

REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

17 July 2017

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

Present:

Councillor Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Rob Cook and Jim Lindridge

Officers: Andrew Carter, Assistant Director, Economic Growth and Regeneration
Sarah Scarr, Heritage and Countryside Manager
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

9. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Brenda Loynes and Shane Moore.

10. Declarations of Interest

None.

11. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2017

Received.

12. Church Street Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan *(Assistant Director, Economic Growth and Regeneration)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

Church Street Conservation Area was granted a first round pass by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a Townscape Heritage (TH) Grant Scheme. As part of the Second Round Application submitted to the HLF a Management Plan was required to be submitted. This report provided details of the Church Street Conservation Area Management Plan.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report provided background information in relation to the requirement to produce a Management Plan for the Heritage Lottery Fund together with details of the Church Street Conservation Area Management Plan. The Plan would provide guidance on how the special historical architectural interest of the conservation area could be preserved and enhanced as part of the overarching regeneration strategy.

The Assistant Director outlined the threats to the special interest of the area together with recommendations as to how these should be addressed which included consideration of revising the boundary to the area to include the former GPO building on Whitby Street, the area north of the former Municipal buildings and Library, to incorporate the pocket of land forming their setting, and a small area of land, currently public realm, to the west of Upper Church Street, as shown on a plan attached at Appendix 3.

Members were referred to the Appraisal and Management Plan, attached at Appendix 1. Public consultation events had been held with residents and business owners to discuss the proposals for Church Street and an on-line survey had also been undertaken, the outcome of which was provided.

In response to a question from the Chair in relation to enforcement arrangements, the Heritage and Countryside Manager advised that whilst enforcement powers were available to the Council, in the event that property owners failed to undertake the necessary maintenance works, positive discussions had taken place with business owners which would hopefully avoid such measures. This scheme would also include building maintenance and support advice to assist with prevention and deterioration issues and should result in positive changes to properties. Officers responded to further queries raised in relation to the powers available to prevent further deterioration of buildings as well as the timescales for completion of works.

Members welcomed the report and commented on the conservation and planning considerations of the scheme.

Decision

- (i) That the extension of the conservation area boundary to include the Former GPO Building on Whitby Street, land to the north of the former Municipal Buildings and Library (now CCAD), and land to the west of Upper Church Street, as shown on the plan, attached at Appendix 3, be approved.
- (ii) That the Church Street Conservation Area Management Plan be approved.
- (iii) That the Church Street Conservation Area Appraisal be noted.

13. Carbon Reduction and Climate Change (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

This report considered the motion presented to Council in January 2016 regarding the viability of Hartlepool becoming Carbon Neutral by 2020. The motion stated: -

“That Hartlepool Council sets a strategic goal of being carbon neutral by 2020”

Members agreed that the issue be referred to the Regeneration Services Committee for an environment modelling and a financial business case to be presented to Members before making a final decision.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Assistant Director reported on the background to the definition of Carbon Neutrality and provided information on Government Policy in terms of the requirement to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, as set out in the report. The report included the current position in the Tees Valley Region as well as details of Hartlepool Borough Council's emissions profile. It was noted that the Tees Valley Combined Authority were currently progressing with a number of schemes, details of which were provided.

The Committee was advised that based on the Council's emissions profile and the energy efficiency status of building stock there were no realistic options available to achieve carbon neutrality by 2020. The Council did,

however, need to move toward a low/zero-carbon future by using a combination of methods including considering reducing CO2e emissions and not just offset these by increasing alternative energy production. This would take time and a long term strategy needed to be developed to deliver this in a realistic 20 to 30 year period. Other alternative energy production methods would need to be explored and the potential options were set out in the report.

The Committee discussed the various methods of reducing carbon emissions and the challenges facing the Council in terms of achieving carbon neutrality. The Assistant Director responded to queries raised by Members in relation to current energy efficiency measures and clarified the impact of changes in Government Policy on achieving emissions targets. It was suggested that links with the combined authority be established in terms of information sharing to assist in exploring opportunities in Hartlepool. Emphasis was also placed upon the importance of thinking locally within the Council with a view to implementing car sharing and cycle to work initiatives.

Decision

- (i) That the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods be authorised to explore and develop a strategy to deliver carbon neutrality within an achievable 20 to 30 year timescale.
- (ii) That all options and opportunities available be considered together with the production of a financial plan and an investigation of the availability of external funding for this type of venture.
- (iii) That links with the combined authority be established in terms of information sharing to assist in exploring opportunities in Hartlepool.
- (iv) That car sharing and cycle to work initiatives be explored.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next meeting would be held on Monday 4 September 2017 at 2.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 2.35 pm.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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