

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 6 November 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 Judy Rainsforth
Councillor Lewis Strange
Councillor Geoff Wiseman
Councillor Trevor Young

In Attendance :
Rachel North Director of Communities & Localism
Mark Sturgess Director of Planning and Regeneration
Glynn Pilkington Head of Operational Services
Steve Leary Recycling and Administration Team Leader
Katie Coughlan Governance and Civic Officer

Apologies : Councillor Lesley Rollings

Membership : No substitutes were appointed for the meeting

34 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND TRIBUTE TO THE LATE COUNCILLOR MEL STRAKEY

The Chairman welcomed all Members and Officers to the meeting and, in opening, paid tribute to the late Councillor Starkey, who would be greatly missed and whom he considered to have been a very hardworking Councillor, dedicated to his community. The Committee joined the Chairman in paying tribute to Councillor Starkey.

The Chairman further elaborated on the reasons for Councillor Rollings been absent from the meeting, and again the Committee joined the Chairman in wishing Oscar a very speedy recovery.

35 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

36 MINUTES

- (a) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 18 September 2012

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 18 September 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

- (b) Special Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 24 September 2012

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 24 September 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

37 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 30 OCTOBER 2012 (PRCC.19 12/13)

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 30 October 2012. It was noted that green actions referenced ID 1 and 2 had now been completed, and work in respect of green action, reference ID 3, was ongoing.

RESOLVED that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in report PRCC.19 12/13 and the information received in the verbal update as detailed above be received and noted.

38 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lewis Strange declared a non pecuniary interest in report PRCC.20 12/13 (Green Strategy) as Lincolnshire County Council's Executive Portfolio holder for Green Energy.

39 GREEN STRATEGY (PRCC.20 12/13)

West Lindsey District Council has committed in its Corporate Plan to create a Green District where people want to work, live and visit. Members have worked to develop a Strategy for this vision . Through a Policy Development Panel Members had worked to develop a Strategy for this vision and consideration was given to a

report which detailed this work and the key immediate actions for the Council to undertake to achieve its aspiration. In presenting the report to the Committee, the Chairman of the Green Member Policy Development Panel, highlighted to members the key drivers behind Policy, the role the Council had in educating, promoting and encouraging residents, emphasising that the document was both visionary and aspirational.

Members were provided with details of a number of both large and small scale projects, which demonstrated the ways in which the Authority was already delivering against the vision set out in the Strategy. Officers also outlined the wider social, economic and financial benefits such projects had delivered as, an aside.

Debate ensued and there was lengthy discussion regarding the need and merits of further exploring the collective switching campaign. Officers explained the rationale behind the scheme and how in practice it could work for residents and assist in reducing fuel poverty. All members of the Committee whole heartedly supported the intention to further investigate the opportunities this presented and were in complete agreement that fuel poverty, was an issue in need of addressing.

In response to Members comments regarding the need for behaviour change to society's "throw away" attitude, Officers outlined a number of potential ideas which were been explored to work towards such a culture change, including the idea of a furniture exchange day. Again, Members welcomed the idea and encouraged Officers to investigate all possible avenues for achieving such a culture change.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the Green Strategy, as set out in report PRCC.20 12/13, be adopted; and
- (b) the Action Plan for the next 6 months, as set out in report PRCC.20 12/13, be agreed.

Note: Councillor Geoff Wiseman declared a non pecuniary interest in the above item of business as he worked in the energy sector.

40 CORPORATE PLAN – PROGRESS AND DELIVERY REPORT – REPORTING PERIOD 2 (PRCC.21 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.

Debate ensued and Members posed a number of questions, including queries regarding the meaningfulness of some of the measures and the accuracy of some of those base line figures set out in the report. These were responded to accordingly by Officers and Members noted that this was a new area to Officers, post the Best Value Regime, and that the measures contained on scorecards were

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Subject to Call-in. Call-in will expire on 19 November 2012 at 5.00 pm

constantly been revisited to ensure the data being collected was that which showed a true, accurate and meaningful reflection of how the Council was performing against its Corporate Plan.

There was much discussion regarding the use of the Citizens Panel and whether the best way to ascertain the views of the District and whether it provided a reflective sample. Assurance was offered that the way in which Citizens Panels were made up ensured that it was reflective of the districts demographics and thus provided a reliable sample. It was also stressed that this was not the only method by which residents views were gauged, however Officers acknowledged that it may be a useful exercise to review how and for what the Authority made use of the Citizens' Panel going forward. There was a suggestion by Members to develop an Involvement Strategy, making the best use of current technologies to engage with sections of the community, particularly the young people within the District.

RESOLVED that the contents of report PRCC.21 12/13 be received and noted.

The meeting concluded at 8.00 pm.

Chairman