

REGENERATION, LIVEABILITY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

19th January 2007

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Municipal Buildings, Hartlepool

Present:

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

Officers: Stuart Green, Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development)
 Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
 Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
 Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

53. Burbank Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update (Final for Endorsement) *(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 Burbank area.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Burbank NAP was the second to be successfully prepared for the town in 2004 and is the second to be updated since the completion of the six Hartlepool NAPs. The update had been developed through a range of consultation, details of which were given in the report. Residents' key concerns were also outlined along with the format of the document and plans to produce a summary document for delivery to each household in the Burbank area. The financial implications were also highlighted and a copy of the updated NAP appended to the report for the Portfolio Holder's attention.

Decision

That the NAP Update for the Burbank area be endorsed subject to endorsement from the Hartlepool Partnership and the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum.

54. Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) Programme and Neighbourhood Element 2006/7 *(Head of Community Strategy)*

Type of decision

Key (Test ii applies)

Purpose of report

1. To notify the Portfolio Holder of the current spend for NRF and Neighbourhood Element Programmes 2006/07
2. To seek agreement to modifications to the NRF Health and Care Programme
3. To seek agreement to granting delegated authority to the Head of Community Strategy to bring forward agreed interventions for 2007/08 into 2006/07 to minimise carry over.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Head of Community Strategy reported that the overall NRF allocation for 2006/07 was £4,830,000 with the spend to the end of October 2006 approximately £2,050,000, in line with expected targets. £71,350 of the £412,800 Neighbourhood Element Allocation Fund for 2006/07 had also been spent at that time and it was anticipated that the majority of this funding would be spent in the latter part of the year. Details were given of a number of proposed modifications to the NRF Health Programme and approval was sought for the delegation of authority to the Head of Community Strategy to enable interventions already approved for 2007/8 to be brought forward into 2006/7 in order to manage the NRF programme underspend to within the 5% carry over limit set by Government Office.

Decision

1. That the progress on the NRF and Neighbourhood Element Programmes be noted
2. That the modifications to the NRF Health Programme be agreed
3. That the delegation of authority to the Head of Community Strategy to bring forward agreed interventions for 2007/08 to

2006/07 to minimise carry over be agreed

55. Allocation of Planning Delivery Grant Funding 2006-2007 *(Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development))*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To recommend the allocation of the remaining uncommitted Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) funding for 2006-2007

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

Planning Delivery Grant Funding is performance-related grant funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government. £198,098 of the £288,583 allocation for 2006/7 had already been allocated as a result of previous Portfolio Holder decisions and a total of £90,485 remained available. Details were given of proposed additional funding which would utilise the remaining allocation, as follows.

	Revised Cost	Additional Funding (Saving)
Headland Conservation Area Appraisal	£22,750	£7,557
Open Space Audit	£43,500	£13,500
Flood Risk Study Contribution	£9,002	(£10,998)
Net Increased Funding Requirement	-	£10,059

	Proposed funding
GPS purchase (for detailed site mapping / surveying)	£6,515
Continued recruitment of planning students in 2007 – 2008	£16,700
Conversion of part-time Planning Information Officer post to full-time	£7,000
Conversion of part-time Assistant Directors' PA post to full-time	£9,300
Electronic consultation system package for planning policy	£6,500
Contributions to nature conservation studies	£4,000

(Breeding Birds Atlas, Tees Estuary study)	
Conservation areas appraisal and survey work (For Park and other residential conservation areas to assist policy review)	£20,000
New GIS licences (2 no.)	£3,500
Legal and professional fees for enforcement action regarding untidy properties	£7,000
TOTAL	£80,515

Particular attention was drawn to £20,000 for conservation areas appraisal and survey works and £7,000 for legal and professional fees for enforcement action regarding untidy properties. The remainder of the funding could be utilised in later years if appropriate.

Decision

That the proposed allocations of Planning Delivery Grant be approved

56. ESF Operational Programme Consultation *(Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development))*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To endorse the anticipated response to the European Social Fund Division on the ESF Operational Programme Consultation to be prepared by the Tees Valley European Partnership.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The National Strategic Reference Framework which provided a framework for the allocation and management of European funding over 2007-2013 had been agreed and the European Social Fund (ESF) Operational Programme sent out for consultation. This provided a strategy for the effective management of ESF resources in the UK from 2007 to 2013. The Tees Valley European Partnership (TVEP) had prepared a response which was tabled at the meeting for the attention of the Portfolio Holder. Details were given of the financial implications of ESF funding including the total amount of funding for Hartlepool in the 2000-2006 period and the effect this had had on unemployment.

Decision

That the response to the European Social Fund Division on the ESF Operational Programme consultation prepared by the Tees Valley European Partnership be endorsed.

57. Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To outline the main recommendations of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) Action Plan consultation document and to seek authorisation for the Council response.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

“Leading the Way: The Regional Economic Strategy 2006-2016” (RES) was produced by One North East in Autumn 2006. A draft action plan had been prepared describing the main activities proposed for 2006-1011 and identifying the responsible lead party, other partners and broad preliminary indicators of the scale of resources to be invested in each activity. Summary contents of the plan were grouped under the themes of business, people and place and the report gave detailed information on each.

The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services advised that the draft plan gave rise to various concerns for Hartlepool and the Tees Valley, particularly in relation to the apparent lack of prioritisation of the Coastal Arc and the substantial reduction in proposed Single Programme funding in 2008-2011 for the Place agenda. It was also felt that clarification was needed as to the uncertain prioritisation of the promotion and enhancement of natural, heritage and cultural assets. These concerns and related points had been discussed in a recent officer meeting with One North East, but it was still felt important to express them formally. Officers would therefore draft a response to be agreed by the Portfolio Holder.

Decision

That a response to One North East on the Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan consultation draft be authorised in the light of this report and additional points emerging from discussions with One North East.

58. Dog Control Orders *(Director of Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the Council's power to make a dog control

order under Part 6, section 55 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Council has a number of byelaws relating to dogs that were introduced to protect the general public. However these byelaws can be replaced by Dog Control Orders in respect of any land which is open to the air and to which the public have access under Part 6 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Dog Control Orders Regulations provide for five offences including failure to remove dog faeces, failure to keep a dog on a lead and permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded. The penalty for committing an offence under a Dog Control Order is a maximum fine of level 3 on the standard scale, currently £1,000. Alternatively a fixed penalty may be offered in place of prosecution. The amount payable is £75 unless otherwise set by the local authority.

In order to make a Dog Control Order an authority must consult any other primary or secondary authority or access authority within the area in which the order is being made. A notice must also be published in a local newspaper circulating in the same area as the land to which the order would apply inviting representations on the proposal. Once an order has been made a notice must be published in the local newspaper advising that the order has been made at least 7 days before it comes into force.

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Liveability and Housing advised that he was minded to increase the fine payable to £100, dropping to £75 if paid within 2 weeks. However he was eager to hear the views of the public. The Head of Neighbourhood Management advised that public consultation would take place during March and April with the results being brought back to the Portfolio Holder in May 2007.

Decision

That the content of the report be noted and approval be given for the Head of Neighbourhood Management to commence the process of making a Dog Control Order

59. Anti-Social Behaviour Enforcement Activity *(Head of Community Safety and Prevention)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To bring attention to the increasing amount of enforcement activity against Anti-social Behaviour across Hartlepool

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the annual Home Office survey figures on enforcement activity against anti-social behaviour within Hartlepool. This showed that from 2003-2006 there had been 2 ASBOs awarded and 14 CRASBOs. Attention was drawn to the 6 Anti-social behaviour related evictions carried out by Registered Social Landlords and the 25 Parenting Orders made by the courts, whereby parents of anti-social children were forced to attend parenting classes. Local experience showed that encouraging parents to participate voluntarily was more effective.

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Liveability and Housing queried how effective these measures had been and was advised that of the 2 ASBOs 1 had been completely successful. With reference to the ABA/Cs there was considered to have been a 70-80% success rate. The Portfolio Holder went on to comment that anti-social behaviour was a national problem and ASBOs were just the tool used to tackle the problem, rather than a solution in themselves.

Decision

That the report be noted

60. Assisted Area Consultation *(Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development))*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To report the outcome of the Assisted Area Consultation related to areas eligible for business financial support.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

At his meeting on 21st April 2006 the Portfolio Holder had agreed with officer recommendations that all of Hartlepool apply for Assisted Area Status as part of the consultation exercise being conducted by the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI). The DTI, in conjunction with the European Commission, had now agreed that all of Hartlepool would be given Assisted Area status. This would allow the following levels of regional aid to projects not exceeding 50 million euros:

- 15% for large companies
- 25% for medium sized companies
- 35% for small companies.

Decision

That the report be noted.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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