

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

19th February 2007

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in Committee Room 'B',
Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillors: Cath Hill (Deputy Mayor) (in the Chair)
Councillor Pamela Hargreaves (Children's Services Portfolio Holder),
Peter Jackson (Performance Management Portfolio Holder),
Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Transportation Portfolio Holder),
Ray Waller (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder).

Also Present: Councillor Marjorie James, Chair of Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

Officers: Paul Walker, Chief Executive
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive
Tony Brown, Chief Solicitor
Joanne Machers, Chief Personnel Services Officer
Chris Little, Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Nicola Bailey, Director of Adult and Community Services
Ewan Weir, Assistant Director (Commissioning)
Adrienne Simcock, Director of Children's Services
Sue Johnson, Assistant Director (Children's Services)
Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Stuart Green, Assistant Director (Economic Development and Planning)
Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
John Potts, Principal Policy Officer
Alistair Rae, Public Relations Officer
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

171. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from The Mayor, Stuart Drummond and Robbie Payne (Finance Portfolio Holder).

172. Declarations of interest by members

None.

173. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2007.

Confirmed.

174. Corporate Plan (BVPP) 2007-08 – Proposed Objectives and Actions *(Assistant Chief Executive)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

To enable Cabinet to discuss the objectives and actions proposed for inclusion in the Council's Corporate (Best Value Performance) Plan for 2007/8.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Performance Management Portfolio Holder stated that the report proposed the objectives for each of the eight community strategy aims and the council's organisational development priorities. For each of the objectives a number of actions have been identified to enable the objective to be met. The purpose of the plan was to describe the Council's priorities for 2007/8, including how weaknesses would be addressed, opportunities exploited and better outcomes delivered for local people. The production of the Corporate (Best Value Performance) Plan by 30 June each year is a statutory requirement.

The Scrutiny Forums would meet individually to consider the Corporate Plan's Objectives and Actions on a departmental basis and report to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee by mid March 2007. Cabinet would be given further opportunities to consider the Corporate Plan as further progress is made. Final approval of the Plan would be by Council in June 2007.

Decision

That the proposed Corporate Plan 2007/8 Objectives and actions be approved for consideration by Scrutiny over the next month.

175. Youth Justice Plan 2007-08 *(Head of Community Safety and Prevention)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

To report set out proposals for the development of the Youth Justice Plan and to considered issues for the Youth Offending Service (YOS) during

2007/08.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

Each year the Youth Justice Board (YJB) requests Youth Offending Services (YOS's) to complete an annual plan as required by Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Youth Justice Plan requires YOS's to set out how they are going to respond to the requirements of the Youth Justice Performance Management framework, to address areas of under performance and deliver continuous improvement.

The 5 sections to be covered in the plan are:

- 1) Chair of the Management Board's Summary – Provides an overview of how the YOS delivers Youth Justice Services.
- 2) Local Planning Environment – The plan requires an overview of how YOS is engaging the plans and priorities of their local partners, looking separately at interaction with the two main systems that YOS's must operate in, namely Children's Services and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (Community Safety Partnership).
- 3) Drivers of Performance – Governance and Leadership, Performance and Quality Systems, Resources, People and Organisation, Partnership Working.
- 4) Delivery Plan – Forms the bulk of the plan. YJB have identified 16 themes that are fundamental to the delivery of the overall aims and objectives of the Youth Justice System.
- 5) Review and Approval – Review of actions and update of Action Plan approval by the relevant partners.

The first part of the process in Hartlepool is to provide an issues paper, which will be used as the basis for consultation with users and partners and for consideration by Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee. The annual plan will be available for consideration by Cabinet and full Council in April 2007 and needs to be submitted to the YJB by 30th April 2007.

Decision

That the issue paper for consultation with partners and young people be approved and referred to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

176. Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2007-08 (*Head of Community Safety and Prevention*)

Decision

That consideration of the Anti-Social Strategy 2007/08 be deferred to the next meeting of Cabinet.

177. Quarter 3 – Corporate Plan and Revenue Financial Management Report 2006-2007 (*Corporate Management Team*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

The Performance Management Portfolio Holder informed Cabinet of the progress made towards achieving the Corporate Plan objectives through identified actions and of progress against the Council's own 2006/2007 Revenue Budget, for the period to 31 December 2006.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report described progress towards achieving the actions within the Corporate Plan using the traffic light system of Green, Amber and Red. The report provided an overview of Council performance, with separate sections providing more detailed information for each Portfolio Holder to consider.

The Revenue Budget Monitoring report covered the following areas:

- Progress against departmental and corporate budgets and High Risk Budget Areas;
- Progress against saving/increased income targets identified in the 2006/2007 Budget Strategy;
- Progress against departmental salary turnover targets;
- Key Balance Sheet information;
- Outturn Presentation in 2006/2007 Statement of Accounts.

Decision

1. That Cabinet notes the current position with regard to performance and revenue monitoring;
2. That the Performance Management and Regeneration, Liveability and Housing Portfolio Holders agree to the revised milestone dates for the three actions identified within the report.

178. Quarter 3 – NRF, Capital and Accountable Body Programme Monitoring Report 2006-2007 (*Chief Financial Officer*)

Type of decision

Non-Key.

Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet of progress against the Council's own 2006/2007 Capital budget, the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and the

spending programmes where the Council acts as the Accountable Body for the period to 31 December 2006.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

Previous monitoring reports had been submitted to Cabinet with an overall summary report providing an overall picture of the Council's own 2006/2007 Capital Budget, the NRF programme and the spending programmes. Those reports were supported by individual Portfolio reports that provided more detailed information. The report had now been integrated into one comprehensive document. The report provided a summary, followed by a section for each Portfolio where more detailed information was provided.

Decision

That the report be noted.

179. Disaggregation of Connexions Tees Valley Company *(Director of Children's Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key.

Purpose of report

The Children's Services Portfolio Holder sought Cabinet approval for the arrangements to disaggregate the Connexions Tees Valley Company from 31 March 2007 and the transfer of part of the Connexions service to each of the five local authorities (LA's), pursuant to a decision of the Tees Valley Connexions Board on 27 July 2005 and Cabinet's decision at its meeting on 10 October 2005.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Children's Services Portfolio Holder reported on the detailed background on the progress made towards disaggregation of the Tees Valley Connexions Company. Detailed information was provided on both the financial and legal implications for the Borough Council if disaggregation took place. There was also an assessment of risks to the Council in relation to assets, human resources and job evaluation.

Decision

1. That the disaggregation of the Connexions Tees Valley Company from 31 March 2007 as established in the recommendation of 10 October 2005 be noted and approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Children's Services Portfolio Holder, to complete the transfer arrangements including entering into the Transfer Agreement; assignment of the Tower Street one-stop shop; and processing all ancillary and related documentation.

3. That the Tees Valley Connexions company and the other four Tees Valley local authorities be informed of the decision of the Hartlepool Cabinet.
4. That any substantial changes in the planned timetable for disaggregation or the level of identified risk be reported back to Cabinet.

180. Civic Centre Accommodation Changes *(Director of Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key.

Purpose of report

The report outlined the programme of works being undertaken at the Civic Centre, and the necessary decanting arrangements, and sought approval to the changes in layout.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

At its meeting on 22 July 2005 Cabinet approved major refurbishment works to the Civic Centre and the construction of the Contact Centre. Works to the front facing part of the Contact Centre have been completed and "Hartlepool Connect" is now in operation.

The two projects have significant overlap in technical requirements for utilities provision, and so they are being managed as one project that has phased construction work over a three-year period. In particular the ICT and electrical power supply scope of work requires modification of the same distribution panels (including the provision of new ICT panels) and the construction sequence has been determined by the constraints within the existing system, and the requirement to maintain service provision to the public from the Civic Centre.

The constraints of the existing utility systems have also dictated the size of construction areas that can be addressed at any time. For Levels 2, 3 and 4 this means that a Level has to be modified in two work areas: the East Wing and the North Wing. As the power supplies and ICT will be disconnected to allow the construction work to be implemented, staff will need to be decanted to other accommodation during the construction period.

Details of the programme for Phase 2 were set out in the report showing the areas to be worked on and the decanting arrangements for staff. The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that the works to the Council Chamber would be delayed until the end of May to allow the Annual Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber.

In response to Members' questions, the Director of Neighbourhood

Services indicated that much of the work was being undertaken in-house. There were displays at the meeting of the décor and furniture intended for the Civic Suite area. Cabinet did raise an issue in relation to the new access arrangements to the Civic Suite area and the toilets provided for the disabled. There were no automatic door opening devices fitted, which caused difficulties for the wheelchair bound. The Director stated that the design and implementation of the works did comply with the Disability Discrimination Act but would ask officers to review the current arrangements.

Decision

That the programme of works and decanting arrangements for the Civic Centre be endorsed and proposed changes to Member accommodation and the Civic Suite be approved.

181. Connected Care in Owton *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key.

Purpose of report

To update Cabinet on the Connected Care pilot in the Owton area, with more details of the scheme, partnership arrangements and resource implications.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

Connected Care aims to provide integrated health and social care services that address the “whole person”, meeting their complex needs in terms of breadth (range of need) and depth (severity of need). It brings together health and social care services as well as housing, education, employment, community safety and transport to provide a wide range of support that covers both universal services and more targeted provision for those with specific needs. It is an innovative model of service delivery, which aims to bridge the gap between health and social care while ensuring that local communities are directly influencing and assisting in the redesign of services.

The specific proposal for Owton has been developed out of a community audit carried out in the ward in 2005 by local residents working with agencies and the University of Central Lancashire. 251 local residents participated in the audit via one to one interviews, focus groups and a community “have your say” event. The audit identified a number of ways in which services could and should be different. They suggest that services and support should in future be designed and delivered so that they had a detailed set of qualities and characteristics, but also that Connected Care had a set of broader, social objectives:

- To ensure that the whole needs of residents living in the Owton Ward are taken into account in the provision of services.
- To promote the development of a sustainable community
- To promote local social cohesion and inclusion
- To increase local employment and regeneration
- To increase the % of public sector resources being retained in the local community and used to support local people

The development of the Connected Care pilot in Owton ward has taken a considerable amount of time and energy. It has attracted a lot of interest nationally (the most recent example being a visit in December from Hilary Armstrong as Minister for Social Exclusion). There is a considerable expectation from local residents that the service will be established and that it will lead to a significant improvement in the delivery of services in the area. The building blocks for the development are now being put in place and considerable resources have already been identified to support its development.

Turning Point obtained funds for an evaluation of the first phase of the project and Durham University have submitted a favourable report. The report has been submitted to the Department of Health and is available on request. The Northern Rock Foundation has recently agreed funding of £120,000 to Durham University for the second stage of the evaluation of the Connected Care programme. This funding is conditional on the programme actually going ahead in Owton as planned.

Cabinet indicated its support for this project, though did comment that £120,000 did seem rather a lot to spend on evaluation. The Chair of Scrutiny Coordinating Committee, Councillor Marjorie James, did comment that the Department of Health had approved a national budget for these schemes and as a pathfinder scheme, the project in Owton should seek access to some of those funds for both revenue and capital expenditure. Cabinet Members also indicated their wish to see the partnership arrangements developed through this project remain in place and be used as a basis for future rollout of these schemes in other areas of the town.

Decision

1. That Cabinet supports the continuation of the Connected Care pilot.
2. That Cabinet receives regular updates on the Connected Care pilot including the evaluation report to be completed by Durham University.
3. That depending on the outcome of the Owton pilot, Cabinet receives further reports on the practicality and feasibility of developing a Connected Care Model within other Hartlepool Wards.

182. Declaration of Interest

Councillor Peter Jackson declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No. 184 “Development Brief for the Former Fairground and Adjacent Land at Seaton Carew” and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

183. Inquorate Meeting

It was noted that the meeting was not quorate. The Deputy Mayor indicated that (as permitted under the Local Government Act 2000 and the Constitution) she would exercise her powers of decision and that she would do so in accordance with the wishes of the Members present, indicated in the usual way. The decision set out below (Minute No. 184 only) was confirmed by the Deputy Mayor accordingly.

184. Development Brief for the Former Fairground and Adjacent Land at Seaton Carew *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key.

Purpose of report

To seek Cabinet endorsement of the revised draft development brief for the Seaton Carew Fairground and adjacent land. The brief will be used to support the marketing of the site.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

At its meeting on 14 August 2006, Cabinet approved the draft brief for the purpose of further consultation, authorised officers to liaise with Seaton Carew Golf Club with a view to agreeing joint marketing arrangements and requested the draft brief be referred to Planning Committee. Seaton Carew Golf Club has agreed in principal to enter into a developer agreement with the Council in respect of joint marketing of the sites. Specific details of such an agreement still need to be worked up and the club would wish to ensure that any income from the sale of their land is sufficient to provide replacement facilities for the club.

Cabinet sought assurance that the flood risk assessment would form part of any bids received. The Assistant Director (Economic Development and Planning) stated that they would. The Assistant Director also indicated that the bids, once received would be assessed by a group involving officers and representatives of the Golf Club prior to being reported to the Performance Management Portfolio Holder. Once a preferred developer had been established, they would be expected to undertake public consultation prior to a planning application being submitted. It was anticipated that the consultation would also inform the public of the flood risk assessment and allay any fears residents had.

The Assistant Director stated that until the Club had had the necessary special meeting and had informed the authority of their anticipated needs in terms of the capital receipt, the marketing exercise would be on hold, though Cabinet's approval was sought to proceed once that clarification had been received from the club.

Decision

1. That the development brief for the purpose of supporting the joint marketing of the HBC and Seaton Carew golf club land be approved.
2. That once Seaton Golf Club had confirmed its formal decision to proceed, set out its requirements in terms of the capital receipt and if these terms were acceptable, marketing the land could proceed.

185. Local Area Agreement (LAA) Funding Allocations, Refresh Submission 2007/08 and Six-month Review Feedback *(Head of Community Strategy)*

Type of decision

Non-Key.

Purpose of report

To agree the funding allocations in the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for 2007/08 and receive the final version of the LAA Refresh Submission along with feedback from Government Office on the six month review of the LAA.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

Hartlepool's LAA submission was agreed by Cabinet on the 10 February 2006 and was signed off by Government in March 2006. Hartlepool's LAA is structured around the aims and themes of the Community Strategy and forms the strategic framework for monitoring progress and is aimed at delivering a better quality of life for people through improving performance on a range of national and local priorities.

Appendix 1 to the report showed the pooled LAA funding streams allocated against outcomes. The agreement of the funding allocations would allow for the continuation of current programmes working towards the agreed outcomes and secure the posts of existing members of staff. Details of the outcomes and activities associated with the funding would be detailed in the LAA Delivery and Improvement Plan 2007/8, a draft of this document would be presented to Informal Cabinet in March 2007.

A draft LAA refresh submission was reported to Cabinet on 18 December 2006 before submission to Government Office North East (GONE). Appendix 2 to the report showed the refresh submission containing minor drafting changes and confirmation of figures not available in previous versions. This version has been submitted by GONE to Central

Government and we are now awaiting official sign off in March. The contents of the Refresh Submission would be included in the LAA Delivery and Improvement Plan 2007/08.

Appendix 3 to the report showed the report received from GONE following the six-month LAA review meeting in November 2006. The report was encouraging and showed overall progress as Green with the direction of travel as Amber.

Decision

That the LAA Funding Allocations for 2007/08 be agreed.

186. Further Revision to Local Development Scheme 2007 *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval for further revisions to the Local Development Scheme (LDS) of July 2006 to take account of recent decisions taken on related documents including the Community Strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

It is important that the Local Development Scheme is kept up to date and is revised periodically to ensure that it is rolled forward and that milestones are as realistic as possible. A letter received from Government Office has advised that the LDS is to become a definitive programme management document and from 1 April 2007, it will only expect to be departed from in exceptional circumstances or as agreed in response to the Annual Monitoring Report. Government Office emphasise that the LDS should be as realistic as possible and that any current review must be completed by 1 April 2007. It should be noted that future allocations of Planning Delivery Grant would be dependent on performance in achieving key stages set out in the Local Development Scheme.

Cabinet on 22 January 2007 agreed a number of changes including:

- The omission of the Statement of Community Involvement now that it is adopted.
- A revised programme for the preparation of Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- The inclusion of a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Transport Assessment & Travel Plan Guidance

Since the Cabinet of 22 January 2007 a number of key issues have arisen which will affect the timing of the preparation of the Local Development Framework and these included: -

- The Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East (RSS) which was

submitted to the Secretary of State in June 2005 and considered at the Examination in Public in March 2006 has still not yet been adopted. The Government Office now advise that Proposed Modifications will not now be published until the end of February 2007 and that adoption is unlikely until Mid Summer 2007. The delay in the adoption of the RSS will affect the preparation of Hartlepool's Core Strategy and the subsequent Housing Allocations Development Plan Document.

- the Community Strategy will need to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and a Strategic Environmental Assessment under European Directive 2001/42/EC. In order to take account of this extra stage in the Community Strategy preparation the programme for consultation on the final draft of the Community Strategy has been revised to take place in autumn 2007.
- The delay in the preparation of the Community Strategy affords a good opportunity to coordinate the public consultation of both the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework and the Community Strategy. It is proposed that this joint consultation exercise be undertaken in October 2007 thus ensuring an efficient use of resources and simplifying the process as far as the community is concerned.
- As a consequence of co-ordinating the Community Strategy and the Core Strategy consultation process it is necessary for the programme for the consultation on the LDF Core Strategy to be revised and set back two months from its currently agreed date of August 2007 to October 2007. To ensure sufficient time between the adoption of the Core Strategy and the consultation on the subsequent Housing Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) the timing of that document will also be amended. In addition, the consultation period for the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will need to be changed slightly to take account of the revised Core Strategy consultation.

The Revised Local Development Scheme February 2007 (submitted as an appendix to the report) needed to be formally agreed with the Planning Inspectorate prior to being formally submitted to the Secretary of State.

Decision

That the Further Revised Local Development Scheme February 2007 be approved for consultation with the Planning Inspectorate and subject to their acceptance of the programme the revised LDS be submitted to the Secretary of State.

187. Local Government Access to Information

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs detailed below in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 188. – Para 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

Minute 189 – Para's 4 and 6 (Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority and Information which reveals that the authority proposes—

- (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
- (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment)

188. Masefield Road Nursery and Swinburne House *(Director of Neighbourhood Services and Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The issues considered by Cabinet are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

The decision is set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

190. Equal Pay Risk Update *(Corporate Management Team)*

Type of decision

Non-Key.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The issues considered by Cabinet are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

The decision is set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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