

# REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

## DECISION RECORD

20<sup>th</sup> March 2006

### **Present:**

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Officers: Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning  
Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention  
Chris Barlow, Principal Community Strategy Officer  
Genevieve Parker, Principal Regeneration Officer  
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

The Portfolio Holder declared a non-prejudicial interest in the following item in relation to the Cool Project and his role as a Committee Member of the Belle Vue Community, Sports and Youth Centre.

### **51. Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) Programme 2006-08** (*Head of Community Strategy*)

#### **Type of decision**

Key decision - test (ii).

#### **Purpose of report**

To seek agreement to the Education and Community Safety NRF 2006-08 Programmes.

#### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report indicated that in July 2005 Government Office had announced that Hartlepool would continue to receive NRF for a further two years. Hartlepool would receive £4,830,926 in 2006/07 and a further £4,375,218 in 2007-08. A number of projects had been agreed, in principle, across a range of themes, by the Hartlepool Partnership in December 2005 and by the Portfolio Holder in January 2006 and work was underway by partners to compile full appraisal forms to be agreed by Theme Partnerships.

The Portfolio Holder was advised that the Hartlepool Partnership had agreed that Education be allocated £925,000 and the Community Safety Theme £2.4m for 2006 to 2008.

The report provided further information relating to the Education Theme and a recommendation that the funding for improving education, as in previous years, would be designated to Direct Schools Funding (£396,000 in 2006/07 and £344,000 in 2007/08) and General Projects (£99,000 in 2006/07 and £86,000 in 2007/08). This broadly reflected the split in previous years and had been agreed in consultation with schools.

The report also provided further detailed information relating to the Community Safety Theme, including the funding allocated for 2006/07 and 2007/08 to the following;

- The Community Safety Grant Pool
- The COOL Project
- The Families Accessing Services Team (FAST)
- The Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE) programme
- Neighbourhood Policing / Environmental Enforcement Team

Also, the Principal Community Strategy Officer advised that funding for the Landlord Accreditation Scheme had been reviewed and its continuation had been recommended.

The report indicated, under the financial and risk management considerations, that the Council and the Hartlepool Partnership would benefit from significant additional financial resources to 2008. The funding had enabled successful elements of the current NRF programme to continue although the mainstreaming of interventions into partners core budgets was increasingly becoming more important and would be critical in 2008.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder endorsed the decision of the Hartlepool Partnership Board by agreeing to the priorities for NRF funding for the Education and Community Safety Themes.

## **52. Neighbourhood Element 2006-10** (*Head of Community Strategy*)

### **Type of decision**

Key decision - test (ii).

### **Purpose of report**

- (a) To advise the Portfolio Holder of the priority theme chosen in Burbank and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange.
- (b) To request agreement to focussing the Owton Neighbourhood Element on Strengthening Communities, and
- (c) to request agreement to the recommended approach to flexibly managing Neighbourhood Element in North Hartlepool NAP area, as agreed by the Hartlepool Partnership on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report advised that in summer 2005 it had been announced that Hartlepool was eligible for the new Neighbourhood Element Fund. In total Hartlepool would receive £1,599,600 over 4 years. Years 3 and 4 were subject to confirmation in the 2006 Spending Review. The funding is tapered to encourage areas to sustain the approach beyond the ODPM funding assuming it makes a difference.

The Portfolio Holder and the Hartlepool Partnership Board had previously agreed that the funding be focussed on the four qualifying NAP neighbourhoods of North Hartlepool (Brus, St Hilda Wards), Dyke House/Stranton/Grange, Burbank and Owton. It had been agreed that local forums in each NAP area would focus the funding on one particular theme such as community safety, lifelong learning, education, worklessness, housing, environment or health.

The Portfolio Holder was advised that the Burbank Forum had taken the decision in October 2005 to focus their Neighbourhood Element (NE) funding on tackling health issues in Burbank. The Dyke House/Stranton/Grange Consultative Group had decided that they would focus their NE funding upon improving Community Safety. The Owton Forum had agreed that they would focus their NE funding on Strengthening Communities/Connected Care.

The report outlined the ongoing development of the North Hartlepool NAP and the need for flexibility to reflect local concerns. The Principal Community Strategy Officer gave an oral update, advising that although the report had indicated a report was to be taken to the North Hartlepool Consultative Forum on the development and monitoring of the NAP, this would no longer happen as further consultation was to be undertaken with Councillors. It had been recommended that each area (Central Estate, Headland, West View/King Oswy) be allocated a proportion of the NE to prioritise on one particular theme. A progress report would be brought to the Portfolio Holder.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder:

- noted the priority theme chosen in Burbank and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange
- agreed to focussing the Owton Neighbourhood Element on Strengthening Communities
- agreed the recommended approach of flexibly managing Neighbourhood Element in North Hartlepool NAP area and noted the need for further consultation with Councillors, etc.

## **53. North Hartlepool Neighbourhood Action Plan** (*Head of Regeneration*)

### **Type of decision**

Key decision - test (ii).

### **Purpose of report**

To seek endorsement of the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) for the North Hartlepool area (Brus and St Hilda Wards).

### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report described the contents of the North Hartlepool Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP), including the background to NAPs and the consultation undertaken to develop the NAP. Considerable work with residents, young people, Councillors, community and voluntary groups and services providers had informed the development of the North Hartlepool NAP.

A copy of the North Hartlepool NAP was included as an appendix to the report.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder endorsed the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) for the North Hartlepool area.

## **54. Newcastle University Student Project Strategy for Improving Accessibility and Linkages to the Town Centre and Marina** (*Head of Regeneration*)

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

To seek agreement to a project by students from Newcastle University.

### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report set out in brief the outline project, which had been set for the students, to be based on a strategy for improving the accessibility and connectivity of the Town Centre, the Marina and Victoria Harbour. The Portfolio Holder asked that the Railway Station area be examined as part of the study.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder confirmed the commissioning of the work to be undertaken by Newcastle University.

The Portfolio Holder declared a non-prejudicial interest in the following item in relation to the Cool Project and his role as a Committee Member of the Belle Vue Community, Sports and Youth Centre.

## **55. Support for Unite Ltd and Cool Project (*Head of Community Safety and Prevention*)**

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval to provide financial assistance to UNITE Mediation Ltd and the COOL project, in partnership with Housing Hartlepool.

### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report to the Portfolio Holder detailed information about UNITE Mediation Limited and the COOL Project and outlined the history of Council involvement with the projects.

The financial implications were also outlined in the report.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder

- (a) approved the continued financial support for UNITE Mediation Ltd.
- (b) approved the request from the COOL Steering Group for financial support, and
- (c) approved the proposed cost split as one third Housing Hartlepool and two thirds HBC for both UNITE and COOL services.

## **56. The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 1998** *(Assistant Director - Planning and Economic Development)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

To update the Portfolio Holder of the position in respect of Building Control charge levels and to seek agreement for the proposed new charges with effect from 1 April 2006.

### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report advised that the Local Government Association (LGA) had produced a model scheme of charges and in the past has produced annual guidance levels for charges. However, the LGA had decided not to produce guidance this year, one of the reasons being that individual authorities have changing circumstances and needs which results in increasing difficulty in maintaining national uniformity. The charges Regulations require authorities to set charges at such a level to cover their relevant costs and as this Authority's current charge levels are in accordance with the last guidance issued, together with the fact that the authority has achieved compliance in respect of the requirement for recovery of costs, it was proposed that the charges be increased by 3% to reflect an inflationary increase.

A copy of the HBC Building Control Charges Scheme 2006 – 2007 was attached as an appendix to the report.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder formally adopted the proposed levels of charges incorporating a 3% inflationary increase.

## **57. Untidy Land and Derelict Buildings - a Co-ordinated Approach to their Improvement** *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services and Director of Neighbouring Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

To seek the Portfolio Holder's endorsement of actions to secure remedial works to untidy land and buildings, including measures utilising Town and Country Planning powers authorised by the Planning Committee.

### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report referred to the problems caused by untidy sites and derelict buildings and the commissioning of planning and legal advice in respect of this issue and specifically 12 identified problem properties. The findings of that advice were briefly summarised and attached as an appendix was a copy of the recent report to Planning Committee to request authorisation for officers to take appropriate steps, including direct action by the Council if necessary. The Portfolio Holder was advised that Planning Committee had agreed this course of action on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

The Director of Regeneration and Planning reported that there had been changes in respect of at least one of the buildings listed, ie Golden Flatts public house site.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder:

- (a) endorsed the decision of the Planning Committee to authorise action to secure improvements to the properties concerned, including, if necessary, direct action by the Council.
- (b) requested a report, in due course, on the updated position in relation to derelict buildings and untidy buildings and land.

## **58. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan (Regeneration and Liveability Update December 2005 (Director of Neighbourhood Services)**

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide an update and seek approval to the performance of the Neighbourhood Services Departmental plan for 2005/2006, covering the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005.

### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report provided a brief description of services and the progress achieved to the end of December in reaching the targets.

**Decision**

The Portfolio Holder approved of the Departmental Plan update report.

**J A BROWN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006**