

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

15 May 2006

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond - In the Chair

Councillor Ray Waller, Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder.

Officers: Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive,
Adrienne Simcock, Director of Children's Services
Mike Ward, Chief Financial Officer
Tony Brown, Chief Solicitor
Stuart Green, Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development)
John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Dave Stubbs, Head of Environmental Management
Graham Frankland, Head of Property Services and Procurement
Mike Blair, Acting Traffic and Transportation Manager
Alistair Rae, Public Relations Officer
Sajda Banaras, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Also present: Councillor Pamela Hargreaves, Chair of Regeneration and Planning
Services Scrutiny Forum
Councillor Kevin Cranney, Chair of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny
Forum

237. Councillor Stanley Fortune

The Mayor addressed the Cabinet in terms of regret at the very recent death of Councillor Stanley Fortune. All present stood and observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

238. Apologies for Absence

Peter Jackson (Finance and Performance Management Portfolio Holder), Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder) and Robbie Payne (Culture, Housing and Transportation Portfolio Holder).

239. Declarations of interest by members

None.

240. Quorum

The Mayor stated that in the absence of a quorum, and in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Constitution, he would exercise his power of decision, and would do so in accordance with the wishes of the Members present.

241. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2006.

Confirmed.

242. Final Report – Scrutiny Investigation into Hartlepool's Local Bus Service Provision (*Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum*)

Type of decision

Overview and Scrutiny Report.

Purpose of report

To present the findings of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum following its investigation into the local bus service provision in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum summarised the content of the Forum's report relating to the outcome of the Forum's review into the local bus service provision in Hartlepool. Outlined within the report were details of the background to the inquiry, its overall aim, terms of reference, methods of investigation and findings. Details were also provided of the conclusions reached and approval sought of the Forum's recommendations.

Decision

The Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's recommendations, as outlined below, were approved:-

- (a) That work be undertaken by the Authority to improve the infrastructure of the bus network in Hartlepool, with particular reference to:-
 - (i) improving the provision of bus stop shelters to ensure better waiting facilities (with a consideration of lighting and CCTV in shelters should resources be available);
 - (ii) new and innovative means of providing up to date timetable information and ensuring that such information is co-ordinated in a timely manner (with a consideration of the provision of

information for blind individuals);

- (iii) future improvements to the highways within Hartlepool to improve bus punctuality, for example bus priority lanes, where appropriate; and
 - (iv) the compilation of a rolling programme for the implementation of measures to aid easier access to buses for disabled users.
- (b) That the Authority enforces parking restrictions at bus stops to allow easier access for bus operators and disabled users;
 - (c) That the possibility of utilising the Council's current transport provision, Dial a Ride and the voluntary sector provision, be explored as an alternative to subsidising individual routes, where appropriate;
 - (d) That the Authority, in partnership with bus operators, promote the Tees Valley Wide free concessionary fares scheme, and progress aspirations to extend the scheme to County Durham in the future;
 - (e) That the town's commercial operators, in partnership with the Authority, be encouraged to invest in marketing and publicity campaigns to improve the image of bus travel in order to increase bus user patronage;
 - (f) That a formalised mechanism be established to engage the Authority, commercial operators and developers in early discussions of future planned developments within Hartlepool, to establish how the bus network may be extended to areas of new development prior to approval of planning applications, such as the Victoria Harbour Development;
 - (g) That a mechanism be established to enable the Authority and commercial operators to consult with Elected Members in advance of the withdrawal of and/or major changes to bus services within Hartlepool;
 - (h) That the Authority, through negotiation, awards future subsidised bus contracts that are mutually beneficial to the Authority and bus operators (with particular reference to the major tendering round in 2007);
 - (i) That a reduced fares scheme to enable access to education and employment across the Tees Valley area for 16-18 year olds be explored;
 - (j) That the discontinuation of individual services, together with a lack of provision in particular areas of the town, (paragraph 15.4 refers) be addressed by the Authority in negotiation with commercial

operators in order to reinstate or introduce services, where funding allows;

- (k) That the Authority explores a mechanism by which to lobby Central Government in relation to regulating the local bus service provision (that was de-regulated under the Transport Act 1985);
- (l) That the findings of the Tees Valley Quality Bus Network Review and their implications for Hartlepool be assessed; and
- (m) That the Authority submits a progress report on the recommendations contained within this report, within six months, to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum.

243. Final Report – Scrutiny Investigation into Access to GP Services *(Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum)*

Type of decision

Overview and Scrutiny Report.

Purpose of report

To present the findings of the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum's inquiry into Access to GP Services.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum summarised the content of the Forum's report on behalf of the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum. This related to the outcome of the Forum's review into access to GP services in Hartlepool. Outlined within the report were details of the background to the inquiry, its overall aim, terms of reference, methods of investigation and findings. Details were also provided of the conclusions reached and approval sought of the Forum's recommendations.

Decision

The Forum's key recommendations to the various stakeholders are outlined below :-

Hartlepool PCT

- (a) That Hartlepool PCT establish a major campaign that explains the role of GPs and other primary care professionals to help patients get the best value from the system;
- (b) That Hartlepool PCT establish a major campaign to increase awareness of the availability of additional primary care services

including nurse provision and the minor ailments scheme.

- (c) That an action-plan is devised to address the short-fall in the number of GPs in Hartlepool;
- (d) That results of the patient satisfaction survey in relation to the OOH service to this Health Scrutiny Forum and Hartlepool Primary Care PPI Forum;
- (e) That disability awareness for primary health care professionals be provided to ensure disabled patients groups gain improved access to services;
- (f) That the PCT supports GP practices in developing a mechanism to share models of best practice in developing the role of support staff (receptionists/administrators) as facilitators to direct patients to the most appropriate care;
- (g) That the PCT research patients views in relation to advanced / improved access for *each* GP Practice via the annual survey as part of the Quality Framework in the 2006/07 municipal year;
- (h) That a summary of results of the annual patient surveys carried out as part of the Quality Framework in GP Practices be made available to this Health Scrutiny Forum and Hartlepool Primary Care PPI Forum;
- (i) That Hartlepool PCT considers PPI Forum report and makes its response to the issues raised therein available to this Health Scrutiny Forum;
- (j) That learning from the Connected Care Scheme is rolled out to other areas of deprivation in the Town;
- (k) That the PCT review patient experience of open access at Medical Centres operating the system with a view to improving access to GP Services in Hartlepool;
- (l) That the PCT audits Patient Panels in GP practices and offers support to all practices in establishing similar patient forums; and
- (m) That the funding of GP practices is reviewed;

Cleveland Local Medical Committee

- (n) That the Local Medical Committee is requested to consider the findings of the PPI Forum Report;

Hartlepool Borough Council

- (o) That the Authority develops a protocol to govern joint-working between Scrutiny and the PPI Fora;
- (p) That any new site proposed for primary care purposes is subject to a detailed assessment to ensure adequate parking facilities are available and good public transport links in so far as is practical.

244. Final Report – Scrutiny Investigation into Partnerships *(Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum)*

Type of decision

Overview and Scrutiny Report.

Purpose of report

To present the findings of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's inquiry into Partnerships.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum summarised the content of the Forum's report which related to the outcome of the Forum's investigation into Partnerships. Outlined within the report were details of the background to the inquiry, its overall aim, terms of reference, methods of investigation and findings. Details were also provided of the conclusions reached and approval sought of the Forum's recommendations.

Decision

Over the course of the Partnership's Investigation the Forum has made the following recommendations. Recommendations a) to d), h) to j), and m) to w) require the approval of Cabinet, whilst recommendations e) to g), k) and l) require the support of Cabinet:

- (a) That the Council seeks to strengthen the feedback mechanisms (to the Local Authority) for its representatives on the Regional Assembly and that substitute arrangements for those representatives should be clarified;
- (b) That the Council seeks clarification from the RDA around the selection process for representatives on this body;
- (c) That the Council produces further information about the LAA process for a wider audience, and that this should incorporate summary sheets and diagrams;
- (d) That Scrutiny continues to be involved in the LAA process, and that

in the next round of negotiations all Scrutiny Fora are involved at the formative stage;

- (e) That increased levels of community and voluntary sector representation be examined on the Lifelong Learning Partnership and the Children and Young People Partnership, including the Executive.
- (f) That the levels of voluntary sector representation be increased on the Tees Valley Partnership and also direct Local Strategic Partnership representation on the TVP. In addition, the Town's MP and Mayor should be invited to support the strengthening of the representation on the TVP.
- (g) That an appropriate measure be put in place for the election of voluntary representatives on the Tees Valley Partnership through the Voluntary Sector Forum.
- (h) That the need for infrastructural organisation offering support to the wider VCS be recognised by the Council and be appropriately funded.
- (i) That discussions are held with the Mayor, the MP and Council to support the issue of voluntary representation on the thematic partnerships.
- (j) That Scrutiny's involvement in the on-going review of the Community Strategy be strengthened across all Scrutiny Fora.
- (k) That Elected Member involvement in Thematic and other partnerships be recommended.
- (l) That roles and responsibilities for ALL members of Theme Partnerships be encouraged as part of good practice.
- (m) That an annual review of both the levels of community representation and the compact be reviewed as part of the Best Value Performance Review.
- (n) That the Council emphasises the importance of continued partnership working, and supports co-terminus arrangements between the Council, Police and PCT.
- (o) The level of officer time committed to partnerships be examined in order to ensure it is tailored to the appropriate requirements.
- (p) That the attendance records of all Members on partnerships be produced as a public document.
- (q) That in relation to communication and information dissemination an

internal and external communication protocol should be developed. In this respect the Forum welcomed the development of a 'Tool Kit' for resident's use as part of the review of the Community Strategy.

- (r) That a section be included in the State of the Borough Debate to feedback the work and success of the Hartlepool Partnership and the Theme Partnerships.
- (s) That where possible Councillors attending events across the town take the opportunity to feedback the work and success of the partnerships they are involved in.
- (t) That informal (quarterly) meetings are arranged to enable elected representatives sitting on Partnerships to feedback on their involvement in these partnerships to other Elected Members and resident representatives.
- (u) That the development of a 'map' outlining how the Council's departments, political structures, LSP and Theme Partnerships are aligned be explored.
- (v) Members recommend that a summary of this report be produced as a guide to partnership working. In addition, the guide should be produced in an accessible format for circulation to a wider audience, with the PR office.
- (w) That the Cabinet produce an Action-Plan in response to these recommendations detailing both timescales for action if approved and responsible officers. In addition the Forum recommends that Cabinet report back to the Forum within 3-6 months of receipt.

245. Revision to Local Development Scheme 2006 *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the revisions to the Local Development Scheme of March 2005 to reflect certain changes which have taken place over the last year.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Local Development Scheme should be kept up to date as far as possible and revised periodically to ensure that milestones are as realistic as possible. There are three main items which need to be revised to reflect changes over the last year.

- (a). The Hartlepool Local Plan to be omitted following its adoption.
- (b) The correction of the table setting out the key milestones for the preparation of the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
- (c) Inclusion of the timetable for the preparation of the Joint Development Plan documents relating to minerals and waste to be carried out by the Tees Valley Joint Strategic Unit on behalf of Hartlepool Borough Council and the other four Tees Valley Authorities.
- (d) Other minor editing and updating.

The Revised Local Development Scheme 2006 (submitting as an appendix to the report) needed to be formally agreed with the Planning Inspectorate prior to being formally submitted to the Secretary of State.

Decision

That the Revised Local Development Scheme 2006 be approved for consultation with the Planning Inspectorate and subject to their acceptance of the programme the revised scheme be submitted to the Secretary of State.

246. Corporate Plan (BVPP) 2006/07 – Proposed Objectives and Actions *(Assistant Chief Executive)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

To enable Cabinet to discuss the objectives and actions proposed for inclusion in the Council's Corporate (Best Value Performance) Plan for 2006/7.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Corporate (Best Value Performance) Plan for 2006/7 must be approved and published by the Council by 30 June 2006. This is the Council's top-level corporate plan which sets out the Council's top priorities and contributions for delivering the Community Strategy aims in 2006/7. The Corporate Plan is based around the Hartlepool Partnership's seven Community Strategy aims, which have been adopted by the Council as its corporate objectives.

The focus of the Corporate Plan for 2006/7 is on priority activities for improvement at a strategic level rather than day to day service delivery objectives. The operational service delivery objectives are picked up through Departmental service plans which are reported to individual portfolio holders. As in previous years the plan will be produced in 2 parts.

Part 1 describes the Council's overall aim, contributions to the Community Strategy aims and organisational development priorities. Part 2 will continue to contain the detailed supporting information relating to performance statistics which the Council is required to publish.

The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will consider the proposed Council priorities identified in the Plan at its meeting on 19 May 2006. Cabinet's decision today will be reported verbally to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee. Cabinet will consider the Plan in June, if necessary, to consider scrutiny's recommendations. Final approval of the Plan will be by Council on 22 June 2006.

Decision

Cabinet approves Part 1 of the Corporate Plan for consideration by Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 19 May 2006.

247. Briarfields House, Lodge and Associated Land (*Head of Procurement and Property Services*)

Type of decision

Key Decision (tests i and ii apply).

Purpose of report

To consider possible future actions in respect of the Briarfields House, Lodge and associated land.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Council owns approximately 3.05 ha (7.54 acres) of land at Briarfields on Elwick Road. The overall Briarfields site comprises Briarfields House and garden (including the Lodge) 0.54 ha (1.33 acres), the open field area 1.49 ha (3.67 acres) and the allotment site 1.03 ha (2.54 acres). The house and lodge are both vacant non operational property. Social services vacated Briarfields House in April 2005 and the site has been a security risk since that time. No operational need has been found for the property since that time.

The treatment of the Briarfields site received considerable attention during the preparation of the new Hartlepool Local Plan, which was finally adopted by Council on 13th April. The Plan makes no specific policy allocation of any part of the Briarfields site for a particular future development. In effect this approach leaves the Council able to consider a range of options for the future use and development of the site, without there being a policy presumption in favour of a particular use or development. Members will be well aware of the recent granting of planning permission for the re-establishment of allotments on part of the former allotments area. In addition, within the text of the Local Plan, there is an acknowledgement of the potential for the Briarfields site to be brought forward for low density housing should future monitoring indicate a shortfall in supply. Whilst the Council is not currently in the shortfall position which might warrant bringing

forward the whole of the remaining area of Briarfields, there is a case for marketing the House, Lodge and associated land.

A draft development brief for the potential future use of this part of the land was submitted as Appendix 2 to the report. This could form the basis for consultation on and consideration of future action.

The first option could be to do nothing and keep Briarfields on the “shopping list” as a potential residential development site in total. The buildings will require maintenance and security measures until development is possible. Currently there is no budget for these costs estimated at £9,000 pa.

The second option could be as the first above but with the security being provided by the appointment of property custodians from Camelot Property Management who would reside there similar to previous arrangements at Tunstall Court. This would secure and help preserve the main building, however the costs will increase. Estimates for setting up the arrangement will be in the order of £16,000 and annual running costs will be approximately £17,500 pa.

A third option could be for the Council to bring forward the Briarfields House, Lodge and associated land amounting to approximately 0.54 ha (1.33 acres) and dispose of this as a whole or in lots in line with the draft planning brief and subject to consultation and planning approval. There have been several enquiries received having a keen interest in purchase and development of the Briarfields House and associated land.

Details of the Confidential Financial Implications were set out in the Confidential Appendix to the item and contained exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006) namely, Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Decision

- 1 That Cabinet is of the view that the option of disposing of the Briarfields House, Lodge and associated land be pursued.
- 2 That Cabinet authorises further consultation on this option and those set out in the report.

248. Proposed Merger of Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria Police Areas (*Chief Executive*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To provide Cabinet (and then Council) with the opportunity to comment on

the Home Office proposals of the proposed merger of the Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria Police areas.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Home Office have written to all authorities affected by the proposed police force merger. The letter was attached as Appendix 1 to the report and gave notice that the Home Secretary proposed to make an order amalgamating the Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police areas with effect from 1 April 2007. Any objections to the Home Secretary's proposed merger have to be submitted to the Home Office by 2 July 2006.

Cabinet at its meeting on 24 October 2005 made the following decision in relation to this issue: -

- “1. That in light of their being no option for the retention of the current Cleveland Constabulary, Hartlepool Borough Council supports the proposal put forward by Cleveland Police Authority for the establishment of a Tees Valley City Region Police Force based on the Cleveland and south Durham County areas.
2. That Hartlepool Borough Council states its total opposition to a Regional Police Force due to the significant adverse effects such a proposal would have on the people of Hartlepool.
3. That under any new structure, arrangements be put in place to ensure that Councillors and local people are involved in the governance of neighbourhood and community policing within Hartlepool”.

Council had also supported a motion on 16 February 2006 which stated “That the Council believe that Cleveland Police should not be merged to create a Regional Force, but should retain its current boundaries”.

The Mayor stated his concern in reaffirming Cabinet's previous decision as the decisions of Cabinet and Council were contradictory. This was not helped by the fact that Cleveland Police had changed their proposal which the Mayor considered made their argument weaker. The Mayor stated his strongly held view that Hartlepool should seek to retain its Basic Command Unit (BCU), with coterminous boundaries with the Council, and the retention of the main police station in the town. Councillor Waller supported the Mayor's view and questioned if any “shadow” arrangement had been, or was to be, put in place as this argument should be strongly made with them.

Decision

1. That Cabinet is of the view that Cleveland Police should not be merged to create a Regional Force but should retain its current boundaries with a Basic Command Unit being retained for Hartlepool with coterminous boundaries with the Council.
2. That the report and Cabinet's comments be submitted to Council at its meeting on 22nd June 2006.

249. Tall Ships Race 2010 (*Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development) and Assistant Director (Community Services)*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

The report sought retrospective endorsement of the bid submitted on behalf of the Council, Hartlepool Marina Ltd and PD Ports to be a host port for the Tall Ships' Race in 2010.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

Sail Training International, the organisers of the Tall Ships' Races, wrote to the Hartlepool Marina manager in March to invite a bid from Hartlepool to be a host port for a Tall Ships' Race in the North Sea in 2010. After initial discussions with the Mayor on 7th April, and mindful of the potential economic benefits flowing from such an event, a bid has been prepared and submitted to meet the 30th April deadline. The bid was submitted on behalf of the Council, Hartlepool Marina Ltd and PD Ports Ltd, the three key parties who would be responsible for the overall delivery of the event, with letters of support from the Tees Valley Partnership, Tees Valley Regeneration and One NorthEast and testimonials from many of the other parties who would play a part in the event organisation, such as the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

It was expected that successful ports would be informed in July of this year.

Decision

That Cabinet endorses the bid for Hartlepool to be a host port for the Tall Ships' Race 2010.

250. Primary Capital Programme (*Director of Children's Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

The report provided information to Cabinet on the key features and potential implications of the Primary Capital Programme and sought Cabinet's view as to whether it wished to authorise an application to the Department for Education and Skills, for Hartlepool Borough Council to be a pilot authority for the Primary Capital Programme.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Primary Capital Programme was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his 2005 Budget and launched by the publication of a Department for Education and Skills (DfES) Prospectus on 9th March 2006.

The Prospectus introduced a consultation period that closes on 14th June 2006. An application to be a pilot authority must be made by 14th June 2006. Funding for the Primary Capital Programme begins in 2008-09 and is intended to run for around 15 years.

Councillor Waller was very concerned that all Councillors were not aware of the implications of this programme. He considered that all Councillors should be made aware so that a 'Council' line on the issue could be determined. The Director of Children's Services indicated that the Council would need to develop a strategy to deliver the programme and consider the capacity issues involved whether it was involved in the pilot or not. Involvement in the pilot would mean accelerating the timescale for the preparation of a strategy and the DfES had indicated that it would wish to see pilot authorities being an advice and consultation resource for other councils.

The Mayor indicated that at this time he was happy for a tentative show of interest being forwarded to the DfES. The Mayor did, however, take on the point made by Councillor Waller and asked that the views of full Council be sought at the earliest opportunity.

Decision

1. That the DfES be informed that the Council is tentatively interested in being a pilot authority in the Primary Capital Programme.
2. That at the earliest opportunity all Members be informed, via a seminar, of the full details of the programme with an opportunity for Members to give their views on this Council's involvement.

251. Comprehensive Performance Assessment 2006 (Assistant Chief Executive)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

Hartlepool Borough Council will undergo its Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) in November 2006. The purpose of this report is to brief Cabinet on the CPA methodology, how they can contribute to the process and provide an outline timetable. Further information and reports will follow this report.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report outlined the background to CPA since its introduction in 2002, described the methodology to be used in 2006, the timetable and indicated how Members would be involved in the process.

In 2002 the Council was top rated as 'Excellent' with this being maintained through to 2004. In 2005, following consultation with the Audit Commission,

a new approach was introduced and was summarised in “CPA – the Harder Test explained”. The Assistant Chief Executive reported that the Council would need to achieve higher standards to maintain its top rating. The report set out in detail the service and corporate assessments that were due to be undertaken. The key milestones in the timetable were highlighted to Members.

The Assistant Chief Executive informed Members that over the next six months, the Council would ensure all Members were kept up to date with progress and have the opportunity to contribute ideas and views to the self assessments that would be submitted as part of the CPA process.

Decision

The report and preparations underway were noted.

252. Avian Flu (*Head of Environmental Management*)

Type of decision

None – the item is for Cabinet's information only.

Purpose of report

To update Members on the Avian Flu outbreak.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report detailed the background to avian influenza including the pathogen and the history of previous outbreaks. At the time of the preparation of the report, one case of the H5N1 virus had been confirmed in a wild swan in Fife in Scotland. The appropriate control measures had been put in place and would remain for a minimum of 21 days from the confirmation of the disease.

The Council had provided advice to the general public and poultry keepers and were developing plans to deal with an outbreak within the Borough. If an outbreak occurs, DEFRA would instruct the Council on the level of involvement required. Although at this time it was difficult to evaluate the impact on Council resources, it was acknowledged that there was potential for a substantial impact.

Decision

The report was noted.

253. Tees Valley Area Tourism Partnership (*Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*)

Type of decision

None – the item is for Cabinet's information only.

Purpose of report

The report provided information on the estimated costs and proposed funding arrangements for the Tees Valley Area Tourism Partnership (ATP), as requested by Cabinet on 29th March, 2006.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

Provisional cost and funding details had been outlined to the Cabinet on 24th January and the updated budget summary for 2006/7 was detailed in the report. The detail of how the budget costs would be met by funding contributions were also included in the report.

The Borough Council was contributing a total of approximately £30,000 from approved budgets towards the costs of the Tees Valley ATP in 2006/7. Given that the ATP is part of a region-wide network instigated by One North East and through which the great bulk of tourism development funding and investment will be steered, it was important that the Council was seen to be committing to these new arrangements.

Decision

The report was noted.

254. North Central Hartlepool Housing Regeneration Master Plan Update – Progress and Consultation Arrangements *(Director of Regeneration and Planning / Director of Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

None – the item is for Cabinet's information only.

Purpose of report

To update Cabinet in respect of progress with the North Central Hartlepool (NCH) Master Plan Update, and set out community consultation arrangements.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Mayor updated Cabinet on the progress made with regard to the housing regeneration in the North Central Hartlepool area. A study commissioned by the Council had been undertaken by Nathaniel, Lichfield and Partners (NLP) and an outline of the key findings was presented to the North Central Hartlepool Steering Group. Further consultation will be undertaken to help develop the findings into a final report, including drop-in exhibitions at several venues across the town.

The risk and financial considerations were detailed within the report and included a confirmed funding allocation from the Regional Housing Board through the Single Housing Investment Pot (SHIP).

Decision

The report was noted.

255. Local Government Access to Information

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were 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 detailed below in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 256 Review of Local Authority Governor Appointment (Para 1 – information relating to any individual).

Minute 257 Multi Storey Car Park, Middleton Grange (Para 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

256. Review of Local Authority Governor Appointment

(Director of Children's Services / Chief Solicitor) (Para 1) – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely, information relating to any individual.

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To consider representations received in relation to the appointment of a local authority governor to the governing body of a school.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

Following the appointment by Cabinet of local authority governors to governing bodies on 27 February 2006 (Minute No.200 refers) an objection was received in relation to one of the appointments. Following advice from the Chief Solicitor a review process was initiated, the outcome of which were reported for Cabinet's consideration.

Decision

That the matter be referred back to the General Purposes Committee, with all the information now submitted to Cabinet, for their further consideration. The recommendation of the General Purposes Committee to be then reported back to Cabinet as soon as practicable.

- 257. Multi Storey Car Park, Middleton Grange** (*Head of Procurement and Property Services*) (Para 3) – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To advise Cabinet of the Council's liability in respect of repairs at this property and the risk of substantial funding being required to remedy the situation.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report detailed the nature of the Council's interest in the Multi Storey Car Park and outlined the current situation with disrepair at the property. The potential financial risks associated with the situation were set out and Cabinet was requested to consider funding for the urgent works.

Decision

1. That Council's approval be sought to vire £179,000 From the Capital Contingency for the Phase 1 works to be added to the 2006/07 capital programme.
2. That Cabinet delegate to the Head of Procurement and Property Services powers to authorise relevant Phase 1 works following allocation of funds by Council.
3. That Cabinet authorises officers to commence discussions with the shopping centre owners on future options for the multi storey car park.
4. That Cabinet receives a further report with an option appraisal to determine how they wish to proceed in relation to Phase 2 and 3 works.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 20 May 2006