

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

21 March 2016

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Councillor Marjorie James (In the Chair)

Councillors: Jim Ainslie, Allan Barclay, Steve Gibbon and Jean Robinson

Officers: Alastair Smith, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods
Mike Blair, Technical Services Manager
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

72. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Peter Jackson and Brenda Loynes.

73. Declarations of Interest

None

74. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2016

Received

75. Concessionary Local Bus Travel 2016-17 *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Key decision tests (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Ref No RN 19/15

Purpose of report

To report the proposed re-imbusement arrangements with local bus operators for concessionary fares to be implemented from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 inclusive.

Issue(s) for consideration

It was reported that the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme had been in place since 2008. There had been various local enhancements during this time, details of which were included in the report. In March 2011 agreement had been reached with the operators to continue the fixed payment system in 2011/12, with a revised enhancement of a fixed price of 30p per journey for trips commencing before 9.30 am which had remained in place since this date.

The Department of Transport had now issued its guidance for ENCTS reimbursement in 2016/17. Details of operators' costs were included in the report and it was noted that fares had continued to increase above the general inflation rate and the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) cost index. Increases averaging 3% were made across England to September 2015. Across the country local bus passenger journeys had shown a decrease of 0.5% in 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. ENCTS journeys had shown a broadly flat trend and it was thought to be mainly due to the rising eligibility age for pensioners.

It was recommended that approval be given to the continued participation in the Tees Valley Wide English National Concessionary Travel Scheme with an enhancement of a thirty pence flat fare for trips before 9.30 am for the financial year 2016/17.

With regard to the financial considerations, the current estimates showed an overall decrease of approximately 0.6% (compared to a 2.26% increase in 2015/16). It was proposed to apportion Local Authority payments using the same percentage split as 2015/16 thereby providing each authority with a proportionate decrease, an estimated breakdown of which was set out in the report.

In response to a request for clarification, the Committee was advised that some authorities charges for replacement passes were higher than Hartlepool's proposed charge to remain at £5.

Decision

- (i) Approval was given to continue participating in the Tees Valley wide enhancement to the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) offering travel within and between the areas covered by Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Councils.
- (ii) The Council continue to operate an enhanced scheme whereby all journeys prior to 9:30am on weekdays attract a nominal fare of 30p.
- (iii) Charges for replacement passes remain at £5.

76. Hartlepool Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)

Type of decision

Key Decision test (ii) applies – Forward Plan Reference No RN02/16

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (hereafter 'the Strategy') and to update Members on the Council's duties as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director presented the report which provided background information to the Council's role, as lead Local Flood Authority, in developing a strategy to tackle local flood risks. Since September 2015 this Strategy had been developed building upon the conclusions of the Hartlepool Surface Water Management Plan (2012). The Strategy required adoption by the Council and would require a review every 6 years.

The Strategy was required to identify all Risk Management Authorities (RMA's) within the Borough and were required to act in a manner consistent with the National Strategy and form effective partnerships to deliver effective flood risk management. The key RMA's for Hartlepool included Hartlepool Borough Council as Lead Local Flood Authority, Environment Agency, Highway Authority/Highways England and Northumbrian Water. The Strategy had developed a set of local objectives which included understanding the areas that flood, managing local flood risk in Hartlepool, enabling people to work more effectively together, helping Hartlepool residents to recover as quickly as possible after flood related incidents and promoting sustainable solutions. Details of how the strategy had also developed a set of local measures to meet the local objectives were provided as set out in the report.

The Committee welcomed the report and the Chair took the opportunity to express the Committee's thanks to the Assistant Director, Alastair Smith and Principal Engineer, Kieran Bostock, along with all members of the team for all the hard work that had been undertaken in developing the strategy and managing local flood risks in Hartlepool. The Chair was also pleased to report the external flood management services offered by the team to other authorities and the financial benefits to the authority as a result.

Decision

- (i) That the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy be adopted.
- (ii) That the criteria for flood investigations be noted.

77. Chair’s Concluding Remarks

As this was the last meeting of the current municipal year, the Chair took the opportunity to thank Members, officers and members of the public for their contribution during the year and to wish Councillor Gibbon, who was not standing in the forthcoming local Council elections, the very best of luck for the future. Councillor Gibbon conveyed his personal thanks to current and previous Chairs for continuing to encourage Member and public participation in Neighbourhood Services Committee meetings.

The meeting concluded at 10.20 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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