

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

12 May 2014

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

Present:

Councillor: Peter Jackson (In the Chair)

Councillors: Jim Ainslie, Allan Barclay, Steve Gibbon, Brenda Loynes and
Sylvia Tempest

Also Present: Edwin Jeffries, Secretary, Joint Trade Unions

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Alastair Smith, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods
Mike Blair, Technical Services Manager
Adele Wilson, Community Regeneration and Development Co-ordinator
Kieran Bostock, Senior Engineer
Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

102. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Keith Dawkins.

103. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Jim Ainslie and Sylvia Tempest declared personal interests in Minute 105. An interest was also declared later in the meeting (Minute 107 refers)

104. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2014

Received.

105. Headland Walls and Block Sands Coastal Protection Works (*Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Key Decision test (i) and (ii) applies – Forward Plan Reference No RN14/14

Purpose of report

This purpose of this report is to:-

- Inform Members of the findings of the Headland Coastal Defence Condition Survey which commenced in Autumn 2013;
- Update Members on progress made to date regarding coastal protection options for the Headland frontage;
- Present the preferred option of works and set out the perceived risks and the financial/ legal considerations;
- Update members on progress made regarding '*Partnership Funding*';
- Note the requirement for Hartlepool Borough Council financial contribution;
- Request Committee approval for the scheme and set out the next steps towards implementation.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director reported on the background to the Strategy Study Review and the Council's proposals to manage the Headland frontage over the next 100 years. The report included progress made to date regarding coastal protection options for the Headland frontage. A plan outlining the scheme frontage and key issues was attached by way of an appendix to the report. Details of the preferred option including a breakdown of works and the various mechanisms of consultation were provided. Members were referred to the risk, financial and legal implications, details of which were included in the report.

It was reported that should approval to proceed with implementation of the scheme be granted, there were various other permissions and consents to

be achieved before work could commence, details of which were outlined.

In the discussion that followed, whilst the scheme was welcomed, a Member sought assurances that there would be no impact on residents as a result of exposure to North Sea tidal and wave conditions due to proposals by PD Ports to allow the last third of the Heugh breakwater to deteriorate. Members were advised that the first two thirds of the breakwater were sufficient to provide protection to the area and that PD Ports had provided assurances that they would maintain this length in the future. It was noted that given the Council did not own the breakwater, a number of actions had been taken in the design process, to ensure defences were as strong as possible should the last third of the breakwater disappear.

The Chair welcomed the support from PD Ports and was keen to see financial contributions from Northumbrian Water noting that negotiations were currently ongoing.

Thanks were expressed to officers in relation to the methods of consultation which had been positively received by residents.

Decision

- (i) The Committee approved construction of the works subject to gaining the necessary further approvals.
- (ii) The Committee noted the financial strategy documented in Section 8 and to refer this issue to Finance and Policy Committee and then Council to seek approval for prudential borrowing subject to gaining approval of the business case from the Environment Agency.

106. Kesteven Road Traffic Regulations Order *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To report an objection received into proposed yellow lines at Kesteven Road and seek a decision from the Committee to approve the scheme as shown in Appendix 1.

Issue(s) for consideration

It was reported that following complaints received from a resident, via Ward Councillors regarding vehicles parking on the footpaths in Kesteven Road, the background of which was set out in the report, it was proposed to cover the corners of each of the 6 junctions with double yellow lines which would prevent parking on both the carriageway and the footpath, as set out at Appendix 1.

Consultation had been undertaken with residents of the 12 corner properties and Ward Councillors and 2 responses had been received, both in favour of the proposal. Following consultation a traffic regulation order had been advertised, at which stage a formal objection had been received. The objection was from the residents of one property. However, it was also on behalf of another six properties. The reasons given was that the lines were unnecessary, only one person parked on the corners as well as on cost grounds. Complaints had been subsequently received regarding several vehicles being observed parking on corners and a call had been received from a resident, since publication of the traffic regulation order, asking when the lines would be implemented.

Two residents from Kesteven Road were in attendance at the meeting and were invited to speak. A number of issues were raised by residents in relation to the proposal including concerns that yellow lines were unnecessary resulting in no benefits, the reasons for which were shared with the Committee, the restrictions would create more congestion during school times and that the money could be more efficiently utilised. Whilst residents acknowledged that parking on footpaths had been a problem in the past, it was highlighted that homeowners had extended driveways to alleviate the problem. Members were advised that there only appeared to be parking problems when building work was being undertaken. It was noted that the resident in attendance had monitored the area in the last few weeks and had not identified any obstructions to pedestrians and had not observed any problems. It was also noted that one of the residents in attendance had informally consulted with 24 residents of Kesteven Road of which 87% of the people questioned were against the introduction of yellow lines.

A Member reported that he had received a number of concerns from residents over the years in relation to vehicles parking on corners and too close to junctions and this had been reported to the police. The Member stated that he had also monitored this area over the last few weeks and had not observed any significant problems that could not be managed by way of enforcement.

Officers responded to issues raised by Members and residents. Clarification was provided in relation to enforcement responsibilities and safety issues.

Following a lengthy debate in relation to the options, the Committee was of the view that inappropriate parking appeared to be more of a seasonal issue and was a matter for the police to enforce. It was suggested that the police be requested to monitor the area and take any necessary enforcement action and the position be reviewed in 6 months time.

Decision

- (i) That the scheme , as detailed at Appendix 1 , be refused.
- (ii) That the police be requested to monitor the area and take any necessary enforcement action and the position be reviewed in 6 months time.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillor Sylvia Tempest declared a personal interest in Minute 107.

107. Our Place Programme (*Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To inform the Committee of progress on the national Our Place Programme

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director presented the report which set out the background to delivery of the Programme together with details of resource and funding arrangements. Detailed information in relation to the work with the Wharton Trust was provided as well as the benefits of this approach.

Discussions had been held between the Council and the Wharton Trust to explore opportunities for stronger partnership working in the Dyke House area, particularly alternative models for and the co-ordination of service delivery. Given the confluence of opportunities within a defined geographical space and the recent launch of the Hartlepool Vision, the Wharton Trust were keen to support the town's future regeneration of strategic sites through neighbourhood level action.

A speculative application to explore the concept of the Delivering Differently Programme was submitted in January 2014 which was focussed on assisting Local Authorities to transform their service through the use of new delivery models such as mutuals and voluntary organisations. Whilst the application was unsuccessful, an alternative application to the Our Place

Programme was submitted in February 2014. The Council had secured direct support and grant assistance of £3,000 as part of the Getting Ready Phase of the Programme.

Decision

That progress made to date on the national Our Place Programme be noted.

108. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chairman ruled that the following item of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

109. Any Other Business – Neighbourhood Apprenticeship Programme – Enforcement Officers Initiatives *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval to introduce an initiative aimed at providing employment and training to individuals whilst enhancing the efficiency of existing enforcement service areas. The initiative, by default, will also harmonise the working partnership arrangements between Hartlepool Borough Council and the College of Further Education.

Issue(s) for consideration

It was reported that at full Council on 3 April 2014, approval had been given for £80k of clawback money from the Domes, Tees Road, Seaton Carew to be used to provide additional Enforcement Officers for a period of two years.

The funding represented a welcomed opportunity to improve the capabilities of a service area that was effective and popular with members of the public, the benefits of which were included in the report. Of the newly formed workforce, two members of staff would play a pivotal role in reconfiguring

the new service area which, in itself, would be supported by the introduction of a Neighbourhood Apprenticeship Scheme. It was anticipated that up to six apprentices would be recruited under the scheme with each apprentice achieving a wide range of skills, knowledge, qualifications and experience over a two year period. Members were referred to the financial, legal and staffing considerations as set out in the report.

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to improve the capabilities of this service noting the benefits as a result. A Member commented on the importance of enforcement and was keen to see the additional resources utilised across all areas of the town.

Given the current budget constraints and the risks to current staff in terms of potential job cuts, clarification was sought that the new employment opportunities was not intended as a replacement for existing staff. The Assistant Director provided assurances that this was not the intention and the purpose of the initiative was to enhance existing arrangements and provide employability opportunities for young people. In response to a Member's suggestion that the apprentices be authorised to issue fixed penalty notices, the Committee was advised that whilst the intention of the apprenticeship scheme was to focus on training on all elements of street care, which would include enforcement, apprentices would not have authority to issue fixed penalty notices until such time as they had completed the relevant enforcement training.

Decision

That the initiative aimed at providing employment and training to individuals, as detailed in Section 4 of the report, be approved.

110. Chair's Concluding Remarks

As this was the last meeting of the current municipal year, the Chair took the opportunity to thank Members and officers for their contribution during the year and to wish Councillor Tempest, who was not standing in the forthcoming local Council elections, the very best of luck for the future. Thanks and expressions of support were also conveyed to the Chair and other Members currently standing for re-election.

The meeting concluded at 10.40 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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