

REGENERATION, LIVEABILITY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

18th December 2006

Present:

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

Officers: Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

51. Joint Allocations Policy Review (*Director of Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Key (Test ii applies)

Purpose of report

To recommend amendments to the Joint Allocations Policy following a thorough review of the policy to ensure that it is fit for purpose and complies with all legislative requirements, in particular the introduction of Choice Based Lettings before the Government's target of 2010

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

Cabinet first considered these amendments on 25th September 2006 but decided to defer any decision until they had the opportunity to fully consider and discuss the recommendations. A seminar was arranged for 7th November 2006 and Members were provided with a detailed presentation of Joint Allocation Policy Review. Members expressed their full support for the recommendations made and particularly welcomed the proposal to develop a Vulnerable Persons Panel to coordinate and monitor the allocation of supported housing and floating support services.

Within the Housing Agency Agreement concerning the transfer of Council housing to Housing Hartlepool, it was agreed to adopt a Joint Allocations Policy, which would be subject to regular review and be in place for at least a five-year period following transfer.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services detailed the findings of the review and made recommendations regarding access to accommodation for vulnerable groups along with clearer guidance for applicants and practitioners, as well as some necessary amendments to comply with legislative changes and recommended good practice

Housing Hartlepool's Management Board had agreed the amendments arising from the review.

Decision

That the recommended amendments to the Joint Allocations Policy between Housing Hartlepool and Hartlepool Borough Council be approved.

52. Headland Environmental Improvements 2006/07 Croft Gardens *(Head of Neighbourhood Management)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval to proceed with additional Environmental Improvements at Croft Gardens using Seymour Civil Engineering Ltd as the main contractor, as a continuation of the Headland Town Square Works.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The North Hartlepool Partnership has entered its final year and the Board, at their meeting on 17th November 2006, approved an additional funding contribution of approximately £55 thousand to the £18.5 thousand previously approved by the Board and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Liveability and Housing for Environmental Improvement works to the Croft Gardens.

Due to SRB funding requirements all works must be completed by the end of March 2007. In order to achieve this Seymour Civil Engineering had been approached to carry out the works as an addition to the Town Square contract and they had given an undertaking that they would complete the works before the necessary deadline. No legal concerns had been raised in awarding the works as a variation of Seymour's original town square contract.

Decision

1. That the implementation and adoption of the proposed additional works to Croft Gardens, as already approved by the NHP Board, be approved

- 2 That the works be awarded to Seymour Civil Engineering as a continuation to the Headland Town Square works.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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