

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Wednesday 4 January 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 Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Jessie Milne
Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Ray Sellars
Councillor Lewis Strange
Councillor Geoff Wiseman

In Attendance :

Rachel North	Director of Communities and Localism
Mark Sturgess	Director of Regeneration and Planning
Glyn Pilkington	Operational Services Manager
Chris Allen	Public Protection Services Manager
Ralph Gould	Group Accountant
Katie Coughlan	Senior Democratic Officer

Also Present: Councillor Owen Bierley } Members of the Renewable
Councillor Roger Patterson } Energy Task & Finish Group

Also in Attendance: Mr David Stacey - Programme Manager - Public Health

Apologies : Councillor Stuart Kinch
Councillor Trevor Young

Membership : Councillor Jessie Milne substituting for Councillor
Stuart Kinch

49 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENT RE: INTENTION TO VARY THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman welcomed all Members and Officers to the first meeting of 2012 and in opening announced his intention to vary the order of business. It was proposed that Paper B (PRCC.24 11/12 - Renewable Energy Statement) be considered prior to all items listed under agenda item 6 (Presentation Items).

Having been proposed and seconded it was:

RESOLVED that the order of business be varied as detailed above.

50 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

51 MINUTES

Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 2 November 2011

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 2 November 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

52 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 20 DECEMBER 2011. (PRCC.23 11/12)

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 20 December 2011.

It was noted that all actions had been completed on target.

Reference was made to the Trinity Arts Centre and in particular the future arrangements for monitoring the Project's progress, clarity was sought and provided.

RESOLVED that progress on the matters arising schedule, as set out in report PRCC.23 11/12 be noted.

53 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

54 RENEWABLE ENERGY STATEMENT (PRCC.24 11/12)

Members gave consideration to a report which set out the Renewable Energy Statement which had been prepared by the Renewable Energy Task and Finish Group of the Challenge and Improvement Committee. The report also set out an accompanying Action Plan and requested that the Committee give consideration to, and comment on, both the Statement and the proposed actions and agree a way forward.

The Chairman of the Task and Finish Group, in presenting the report to Members, outlined at length the rationale for preparing such a Statement; the work which had been undertaken by the Group in reaching their proposals, and how it was envisaged the Statement would be used in the future. In concluding, Councillor Howitt-Cowan thanked all those members who had contributed to the Statements formulation and expressed particular thanks to the former Director of Neighbourhoods and Health for the support and he had provided to the Group.

Lengthy debate ensued during which the Committee considered, commented on and suggested minor amendments to the both the Statement detailed at paragraph 3.3 of the report and the reasons for the Statement detailed at paragraph 3.4 report; namely reasons 10 – 14 inclusive.

It was re- emphasised by Officers that the purpose of both the Statement and the “Reasons for the Statement” were merely to set out the Authority’s aspirations and future intentions in relation to Renewable Energy and thus were not binding nature, merely principles.

Whilst acknowledging the intention behind those suggested amendments to the wording which had been put forward by the Committee, these were not considered to have fundamentally changed the thrust of the document.

Members’ attention was drawn to the proposed Action Plan in which the finer details and delivery mechanisms were detailed and a number of the suggestions which had been offered had been captured therein. With the Committee’s agreement Officers undertook to take on board all of the suggested amendments and to the revise both the Statement and the Reasons for the Statement to reflect these.

Finally, nominations for Members interested in working with Officers to scope possible projects set out in the Action Plan were sought and received and on that basis it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the draft Renewable Energy Statement, and the suggested amendments thereto, made by the Prosperous Communities Committee, set out at Appendix A of these minutes, be **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council for consideration and subsequent formal adoption in 2012;

- (b) having considered the proposed future actions set out in report PRCC.24 11/12, the Committee agrees to report back to the Challenge and Improvement Committee in April 2012 on the proposals; and
- (c) Councillors Jeff Summers and Paul Howitt-Cowan be nominated to work with Officers on scoping the possible projects.

Note: Councillor Jessie Milne declared a personal interest in the above item of business as a serving Member on the Development Management Committee.

Councillor Geoff Wiseman declared a personal interest in the above item of business as he was employed in the Energy Sector.

55 PRESENTATION ITEM - PROGRESS AGAINST DELIVERY OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT (JSNA) 2011 – PRESENTATION BY MR DAVID STACEY - PROGRAMME MANAGER PUBLIC HEALTH & CHRIS ALLEN PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICES MANAGER.

The Chairman welcomed and formally introduced Mr David Stacey to the Meeting and invited him and Mr Allen to make their presentation to the Committee. In opening, Officers outlined the four main areas their presentation would cover, namely:

- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)
- A Strategy for a Healthy District

The Health and Social Care Reform agenda would see the requirement for upper tier authorities to establish Health and Well Being Boards, with three key statutory functions which were outlined to the Committee. It was noted that Lincolnshire was an 'early implementer' for such Boards and the progress which had been made to date in developing the Lincolnshire Board, including details of its membership, its reporting lines (in absence of legislation as yet) and the work it was involved with, was shared with Members; the latter of which included converting the JSNA priorities into themes of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS).

The background and purpose of the JSNA, which had previously been submitted to the Committee for consultation purposes, was re-capped, together with details of the revised approach in developing the document and some of the headline findings therefrom were outlined. It was noted that stark contrasts between the different Wards / Areas of the County had been identified and detailed analysis

was ongoing in order to gain greater understanding as to the possible reasons for this. In response to Members' questions a number of potential possibilities for such were cited.

In conclusion Mr Stacey outlined at length and in detail the next steps which would be undertaken towards developing the JHWS and the associated timeline. Its purpose, content and future uses were further expanded on, and in particular it was noted that from 2013 all commissioning decisions would be informed and effected by the Strategy.

Finally, the Public Protection Services Manager addressed Members setting out the ways in which it was intended to develop a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for West Lindsey and outlined those factors and some of the challenges which the Authority would need to give consideration to. In closing, the Key Milestones, associated timeline, and planned consultation and engagement which would be undertaken in developing a Strategy for West Lindsey was shared with the Committee.

A number of questions were posed and responded to as required, following which, the Chairman thanked Mr Stacey and Mr Allen on behalf of all Members for the very informative and interesting presentation.

56 PRESENTATION ITEM - PROGRESSING THE LOCALISM AGENDA – UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES AND LOCALISM OUTLINING THE WORK UNDERTAKEN TO DATE AND DETAILS OF ONGOING AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES.

The Director of Communities and Localism gave a presentation to Members outlining the work which had been undertaken to date to progress the Localism Agenda, in four main areas with the broad headings of, Community Funds, Area Working, Priority Neighbourhoods and Voluntary Sector.

In opening, the Aims, Objectives, and Context of the Localism Programme, including the ways in which it was intended to deliver this across West Lindsey were re-capped, the main thrust being to help communities to help each other and themselves by:

- Giving them tools such as information, meeting places and technology
- Giving them information on their place
- Helping them access basic services and champions who can support them.

Members were provided with comprehensive and detailed information in relation to all of the projects and activities which had commenced, under each of the four identified streams. The Key Milestones, associated timeline, and details of consultation / engagement to be undertaken in connection with each, was also shared with the Committee.

Finally, details of the ongoing and planned future activities to be undertaken, along with their associated timelines and key milestones were outlined. The ways in which Members would be engaged and could get involved, going forward, was also highlighted by the Director of Localism and Communities.

One such project currently being explored was drawn to Members' attention, namely, the possibility of establishing an additional Community Funding Stream, to support local communities to celebrate the forthcoming Olympics and Diamond Jubilee, for which a potential £50,000 had been identified. Members' views on the proposals were sought and provided and in light of the appetite shown by the Committee, Officers undertook to further develop the Scheme and indicated a report would be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee, as part of the budget proposals, in order to secure the required monies.

In conclusion, it was noted that a number of measures had been introduced / were being developed, in order to ensure that performance and progress was continually managed, tracked and driven, to ensure the agenda's successful delivery.

A number of questions were posed and responded to as required, arising from which Officers cited a number of benefits they considered had been realised through this new way of working. This view was shared by Members on the whole, who expressed very positive feedback of their experiences to date, as well as a number of benefits they considered had been realised directly as a result. One Member, however, did express concerns at the pace with which the Community Funding Streams were being launched, but this view was not shared.

At the request of Members, Officers undertook to produce information / communications, setting out details of all available funding streams, together with the application process and closing date for each, in order to assist and raise awareness amongst local residents and communities.

Members further suggested it may be of benefit to local residents, communities and Members alike if a 'one point of contact' for assistance/ information relating to Funding could be identified and established.

The Chairman thanked Ms North on behalf of all Members for the very informative and interesting presentation and requested that the Committee be provided with copies of both those presentations which had been made to the Meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.05 pm.

Chairman

The Statement

“West Lindsey supports the use and application of renewable energy technology within the District provided that any adverse impacts on communities are mitigated as far as possible.

The Council will use its best endeavours to encourage both individuals and businesses to consider and use renewable energy technology to reduce the carbon emissions from the activities that take place

The Council will consider using energy from renewable sources when carrying out its functions where financially viable.

The Council will consider installing renewable energy generation systems on its own assets where financially viable

In supporting renewable energy the Council will ensure the principle of the right technology and renewable energy solution is applied in the right location.”

Reasons for the statement

The reasons why the Council supports renewable energy generation and use is for the following reasons:-

1. to demonstrate that the Council is committed to it's aspiration to be the greenest council
2. to demonstrate the links to the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee work on developing a core strategy that includes the potential for the expansion of renewable energy and low carbon technologies
3. to help achieve the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy renewable energy and low carbon targets once these are agreed
4. to support the deliver of the green council theme in the corporate plan
5. to support communities and individuals that are concerned about renewable energy and to support increased sustainability and the Councils approach to localism
6. to support those who experience fuel poverty
7. to reduce the carbon emissions in the area and to reduce the potential adverse impact on climate change
8. to support the Government's target for a greater contribution of renewable sources in energy generation and usage
9. to reduce the reliance on energy that is produced from sources and locations where there is a risk that energy security could be compromised
10. to encourage land and property owners to make the most of their assets and the financial opportunities that renewable energy creates **to encourage businesses to make the most of their assets and the financial opportunities that renewable energy creates**

11. to support businesses in the district that are being encouraged by their customers to demonstrate their reduced carbon footprint **and encourage them to make the most of their assets.**
12. to encourage new businesses that are involved in renewable technology to develop in the area so that job opportunities are created. **To encourage new businesses to develop in the area, including those in new technologies, so that job opportunities are created.**
13. to make the most of the Council assets and to generate income from renewable sources where the business case supports this
14. to ensure that recognition is given that not all locations in the district are suitable for each and every type of renewable energy generation project, **and to encourage businesses to use appropriate technology in the right situations.**