

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

2 April 2013

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)
Paul Thompson (Finance and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Chief Executive
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive
Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning
Graham Frankland, Assistant Director, Resources
Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care
Julian Heward, Public Relations Officer
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

201. Apologies for Absence

None.

202. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

203. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2013

Received.

204. Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

The report sought Cabinet's authorisation to undertake public consultation on the Draft Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report provided the background and outlined the benefits of Green Infrastructure. It was proposed that the consultation would commence in April 2013 and run for a minimum period of eight weeks, with the results being reported to a future Policy Committee meeting to seek adoption. The means of the public consultation were detailed in the report.

A Member sought clarification on the future of the Linear Park on Coronation Drive. The Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning Services indicated he would clarify this and go back to the Member direct.

Decision

The consultation on the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document and associated Action Plan was authorised.

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

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

The report sought Cabinet authorisation to present the Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document to Full Council for adoption.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report provided the background to the Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document which outlined the procedures and design criteria necessary to achieve the successful integration of existing and new trees, shrubs, hedges and hedgerows into

new developments. It was noted that consultation was undertaken on the draft Document and associated Sustainability Appraisal and a statement detailing the process and results of the consultation was attached at Appendix 2.

Decision

The presentation of the Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document to Council for adoption was authorised.

206. Low Level Support Services *(Assistant Director, Adult Social Care)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Reference CAS 007/13.

Purpose of report

To determine the nature of the procurement approach for the provision of low level support services to vulnerable adults that prevent admission to hospital or long term care homes and promote social inclusion.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report provided the background to the contract provision for the care navigation service, handyperson service and SAILS reablement service. At the meeting of Cabinet on 4 February 2013, Members resolved that a tendering process in relation to this contract should be undertaken, with the current contract to be extended until such time as the tendering process could be reasonably completed.

As a result of the above decision, Officers had considered a variety of procurement options and the following potential options were provided for Members consideration.

Option 1 – Extend the existing contract with Who Cares (NE) until 31 March 2014.

Option 2 – Undertake a competitive procurement exercise using a Price/Performance tender with a ratio of 30:70, with a contract start date of beginning of October 2013.

Members sought clarification on whether they were being asked to reconsider the decision taken on 4 February 2013. The Chief Executive

indicated that Members were being asked to confirm the ratio of the price/performance tender for the competitive procurement exercise. However, the report provided Members with all the options available to them, which included the potential to extend the current contract.

During the discussions that followed, Members strongly restated the decision taken on 4 February 2013 which would enable the Council to achieve best value whilst ensuring that the contract had been through the correct transparent procurement process. Members reiterated the importance of taking the opportunity to ensure the correct procurement process was followed to avoid negative perceptions and make sure that resources were being utilised appropriately to deliver effective services.

Decision

- (i) The decision taken by Cabinet on 4 February 2013 was reaffirmed: that a tendering process in relation to this contract be undertaken with the current contract extended until such time as the tendering process could be reasonably completed.
- (ii) That the competitive procurement exercise be undertaken with a price/performance ratio of 30:70.

207. Hartlepool Household Survey *(Assistant Chief Executive)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet of the Hartlepool Household Survey that will be undertaken in May/June 2013

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report provided the background to the Hartlepool Household Survey. It was noted that the cost of delivering this survey based on a 30% response rate was estimated at £22k, as opposed to £78k which was the cost of the survey in 2010. Members were informed the survey was being funded in the majority by partners utilising contributions made towards the Strategic Partners Group with the remainder funded through a managed underspend specifically identified for this consultation.

Details of how the Local Authority and partner organisations had used the results of the survey in the past were detailed in the report. It was proposed that the survey would be undertaken during May/June 2013 to a random

sample of households from across the Borough, with the results being made available down to Ward level. It was expected that the headline results would be available by mid August 2013 with a more detailed analysis available by mid September 2013.

A discussion ensued on the expenditure involved in undertaking this survey against the benefits to be gained from the information received. It was noted that the actual cost to the Local Authority was £8k, as a contribution of £22k had been provided by partners. In addition, the information received from the survey would be a cross-section of residents' views which would help shape the future of Council services, target problem areas and provide the foundation on which future Council policies will be developed. The Chief Executive added that the Council's public sector partners were supportive of the survey in view of the feedback that would be received on a ward by ward basis, especially in relation to services that were transferring to Local Authority responsibility, such as health and wellbeing.

Clarification was sought on the inclusion of question 41 which asked for information on the ethnicity of the people completing the survey. The Assistant Chief Executive confirmed that this question was purely to ascertain the demographic of people responding; however people could choose not to answer this question. Members were asked to note that the fundamental principles of the survey were to ascertain residents' views on how services were delivered and what their priorities for the future delivery of services were. In addition, the survey provided the opportunity to look back at previous changes to how services were delivered and how well residents think those services were delivered as a result of those changes, as well as providing the ability to compare the survey results with those of other local authorities and how they affected future policy decisions.

The Assistant Chief Executive commented that in view of future budget restrictions, this may be the last opportunity to undertake such a comprehensive survey.

Decision

It was noted that the Hartlepool Household Survey would be undertaken in May/June 2013.

208. Local Plan Examination in Public *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

For Information.

Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet of the outcome of the Local Plan Examination in Public.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

As a result of the Local Plan Examination in Public, the Planning Inspectorate had requested minor changes relating to the insertion of policies for the control of advertisements and telecommunications and presumptions in favour of sustainable development. In addition, the Inspector had requested further work be undertaken to identify alternative suitable sites for Gypsies and Travellers accommodation during a six month suspension of the adoption of the Local Plan.

It was noted that a report would be submitted to Cabinet requesting permission for public consultation in April 2013 on potential suitable sites. A further report would be submitted to the relevant Committee in July 2013 with a view to forwarding this additional work to the Planning Inspector in late July 2013. If the Local Plan then passed the tests of 'soundness' it would be reported to the relevant Committee for adoption in late 2013.

In response to a question from a Member, the Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning Services confirmed that discussions were ongoing with a representative from the Gypsy community from the County Durham area for the purposes of consultation.

A Member expressed disappointment that Cabinet Members had not been consulted by the Planning Inspector as part of the Local Examination, to provide any reasoning to the decisions taken in respect of the Local Plan. However, the Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning confirmed that the Local Plan inspection process had been defined by the Department for Communities and Local Government to ensure the process was impartial and non political. Members were concerned that during the six months' suspension, any decisions on future planning developments would be taken without the support of an up to date adopted Local Plan. The Chief Solicitor confirmed that Members could refer to the emerging Local Plan as it did hold weight having been through the whole consultation process and was seen to be in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Decision

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.05 am

P J DEVLIN, CHIEF SOLICITOR
PUBLICATION DATE: 8 April 2013