

REGENERATION, LIVEABILITY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

16 March 2007

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in Training Room 4,
Municipal Buildings, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Officers: Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services
Stuart Green, Assistant Director (Planning and Economic
Development)
Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager
Steve Hilton, Assistant Public Relations Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

70. Vision for Local Cemetery - *Director of Neighbourhood Services*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide background and current information on North Cemetery, with a view to consider undertaking a feasibility study regarding the cemetery's future potential.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that North Cemetery, a site of approximately 30 acres in the Central area, was opened in 1856. It is situated within the Dyke House Ward and provides a valuable resource for local people as a large area of 'green space' relatively close to the town centre. However it currently suffers from aspects of anti-social behaviour and has been highlighted as a 'hot spot' by local residents, the

Neighbourhood Policing Team and the North Joint Action Group (JAG). There had been an increase in disorder issues and a significant amount of damage to existing headstones.

Details were given of recent community involvement in the site involving the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange Neighbourhood Action Plan Group and the North Central Hartlepool Partnership. Given this commitment it was proposed that a feasibility study take place later in the year to consider the future vision for the area. This would provide a comprehensive assessment on the history and potential development of the site plus community views and consultation. In addition it would also need to identify funding requirements and potential sources. A small working group of officers had been put together and sums of £10,000 from Community Safety and £1,000 from Pride in Hartlepool had been identified to cover the cost of the study.

Decision

That the proposal to undertake a feasibility study regarding the future 'vision' and use of the North Cemetery be approved.

71. The Local Authority (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2001 – Process of Approval for New Areas - Head of Community Safety and Prevention

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek agreement to the process for consultation, representation and designating an area under the Local Authority (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2001.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

Sections 12-16 of the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2001 allow local authorities to adopt powers to designate areas which have known anti-social drinking and nuisance associated with them. At the Regeneration Liveability and Housing Portfolio meeting on 21st July 2006 the areas formerly covered by the 'Consumption of intoxicating Liquor in Designated Places Byelaws' were considered for consultation under the Local Authority (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2001. Subsequently at Council on 14th December 2006 it was agreed that future proposals for making an Order to designate areas, would be delegated to Licensing Committee.

Details were given of the process to issue designation orders as follows:

- Stage 1 – Evidence/Assessment
- Stage 2 – Consultation
- Stage 3 – Publicity
- Stage 4 – Making the Designation Order
- Stage 5 – Enforcement

The Portfolio Holder was also advised that consideration would be given to such issues as possible displacement of anti-social behaviour as a result of the creation of designated areas and the lack of provision for a blanket restriction on alcohol drinking in a public place.

Decision

That the legal process to approve new areas under the Local Authority (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2001 be agreed.

72. The Local Authority (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2001 – Consultation on new areas for designation – *Head of Community Safety and Prevention*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To consult the Portfolio Holder on the proposed designation of new areas, under the Regulations

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention advised that a number of areas suitable for designation under the Local Authority (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2001 had been identified. Phase 1 would be the shopping parades across Hartlepool. A list of these was appended to the report for the Portfolio Holder's attention. Consultation on these proposals would shortly be commencing with a range of both prescribed and local consultees, one of these being the Portfolio Holder.

The Portfolio Holder requested that all parks and public recreation areas across Hartlepool be included in the consultation. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention advised that the consultation was being undertaken in phases and parks and recreation areas were scheduled for a later phase.

The Portfolio Holder requested that consultation on the shopping parades and parks be done at the same time.

Decision

That consultation on designating all shopping parades, parks and recreation areas in Hartlepool under the Local Authority (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2001 be approved.

**73. Amendment to NRF Health and Care Programme
2006/7 - Head of Community Strategy**

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek agreement to the proposed amendment of the NRF Health and Care Programme for 2006/7

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder agreed the 2006/07 Health and Care NRF programme at a number of meetings during 2005, 2006 and 2007. The Government had set a maximum carry over limit of 5% of the overall 2006/07 allocation of £4.830 million. A financial update from January 2007 highlighted three projects which would be underspent by the end of the year and as a result changes had been made to the NRF programme. Since then further underspends had been identified by the Connected Care/Health Trainer and the Healthy Schools. Details of the reasons for these underspends were outlined in the report.

The Health and Care Strategy Group had been closely monitoring their NRF programme and had agreed that where possible funding would remain within project areas and be spent on activities which would contribute towards the overall aim of the original project. Where this was not viable a priority list of alternative interventions had been agreed. The Portfolio Holder had been appraised of this list earlier in the year. In accordance with this agreed list it was proposed that the underspend be allocated towards the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants. There would be no overall financial implications.

Decision

That the proposed amendment of the Health and Care NRF programme for 2006/7 be approved.

74. Section 17 Policy Statement - Head of Community Safety and Prevention

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To seek approval of the Council's draft policy in relation to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local authorities to consider crime and disorder reduction in the exercise of all their duties, activities and decision making. All policies, strategies and service delivery need to consider the likely impact on crime and disorder. This legal responsibility affects all Council employees as well as those agencies that are contracted by, or work in partnership with, the Council in the provision of services.

A cross-departmental officer group had been set up to ensure that crime and disorder is embedded within the everyday service delivery of all departments. This group had researched best practice from other Local Authorities both locally and nationally in the development of the policy statement. In addition a Section 17 Self-Assessment exercise was carried out by all departments, an information file was available for viewing on the Council's intranet and Section 17 was included in the Council's induction course for new employees.

Decision

That the Section 17 Policy Statement be approved

75. European Liability Directive – Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To obtain formal endorsement from the Portfolio Holder for the Council's response to the Government's consultation on the European Liability Directive.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The European Liability Directive was adopted in April 2004 and must be implemented by Member States by the end of April 2007. It was intended to give effect to the “polluter pays” principle by imposing liability for the prevention and remediation of environmental damage. The Directive contains a number of discretions for Member States as to how they wish to implement the provisions of the Directive. Current Government policy is not to go beyond the minimum requirements of the Directive however it is consulting various bodies, including Local Authorities, as to whether the provisions of the Directive should be extended on a number of specific issues.

There were two issues of concern for Hartlepool Borough Council. Firstly it would be highly desirable for the provisions to be extended to Sites of Special Scientific Interest rather than just European Protected Sites. In Hartlepool three sites plus part of a fourth would not be protected under the minimum legislation including Hart Warren Dunes and the Submerged Forest. Secondly it was felt it would be appropriate for the Directive to be implemented such that liability is triggered if a single site is damaged, regardless of whether or not that damage has wider effects on the conservation status of protected species.

Following informal discussion with the Portfolio Holder, comments to this effect were submitted before the 28th February deadline. A copy of the correspondence was appended to the report.

Decision

That the Council’s response to the Government’s consultation on the European Liability Directive be formally endorsed.

76. ERDF Operational Programme Consultation – *Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To endorse the response to the Government Office North East (GONE) of the European Regional Development Fund consultation document by the Assistant Director of Planning and Economic Development

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The National Strategic Reference Framework had now been agreed and the

North East Regional Operational Programme had been sent out for consultation. Responses were required by 31st March 2007 but the final document would not be complete until a later date. The major concerns to be addressed in the reply were

- The Sub-Regional Analysis provided in the report
- The type of projects which would be funded
- Administration of the programme
- Allocation of funding
- Possible sustainable communities priority

Decision

That the draft response to the European Social Fund Division be endorsed with any final changes delegated to the Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development) to meet the deadline of 31st March 2007.

77. Advertising on Street Lighting Columns - Head of Neighbourhood Management

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval to enter into a contract with Streetbroadcast for the provision and erection of 15 No. advertising units on street lighting columns in York Road.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Head of Neighbourhood Management advised that an approach had been made by Streetbroadcast to consider the installation of illuminated advertising units on street lighting columns under a 14 year contract. A brand new column would be installed free of charge with each display unit. These columns were specially designed to safely withstand the extra windbending and would fit into any street scene. They were internally illuminated, could be set to a timer and would be used for all types of advertising including local events and businesses.

A trial scheme had been operating in York Road since January 2006 with only one negative feedback. All new locations would need to have planning approval before installation is undertaken.

In addition Streetbroadcast were proposing the installation of a new LED unit called the 'Communicator' to provide real time advertising. This would allow Councils, Police and Highways departments instant communication with public on the street. Possible uses included news headlines, local weather, traffic and parking information and emergency messages.

The Portfolio Holder was advised that £350 per annum would be paid to the Council for each StreetLite Advertising unit together with 50% of the profits. The income from the 'Communicator' was anticipated to be at least £4,000 per annum.

Decision

That the proposals be approved.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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