



PRCC.14 11/12
Prosperous Communities Committee
28 September 2011

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**Subject: Prosperous Communities Committee Working**

Report by:

Director of Strategy and Regeneration and  
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Purpose / Summary:

To inform the Committee of proposed informal working arrangements for the Prosperous Communities Committee and to seek support.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**(a) That Members support the proposed ways of working for the Prosperous Communities Committee.**

## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal:** There are not considered to be any legal implications from these proposed ways of working.

**Financial :** There will be some small cost implications in establishing and supporting Policy Development Panels and these will be met from existing budgets.

**Staffing :** Supporting Policy Development Panels will have an implication for staff involved and the impact will depend on the number of panels and the frequency of meeting.

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :** There are not considered to be any adverse implications as all Members will have the opportunity to be involved in any of the Panels that they wish to be engaged with.

**Risk Assessment :** By Members being involved at an early stage in helping to shape and develop key pieces of work this will reduce the risk of work taking place that would not be supported and agreed to by the Committee with overall responsibility.

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :** Additional meetings may require travelling and additional journeys to be made which may have an impact on CO2 emissions. With effective meeting planning the impact will be kept to a minimum.

### **Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Prosperous Communities Committee meeting 20 July 2011 report Urgent item 1 West Lindsey website <http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/prosperous-communities-committee-reports/104556.article>

Minutes of 20 July 2011 Prosperous Communities Committee West Lindsey website <http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/prosperous-communities-committee-minutes/104555.article>

### **Call in and Urgency:**

**Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

Yes

No

**Key Decision:**

Yes

No

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Members of the Committee will recall that at the meeting of the Committee on 20 July four corporate priorities for 2011/12 were agreed which are as follows :-
1. Localism
  2. Economy (Business Growth, jobs, skills and employability)
  3. Housing strategy
  4. MoD Sites

There are also 2 other issues i.e. Core Strategy and Health which are important for the current year. The delivery of the Corporate plan will take place over 4 years. It is important that the strategic thinking takes place and that the linkages with the work of other committees and in particular the Policy and Resources Committee and the Challenge and Improvement Committee are identified.

- 1.2 It was agreed that a workplan be determined for the Committee to move these priorities forward.
- Members will also recall that the Chairman wrote to all of the Committee Members on 4 August 2011 about the Prosperous Communities Committee Working arrangements and about the priorities for the Committee to elicit Member involvement and interest. This report explains about the way working will take place to move the priorities forward and also how it is envisaged Members of the Committee can be involved.

**2 Strategic Priorities**

- 2.1 The four priorities are complex and will require an in depth understanding of the evidence and data across West Lindsey. In order to develop robust actions Members have signalled a strong desire to start this in depth work in 2 areas i.e. to develop the priority focus for housing and to shape and develop the localism programme and two Policy Development Panels have been established to look at these topics. These Panels are due to meet on 28 September one at 6.00 pm and the other after the Prosperous Communities Committee meeting. These initial meetings will agree what information and support they need and how Members support the work.

### **3 Members Involvement**

- 3.1 In the letter that Councillor Parish sent he covered a number of points and for easy reference some of the key extracts are reproduced as follows :-

“I thought it would be helpful to contact all Members of the Prosperous Communities Committee. I have been giving some thought as to how the committee can make the most of the skills and knowledge that Committee Members have. It would be really useful if we can effectively use the committee resources to ensure that the workload that we will need to deal with is delivered.”

“The committee has a very broad remit and has a substantial role in making a difference to the community we serve.”

“The work that the Committee will need to do cannot all be dealt with in the scheduled Committee meetings. There is a lot of work that has to be done outside of the formal meetings, and I am keen to seek all Members commitment to support this work. As you know we have had a Task and Finish group to consider the issue of Power Stations and Health, and that group will report back to the Committee, and I believe that we will need more small groups of Members working with Officers and Partners on a range of topics. There are regular monthly briefings taking place between Officers, the Vice Chairmen, Gillian Bardsley, Jeff Summers and myself. At these briefings we are starting to consider some key strategic issues, and I am intending that over the next few months we will cover issues such as Economy (Economic Development Strategy) Housing, Core Strategy (Planning), Localism and a Green Strategy. The early consideration of strategic matters will help in developing and shaping the strategies that will in due course be agreed by Committee. If you would like to be involved with any of these topics before they are presented to the Committee then please let me know. If there are particular subjects areas that are covered by the Committee that you would wish to be involved with then please let me know.”

“I will contact you over the next few weeks to see what help and support you are able to give and if there are specific areas of interest that you have.”

- 3.2 Since that letter was sent out the Chairman has felt that it would be useful to do a follow-up. The Chairman would like to thank every one for the positive feedback that you have given; it is clear that there are many topics that Members of the Committee wish to be involved with. Cllr Parish has managed to speak with nearly all Members of the Committee and this has helped to clarify interests and the support that each Member is willing to give.

- 3.3 A list has been produced on the areas of interest that each Member has given so far. As and when Members express interest in other areas the list can be updated.
- 3.4 It is important that that Officers when working on strategies and on programmes that will deliver on the Strategies are aware of Members interests and the support that they are able to give.

#### **4. Work plan**

- 4.1 It is envisaged that the process for delivering the Committee priorities for this year will involve Members shaping ideas and approaches outside of the formal committee process on the 4 areas and first of all we would see that the regular monthly Prosperous Communities Chairs briefing meetings be used as a way of starting early discussions on the specific topics with the involvement of those Members that are interested in this.
- 4.2 In addition to the 4 priorities the monthly Prosperous Communities Chair briefing will also need to look at some other strategic issues and when the planning Core Strategy is given consideration it is intended to invite the West Lindsey Members of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Committee to ensure joined up working.
- 4.3 The second stage of the process would be to arrange for small groups of interested Members operating as Policy Development Panels (PDPs) working with officers leading on these areas to produce the Strategic plans for delivering the priority.
- 4.4 Reports would then come to the full Prosperous Communities Committee for decision. Once the Committee makes a resolution officers would then start to deliver the actions and report back on performance to the Committee.