

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

1 MAY 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)

Also Present: Councillors Ainslie, C Akers-Belcher and Cook.

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Chief Executive
Alyson Caman, Legal Services Manager
Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration
Sally Robinson, Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services
Keiron Bostock, Senior Engineer (Environmental Engineering)
Julian Heward, Public Relations Officer
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

218. Apologies for Absence

None.

219. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

220. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2013

Confirmed.

221. Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013-2014 (*Assistant Director (Children's Services)*)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to present to Cabinet the final draft of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2013-2014 and seeks ratification from Cabinet prior to the Plan being considered by Council in June 2013.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services reported that the primary functions of the Youth Offending Services was to prevent offending and re-offending by Children and Young People and reduce the use of custody. It is the responsibility of local Youth Offending Services to develop and coordinate the provision of these services for all of those young people in the Local Authority area who need them.

In recent years Hartlepool had witnessed a significant reduction in youth crime. The local youth justice partnership had been particularly effective in reducing the numbers of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time and we were now starting to see a reduction in the rate of crime being committed by those young people who have previously offended.

The local Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2013 – 2014 outlined the priorities for the Youth Offending Service to be delivered in the coming year and the Youth Offending Strategic Board had responsibility and oversight for the implementation of the plan.

Cabinet Members welcomed the Strategic Plan and in particular the significant improvement in youth offending figures that had been achieved by the Assistant Director and the Youth Offending Service over the last three years. The Mayor commented that first time offender numbers had been a particular problem for the town but the figures now showed the impact of the multi-agency work that had been put in place.

Decision

That the Youth Justice Plan for 2013 – 2014 be approved for submission to Council in June 2013.

222. Adoption of the Review of the Long Term Coastal Management Strategy Covering the Frontage from Crimdon to Newburn Bridge *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Key Decision (test i and ii applies). Forward Plan Reference Number RN34/12.

Purpose of report

To update Cabinet regarding the outcomes of the 'Review of the Headland Strategy' and request formal adoption of the strategy.

To inform Cabinet of the coastal protection schemes borne out of the study and identify potential requirements for future funding from both internal and external sources.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods outlined the results of the Headland Strategy Study Review which commenced in February 2011. The costs of the work, undertaken by Mott MacDonald were provided by a 100% grant from the Environment Agency.

The Headland Strategy Study covered a frontage that extended from North Sands at its northern extents down to Newburn Bridge in the southern extremity and covered SMP2 Management units 11 and 12 as shown in Appendix A to the report. The brief prepared by officers from the Council's Engineering, Design and Management team required that the Strategy be produced in 3 stages –

Stage A – Condition and Performance Assessment
Stage B – Technical and Environmental Assessment
Stage C – Strategy Appraisal Report (Star).

The selection of a preferred strategy was based on an assessment of economic viability, environmental impacts and technical feasibility. For the benefit of the strategy the study broke down the coastal frontage into distinct areas and labelled these 'Strategy Units' and these were briefly described in the report together with the study conclusions for each unit.

Details of the consultations carried out through the process and an analysis of the risk implications of the study's conclusions. Details of the financial considerations and a proposed implementation schedule were also set out in the report.

The Mayor queried the feedback received during the consultation exercises as he was aware of some very vocal opposition to the consultant's proposals. The Director commented that the proposals were based on expert analysis and would assure that appropriate flood defences were in place to protect over 900 households from potential risk. The Mayor supported the view expressed by the Director indicating that these works would require minimal expenditure now to protect homes for 50 to 100 years into the future.

The Mayor welcomed the level of financial support that officers had been able to obtain from the Environment Agency for this and similar schemes over recent years though in future there may be a requirement for some match funding from the authority.

The Ward Councillor was present at the meeting and commented that there was an issue with work being delayed at present due to issues with English Heritage. The Senior Engineer (Environmental Engineering) indicated that

work to a culvert required some works in the infill between the two parts of the Town Wall. There had been some archaeological findings in the infill material in the past and English Heritage, while accepting that some work was needed, they did wish to see the infill protecting as far as possible. Works also required planning permission and an ancient monument approval but it was hoped that works would commence in this financial year.

Decision

That the Headland Coastal Strategy Review be adopted and that the progress made on implementation of the necessary capital schemes and the requirement to secure both internal and external funding be noted.

223. Review of Concessionary Fare Payments for Bus Operators for 2013-2014 *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Key Decision test (i) and (ii) Applies. Forward Plan Reference No RN 40/12

Purpose of report

To report the proposed re-imbursement arrangements with local bus operators for concessionary fares to be implemented from 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 inclusive.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods reported that In March 2011 agreement was reached with the operators to continue the fixed payments system in 2011/12, with a revised enhancement of a fixed price of 30p per journey for trips commencing before 9:30am, which was continued for the 2012-13 period. The detailed report set out the current market conditions and an outline of the review options for 2013/14 and beyond.

The Director commented that after the detailed negotiations it had been agreed that the current Tees Valley arrangement would be retained as being the best cost option for the authority and that the current fees and charges for passengers would remain. It was anticipated that the actual cost of operating the Concessionary Fares schemes would be slightly less than the approved budget. Further work was needed to quantify the value of this saving and details would be reported within the quarterly financial management report. It was anticipated this saving should continue in 2014/15 and details of the ongoing saving will be reported in the Medium Term Financial Strategy report when this is updated.

Decision

- (i) That the continuation of participating in the Tees Valley wide enhancement to the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) offering travel within and between the areas covered by Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Councils be approved.

- (ii) That the Council continues to operate an enhanced scheme whereby all journeys prior to 9:30am on weekdays attract a nominal fare of 30p.
- (iii) That charges for replacement passes remain at £5.

224. Future of European Funding 2014-20 Update *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

None – the report was for information only at this stage.

Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet of developments regarding the future of European funding for the period 2014 to 2020 and in particular provide more detail on the funding which may be available across the Tees Valley (including Hartlepool).

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Assistant Director, Regeneration updated Cabinet on the review of the European Union (EU) Cohesion funding and the creation of Transitional Regions and the potential funding that could be available. The report also highlighted the lobbying which was being undertaken on behalf of the Tees Valley in order to secure Transitional region status for Durham and Tees Valley, which would see funding ring-fenced specifically for these two areas.

The overall EU budget had been agreed by the European Council on 7th February 2013. This still needed overall agreement by the European Parliament and so in theory, things may still change. However, for the moment, the UK Government and indeed Tees Valley needed to work on the assumption that the European Parliament would ratify the EU budget and along with it the creation of the Transitions regions, including the Tees Valley, for which there will be ring-fenced Structural funds available between 2014 – 2020. Details of this allocation are as yet unclear, but based on initial assumptions this could be anywhere up to £200m, a substantial sum.

The report went on to outline the next steps that would be needed once the European Parliament had ratified the agreement at the European/UK Government level and also at the UK Government/Tees Valley Level and at Hartlepool Borough Council. It was likely that the funding would be managed through Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) but there would also need to be an appropriate officer structure within the Tees Valley authorities to manage schemes. This was highlighted as an issue at this time as the assessed level of officer experience of this kind of funding across all the Tees Valley authorities was limited.

The Mayor welcomed the report as potential something that could make a huge difference to the Durham and Tees Valley area. The Mayor indicated

that he had noted some reticence among other local leaders due to the levels of match funding that may be required from local authorities but the Mayor considered that with the level of funding that could come from the EU, this was too good an opportunity to miss. The Assistant Director commented that match funding could come from a number of sources; local authorities, private sector and even the third sector with some contributions 'in-kind' being taken into account.

The Mayor noted that there needed to be the capacity to manage these funds and schemes but this should not be 'front loaded' through TVU but rather through training in the local authorities to build capacity and knowledge.

Decision

That the report be noted and welcomed and that further reports on the progress of the future EU Funding Programme should be presented to the Regeneration Services Policy Forum.

225. Mayor's Comments

The Mayor highlighted that this was the final meeting of Cabinet under the current executive arrangements before the Council moved to the new governance arrangements next week. The Mayor wished to record his thanks to all those that had assisted in the work of the cabinet over the last eleven years. The Mayor highlighted the input of the co-opted Members, officers past and present and all those Councillors that had served on Cabinet during his time as elected Mayor. The Mayor thanked his Deputy Mayor for her loyalty and support and the current Cabinet Members for their support and hard work through their portfolios.

The Mayor also made specific comment on the positive contribution made by the scrutiny process over the years. When scrutiny had worked well it had contributed to the work of Cabinet and made a significant difference to the authority as a whole.

The Chief Executive thanked the Mayor for his comments and on behalf of all officers thanked the Mayor for all his hard work in what had been a positive and fruitful experience for all.

The meeting concluded at 10.35am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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