

## **WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 15 July 2014 at 6.30pm.

**Present:**

Councillor Owen Bierley (Chairman) (In the Chair)
Councillor Gillian Bardsley (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Lewis Strange (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Jessie Milne
Councillor Malcolm Parish
Councillor Irmgard Parrott
Councillor Di Rodgers
Councillor Lesley Rollings

**In Attendance :**

Mark Sturgess	Chief Operating Officer
Alex Reeks	Assistant Chief Executive
Ruth Farningham	Team Manager – Community Action
Sue Leversedge	Accountant
Katie Coughlan	Governance and Civic Officer

**Also Present :** Councillor Nigel Bowler

**Apologies :** Councillor Richy Doran  
Councillor Trevor Young

### **19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

### **20 MINUTES**

(a) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 3 June 2014

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 3 June 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**21 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 7 JULY 2014 (PRCC.08 14/15)**

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 7 July 2014.

**RESOLVED** that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in report PRCC.08 14/15 be received and noted.

**22 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**23 TO VARY THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

It was noted that Councillor Bowler was in attendance to present Paper D (Localism Review) to the Committee. In light of this, it was proposed and seconded that the order of the agenda be varied in order that Paper D was the first public report for consideration, after which business would be considered in that order detailed on the published agenda.

**RESOLVED** that the order of the agenda be varied as detailed above.

**24 LOCALISM REVIEW (PRCC.11 14/15)**

Challenge and Improvement Committee, through a Member Officer Working Group, reviewed the activities of the Localism Service. The aims were to ascertain what the service had achieved, where the service was effective, where there were gaps in provision, and to find out what could be done to improve the service in West Lindsey. Consideration was given to the report which detailed the findings and recommendations.

There were differing views as to the successes achieved to date. However the general consensus was that the Localism Service had delivered some real successes on the ground. In response to Members' questions it was confirmed that the intention was for each area to get a bespoke service, dependent on the outcome of current briefings being held with Ward Members for each area.

All were in agreement that there needed to be greater engagement with Parish and Town Councillors, some were of the view that Area Forums should be re-established, although this was not a general consensus.

It was noted the Member survey response rate had been particularly low and Councillor Bowler urged all Members to raise the profile of the work undertaken by the Localism Team.

Members were referred to actions 16 and 17 of the action plan which aimed to address parish engagement; however caution was expressed at relying solely on Minerva as a means of Communication as the number of Members accessing it was limited and connecting could be difficult. Greater use of hard copies, particularly for Parish Councils, was also encouraged, in order that smaller communities were not disadvantaged.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the action plan highlighted in Appendix 1 be approved;
- (b) the communications Delivery Plan in Appendix 3 be approved;
- (c) the current area manager arrangement be cancelled and that engagement with elected members be carried out by the Community Action Team; and
- (d) the constitution be amended as required to reflect the changes to the Area Manager arrangements.

## **25 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (PRCC.09 14/15)**

Members gave consideration to a report which sought approval of the draft Economic Growth Strategy.

Whilst Members were supportive of the Strategy as far as it went, there was general consensus that Tourism had not been given enough credit or emphasis. Members outlined numerous tourist attractions across the District and were of the view that Tourism deserved its own strap line.

Officers undertook to strengthen this area prior to the document being released for consultation.

It was noted that the document presented was a high level Strategy and there was a need to develop a delivery / implementation plan.

Members called for a Task and Finish Group to be established to progress the Tourism strand and there again was a general consensus that Tourism should be seen as a priority for the District. Members called for swifter movement in progressing this area.

In responding, Officers expressed caution at establishing a Task and Finish Group too early in the process and there was a risk that areas not deemed a

priority would be pursued. The planned consultation would assist in identify these.

Finally it was suggested that more consideration need to be given to health, in strategies such as this, in order that regeneration and growth embedded and encouraged healthy and active lifestyles.

**RESOLVED** that the draft Economic Growth Strategy be approved for circulation to stakeholders subject to Members comments detailed above being taken into consideration.

## **26 GAINSBOROUGH GROWTH FUND (PRCC.10 14/15)**

Members gave consideration to a report which sought approval for the Gainsborough Growth Fund and sought nominations for 3 representatives and 3 substitutes to sit on a Funding Consultative Panel which would oversee investment decisions.

In responding to a comment that this Fund was Gainsborough centric, Committee noted that this was Growth Fund monies and the external funding came with caveats on how it could be spent.

**RESOLVED** that: -

- (a) the proposals for the operation and management of the Gainsborough Growth Fund be approved; and
- (b) Councillors Tom Regis, Jeff Summers and Mick Tinker be appointed as the nominated representatives, and Councillors Gillian Bardsley, Malcolm Parish and Owen Bierley be appointed as the substitutes to sit on the Funding Consultative Panel which will oversee investment decisions.

## **27 GTAA: C AND I TASK PANEL FEEDBACK (PRCC.12 14/15)**

Members gave re-consideration to a report which had been prepared by the Challenge and Improvement Task Panel to provide elected Members with feedback. The Task Panel had been asked to review the Central Lincolnshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment brief methodology and robustness of the need figure for the number of new pitches identified for West Lindsey in the Assessment.

This matter had been deferred at the Committee's previous meeting and a workshop held on 9 July 2014 to assist Members' understanding of the issues contained within the report. Arising from the workshop, a set of alternative recommendations had been included within the deferred report.

Officers re-iterated that the document was not Policy.

Members thanked Officers for the workshop, which had gone a good way to aiding Members' better understanding. Members felt more re-assured about future and were of the view that the revised recommendations better represented the Committee's view.

**RESOLVED** that: -

- (a) the conclusion of the Task Panel be noted as the evidence base which will inform the development of the gypsy and traveller planning policies for the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan;
- (b) Officers continue to work with the Central Lincolnshire Local Plans Team and other neighbouring councils to ensure that the location of gypsy and traveller sites are fairly and equitably distributed across Central Lincolnshire and other neighbouring council areas; and
- (c) A further report be brought back to the Prosperous Communities Committee outlining the criteria to be put forward in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan for the location of sites and pitches in the planning policy on gypsy and traveller accommodation in Central Lincolnshire.

## **28 WORKPLAN (PRCC.13 14/15)**

The Governance and Civic Officer presented the Committee work plan.

**RESOLVED** that the Work Plan as set out in report PRCC.13 13/14 be received and noted.

## **29 CLOSING REMARKS**

Prior to closing the meeting, the Chairman indicated he wished to make a couple of announcements. He firstly apologised that the planned photograph had not gone ahead, alternative arrangements would be made.

Thanks were placed on record to Ella Wild, who had been on a work experience placement with the Council and the Chairman encouraged such engagement with young people.

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Members were advised of the number of ways in which they could get involved with the Community Consultation Exercise being undertaken in respect of the potential selective licensing scheme in the South West Ward.

And finally, the Chairman made reference to the forthcoming training event on Thursday evening and encouraged as many members as possible to attend.

The meeting concluded at 7.56 pm.

Chairman