

AGENDA ITEM: 3

SPECIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

16th April 2009

CALL-IN:

REFURBISHMENT of MIDDLESBROUGH TOWN HALL COMPLEX

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To allow Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) the opportunity to review a decision made at an Individual Executive Member meeting on 26th March 2009, in accordance with the Authority's Call-In Procedure.

EXECUTIVE DECISION — 26th March 2009

2. At an Individual Executive Member meeting, consideration was given to a report relating to the Refurbishment of Middlesbrough Town Hall complex.
3. At this meeting, the report, detailed at **appendix 1**, sets out the following:
 1. That approval be sought for a development and funding strategy relating to the Town Hall. In recognising that the Town Hall is a listed building and of national importance the strategy focuses on the opportunity to refurbish and contribute to the creation of a high quality cultural quarter.
 2. The report outlined the physical parameters of the Town Hall complex targeted for refurbishment and emphasised the quality of its architecture. The report clearly presents that the Town Hall has been the focus of reports previously on its condition and potential refurbishment. Specific attention is brought to the Panther Hudspith report of 2003, which is significant to the concept of refurbishment. While previous reports have highlighted the substantial resources required to action a scheme and the need for a co-ordinated strategy. The report proposes that with the sponsorship and other funding required and in accord with procurement

rules Panther Hudspith be asked to update the work on a revised strategy which addresses these opportunities

3. In financial terms, the report clearly states that £37,500 be sought from One North East and matched by £12,500 from the local authority to fund the refreshing of the previous work and create a costed and phased outline plan of investment.
4. The report also presents that such a proposed facility would provide the opportunity for a diverse range of civic, commercial and public functions. While recognising the current economic circumstances are difficult, planning the renaissance of the Town Hall should be undertaken now.
5. In doing so, the Executive ordered the following:

ORDERED

- 1) That the development strategy and the recommended approach to its preparation be supported
- 2) That the use of Single Programme resources aligned with a contribution from the Regeneration budget to commission further work to develop an outline phased and costed proposal at a cost of approximately £50,00 be supported; and
- 3) To request a report back at regular intervals on progress.

CALL-IN PROCEDURE

4. The Call-In Procedure allows Members the opportunity to Call-In a decision for scrutiny by the OSB which was made by:
 - i) The Executive;
 - ii) An individual Member of the Executive;
 - iii) A Committee of the Executive;
 - iv) A key decision made by an officer with delegated authority from the Executive; or
 - v) Under Joint Arrangements.
5. The Call-In Procedure may only be implemented if so requested by any five Members of the Council and upon receipt of any such request by the Proper Officer before the end of the fifth working day after the making of that decision.
6. Following an Executive meeting, which addressed the report of the Refurbishment of Middlesbrough Town Hall complex, which was approved by the Executive Member on 26th March 2009. Five Members supported the request to Call-In such decision, in accordance with the Call-In procedure.

7. Throughout this special meeting of the OSB, Members will have the opportunity to review the decision. Having considered the decision the OSB may, if they feel it appropriate, refer the decision back to the decision-making body for re-consideration, setting out in writing the nature of their concerns.
8. If the decision is referred, then a further Executive Meeting will be held within ten further working days. The Executive can then make a final decision in the light of any recommendations made by OSB.
9. If the recommendations of the OSB are not accepted in full, then the Executive should notify the OSB and give reasons for not accepting the recommendations.

REASONS GIVEN FOR THE CALL-IN

10. The reason given to the Authority's Proper Officer which initiated the Call-In Procedure for the Executive Members decision on the Director of Regeneration's report, re the Refurbishment of Middlesbrough Town Hall complex, relates to the first two recommendations and is as follows:-
 1. The Town Hall is a Grade 11 listed building and should be preserved in its entirety without unnecessary redevelopment.
 2. As such redevelopment is unwarranted there is no need to waste £50,000.00 of Middlesbroughs income and Council tax on an expensive survey involving external consultants at a time of major financial world recession.

Review of Refurbishment of Middlesbrough Town hall Complex

11. To assist Members of the OSB to review the decision made by the Executive Member in relation to the Refurbishment of Middlesbrough Town Hall complex. The following key witnesses will be in attendance during this Special Meeting:
 - i) Head of Economic & Community Regeneration. to present the background to the report presented to the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture at an Individual Executive Meeting held on 26th March 2009
 - ii) The Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture (to present how the decision was reached); and
 - iii) The Member who initiated the Call-In request (to present their views and concerns with regard to the decision made by the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture).

PROPOSED CALL- IN TIMETABLE

12. To ensure the Call-In procedure is adhered to, the following Call-In timetable is as outlined below:

MEETING	DATE/TIME	PURPOSE
Special Meeting - Overview and Scrutiny Board	16 th April 09 3.30 PM	To review the decisions taken by the Executive on 26 th March 2009, in accordance with the Call-In Procedure.
Individual Executive Meeting	29 th April 09 10.00 AM	To re-consider the decision (if required to do so)
Overview and Scrutiny Board	5 th May 2009 4.30 PM	To notify the OSB of the outcome of the Call In

RECOMMENDATION

13. It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider the content of this report, to enable the Call-In procedure to be adhered to.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
- i) Middlesbrough Council's Constitution / Call-In Procedure; and
 - ii) Middlesbrough Council's Scrutiny Handbook 2007.

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