

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

6 MARCH 2017

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

Present:

Councillor Christopher Akers Belcher (In the Chair)

Councillors: Allan Barclay, Paul Beck, Alan Clark, Kevin Cranney, Marjorie James, Brenda Loynes, Stephen Thomas and Paul Thompson.

Also Present: Councillor George Springer.

Mr Andrew Lewis, Managing Director, Tees Valley Combined Authority

Officers: Gill Alexander, Chief Executive
Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
Chris Little, Director of Finance and Policy
Claire McLaren, Assistant Director, Corporate Services
Paul Edmondson-Jones, Interim Director of Public Health
Sally Robinson, Director of Child and Adult Services
Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Alastair Rae, Public Relations Manager
Catherine Grimwood, Performance and Partnerships Manager
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

106. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Tim Fleming and Shane Moore.

107. Declarations of Interest

None.

108. Creating a South Tees Development Corporation *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Chief Solicitor)*

Type of decision

Non key decision.

Purpose of report

The Tees Valley Combined Authority was to be granted powers to establish locally accountable Mayoral Development Corporations; the first outside of London. Once Parliament had confirmed these powers, the Combined Authority intended to move forward to establish a Development Corporation for the South Tees area. The report focused on the Councils response to the consultation document which was appended to the report.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods reported on the proposal for the Tees Valley Combined Authority to designate approximately 4,300 acres (1,740 hectare) of land to the south of the River Tees, in the Borough of Redcar and Cleveland, as a Mayoral Development Area, and to then establish a Mayoral Development Corporation to be named the South Tees Development Corporation.

The area proposed for the South Tees Development Corporation is one site of significant economic opportunity, with access to infrastructure, good transport connections, and a catchment area with a significant skilled workforce. It includes the site of the former SSI steelworks which closed in October 2015, as well as other industrial assets, many of which are successfully operating in a competitive international environment. The area benefits from river access and includes part of Teesport, the third largest port in the country.

In February 2016, local leaders and the government announced their intention to apply the proposed powers to create a Development Corporation for the South Tees area. A consultation process commenced on 23 December 2016 and would run for a period of 11 weeks, ending on 10 March 2017. All responses to the consultation would be considered by Tees Valley Combined Authority. Subject to the outcome of the public consultation, it was envisaged that the Mayoral Development Corporation would come into operation by summer 2017.

The Managing Director of Tees Valley Combined Authority was present at the meeting and addressed the Committee in support of the proposed development corporation. The Managing Director indicated that government had approved the appropriate powers on the Friday preceding the meeting. These powers had only been used twice before in London to facilitate the development of the 2012 Olympics and the new HS2 Terminus. The approach in the Tees Valley would, however, be different in that it would be accountable to local residents as opposed to central government.

The Managing Director of Tees Valley Combined Authority welcomed the opportunity to present the proposals to Hartlepool as it had obviously been recognised that while the development corporation site was south of the river it was significant to the whole of the Tees Valley. While the

consultation would not close until 10 March, the feedback so far had been very positive. The development corporation would provide a great opportunity for the whole of the Tees Valley while unfortunately coming on the back of the areas greatest set back when SSI closed on Teesside.

The Chair drew Members attention to the proposed response to the consultation submitted with the report. The Chair highlighted that Hartlepool's position was clear that the local authority could not support any proposal that would bring any liabilities. The Managing Director of Tees Valley Combined Authority stated that it was vital that the significant liabilities and risks associated with the site were managed and officers believed that they had strong commitments from government. The intention was to hold government to those guarantees and embed them within the constitution of the development company.

A member of the public commented that while it was reassuring to know there would be no liability on the Council, he did not see any benefit from it particularly as Hartlepool as very poor communication and transport connections with the rest of the Tees Valley which would not be improved by the proposed new bridge over the Tees. The Chair disagreed indicating that everyone in the Tees Valley could benefit from the economic activity the site could bring.

The following decision was agreed unanimously.

Decision

That delegated authority be given to the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, to submit the Council's response before 10 March, 2017.

109. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February, 2017

Received.

110. Council Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20 (*Chief Executive*)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to set out the Council's ambitions for the Borough and the strategic plan for achieving this. Specifically, the Committee was asked to consider and agree the final draft of the proposed Council Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20 to go forward to Council for approval.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Chief Executive reported that the proposed Council Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20, submitted as an appendix to the report, included the front end narrative, strategic priorities, key deliverables, milestones and performance measures with targets where these have been able to be set. The plan had been considered by the Policy Committees over recent months.

The three year plan focused on the changes that were required to bring forward the economic and social development that would make Hartlepool a great place to live, work and learn.

A Member raised the following queries in relation to the draft Council Plan –

- The key deliverable “Increase the availability of high quality care for older people with care and support needs”; how was that going to happen when homes were closing down. The Chair of the Adult Services Committee stated that two new homes offering both residential and nursing care were to open in the town, one in May and the other towards the end of the year. The Council was continuing to work with providers on increasing capacity further. The Member questioned how these places were to be funded. The Chief Executive commented that funding for residential and nursing places was complicated and dependent on the individual assessment of the person requiring care. All authorities were struggling with the provision of adequate numbers of residential and nursing care beds and with the opening of the two new facilities, Hartlepool would be slightly ahead of the game.
- The Member questioned the key deliverable “Better sustainable transport connections” and how this was going to be achieved without any control over local bus services. The Chair of the Neighbourhood Forum Committee stated that Councils had been removed from delivering transport services following deregulation. The Council had little influence over bus companies and their services unless it was willing to subsidise services to a significant effect and the authority simply did not have that kind of finance available. The Member considered that approach should be made through the Northern Powerhouse and the Combined Authority to bring back such control. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods commented that once the Tees Valley Devolution Bill had been approved by parliament the Combined Authority would have greater controls over local transport services.

A member of the public also questioned the issue of residential care beds in the town and particularly the charges for them; would private residents be subsidising those funded by the local authority. The Chief Executive stated that charges were the concern of the private providers. The Council did look to providers mirroring charges for local authority funded beds and private care beds but it was essentially up to the provider.

A Member questioned the re-phasing of the Seaton Carew Masterplan and asked if works could be scheduled outside of the peak visitor months to ensure minimum disruption. The Director of Regeneration and

Neighbourhoods indicated that she would look to meeting the Member's request but added that some timetabling may be outside of the Council's control due to external funding regimes.

The Chair added that some other timescales needed to be tightened such as the Church Street works which would be completed by end of April 2018. The Chair also suggested that some elements of the introduction needed to be more 'corporate' and also that an executive summary should be produced, particularly for inclusion in Hartbeat.

Decision

That the proposed Council Plan 2017/18 - 2019/20 be approved and forward to Council for adoption, subject to the proposed amendments and inclusion of the following having been approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair -

An executive summary;

The inclusion of defined completion dates for schemes where they were already known, such as the Church Street Improvement works;

The requirement for the production of an annual report setting out progress on the deliverables.

111. Workforce Arrangements (*Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Policy*)

Type of decision

Non-key decision.

Purpose of report

To advise Finance and Policy Committee on the outcome of the trade union ballot on Workforce Arrangement proposals and to obtain approval on the way forward.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Finance and Policy reported that a package of proposed changes to employee conditions of service was developed by the Council during 2015. Following detailed negotiations with the Hartlepool Joint Trade Union Committee, and a series of employee briefings, the proposed changes were put to a trade union ballot and the outcome of this was that the trade unions had not been mandated to enter into a collective agreement to reflect the specific changes to terms and conditions.

At the Finance and Policy Committee meeting on 31st Oct 2016, Officers were requested to recommence negotiations directly with the trade unions in respect of alternative proposals. Further detailed negotiations with the Hartlepool Joint Trade Union Committee have been ongoing and the

relevant trade unions, UNISON, GMB and Unite agreed to ballot their members on the basis of “best achievable by negotiation” on the package of proposals with the ballot period running from 16th January 2017 to 3rd February 2017.

Details of the package of proposals covered by the ballot were set out in the exempt Appendix A. The appendix contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (para 4) Information resulting to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority, or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

The Director stressed to Committee that owing to the uncertainty of the ballot outcome the budget forecasts for 2017/18 to 2019/20 did not include a saving from these proposals.

The outcome of the ballot was that the trade unions had not been mandated to enter into a collective agreement to reflect the specific changes to terms and conditions. Therefore, as a consequence, it would not be possible to implement the proposals and the proposed savings target would not be achieved.

The outcome of the trade union ballot was set out in the exempt Appendix B. The appendix contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (para 4) Information resulting to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority, or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

In the absence of a mandate from the trade unions there were two changes which could be implemented. It was, therefore, proposed that the Council progresses with the introduction of the proposals relating to Holiday Pay and Taking Vehicles Home as set out in the report.

The Chair commented that an additional recommendation was required for a further report to set out where the budgetary pressures existed in service areas due to the inability to implement the proposed package of changes. In relation to the changes around taking vehicles home, the Chair questioned how this would be monitored. The Director indicated that officers were working towards harmonising the various approaches across the authority.

A member of the public questioned why if staff were off sick, they accrued additional holidays and overtime. The Chief Solicitor commented that the holidays were not additional, simply the normal accrued holidays they were entitled to. In relation to overtime payments, the Director of Finance and

Policy stated this was overtime averaged over the course of a year. The Chair stated that these were simply the implementation of European Courts of Justice rules.

A Member indicated that while some of the measures were obviously a step too far for some staff, the overall package would have helped towards the Council's overall financial position and because they could not be implemented other savings from elsewhere, which may impact on jobs, would have to be made. The marketing of Council services was often significantly hindered due to some of the high staff costs.

The Chair considered that having gone to the staff twice on these issues, he did not consider any value in trying to negotiate a further package. It had to be acknowledged, however, that the subsequent savings to be made from elsewhere could involve job losses that could have been avoided.

Decision

1. The Committee noted that the Trade Unions were not mandated to enter into a collective agreement to implement proposed changes to terms and condition and alternative savings options would need to be developed and that a further report to the Committee include where the budgetary pressures existed in service areas due to the inability to implement the proposed package of changes;
2. In light of recommendation 1 above, the proposal that no further proposals are developed as these are extremely unlikely to be accepted and would not provide significant financial savings to the Council be approved;
3. That in accordance with the previous decision of Finance and Policy Committee in October 2016, the Council will pay Holiday Pay from 1 July 2015, to comply with the European Courts of Justice ruling on holiday pay;
4. That the implementation of a standard payment scheme for employees who regularly take Council vehicles home not on standby / callout based on the HMRC rate be approved;
5. That Committee notes that one off resources of £193,000 previously ear-marked to meet potential protection costs were no longer needed and could be released and it was recommended that a strategy for using these one off resources be developed by Finance and Policy Committee when the Medium Term Financial Strategy was updated in the summer.

112. Quarter 3 – Council Overview of Performance and Risk 2016/17 *(Director of Finance and Policy, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Director of Public Health)*

Type of decision

Non Key Decision.

Purpose of report

To inform Finance and Policy Committee of the progress made against the 2016/17 Council Plan at the end of quarter 3 and ask them to agree to a number of changes/updates to the plan.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Finance and Policy reported the progress made against the 2016/17 Council Plan at the end of quarter 3 and requested the Committee specifically note the following issues included in appendix 1 to the report.

- The overall progress against the Council Plan 2016/17 for actions, performance indicators and risks (Page 1 of appendix 1);
- The use of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) (Page 1 of appendix 1);
- The detailed commentary provided by officers on those performance indicators that have been identified as requiring intervention or not achieving target at the end of quarter 3 (Pages 2 and 3 of appendix 1);
- The detailed commentary provided by officers on those actions that have been identified as requiring intervention or not completed at the end of quarter 3 and agree the date change for action RND 16/17 EN03 to 31st March 2017 and removal of action RND 16/17 SC02 (Pages 3 and 4 of appendix 1);
- The risks that have changed in rating during quarter 3 and the commentary provided by officers (Page 4 of appendix 1);
- Progress against those actions, performance indicators and risks from those service areas that are specifically relevant to the Finance and Policy Committee (Page 5 of appendix 1);
- Key achievements made within quarter 3 in relation to the Committee (Page 6 of appendix 1).

Decision

1. that the overall progress made on the Council Plan 2016/17 for actions, performance indicators and risks at the end of Quarter 3 be noted;
2. that the position in relation to use of RIPA powers be noted;
3. that the detailed commentary provided by officers on those performance indicators that have been identified as requiring

intervention or not achieving target at the end of quarter 3 be noted;

4. that the detailed commentary provided by officers on those actions that have been identified as requiring intervention or not completed at the end of quarter 3 be noted and the date change request for action RND 16/17 EN03 to 31st March 2017 and removal of action RND 16/17 SC02 be approved;
5. that the risks that have changed in rating during quarter 3 and the commentary provided by officers be noted;
6. that progress against the actions, performance indicators and risks and the key achievements from those service areas that are specifically relevant to the Finance and Policy Committee at the end of Quarter 3 be noted;
7. that the progress made on the Council Plan relevant to the other four Policy Committees be noted.

113. Workers Memorial Day *(Director of Finance and Policy)*

Type of decision

Non Key decision.

Purpose of report

The report presented a request from the Hartlepool Joint Trades Union Committee (HJTUC) for the Council to continue to recognise and support Workers Memorial Day on Friday 28 April 2017.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Finance and Policy reported on a letter received from the HJTUC which includes information about arrangements for Workers Memorial Day and sought the Committees support for those.

Decision

1. That approval be given to the promotion of a minutes silence in all public buildings and to Council staff at 12.30pm on Friday 28 April 2017, in remembrance of 'those workers who have lost their lives through industrial accident or disease'.
2. That approval be given to the lowering of flags on public buildings on Friday 28 April 2017.
3. That approval be given to providing assistance in promoting and publicising the event to the wider public

4. That approval be given to the use of Council Premises on Friday 28th April 2017 for the service and for guests before / after the Workers Memorial Day Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony.
5. That the Hartlepool Joint Trades Union Committee be recommended to consider an alternative venue for Workers Memorial Day for 2018.

114. Apprenticeship Levy *(Director of Finance and Policy)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform Members of the implications of the Government's Apprenticeship Levy and how this would impact on the delivery of the Council's Apprenticeship Programme.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Finance and Policy reported that since 2011, the Council had worked in partnership with Hartlepool College of Further Education (HCFE) for the delivery of its Apprenticeship Programme. Under the partnership agreement, HCFE acts as an Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA) and employs the apprentices and places them within the Council who act as a host employer.

From April 2017, the way the Government funds apprenticeships in England was changing significantly and there would be changes to the funding for apprenticeship training for all employers. Details of these changes had only recently been released by the Government and some details were still outstanding. This had made planning for this change difficult.

From April 2017, employers would be required to pay the apprenticeship levy if they were an employer, in any sector, with a pay bill of more than £3 million each year. The levy would be charged at a rate of 0.5% of the annual pay bill. There would be a levy allowance of £15,000 per year to offset against the levy payment. For example, an employer with a £10 million pay bill would pay £35,000 i.e. a levy of £50,000 less the levy allowance of £15,000. The levy is paid to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) through the Pay as You Earn (PAYE) process.

The Director stated that the Council would be required by law to pay a levy set at 0.5% of the pay bill for all of its employees from April 2017. The Government had not funded this additional cost as a new burden, therefore based on an initial assessment of information available at the time, a budget pressure of £280,000 was included in the Medium Term Budget Strategy. To put the scale of this additional pressure into context, a Council tax increase of 1% generates additional income of £350,000.

Following the issue of additional information by the Government, an updated assessment of the levy had been completed and the revised budget pressure is £212,000. The government tops up the levy amount by 10% so the total expected levy credit would be £233,000. This represented the amount that HBC would have available to spend on apprenticeship training from May 2017 to April 2018. Based on the current intake of apprentices in 2016/17, and the training bands they were likely to fall into, the total cost of the training was estimated to be within the expected levy credit of £233,000 for Hartlepool. Financial Modelling had, however, been based on the budget pressure of £280,000. The report went on to outline to Members the effects of the new arrangements on apprentices employed within schools and arrangements for payments.

In order for the Council to continue to offer new Apprenticeship opportunities after April 2017 it would need to employ apprentices directly, manage the Apprenticeship levy and be responsible for all aspects of the Apprenticeship Programme. The Apprenticeship Working Group undertook many aspects of the programme and could continue to manage this work, however, consideration would need to be given to the additional resources required to undertake the activities that are currently delivered by HCFE particularly in relation to HR and Payroll. There would also be resource implications for Adult Education associated with quality assurance to ensure that all apprenticeship programmes meet the standards set by OFSTED.

The Director also reported that the Government consulted on setting a public sector target for the number of apprenticeship starts each year. During the consultation the Local Government Association (LGA) raised concerns that the Government was not providing any additional funding to meet the significant additional costs of the levy. The LGA also raised concerns that the proposal to base the target on headcount rather than number of full time equivalent employees did not reflect the make-up of the local authority workforce which includes significant numbers of part time jobs. Despite these concerns the Government has recently confirmed the intention to set a 2.3% target based on headcount. The requirements regarding this target were still unclear and a further report would be submitted when the government had issued further advice.

To assist employers to manage the levy, in January 2017 a new Digital Apprenticeship Service (DAS) was launched. The DAS is designed to support the uptake of apprenticeships. The Council's in-house provider, Adult Education, is working towards accreditation as a Registered Training Provider under the Digital Apprenticeship Services (DAS) and once approved they will become the Council's preferred supplier for any apprenticeship frameworks they are approved to deliver. Specialist training that cannot be provided by the in-house service will be commissioned externally in accordance with the guidance issued.

The Council's budget included recurring annual funding of £330,000 to fund the salary costs of apprentices. In response to the introduction of the

Apprenticeship Levy, an initial assessment of the cost of the levy was completed and a recurring budget pressure of £280,000 has been included in the budget from 2017/18 onwards. The actual cost of the levy is £212,000, therefore the balance of the funding of £68,000 has been allocated to fund apprenticeship salary costs. Therefore, the total funding available to support apprentices is £610,000.

Members welcomed the bringing in-house the training provision to apprenticeships. There were concerns that some employers were simply taking on apprentices on an annual basis and without retaining any at the end of the year. A Member questioned what level of retention there was in the cohort of apprentices. The Assistant Director, Corporate Services indicated that of the apprenticeships that came to an end in 2016, 73% had led to continued employment with HBC,

- 6 gained permanent employment with HBC – 27%
- 3 secured fixed term contracts with HBC- 14%
- 7 are active on the casual register with HBC – 32%
- 1 gained employment outside of HBC – 5%
- 2 did not complete qualification- 9%, and
- 3 resigned- 13%

A member of the public questioned the gender split of the apprenticeships employed. The Assistant Director indicated that she did not have those figures to hand but would circulate them after the meeting.

Members were concerned at the financial impacts on the authority and the authority's ability to plan for older, experienced members of staff leaving the authority by bringing new staff through. The Chair asked that the implications for HR be explored further with a report setting out if there were any financial implications. The Director believed that while there would be some additional pressure on HR, these could be absorbed at this time.

The Chief Executive added that there was need to review the existing workforce to review whether some additional qualification and up-skilling could ensure continuity of services.

The Chair of the Children's Services Committee questioned the number of apprentices that had been looked after children. While the number was unavailable, the Chief Executive indicated that there had been a number of looked after children that had become apprentices within the council.

The Chair requested that when the Adult Education Service became the training provider, the delivery of training through the community hubs should be examined with a view to as much being provided as possible at these venues.

Decision

1. Committee noted that the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy had

not been funded as ‘new burden’ by the Government and the resulting budget pressure of £280,000 has been built into the 2017/18 budget approved by Council on 23rd February 2017;

2. Committee noted apprentices would continue to be paid apprentice/national minimum wage rate of pay and that this would enable the Council to retain 42 apprentices within the overall cost envelope;
3. Committee noted the HR Organisational Development team would manage the apprenticeship scheme, a role previously undertaken by HCFE;
4. Committee noted the Adult Education Service would be the preferred training provider for any courses they were able to deliver and specialist training would only be commissioned when the in-house service cannot provide.
5. Committee noted that a further report on the implications of the Government’s apprenticeship target would be submitted when more information was available and a detailed financial assessment had been completed.

115. Your Say, Our Future – Findings Report and Next Steps *(Chief Executive)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to provide Committee with the findings report from the Your Say, Our Future exercise and to outline the next steps in taking forward the Your Say, Our Future programme following an internal evaluation of the exercise. The report also outlined how the findings of the Your Say, Our Future exercise had informed the development of the Council’s future priorities as established in the Council Plan 2017/18 - 2019/20, Medium Term Financial Strategy and 5 Year Capital Plan.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Finance and Policy reported that over the summer an exercise had been undertaken to engage with the community and staff about the future of Hartlepool, the Council and the services provided. The summary version of the findings report from the Your Say, Our Future exercise was submitted as appendix 1 to the report with the detailed report at appendix 2.

The report set out details of the numbers involved in the engagement

process and the general feedback received. It was welcoming for officers to hear that many of the priorities the public had were mirrored in the priorities already established within the Council Plan.

The Director indicated that it was proposed that as a Council we build upon the success of the Your Say, Our Future exercise and roll this approach out across the Council. It was proposed that we introduce a planned annual programme of Your Say, Our Future events which continue the Council's move towards a more collaborative style of engagement and this was being reviewed by the Council's Constitution Working Group.

A Member was concerned that part of the feedback referred to the implementation of the Community Hubs by April 2018 when they understood that they were to be in place this year. The Director stated that the Hubs would be in place this year, the 2018 date referred to the point at which all the various services destined for the hubs would be in place. There would need to be a phased migration of some services over the year in order to allow the Hubs and staff to embed fully.

A member of the public questioned the publicity around the Your Say, Our Future events and that the public attendance was in fact exceptionally low when taken as a percentage of the town's population. The Chair commented that the events had been advertised in Hartbeat, in the local press and across social media and the consultation events were the most highly attended the Council had organised.

Decision

The Committee noted: -

1. the findings of the Your Say, Our Future exercise and the intention to roll out the Your Say, Our Future approach across the Council through the introduction of a planned annual programme; and
2. the intention to discuss the Your Say, Our Future programme proposals with the Constitution Working Group.

116. Inspirations Coffee House (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Non-key decision.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to:

- Provide members with a financial update with regard to Inspirations Coffee House as raised under Members Questions at full Council on the 10th December 2015.

- Note the outline proposals going forward with the future development of the Coffee House.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Chair indicated that the submitted report had been discussed in detail at the previous meeting. There had been further ongoing discussions with the Trades Unions and the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods would be asked to update Members on those discussions in the exempt section of the meeting.

A member of the public commented that the feedback he had had from people using the venue had generally been positive. A Councillor sought clarification on some of the figures quoted in the report around 'on costs'. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods provide the clarity requested though accepted that the report could have been clearer.

In order to discuss the issues following consultation with the Trade Unions, the Chair moved the appropriate motion seeking that the meeting move into closed session.

Decision

Further details are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

117. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The Committee noted the next meeting would be held on Monday 27 March, 2017 commencing at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

118. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 119 – Inspirations Coffee House – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely (para. 4) Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour

relations matters arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

- 119. Inspirations Coffee House** (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*) This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely, para. 4.

Type of decision

Non-key decision.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to:

- Provide members with a financial update with regard to Inspirations Coffee House as raised under Members Questions at full Council on the 10th December 2015.
- Note the outline proposals going forward with the future development of the Coffee House.

Issue(s) for consideration

Further details are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

Further details are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

The meeting concluded at 11.40 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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