

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Wednesday 6 June 2012 at 7.00 pm.

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

Councillor Owen Bierley
Councillor Nigel Bowler
Councillor Jackie Brockway
Councillor Jessie Milne
Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Lewis Strange
Councillor Geoff Wiseman
Councillor Trevor Young

In Attendance :

Rachel North	Director of Communities and Localism
Grant Lockett	Head of Strategic Growth
Chris Allen	Head of Public Protection
Joanna Riddell	Head of Localism
Ralph Gould	Principal Accountant
Mary Hollingsworth	Lead Officer, Enterprising Communities
Kim Leith	Corporate Health and Safety
Katie Coughlan	Governance and Civic Officer

Also Present: Mrs Terri Roach – Lincolnshire NHS

Apologies : Councillor Jeff Summers (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Ray Sellars

Membership : Councillor Jessie Milne substituting for Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Owen Bierley substituting for Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan

6 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all Members and Officers to the first meeting of the Civic Year, and in opening made reference to Councillors Summers and Sellars, and their current state of ill health. To this end the Chairman and all Members sent their best wishes to both.

7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

8 MINUTES

(a) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 28 March 2012

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 28 March 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

(b) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 14 May 2012 (PRCC.01 12/13)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 14 May 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

9 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 25 MAY 2012 (PRCC.02 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. 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.02 12/13 be received and noted.

10 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Trevor Young declared a personal interest in report PRCC.06 12/13 (Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2012-2016) as through his employment he had worked with the Housing Team in developing the Strategy.

11 PRESENTATION ITEM – JOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2013 – 2018 – CONSULTATION 2012

The Chairman welcomed and formally introduced Mrs Terri Roach to the Meeting and invited her and Mrs Riddell to make their presentation to the Committee.

In opening, the background and purpose of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (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. Some of the headline findings therefrom were outlined, together with details of the Strategy's main five themes, which had been identified as a result. Officers provided details of the engagement and consultation undertaken to date and outlined the four main areas where Members' views were being sought and on which the evening's presentation would focus and explore, namely:

- Priorities on which the Strategy should Focus;
- Mental Health
- Objectives the Strategy is trying to achieve
- Outcomes which will demonstrate the Strategy has achieved what it sought to do.

In the ensuing presentation, Members and Officers were provided with a raft of detailed information regarding the ambition and priorities for each of the identified five themes, together with details of how each could be linked back to the evidence in the JSNA, as well as information in respect of the proposed Outcomes Framework which would be used to measure and evaluate success going forward.

At the conclusion of which, Members' views / comments were sought and received and a number of questions were posed, particularly regarding what budget had been allocated to deliver the strategy, how much of this was new money or was this 'shunted around' money thus possibly leading to other crucially important services being detrimentally effected.

In responding to questions, the following points were noted:

- The budget / ring fenced allocation was still unclear from Central Government,
- The Strategy would go on in the future to inform and affect clinical commissioning (from 2013)
- Regardless of the final budget allocated, the aim would be to provide a service at a level equal to the current standards but aiming for 'more for less'. A new budgeting formula was being developed based on the best and worst case scenarios, the focus being how can we least affect front line services This was outlined to members;

Members did express concern that the intention to shift the spend profile could potentially affect critical hospital services, even if only in the short term, as the scale of the project to be undertaken would take a number of years before benefits were realised.

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In response, it was stressed that the spend profile would only begin to move once there was proven evidence that preventative action was making a difference. No monies would be taken from acute services until such time.

There was a general consensus amongst Members and Officers alike that efforts and energy should be focussed towards changing our culture. All were in agreement that health was determined by so many wider factors, and indication was therefore sought and received as to whether attempts were been made to influence the media and supermarkets for example.

the Head of Localism addressed Members and introduced the Draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy for West Lindsey. In doing so the scene at both a national, local and area perspective was set out, along with the methodology which had been adopted in developing the Strategy, this being in the spirit of localism and in line with District's six identified areas. The main issues identified for each area were highlighted in turn and in concluding, the remaining key milestones associated timeline and planned consultation and engagement was summarised to the Committee.

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

Finally, the Head of Public Protection drew to Members' attention the key deadlines for consultation responses and re-iterated the ways in which Members could submit their views. Officers undertook to circulate further details and links to the consultation websites outside of the meeting.

Note: Councillor Trevor Young declared a personal interest in the above item of business as he worked in Mental Health Services.

Councillor Lesley Rollings declared a personal interest in the above item of business as a PE Teacher

12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY FOR WEST LINDSEY (PRCC.03 12/13)

Members gave consideration to a report which presented the Draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy for West Lindsey for the period 2012-2015.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy as set out at Appendix A to report PRCC.03 12/13 be approved for public consultation purposes;

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- (b) the public consultation plan as detailed in report PRCC.03 12/13 be approved; and
- (c) following the consultation period, the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy be amended to reflect the comments received, and be re-submitted to this Committee in September 2012 for further consideration and formal adoption.

**13 PROGRESS AND DELIVERY REPORT – REPORTING PERIOD 1
(PRCC.04 12/13)**

Consideration was given to a report which provided Members with a detailed update on the progress achieved to date in delivering the Corporate Plan priorities as well as an update on the performance achieved by each service area.

RESOLVED that the contents of report PRCC.04 12/13 be received and noted.

**14 PROGRESS AND DELIVERY – FINANCE REPORT (BASED ON INCOME
AND EXPENDITURE IN THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2011 – 31 MARCH 2012
(PRCC.05 12/13)**

Members gave consideration to a report which set out the annual income and expenditure (subject to audit) based on transactions for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012. The report further provided explanations for any differences between the forecasts and approved budgets.

A Member queried the total budget set for the Committee for 2012/2013 and in the absence of the information; Officers undertook to provide a response outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED that the contents of report PRCC.05 12/13 and the budget position for 2011/12, based on income and expenditure to 31 March 2012 be noted.

**15 LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2012 – 2016
(PRCC.06 12/13)**

Consideration was given to a report which provided Members with an overview of the Lincolnshire County Homelessness Strategy 2012-2016, together with the implementation action plan.

In presenting the report to Committee, Officers outlined the approach adopted in developing the document, and the five main themes identified.

Members wished to place on record their congratulations to those Officers involved in developing the Strategy and commented on the fantastic turn around in

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performance by the Housing Team as whole, in recent years, and the fact that West Lindsey was now viewed as a ‘leading light’ in such joint initiatives across the county by its partners.

RESOLVED that the contents of report PRCC.06 12/13 be received and noted.

16 REPORT ON THE APPROACH TO PROVIDING A PRE-DEVELOPMENT ADVICE SERVICE IN WEST LINDSEY AND RESPONSES TO THE ISSUES PREVIOUSLY RAISED BY MEMBERS (PRCC.07 12/13)

At the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 1 February 2012 Members had requested a report in response to the points which had been raised during their discussions over the Council’s pre-development advice service. To this end, consideration was given to a report which addressed the specific issues, and responded to the concerns previously raised by the Committee.

In presenting the report to Members, Officers outlined at length the rationale for having introduced a fee for the pre-application advice service, together with the advantages and benefits afforded to both the customer and the authority from doing such. It was strongly stressed that the introduction of such a fee was not and had not been solely about income.

The latter point was strongly disputed by some Members who cited a number of incidents and examples in support of their view point.

In responding Officers re-iterated the points they had previously made and Members’ attention was drawn to the fact that pre-application advice and the fee payable for such, was not a mandatory requirement on all applicants, rather an optional extra should they choose it.

A Member queried the exact fee payable for pre-application advice and whether this was deducted from an applicant’s final fee on their application being passed. In the absence of the information; Officers undertook to provide a response outside of the meeting.

Finally, Members made reference to Appendix 1 of the report and the Task and Finish Group’s Membership. The Committee wholeheartedly supported the suggestion that a member of the local business community be invited to serve on the group and suggested some organisations worthy of consideration. Officers undertook to relay these to the Lead Officer working with the Task and Finish Group.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the contents of report PRCC.07 12/13 be received and noted;
and

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- (b) the matter of charging for pre-application advice be reviewed along with other issues around support for business, assistance to business, regulatory services and council procurement by the recently established “Open for Business” Task and Finish Group.

17 COMMUNITY FUNDS PROGRESS REPORT (PRCC.08 12/13)

Members gave consideration to a report which detailed the progress and performance of the first year of the revised Local Councillor Initiative Fund, the Celebration Fund, along with information regarding the latest developments and early grant allocations for the Community Action and Volunteering Fund and the Community Assets Fund.

Members welcomed the update and wholeheartedly supported the use of Funding Schemes of this nature to support our communities in the spirit of Localism. It was acknowledged that having a variety of schemes running at the same time could be confusing to the public as to the difference between each. However Members considered the information contained with the report was user friendly and at their request Officers undertook to circulate the document to all Parish Clerks.

It was further noted that consideration was being given to launching a “Localism Matters” Bulletin going forward.

RESOLVED that the contents of report PRCC.08 12/13 be received and noted, and the community funds existence continue to be promoted.

The meeting concluded at 9.38 pm.

Chairman