

# **REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

4 November 2016

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

**Present:**

Councillor Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Jim Lindridge and Brenda Loynes

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Andrew Carter, Planning Services Manager  
Anthony Steinberg, Economic Regeneration Manager  
Matthew King, Planning Policy Team Leader  
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **30. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Akers-Belcher, Allan Barclay and Paul Thompson.

### **31. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **32. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2016**

Received.

### **33. Hartlepool Local Plan – Update on Progression Towards Publication Stage and Amendment to Local Development Scheme** *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

**Type of decision**

Budget and Policy Framework

## **Purpose of report**

To provide information in relation to the outcomes of the Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation and the progress towards producing the Publication version of the Local Plan.

## **Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

Details were provided of the eight week consultation undertaken during which a total of 238 representations were made and the key issues highlighted were included within the report. It was noted that work was ongoing in terms of responding to the representations within the Consultation Statement and where additional work had been identified, this had been or was being undertaken. In view of the additional work to be undertaken, it was proposed that the Publication Document be slightly delayed to enable completion of this work and the production of an addendum to the SHMA. It was proposed that a report be submitted to the Committee on 2 December 2016 to seek permission to consult on the Publication document for a period of eight weeks. Members were informed that this slight delay had resulted in a need to refresh the Local Development Scheme which set out the timetable for the production of the Local Plan and an amended LDS was attached at Appendix 1. The proposals noted above resulted in an amended timetable which culminated in the production of a local plan by early 2017.

Members were supportive of the amended timetable as this would ensure that all views submitted were considered with the Plan amended as necessary. A Member referred to the future economic regeneration of the Town and the need to ensure the level of additional housing was appropriate. The Planning Services Manager confirmed that this had been taken into account to identify the housing need projection.

A Member highlighted the current problem with the Park Road/Wooler Road junction and the Planning Services Manager indicated that the design of this junction was currently being examined with a view to remodelling, potentially using better sequenced traffic lights. It was noted that no further planning permissions would be granted if it was considered they would have a significant negative impact on this junction.

In response to a further question, the Planning Services Manager confirmed that work was ongoing to develop the proposed Elwick by-pass.

## **Decision**

- (i) The key consultation responses to the Local Plan Preferred Options document were noted. Members also noted the additional work needed which had resulted in a slight delay in the preparation of the

Publication version of the Local Plan which had resulted in a slight delay in the preparation of the Publication version of the Local Plan which it was now proposed to report to Committee on 2 December 2016.

- (ii) The amended Local Development Scheme which reflected the new timeline for the production of the Local Plan was endorsed.

### **34. Council Plan 2016/17 – Quarter 1 Performance Report** (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Director of Public Health*)

#### **Type of decision**

For information.

#### **Purpose of report**

To inform the Committee of the progress made against the relevant areas of the 2016/17 Council Plan at the end of quarter 1. The report also provided an update on progress made so far this year in relation to the Economic Climate.

#### **Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

The Council Plan includes a number of key actions, performance indicators and risks which sets out how the Council intends to deliver on its priority outcomes. The Regeneration Services Committee had previously identified the following key areas of activity to receive updates:

Quarter 1 – Economic Climate  
Quarter 2 – Public Protection  
Quarter 3 – Skills and Workforce  
Quarter 4 – Sport and Recreation

Attached at Appendix 1 was an outline of overall progress against those actions, performance indicators and risks that were relevant to the Committee for Quarter 1 along with an update on recent activities in relation to the Economic Climate.

The Economic Regeneration Manager provided Members with an update on youth unemployment which had further reduced to 3.3% as a result of the effort from a number of parties working together. In addition to this, it was noted that the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) were working closely with a number of partners with a view to increasing visitor numbers. The Economic Regeneration Manager provided a detailed updated on the business start ups data which showed that Hartlepool had achieved 54 business start ups per 10,000 head of population which was

above the average cross the Tees Valley area. Further detail was provided on the number of regional and sub-regional grants awarded in Hartlepool through Let's Grow/Business Compass/SSI/RGF. In addition, it was highlighted that through Hartlepool Enterprise Zone, over £17k investment had been received which was the best performing within the Tees Valley.

In response to a question from a Member, the Economic Regeneration Manager indicated that the NMRN aspired to treble the visitor numbers over the next 5 years as this facility was part of a national network of visitor attractions. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods added that the marketing of the site was being developed due to the recent NMRN appointment of a Marketing Manager.

A Member sought clarification on the aspirations to increase the number of business start-ups. The Economic Regeneration Manager indicated that the Council had a Business Incubation Strategy which had shown consistent improvement since 2002. As part of this, the development in Whitby Street would provide smaller businesses within the creative industry with start up accommodation. The Chair commended the Economic Regeneration Team for their ongoing efforts which had shown continuous improvement in inward investment. The Chair read out an email received from a lady who had visited the Town from York and had found it a very enjoyable experience and had taken the time to comment upon this.

In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods commented that whilst from a national perspective, businesses were anxious about the future following the result of the referendum in relation to Brexit, however there had been no impact at 'ground' level as yet and the implications were still being worked through and would be reported to Committee in the future.

The Chair indicated it was pleasing to note the excellent performance of the youth investment programme and commended the team for the commitment and effort given to achieve this. In addition to this, the Coastal Team was commended for the work they had undertaken around the railway station. It was also noted that lots of enquiries had been received in relation to further economic regeneration of the Town and ultimately the creation of additional jobs and it was good to see Hartlepool was continuing to go against the trend.

## **Decision**

- (i) The progress made on the specific areas of the Council Plan relevant to the Committee at the end of quarter 1 as set out on page 1 of the attached appendix was noted.
- (ii) The update from Economic Regeneration in relation to the economic climate as set out on page 2 of the attached appendix was noted.

**35. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

None.

The meeting concluded at 10.05 am

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 11 November 2016**