

## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Wednesday 28 March 2012 at 7.00 pm.

**Present :**

Councillor Malcolm Parish (Chairman – In the Chair)  
Councillor Gillian Bardsley (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Jeff Summers (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Nigel Bowler  
Councillor Jackie Brockway  
Councillor David Dobbie  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Jessie Milne  
Councillor Lesley Rollings  
Councillor Ray Sellars  
Councillor Lewis Strange

**In Attendance :**

Rachel North	Director of Communities and Localism
Grant Lockett	Housing Renewal and Community Safety Services Manager
Ralph Gould	Group Accountant
Nick Ethelstone	Development Contributions Officer
Nicola Turnbull	Chairman's Officer
Katie Coughlan	Senior Democratic Officer

**Also Present:** 1 Member of the Public

**Apologies :** Councillor Trevor Young

**Membership :** Councillor Jessie Milne substituting for Councillor Geoff Wiseman

### **73 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

### **74 MINUTES**

- (a) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 1 February 2012

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 1 February 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

- (b) Special Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 23 February 2012

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 23 February 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **75 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 20 MARCH 2012. (PRCC.33 11/12)**

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 20 March 2012. It was noted that all actions had been completed on target. As a result Members expressed their thanks to Officers for the continual progress being achieved.

**RESOLVED** that progress on the matters arising schedule, as set out in report PRCC.33 11/12 be received and noted.

### **76 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this point in the meeting.

### **77 CORPORATE PLAN / COUNCIL PRIORITIES – DELIVERY AND PROGRESS REPORT (PRCC.35 11/12)**

Consideration was given to a report which presented the latest draft version of the proposed Progress and Delivery Report. The report further sought Members' views and comments, particularly in respect of the report's revised format and suggested content. More specifically, Member feedback as to whether or not the measures currently being proposed were considered appropriate means for demonstrating the delivery of outcomes in the future.

With the permission of the Chairman, the Director of Localism and Communities made a brief supporting presentation to Members, during which the report's rationale and its key aims were outlined in greater detail. A summary of the work which had been undertaken to-date by Officers in establishing a raft of revised performance measures against which future performance could be monitored was outlined to the Committee. The principles and benefits it was envisaged the introduction of Balance Scorecards, comprising quantitative and qualitative measures both internally and externally facing were also summarised.

At the suggestion of Officers a workshop style session ensued, during which the draft performances measures identified to-date along with further explanation of any rationale or reasoning which had been applied, for each of the key strands within the Communities and Localism and Regeneration and Planning Growth Programmes of the Corporate Plan were considered in turn and in detail by Members.

Having received initial feedback on a number of those draft measures presented as well as suggested amendments to the general format of the report, those areas where performance measures were still to be determined were highlighted.

Through the course of the debate, Members commented on the considerable progress which had recently been achieved in respect of the ex MoD Sites, and in doing so formally commended the work of all those Officers involved with this programme.

Furthermore, in relation to the Planning and Development Services Functions Officer undertook to further investigate and resolve those areas cited by Members where problems were currently being experienced..

In conclusion, Members views were sought on the priority areas suggested for the forthcoming year, and which of these if any, should take priority status. Officers undertook to provide the Committee with copies of all those draft measures to which they have given consideration to and all Members were encouraged to submit any further suggestions they had to relevant Officers outside of the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that those suggestions and the feedback offered by Members in relation to the proposed Progress and Delivery Report and the suggested performance measures be taken into consideration when finalising any subsequent proposals submitted for approval and adoption.

## **78 EVALUATION REPORT – FUTURE JOBS FUND (FJF) JUNE 2009 – OCTOBER 2011 (PRCC.34 11/12)**

Members gave consideration to a report in which the outcomes of the recently completed FJF Programme were evaluated. The report further advised of the Authority's recent success in having secured funding of up to £60,000 via the Department of Work and Pensions / Job Centre Plus' newly established "Flexible Support Grant funded Scheme".

There was a general consensus that the Programme's delivery had been a success. Members congratulated all those who had been involved with the Programme throughout its duration, and the success achieved.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the successes achieved in delivering the Future Jobs Fund (FJF) programme, as detailed in report PRCC.34 11/12, be formally recognised; and
- (b) the Authority's recent success in having secured funding of up to £60,000 from the Department of Work and Pensions / Job Centre Plus' (DWP/JCP's) newly established "Flexible Support Grant funded Scheme" be received and noted.

**79 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (PRCC.36 11/12)**

Consideration was given to a report which provided Members with detailed information in respect of the Community Infrastructure Levy, including the background to, context of, and rationale for introducing such a Levy across the District in the future. The report further detailed those options, available to the Committee and in light of the potential risks, benefits and opportunities of each, having been assessed, (Section 4 of the report relates) in conclusion, the report outlined a proposed suggested way forward, and sought Members' approval thereof.

In responding to Members' questions, Officers highlighted the next steps, estimated timescales, and the anticipated future decisions Members would need to give further consideration to, in the event of the proposed way forward, namely Option 1, being supported.

Having given consideration to the information provided and the options available to the authority it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that Option 1 be accepted as the most efficient method for producing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule, and thus the intention to introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy within West Lindsey and pursue a charging schedule aligned with that of both North Kesteven and the City of Lincoln councils as part of the Joint Planning Unit (JPU) be agreed.

**80 WEST LINDSEY COMMUNITY AWARDS (PRCC.37 11/12)**

By way of context and background to the following item of business, Councillor Summers, with the permission of the Chairman, re-read the motion he had submitted to Council in January 2012 and which the Committee, had previously given consideration to, at its meeting on 1 February 2012. In concluding

Councillors Summers re-capped the intentions of his Motion and his vision as to how such an Award Scheme could develop over the short to medium term future.

Members gave consideration to a report which set out proposals, as to how the people of the District could be honoured through such an Awards Scheme / Event. The Options therein were summarised to the Committee and the rationale for each, was further expanded upon. Members noted that in developing the options consideration had been given to all those comments and suggestions previously made by the Committee, and arising from its previous deliberations in connection with this matter. Furthermore, it was noted a number of Members, had been engaged with on an informal basis throughout the report's development. In concluding, Officers highlighted those areas / aspects where further consideration was required and/or where Member feedback was being sought, together with a summary of those decisions the Committee were been asked to give consideration to.

Members re-affirmed the unanimous support they had previously shown for the Scheme. In the ensuing debate the Committee gave detailed consideration to, and commented on, the suggested timeline, categories, nomination and adjudication process, and finally, each of the alternative suggested formats, as detailed within the report.

As a result, a number of further suggestions, with regard to potential additional award categories, alternative formats and suggested criteria were posed.

In light of the comments expressed, there was an evident general census that:

- i) the introduction of any Community Awards Scheme should be delayed until 2012/13 and thus the proposals for a reduced Award Scheme during 2012 be rejected;
- ii) that Option 2 (A Community Awards Dinner) be not pursued further at this time in light of the current financial climate/ and the public perceptions; and
- iii) that the Option of the presentation of such awards at a Special Christmas meeting of Full Council be the Committee's preferred choice and that this option be further explored.

In light of the further suggestions offered by Members and in view of there being a need for further development work to be undertaken in a number of areas it was suggested that the Member Panel referred to in paragraph 3.4 of the report be established in order to further consider all of those aspects / areas raised, with a view to recommendations being submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for final approval.

The Committee indicated their unanimous support for the suggested way forward and nominations for members to serve thereon were sought and duly received.

On that basis it was:

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) a Member Panel comprising the four Councillors nominated by the Committee, namely:

Councillor Gillian Bardsley  
Councillor Jessie Milne  
Councillor Lesley Rollings; and  
Councillor Jeff Summers

be established to work with the Chairman's Officer, in giving further consideration / further progressing all of those aspects, areas and suggestions raised by the Committee in respect of the Community Awards Scheme; and

- (b) a further report setting out the Member Panel's recommendations (referred to above) be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, for further consideration and final approval.

**81 "ARE WE OPEN FOR BUSINESS" – REQUEST FOR A MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED BY THE CHALLENGE AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE ON 28 FEBRUARY 2012 (PRCC.38 11/12)**

Members gave consideration to a report in which the Committee were requested to nominate one of its Members to serve on the "Are we Open for Business" Working Group which had been established by the Challenge and Improvement Committee at its meeting on 28 February 2012.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Nigel Bowler be appointed as the Prosperous Communities Committee's representative on the "Are we Open for Business" Working Group, established by the Challenge and Improvement Committee.

The meeting concluded at 8.59 pm.

Chairman