

REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

23 OCTOBER 2014

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

Present:

Councillor Robbie Payne (In the Chair);

Councillors: Stephen Akers-Belcher, Rob Cook, Kevin Cranney, Keith Dawkins, and Pamela Hargreaves.

Also Present: Councillor Brenda Loynes as substitute for Councillor Dr George Morris in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2.

Councillors Marjorie James and Carl Richardson.

Stephen Catchpole, Managing Director, Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU).

Members of the Public: D H Morgan, P Morgan, K Morgan, M Bell, G Edwards, I Trundley and B Goddard

Officers: Louise Wallace, Director of Public Health
Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration
Antony Steinberg, Economic Regeneration Manager
Patrick Wilson, Employment Development Officer
David Worthington, Head of Culture and Information
Nigel Johnson, Head of Housing
Maggie Heaps, Adult Education Co-ordinator
Amy Waller, Principal Housing Regeneration Officer
Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

55. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Dr George Morris.

56. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Pamela Hargreaves declared a personal interest in Minute No.s 64, 65 and 68.

57. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September, 2014

Received.

A Member referred to Minute No. 48 “Proposed Introduction of Tourist Bus Service between Seaton Carew, the Historic Quay, the Marina and the Heugh Gun Battery” and commented that while the proposal had received the approval of all Members of the Committee, some disparaging remarks on the proposal had been made at Council on the same day. Members reiterated their support for the proposal, subject to the consultations proposed. The Chair drew the matter to a close following comments in relation to the conduct of Council.

58. Carr/Hopps Street Housing Regeneration Area Proposals *(Assistant Director, Regeneration)*

Type of decision

Non-key Decision

Purpose of report

To provide Members with a progress update on the implementation of the Carr/Hopps Street regeneration project including a full review of the acquisition process to date. The report set out a recommended option for the conclusion of the scheme including proposals for selective demolition to commence in 2015.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Principal Housing Regeneration Officer referred to the extensive background to the project and updated the Committee on the current situation. Considerable resident consultation had been taken forward throughout the duration of the project implementation, mainly on a one to one basis with residents. Since the last report to Committee, all owners had been contacted on numerous occasions informing them of the decision and timescales, communication and dialogue had continued throughout the 12 months.

Since the last report to Regeneration Services Committee on the 24th October 2013 acquisition of privately owned properties has been progressing well. To date 151 properties had been acquired out of 175 properties within the scheme. This equated to 87% of the site acquired by Hartlepool Borough Council by agreement. Of the remaining properties one was an owner occupier. Officers had attempted to contact this owner occupier over a 12 month period without success; this owner had previously expressed his desire to remain in the property. The remaining properties were owned by non-resident owners with 13 of the 24 properties currently occupied by tenants. To date 17 of these had been inspected with formal offers to purchase made and no valuation has taken place on 7 properties as the owner had failed to secure access or has not responded to contact

from the Council. Owners were aware through various correspondences that the Council would be reviewing its acquisition process from October 2014 and this may lead to the Council ceasing acquisition on this scheme and progressing with selective demolition.

The Principal Housing Regeneration Officer reported at the meeting that there had been a further ten property break-ins during the last two weeks.

Work on the four council owned properties on Hart Lane had been completed with all four properties being let to tenants.

It appeared unlikely that all the properties would be purchased before the end of the year. It was for this reason that the proposal for selective demolition was being proposed to Members. The contract for the demolition work would take some time to secure and there would need to be appropriate works in relation to services to the properties before the demolition could begin. This would mean it was probable that the demolition work would commence in February 2015, if Members supported the proposal. As the contract would take some weeks to secure it was proposed that alongside this, and extension to the purchasing of properties until 24 December be permitted to allow officers to secure the purchase of as many as possible of the remaining properties. This could be achieved within the budget for the project as set out in the report. It was highlighted that selective demolition to maintain some of the remaining properties would be more expensive than a total clearance of the site.

The Principal Housing Regeneration Officer indicated that some of the property owners may be in a negative equity position with their properties leading them to reject the current market value being offered by the Council.

Members suggested that the negative equity issue should be explored further by officers as a value may be negotiated that would allow the clearance of the site to go ahead. There were some concerns that limiting demolition because of some properties around the site were not in the ownership of the Council could prove to be false economy as maintaining services and remedial works to the properties could be costly. Members indicated their desire to see the whole site cleared as it had been an issue of great concern to the local residents.

The Assistant Director, Regeneration commented that officers would explore all the options available to purchase the remaining properties. Indicative discussions with developers had shown that it was possible to produce a redevelopment of the site with some of the existing properties remaining in situ. This had been done in other areas of the country and high quality developments could be achieved with the existing properties blending into the new development.

Members were concerned to see the demolition work commence as soon as possible whether the remaining properties were purchased or not. Local

residents had suffered the anti-social behaviour problems associated with this site for long enough.

A Member commented that the Council's new Housing Strategy was currently out for consultation and in that it was indicated that the Council may re-enter the housing market and this would be a good site for such a scheme. The Council could also utilise some of the monies paid by developers of executive housing developments for affordable housing or indeed request that some of those developers build affordable housing on this site to be managed by the Council.

The Ward Councillor, Councillor Richardson, stated that local residents had been promised demolition of this area four years ago but they were still having to deal with the problems of anti-social behaviour, vandalism and crime centred around the empty properties. The Council appeared to be ignoring local residents and no one seemed to know what was going to happen and when. The Assistant Director, Regeneration stated that it had been intended to redevelop this site in the same way as had been done with Alexandra Square. However, following the change of government in 2010 all the funding was removed. The Council had managed to secure some transitional funding but that only permitted purchase and demolition. What had been achieved to date was very significant and officers had worked extremely hard to progress this scheme. Because of the changed funding, there was no follow on development secured for the site which also hampered the Council's ability to use Compulsory Purchase Orders. Work with potential developers had been undertaken but until the site was cleared it was difficult to move forward. The concerns of residents were understood and officers also wished to move this project forward which was the reason behind the recommendation to move forward with selective demolition now.

Members were still concerned at the problems that retaining some un-acquired properties could create. Officers indicated that they understood these concerns but hoped that starting the process may reduce the number as owners saw that the Council was prepared to move forward without them.

The Chair allowed comments from the local residents present at the meeting. Residents were very concerned at what they saw as the Council's inaction and delay in progressing the demolition of the site. They stated that they were experiencing very significant problems of anti-social behaviour in and around the site which the Police seemed disinterested in as they regularly failed to respond to residents' complaints. Residents indicated that it appeared to them that little effort was being put in to purchasing the remaining properties. Residents also considered that the money spent on refurbishing properties in Hart Lane should have been spent on acquiring and demolishing the properties in Carr Street and Hopps Street. Residents also questioned why CPO wasn't been used and felt the Council should be doing more with the remaining landlords. Residents questioned why the deadline was being extended again as they considered

this just to be a further example of the Council dragging its feet.

The Assistant Director, Regeneration indicated that CPO couldn't be used as explained. Officers were pursuing the landlords but the majority were from outside of Hartlepool. The proper legal process had to be followed and the council was bound by the rules the government set on the funding for the scheme. The Principal Housing Regeneration Officer confirmed that she was in touch with landlords and their agents.

The Chair was concerned at the issues of anti-social behaviour being experienced by the residents and asked the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods to follow up with the Police the concerns expressed. The Chair also requested that officers hold regular fortnightly meetings with the residents and ward councillors in a multi-agency approach to address the anti-social behaviour and other criminal activities and to update them on the progress being made. This proposal and the recommendations set out in the report were supported unanimously by the Committee.

Decision

1. That the contents of the report and the budget position and delivery option presented be noted.
2. That selective demolition of Council the owned property takes place on the Carr/Hopps Street site and that the recommendation to begin procurement of a demolition contractor and for demolition to commence when possible in early 2015 be approved.
3. That the option for owners to sell the property to the Council be extended until the 24th December 2014 in line with the timetable for letting of the demolition contract be approved.
4. That options for future scheme delivery be progressed with a focus on financial viability and delivering a scheme to meet current housing demand, which continues to regenerate with sustainable development plans for the area.
5. That fortnightly meetings with residents from the adjacent areas be held to update them on the progress being made and that these meetings adopt a multi-agency approach to address the anti-social behaviour and other criminal activities being experienced.

59. Tees Valley Unlimited – Managing Director's Update

Type of decision

None –the item was for the Committee's information and discussion.

Purpose of report

The Managing Director of Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU), Stephen Catchpole, was present at the meeting to provide the Committee with an update on the current work of TVU and the general economic situation in the Tees Valley.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The TVU Managing Director reported that recent government issued figures

showed the total number of people in employment in the Tees Valley had increased from 279,500 in 2012 to 283,500 in 2013, the most recent figures. Over the same period the public sector workforce had reduced by 1700 so the increase totalled some 5700 jobs in the private sector which was very encouraging. What type of jobs these were was unknown and there was concern that many may be part-time, zero hour contracts and low paid. However, the figures did need to be seen as encouraging and now the focus had to be on ensuring the growth continued particularly in the skilled, permanent sector. This news seen in context of the programmes to create 25,000 new jobs over the next ten years in the Tees Valley was encouraging as it showed the figure was achievable.

Those schemes approved by Government as part of the Local Growth Fund were now going through due diligence which was to be completed by 5 December, 2014 to ensure they could start in 2015. The Government had indicated that there may be some additional funds available for bids and TVU was looking to the potential of submitting a further bid for around £8m which would be based on schemes where some preparatory work had already been undertaken in light of the timescales involved.

Members welcomed the government figures showing the growth in employment in the Tees Valley but questioned the number of those jobs that had come to Hartlepool. The TVU Managing Director commented that the breakdown of the government figures had not yet come through but may be available for a future meeting. Unemployment figures had gone down, as had been reported to the last meeting, particularly those for youth unemployment, which was encouraging. It was difficult to predict at this time the total number of new jobs that may come through the various programmes to Hartlepool; much depended on the sectors already here and whether they were predicted to grow.

A Member raised concern with the unemployment figures as they hid a lot of unemployment as a household may be claiming benefits but only registering only one unemployed; when there could be a partner and dependent young people also in the household who were also unemployed. If the numbers of people paying National Insurance were also considered, it missed those working two, three or four low paid part-time jobs, which individually didn't pass the NI threshold.

The TVU Managing Director commented that unemployment was difficult to monitor but it was a fact that claimant numbers were going down. In terms of those unemployed and looking for work, the figures had come down but were still high for the Tees Valley at 10% when the national figure was 7%. The total number of working age people was also increasing up from 67.4% to 67.6%, around 1100 people. The TVU Managing Director commented later that while this increase was good, there would still be problems for the future. TVU was working with employers to identify their skills needs for the future. While there was the hope to create 25,000 new jobs, 150,000 jobs would need to be 'replaced' over the next ten years and there simply wasn't that number of young people to fill that gap, so there would need to be

significant moves made to up-skill the present workforce to fill those gaps.

In terms of Europe, the TVU Managing Director commented that while the money had been approved, the programme of delivery had not. Government supported the programme being delivered by the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) but the EU had not. The issue was now that should the funding for the schemes not gain all the appropriate approvals by December, they would not commence in Spring 2015. Decisions could be delayed until June 2015 which could mean the support for the schemes may not start until Spring 2016. This was now a significant concern for all involved.

For the future, the TVU Managing Director commented that there needed to be consultation with the political parties to ensure that the needs of the Tees Valley for the future were reflected in the manifestos going forward for the May 2015 election.

A Member commented that he had become aware of a significant company looking to invest in the Tees Valley that had not approached either the local authority or TVU for assistance. The TVU Managing Director considered that that had to be seen as the fault of both the authority and TVU in not assuring that the comprehensive support offer available was known to such companies.

A Member questioned what work was undertaken in promoting the living wage with employers. The TVU Managing Director indicated that when the local authority or TVU was putting money in, it did have more leverage in advancing the case for the living wage. Issues such as the use of local contractors/suppliers and labour in planning, as happened here in Hartlepool were also key in that regard. It was somewhat disappointing that major government contracts had no requirement for the use of 'local' (i.e. UK) suppliers.

A Member raised the issue of the lack of a Public Transport Executive in the Tees Valley as existed in Tyne and Wear. The Tyne and Wear Transport Executive was looking to bring back bus services into local control. Without such an executive here, there was little chance of getting the light rail 'Metro' system the area needed to make getting to work around the Tees Valley viable when the road network was so congested. The TVU Managing Director commented that there was good close working on transport among the Tees Valley authorities but this would not lead to the allocation of the significant amounts of money from central government that were needed to bring such schemes forward. There was an issue with public transport getting people to the right places at the right times and if that was not corrected then many jobs could end up going to those with cars that could travel from outside of the area.

The Chair thanked the TVU Managing Director for his informative update and responses to Members questions.

Decision

That the report be noted.

60. 2015 Library Service Review (*Assistant Director, Regeneration*)

Type of decision

Non Key Decision.

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to establish the scope of the 2015 Library Service review.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Head of Culture and Information reported that at the Committee Meeting on the 24 July 2014 Members were informed of the proposed Regeneration Division savings for 2015/16. Branch library closures did not form part of the proposed savings, however, it was agreed that a Library Service review should be undertaken in anticipation of the need for future savings. The Committee resolved that the potential closure of branch libraries should not form part of the review.

The Head of Culture and Information outlined the proposed scope of the review and the consultation proposed, the results of which would be reported to the Committee in July 2015.

Members asked if the review would involve the potential for libraries to be staffed by volunteers as had been proposed in a number of other areas. The Head of Culture and Information indicated that, as requested by Members, the review would look to the enhancement of council service provision through libraries. Members considered that the inclusion of the potential use of volunteers to maintain or provide additional opening hours should be included in the review.

Members also indicated that when reviewing Saturday service provision, those people that used the libraries on a Saturday should be the people consulted as they were often a distinctly very different group to those that used libraries during the week.

A Member stated that they had been informed that there had been discussions on the relocation of the Owton Manor Library to the ORCEL building. This raised significant concerns if this was the case as the move would threaten the long term viability of the Owton Manor Community which was collocated with the library. There were also local concerns as the only viable space at the ORCEL building would be the space currently occupied by the GP Surgery, which was under review by the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group). The Head of Culture and Information stated no such negotiations had been instigated by him. The Estates Team may be looking at the Council building stock which may have led to such a scenario

being discussed. The Chair stated that he would be extremely disappointed if any such discussions were being held formally without any such proposals having been discussed and approved by Members. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods stated that in line with the decisions of Members, the community centres had been 'saved' from budget cuts for twelve months but their longer term future needed to be planned for. Officers were looking to the coordination of service provision through those locations to protect their future.

Decision

1. That the proposed scope of the Library Service review as reported be approved.
2. That the potential use of volunteers to maintain or extend library hours be included as part of the review.

61. Constructing Hartlepool Strategy (*Assistant Director, Regeneration*)

Type of decision

Non Key Decision.

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the implementation of the Constructing Hartlepool Strategy.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Employment Development Officer reported that in order to support the Construction of Hartlepool and capitalise on the role of the Council as a planning authority and facilitator of major developments the creation of a Constructing Hartlepool Strategy was required. This document would be developed by the Council in partnership with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), National Skills Academy for Construction (NSAfc).

Through the implementation of the Constructing Hartlepool Strategy, developers would be invited to advise the Council on how they plan to incorporate local supply chains and targeted recruitment and training (TRT) clauses within their planning proposal which would support business growth and enable greater access to employment and skills for local residents.

This would be delivered through Employment and Skills Plans (ESPs) which would be created by the Council and the developer. This method adopts national best practice and the Council would look to gain NSAfc Client Based Approach (CBA) Status. This model for employment and skills had been developed by CITB in close liaison with the industry.

The Strategy would support the growth of the Borough by ensuring that all planning and procurement applications provided training and job opportunities for local residents which would make the area more attractive to future investors, prosperous and economically resilient.

A draft copy of the Constructing Hartlepool Strategy was submitted with the report.

The strategy document was welcomed by Members. Members asked if the strategy would assist in the growth of local developers and businesses. The Employment Development Officer indicated that part of the strategy would bring together local consortiums of smaller companies to supply larger developers. The Economic Regeneration Manager indicated that much of the work undertaken by the Regeneration Team was centred around helping small firms grow and not just in the building sector. Local business growth figures were beating the north east average but still behind national figures.

Decision

That the development and implementation of the Constructing Hartlepool Strategy be approved.

62. Mill House Leisure Centre – Review of Child to Adult Ratios for Swimming *(Director of Public Health)*

Type of decision

Non Key Decision.

Purpose of report

The report sought approval from the Committee for a revision to the child to adult swimming ratio policy applicable to the pool use for casual swimming at Mill House Leisure Centre. This followed the issue of revised guidance from the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA).

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Director of Public Health reported on the existing policy which had been approved by the Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder at a meeting held on 16th November, 2010. A new guidance note (GN014) published by CIMPSA in July 2014 provided a framework which all pool operators were advised to use in formulating their own pool policies.

The proposed revised policy was set out in the report and was in accordance with the best practice, health and safety guidelines and available industry standards. The risk assessment upon which these proposed policy guidelines had been based had also been endorsed by the Council's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team.

The proposals would actually improve accessibility arrangements for children under the age of eight from the current arrangements and Officers anticipated that this would bring a positive reaction from customers.

Decision

1. That the adoption of the revised child to adult ratios at Mill House Leisure Centre as reported be approved.
2. That the adoption of the new policy guidelines be put into effect from 29th November 2014 to allow sufficient time to produce promotional materials to advise customers of the new arrangements as well as allow for staff briefings to take place.

63. Health and Safety Service Plan 2014/15 (*Director of Public Health*)

Type of decision

Non Key Decision.

Purpose of report

To consider the Health and Safety Service Plan for 2014/15, which was a requirement under Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Director of Public Health submitted the draft Health and Safety Plan for 2014/15 which had been updated to reflect last year's performance. Details of the performance of the service across all the sectors covered was set out in the report, together with the proposed activity for 2014/15 in the new plan.

Members sought assurance that while the issue may be remote, had the Authority appropriate plans in place for any occurrence of Ebola in the area. The Director of Public Health assured Members that appropriate plans were in place, though the Director commented that the risks for Hartlepool were low.

Members questioned the numbers of businesses within the town where there was the potential of violence at work occurring. The Director commented that these were likely to be businesses where such issues had been reported during the past year but would gain further clarification from the Head of Public Protection.

The Chair welcomed the comprehensive report and indicated that the team should be congratulated on the performance reported.

Decision

That the Health and Safety Service Plan for 2014/15 be approved.

64. Trading Standards Service Plan 2014/15 (*Director of Public Health*)

Type of decision

Non Key Decision.

Purpose of report

To consider and approve the Trading Standards Service Plan for 2014/15.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Director of Public Health submitted the draft Trading Standards Service Plan for 2014/15 which had been updated to reflect last year's performance. Details of the performance of the service across all the sectors covered was set out in the report, together with the proposed activity for 2014/15 in the new plan.

Members questioned the tackling of scams and cons as a medium priority, when these could be very serious issues for the elderly in particular when many e-mail scams could appear to be very convincing. The Director of Public Health stated that this was an area of great concern to the Trading Standards team and a lot of work had been undertaken in this area last year and work was constant on e-crime.

Members asked about the work around loan sharks and why this only had a low priority. The Director indicated that while having a low priority, officers did refer any issues or reports to the National Loan Shark Team based in Birmingham who were very active in pursuing this type of crime. The priorities set locally were based around how the authority's staff time was allocated using additional resources, such as the national Loan Shark Team where appropriate.

Decision

That the Trading Standards Service Plan for 2014/15 be approved.

65. Quarterly Update Report for Public Protection (*Director of Public Health*)

Type of decision

None, the report was for the Committee's information only.

Purpose of report

To update the Regeneration Services Committee on performance and progress across key areas of the Public Protection service.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Director of Public Health submitted a progress report updating members on the work undertaken over the last quarter in the Public Protection Division.

Decision

That the progress report be noted.

66. Hartlepool Tree Strategy 2011 – 2016 Progress Report *(Assistant Director, Regeneration)*

Type of decision

None, the report was for the Committee's information only.

Purpose of report

This report provided an update on progress in relation to the Hartlepool Tree Strategy 2011 - 2016.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Assistant Director, Regeneration submitted a report updating the Committee on the progress made in relation to the Tree Strategy. The Assistant Director, Regeneration particularly highlighted the numbers of trees planted to date as part of the strategy.

A Member raised concern that within his ward a mature tree, with no disease nor causing any problems to adjacent property, had been felled by council workers at the behest of a single resident. Council staff needed to be aware of the council's strategies and policies and should only be removing trees that were diseased or causing significant problems. The Assistant Director, Regeneration indicated that he would discuss the issue further with the councillor and would ensure that staff were re-informed of the council policy.

A Member referred to problems of vandalism to trees in the Linear Park and asked if there were significant vandalism issues elsewhere to trees and how much was it costing the authority to replace damaged trees. The Assistant Director, Regeneration indicated that he would circulate that information to Members following the meeting.

A Member commented that one of the issues recently discussed at the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee was the problems caused by rain run-off from agricultural land due to the removal of trees, ditches and hedgerows. The Regional Committee was looking to work with land owners and farmers to reinstate trees, ditches and hedgerows to alleviate some of these problems.

A Member also referred to the types of trees planted which included Ornamental Pear Trees. While fruit trees in some areas were a cause of anti-social behaviour when children threw the fruit at passing cars, in other areas they should be encouraged as a means of giving people access to free fruit through the planting of community orchards.

Decision

That the report and Members comments be noted.

67. Tees Valley and Vale of Mowbray LEADER Programme Local Development Strategy (*Assistant Director, Regeneration*)

Type of decision

None, the report was for the Committee's information only.

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Tees Valley and Vale of Mowbray LEADER Programme Local Development Strategy 2015 – 2020.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Employment Development Officer reported that the LEADER model used local knowledge to promote a joined-up approach for community-led delivery of Rural Development Programme grants. In England this was being delivered by Local Action Groups (LAG) and it targeted rural areas with specific needs and priorities.

The Tees Valley and Vale of Mowbray LEADER Programme Local Development Strategy was submitted to Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in September 2014 which proposed a £1,318,000 three year programme with an additional three month completion period. Projected expenditure on projects would be £1,080,760 and the programme aimed to fund a total of 43 projects which would create 53 jobs over the three years of the programme. Overall this averages out at £25,133 per project funded and the cost per job created was £20,391. The full projected targets, results and outputs are shown in the appendix to the report.

It was anticipated that DEFRA would inform applicant authorities whether their bids had been approved or not later in the month.

Decision

That the report be noted and that further update reports be provided to the Committee as the Programme develops.

68. Tees Valley Workforce Skills Project – Interim Report (*Assistant Director, Regeneration*)

Type of decision

None, the report was for the Committee's information only.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to update members on the progress of the European Social fund Tees Valley Workforce Skills project.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Adult Education Co-ordinator reported that in the first year of operation the project had worked with many employers to engage their workforce in training. To date the project had engaged with 491 employers and delivered training to 1,543 employees. There was also training planned for an additional 851 employees which was due to start shortly. The target for the number of employees trained throughout the life of the project was 3023.

The project was promoted by Coordinators in each of the Tees Valley local authority's Regeneration Teams. Most employers were presently looking for training to provide compliance with industry standards and what was needed to assist the workforce retain jobs. It was hoped that training requirements would move towards future needs.

Members welcomed the report and commented that the future training needs of the wider workforce was essential as this project would end next year. There was concern that without either continued funding or a new similar project, the skills of the Coordinators could be lost. The Adult Education Co-ordinator indicated that it had been hoped that European Social Fund monies would come in at the right time as there was not expected to be any other sources of finance for similar training programmes.

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods stated that with the EU not recognising the funding streams through the Local Enterprise Partnerships ERDF and ESF funding streams may not come forward in the time frame that had been hoped for. Officers were examining what strategies could be put in place in the interim.

Members questioned which sectors were included in the 'others' category in table 2 in the report detailing the total numbers trained in individual business sectors. The Adult Education Co-ordinator indicated that sectors where the training numbers had been smaller were included such as Transport, Digital Services, Professional Services etc. Members indicated that they would have expected a greater requirement for training from the Transport sector due to the national shortage of HGV drivers.

Decision

That the report be noted.

69. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

No items.

The meeting concluded at 11.40 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 30 OCTOBER 2014