

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on 25 January 2022 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Owen Bierley (Chairman)
Councillor John McNeill (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor
Mrs Tracey Coulson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Christopher Darcel
Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor Jane Ellis
Councillor Mrs Jessie Milne
Councillor Jaime Oliver
Councillor Roger Patterson
Councillor Jim Snee
Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee
Councillor Trevor Young
Councillor Mrs Caralyne Grimble

In Attendance:
Sally Grindrod-Smith Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration
Ady Selby Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services
Sue Leversedge Business Support Team Leader
Katie Storr Democratic Services & Elections Team Manager
Ele Snow Senior Democratic and Civic Officer

Apologies: Councillor Steve England

Membership: Councillor Caralyne Grimble was present as substitute for
Councillor Steve England

57 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

58 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 7 December 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

59 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE

With no comments or questions, the contents of the Matters Arising schedule were duly **NOTED**.

60 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

61 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.

Note: The meeting entered closed session at 6.34pm

62 FUTURE OF WEST LINDSEY MARKETS

The Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services introduced an exempt report regarding the future of West Lindsey markets. He explained the process of the consultancy work and explained the premise that was being presented. He stated that the work would link in with the Levelling Up Fund and, rather than being focussed on the Gainsborough Market, the proposals would also incorporate Market Rasen and Caistor towns. It was explained that the intention was to make the markets a destination event, rather than a purely transactional focus, with a three-year plan proposed to achieve it.

There was support for the proposals from Members of the Committee, although there were concerns raised regarding the intended timescale and focus on 'café culture'. It was emphasised that the timescale was for the full realisation of the proposal and that work would begin as soon as practicable. With regards to the prospect of achieving a continental style 'café culture', it was acknowledged that British weather could have an impact on the outside dining opportunities, however it was highlighted that the essence of the markets being a destination event, rather than merely a transactional centre, was the aim.

The Committee was encouraged by the proposal to encompass all three market towns however there were questions as to whether the individual identities of the towns had been fully considered. It was explained that the consultancy report provided a strategic direction however it would be important for each location to be involved in the evolution of the proposals.

There was discussion regarding the resources required within the proposal, with Members enquiring about detail of job descriptions and purpose of the role. It was clarified that agreement for the role was being sought at this stage and further details could be discussed once the role was confirmed.

The importance of incorporating sustainability into the plan as well as developing it as part of a drive to encourage growth within the district was emphasised, with Members agreeing that the markets needed to be seen as part of a range of events and attractions across the district.

Whilst there were further concerns raised regarding the timescales, assurance was provided that the intention was to start moving on the plans as soon as possible, with the stated three-year plan being the end goal.

Members of the Committee recognised the concerns raised, however on the whole supported the proposals put before them. The Chairman thanked all Members for their comments and the depth of the discussions, and thanked all those involved with the work to date.

Having been moved and seconded, upon being voted upon it was

RESOLVED that

- a) the vision for West Lindsey Markets as set out at 4.1, recognising that they are key cultural and heritage assets that perform a wide socioeconomic function in the District, be supported; and
- b) the proposal for a three year plan to regenerate markets across West Lindsey based on the principles set out at 6.1 be supported; and
- c) the extension of the Marshall's Yard contract for a further 12 months, whilst the transition phase of the plan is implemented, be agreed; and
- d) it be **recommended** to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee the proposed Market budget (as detailed at 8.5) be incorporated into the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Note: Councillor M. Devine left the Chamber at 7.56pm

63 REVISED WASTE SERVICES POLICY

Note: The meeting returned to open session at 7.57pm

The Committee gave consideration to a report presented by the Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services regarding the revised Waste Services Policies. It was explained that the purpose of the report was to provide commentary on the proposed Waste Service Policies resulting from the forthcoming introduction of separate paper and cardboard collections. The Committee heard that the document was first introduced when the triple bin scheme was introduced in 2009 and had been updated on a couple of occasions since then. It was now timely to update the document given the upcoming introduction of Purple Lidded bins in April. It was noted that most policies within the document were working well and had not changed, with those that had changed summarised as follows.

Note: Councillor M. Devine returned to the Chamber at 8.00pm

Policy 8 was around the new separate paper and card collections. All residents who currently received a wheeled bin collection service would receive a purple lidded bin to enable them to separate out their paper and card. There was no opt out, any resident who indicated they did not want a bin would be visited by Officers and a solution would be found to their individual issues, this had worked well in North Kesteven and Boston. All purple lidded bins would be free until April 2024, there was no capacity to supply more than one of these bins and there had been very little demand for this in other districts. The exception to this service would be properties mainly in the South West Ward of Gainsborough, but also other areas around the district, who currently had a sack based collection regime. This was because the current end destination contractor did not have the ability to split bags, however, there was work ongoing to resolve this, meaning the service may be expanded in due course.

Policy 12 was around side waste, where the council had traditionally taken recycling side waste in sacks. Given the need to keep paper and card clean and dry and improve the quality of the other dry recycle, it was proposed that no side waste should be taken from the date of implementation.

Policy 14 was in relation to missed bins and the council would continue with the pledge to empty missed bins within five working days, whilst wherever possible keeping the waste in the correct stream.

Within Policy 15 it was proposed to remove the need to give a crime reference number when replacing stolen bins as it was not a major issue in or district and the practice simply caused unnecessary delays and demands on the Police and Customer Services staff.

Policy 18 referred to the supply of bins to new properties. Purple lidded bins would be free until 2024 at new properties, after which there would be a cost. Finally, Policy 25 recognised that the purple bins would be supplied free to village halls.

The Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services concluded by assuring Members the changes came about as the service complied with the latest legislation, strove to make the waste services achieve the objectives of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership waste strategy and to do the right thing environmentally. The new bin would not be universally popular and there had been issues in other districts who had delivered this, including rejection of bins for contamination reasons, however it was important to support residents at this point to ensure the correct behaviours for the future. The council was learning from other partners who had already introduced the additional bin and there was close working with Lincolnshire County Council Officer to put resources on the ground and in the call centre to deal with issues that may arise as soon as possible. The recommendations within the report were summarised for the Committee and questions invited.

Members thanked the Assistant Director for his summary and expressed their thanks to the Officer who had completed the report. The Committee were supportive of the proposed amendments and discussed the roll out of the new bins, including the implications for those residents who did not support the addition of a new bin. It was explained that there would be 'on the ground' Officers to support the roll out and discuss any individual concerns with residents. It was also emphasised that the separate collections would have such a beneficial

impact on the amount of recyclable waste that the advantages explained themselves. A Member of the Committee requested that communications regarding the new bins were not solely undertaken via social media and it was confirmed that there was a much wider communications plan in place, with social media being a supportive aspect rather than the main delivery method. It was noted again that there would also be Officers supporting the new collections in person and talking to residents on their rounds.

Members expressed their support for the removal of the need for a Police incident number in relation to stolen bins and it was agreed that, should it be necessary, the Council could liaise separately with the Police regarding total numbers of stolen bins, for example on a monthly or annual basis.

In response to an enquiry regarding commercial waste, it was explained that commercial collections were a paid for service and the Council would be working with businesses to maximise the recyclable element of their commercial waste.

Having been moved and seconded, and with further thanks to those involved, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

- a) the proposed changes to the Waste and Recycling Operational Policies document, as set out in Section 3 of the report and in Appendix 1, be approved; and
- b) the new changes be formally introduced from April 2022; and
- c) minor policy changes be delegated to the Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Prosperous Communities Committee.

64 PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE BUDGET 2022/2023

The Committee gave consideration to a report from the Business Support Team Leader, setting out the proposed budget for 2022/23 and the forecast budget for the following four years for services within the Prosperous Communities Committee. It was explained that the budgets excluded central support and capital charges in order to show the controllable cost of services only, and to aid year on year comparison. The figures included those pressures and savings which had been reported and approved throughout the year.

The net movement from the 2021/22 base budget for this Committee was an increase of £336,100 – however this included an increase of £41,500 for approved use of earmarked reserves for projects. It was highlighted that the details of use of reserves, and contributions to reserves, were contained within the report at Appendix 4. The movement also included an increase in Pension Deficit contribution of £48,900. The overall pension deficit had increased by £91,000 across both committees following the actuarial review in 2019, and was allocated to services on the basis of staffing levels.

Members heard that, excluding these items, there was an increase of £245,700 from the

21/22 base budgets for services within this committee.

This movement was made up of approved pressures, offset by increased income. The significant increase in expenditure related to movements within the establishment budgets of £441,800, details of which were provided at section 2.10 of the report. This included the impact of a 1.75% pay award for 21/22, which was yet to be agreed, and an estimated further 2% pay award for 22/23, both of which equalled a total increase in costs of around £204,000 for 2022/23.

There had also been an increase in National Insurance rates, which increased employee costs within the committee by around £41,000 per year, however the government had announced a grant to contribute towards this cost which had been rolled into the new Services grant.

It was explained that this increase in expenditure was offset by several areas of increased income, the most significant being:

- Green Waste Charging – additional income of £101,700 from subscription fees – the increase in income was offset by additional costs attributable to the service held within Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, as well as capital and central support costs which were excluded from this report
- Crematorium – an increase in projected income of £45,500 for 22/23 to reflect the anticipated level of demand and service operational costs.
- Development management – where the planning fee income had been reprofiled to reflect the local plan cycle, with an increase in income of £45,000.

The Business Support Team Leader highlighted that the budgets for the markets would be updated for the financial implications of the 'Future of West Lindsey Markets' report which had been presented earlier in the meeting, before the draft budget for this committee was due to be presented to Corporate Policy and Resources committee in February 2022.

Members were asked to note that there was a £400 budget for the business unit 'Human Resources' which had been included in report in error, it had subsequently been moved into the Corporate Policy and Resources budget.

It was summarised that Members were asked to recommend the draft 2022/23 budget to the Corporate Policy & Resource Committee for inclusion in the MTFP which was due to be reported to Full Council in March 2022.

Members enquired as to the impact of the proposed 1.75% pay rise and it was explained that, following the original announcement of a pay freeze, the subsequent offer of a pay award had not been included in the budget. To avoid this happening in the future, the estimated 25 had been included for 2022/23.

It was noted that the Government had suggested implementing free garden waste collections nationally and the impact this could have for the Council, however it was recognised this was, at this time, not a confirmed action.

A Member of the Committee enquired about details regarding 'transfer payments' and it was explained that, in regard to parish lighting, this should have been categorised as a third party

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Subject to Call-in. Call-in will expire at 5pm on

payment and had been corrected for the report to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

In response to a request to discuss content of the exempt appendix, it was moved, seconded and vote upon and subsequently

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Note: The meeting entered closed session at 8.25pm

Members enquired about the use of the earmarked reserves and it was confirmed that requests were processed through the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee via quarterly budget monitoring reports, with Members of that Committee being requested to approve or decline the requests, prior to the spending taking place. Suggested uses for earmarked reserves were raised, with the Business Support Team Leader confirming the process for approval of those spends being through the Committee system.

Note: The meeting resumed open session at 8.31pm

Having been moved and seconded, the Chairman took the vote and it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Prosperous Communities Budget 2022/2023 and revenue estimates to 2026/2027 be **recommended** to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for the purpose of budget setting 2022/2023 and for inclusion in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 to 2026/2027 (as amended by any decisions taken on this agenda).

65 WORKPLAN

Members gave consideration to the Committee Work Plan and, with no comments, questions, or requirement for a vote, the Work Plan was **DULY NOTED**.

The meeting concluded at 8.33 pm.

Chairman