

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

14th November 2006

Present:

Councillor Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Transportation Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Brash was also in attendance and was given permission to speak on minute 66 below.

Residents of Mountson Close were in attendance and were given a verbal update on the position in relation to the Thoroughfare Policy.

Dr Pickens was in attendance and was given permission to speak on minute 54 below.

Officers: Mike Blair, Transportation and Traffic Manager
Steve Hilton, Assistant Public Relations Officer
John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services
Pat Usher, Sport and Recreation Manager
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

54. Town Wide Condition Survey of Allotments (*Director of Adult and Community Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To advise on current inspection findings. The report advised that during the first week of September each allotment plot had been visited and a brief report on the condition of each had been taken together with a photograph.

Issue(s) consideration by the Portfolio Holder

The report advised that of the sixteen allotment sites in the town, two sites had been deemed to not need to be covered, ie Waverley Terrace and Briarfields due to them still being re-developed. A summary of findings, covering 1007 plots was outlined in the report and in a detailed table attached as appendix 1.

The Portfolio Holder was advised that the survey had identified a comprehensive condition overview of the allotment estates which would assist targeted investment and identified allotment holders to be contacted with regard to either improve or risk eviction. Actions taken to date and future plans were outlined.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:

- (i) noted the findings of the annual inspection.
- (ii) supported the concerted effort being made to secure a rolling programme of improvements to the allotment infrastructure and thanked the Assistant Director and the teams involved for the work undertaken.

55. Adult and Community Services Diversity Report (Director of Adult and Community Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To report progress made in respect of the Adult and Community Services (A&CS) Diversity Action Plan, which forms part of the Corporate Race Equality Scheme.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report provided details of the Council's progress in respect of the actions planned to promote diversity. Some key achievements included:

- (a) the appointment of a Disability Sports Officer on 5th June 2005 who had made significant steps in progressing this agenda. A number of cultural events had been arranged including 'Faces of Asia – Through The Eyes of exhibition at the Art Gallery and the Fireworks Display this year had a Bollywood theme, and
- (b) completion of the review of the Library Vehicle Services which included an assessment of how the services are delivered to those with special needs, who find visiting a library difficult. The report

indicated that ethnicity recording in all adult social care was now close to 100% and that Adult and Community Services were by far the major users of the Tees Valley Communication Interpretation service.

A full progress report on actions identified was attached at Appendix A.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder endorsed the report and noted progress with the Action Plan.

56. Community Sports Coach Scheme Application (Director of Adult and Community Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder regarding a grant application to the national Community Sports Coach Scheme to provide two part-time Community Coaches to work at a local level in Hartlepool.

A Stage 1 application had been submitted for two part-time Community Sports Coaches working within two specific areas of identified need in Hartlepool. It was proposed that, subject to the application being successful, both Coaches would be employed on a fixed term contract for a period of two years. The first would be within the area of disability sport where the Community Sports Coach would further enhance the work of the Disability Sports Officer within the Sports Development Team. The second post would be to provide a multi-sports coach to work specifically on developing new activities and sessions within Leisure Centres and Community Centres.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report contained detailed information relating to the background to the application, the Posts, the Development Programme and the anticipated outcomes. The financial implications were also outlined.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the actions to date and commented that the proposed posts would be of great benefit to the community, the first in the area of disability sports and the second to encourage the channelling of energies into new sporting activities in the town's Leisure and Community Centres.

57. Community Sports Network – Application for Funding *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder regarding a grant application via Sport England to the national Community Investment Fund to provide a Community Sports Network Co-ordinator and through that, establish a Community Sports Network in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report provided background information and described in detail the proposed development of the Community Sports Network together with the intended duties and responsibilities of the Community Sports Network Co-ordinator, should the application be successful. The anticipated benefits were outlined in the report and an initial thought on how the Community Sports Network model could look for Hartlepool was attached at Appendix A.

The financial implications were outlined as follows:

The CIF funding application is a two-stage approach and with the outcome of our Stage 1 application being known towards the end of November 2006, a Stage 2 submission would then be made with a final decision taken by the Regional Sports Board in January 2007.

The available funding could amount to 75% of total costs over a three-year period. With cost details still yet to be finalised as part of the Stage 2 submission, it would be likely that funding of approximately £83,094 could be elicited for the post and a development fund, spread over a three year period.

As the Community Investment Fund only provides a maximum of 75% funding towards total project revenue costs, match funding of £27,698 (approximately £9,233 per year) would need to be provided. This had been highlighted as a budgetary pressure for the Department as part of the 2007/08 Budget setting process. It would however be a significant opportunity for Hartlepool to gain tremendous benefit from a relatively low level of investment.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder indicated that he would give full support in the budgetary process to try to progress the plans to establish a Community Sports Network in Hartlepool via the creation of a new post, subject to a grant award.

58. Green Exercise Co-ordinator Bid *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder regarding a green exercise project for Hartlepool being considered for Big Lottery Fund (BIG), Health and Well Being Funding. The bid was being co-ordinated by the Countryside Agency on behalf of Natural England and builds on the success of the "Walking the Way to Health" Initiative.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report gives an indication of the intended use of this funding, should the application be successful.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder gave approval to the project and the actions to date.

59. Operational Hours for Hartlepool's Maritime Experience *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide the Portfolio Holder with proposals regarding changes to operational hours at Hartlepool's Maritime Experience.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report focused on the requirement to identify efficiencies in the operation of Hartlepool's Maritime Experience. The increase of hours during peak periods and reduction in opening hours during off peak periods.

Decision

The Portfolio holder approved the revised operational hours of Hartlepool's Maritime Experience.

60. Proposed Admission Charges for Hartlepool's Maritime Experience 2007/08 (*Assistant Director (Community Services)*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide the Portfolio Holder with details of the proposed review of charges for Hartlepool's Maritime Experience for 2007/08.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report focused on the percentage increase to admission charges for Hartlepool's Maritime Experience and extending the local residents offer. A table of current and proposed prices, with percentage increase, was attached as Appendix 1

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:

- (a) approved the revised admission charges for Hartlepool's Maritime Experience for 2007/08, and
- (b) approved the extension of local residents' admission to a year round offer.

61. Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 – 2nd Quarter Monitoring Report (*Director of Adult and Community Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 in the first half of the year.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The progress against the actions contained in the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2006/07, and the second quarter outturns of key performance indicators.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the achievement of actions and indicators.

62. Newburn Bridge – Local Safety Scheme (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the proposals to implement road safety measures on Newburn Bridge.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the background to the scheme, the proposals put forward and the financial implications. A plan of the area of attached as an appendix.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder agreed the need for action in this area and approved the implementation of the scheme.

63. West View Road Slip Road – Proposed One Way Street (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the introduction of a one way street on West View Road slip road.

Issue(s) considered by Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the background to the request, the consultation undertaken and the recommended course of action.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the introduction of the one way street as detailed in the report.

64. Business Parking Bays – Tankerville Street (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To consider removing a business permit parking bay in Tankerville Street to accommodate access demands.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report outlines the background and considers the consequences of the request. A plan of the area was attached as an appendix.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the request to remove and relocate the business permit bay from its current location to the north side of Tankerville Street to replace an existing resident parking bay and asked that the resident who had raised the issue be advised of the decision and timescale.

65. York Road Highway Improvements – Phase 1 (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval to carry out the proposed highway improvements to York Road from the junction of Park Road to the junction of Lister Street.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided information on policy context, results of public consultation and details of the proposed works. Two options were outlined in the report, with the financial implications for each.

Attached as appendices were a summary of comments, on options 1 and 2, from the public consultation event held on 26th October 2006 and plans of the area.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder gave approval to carry out the proposed highway improvements in York road between Park Road and Lister Street detailed in Option 1.

66. Eamont Gardens – Request for Traffic Calming (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To consider a request for traffic calming to be provided in Eamont Gardens.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report details the action requested, the investigations into the request and the recommended course of action. An appendix to the report listed locations throughout the town, the number of accidents that had occurred, speeds recorded, special circumstances and order of priority for funding.

Councillor Brash, who had made the original request for investigation into the possibility of traffic calming measures in Eamont Gardens, advised that he had held a lot of discussion with local residents on this issue. He indicated that there had been one bad incident but accepted that there were higher priority roads. He advised of the number of parked cars, the road being used as a thoroughfare and the danger to children if stepping out behind parked cars. He advocated that it would be better to do something now and a more strategic look at the whole issue was needed. He emphasised the need for the authority to take a decision on what the purpose of roads such as Eamont Gardens is; are they residential roads or main roads. Councillor Brash added that "the feeling of residents and myself is that with increased and unrestricted traffic the move is now toward the latter and that has real negative implications for the community". Further discussion took place and the Head of Technical Services indicated that he would welcome further discussion on the issue with Councillor Brash.

The Portfolio Holder and Councillor Brash thanked the officers for the work undertaken on this issue.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder requested that Eamont Gardens be added to the local safety scheme priority list at position 15.

67. Revised Fares Stagecoach Supported Bus Contracts (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval from the Portfolio Holder to apply revised fares on the Council's supported Stagecoach contracted bus services.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided details of revised fares on Stagecoach services.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder gave approval to apply revised fares on the Council's supported Stagecoach contracted bus services.

68. Beach Lifeguard Season 2006 (*Director of Adult and Community Services*)

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the Beach Lifeguard Season for 2006.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report advised that this season was the most successful to date, with the lifeguards winning the North East Beach Lifeguard Competition and two members of the team receiving 'certificates of commendation' from the RLSS for a rescue they conducted the previous season. Lifeguards were recruited using a range of advertising with all post filled. A full list of incident statistics for Seaton Carew and Headland beaches was included in the report. There were 6 reported aquatic incidents and 1,280 reported other incidents varying from minor first aid to giving general safety advice.

The lifeguards safety cover for the Hartlepool Triathlon Swim event at the Marina was described and future developments and some acknowledgements were outlined in the report.

The Portfolio Holder requested that signage at Seaton Carew beach in relation to dogs with owners in ban areas be increased. He also expressed concern at the number of incidents of people consuming alcohol in the Headland beach areas and the safety of the lifeguards.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder notes the report on the Lifeguard Season 2006 and congratulated the Lifeguards on their awards and the work undertaken.

69. Boat Owners Association Petition Regarding the Heugh Breakwater (Head of Technical Services)

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To record the concerns contained in a petition received by The Mayor containing 2000 names from friends and members of the Boat Owners Association objecting to the removal of any part of the Heugh Breakwater or the continued failure to maintain the structure.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The detailed report to the Portfolio Holder outlined the history of the Heugh Breakwater and studies that have been undertaken over a period of time together with their conclusions. Key issues, discussion that had taken place and a report that had been made to Cabinet on 27th February 2006 were also included in the report.

The legal position and financial implications were also outlined in the report. In the conclusions of the report the following was indicated:

- The Heugh Breakwater is wholly owned by PD Ports;
- The Strategy Study recommends that in 5 to 10 years implement upgrading of the Heugh if justified and consider reduction in length. Upgrade the seawalls along Block Sands with toe scour protection;
- Any major repairs to the outer third would be very costly and disproportionate to preserving the coast by implementing local schemes on the affected frontages;
- Central Government funds would not be available for any capital refurbishment scheme.

The contents of the petition raised the safety issues associated with the retention of the outer third of the Heugh Breakwater and the very serious implications for capital budgets if the petition is actioned.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the report. He commented that it was incredible that the consultants could say that one third of the structure was not needed but agreed that the Council could not make available funding in the order of £9m for the necessary works.

70. Houghton Street – Residents Parking Scheme (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To consider a petition request from residents of Houghton Street to create residents only parking restrictions.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report outlined the requests and details the progress and options.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder note progress on the current consultation process.

71. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2006/2007 2nd Quarter Monitoring Report (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 in the first two quarters of the year.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

A detailed report was provided on the progress against the actions contained in the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 and the first two quarters outturns of key performance indicators.

The Head of Technical Services gave a verbal explanation of Table 2 of the report relating to NS043 and NS045.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the achievement of key actions and second quarter outturns of performance indicators.

72. Local Government Access to Information

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 it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 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 73 – Town Moor Bowls Pavilion, Headland, Hartlepool (Para 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

73. Town Moor Bowls Pavilion, Headland, Hartlepool

(Assistant Director (Community Services))

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To obtain Portfolio Holder approval to the proposed lease of the above premises.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the background to the proposal for Boys Brigade Old Boys Rugby football Club to take a lease of the Town Moor Bowls Pavilion to provide changing facilities. The report also contained a summary of the proposed terms. The Portfolio Holder was advised that the Performance Management Portfolio Holder would also receive a report requesting approval to the proposed lease and the terms of the lease.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder supported the project in the terms indicated in the report.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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