

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 9 April 2013 at 7.00 pm.

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

Councillor Nigel Bowler
Councillor Jackie Brockway
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Judy Rainsforth
Councillor Lewis Strange
Councillor Geoff Wiseman

In Attendance :
Mark Sturgess Director of Planning and Regeneration
Nick Ethelstone Acting Head of Developments and Neighbourhoods
Nicola Calver Governance and Civic Officer
Katie Coughlan Governance and Civic Officer

Apologies : Councillor Trevor Young

Membership : No substitutes appointed for the meeting

62 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

This being the last meeting of the current civic year, the Chairman opened by thanking all Officers, in particular his Committee Administrator, and all Members of the Committee for their hard work and support over the past year.

63 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

64 MINUTES

Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 12 February 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 12 February 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

65 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 27 MARCH 2013 (PRCC.37 12/13)

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 27 March 2013. It was noted that all actions had been completed on target.

In response to Members questions, the Director of Planning and Regeneration confirmed that the “Open for Business” report, referred to at Green Action No.5 would be submitted to Committee in June 2013, and undertook to ensure the forward plan was brought up-to-date.

RESOLVED that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in report PRCC.37 12/13 be received and noted.

66 MEMBERS’ DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point.

67 PRESENTATION / WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

By way of context and background, the Acting Head of Developments and Neighbourhoods, gave a short presentation to the Committee. Members were reminded of the previous regime, including its main flaws and the complications which commonly arose when linking multiple agreements to strategic infrastructure. Officers went on to explain the principles of CIL, including the main differences between it and S106s, which included: -

- It will be charged on a per sq m basis
- The rate will be Non-negotiable by developers
- It will not necessary to spend monies on infrastructure linked to the development it was collected from
- It can be set at different levels across the district but can only be based on viability

In closing, Members were advised how CIL was linked to the previously approved Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

**68 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY – DRAFT SCHEDULE (PART 2)
(PRCC.38 12/13) (PRCC.31 12/13)**

The Committee gave consideration to a report which sought Member approval of the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (PDCS), this being the first document in the development of a District Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The PDCS had been prepared by the JPU/officer group but aligned schedules would need to be endorsed by each District Council for consultation. Further stages for district committees were set out at section 5 of the report.

The document set out the process to be followed during the next steps, including discussions with the development industry and further consultation.

Members agreed that much work had been undertaken by the CLJSPU, and clarification was sought on some aspects, in particular, the charging mechanism and potential non-payments, and the difference between CIL and S106 agreements. The difference in rates between Gainsborough and the rest of the district was also explained.

In responding to questions and concerns regarding defaults, non-payments, land swaps and the increments incorporated into the draft instalment policy, Members were advised that the Instalment policy aimed to ensure that monies were collected without affecting viability. Previous issues experienced with S106 monies would be prevented as CIL charges were non-negotiable and the regulations were much tighter, meaning somebody would always be liable for outstanding monies. Regarding land swaps, Officers were confident the Council would not be short changed. Any land under consideration, would be independently valued and the Council would be under no obligation to accept the offer. By way of reassurance, Officers explained the very transparent nature of the CIL regime which would place a mandatory requirement on the Council to publish and report on all income and expenditure related to CIL. In responding to concerns regarding the instalment Policy, and the length of time allowed to elapse between each payment, particularly for larger developments, it was stressed that this was merely a draft for consultation purposes and could be reviewed and amended if required prior to it being formally approved.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (attached as Appendix 1 to report PRCC.31 12/13) be approved for formal public consultation in July 2013, in accordance with the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (amended by the Community Infrastructure (Amendment) Regulations 2011);
- (b) a continued partnership approach to CIL evidence, CIL schedules and CIL funding be agreed;

- (c) the general approach set out on specific issues at Section 3, (regulation 123 lists, to be considered in December 2013, Instalment policies, draft at Appendix 2, and in-kind payments, draft at appendix 3) to be addressed on an aligned basis with Central Lincolnshire Partner Authorities be endorsed; and
- (d) appropriate process, be supported, including through providing resources and political agreements.

69 RURAL BROADBAND CLOSING REPORT (PRCC.39 12/13)

Members gave consideration to a report which sought to update the Committee on the findings of the Rural Broadband Working Group and endorsement of its recommendations.

Arising from the debate, Officers confirmed that the planned work would assist in resolving some of the on-going issues at Market Rasen.

Officers undertook to ensure communities were kept informed and Officers stressed that the work to be undertaken would complement that being undertaken by BDUK rather than compete with it. Reference was made to the work being undertaken across the county by BT and Officers again explained that the proposal would further complement this, explaining the technical limitations of the BT work and how these proposals would overcome these particularly in rural areas.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) a further report be provided to Committee on 4 June 2013 informing of the outcome of the investment exercise being undertaken;
- (b) the headline business case stated in appendix 1 be noted;
- (c) Growth Officers be tasked via the Growth Board to contact mobile phone companies / providers to encourage them to invest in additional radio base stations in the area to improve mobile phone coverage, and the findings of such be reported back to the Prosperous Communities Chairs Brief on a regular basis;
- (d) Localism Officers be tasked, via the Localism Board, to work with Community Lincs and other relevant organisations to produce a plan to support increasing community interest and use of broadband within the District, this should include working with Officers within the Universal Credit Pilot and to ensure maximum usage of village halls and understand the number of digitally excluded citizens within West Lindsey. The findings of such be reported back to the Prosperous Communities Chairs Brief on a regular basis; and

- (e) Planning Officers be tasked, via the Growth Board, to raise with developers the topic of high-speed broadband during their discussions to encourage the installation of the appropriate infrastructure on and into development sites, and the findings of such be reported back to the Prosperous Communities Chairs Brief on a quarterly basis.

70 COMMUNITY AWARDS 2012 – REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT (PRCC.40 12/13)

The Committee gave consideration to a report which presented a review of the first West Lindsey Community Awards held on 10 December 2012. The report further invited Members suggestions and subsequent agreements for changes to the ceremony in 2013.

Lengthy debate ensued during which Members thoroughly debated each of those options set out in paragraph 3 of the report, weighing up the pro's and con's of each in detail. As both suggestions had a number of merits as well as a number of potential pitfalls, it was suggested that the alternative format be trialled for 2013, as the format could be reverted in the future if considered necessary.

There were some concerns over how applications had been scored previously, with some Members feeling this should be more discussion based. The Committee were in agreement that the way applications were scored in the future should be for the Panel, once appointed, to decide.

In order to ensure cross party Membership and in order to not preclude any Member of the Council the opportunity to sit on the Panel, it was suggested the appointment thereof be deferred until the meeting of Annual Council.

On that basis it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) Option 2, detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report, be the preferred format for the ceremony in 2013; and
- (b) Annual Council be requested to appoint a Member Panel, comprising that Membership detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the report, to assist in the adjudication and process of the 2013 West Lindsey Community Awards.

71 EAST MIDLANDS COUNCILS AFFORDABLE HOUSING DECLARATION (PRCC.41 12/13)

Members gave consideration to a report which provided information regarding the East Midlands Councils Declaration on Affordable Housing.

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RESOLVED that Members support West Lindsey District Council in signing up to the East Midlands Councils Affordable Housing Declaration.

The meeting concluded at 8.35 pm.

Chairman