

REGENERATION, LIVEABILITY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

17th November 2006

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond), Regeneration, Liveability and Housing Portfolio Holder.

Officers: Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services
Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Ralph Harrison, Head of Public Protection and Housing
Tony Brown, Chief Solicitor
Denise Ogden, Acting Head of Environmental Management
Gemma Clough, Principal Regeneration Officer
Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services, Regeneration and Planning
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Also Present

Sarah Diggle, CPA Inspector

39. Dyke House/Stranton/Grange Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update *(Head of Regeneration)*

Type of decision

Key - Test (ii) applies

Purpose of report

To seek endorsement of the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update for the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange area.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report described the contents of the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP), including the background to NAPs and the consultation undertaken to develop the NAP. The report also identified the implementation procedure, the financial implications and described the future residents summary pamphlet which would be produced.

A copy of the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange NAP was included as an appendix to the report.

The Portfolio Holder asked how the findings from the consultation with the community was fed back into the community. The Principal Regeneration Officer indicated that a new sletter had been circulated to all households in the Dyke House, Stranton and Grange areas which included an overview of the community conference and the findings. The Portfolio Holder questioned whether public involvement was increasing in light of all the consultation undertaken. The Principal Regeneration Officer responded that public involvement was increasing with a lot of residents being involved, although ways of improving this were constantly being looked at.

Decision

That the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update for the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange area be endorsed.

40. Minor Works Proposals, Neighbourhood Consultative Forums *(Acting Head of Neighbourhood Management)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To consider recommendations of Neighbourhood Consultative Forums in respect of minor grant works.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report set out the Minor Works proposals considered by the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums. The following schemes were proposed:

North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

- i) Sandbanks Drive Verge Works – removal of grass verge, infill with tarmac - £4,296.
- ii) Winterbottom Avenue Verge Works – removal of grass verge, infill with tarmac - £27,520
- iii) Throston Grange Estate – tarmac overlay of 32 parking areas - £4,500
- iv) Pine/Ivy Grove – tarmac overlay of 16 parking areas - £3,000
- v) St Hilda's Echo Group – bulb planting project - £200
- vi) St Hilda's Church – replacement of existing landscape - £1,500.

Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

- vii) Stephen Street – installation of alleygate notice boards - £400.
- viii) Landsdowne Road – replacement of street lighting columns - £6,000.
- ix) Waverley Terrace – demolition of allotment plots - £5,000
- x) Morton Street – blocking of circular shrub bed with tree planted in the centre - £950.
- xi) Brenda Road – aesthetic improvements to roundabout - £2,410
- xii) Hart Lane/Dunston Road – planting of crocus bulbs - £540.

South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

- xiii) Queen Street – removal of existing shrub beds and planting of crocus bulbs - £626.
- xiv) Hill View – erection of 6 street light columns - £5,000
- xv) Gillpark Grove – erection of 6 street light columns - £5,000.
- xvi) Wyryard Road – tarmacing of grass verge - £5,125

The Portfolio Holder commented that it was pleasing to see so many schemes coming forward for funding through the minor works budget and asked what budget was remaining. The Acting Head of Environmental Management indicated that there was £33,000 remaining across all three areas of the town, but that this amount would be allocated to various schemes across the town at the next round of Neighbourhood Consultative Forums.

Decision

That the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums be approved.

41. Quality Coast Awards *(Head of Public Protection and Housing)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the introduction of a new national scheme, 'The Quality Coast Awards' which will replace the seaside awards in 2007.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Environmental organisation Encams (formerly Tidy Britain Group) has developed a new beach award scheme 'The Quality Coast Awards'. This will replace the Seaside Awards in 2007. The new awards will have several categories, details of which were given in the report. The annual European Blue Flag Awards will continue to run in addition to the new scheme.

The Head of Public Protection and Housing advised that there had been a significant delay in the launch of the Quality Awards and insufficient time had been given for full consideration as to which awards should be looked at for the Hartlepool coastline. In the circumstances it was felt it might be preferable that an application be made to the European 'Blue Flag' awards as they had been in place for a long time and were well established 'quality marks' of beaches in terms of public perception. At the end of the 2007 bathing season the matter could be reviewed and a decision made whether or not to apply for the new Encams award.

The Portfolio Holder commented that the Blue Flag award was a prestigious award to receive and asked how this was applied for. The Head of Public Protection and Housing indicated that although it was a complicated process to apply for, the Authority had applied before setting out what Seaton Carew has to offer. It was noted that, although the Authority was not informed at the time, Seaton Carew had been inspected earlier this year and the results would be announced in February 2007.

Decision

That an application be made for the European 'Blue Flag' award for the 2007 bathing water season.

42. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 – 2nd Quarter Monitoring Report *(Director of Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

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

The Departmental Plan Update set out the department's aims and objectives and included performance to the end of September against a range of key national and local indicators. This showed that all the actions the Portfolio Holder was responsible for had been completed or were on target. Of the 83 performance indicators the Portfolio Holder was responsible for only 2 were not expected to be achieved. These related to the number of houses cleared in HMR intervention area and the number of new homes constructed in HMR intervention area.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services added that in relation to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, the targets set had been reached and this responsibility was now embedded into the Department's service delivery.

The Portfolio Holder acknowledged that whilst all targets would not be met within the required timescale, the two remaining performance indicators would be completed.

Decision

That the achievement on actions and indicators be noted

43. Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 – Quarter 2 Monitoring Report *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 in the second quarter of the year.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Departmental Plan Update set out the Department's aims and objectives and included performance to the end of September against a range of key national and local indicators. This showed that 23 of the 142 key actions had not been or would not be completed on target. The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services explained that the vast majority had suffered only slight delay and would be completed within 2006/07. The delays were due to the complexity of the work being undertaken, the requirement to fully involve key partners and stakeholders, external delays or the difficulty in forecasting accurate dates several months in advance. It was further noted that six of the key actions were not expected to be completed in 2006/07. These related to the evidence base for the new Local Development Framework, the development of the Heugh Gun Battery Visitor Facilities and principally assistance to facilitate and support Hartlepool College of Further Education bringing forward development proposals. The circumstances related to each of these were discussed relating mainly to changed circumstances beyond the Council's control or managed adjustment in timing.

The Portfolio Holder was also informed that 7 of the 101 performance indicators were not expected to be completed on target. The reasons for these and the measures in place to address them where appropriate were discussed.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that joint working with Cleveland Fire Authority was underway to ensure funding was available to reduce the number of deliberate fires. Joint working was also being undertaken with the Police and other agencies in relation taking action when large quantities of rubbish were found that were deemed to be at risk from deliberate fires.

The Portfolio Holder noted that the Fire Service had been more stretched than before on bonfire night. The Director of Neighbourhood Services indicated that a multi-agency approach had been introduced with the Police and Fire Service in order to be pro-active in preventing this type of incident. The Chief Solicitor added that, although not yet in force, there would be new legislation introduced in due course, relating to people who interfered with emergency workers.

Some of the key achievements in the first half of the year were also outlined including:

- The Drugs Intervention Programme performance
- The Investment Prospectus publication
- The completion of the Best Value Review on Strengthening Communities
- The Youth Offending Service performance
- The CPO inquiries outcomes
- The draft Community Strategy preparation
- The recognition regionally of Hartlepool Quays
- The performance of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership as commended by GO-NE.

The Portfolio Holder discussed projects generally and summarised this as excellent.

Decision

That the achievement of key actions and second quarter outturn of performance information be noted.

44. Petition against closure of Footpaths, Fens Estate (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To advise on the receipt of a 1000-name petition against the closure of footpaths and a back street on the Fens Estate.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

A petition, signed by 1,000 residents of the Fens Estate, had been received by the authority objecting to the closure of two footpath links at Brandon Close and Aldeburgh Close and the closure of the back street at Upton Walk. The Head of Technical Services indicated that the petition was available for the Portfolio Holder's consideration at the meeting.

The Culture, Leisure and Transportation Portfolio Holder had previously agreed to the principle of applying to the Magistrates Court for the closure of the footpath links. Any member of the public could object to the court if the advertising stage was reached and at this point the petition would be submitted on behalf of the objectors.

In addition a consultation exercise had been carried out with the residents of Upton Street as to their desire for the gating of their back street, with a 9/2 vote in favour of gating being received by those who replied. This application would be subject to the new Thoroughfare Policy requirements before consideration could be given to the erection of a gate. No funding had yet been identified for the proposed closures.

The Portfolio Holder asked that the recently introduced Policy in relation to the closure of thoroughfares be forwarded to the person who instigated the petition. The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that, to date, no applications for the closure of thoroughfares had been received.

Decision

That receipt of the petition against the closure of footpaths at Brandon Close, Aldeburgh Close and the back street at Upton Walk be acknowledged.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 23rd November 2006