre area and give consideration to a Retail Revival Strategy being undertaken and feedback to the Portfolio Holder at the next meeting. The Portfolio Holder requested that he be able to attend the next Working Group meeting.

The Portfolio Holder also requested that a meeting be scheduled with the owners of the Town Centre to discuss possible ways forward.

Decision

That the Portfolio Holder noted the contents of the report

5. Reinigorating Right to Buy A Report Highlighting the RTB Extension *(Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning)*

Type of decision

Non Key Decision

Purpose of report

To update the Housing and Transitions Portfolio Holder about the recent changes and extension to Right to Buy in the social rented sector.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Right to Buy scheme was introduced in 1980 and gives qualifying social tenants the right to buy their home at a discount. In the “Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England” published in November 2011, the Government announced its intention to increase the caps on RTB discounts to enable more tenants to achieve their ambition for home ownership. In December 2011, the Department for Communities and Local Government published a consultation setting out proposals for how this would be achieved and seeking views during a 6 week consultation period, HBC submitted our views on this proposal. The Government have now announced its planned changes to the RTB scheme. With details of how one for one replacement will work, these changes took effect from 2nd April 2012 and are detailed within the report.

The Portfolio Holder agreed that tenants currently in Council owned properties should be advised of the new right to buy terms in writing. Housing Hartlepool as management agents will be tasked with undertaking this work.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the report and the impact that Government legislation may have on programmes delivered by the Council.

6. Ward Profiles (Draft for Consultation) *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non Key Decision

Purpose of report

To seek agreement on the first draft of the eleven Ward Profiles (Appendix 1) as consultation documents, and to note the proposed 8 week consultation framework to commence the beginning on July 2012.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Following the Reviews of Community Involvement and Engagement (including LSP Review) and Neighbourhood Management in 2011/12, the option of developing Ward Profiles was endorsed by Cabinet. In line with the decision to re-focus resources to those neighbourhoods falling within the top 5% most deprived, it was envisaged that Profiles would be drawn up for all eleven wards, with a more intensive approach and action plan adopted in wards with areas falling within the top 5% most disadvantaged. This encompasses the De Bruce, Headland and Harbour, Jesmond, Manor House and Victoria wards.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the contents of the report and the Ward Profile development process undertaken to date, approved the format of the eleven draft Ward Profiles for the purposes of public consultation and approved a public consultation period of 8 weeks.

7. Quarterly Housing Report (*Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning*)

Type of decision

Non Key Decision

Purpose of report

To update the Regeneration & Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder about the progress across key areas of the Housing Service during 2011/12.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provides an update on progress and benchmarking across the key areas of the Housing Service during 2011/12 and updates the last report presented to Portfolio Holder on 22 February 2012.

The Principal Housing Regeneration Officer, provided a comprehensive update on Empty Homes, Enforcement and Selective Licensing with specific focus on the Empty Homes Strategy Action Plan, the Baden Street improvement scheme and the Empty Property Purchase Scheme.

The Portfolio Holder queried if the process could be shortened in anyway in relation to any enforcement action that is required. The Principal Housing

Regeneration Officer confirmed that they are specific channels to follow for any challenging cases but work is been undertaken to refine the processes prior to the enforcement stage.

The Portfolio Holder suggested that any successful changes to properties should be communicated to members of the public. The Principal Housing Regeneration Officer noted that press releases should start to be communicated. Following a query from the Portfolio Holder regarding communication with Baden Street residents, the Principal Housing Regeneration Officer confirmed that regular contact is always made with all residents.

The Principal Housing Strategy Officer provided the Portfolio Holder with an update on the Disabled Facilities Grant Benchmarking Data and Allocations.

The Portfolio Holder questioned what happens to the equipment once a person vacates a property. It was confirmed that if the property is social rented then it would be reallocated through Choice Based Lettings and that if the property is privately owned then a land charge would be added to the property.

The Principal Housing Strategy Officer provided the Portfolio Holder with an update on Choice Based Lettings.

The tables detailed within the report were noted by the Portfolio Holder.

A brief update was then provided on the Housing Advice and Homelessness Prevention Activity.

The figures detailed within the report were noted. The Portfolio Holder questioned how these statistics are measurable accurately. The Housing Services Manager confirmed that these statistics only cover the members of the public who make them known to the authority. It was noted that the Town Pastors would be useful to meet with to discuss how links could be made with the authority.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted that contents of the report and the progress made across key areas of the Housing Service and agreed to inform of any other key areas that could be included in future reports.

8. 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 9 – Community Pool – Appeals - 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.)

- 9. Community Pool – Appeals** (*Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services*) 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) Forward Plan Reference Number 96/11

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to present the appeals that have been received following the allocation of Community Pool grant to Community and Voluntary Groups under Category 4 for 2012/13 to Portfolio Holder for consideration.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Please refer to the exempt minutes.

Decision

That the Portfolio Holder noted the contents of the report.

The meeting concluded at 11.40 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 5 JULY 2012