

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

29 October 2012

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond - In the Chair

Councillors: Cath Hill (Children's and Community Services Portfolio Holder)
John Lauderdale (Adults and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive,
Chris Little, Chief Finance Officer
Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning
Denise Ogden, Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services
Sally Robinson, Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services
Louise Wallace, Director of Public Health
Alistair Rae, Public Relations Officer
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

91. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Paul Thompson (Finance and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder) and John Maddison (Mayor's Community Advisory Panel).

92. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

93. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2012

Confirmed.

94. Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet's authorisation to undertake public consultation on the Draft Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document and associated Sustainability Appraisal.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning reported that it was proposed that public consultation be undertaken on the draft Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Document and associated sustainability appraisal. The consultation would commence in November 2012 and would run for a minimum period of eight weeks.

Decision

That consultation on the Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document and associated sustainability appraisal be authorised.

95. Public Health Transition Plan – Progress Report

(Director of Public Health)

Type of decision

Key Decision (CAS 134/12) Tests i and ii apply.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the progress of implementing the Public Health Transition Plan that was agreed by Cabinet in March 2012.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Director of Public Health reported that the new responsibilities for Local Government for improving health and resources to enable this to happen would be in place for April 2012. It was essential to have a local transition plan that described the key issues and actions that must be undertaken to ensure a smooth transition from the old system to the new system. The transition plan was jointly owned between NHS Hartlepool as the statutory body currently responsible for public health and Hartlepool Borough Council who by 2013 will be responsible for public health.

The Director highlighted the key issues for Cabinet's information at this stage of the process. This included Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council being the host authority for the Shared Public Health Authority and the Director's appointment as the co-Chair of the Local Health Resilience Partnership.

Decision

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the recommendation that Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council host the Tees Valley Public Health shared service on behalf of the five Tees Valley unitary authorities be noted.

96. Ward Profiles (Final for endorsement) (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Key Decision test ii applies. Forward Plan Reference No. RN29/12.

Purpose of report

To seek endorsement of the proposed eleven Ward Profiles

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services reported that following the Review of Community Involvement and Engagement and Neighbourhood Management in 2011/2012, the option of developing Ward Profiles was endorsed by Cabinet (18 July 2011, decision reaffirmed 6 February 2012 and 9 January 2012 respectively). In line with the decision to re-focus resources to those neighbourhoods falling within the top 5% most deprived (rather than the top 10% previously targeted through the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) process), it was envisaged that Profiles would be drawn up for all eleven Wards, with a more intensive approach 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:

The report indicated that the format of the ward profiles followed the revised structure of the themed partnerships. Details of the consultation and the responses received were also set out. Monitoring of the performance of the ward profiles would be undertaken by the Neighbourhood Forums on a bi-annual basis with reporting into the themed partnerships.

Cabinet Members raised concerns with the revised structure of Neighbourhood management particularly in relation to the PCSO's. There were concerns that some areas, such as Seaton Carew were missing out on PCSO patrols due to the distances between patrol areas.

Cabinet Members also expressed concern that the areas of deprivation in the town tended to be focussed on small areas rather than whole wards and some of these areas could miss out now that they were in larger wards that may encompass areas of relative advantage. The Mayor considered that the approach to dealing with deprivation would be focussed on the small known areas of deprivation and need.

The Mayor welcomed the Ward Profiles as strong documents that could be utilised by ward councillors. Acknowledging that the local authority was cash-strapped at this time, the new ward profiles could place the Council in a good position should any new funding streams come available.

Decision

That the contents of the report and the Ward Profile development process

be noted and that the eleven Ward Profiles be endorsed.

97. Denominational Transport: Savings Options (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Key Decision (test (ii)) Forward Plan Reference No. CAS132/12.

Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet of further options around savings proposals discussed at a previous Cabinet meeting on 2 April 2012 in relation to denominational transport.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Mayor indicated that he had received a number of representations about this issue, in particular in relation to the timing of the decision during the school half term holidays. The Mayor indicated that in light of these he would wish to defer the matter to the next meeting of Cabinet on 19 November 2012.

Decision

That consideration of the report be deferred to the meeting of Cabinet on 19 November 2012.

98. Service Planning 2013-14 (*Corporate Management Team*)

Type of decision

Non-Key Decision.

Purpose of report

To provide the opportunity for Cabinet to consider the proposed changes to the Service Planning Framework, the proposed Outcome Framework and service planning timetable for 2013/14.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Assistant Chief Executive reported it was proposed that from 2013/14 onwards the three Departmental Plans be brought together to form the Council Plan which would set out collectively how the key priorities/outcomes that the Council have identified would be delivered. Discussions had taken place with Council Officers from across all Departments on the revision of the outcome framework, and as a result of these discussions, it was not proposed to change radically the framework for 2013/14.

The proposed outcome framework for 2013/14 was set out in the report. The proposed framework contained twenty-five outcomes that address the eight Community Strategy themes – twenty-four of which were the same as those that were included in 2012/13. It was proposed to change Outcome

10 from “Be healthy – children enjoy good physical and emotional health and live a healthy lifestyle” to “Give every child the best start in life”. An extra outcome (Outcome 33 - Ensure the effective implementation of significant government policy changes) had been proposed for inclusion in the Organisational Development theme. The detailed next steps and reporting route was also set out in the report for Cabinet’s information.

Decision

1. That the proposed introduction of a Council Plan as a replacement for the old system of a Corporate Plan and Departmental Plans be approved.
2. That the proposed Outcome Framework as set out in the report be approved.
3. That the overall timetable as set out in the report be approved.

99. 2011-12 Year End Performance Report (*Corporate Management Team*)

Type of decision

Non-Key Decision.

Purpose of report

To advise Cabinet of year end performance for the key Performance Indicators as identified in the suite of 2012/13 Departmental Plans, and to ask Cabinet to approve a number of 2012/13 targets that were not available at the time the Plans were agreed.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Assistant Chief Executive reported on the year end Performance Report for 2011/12. The indicators included in the report were those that had been included in the suite of 2012/13 Departmental Plans, to ensure that the report was focussing on the key priorities included in those plans.

The report had been produced using the information input in the Council’s Corporate Performance Management System, Covalent, by officers from across the Council. The report looked at two main areas: -

- whether the target had been achieved in 2011/12
- whether performance had improved in the last year

Where issues with specific performance indicators had been identified the Corporate Management Team had provided further information explaining the reasons for those issues and, where appropriate, any remedial action that had already taken place or was planned to improve performance.

The Assistant Chief Executive highlighted that there had been an improvement in the number of performance indicators achieving target.

Detailed appendices had been circulated to Cabinet Members following the circulation of the agenda papers detailing the performance within departments and also setting out any actions taken to respond to those indicators that had fallen below target.

The Mayor questioned if there was any correlation to be drawn from the performance indicators and those service areas that had suffered cuts during the last budget round. The Assistant Chief Executive indicated that no work had been undertaken specifically, though as the cuts had been spread across all service areas it may be difficult to show such a correlation. The picture was that performance was generally being held up across all areas. Where there had been a reduction in performance, a 'tolerance' of 5% had been taken before specific mitigating action was introduced. In many areas performance was being maintained by staff re-engineering processes to work smarter within the reduced resources available.

Cabinet Members expressed their appreciation of the commitment of staff to the organisation in maintaining such high levels of performance despite the recent budget cuts. Cabinet suggested that the new Chief Executive send a message to all staff indicating Cabinet's appreciation for their commitment to maintaining Council service levels.

Cabinet Member noted that within the statistics provided domestic burglary figures were down in the last year but the overall trend was being shown as increasing. The Mayor commented that the Police had undertaken significant work in this area to reduce the levels of all theft including domestic burglary. The Assistant Chief Executive indicated that officers would review the statistic and include details in the next report to Cabinet.

Decision

That the year-end performance for 2011/12 be noted and the targets set out in the Year End Performance Report be approved.

100. Families with Multiple Problems (Familywise Project)

(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Director of Child and Adult Services (Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services))

Type of decision

The report was for information only.

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the Council's performance in relation to the delivery of the FamilyWise project.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning reported on the Council's performance as sub contractor to the Wise Group in delivering the European Social Fund programme to tackle entrenched worklessness by

progressing multi-generational families/family members with multiple problems closer to the labour market, so that they can enter employment or take advantage of employment focused support, such as the Work Programme. Details of the progress measures and payments were set out within the report.

Cabinet Members commented that significant work had to be put into the families targeted by these measures in order to see any improvement. Work would need to be maintained in the long term to achieve the desired improvements as many of these families had multiple problems.

The Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services indicated that long-term benefits would, however, be worth the input but this was a fifteen-year strategy that required commitment long into the future beyond the five-year term of government. The Council's Early Intervention Strategy talked of change being implemented as a generational project but the EIS was initially funded for two years from central government and significant cuts to the grant are outlined for 2013/14.

The Mayor commented that often strategies such as this did make great sense when announced but their implementation was often very poor. It was pleasing to see the Council involved in the delivery of these services as it was best placed to identify those families in need and also to address their problems. However, when only being tasked as a subcontractor to do this work within very limited boundaries meant that the council had to jump through many hoops to get very little back by means of payment.

Decision

That the report be noted.

101. European Commission 'Youth Guarantee Scheme'

(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Assistant Director of Child and Adult Services (Performance and Achievement))

Type of decision

The report was for information only.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to inform Cabinet of an application to be submitted for the European Commission's Youth Guarantee Scheme funding. This funding would contribute towards reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning reported that in August 2012, the European Commission announced a €4million call for proposals to develop a Youth Guarantee Scheme in local, regional or national areas where youth unemployment is above 22.7%. An application had been

submitted by the deadline of 22nd October 2012 and organisations would be notified of the results by the end of January 2013. As highlighted in the report, 5% of funding would need to be identified and the Assistant Director indicated that this could be matched on an in-kind contribution basis from Council Officer's time. A further report would be submitted to Cabinet when the announcement was made by the European Commission on the successful applications.

Decision

That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.25 a.m.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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