

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 24 March 2015 at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillor Owen Bierley (Chairman) (In the Chair)
Councillor Gillian Bardsley (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Lewis Strange (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Richy Doran
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Giles McNeill
Councillor Jessie Milne
Councillor Roger Patterson
Councillor Geoff Wiseman
Councillor Trevor Young

In Attendance :

Mark Sturgess	Chief Operating Officer
Nick Ethelstone	Special Projects Programme Manager
Di Krochmal	Housing and Communities Project Officer
Oliver Fytche-Taylor	Team Manager Spatial Planning
Tracey Bircumshaw	Group Accountant
Katie Coughlan	Governance and Civic Officer

Also In Attendance: Mr Brendan Gallagher, Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit

Apologies: Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Malcolm Parish (absent due to civic engagement)
Councillor Irmgard Parrott
Councillor Di Rodgers

Membership: Councillor Roger Patterson to substitute for Councillor Irmgard Parrott
Councillor Geoff Wiseman to substitute for Councillor Di Rodgers
Councillor Giles McNeill to substitute for Councillor Malcolm Parish

79 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

80 MINUTES

(a) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 3 February 2015.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 3 February 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

81 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 16 MARCH 2015 (PRCC.52 14/15)

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 16 March 2015.

RESOLVED that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in report PRCC.52 14/15 be received and noted.

82 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Roger Patterson declared a non-pecuniary interest in report PRCC.53 14/15 (Motion from Council on 10 November 2014 – Rural Transport) as he was employed by a public transport company.

Councillor Richy Doran declared a non-pecuniary interest in report PRCC.53 14/15 (Motion from Council on 10 November 2014 – Rural Transport) as he was employed by East Midlands Trains.

Councillor Giles McNeill declared a non-pecuniary interest in report PRCC.53 14/15 (Motion from Council on 10 November 2014 – Rural Transport) as a non-driver and therefore regular user of public transport.

Councillor Jessie Milne declared a non-pecuniary interest in report PRCC.55 14/15 (Survey Results from Supported Housing Residents) as she was the Council's representative on the ACIS Housing Group Local Management Board (Rural Area).

Councillor Geoff Wiseman declared a non-pecuniary interest in report PRCC.55 14/15 (Survey Results from Supported Housing Residents) as he was the Council's representative on the ACIS Housing Group Local Management Board (Gainsborough Area).

83 PRESENTATION ITEM: - PRESENTATION BY BRENDAN GALLAGHER OF THE CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT PLANNING UNIT – CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE AND VIABILITY UPDATE.

The Chairman welcomed Brendan Gallagher to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation to the Committee regarding Central Lincolnshire Infrastructure and Viability.

In opening, the Committee were advised that the purpose of the presentation was to: - (re-)introduce issues around infrastructure planning, viability and delivery (including statute if needed); discuss the role of the Joint Committee: plan-making; discuss the role of the district authorities: CIL (community infrastructure levy) charging; and discuss the process that would follow over the next few months.

Members were provided with background information, noting that the Infrastructure Delivery Plan had been prepared in 2013 and included infrastructure priorities. The Community Infrastructure Levy had been drafted via district committees in 2013. The Joint Unit were now moving forward with A single Local Plan, revisiting development locations (with more detail in the rural areas). There had been some changes amongst JPC, including new officers.

Currently the team were working on individually robust evidence and policy to provide a coherent and well-presented plan – linking the Local Plan to delivery strategies. This was not without challenges and viability was central. Priorities had to be made and authorities would have to work with the LEP and other partners. Delivery would be from a range of sources (with developer contributions only being a small element).

Mr Gallagher shared with the Committee several diagrams, showing how viability and deliverability were demonstrated and the components which contributed to both. Demonstrating Whole Plan Viability (WPV) would be critical if the submission was to be successful. Members were shown a diagram which illustrated WPV and the approach the unit were taking to achieve such.

Discussion then turned to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, the purpose of the document was outlined to the Committee who noted this was a plan stating what, where, when and how infrastructure would be delivered and was a supporting document to the Local Plan based upon evidence.

The proposed next steps were outlined to Members and these were noted as follows: -

Feb – May 2015:

- Developer/land owner consultations; viability verification and major sites delivery review;
- *LPA discussions*; development led infrastructure priorities (S106, Reg 123 list); quantity all delivery options
- Whole Plan Viability, IDP, CIL documents drafted

June/July 2015:

- District committee before CIL (PDCS) consultation & R123 list
- JPC considers draft Local Plan, IDP, SPD

Summer/ Autumn 2015

- Public consultation on all documents

Jan/ Feb 2016:

JPC sign off or pre-sub Local Plan, IDP, SPD.
District Committees before DCS CIL consultation

Mid-2016 to Dec 2016:

joint CIL and Local Plan examination then adoption

A period of questioning followed during which some Members felt a Summer consultation period was not appropriate and may preclude some. It was noted that this would be an 8 week period consultation and therefore should allow most the opportunity to engage. Moving the consultation period would affect the adoption date, which was not an option, as quick adoption was critical. Officers confirmed that they were in dialogue with neighbouring authorities including North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire Councils.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gallagher for his presentation and Officers undertook to circulate the presentation to all Members and display it on the Members Extranet for future reference.

84 MOTION FROM COUNCIL ON 10 NOVEMBER 2014 – RURAL TRANSPORT (PRCC.53 14/15)

Members gave consideration to a report which allowed Committee to consider the options around the establishment of a West Lindsey Rail Improvement Group as proposed in the motion submitted to and considered by Council at its meeting on 10 November 2014.

Discussion ensued with Officers outlining three proposed options, together with the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Whilst Members were keen that this matter be progressed it was accepted that by implementing Option 2, there was a greater likelihood of delivery.

The Committee shared their experiences of public transport across the District and the lack of joined-up thinking. All were in agreement it would make sense to look at the issue of rail alongside other public transport issues, confirming this was another reason as to why Option 2 may be the more appropriate and effective.

Councillor Doran outlined forthcoming rail improvements of which he had become aware of and which would affect the District. Major changes were expected during 2017 and now was the time to influence. The Chairman also outlined a recent briefing he had had with Network Rail regarding the improvement programme in North Lincolnshire. Partnership working would be the key to influencing change.

Members also considered the importance of Community Transport, in bridging service provision gaps in rural communities, should not be underestimated and every effort should be made to encourage more community transport schemes.

On that basis it was: -

RESOLVED that Option 2 be supported and therefore the work around the rail links proposed in the motion be linked to the wider work ongoing around rural transport and that this include exploring all options around bus, rail and community transport schemes.

85 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER (PRCC.54 14/15)

Members gave consideration to a report which briefed the Committee on the Local Development Order (LDO) work currently being undertaken by the Council.

Discussion ensued and in responding to Members queries' Officers advised that the planning element of the work would be completed in house and the LDO would be aligned to planning policies. The area of Carr Lane which had a current approved planning permission was not part of the LDO area, however Lea Road School was, and Members commented on the development potential of the site. Local architects had not been used, simply as a result of the experience had by the company selected.

In responding to further Member comments, Officers gave their assurance that the LDO, Local Plan and other major issues of a similar nature would be included in the new member induction. Furthermore there would be consultation with both the current compliment of Members and the new compliment of Members, post-election.

RESOLVED that the award of £80,000 to fund the development of the Local Development Order (LDO), and the work planned to put the LDO in place, including a public consultation exercise in Spring 2015, be noted.

86 SURVEY RESULTS FROM SUPPORTED HOUSING RESIDENTS (PRCC.55 14/15)

Following a resolution made by Council on 28 April 2014, Members gave consideration to a report which sought to update them on progress made in

investigating how the change from resident wardens in Acis sheltered accommodation in the District to travelling Housing Support Assistants had affected residents and to assess whether there was a role for West Lindsey District Council in augmenting this provision.

Discussion ensued and Members spoke passionately regarding this subject and gave their personal views. Members questioned whether the survey results represented the comprehensive view of the residents as a number of those who received surveys would not have been able to complete them. Councillor Wiseman urged the Council to consider intervening and re-introducing the care service.

Councillor Young called for a fundamental back to basics review. He considered that some of these residents had been attracted to these establishments because of the service and shelter they provided, something which had now been removed without a sufficient alternative having been provided in his opinion. He was also of the view that some residents had lost confidence in the service and were feeling vulnerable.

Committee were in agreement that this issue needed greater scrutiny and a service provision satisfaction rate of 65% needed to be improved. They were of the opinion that residents felt vulnerable and there was a view that they felt unable to challenge the level of service they were receiving and that the service provider did not see these issues as their responsibility.

Whilst acknowledging that the national picture and budget provision had undoubtedly had an impact, debate turned as to how the Committee and Members may influence and effect service provision going forward. Referring to the recommendations Members called for greater involvement in the review meetings and therefore proposed and seconded that a Member representative along with a reserve be nominated at Annual Council to attend all such review meetings.

Members were of the view that the issue needed to be addressed corporately within the council in its role as a community leader.

As a result of the comments expressed during the debate, it was: -

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the results of the survey be shared with the service providers;
- (b) Officers continue to work together for those residents who live in West Lindsey by holding **3 month** review meetings between ACIS, the Well-Being Service, Lincolnshire County Council and West Lindsey District Council
- (c) The review meetings referred to at (b) above to include a Member representative (to be nominated at annual council in May 2015 along with a reserve Member);

- (d) Members feed any issues to officers to ensure that the message is received and rectification is put in place; and
- (e) the Challenge and Improvement Committee be asked to consider including a workshop / scrutiny session on this topic in their work plan for the coming 15/16 year.

Note: Councillor Bierley declared a non-pecuniary interest in the above item of business as a trustee for Age UK Lindsey.

87 WORK PLAN (PRCC.56 14/15)

Members gave consideration to the Committee work plan.

RESOLVED that the Work Plan as set out in report PRCC.56 14/15 be received and noted.

88 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

This being the last meeting of the current Civic Year, the Chairman thanked all Members and Officers for their invaluable contribution over the year. He spoke of his privilege of having been Chairman of the Committee, thanking those who were not seeking re-election and wishing those that were, the best of luck.

The Committee in turn thanked the Chairman for the inclusive and co-operative way he had chaired his meetings.

The meeting concluded at 8.38 pm.

Chairman