

## **WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Challenge and Improvement Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 10 September 2013 commencing at 6.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Alan Caine (Chairman)  
Councillor Paul-Howitt-Cowan (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Nigel Bowler (Vice-Chairman  
  
Councillor Angela Lawrence  
Councillor Malcolm Leaning

**In Attendance:**  
Alex Reeks Assistant Chief Executive  
Marion Thomas Tourism Development Officer  
Katie Coughlan Governance and Civic Officer

**Also Present:** Councillor Jeff Summers

**Apologies:** Councillor Roger Patterson  
Councillor Sue Rawlins  
Councillor Lewis Strange  
Councillor Mick Tinker

**Membership:** No substitutes were appointed for the meeting.

### **27 MINUTES**

Meeting of the Challenge and Improvement Committee held on 30 July 2013.

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Challenge and Improvement Committee held on 30 July be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **28 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Alan Caine made a declaration for the avoidance of doubt, this being that he had undertaken a considerable amount of work with Quickline communications, as part of the village hall broadband scheme in recent weeks. Quickline were now using "the forge" advertising & marketing agency owned by his son and daughter-in-law.

The monitoring officer is aware and there is no connection between the work Councillor Caine undertakes in pursuing the village hall broadband scheme and the commercial promotion aimed at new domestic and commercial customers.

## **29 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE (CAI.16 13/14)**

The Governance and Civic Officer presented Paper A to the Committee noting that all Black items were completed for closing.

Members commented on the speed with which the Members IT log on Issues had been resolved.

Members also requested that the Members Portal be logged as a matters arising.

**RESOLVED** that the Matters Arising Schedule be received and noted.

## **30 MEMBERS' VERBAL UPDATE REPORTS**

### **(a) Wi-fi (Councillor Alan Caine)**

The Chairman circulated a spreadsheet, setting out the current position of all those requests, received to date, for installation of Wi-fi at Community Buildings. It was noted that the Authority had recently received confirmation that the Lincoln mast could be erected and it was envisaged that this would serve a number of communities in the vicinity.

With regard to the spreadsheet, Councillor Leaning confirmed that there were two sites at Nettleham and wished for both of these to be included. Members commented on a number of typos contained therein and requested that the spreadsheet be amended and distributed to all Members for information.

Members again expressed the view that the provision of hard copy planning applications needed to cease as soon as feasibly possible, in light of the associated costs to the Council.

The Governance and Civic Officer outlined the Policy as she understood it and the Chairman indicated that as more broadband provision CAME on-line across the District the Policy would be reviewed. Some Members were of the view this needed to happen sooner rather than later.

### **(b) Members' Portal (Councillor Malcolm Leaning)**

In his role of Member Champion for the Extranet, Councillor Leaning gave a report to the Committee on the developments and improvements which had

taken place since the Committee last met as well as those areas where further development and investigation were required.

Particular concern was expressed that Officers were still awaiting specialist advice and that this position had remain unchanged.

The Assistant Chief Executive undertook to take the issues away for addressing, and Members indicated that they would welcome a timeline for resolution.

### **31 HERITAGE AND TOURISM WORKING GROUP FEEDBACK (CAI.17 13/14)**

Members gave consideration to a report which sought to update them on activities been undertaken by the Tourism Working Group.

Members whole heartedly supported the work being undertaken by the Tourism Officer, acknowledging that resources in this area where extremely limited.

**RESOLVED** that: -

- (a) the Tourism Officer be supported in remaining in touch with Heritage Groups for regular updates into 2014 and beyond;
- (b) the development of a programme of interventions with West Lindsey tourism businesses in order to find out their issues and to both increase visitor numbers and skills levels be supported;
- (c) opportunities to ensure that the Council and partners are working as effectively as possible to promote tourism be identified; and
- (d) the Tourism Sub-Group's support of the Tourism Officer in the development and delivery of approved activities, including intelligence gathering, identifying need, promoting partnership building and strengthening links with existing partners be continued.

### **32 FORWARD PLAN (CAI 18 13/14)**

The Governance and Civic Officer presented a report setting out the items of business due to be considered through the committee system and asked Members to identify any reports that they wished to be brought before the Challenge and Improvement Committee for scrutiny.

Members made reference to Agile Working, Car Parking and the Waste Strategy.

In respect of the latter Members requested that the Strategy be submitted to the Challenge and Improvement Committee for pre-scrutiny prior to it being submitted to the relevant Policy Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the Forward Plan and the Committee's request be noted.

### **33 WORK PLAN (CAI.19 13/14)**

The Work Plan for the business of the Challenge and Improvement Committee was discussed.

As a result Members requested that the following items be incorporated thereto: -

- (a) Budget Setting pre scrutiny
- (b) Localism Group – Feedback / Findings Report
- (c) Customer Services Group – Feedback / Findings Report
- (d) Progress and Delivery Working Group – Feedback / Findings Report

**RESOLVED** that the Work Plan be noted and items (a) – (d) set out above be incorporated thereto.

The meeting concluded at 7.32pm

Chairman