

## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 17 July 2012 at 7.00 pm.

**Present :** Councillor Malcolm Parish (Chairman – In the Chair)  
Councillor Gillian Bardsley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Nigel Bowler  
Councillor Jackie Brockway  
Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor Stuart Curtis  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Lewis Strange  
Councillor Geoff Wiseman

**In Attendance :**

Mark Sturgess	Director of Regeneration and Planning
Alex Reeks	Assistant Chief Executive
Ralph Gould	Principal Accountant
Steve Leary	Administration and Recycling Team Leader
Katie Coughlan	Governance and Civic Officer

**Also In Attendance:** Mr Mike Braithwaite Head of Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit

**Also Present:** Councillor Chris Darcel  
Councillor Burt Keimach

**Apologies :** Councillor Jeff Summers (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Lesley Rollings  
Councillor Trevor Young

**Membership :** Councillor David Cotton serving as a substitute for the vacant seat  
Councillor Stuart Curtis substituting for Councillor Jeff Summers  
Councillor Reg Shore<sup>1</sup> substituting for Councillor Trevor Young

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<sup>1</sup> Councillor Shore later submitted his apologies and did not attend for any part of the meeting

## **18 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND TRIBUTE TO THE LATE COUNCILLOR RAY SELLARS**

The Chairman welcomed all Members, visiting Members and Officers to the meeting and, in opening, paid tribute to the late Councillor Sellars whom he considered to have been an exceptional Councillor, hardworking, dedicated to his community and a very dear friend who would be greatly missed. The Committee joined the Chairman in paying tribute to Councillor Sellars and stood for a two minute silence as a mark of respect.

## **19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

## **20 MINUTES**

Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 6 June 2012

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 6 June 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **21 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 9 JULY 2012 (PRCC.09 12/13)**

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 25 May 2012. It was noted that all actions had been completed on target.

**RESOLVED** that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in report PRCC.09 12/13 be received and noted.

## **22 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor David Cotton and Councillor Stuart Curtis declared a non-pecuniary interest in report PRCC.10 12/13 (Core Strategy – Consultation response) as serving members on the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee.

Councillor Stuart Curtis declared a further non-pecuniary interest in report PRCC.12 12/13 (Review of the Impact of the Closedown of the Green Garden Waste Service During the Winter Months) as a serving member of Sudbrooke Parish Council which had complained previously regarding the close down date of the Green Garden Waste Service.

Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan declared a non-pecuniary interest in report PRCC.12 12/13 (Review of the Impact of the Closedown of the Green Garden Waste Service During the Winter Months) as he had served on the Review Working Group.

### 23 CORE STRATEGY – CONSULTATION RESPONSE (PRCC.10 12/13)

The Chairman welcomed and formally introduced Mr Mike Braithwaite to the Meeting and invited both him and Mr Sturgess to make their presentation to the Committee.

Members of the Committee heard a presentation from Mike Braithwaite (Head of the Joint Planning Unit). During which information was provided on the following: -

- the background and purpose of the Core Strategy and The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee
- details of the approach taken to develop the document
- the engagement and consultation undertaken to date
- a summary of the growth agenda in terms of Housing, Economic Development and Infrastructure Delivery
- the impact of the National Planning Policy Framework and in particular its effect on Central Lincolnshire Area and the work undertaken to date
- planned future consultation and anticipated submission date

The contents of the Core Strategy, the key policies contained therein and purpose and intention of each were outlined in depth to the Committee. Each of the planned neighbourhood extensions across the Central Lincolnshire area was brought to Members' attention, together with details of any issues, opportunities and "factors relied on" identified.

Following which, Members were afforded the opportunity to comment on the draft Core Strategy as presented and the Director of Regeneration and Planning posed a number of key questions to facilitate the debate, namely: -

- Which policies do you feel should be the top five priorities?
- Which policies do you feel should be the bottom five priorities?
- Are there any policies missing?
- Which rural areas do you feel are sustainable for affordable housing developments?

the main themes of those comments are given below:

Subject Area	Member Comment/Recommendation	Officer Response
Jobs and employment	The Core Strategy needs to ensure that the approach it takes is balanced and that where new homes are provided there are also new employment sites allocated	The Core Strategy tries to do this through the development of the Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) where they will be

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		developed as mix of housing and employment land
Infrastructure	All the SUEs need to ensure that they have adequate infrastructure to support the new population – in particular roads and medical facilities	An infrastructure delivery plan is being developed alongside the Core Strategy.
Wind Farms	The Core Strategy needs to provide adequate protection for the countryside from the development of wind farms	The policy on renewable energy (CL3) seeks to ensure that all forms of renewable energy are in the most appropriate locations and protect what is valuable about the landscape of the District
Proportion of affordable housing to be required on development sites	Is 40% viable?	It is clear in the policy that 40% is an “aspiration” and will not be capable of being achieved on every site
Leisure and Tourism	Policies on leisure and tourism are missing from the document	Will be considered when the consultation responses are analysed
Waterways	Policies related to the use of waterways as a visitor attraction are missing from the document	Will be considered when the consultation responses are analysed
Older people in West Lindsey	Need for clarification of the figures given in paragraph 6.9 about the number of older people in the District	Will be given outside the meeting
Top five policies: 1. Prosperity and jobs 2. Houses – in particular the role of conversions of existing buildings to provide for more homes 3. Renewable energy 4. Transport 5. Quality of Life		
Gypsy and travellers	How can the Core Strategy meet the needs for gypsies	Gypsy and travellers needs assessment

	and travellers for short term or over night stopping places	needs to be updated.
Transport	Should be number one priority – where cheap and accessible public transport is available in every settlement within the District	Where new development is proposed then this can be considered
Town Centres and shopping	Need to ensure that the impact of internet shopping and superfast broadband on the high street is taken into account in policies for town centres and shopping areas.	Noted

**RESOLVED** that the Committee’s observations and comments be submitted to an Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council on 1 August 2012 for further consideration, approval and submission to the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee thereafter.

**Note:** Councillor Jackie Brockway declared a non pecuniary interest in the above item of business as her daughter was involved in travelling shows.

## 24 CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH (PRCC.11 12/13)

Members gave consideration to a report which presented a draft version of the 2012 -2016 Corporate Plan and which sought the Committee’s views / feedback on the suggested priorities, the risks identified to the delivery and general format.

**RESOLVED** that All Members of the Council be provided with a copy of report PRCC.11 12/13 and be requested to:

- (i) provide any proposed amendments to the priorities and objectives in chapter 3 of the document;
- (ii) feedback on the communications plan; and
- (iii) feedback on the questions raised in section 2 of the report (PRCC.11 12/13), outside of the meeting to a Member of the Core Management Team.

## 25 (REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF THE CLOSEDOWN OF THE GREEN GARDEN WASTE SERVICE DURING THE WINTER MONTHS) (PRCC.12 12/13)

Consideration was given to a report which provided Members with a detailed update and the outcome of a review of the efficacy of the cessation of winter

garden waste collections Policy, its impact on the environmental performance of the service, and impact on customer satisfaction. The report further proposed some revisions to the Policy to address the findings of the Review.

Debate ensued and in opening, Members congratulated Officers on the service standard provided by the Waste Services Team and commented on how the community had embraced recycling in general.

In the ensuing discussion, Members commented on the need to ensure the reasons for ceasing the service during the Winter months was communicated clearly and cited examples of communications they had had with local residents the previous year. Members also raised a number of possible alternative changes to the service standard and sought indication as to whether these would be feasible, including the provision of a static service, similar to the County Council's. In response it was noted that the change in service provision had been borne out of consultation with the public. Officers also outlined the adverse effects on waste streams caused by such static services. Finally, whilst a six weekly collection during November to April was feasible it would not achieve savings at a level on par with the current service and thus these would need to be achieved elsewhere within the service.

However a Member was not in agreement with the proposals and did express the view that seeking the maximum level of savings should not always be the prime objective over service provision for residents, particularly when the Council had accrued under spends. This view, however, was not shared by other Members and on that basis it was: -

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the cessation of green waste period be delayed by one month and thus the suspension now would commence on 3 December with collections resuming on 25 March.
- (b) further publicity be given through available channels to enable residents to plan for the cessation and to also understand the reasons why the cessation period takes place.
- (c) subject to an appropriate fee being proposed to and approved by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 29 September 2012, a bespoke service (allowing residents to book a garden waste collection date of their choosing) be introduced from 3 December 2012 for those residents who miss the convenience of doorstep garden waste collections and are prepared to pay for the service
- (d) the analysis following the cessation of green waste for the 2012/13 period be reviewed by officers when collections resume.

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- (e) the Operational Services Manager, provide an update to the May 2013 Challenge and Improvement Committee in respect of the implementation of the recommendations, as detailed above.

**Note:** Councillor Geoff Wiseman voted against the above decision and requested that this be recorded in the minutes

The meeting concluded at 9.42 pm.

Chairman