

REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

11 March 2016

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

Present:

Councillor Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Stephen Akers-Belcher, Alan Clark and Jim Lindridge

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2 (ii), Councillor Jim Ainslie was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Alan Clark and Councillor Carl Richardson was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Rob Cook.

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration
Anthony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager
Sarah Scarr, Heritage and Countryside Manager
David Worthington, Head of Culture and Information
Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

92. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alan Clark and Rob Cook.

93. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations at this point in the meeting, see minute 95.

94. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2016

Received.

95. Tees Valley Unlimited Cultural Task and Finish Programme *(Director of Culture, Events and Leisure, Stockton Borough Council)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform Members that the Director of Culture, Events and Leisure at Stockton Borough Council had been invited to the Regeneration Services Committee meeting to provide an update on TVU Cultural Task and Finish Programme.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

Members were informed that the TVU Cultural Task and Finish Programme focussed on the following three goals:

- To be a destination – a place people know about, like living in, want to move to or visit – because of its cultural assets, events, environment and lifestyle;
- To be a place of choice for artists and creative businesses to set up and grow – because of the support, spaces and opportunities to network with other creative people;
- To be a place that understands and deploys arts and culture in sustaining inclusive and healthy communities, where arts interventions were actively used to support education, health and well-being and skills for employment.

Further details were included in the Task and Finish Group report which was attached at Appendix 1. It was noted that the TVU Cultural Task and Finish Programme had aspirations for the Tees Valley to become the UK City of Culture 2025 but it was recognised that this would require a significant investment in Officer time in order to achieve this.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Jim Ainslie declared a personal interest in this item.

A discussion ensued on the great work undertaken by Tees Valley Arts, especially with asylum seekers and people living in deprived areas. In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Culture, Events and Leisure indicated that Cleveland College of Art and Design were heavily involved in the work around developing the concept of the Tees Valley being the UK City of Culture 2025 including exploring ways to prioritise the area's local assets across the Tees Valley region. It was highlighted that

the combination of different assets across the region would be a key element of achieving the City of Culture status. The importance of collaborative working and the need to recognise culture as a growth sector was emphasised.

A Member requested further detailed information on the forthcoming work programme of the Task and Finish Group and suggested that a media campaign be instigated to promote the work being undertaken.

Clarification was sought on how collaborative working was progressing in view of sharing resources and artefacts. The Director of Culture, Events and Leisure confirmed that there was plenty of willingness to share collections across the Tees Valley and this work was ongoing.

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods indicated that further work would be undertaken on developing a Work Programme for the Task and Finish Group along with an assurance that there would be Member involvement in the Group. In addition, in response to a request from the Chair, the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods indicated she would ensure that the report produced by the Tees Valley Culture Task and Finish Group would be circulated to all Members for information.

The Chair thanked the Director of Culture, Events and Leisure for attending and for providing an update on the work of the Task and Finish Group across the Tees Valley.

Decision

- (1) The update provided on the work of the Tees Valley Task and Finish Group was noted.
- (2) The report of the Tees Valley Task and Finish Group to be circulated to all Members for their information.

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

Type of decision

Non key decision.

Purpose of report

To seek authority to refer decision making on the next stage of the Carr/Hopps Street development straight to the Finance and Policy Committee on 14 March 2016.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report provided the background to the proposed development of the Carr/Hopps Street area. It was noted that given the potential financial implications, the decision on the preferred developer was taken by the Finance and Policy Committee. It was therefore proposed that Regeneration Services Committee provide the authority to refer the key decision (reference RN3/16) on the preferred option following the outcome of the full financial viability assessment to the Finance and Policy Committee.

A discussion ensued on the potential financial implications for the Council, however it was noted that this was a good deal that would ensure the area was developed and regenerated. In response to a request from Members for further dialogue with the developers, the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods indicated that once all the legal and financial checks were in place and the decision finalised, a meeting would be arranged with the relevant Ward Councillors and Chair and Vice Chair of both the Finance and Policy and Regeneration Services Committees to discuss the future development of the area in more detail.

Decision

- (1) That the decision making in relation to the preferred developer appointment for the Carr/Hopps Street Regeneration Area (key decision RN 3/16) be referred to the Finance and Policy Committee.
- (2) That once all the legal and financial checks had been undertaken and the decision on the preferred developer was finalised, a meeting would be arranged to enable the Ward Councillors and the Chair and Vice Chairs of both the Finance and Policy and Regeneration Services Committees to discuss the future of the development in more detail.

97. Church Street Townscape Heritage Scheme *(Assistant Director, Regeneration)*

Type of decision

Non key decision.

Purpose of report

To update the Committee on the successful bid made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Townscape Heritage Scheme in Church Street.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report provided a brief outline of the background and history to the development of the Church Street area. It was highlighted that in September 2015, a successful bid had been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for £1.2 million. This funding would be utilised to conserve and rejuvenate historic buildings within Church Street, improve the local environment and see the creation of new community projects aimed at raising awareness of the history and heritage of the area and the significant role it played in the development of Hartlepool. Further details of the proposals were included in the report. It was noted that once a detailed project plan for the Development Phase of the project was drawn up, it will be submitted to this Committee for agreement, prior to the final submission of the second round bid.

As part of the project and as a condition of the funding, a Townscape Heritage Officer post will be created on a fixed term basis to develop and implement the project and would be funded through the Phase 1 development grant.

In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods indicated that the grant application process for this funding stream needed to be quick and efficient and an appropriate process for this had yet to be drawn up.

A Member sought clarification on the consultation to be undertaken and the Heritage and Countryside Manager confirmed that a condition of the funding was to develop two consultation groups to include local schools, education establishments and existing businesses in the area. However, additional consultation with any interested existing groups would also be undertaken.

In recognition that the £1.2m funding was one of only nine grants awarded nationally and the only grant awarded in the north east region, Members of the Committee wished to pass on their thanks and congratulations to everyone involved for their hard work in securing the funding and their continued commitment to sustaining the heritage of the Town and its assets.

Decision

- (1) The indicative timetable for the development phase and the recruitment of an Officer for the Church Street Conservation Area Townscape Heritage Project was approved.
- (2) That in addition to the two consultation groups to be created, the consultation exercise to include any interested existing groups.
- (3) That the thanks and congratulations of the Committee be forwarded to everyone involved in securing the £1.2m funding and for their continued

commitment to sustaining the heritage of the Town and its assets.

98. Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre – Child Performers’ Policy *(Assistant Director, Regeneration)*

Type of decision

Non key decision.

Purpose of report

The terms and conditions of usage for the Town Hall Theatre were produced with reference to The Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and 1963 and The Children (Performance) Regulations 1968. The Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulation 2014 had been introduced which meant that some of the current policies in place in the venue need to be addressed.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report provided the background to the current policy and outlined the changes to the terms and conditions as a result of the introduction of the above Regulations.

In response to clarification sought by a Member, the Head of Culture and Information confirmed that when anyone hires the theatre for an event, the recent changes to the terms and conditions will be highlighted to them to ensure they were fully aware. It was recognised that whilst this report only referred to the Town Hall Theatre, the regulations applied to all Council owned buildings and should be implemented as such.

Concern was expressed by a Member at the potential charge to hirers where there were immediate Child Performance Licensing problems which caused the Local Authority to undertake extra work to resolve those problems. It was suggested that the potential to make this a set fee be explored.

Decision

The following applies to all Council owned buildings:

- (1) As a duty of care and as a corporate parent, the Theatre’s policy was to remain as previous in relation to when children have to leave the place of performance, with the possible exception of single night performances.

- (2) That only authorised staff, chaperones and parents must enter the back stage area.
- (3) That children only be allowed to be at the place of performance for no more than 1 hour before the start of the production. [The Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulation 2014].
- (4) That the maximum total hours of performance or rehearsal for ages 0- 4 be two hours, ages 5-8 three hours, and ages 9+ five hours. The Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulation 2014.
- (5) That the cost associated with additional work undertaken by the Local Authority to resolve any issues that arise as a result of any immediate Child Performance Licensing problems, be explored further, including the implementation of a set fee for this additional work.

99. Justice for Coalfields Campaign and 132nd Durham Miners' Gala *(Assistant Director, Regeneration)*

Type of decision

Non key decision.

Purpose of report

To update Members on the actions taken following the Council decision to support the Justice for Coalfields Campaign and consider how the Council would support the 132nd Durham Miners' Gala.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report outlined the proposals to support the 132nd Durham Miners' Gala including a full-page advertisement inside the Souvenir Brochure. It was expected that the event due to take place in July 2016 will attract in excess of `30,000 people into the region. The advert in this brochure will reach out to these visitors and promote Hartlepool as an exciting nearby destination as well as a useful hub for staying visitors to consider when booking travel accommodation. The advertisement will cost £650 and be funded through the existing Tourism Marketing budget for 2016/17.

Decision

The report was noted and approval granted to support the 132nd Durham Miners' Gala Souvenir Brochure by confirmation of a single, full-page advert

costing £650 to be funded from the Tourism Marketing budget 2016/17.

100. Youth Employment Initiative Programme *(Assistant Director, Regeneration)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To update Members on the current position of the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) Programme including the Council's match funding requirement.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report provided the background to the provision of funding through the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) which was created by the European Commission in January 2013. An update on the YEI funding submission was provided and it was noted that the latest bid totalled £19,293m. The ESIF Shadow Board had agreed that the activities to be funded through this bid were a 'strategic fit' for the needs of the sub-region. The DWP had accepted the Shadow Board's recommendations and a final decision on the bid was expected in April 2016. The report noted that the total HBC contract value would be £3,888,000 including match funding.

The Economic Development Manager informed Members that since writing the report, funding agreement contracts had been received from the DWP and subject to financial and legal considerations of the contractual obligations, the aim was to return the signed contracts to the DWP by the end of March. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods suggested that any amendments to the contracts be delegated for approval to the Chair and Vice Chair in conjunction with the Director.

Members thanked everyone who had been involved in the bidding process for this funding as they had done an excellent job. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods indicated that once all the final approvals and checks had been, appropriate promotion would be undertaken should the bid be successful.

Decision

- (1) The content of the report and the current position of the YEI Programme was noted.
- (2) It was noted that a further report would be submitted once clarification

was received on the outcomes of both applications.

101. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chairman ruled that the following items 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.

102. Any Other Business – Assistant Director (Regeneration)

The Chair highlighted that this would be the last meeting that the Assistant Director (Regeneration) would be attending as he had secured employment as the Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment at Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. Tribute was paid to the Assistant Director for his very innovative and forward thinking approach to the regeneration of the town and wished him luck in his future endeavours. The Assistant Director commented that he had thoroughly enjoyed working at Hartlepool Borough Council and thanked the Chair for his kind words.

The meeting concluded at 3.30 pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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