

REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

23 July 2020

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and was an online remote meeting in compliance with the Council Procedure Rules Relating to the holding of Remote Meetings and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Present:

Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher (In the Chair)

Councillors: Paddy Brown, Tom Cassidy, Jim Lindridge, Ann Marshall and Leisa Smith

Also Present: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.4;
Councillor Cameron Stokell was in attendance as substitute for
Councillor Brenda Loynes

Councillors Lee Cartwright, Mike Young and Tony Richardson

Officers: Denise McGuckin, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Kieran Bostock, Interim Assistant Director, Place Management
Rebecca Cockburn, Planning Policy Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Brenda Loynes.

2. Declarations of Interest

None at this point in the meeting. However, Councillor C Akers-Belcher declared a personal interest later in the meeting (Minute 6 refers).

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2020

Received

4. Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document *(Assistant Director, Economic Growth and Regeneration)*

Type of decision

Part of Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

To inform the Regeneration Services Committee of the results from the targeted consultation on the Draft Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that was consulted on between Friday 7th February 2020 and Friday 17th April 2020 and to seek approval for the amended SPD (**Appendix 3**) to be reported to full Council for adoption.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report provided background information to the development of the draft green infrastructure SPD. The updated document, attached at Appendix 3, had been produced to reflect updates in local and national policy and had been amended to reflect comments made by consultees.

Members were advised of the consultation process together with an update on the outcome of the consultation, details of which were included in the report. It was noted that the comments received, as part of the consultation process, had been considered and fed into the SPD, where appropriate.

In response to assurances sought as to whether any proposed planning legislative changes by Central Government would impact upon the proposals, the Committee was advised that the SPD had been produced using the latest guidelines from Natural England and input from the Council's Ecology Officer who was up to date on such changes.

A query was raised in terms of whether Newark Road and Greatham Beck were included as priority sites for ecological enhancement and improvement. The Planning Policy Officer indicated that clarification in relation to this issue would be provided following the meeting.

The Committee agreed the following recommendations with no dissent.

Decision

- (i) That following public consultation, the revised Green Infrastructure SPD, attached at Appendix 3, be agreed and the revised SPD be submitted to full Council for adoption.
- (ii) That clarification in response to the issues raised around priority sites for ecological enhancement and improvement be provided following the meeting.

5. Public Rights of Way and Other Access Supplementary Planning Document *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Part of Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

To inform the Regeneration Services Committee of the results from the targeted consultation on the Draft Public Rights of Way and Other Access Supplementary Planning Document (PRoW SPD) that was consulted on between Friday 7th February 2020 and Friday 17th April 2020 and to seek approval for the amended SPD (**Appendix 3**) to be reported to full Council for adoption.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report provided background information to the development of a new PRoW (SPD), an updated copy of which was attached at Appendix 3.

Members were advised of the consultation process together with an update on the outcome of the consultation, details of which were included in the report. It was highlighted that the comments received, as part of the consultation process, had been considered and fed into the SPD, where appropriate.

The Committee agreed the following recommendation with no dissent.

Decision

That following public consultation, the revised Public Rights of Way and Other Access SPD, attached at Appendix 3, be agreed and the revised SPD be submitted to full Council for adoption.

6. Strategic Outcomes Pathways for Culture *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To propose the progression of a strategic outcomes pathways for culture that will inform the priorities for the sector in Hartlepool, ensure sustainable recovery from COVID 19 and develop a vision for the town.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods presented the report on behalf of the Director of Adults and Community Based Services, which provided background information to the development of a strategic outcomes pathway which would be used to inform, progress and connect key cultural programmes already identified as being delivered/developed in the future development of the waterfront cultural events space. The report included an update in relation to the current position around the development of a strategic leisure facility, the commissioning of a community art/sculpture, refurbishment of the Headland Amphitheatre and the Borough Hall, Town Hall Theatre, Art Gallery improvement programme and the application to host the Tall Ships 2023 event.

It was reported that Councillors Stokell and Brown had not received a copy of the additional reports that had been circulated separately from the main agenda papers which the Chair suggested be circulated following the meeting.

A Member commented on the benefits to the town in terms of hosting the 2023 Tallships event and the commissioning of a community arts/sculpture.

At the point in the meeting, the Chair declared a personal interest in this item of business, as a Board Member of the National Museum of the Royal Navy, who would be involved in the consultation process.

Decision

- (i) The Committee noted the Strategic Outcomes Pathways for Culture Framework proposals.
- (ii) That additional reports, circulated separately from the main agenda papers, be circulated to Councillors Stokell and Brown following the meeting.

7. Private Rented Sector Condition Stock Survey Linked to Student Accommodation *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To seek Members approval to commission a private rented stock condition survey which would include student accommodation.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report set out the background to the challenges facing town centre retailing and the vision from Central Government to urgently repopulate and refashion high streets and town centres as “community hubs”. A Town Board had recently been set up to improve partnerships and communications with business leaders and the wider community to build more capacity for making change in the town. Growing the existing, or developing new, town centre residential populations would have a helpful effect on the viability of town centre businesses and retail, and create opportunities for new businesses catering to the needs and demands of a residential population.

Reference was made to the town centre masterplan, the role of the private rented sector in terms of the proposals as well as details of the outcome of a recent student accommodation needs assessment. It was noted that funding to commission a private rented stock condition survey had yet to be identified and, in order to capture views from students, it was proposed a consultation survey be undertaken, details of which were included in the report.

Following presentation of the report, the Chair commented on the importance of good quality student accommodation which would complement the Town Deal to reinvigorate the town centre and suggested

that this form part of future considerations. It was also agreed that the study to be commissioned would also look at location of student accommodation either as a public investment, public/private investment or a private investment.

The Committee agreed the following recommendations with no dissent.

Decision

- (i) That the contents of the report and comments of Members be noted.
- (ii) That a desktop survey be undertaken to identify the number of students living in private rented sector accommodation and a survey be undertaken to capture their views.
- (iii) It was noted that the Council was unable to carry out a physical rented sector condition survey for the foreseeable future, however, this would be included within the Council Plan when time allowed.
- (iv) That further work was required to estimate the costs of the survey and this would be completed over the summer with a view to including this in the December MTFs proposals to be considered by Finance and Policy Committee.
- (v) That the study to be commissioned would also look at location of student accommodation either as a public investment, public/private investment or a private investment.

The meeting concluded at 2.30 pm.

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 30 JULY 2020