

## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 16 July 2013 at 7.00 pm.

**Present :**

Councillor Malcolm Parish (Chairman – In the Chair)
Councillor William Parry (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Gillian Bardsley (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Irmgard Parrott
Councillor Lewis Strange
Councillor Geoff Wiseman

**In Attendance :**

Mark Sturgess	Director of Regeneration and Planning
Alex Reeks	Assistant Chief Executive
Grant Lockett	Head of Strategic Growth
Rob Lawton	Area Team Manager
Phil Hinch	Licensing Manger
Sue Leversedge	Group Accountant
Katie Coughlan	Governance and Civic Officer

**Also Present :** Councillor Jessie Milne

**Apologies :** Councillor Trevor Young

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

### 17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 18 MINUTES

(a) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 4 June 2013

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 4 June 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**19 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 8 JULY 2013 (PRCC.07 13/14)**

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 8 July 2013.

Officers undertook to ensure that the one remaining amber item was brought up to date before the Committee's next meeting.

Members commented on the on-going work around Rural Broadband Investment and welcomed this.

**RESOLVED** that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in report PRCC.07 13/14 be received and noted.

**20 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made at this point.

**21 FOOD MATTERS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (PRCC.08 13/14)**

Members gave consideration to a report which provided an update on the Council's work in relation to the Agri food Sector through the "Food Matters" project.

In responding to Members' comments and suggestions as to how the Council could further engage with the Sector, Officers confirmed that a number of those key stakeholders referred to by Members had been engaged with. Officers also outlined their intention to work with educational establishments, including the agricultural college, to engage young people and encourage them into the Sector.

In reference to the "seeing-is-believing" visits, Members indicated that they would welcome a similar opportunity to meet with some of the local leaders in the Sector.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received and noted.

**22 WELTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA DESIGNATION (PRCC.09 13/14)**

Members gave consideration to a report which recommended the designation of the area for the Neighbourhood Plans of Welton.

**RESOLVED** that the Neighbourhood Plan Area of Welton be formally designated.

**23 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE ON 25 JUNE 2013 – CHANGES TO POLICY FOR TAXI PROPRIETORS AND DRIVERS (PRCC.10 13/14)**

Members gave consideration to a report which detailed proposals to adopt a specific Policy in relation to the intended use of Hackney Carriage Proprietor Licences and to introduce a knowledge test for Private Hire/Hackney Carriage driver applicants.

In presenting the report, the Licensing Team Manager outlined at length the current issues the Council was facing and how some of these emerging issues had the potential to comprise the Council's primary aim regarding taxi licensing, namely to ensure the health and safety of the travelling public.

It was stressed that the suggested amendments to the Policy were a way the Council could ensure that applications for the grant of hackney carriage licences were determined in accordance with the guidance given by the High Court. Members congratulated the Licensing Team Manager on his thorough, clear and informative report.

**RESOLVED** that: -

- (a) having considered the revised process in relation to Taxi Proprietors and Drivers, Appendices 1 and 2 be adopted;
- (b) having considered the suggested fee to be charged for Driver Knowledge Tests it be **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that this be set at £15.00; and
- (c) Council be **RECOMMENDED** to grant delegated authority to the Head of Public Protection, to refuse applications when the Knowledge Test has not been passed by applicants.

**24 WORK PLAN (PRCC.11 13/14)**

The Governance and Civic Officer presented the Committee work plan. Members noted that Officers would be meeting in the coming days to review the plan and more evenly align work , wherever possible, for forthcoming meetings.

**RESOLVED** that the Work Plan as set out in report PRCC.11 13/14 be received and noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.48 pm.

Chairman