

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 September 2015 at 6.30pm.

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

Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor Adam Duguid
Councillor Steve England
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Jessie Milne
Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Trevor Young

In Attendance:

Mark Sturgess	Chief Operating Officer
Eve Fawcett-Moralee	Strategic Lead – Economic Development and Regeneration
Tracey Bircumshaw	Group Accountant
Ruth Farningham	Team Manager – Community Action
Dinah Lilley	Governance and Civic Officer

Apologies: Councillor Mrs Di Rodgers
Councillor Lewis Strange (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Jeff Summers had planned to attend but sent apologies

Membership: There were no substitutes appointed for the meeting.

30 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

THE Chairman announced his intention to take an urgent item of business following Paper C. The item being the Home Office Asylum Dispersal Scheme, the reason for urgency being the letter from the Home Office requesting participation in the Scheme.

31 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

32 MINUTES

- (a) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 22 July 2015.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 22 July 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

33 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 7 SEPTEMBER 2015 (PRCC.17 15/16)

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 7 September 2015.

RESOLVED that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in report PRCC.17 15/16 be received and noted.

34 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

35 VARIATION TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman announced that as the proposed presenter had not yet arrived for Item 1 - Tackling Inequalities in the South West Ward it was proposed to take Item 2 - CIL 123 Draft Charging Schedule prior to this report in order to allow extra time for the presenter to arrive.

It was moved and seconded that this be agreed.

RESOLVED that the order of the agenda be changed in order to allow further time for the presenter to arrive.

Note Councillor Duguid arrived at 6.42pm

36 CIL 123 DRAFT CHARGING SCHEDULE (PRCC.19 15/16)

The Strategic Lead – Economic Development and Regeneration presented the report to the Committee setting out the background of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in the context of the Local Plan. Consultation on CIL would take place alongside that of the Local Plan.

Items for inclusion in the 'list' had been given consideration, as it was not possible to include everything. Without CIL it would not be possible to pool s106 funding. The charging rate was set out in the appendix and a test had been included in the policy to include assessment of scheme viability.

Members sought assurance that the final document would be easily understood by laymen. The Strategic Lead – Economic Development and Regeneration noted that Lincolnshire County Council were leading on the project however she would give consideration to the request.

The difference between CIL and s106 was clarified and it was noted that this would be very important to rural communities. CIL was about ensuring that things like education were included in schemes such as large urban extensions, and would act as a mini infrastructure delivery plan.

It was noted that Parish Councils may need advice and assistance in coping with what may transpire to be a large windfall. It was agreed that if a Neighbourhood Plan existed there could be eligibility for a percentage of the funding, CIL could act as an enabling role and help would be available from officers.

It was noted that the word 'documents' had been omitted from the recommendations.

On being moved, seconded and voted upon it was:

RESOLVED that:

- a) the Draft Charging Schedule of Rates and associated documents previously agreed at the meeting on 3 September 2013 (min 68) be formally withdrawn; and
- b) the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule and Charging Zones, with In Kind Policy, Stage Payments Policy and the draft 123 List appended to the report be approved for public consultation in October 2015.

37 VARIATION TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman announced that as the proposed presenter had still not yet arrived for Item 1 - Tackling Inequalities in the South West Ward it was proposed to take the Urgent Item 3 - Home Office Asylum Dispersal Scheme prior to this report in order to allow additional time for the presenter to arrive.

It was moved and seconded that this be agreed.

RESOLVED that the order of the agenda be changed in order to allow further time for the presenter to arrive.

38 URGENT ITEM – HOME OFFICE ASYLUM DISPERSAL AND SYRIAN VULNERABLE PERSONS SCHEME

The Chief Operating Officer introduced a report which was presented as urgent in light of a letter having been received from the Home Office requesting local authorities to take part in the Home Office Asylum Dispersal Scheme and Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme.

In light of the Syrian Humanitarian Crisis accommodation was being sought for those already granted asylum and needing relocation. Current dispersal areas in the East Midlands were concentrated in Leicester, Derby and Nottingham, however increased demand had led to the current request for wider dispersal.

Lincolnshire was anticipated to be required to take 220 families, however Members felt it was important that these be placed in areas where appropriate support networks would be in place to give assistance with issues such as language etc, which were unlikely to be available in rural communities in the remoter parts of West Lindsey.

Whilst it was agreed that it was important for West Lindsey to play its part in the support for asylum seekers it was felt that details of the scheme were currently vague, and future implications were questioned.

The Chief Operating Officer stated that there were two schemes in operation: the Home Officer Asylum Dispersal Scheme and the Syrian Vulnerable Persons relocation scheme. The title of the report and recommendation should be amended to include both. At present it appeared that the 220 people for Lincolnshire would relate to the Home Officer Asylum Dispersal Scheme. The details concerning the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme were not available.

Members sought amendments to the wording of the recommendations to clarify that collaborative work be undertaken to ensure that support networks be available, or able to be established.

It was proposed, seconded and voted upon that the recommendation include the revised wording:

RESOLVED that the recommendations be:

1. Members to consider the recent request to participate in the Home Office Asylum Dispersal Scheme and the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme and agree to participate in the schemes and collaborate with other Lincolnshire Councils to

ensure that the people relocated under this scheme are placed where adequate support networks exist or have the potential to exist.

2. If members wish to participate in the scheme, officers to engage with the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership and existing asylum dispersal areas to understand the requirements and implications of the scheme further and feedback to members.

The substantive motion was then proposed and seconded and on being voted upon, it was agreed:

RESOLVED that:

- a) Having considered the recent request to participate in the Home Office Asylum Dispersal Scheme and the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme it be agreed to participate in the schemes and collaborate with other Lincolnshire Councils to ensure that the people relocated under this scheme are placed where adequate support networks exist or have the potential to exist; and
- b) Officers engage with the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership and existing asylum dispersal areas to understand the requirements and implications of the scheme further and feedback to members.

39 TACKLING INEQUALITIES IN THE SOUTH WEST WARD (PRCC.18 15/16)

As the proposed presenter had not arrived at the meeting the Team Manager Community Action introduced the report. Slides were shown which set out the strategic objectives to tackle inequalities in the South West ward of Gainsborough.

The objective was set out as being a total approach to tackling the problems and inequalities by developing an overarching strategy. It would be necessary to address the causes and well as the symptoms of issues in the area.

The strategic outcomes were set out as being Social, Environmental and Safe.

An analysis of statistics was shown which depicted figures such as unemployment, health problems, qualifications, school attendance, income and poverty and antisocial behaviour.

Tactical plans were set out which were being implemented and intended to have a significant impact. These were:

- Substance Misuse
- Visible Waste
- Early Intervention
- Community Engagement
- Improving Access and co-location

Members of the Committee discussed the report and presentation at length and felt that it was important for residents and working groups to be able to have confidence in any measures being taken to address the problems in the area. It was vital that there be joined up working and collaboration between agencies, as well as consultation with residents.

The success of the Foyer project was noted and it was requested that investigation take place into utilising an area of land on Sandsfield Lane for community use. This land had been taken out of commission many years ago and would be ideal as a local open space or community project. The Team Manager Community Action agreed to look into this request.

It was acknowledged that immediate action was required as well as long term strategy. Tactical groups had already been established and work was underway. It was hoped that the Strategy would give confidence that the causes as well as the effects of the problems would be addressed. A report would be submitted to the Committee on a regular basis to give updates on ongoing work and actions taken.

Assurance was sought that the necessary resources were available, however whilst acknowledging that resources were limited the Chief Operating Officer stated that these would be directed to focus effectively and ensure joined up working.

The Chairman thanked Members of the Committee for a useful debate and agreed that everyone was on the same side. The recommendation to endorse the report was then proposed, seconded and voted upon.

RESOLVED that the approach and contents of the report be endorsed.

40 WORK PLAN (PRCC.20 15/16)

Members gave consideration to the Committee work plan. Assurance was sought that both the Review of Markets and also the Car Parking Strategy would have a joined up approach. It was noted that Beaumont Street Car Park was no longer included within the Council's parking provision and that only Gainsborough market was run by the District Council.

The Chief Operating Officer noted that two further items were to be added to the Forward Plan, namely the Humber LEP and the Localism Strategy.

RESOLVED that the Work Plan as set out in report PRCC.20 15/16 be received and noted.

The meeting concluded at 8.14 pm.

Chairman