

THE EXECUTIVE

A meeting of the Executive was held on 3 November 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Mandela Room, Town Hall, Middlesbrough.

PRESENT: Councillors Mr D Budd (Chair), J Brunton, M Carr, T Harvey, C M Rooney, J Rostron, M Thompson, N J Walker and L Young

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor P Purvis.

OFFICIALS: Mike Robinson, Tony Parkinson, Kevin Parkes, Richenda Broad, Nigel Sayer, Luke Henman and Angus Hoy.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor J Sharrocks

15/67 **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON THE 6 OCTOBER 2015.**

That the minutes of the last Executive held on 6 October 2015 were taken as read and signed off by the Chair as a correct record.

15/68 **NORTH EAST RAIL MANAGEMENT UNIT.**

The Executive Direction of Economic Development and Communities submitted a report that sought a decision for Middlesbrough Council to become a member of the North East Rail Management Unit, ensuring that Middlesbrough had a presence and voting rights regarding the future direction of rail in the North East of England.

Northern Rail provided local rail services across the North of England under a franchise agreement with the Department for Transport (DfT). Northern Rail's services in the North East were geographically distinct from the remainder of the franchise. Operating from Heaton depot in Newcastle, services covered the entire NECA and Tees Valley geographies with some overlap into Cumbria via the Tyne Valley line, and North Yorkshire via the Esk Valley line. These services provided vital intra-regional connectivity, serving the majority of major towns and cities within the North East of England.

With the current franchise due to expire at the end of March 2016, Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) have taken a positive role in shaping the future of local rail services across Northern England. Through the Rail North consortium, vital investment has been secured which would deliver a transformational improvement in services during the next franchise period. However, this investment only represents the starting point if services in the North East were to be truly reinvigorated. Greater local influence over the delivery and strategic direction of the franchise would be required if services were to better reflect local economic and social needs.

ORDERED

1. **that the proposed arrangements for a North East Rail Management Unit (NERMU) within the current wider partnership arrangements between Rail North and the Department for Transport be noted;**
2. **that authorisation be granted to Middlesbrough Council to enter into a collaboration agreement that would define the NERMU governance and operational structure; and**
3. **that Councillor Bill Dixon from Darlington Borough Council be appointed to represent the Tees Valley Authorities as a member of the NERMU Board.**

REASONS

The decision was supported by the following reasons:

This would result in the Council being represented on a regional level and being in the

position to:

- **deliver local influence over the delivery of rail services in North East England;**
- **develop rail services to facilitate and stimulate economic growth and support the social cohesion of the North East, delivery high quality, integrated local services in line with the vision established by the Rail North Long Term Rail Strategy and the North East Rail Statement.**

15/69

THE CROWN CONFIRMATION OF ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION TO CONTROL DEMOLITION.

The Executive Director of Economic Development and Communities submitted a report that sought approval to confirm an Article 4 Direction to provide control to the Council over demolition of The Crown, Linthorpe Road.

Situated on the corner of Linthorpe Road and Borough Road, The Crown was included on the Council's Local List in 2011 because of its architectural interest and social value. The Crown was of high importance locally, having been a cinema until 1987, then a Bingo Hall and lately a public house. The Crown was a landmark building of high townscape value.

A number of local residents had contacted Council officers following the closure of the public house, raising concerns about the future of The Crown since its sale. Up until April 2015 the Council was not aware of imminent plans for demolition, however following a meeting the Council was made aware of a consultation leaflet issued by the developer, which clearly stated that one option was to demolish the existing building and therefore the building was considered under threat. Discussions with officers confirmed that this was an active option.

As a result of this concern, and to protect the building from demolition, the Executive Member for Regeneration approved an immediate Article 4 Direction for The Crown. This immediate Article 4 Direction however expires on 7 November 2015 and needs to be confirmed following a period of public consultation before this time or it would expire.

ORDERED

That the immediate Article 4 Direction made on 7 May 2015 removing permitted development rights to demolish The Crown, Linthorpe Road be confirmed, thereby making the Direction permanent.

REASONS

The decision was supported by the following reason:

Without the Article 4 Direction the building is at risk of demolition, which the Council cannot control without an Article 4 Direction. This would result in the loss of a significant locally listed building in Middlesbrough town centre.

15/70

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL SERVICE REVIEW AND PROCUREMENT.

The Executive Director of Economic Development and Communities submitted a report that outlined the future plans for the review and procurement of drugs and alcohol services in Middlesbrough.

The national annual cost to society of alcohol-related harm was estimated to be £21bn. In Middlesbrough alcohol related harm was estimated to cost £68m of which £29m was crime and licensing, £17m cost to workplace, £16m to the NHS and £8m on social services.

Tackling drugs and alcohol required a collaborative and multi-agency approach to reducing supply, availability and strengthening enforcement activity; prevention and early intervention; treatment, rehabilitation and recovery.

The local number of people going through treatment and recovery services are high for heroin

and alcohol, whilst cocaine and cannabis users were under-represented in the services. Whilst there was a reported increase in the misuse of prescription medication, 'over the counter' drugs and novel psychoactive substances (NPS) - legal highs, this was not represented in new presentations to treatment.

Prevention and early intervention was an important component of the local service delivery. A number of awareness raising campaigns have been carried out, led by the public health team and their partner organisations/services. Details of the campaigns were presented in the report.

Transforming drugs and alcohol services was one of the strategic priorities for the Council's public health team. This transformation sought to prevent and reduce the drugs and alcohol related harm, improve outcomes for individuals, families, neighbourhoods and communities, whilst delivering cost efficiencies and maximising value for money. As part of this programme, the Council was currently carrying out a review of the current service model for drugs and alcohol recovery to achieve a cost effective recovery orientated service.

ORDERED

1. **that the plans to review and procure a drugs and alcohol rehabilitation and recovery service to be in place for 1 October 2016 be approved; and**
2. **that the development and approval of the service specification, procurement document and evaluation of the tenders be delegated.**

REASONS

The decision was supported by the following reason:

The Council has a responsibility for ensuring the provision of drugs and alcohol services as part of the statutory responsibility for improving the health and well-being of its population.

15/71

1ST CAPITAL MONITORING REVIEW 2015/2016

The Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services submitted a report that provided an update on the Council's capital programme (2013/2014 to 2017/2018).

The report provided an updated position on the current approved capital programme, including available capital receipts to 2017/2018, based on information to date.

The report identified the changes to the capital programme since it was last reported to Executive on the Capital Outturn Report on 14 July 2015.

ORDERED

1. **that £476,000 less resources required for the capital programme from the Council be noted;**
2. **that the increase in the overall capital programme of £1.826 million be noted;**
3. **that the net re-profiling of £8.816 million for 2015/16 to 2016/17 be noted; and**
4. **that the overall capital programme for the period to 2017/2018 as outlined in the report be approved.**

REASONS

The decision was supported by the following reason:

To ensure that Middlesbrough Council reports on resource utilisation against approved capital budgets.

15/72

LIBRARIES & COMMUNITY HUBS - FUTURE DIRECTION.

The Executive Director of Economic Development and Communities submitted a report that provided an update on the findings of the public and stakeholder consultation and confirmed the future strategic direction of the existing network of libraries and community hubs in the town.

In March 2015 the Executive considered outline proposals to carry out a consultation exercise to inform the planned transformation of libraries and community hubs. A consultation exercise had been undertaken with both stakeholders and residents to explore the current and future offer. A summary of the responses was detailed in the report.

The feedback received from stakeholders would also play a significant part in determining how some of the future issues around sustainability could be addressed, and how the multi-agency delivery in each facility could be broadened out. The future strategic direction could now be confirmed as detailed in the report.

ORDERED

1. **that the findings of the consultation be noted; and**
2. **that the future strategic direction for community hubs be agreed.**

REASONS

The decision was supported by the following reason:

The proposal to transform the future operation of the existing network of libraries and community hubs provides an opportunity to improve and modernise service delivery to communities and is also essential to meet the financial demands set by Central Government.

15/73 COUNCIL, OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - MATTERS FOR RECONSIDERATION.

There were no items for re-consideration.

15/74 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD.

There were no items for consideration.

The decisions will come into force after five working days following the day the decisions was published unless the decision becomes subject to the call in procedures, except for Agenda Item 5 which will come into force with immediate effect and is not subject to scrutiny call-in procedures.