

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

3rd July 2006

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond) - In the Chair

Councillors: Pam Hargreaves (Children's Services Portfolio Holder),
Peter Jackson (Performance Management Portfolio Holder),
Vic Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Transportation Portfolio Holder),
Ray Waller (Adult and Public Health Portfolio Holder).

Officers: Paul Walker, Chief Executive
Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services
Adrienne Simcock, Director of Children's Services
Graham Frankland, Head of Procurement and Property Services
Mike Ward, Chief Financial Officer
Alan Dobby, Assistant Director (Support Services)
Joanne Smithson, Head of Community Strategy
Graham Jarritt, Borough Librarian
Peter Turner, Principal Strategy Development Officer
Julian Heward, Assistant Public Relations Officer
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

21. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cath Hill (Deputy Mayor) and Robbie Payne (Finance Portfolio Holder).

22. Declarations of interest by Members / Officers

None.

23. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2006

Received.

24. Community Strategy Review 2006 (*Head of Community Strategy*)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework item.

Purpose of report

To outline the process by which the current Community Strategy and associated Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will be reviewed and a revised strategy produced by the end of March 2007.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report set out a timetable for the review and identified progress to date. The review will take place in three phases. Phase 1 runs until late summer, and will focus on reviewing the current Strategy and preparing the draft new Strategy. Phase 2, will run from September to December and focus on consultation on the draft new Strategy. Phase 3 will run from January to March 2007 and will focus on the formal adoption of the new Strategy. It was noted that as there was not a meeting of Council in March 2007 this would now be taken to the 19th April 2007.

Members referred to the recent Scrutiny Inquiry undertaken by the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum into partnership working and asked for the recommendations of the inquiry would be incorporated in this review. The Head of Community Strategy reported that where appropriate the recommendations would be included. The majority of the inquiries recommendations related to structure rather than policy, which was the focus of this review.

Decision

That the proposals for the Community Strategy review be noted.

25. Annual Library Plan (*Director of Adult and Community Services*)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework item.

Purpose of report

To consider the draft Annual Library Plan for consultation.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The previous year marked a number of significant staff changes for the library service. Nevertheless latest published figures indicated that Hartlepool Libraries remained among the top performers in the country. The Annual Library Plan, attached as an appendix to the report, described how the Library Service identified its role in delivery of the Council's corporate objectives and how it would continue to work towards fulfilling the DCMS ten year plan, 'Framework for the Future'.

The Annual Library plan has been produced within Hartlepool Borough Council's 2006/7 Service Planning Guidelines, and was integrated with the objectives of the Corporate Plan and the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan. At the same time the plan placed the development of Hartlepool's Library Services within the aims and guidance of the ten-year DCMS forward plan for UK Public Library Services, 'Framework for the Future'.

The plan for 2006/7 consists of the following parts:

- An introduction and summary of the major changes, achievements and performance of the library service during 2005/6.
- An illustration of the current library management structure and where libraries fit within Adult and Community Services.
- A description of how the library service is organised into six teams, or areas of responsibility in order to develop services in line with the requirements of 'Framework for the Future'
- A brief description of the key partnerships the library is involved with.
- An outline of the library performance management process and how it will be communicated internally and externally
- The priorities governing the Annual Library Plan 2006/7
- Action plan 2006/7 and performance targets

The submission of the library plan to the Council's democratic processes ensures that Hartlepool's library services are subject to appropriate scrutiny and consultation and that the plan is approved in accordance with the Council's constitutional principles of decision-making.

Decision

That the draft Annual Library Plan be approved for consultation.

26. Corporate Plan 2005/2006 – Quarter 4 Progress Report *(Assistant Chief Executive)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet of the progress made towards achieving the Corporate Plan service improvement priorities for the period to 31st March 2006.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report outlined the progress made towards achieving the service improvement priorities using the traffic light system of Green, Amber and Red. The report set out an overview of Council performance, with appendices 1 to 6 providing more detailed information for each Portfolio Holder to consider. Overall 85% of the 173 improvements included in the Corporate Plan were achieved.

A comprehensive report looking at the year end results of all the Performance Indicators that the Council monitors is being prepared and will be reported to Cabinet separately in July therefore for this quarter the report did not include the estimates of Performance Indicators included in the 2005/06 Corporate Plan.

As agreed at Cabinet on 22 August the performance information and revenue monitoring information has been integrated to form one report that will allow Cabinet to consider performance and expenditure together. However, for this quarter year end performance and revenue monitoring reporting will be reported separately with the Revenue Monitoring report being reported to Cabinet on 14 August. This was due to the deadline for closing of accounts, and the need to still provide performance information that is timely so that Cabinet can make any decisions necessary to address any performance issues identified.

In relation to performance measures, Members commented on the adverse publicity some schools encountered when pupil attainment had been comparatively poor, yet when improvements were made, which in some instances had been very significant, little publicity accompanied the success. Members considered that such achievements needed to be publicly acknowledged to encourage schools. The Children's Services Portfolio Holder and the Director of Children's Services both commented that such work was being done both to highlight the work of specific schools and to raise the profile of the Children's Services Department as a whole.

Decision

That the current position with regard to performance monitoring be noted.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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