

JOINT MEETING FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE AND REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD 22 January 2018

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

Present:

Councillor Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Christopher Akers-Belcher, Stephen Akers-Belcher, Alan Clark, Tim Fleming, Marjorie James, Jim Lindridge, Brenda Loynes, Shane Moore, Steve Thomas and Leisa Smith

Officers: Gill Alexander, Chief Executive
Chris Little, Director of Finance and Policy
Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Rob Smith, Principal Regeneration Officer
Steve Hilton, Senior Public Relations Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

4. Apologies for Absence

None

5. Declarations of Interest

None

6. Hartlepool Waterfront Interim Delivery Programme (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Key - Test (i) applies – Forward Plan Ref: RN14/17

Purpose of report

1. To seek support for the delivery of a series of interim projects on the Waterfront site that can be delivered as part of a first phase of development. The projects include an interim public realm scheme

and interim water activity centre.

2. The Regeneration Services Committee is requested to:-
 - (i) Endorse the proposals for the interim public realm scheme and interim water activity centre as a preferred option, subject to a public consultation exercise in February 2018.
 - (ii) That officers proceed with preparatory work that would seek to deliver the interim projects outlined above, including the submission of a planning application, and delegate the approval of any amendments resulting from the public consultation to the Chief Executive, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Chair of the Finance & Policy Committee and the Chair of Regeneration Services Committee.
3. The Finance and Policy Committee is requested to :
 - (i) Approve an allocation of £1.445 million from the regeneration schemes budget that would seek to deliver the interim public realm scheme and interim water activity centre.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods outlined the background to the proposals together with the main elements of the scheme. Development work was currently progressing on each of the key projects identified within the Waterfront master plan and further consultation around the redevelopment of the site was currently being undertaken.

Members were advised that designs had been prepared for a cost-effective interim phase of public realm works to begin the transformation of the Waterfront site. The proposed designs included the creation of a Linear Park and Sculpture Trail around the boundary of the site which would provide much needed green space, a pleasant walking environment and viewing platform for the water-based events in the Marina, whilst the longer term development of the site progressed.

The proposals included the provision of a significant amount of seating around the boundary of the site and a proposed garden area around the Highlight, which would create a destination and a more appropriate setting for the memorial.

Members were referred to the following interim proposals which were considered in detail in the report:-

- Lighting columns/feature lighting
- Large areas of existing block paving to be removed to provide grassed areas

- Interim public realm designs would provide an attractive setting to future development and soften the large unappealing hard landscaped mass of the area.

The draft designs would be the subject of a public consultation in February 2018, details of which were set out in the report. It was proposed that the interim public realm works would commence in September 2018 following the Waterfront Festival and would be completed by April 2019.

Designs were also currently being prepared for a permanent event space to be located within the centre of the Waterfront site. The development of the events space would be the subject of a bid to the Coastal Communities Fund in 2018.

During the consultation on the concept master plan an opportunity was identified to create an interim Waterfront activity centre on the western side of the site. Hartlepool Marina Limited were keen to expand their water activities by using the former Olympic press cabins and containers, details of which were provided. The Marina's proposals aligned with the Waterfront master plan. The proposals were expected to cost £1.445m and it was proposed to allocate the remaining balance of the Regeneration Projects budget to fund this work, a breakdown of which was included in the report.

In relation to the proposals to remove the existing block paving to provide grassed areas in the interim, a Member suggested that the hard standing materials be retained and stored with a view to selling and reusing such materials in the future. A Member, whilst in support of the scheme, commented on the need to consider the potential costs associated with replacing the wooden benches.

The Committee welcomed the scheme and commented on the potential benefits for the town as a result. Members took the opportunity to thank the in-house team for their hard work and contribution towards taking this scheme as well as a number of other schemes forward.

Decision

- (i) That the proposals for the interim public realm scheme and interim water activity centre as a preferred option, subject to a public consultation exercise in February 2018, be endorsed.
- (ii) That officers proceed with preparatory work that would seek to deliver the interim projects outlined in sections 4 and 5 of the report, including the submission of a planning application, and delegate the approval of any amendments, resulting from the public consultation to the Chief Executive, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Chair of Finance and Policy Committee and Chair of Regeneration Services Committee.

- (iii) In accordance with the authority delegated by Council within the approved MTFS for 2017/18 the Joint Committee:-
 - (a) Approved the proposals, detailed in the table in 7.4 of the report to use the £1.445m balance of the Regeneration Projects Budget to fund the cost of the interim public realm scheme and interim water activity centre.
 - (b) Noted that this would fully commit the remaining balance of the Regeneration Projects Fund.
- (iv) That the comments of Members, as detailed above, in relation to the re-use of materials and the potential costs associated with replacing the wooden benches be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.20 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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