

# **REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

10 February 2017

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

**Present:**

Councillor: Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Stephen Akers-Belcher, Allan Barclay, Dave Hunter, Jim Lindridge, Brenda Loynes and Paul Thompson

Also present:

Joan Crump, Director - Hartlepool Folk Festival

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Louise Wallace, Director of Public Health  
Patrick Wilson, Learning and Skills Manager  
Catherine Grimwood, Performance and Partnerships Manager  
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **61. Apologies for Absence**

None.

### **62. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **63. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2017**

Received.

### **64. Council Plan 2017/18 – 2019/2020** *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Director of Public Health)*

#### **Type of decision**

Budget and Policy Framework

## **Purpose of report**

To set out the Council's ambitions for the Borough and the strategic plan for achieving this. Specifically, the Committee was asked to consider the draft proposals that had been identified for inclusion in the Council Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20 which were of relevance to the remit of the Committee.

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

The report set out the changes between the Key Deliverables previously reported to the Finance and Policy Committee and those proposed for inclusion in the final plan which were included within Appendix 2. The sections specifically for consideration by the Regeneration Services Committee were identified by the relevant strategic priority and included within Appendices 1 and 3. It was highlighted that the final draft of the Council Plan would reflect any comments received by the Policy Committees and be submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee on 6 March 2017 and full Council on 23 March 2017 for final approval.

The Chair referred to the fact that the Council Plan now covered three years which provided more opportunity to plan ahead and identify some ambitious targets. A discussion ensued on the use of percentages and figures within the plan, particularly around the unemployment rate. It was recognised that the figures change on a day to day basis and the Chair requested that the baseline figures at the end of March be emailed to all Members of the Committee for future comparison purposes.

A Member sought clarification on why the proposed target for the number of empty homes brought back into use was to be confirmed. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that the number of houses the Council could acquire was limited, however, this may increase depending on the outcome of the Government's Housing White Paper. In addition to this, funding from the Homes and Community Agency for that year had yet to be confirmed.

With reference to the proposed increase in the number of allotment plots, a Member suggested that consideration could be given to reducing the size of the plots which would increase the number of plots available. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods indicated that she would feed those comments onto the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

A Member referred to the regular use of various locations within Hartlepool by television production companies and sought clarification on the key deliverables in relation to this. The Chair confirmed that interest had already been shown in developing a television and film production studio in the town. Officers were currently working together with a production company to pull together a bid to the Local Growth Fund to convert the old bus sheds at the bottom of Church Street into a studio. The Director of

Regeneration and Neighbourhoods commented that a production studio located in the town would inevitably promote Hartlepool and increase visitor numbers but would also be utilised for a variety of television series that were not necessarily about Hartlepool.

Clarification was sought on the targets for the proportion of secondary schools below average for Progress 8 measure. The Chair indicated that this would be referred to Children's Services Committee for further clarification. It was highlighted by a Member that the number of kilograms of residual household waste collected per household did not appear to be comparable with the percentage increase in household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods commented that the waste collected was calculated per individual household and the waste reused, recycled or composted was calculated townwide, however checks would be undertaken to ensure these figures were triangulated.

### **Decision**

- (1) The key deliverables, milestones and performance measures identified for inclusion in the Council Plan, particularly those relevant to the remit of the Committee were supported unanimously by the Committee.
- (2) It was noted that the draft Council Plan will be submitted to each of the other four Policy Committees for consultation. The final draft of the Council Plan, incorporating any comments received and be considered by the Finance and Policy Committee on 6 March 2017 for consideration and approval prior to submission to full Council on 23 March 2017 for final approval.
- (3) That the baseline figures for the unemployment rate as at the end of March 2017 be circulated to Members of the Committee to enable year on year comparisons.
- (4) That the suggestion to reduce the size of allotment plots to increase the number of plots available be fed into the Neighbourhood Services Committee.
- (5) That clarification be sought from the Children's Services Committee on the targets set for the proportion of secondary schools below average for Progress 8 measure.

## **65. Hartlepool Adult Education Strategy 2016-2026**

*(Assistant Director, Economic Growth and Regeneration)*

### **Type of decision**

Key Decision – Test

## **Purpose of report**

To seek approval from Members to endorse the Hartlepool Adult Education Strategy 2016-2026.

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

The Mission Statement, Aim and Objectives of the Hartlepool Adult Education Strategy 2016-2026 were included in the report. The Strategy had been designed to ensure optimum benefits for the community, employers and the wider economy and had been split according to a number of key priority themes which were listed in the report. The complete Strategy had been subject to the full involvement of the staff from Adult Education along with consultation with key stakeholders and was attached at Appendix 3.

The Learning and Skills Manager informed Members that during the consultation process on the Adult Education Strategy, the Tees Valley Combined Authority had commented that it was the most comprehensive Adult Education Strategy within the north east area. It was noted that the targets in the Strategy were really challenging as it was a very testing and competitive market.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the number of adult learners with relatively low levels of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills which was considered one of the worse than the average in the UK as well as the Teesside area. The Learning and Skills Manager indicated that around 20% of people accessing adult education had no qualifications whatsoever and that was a worrying statistic. All individuals accessing adult education were now given an initial assessment of their skill levels in English, maths and digital skills and it was important to look at a functional skills strategy that potential learners did not fear. The importance of highlighting the above statistics with early years' providers, primary and secondary schools was referred to and it was noted that the community hubs may have a role to play in teaching these basic functional skills to people within their own communities. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods indicated that a report would be submitted to the Children's Services Committee and the Schools' Forum highlighting Members' concerns.

The Chair commented that the figures within the Adult Education Strategy need to be aligned with the figures within the Council Plan such as overall unemployment rate. All Members were very supportive of the Strategy and thanks were passed onto all Officers involved in the production of the document and the work that goes on behind it.

## **Decision**

- (1) The Adult Education Strategy 2016-2026 was endorsed.
- (2) That a report highlighting Members' concerns at the number of people leaving education with either a low level or no numeracy, literacy and digital skills be submitted to the Children's Services Committee and School's Forum.

## **66. Presentation – Review and Impact of Hartlepool Folk Festival 2016** *(Director of Hartlepool Folk Festival)*

### **Type of decision**

For information

### **Purpose of report**

To provide Members with an update and review of the Hartlepool Folk Festival held on 21-23 October 2016.

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

The Director of Hartlepool Folk Festival gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation which provided details of the Festivals held in 2015 and 2016. The Festival had previously utilised the Headland Area, the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) and was proposed to be held within the NMRN again in 2017 and with the support of the Council to explore the potential to utilise other venues in the area such as the Hartlepool College of Further Education and Middleton Grange Shopping Centre which would enable the capacity for visitors to be increased even further. The Festival had previously been promoted in a number of national magazines and had attracted a lot of visitors to the town with over 81% of visitors to the Festival coming from outside Teesside. There were numerous positive comments from visitors to the Festival about the activities within the Festival and the Town itself.

Members were very supportive of the Festival and the Chair commented that this kind of event was in line with the Council's aim to promote Destination Hartlepool. It was suggested that the presentation should be circulated to all Members to highlight the positive impact of the Festival to the town.

A Member sought clarification on the marketing strategy for the Festival as it had generated a very high amount of visitors to the Town. The Director of the Festival commented that folk audiences do travel, especially as a lot were retired with plenty of disposable income and this was not a formula to

easily replicate across other general audiences. The Chair highlighted the excellent volunteer capacity provided from within the Adult Education Service and suggested that this may be a useful asset for future Festivals. It was highlighted that there were only two people responsible for the official organising and co-ordination of the Festivals although it was recognised that the Council had supported the events in numerous ways.

A number of ideas for additional venues within the town centre and around the Waterfront development were discussed. The Director of the Festival indicated that one of the ambitions for the Festival would be to undertake as flashmob within Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

The Chair thanked the Director of Hartlepool Folk Festival for providing a very informative and positive presentation to the Committee and indicated that the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods would be the key contact for any potential support that the Council may be in a position to offer for future Festivals.

### **Decision**

The presentation was noted and would be circulated to all Members for information.

## **67. 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.

## **68. Any Other Business - Apology**

The Chair referred to a remark he made to an individual member of the public at a meeting of the Regeneration Services Committee on 22 July 2017 and gave an apology for that remark.

The meeting concluded at 10.45 am

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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