

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 2 February 2016 at 6.30pm.

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

Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor Adam Duguid
Councillor Steve England
Councillor Jessie Milne
Councillor Malcolm Parish
Councillor Di Rodgers
Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Trevor Young

In Attendance:

Mark Sturgess	Chief Operating Officer
Ian Knowles	Section 151 and Director of Resources
James O'Shaughnessy	Interim Strategic Lead for Transformation
Eve Fawcett-Moralee	Strategic Lead for Economic Development and Neighbourhoods
Tracey Bircumshaw	Financial Services Team Manager
Phil Hinch	Licensing and Support Team Manager
Elaine Poon	LDO and Major Projects Officer
Katie Coughlan	Governance and Civic Officer

Also Present : Councillor Jeff Summers, Leader of the Council

Apologies: Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Chief Executive

Membership: There were no substitutes appointed for the meeting.

73 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and in opening, requested all Members join him in a minute's reflection following the Chief Executive's sudden and unexpected bereavement.

Following the period of reflection, the Chairman advised that by Council Resolution, there had been a change to the Committee's Membership. Returning Member Councillor Malcolm Parish, was formally welcomed and the Committee placed on record their thanks to Councillor Hugo Marfleet for the work he undertaken.

Finally the Chairman made reference to the preceding week's Neighbourhood Plan Referendums held in the Parishes of Caistor and Nettleham. The results from the poll were shared with Members and were available on the Council's website. Having been supported by their respective local communities, both Plans would now go to the meeting of Full Council on 3 March for ratification and adoption. The Member Champion for Neighbourhood Planning commented on the fantastic news and considered this had been a positive result for not only the two parishes concerned, but also those communities still developing their neighbourhood plans. He placed on record his thanks to the Neighbourhood Planning Officer for the support he had given communities.

74 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

75 MINUTES

(a) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 8 December 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 8 December 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

76 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 25 JANUARY 2016 (PRCC.38 15/16)

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 25 January 2016.

Councillor Strange updated the Committee as to why the Rural Transport Working Group had not met as yet and gave assurance that the Group would commence work as soon as they were in a position to do so.

RESOLVED that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in report PRCC.38 15/16 be received and noted.

77 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this point in the meeting.

78 PROPOSAL TO VARY THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman advised that with agreement from Committee Members, he wished to revise the order of the agenda, taking both progress and delivery reports, as the first two public reports for consideration, after which business would be conducted in the order as set out on the published agenda.

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

79 PROGRESS AND DELIVERY SERVICES – PERIOD 3 (PRCC.43 15/16)

Members gave consideration to the third of the newly styled Progress and Delivery reports for 2015/16, which highlighted the areas where services were “off target”, the reasons for this and the proposed rectifications. The report also provided Members with an opportunity to examine the reasons why performance was off track and seek assurance that the measures which had been put in place were sufficient to tackle the issues which had been identified with the service.

The report also updated Members on those areas which had been highlighted in the second quarter report, these being: -

- Complaints Received
- Gainsborough Markets
- Local Land Charges
- Development Management
- Waste Collections
- Enforcement
- Home Choices

and further updates were given on each.

It was explained that following previous comments by Members, the format had slightly changed in order to make the report more legible, with tables including a red ‘R’ or green ‘G’ to indicate their status.

Further “over performing” measures, not already mentioned were highlighted to the Committee and included the “Healthy District” Service Area and Licensing.

Whilst the report was primarily an exceptions one, Members were provided with a flavour of activity currently ongoing in those areas which were on target or delivery as anticipated, including information on : -

- The Revenues and Benefits Service
- The Localism service and volunteer hours
- The IT Service
- Member and Support Services
- The Spatial Planning Team

In concluding, the Director of Resources drew Members’ attention to the table contained on page 5 of the report, particularly service requests received, and confirmed that whilst this was currently showing as a red target there were no concerns at present.

In responding to Members’ comments regarding capacity in the Enforcement Team, Officers confirmed that whilst this was a small team within the Council, it was resilient and adopted a prioritised approach to the cases it received.

RESOLVED that having given consideration to the matters listed in the report assurance was received that the rectifications proposed would deal with identified issues.

80 PROGRESS AND DELIVERY PROJECTS – PERIOD 3 (PRCC.44 15/16)

Members gave consideration to the third of the newly styled Progress and Delivery reports for 2015/16, which dealt with the projects.

The Director of Resources reminded Members that the Progress and Delivery reports were by exception only, either above or below target, and only reported on those projects currently in delivery stage which were regularly monitored.

The report contained an update on one item contained in the previous report; this being Flare in the Field and Comet. Work had been progressed for a considerable period to design a system with testing subsequently undertaken. This unfortunately had not provided sufficient levels of confidence that the solution offered was viable and that working practices and customer satisfaction would be enhanced. Ultimately, the decision had been made to terminate any further work on this and to re-visit requirements and potential solutions.

The following projects were reported as being an Amber Rating: -

- Gainsborough South West Ward Programme
- Fraud Investigation Services

and further reasoning for such was offered to the Committee.

Debate ensued and Members sought and received information on the Membership of the Boards. It was also confirmed that Agendas and Minutes were produced for these meetings. Whilst these were not widely circulated, if a Member required something in particular this could be made available to them on request.

The Committee welcomed Fraud Investigation being retained.

RESOLVED that having given consideration to the matters listed in the report, assurance was received that the arrangements in place to oversee Programme and Project development across the Council are effective.

81 CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH 2016-2020 (PRCC.39 15/16)

The Committee were provided with a draft version of the 2016 – 2020 Corporate Plan for consideration by Members. The report presented the work undertaken to date and sought views from Members on the priorities to be incorporated into the Plan.

In considering the draft Corporate Plan, Members were asked to consider the following questions: -

- Are the priorities broadly in line with what Members expect them to be?
- Are the case studies provided the best examples of successes over the last year, or do Members feel that there are better examples that should be included? The case studies should demonstrate our approach to delivery as well as what has been achieved.
- Are there any aspects of the presentation of the Plan that Members feel could be enhanced?

Debate ensued and one Member challenged whether Localism had really been a success (page 8 of the draft plan referred). Area Forums had been abolished and replaced with an area manager arrangement however, the success of this was considered limited and not well publicised.

Members referred to the map contained on page 6 of the draft Plan which did not include the settlements of Dunholme and Welton and requested that this be amended.

As a whole the Committee felt the Plan read well, whilst Members were in agreement with the proposed priorities, some suggested that the outcomes should be more stretching and the Plan as a whole more ambitious.

RESOLVED that Members' comments made throughout the course of the debate be taken into consideration prior to the Plan being submitted to Full Council on 3 March 2016 for approval.

82 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE – APPROVAL OF AN AMENDED CONVICTIONS POLICY (PRCC.40 15/16)

Consideration was given to a recommendation from the Licensing and Regulatory Committee Meeting held on 15 December 2015 with regard to an amended Convictions Policy.

The changes agreed by the Committee were shown in red / strike through on the Policy appended to the report.

It was noted that since the report had been presented to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, no further responses had been received as part of the consultation process other than from Legal Services.

Legal Services had been contacted in order for them to review the draft Convictions Policy and in particular, advice was sought on the wording at section 7.3. This section had caused some concern to Members of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee due to the fact they felt a "loop-hole" may be present within the document, as presented to them and therefore may have required additional wording to be included.

The feedback from Legal Services was summarised as follows:

- It was not recommended to amend the wording at 7.3 (as previously suggested by Members) as it is clear that the intention from the policy is that Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) and Actual Bodily (ABH) that are aggravated by a racial element, are offences that would receive a higher sentence because they are aggravated.
- In terms of GBH there were 2 different offences for GBH each having different sentencing guidelines. The section 18 offence – GBH with intent - is covered in section 7.3. However the offence of GBH – not being racially aggravated or without the intent element - does not appear to be covered in the convictions list and the advice is that it is not a similar offence as per the last bullet point in 7.3. Therefore the advice is to include section 20 offence GBH to be included in section 7.5.

It was also noted that as a result of the feedback from Legal Services a meeting had taken place with the Licensing Manager and both the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee. A discussion had taken place in order to understand the advice received and it was agreed by all present to amend the draft policy

as advised by Legal Services and prior to it being recommended to the Members of Prosperous Communities Committee to approve and adopt the draft convictions policy.

Councillor Strange, in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Taxi and General Licensing Sub Committee, thanked the Licensing and Regulatory Committee for the work they had undertaken and indicated additional guidance was always welcomed.

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the Licensing and Regulatory Committee be accepted and the amended draft Convictions Policy as attached at Appendix 1 of the report be approved and adopted.

Note: Councillor Gillian Bardsley declared a pecuniary interest in the following item of business, in particular the fee setting element relating to Selective Licensing, as a landlord in the South West Ward and left the Chamber during its consideration.

Note: Councillor Trevor Young declared a pecuniary interest in the following item of business, in particular the fee setting element relating to Selective Licensing, as a landlord in the South West Ward and indicated he would leave the Chamber if debate was had on this particular element of the report.

83 DRAFT REVENUE ESTIMATES 16/17 – 20/21 (PRCC.41 15/16)

Consideration was given to a report which set out details of the Committee's draft revenue estimates for the period 2016/17 – 2020/21.

A Member questioned the small budget associated with Tourism, considering this was a priority area. Whilst other Members were in agreement to a degree it was noted that with the ever developing world of social media, a savvy PR / Promotions Officer would be able to achieve quite a lot.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the draft Prosperous Communities budget 2016/17 be **RECOMMENDED** to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for inclusion in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 – 2020/21; and
- (b) the proposed fees and charges for Selective Licensing, as detailed in Appendix D of report PRCC.41 15/16 be **RECOMMENDED** to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for approval. Charges to only be implemented should a scheme be approved by a future Prosperous Communities Committee.

Note: Councillor Trevor Young requested that his abstention from the above vote be recorded.

Note: Councillor Gillian Bardsley returned to the meeting.

84 RIVERSIDE GATEWAY LDO CONSULTATION (PRCC.42 15/16)

The report was presented to the Committee by the Strategic Lead for Economic Development and Neighbourhoods. The Council had been awarded Housing Zone status in 2015 for Greater Gainsborough, and the Riverside Gateway site at Carr Lane was the first of the strategic sites to be brought forward. The site was located on Carr Lane/ Lea Road and was one of the most visible derelict sites on a main route into Gainsborough. It was proposed that a Local Development Order be made to grant Outline Planning Permission to the site for housing led redevelopment of up to 450 dwellings. A Local Development Order was a new mechanism promoted by the Government to encourage development by simplifying and de-risking the planning process to incentivise landowners and developers to bring forward development at an accelerated pace.

Various planning considerations had been assessed by Officers and it was felt that the impact of the proposed development could be mitigated by conditions contained within the LDO. It was therefore recommended that the LDO be endorsed for consultation.

Members debated the merits of the proposals, but some felt that it was crucial for the opportunity to be taken to establish a further crossing of the River Trent. It was felt that the current bridge experienced traffic hold ups and a second bridge would alleviate this, and a possible gyratory system would be useful. Other Members felt that the current road access system to Gainsborough was adequate and it was affirmed that whilst a second bridge may be an aspiration of all, it was unlikely, as the level of housing increase was insufficient to support this. Officers confirmed that further work had been undertaken to establish whether a second bridge was viable, a previously used transport model had been re-commissioned based on projected housing growth but no need had been established. Furthermore local business had not raised access as a constraint to their businesses growing. The focus for business sector development would be the A15 corridor, and Officers outlined their aspirations for this area.

The Committee considered that adequate parking had not been allowed for on the proposed housing development and Officers confirmed that this could be revisited.

A Member outlined the work she was undertaking with the Rowing Club and sought indication as to whether some of the aspirations they were trying to achieve could be incorporated into the Plan. Officers undertook to liaise with the Member concerned outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Riverside Gateway Local Development Order be referred to the Planning Committee for endorsement prior to consultation.

Note: Councillor Adam Duguid declared a personal interest in the above item of business as land owner along the A15.

85 WORKPLAN (PRCC.45 15/16)

Members gave consideration to the Committee work plan.

It was again noted that the Committee's meeting on 3 May 2016 would need to be re-scheduled to allow for the Chamber to be used for the Police Commissioner Elections. The proposed new date was Tuesday 26 April 2016 and Members were advised to update their diaries accordingly and a further reminder would be issued nearer the time.

Debate ensued during which Members expressed concern regarding health provision and access to out of hours services across the District and sought indication as to whether this was a subject area within the remit of the Committee.

The Vice-Chairman indicated that she was aware of a considerable amount of work ongoing behind the scenes and suggested that a feedback / position report be submitted in the first instance. Officers advised that the Challenge and Improvement Committee had recently met with CCGs and it was agreed to review the responses received in the first instance. The Governance and Civic Officer undertook to circulate these.

It was also suggested that this would be an interesting topic for Full Council debate.

RESOLVED that the Work Plan as set out in report PRCC.45 15/16 be received and noted.

86 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

87 INVESTMENT PROPOSALS FOR GAINSBOROUGH (PRCC.46 15/16)

The Strategic Lead for Neighbourhoods and Economic Development presented a report which sought to propose a regeneration delivery programme - Gainsborough Growth with

an ‘in principle’ capital programme allocation to support the delivery of corporate objectives for housing led economic growth to deliver:

- The draft Central Lincolnshire Local Plan housing target of 4,350 new homes in Gainsborough by 2036,
- Housing Zone commitments to deliver 800 new homes on brownfield land in Gainsborough by 2026 and,
- A regenerated viable town centre.

The report and its appendices set out further details on the Regeneration Delivery Programme and the Capital Programme financial information.

In responding to Members’ comments, Officers confirmed that the “upgrade” on Whittons Garden, was landscaping and general maintenance. It was further confirmed that Officers were exploring funding schemes to assist with upgrading shop fronts in the market place and access to the properties within the Market Square also.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the regeneration delivery programme outlined in the report and agreed by Prosperous Communities committee on 2 February 2016 to create a sustainable and regenerated Gainsborough be endorsed; and
- b) the inclusion of the delivery programmes be **RECOMMENDED** to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for inclusion in the Capital Programme 2016/17 – 2020/21.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 pm.

Chairman