

REGENERATION, LIVEABILITY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

30th August 2006

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services
Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services
Ralph Harrison, Head of Public Protection and Housing
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

21. RESPECT Action Area (*Head of Community Safety and Prevention*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To seek approval to the Government's RESPECT Unit providing targeted assistance to the tackling of Anti-social Behaviour in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In January 2006 the Government launched the RESPECT Action Plan, aimed at driving the anti-social behaviour agenda "Broader, Deeper, Further". There were seven strands to the RESPECT agenda and adherence to it was being encouraged by the government on several levels. A relationship with the RESPECT unit could impact positively on anti-social behaviour in Hartlepool.

Fifty areas across the country had been selected to be Action Areas, including Hartlepool. Details were given of the Action Area selection process and the benefits of being named as such. The financial implications were outlined with particular attention being drawn to potential RESPECT funding opportunities.

Decision

That the involvement of Hartlepool as a RESPECT Action Area be approved.

22. Review of the Assisted Areas for Regional Investment Aid to Businesses (*The Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development)*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To outline the Government's proposed Assisted Areas Map for the allocation of Regional Investment Aid to businesses and seek confirmation of the endorsement of a response to the proposals.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report outlined the background to the Government's review of the Assisted Areas for Regional Investment Aid to businesses, which led to the production of a draft new Assisted Areas map in July. The draft map included all of Hartlepool Borough but certain areas of investment opportunity elsewhere in the Tees Valley, including the airport and sites in Darlington and Redcar and Cleveland, had been omitted. The suggested deletion of wards in Middlesbrough, Darlington and Redcar and Cleveland had been identified by the Joint Strategy Unit and officers of the local authorities to allow for the inclusion of these opportunity areas. Copies of the submissions of the Joint Strategy Unit and Council, suggesting these alterations, were appended to the report.

Decision

That the report be noted and that endorsement of the Council's submission in response to the draft Assisted Areas Map be confirmed.

23. Homelessness Strategy Update (*Head of Public Protection and Housing*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To update the Homelessness Strategy and report on current levels of homelessness in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Homelessness Act 2002 made major changes to dealing with homelessness and introduced the need for a strategic corporate approach to homelessness by requiring all Local Housing Authorities to publish a five year Homelessness Strategy. Hartlepool's was first published in July 2003 and the Homelessness Strategy Update was designed to assess how effective the strategy had been in reducing homelessness and to reassess the recommended priorities for action.

Details of the current levels of homelessness and reasons for homelessness in Hartlepool were included in the report while detailed information on the key factors currently affecting this issue was also included. A number of priorities for future action were recommended, chiefly concerned with provision of accommodation for those in specific social groups. The Homelessness Strategy Update 2006 was appended to the report for the Portfolio Holder's consideration.

Decision

That Homelessness Strategy Update (2006) and recommended priorities for action be approved.

24. Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy Update
(Head of Public Protection and Housing)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To update the Private Sector Renewal Strategy

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The 2004 Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy covered the period to 2006. The update, appended to the report, reflected changes made to the main Housing Strategy in response to national and regional priorities and local needs. The major priorities, however, had not changed and there were no financial implications.

Decision

That the updated Strategy be approved.

25. Conversion of Departmental Paper Based Records to

an Electronic Format (*Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To seek Portfolio Holder's approval to commence a procurement exercise leading to a contract being established for the conversion of Regeneration and Planning's historic paper based documents into an electronic format. Portfolio Holder's approval to letting the contract on a price/performance basis was also sought.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

At the Regeneration and Liveability Portfolio meeting of 15th July 2005, it had been agreed that £150,000 of the Planning Delivery Grant would be set aside to implement the corporate Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS) within Regeneration and Planning Services of which £750,000 would be specifically earmarked to enable historic planning documents to be scanned and electronically stored. In addition a further £10,000 would be set aside from existing reserves to scan a further 1,000 youth offending case files. Details of the benefits to the department were outlined in the report.

Various informal discussion with suppliers had taken place during the past year and the department was now ready to embark on a formal tendering exercise. It was intended that the council's standard pre-qualification questionnaire would be used to obtain and evaluate initial supplier information and determine the most appropriate contractors to invite to submit a formal tender. It was proposed that an 80:20 price:performance evaluation of the contract be applied. A report showing the outcome of this evaluation would be made to the Contract Scrutiny Panel in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure rules.

Decision

That the commencement of the procurement exercise described, with a view to letting the contract on the 80:20 price performance basis, be approved.

26. Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 – Levels of Fines (*Director of Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of changes to the levels of fines and early payment arrangements applicable to the Fixed Penalty offences contained within the new Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2006.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In a report to the Regeneration and Liveability Portfolio of 2nd June 2006 details were provided of the proposed new levels of fines and early payment arrangements under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Since this meeting the regulations associated with the Act had shown the need to review the levels of fines and early payment arrangements.

Details of the revised levels of fines and early payment arrangements relating to specific fixed penalty offences were appended to the report.

Decision

That the revised levels of fines and revised early payment arrangements be approved.

27. Minor Works Schemes (*Director of Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To consider recommendations of the North, Central and South Neighbourhood Consultative Forums in respect of minor grant works

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report set out the Minor Works proposals considered by the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums. The following schemes were proposed:

North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

- i) Elmwood Road – Lighting Improvements - £9,226
- ii) West View Road – Crocus planting - £2,000
- iii) Jones Road – gating of three entrances into the alley - £1,900

Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

- iv) Hart Village – planting the area around the village name plate - £120
- v) Dalton Village – coppicing of trees on Dene Bank - £587
- vi) York Road – replacement of dead trees and installation of seating around the Central Library - £3,000
- vii) Burn Valley Gardens – removal of shrub beds from the streets off Elwick Road - £10,000

South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

- viii) Ibrox Grove – extra car parking - £6,500
- ix) Dumfries Road – removal of grass verge and replacement with tarmac - £6,250
- x) Campbell Road – removal of grass verge and replacement with tarmac - £3,750
- xi) Catcote Road – removal of grass verge and replacement with tarmac - £1,875
- xii) Laird Road – removal of grass verge and replacement with tarmac - £1,875
- xiii) Street lighting in Dawlish Drive, Stanmore Grove, Alva-Athol and Ayre Groves and Eriskay Walk - £13,200

In addition a provision of £5,000 from each of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums was agreed to contribute to the work of Pride in Hartlepool.

Decision

That the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums in respect of Minor Works proposals be approved.

28. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 – 1st Quarter Monitoring Report *(Director of Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 in the first quarter of the year.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2006/2007 was agreed by

the Portfolio Holder in July 2006 and set out the key tasks/issues along with an Action Plan showing what was to be achieved by the Department in the coming year.

The report provided a summary of the 1st quarter reviews of key issues and performance indicators in the Plan.

Decision

That the achievement on actions and indicators be noted.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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