

# NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

## MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

4 November 2024

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor: Karen Oliver (In the Chair)

Councillors: Ben Clayton, Fiona Cook, Sue Little, Corinne Male, Christopher Wallace and Mike Young

Also present: Councillors Gary Allen and Leisa Smith

### **Parish Council Representatives:**

Stephen Smith (Greatham Parish Council) and Lyn Noble (Dalton Piercy Parish Council)

Officers: Tony Hanson, Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services  
Kieran Bostock, Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services  
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services  
Joan Stevens, Statutory Scrutiny Manager  
Steve Hilton, Communications and Marketing Team  
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

## **19. Apologies for Absence**

None.

## **20. Declarations of Interest**

None.

## **21. Minutes**

- (i) The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2024 were received.
- (ii) The minutes of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee held on 2 September 2024 were received.

## **22. Elizabeth Way Crossing** (*Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services*)

### **Type of decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of report**

To inform Members of Neighbourhood Services Committee of the consultation results in relation to a proposed zebra crossing on Elizabeth Way, Seaton Carew.

To request Members consider the consultation response and decide whether to proceed with the proposed crossing or not.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

Following requests for a zebra crossing to Ward Members from residents of Seaton Carew, a consultation exercise was undertaken to determine the level of support for such a scheme. The Committee had noted in February 2024 that funding for the crossing had been identified within the Local Transport Plan programme.

Residents living in the immediate vicinity had been consulted on two indicative locations for the crossing along with a third option to 'do nothing'. In addition to this, Ward Members had shared the consultation on social media which had generated further responses. The results had shown that eight of the 11 responses received from residents directly consulted were in favour of no crossing at all with three residents indicating they wanted a crossing but not outside their own home. The additional social media responses indicated that 24 did not want a crossing with 32 indicating they wish a crossing to be installed with three preferring option 1 and 29 preferring option 2. However, the social media responses were from people who lived further afield with some respondents not providing their addresses at all. Therefore these responses carried less weight than comments from residents directly impacted by the proposals. The Chair asked the Committee to consider the facts, the community impact and the consultation results.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which the Chair accepted questions and comments from members of the public in attendance who were against the proposed crossing and ward Councillors who were in favour of the proposed crossing. In addition to this, the Chair read out an email from a member of the public who was unable to attend the meeting who was against the proposed crossing. The Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regeneration informed the Committee that one of the ward Councillors was unable to attend the meeting but was against the proposed crossing.

In response to a question from a member of the public, the Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regeneration confirmed that Councillor

Little did not have to declare an interest in this item as her actions were as a result of representations made to her directly in her role as a Seaton Ward Councillor.

A Member proposed an amendment to the recommendations that, should the proposed crossing does not proceed, alternative ways be explored to deal with the speeding issues on Elizabeth Way. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services confirmed that this issue can be referred to the road safety scheme list.

The Chair concluded with thanks to the residents for attending and providing the Committee with their views adding that Officers explore alternative ways of dealing with road safety issues in this area.

### **Decision**

- (i) That in view of the consultation responses received, the installation of a zebra crossing on Elizabeth Way does not proceed.
- (ii) That alternative ways of dealing with the issue of road safety be explored by Officers.

## **23. Trading Standards Service Plan 2024/25** (*Assistant Director, Regulatory Services*)

### **Type of decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of report**

To approve the Trading Standards Service Plan for 2024/25.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director, Regulatory Services submitted the Trading Standards Service Plan 2024/25 which provided comprehensive details of the Trading Standards priorities and how these priorities would be addressed. In addition, details were provided on the enforcement action undertaken during 2023/24 through formal legal actions.

Members commended the report, noting the amount of work undertaken by such a small Team. The Chair added that it was incumbent on the community to report anything they suspect as illegal behaviour to the relevant authorities with zero tolerance. Congratulations to the Team was noted for securing national funding to assist in tackling e-crime through the identification and targeting of rogue e-traders operating in Hartlepool.

### **Decision**

That the Trading Standards Service Plan for 2022/23 was approved.

## **24. Update – Audit and Governance Committee Investigation – Derelict Land and Buildings** *(Chair of Neighbourhood Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of report**

To receive the Audit and Governance Committee's report following completion of its investigation into Derelict Land and Buildings in Hartlepool and update on the next stage of the process.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Chair presented the report which had the final report from the investigation into Derelict Land and Buildings in Hartlepool attached by way of electronic link. It was noted that the report's recommendations and associated action plan will be presented to the Committee for consideration in full at its meeting on Monday 27 January. A Member commented that the report was a comprehensive piece of work that brought together some key pieces of derelict land and buildings. It was proposed that reference to additional communication with residents be added to ensure they were kept informed of work that was currently being undertaken in relation to derelict land and buildings. Congratulations were passed on to the Officers involved on the speed and professional way in which the recent fire at the Odeon and subsequent demolition had been dealt with.

The Chair thanked Members for their positive comments and noted that it was her absolute passion to tackle derelict buildings and empty homes and this would form part of the robust action plan attached to the final report. In addition, the Chair thanked the officers involved in the production of this report which will play a key role in tackling the issue of derelict land and buildings.

A Parish Councillor in attendance sought clarification on the management of a large site of derelict site in Greatham. The Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regeneration indicated that the site referred to was a very large site with the owners maintaining a key responsibility for the site.

### **Decision**

That the Committee receive the report in full for consideration at its meeting on 27 January 2024 alongside a detailed action plan in response to each of its recommendations..

## **25. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

None.

The Chair highlighted that an additional meeting of the Committee had been arranged for Friday 6 December 2024 commencing at 11.00 am for the consideration of the budget.

The meeting concluded at 11.05am

**H MARTIN**

**DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

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