

REGENERATION, LIVEABILITY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

11th December 2006

Present:

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

Officers: Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning
Ralph Harrison, Head of Public Protection and Housing
Denise Ogden, Acting Head of Neighbourhood Management
Gemma Clough, Principal Regeneration Officer
Colin Horsley, Coastal Arc Co-ordinator
John Potts, Principal Policy Officer
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

45. Pride in Hartlepool Proposals (*Head of Public Protection and Housing*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To request consideration of a recommendation of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group in respect of a proposal for a community project,

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report contained details of a request for funding from the Pride in Hartlepool budget towards the cost of designing and planting a sensory garden at St Hild's School. £1,000 had been requested towards a total project cost of £1,400.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the recommendation of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group in respect of a proposal to design and plant a sensory garden.

46. Bulky Household Waste Service *(Acting Head of Neighbourhood Management)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

1. To request consideration of a policy for dealing with Bulky Household Waste Collections
2. To request approval to a partnership/SLA between the Council and Endeavour Repaircare to assist those residents who have difficulty in presenting such items for collection.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder was advised that the Council had invested in the bulky waste collection service to compliment the new recycling service. In September 2005 the service became free to residents for collection of 8 items or less, following a previous charge of £5. This had led to the number of service requests doubling and consequently an increase in waiting times. This increase had led to concerns regarding the Council's liability should employees cause damage to property and/or surrounding items or physical injury to themselves during the process of removal. To minimise liability changes had been made to the Bulky Waste Policy.

Employees would no longer enter a property to collect bulky waste and if the resident was unable to place the items outside themselves, and family or friends were unavailable, they would be offered help from the 'Handi-Man' service operated by Endeavour Repaircare. As part of this the Council would enter into a service level agreement with Endeavour. Further details of accepted and unaccepted items and the Bulky Household Waste Collection Policy were appended to the report for the Portfolio Holder's attention.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:

- (a) approved the policy for restricting the types of material which the council will collect as detailed in the report;
- (b) approved the partnership agreement with Endeavour Repair Care.
- (c) requested that discretion be used when difficult situations arise.

47. Tourism Vision, Framework and Action Plan for One Northeast Coastal Zone *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To draw attention to a consultation exercise by One NorthEast related to Coastal Tourism and seek endorsement of a response.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report referred to a consultation exercise on a Tourism Vision, Framework and Action Plan for One NorthEast Coastal Zone, undertaken by consultants commissioned by One NorthEast. A response on behalf of Hartlepool and Redcar and Cleveland Councils, recognising the collaborative approach on the Tees Valley Coastal Arc, was also available for the Portfolio Holder's information. The Portfolio Holder noted the view put forward in the response, to the effect that the consultants' report underplayed a number of existing and potential assets of the Tees Valley and other parts of the North East coast. He also felt that the potential of the region to benefit from the cruise ships' market should be recognised.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the position and endorsed the response submitted on behalf of Hartlepool and Redcar and Cleveland Councils, reinforced by reference also to the potential of the cruise ships' market.

48. Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Draft Objectives *(Head of Community Strategy)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder on the proposed draft SEA/SA objectives for Hartlepool.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report advised that the European Directive 2001/42/EC, known as the "strategic environmental assessment" or "SEA" Directive, requires a formal

environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Further background information was provided.

The report also indicated that a sustainability appraisal “SA” is a systematic process undertaken during the preparation of a plan or strategy to aid the implementation of sustainable development. It does this by testing the objectives of the plan or strategy against sustainability objectives.

Government guidance proposes a hybrid procedure whereby the requirements for both SA and SEA are met through a single process and this was the approach that would be adopted in Hartlepool, where appropriate.

Initial consultation on the proposed SEA/SA Objectives (described in Appendix 1 to the report) had already begun with key statutory organisations (e.g. Environment Agency, Wildlife Trust, neighbouring Local Authorities) and the Hartlepool Partnership's Theme Partnerships. Feedback from this initial consultation would lead to a second drafting of the objectives that would be taken for consideration by Portfolio Holder and the Hartlepool Partnership in early 2007.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the progress made.

49. Draft One : Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update *(Head of Regeneration)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek comments on draft one of the Burbank Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report described the background to Neighbourhood Action Plans with a specific focus on the Burbank NAP. It outlined the current position with regard to the consultation process, from the initial community conference to the formation of the draft NAP, as well as detailing the further consultation which would be undertaken. The report highlighted the contents/format of the NAP and described the future residents' summary pamphlet which was to be produced. The key concerns raised by residents at the community conference were also detailed in the report. Finally, the report identified the financial implications of the NAP once endorsement had been sought from

the Regeneration, Liveability and Housing Portfolio Holder, the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum and the Hartlepool Partnership.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the update on draft one of the Neighbourhood Action Plan.

50. Update on Progress on Dealing with Derelict and Untidy Buildings and Land (*Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development)*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To advise on progress in relation to targeted action against high profile derelict and untidy buildings and land in the town.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report contained information on progress on sites being investigated as part of targeted initiative to secure improvements in the appearance/use of derelict and untidy buildings and land in the town. An update in relation to each of the sites was attached as an appendix. The Portfolio Holder also acknowledged ongoing discussions about bringing forward a further batch of properties to be targeted and about the need for the Council to put in place arrangements for speedy action when Council buildings are agreed to be closed.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder

- (a) noted and welcomed the progress made in relation to the targeted buildings, as indicated in the report and appendix;
- (b) welcomed the prospect of similar action on a further batch of properties, to be the subject of a further report;
- (c) supported the need for a system of action to be put in place and implemented immediately after the closure of Council buildings is agreed.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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