

JOINT MEETING FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE AND REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD 23 October 2017

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

Present:

Councillor Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Christopher Akers-Belcher, Stephen Akers-Belcher, Rob Cook, Tim Fleming, Jim Lindridge, Brenda Loynes, Shane Moore and Steve Thomas

Officers: Chris Little, Director of Finance and Policy
Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
Andrew Carter, Assistant Director, Economic Growth and Regeneration
Rob Smith, Principal Regeneration Officer
Julian Heward, Senior Public Relations Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Dave Hunter.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Hartlepool Waterfront (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Key Test (i)

Purpose of report

1. To seek approval for the development of the projects identified within the Hartlepool Waterfront concept masterplan.

2. The report sets out proposals for developing the concept masterplan to the point where planning permission can be secured and the projects can be promoted to public funding bodies and private investors.
3. The report sought Committee approval for:
 - (a) The adoption of the Hartlepool Waterfront concept masterplan as the basis for proceeding with plans for the phased development of the site.
 - (b) The adoption of the Waterfront development brief.
 - (c) Approval to continue development work on the concept scheme including the preparation of additional feasibility work, design work and detailed costings.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Environment Growth and Regeneration outlined the background to the proposals together with the main elements of the masterplan.

Members were referred to the following key elements of the proposals which were considered in detail in the report:-

- Wateractivity Hub - will provide the opportunity to consolidate the many water based activities that currently take place around the Marina into one easy access location with marketing, training and education facilities.
- Creation of an outdoor events arena in the heart of the site will create a platform for hosting a range of temporary activities from markets and street food festivals to exhibitions, naval displays and music shows that will enhance the cultural offer of the area.
- Waterfront Core Visitor Attraction – a new typology of building combining the Hartlepool Museum and flexible exhibitions and events space using the best in digital and virtual reality exhibition technology.
- Expansion of the National Museum of the Royal Navy Hartlepool – the plans include significant investment in their existing site and the creation of new exhibitions and attractions within a new development.
- Site remediation, infrastructure and the first phase of public realm – this will enable development and create a high quality setting for the transformation of the site into a strategic visitor and leisure destination.

A number of steps needed to be taken during the next stage of project development in order to de-risk the proposals. The key activities that would need to be managed were provided, as detailed in the report. As previously reported, the Committee was advised that £680K of development funding

had been secured from the Tees Valley Combined Authority to develop the preferred concept scheme further. A development brief had been prepared, a copy of which was available in the Members' Library.

The report included information in relation to independent tourism research that had been undertaken, details of interim proposals together with the risk, financial and legal considerations.

In the discussion that followed a Member queried the recruitment and funding arrangements for the Projects Officer post and was pleased to note the potential creation of 250-275 jobs if the concept masterplan was delivered. The importance of providing employment opportunities for the people of Hartlepool was also highlighted. The Assistant Director advised that the Projects Officer post would be funded by the Combined Authority, via a local recruitment process, where both internal and external applicants would be invited to apply. Arrangements were in place to encourage as many people as possible from Hartlepool and the surrounding areas to apply for positions of this type.

In response to clarification sought in terms of the strength of the quay walls and contingency plans in place to address any problems, Members were advised that tests had been carried out, the results of which were awaited, and contingency plans would be developed to address any potential issues that may arise.

Given the requirement for public investment to deliver the transformational change, clarification was sought as to the level of funding that would be required. The Assistant Director advised that funding would be sought from various bodies including the Arts Council and Sports England, the details of which would be included in the masterplan.

The Committee welcomed the scheme and commented on the potential benefits for the town as a result. The Chair took the opportunity to thank staff for their hard work and contribution towards taking this scheme forward.

Decision

The Committee approved:-

- (i) The adoption of the Hartlepool Waterfront concept masterplan as the basis for proceeding with plans for the phased development of the site.
- (ii) The adoption of the Waterfront development brief.
- (iii) To continue development work on the concept scheme including the preparation of additional feasibility work, design work and detailed costings and noted that the cost of these works would be funded from the £680K TVCA development funding recently secured and

£64K from the National Museum Resilience Fund previously awarded.

The meeting concluded at 2.15 pm.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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