

REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

20 November 2015

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Alan Clark, Rob Cook, Jim Lindridge and Paul Thompson

Also Present: Stephen Catchpole, Tees Valley Unlimited

Officers: Louise Wallace, Director of Public Health
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration
Sylvia Pinkney, Head of Public Protection
Richard Harrison, Senior Regeneration Officer
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

71. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Akers-Belcher and George Morris.

72. Declarations of Interest

None.

73. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2015

Received.

74. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Head of Public Protection referred to Minute 68 of the minutes of the Regeneration Services Committee held on 23 October 2015 and provided the Committee with an update on the promotion of the potential inclusion of allergens within takeaway meals within their leaflets and on the websites where meals can be purchased.

75. Tees Valley Unlimited – Verbal Update (*Managing Director, Tees Valley Unlimited*)

Type of decision

For Information.

Purpose of report

To provide Members with an update on the activities undertaken by Tees Valley Unlimited.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Managing Director of Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) provided the Committee with a detailed and comprehensive update on the activities of Tees Valley Unlimited. This included support provided to employees from a number of large organisations in the region where redundancies had been announced due to closure of the organisation. The Task Force of Officers from TVU had been expanded and a jobs fair had offered 100 jobs to SSI employees and all SSI apprentices had been supported to secure the continuation of their apprenticeships with other organisations. Members were asked to note that TVU were optimistic for the future of the area due to the diversification of businesses across the five Boroughs within Tees Valley. It was highlighted that a Skills Summit had been arranged in December during which a number of schools would visit Teesside University where there would be a number of employers promoting careers within their organisations.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Managing Director provided an update on the Youth Employment Initiative. A discussion ensued on the heavy industry that was prevalent in the region in the past and Members had concerns that as this reduced, so would the opportunities for employment. The Managing Director indicated it was recognised that traditional industries were reducing in the region and the future was being built on improving the quality of educational skills in the area, improving the retention of graduates and the continuation of introducing new business sectors and skills across the region. The Managing Director of TVU emphasised the importance of devolution across the Tees Valley which would present a number of opportunities to shape the regeneration and economic future of the area.

The Managing Director was thanked for his attendance and the comprehensive update provided to the Committee and left the meeting at this point.

A discussion ensued on the potential opportunities for the future

regeneration of the town and the Chair suggested an informal 'away day' meeting be organised to provide Members of the Committee and Officers with the opportunity to brainstorm some ideas, including future potential opportunities and alternative business sectors.

Decision

- (1) The update provided by the Managing Director of Tees Valley Unlimited was noted.
- (2) The Assistant Director, Regeneration to organise an informal 'away day' meeting for Committee Members and Officers to discuss potential options for the future regeneration and economic future of the town.

76. Trading Standards Service Plan *(Director of Public Health)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To consider and approve the Trading Standards Service Plan 2015/16.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Head of Public Protection provided Members of the Committee with an update on the Trading Standards Service Plan for 2015/16 including a summary of the issues raised in the Plan. The report provided more detail on how resources were allocated which were identified as either high; medium or low priorities. It was noted that a number of 'No Cold Call' zones had been introduced in the town where they had been requested by residents. In addition to this, Officers were undertaking a pilot of a telephone befriending service which would be funded by a number of national companies as pay back to the community. This would involve a half hour phone call every week with a volunteer calling an elderly resident and in time would build up trust and rapport with that person.

In response to a question from a Member, the Head of Public Protection confirmed that there had still not been any legislation introduced to restrict the sale of e-cigarettes. The Head of Public Protection also provided Members with an update on the work being undertaken to counteract web based crime and the processes involved.

Decision

That the update provided was noted and the Trading Standards Service Plan for 2015/16 was approved.

77. Coastal Revival Fund Bid *(Assistant Director, Regeneration)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform the Committee that a grant application had been submitted to the Coastal Revival Fund.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report provided the background to the application for funding from the Coastal Revival Fund which was submitted in accordance with the deadline of 14 September 2015. The bid submitted related to the refurbishment of Seaton Carew's Grade II Listed Bus Station and Clock Tower which formed part of the delivery of the wider Seaton Carew Masterplan. The investment would be used to undertake material improvements to the bus station structure, specifically the application of a Fosroc Dekguard Elastic protective coating system and primer to improve the visual appearance and help ensure the long term future of the structure which had previously had issues due to the corrosion of the reinforcing bars within the concrete. It was noted that as part of this bid, match funding of £3,000 was required to contribute towards the costs and this would be met from existing revenue budgets.

A Member questioned the sustainability of the Fosroc Dekguard Elastic protective coating and the Assistant Director, Regeneration indicated he would forward the technical specification to Members for their information.

In response to a question from a Member, the Assistant Director, Regeneration provided an update on the current position and ongoing processes in relation to the Longscar Hall, Coronation Drive and The Shades, Church Street.

Decision

It was noted that a funding application for £48,500 had been submitted to the Coastal Revival Fund to contribute towards the refurbishment of the

Grade II Listed Seaton Carew Bus Station.

78. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The meeting concluded at 3.35 pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 27 NOVEMBER 2015