

# **CULTURE, LEISURE AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO**

## **DECISION RECORD**

20<sup>th</sup> March 2007

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. at the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Transportation Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Nicola Bailey, Director of Adult and Community Services  
John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)  
Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services  
Mike Blair, Transportation and Traffic Manager  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

### **111. Mountston Close Alleygate - Update** (*Head of Technical Services*)

#### **Type of decision**

Non-key

#### **Purpose of report**

To advise on the latest developments in respect of the alleygate located in Mountston Close

#### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

An update report was brought to the Portfolio Holder in December 2006 when it was reported that the then Acting Head of Neighbourhood Management had set up regular meetings with all stakeholders to attempt to resolve the problems on the estate without recourse to the re-erection of the gate. Residents had commented they had seen a marked improvement regarding anti-social behaviour and litter. Actions carried out included increased police and PCSO patrols and additional litterbins.

The minutes of the last Naisberry Park Anti-Social Behaviour meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January were appended to the report for the Portfolio Holder's attention. The recommendations agreed at that meeting were that the Police and the Council would continue to monitor the situation and that the gateposts and frame would remain in place should the re-erection of the gate be recommended in the future by the police.

Residents present requested that the structure be removed sooner rather than later. The Portfolio Holder advised that he was against alleygates in general but would ask the Head of Neighbourhood Management to consider a viable timescale for the removal of the structure following consultation with the police.

### **Decision**

That the current situation be noted.

## **112. DCMS/Wolfson Museum Improvement Fund Bid for Museum of Hartlepool** (*Assistant Director (Community Services)*)

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

1. To inform on the bid made to the DCMS/Wolfson Foundation Museum and Gallery Improvement Fund 2007/08 for the Museum of Hartlepool.
2. To outline the proposed changes. These would improve public access and interpretation of the collections at the Museum of Hartlepool.
3. To raise awareness of a public consultation programme which will inform these improvements.

### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The Museum of Hartlepool is the most-visited museum in the Tees Valley, attracting 116,000 visitors in 2005/06. Although the Museum has been very successful over the last 12 years improvements could be made to improve public accessibility to collections and widen engagement across new audiences by using the museum as a space for formal and non-formal life-long learning. The funding bid was strategically part of the Renaissance in the Regions *Changing Museums* Initiative. The core aim of the project would be to improve "The Story of Hartlepool" concept by concentrating improvements on a number of key permanent display areas, including the Saxon Monastery and the Medieval Town. Improved access to all audiences, particularly people with disabilities, would be paramount.

The total cost of the redisplays would £240,000. Funding of £80,000 had already been confirmed from MLA through Renaissance in the Regions and a funding proposal of £160,000 had been sought from the DCMS/Wolfson Foundation in February 2007. A final decision on this would be made in August 2007 by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. If the bid was unsuccessful the £80,000 would be used

to carry out improvements on a smaller scale.

**Decision**

That the *Changing Museums* Initiative's proposed improvements at the Museum of Hartlepool be endorsed.

**113. Hartlepool Digital Art Gallery Project** (*Director of Adult and Community Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To seek the Portfolio Holder's approval to waive the Contract Procedure Rules in relation to the contract for the provision of a Digital Art Gallery.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

A high percentage of Hartlepool's art collection is not on permanent display in Hartlepool Art Gallery. In order to make the collection more accessible Museums and Events Services agreed to purchase a software package to make the collection available digitally. An interactive touch-screen kiosk would be installed in the gallery, allowing visitors to walk through a 3-D virtual gallery. However during the design process it became apparent that the existing design might not be accessible to the greatest number of potential gallery visitors. Discussions with the provider confirmed that the package could be further developed by adding a simple menu-driven method of searching the database. The cost of this redesign would be an additional £1,000 meaning that in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules three quotations would need to be sought. By suspending the current work in order to seek out quotations it was probable that the work would not be carried out before the financial deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007. In addition the Arts, Museums and Events Service felt they would have difficulty finding software developers in the region. Officers therefore requested that the Contract Procedure Rules be waived in this case and the existing contractor, Amazing Interactives, redesign their existing software.

**Decision**

That the waiving of the Contract Procedure Rules in relation to the contract for the provision of a Digital Art Gallery be approved

## **114. School Crossing Patrol – Throston Grange Lane** (Head of Technical Services)

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To seek the views of the Portfolio Holder regarding the newly established School Crossing Patrol site on Throston Grange Lane 12 months after installation.

### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The School Crossing Patrol on Throston Grange Lane had been introduced following requests from residents, parents and Ward Councillors. Initial surveys had shown that the installation was not justified in accordance with national criteria but approval was granted by the Portfolio Holder and the site was operational after infrastructure safety works were completed to protect the Warden and pedestrians using the facility. The annual cost of the School Crossing Patrol site was £2,800 per annum.

The Portfolio Holder advised that the safety of children should override any considerations of cost and requested that the School Crossing Patrol remain for a further 12 months. He would then reconsider the matter.

### **Decision**

That the School Crossing Patrol remain in place for a further 12 months before being reconsidered by the Portfolio Holder

## **115. Milton Road – Creation of Loading Bay** (Head of Technical Services)

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To create a loading bay on Milton Road to provide short stay parking availability

### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report gave detailed information on the current parking difficulties in Milton Road and advised the setting aside of an area of the current permit parking zone with restricted parking for a limited period for the purposes of

loading and unloading. A map showing the exact location was appended to the report. It showed that the area in question was not located outside any residential properties and should not therefore significantly reduce the current number of available residential parking spaces. The cost would be minimal and met from the Parking Services budget.

**Decision**

1. That the creation of a 12 month experimental loading bay be approved, to operate between 8am-8pm Monday-Saturday with a 10 minutes loading/unloading, no return within 1 hour, restriction.
2. That legal orders be advertised and the formal consultation process begun
3. That the proposal be reviewed at the end of the 12 month operational period.

**116. Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – Tower Street**  
(Head of Technical Services)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To seek approval for a traffic regulation order following an objection and representation.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

This report detailed the information collected in relation to the objection on the Tower Street Traffic Regulation Order. A plan of the area was appended to the report for the Portfolio Holder's attention. The report had previously been presented before the Portfolio Holder on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006 when he had requested that the matter be deferred.

Officers had given consideration to a number of issues, including the possible impact on the objector's business and future parking needs in the area due to the conversion of the former Ord's Building to housing flats.

**Decision**

1. That the objection be refused and the concerns regarding available customer/staff parking be considered within the on street parking review for the area.
2. That the traffic regulation be approved

**117. Proposed Residents only Parking Scheme – Collingwood Road/Walk and Brook Street** (*Head of Technical Services*)

The Portfolio Holder declared a prejudicial interest in this item as a resident of Collingwood Walk. The report was, therefore, not considered but would be referred to the next Regeneration, Liveability and Housing Portfolio for consideration by the Mayor.

**118. Proposed Residents only Parking Scheme – Westbourne Road** (*Head of Technical Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To consider introducing residents only permit parking controls on Westbourne Road.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report contained background information and detailed the results of a consultation exercise, which has taken place with residents. The financial implications were also outlined in the report.

**Decision**

That Resident only parking permit controls be approved.

**119. Proposed Residents only Parking Scheme – Young Street** (*Head of Technical Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To consider introducing residents only permit parking controls on Young Street

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report contained background information and detailed the results of a consultation exercise, which has taken place with residents. The financial

implications were also outlined in the report.

**Decision**

That the request to introduce residents only parking permit controls be refused.

**120. Highway Planned Maintenance Works (5 year programme) - Update** (*Head of Technical Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To seek approval to the updated 5 year planned highway maintenance programme for the period April 2007 to March 2012.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report provided the background as to the testing methods utilised to identify the condition of a highway and identify which highways in the town would be included in the updated 5 year programme based on the test results. The financial implications were detailed in the report and the 5 year programme, showing estimated costs, was appended for the Portfolio Holder's attention.

**Decision**

That the updated 5 year programme for planned maintenance be approved for implementation from April 2007

**121. Review of Supported Bus Services** (*Head of Technical Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To update the Portfolio Holder on progress made in the review and tendering of the Council's supported bus services.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report provided details of the revised approach to the tendering of the Council's block supported bus contract. Revised tendering timetables for

August 2007 and August 2008 were appended to the report for the Portfolio Holder's attention. Financial implications were detailed.

**Decision**

That the revised approach and timetable for tendering of the Council's 'block' supported bus contract be approved.

**122. Rear of Park Road Traffic Regulation Order – Objection** (*Head of Technical Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To seek approval for the traffic regulation order following an objection to the above scheme.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report detailed the background to the scheme and the investigations into the objections submitted. The financial implications were also outlined.

**Decision**

That the Traffic Regulation Order be approved.

**123. Community Transport Provision** (*Head of Technical Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To inform and update the Portfolio Holder of the provision of an in-house Dial A Ride service, its integration into the Community Transport provision and the updated financial implication.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report outlined the changes required to the existing Dial a Ride and community transport services in order to provide a more integrated, demand responsive service. Detailed information on the costs of the current service and the estimated costs of a new in-house service was appended to the report. The primary alteration for users would be a fare increase from £1.70 to £2 per journey. However to counteract this there would be an increased availability of unlimited journeys and the need for



travel vouchers would be eliminated through the introduction of a computerised scheduling system. Additional vehicles would also be provided through the Transport Services Fleet as required. The Portfolio Holder considered this excellent value for money.

**Decision**

That the report be noted.

**124. Petition – Flooding of Footpath – Stockton Road**  
(*Head of Technical Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To advise on the receipt of an eleven-name petition, directed to the Mayor, relating to problems with flooding on the footpath between 308 and 328 Stockton Road.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report detailed the receipt of the petition and the subsequent investigation by officers. Further investigations would be carried out and the appropriate action taken to rectify the problem.

**Decision**

That receipt of the petition be acknowledged.

**J A BROWN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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