

MISSION STATEMENT

***To Improve the Quality of Life
For Those Who Live and Work in the District***

Please ask for: Jane Stewart
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4 September 2006

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Selby District Council to be held in the Civic Suite, Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby on **12 September 2006** commencing at **6.00 pm**.

Yours sincerely



M Connor
Chief Executive

Opening Prayers will be offered.

AGENDA – PUBLIC SESSION

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence.

2. **Disclosure of Interest**

To receive any disclosure of interest in matters to be considered at the meeting in accordance with Sections 94 and 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

3. **Minutes**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on 18 July 2006 (pages 7 to 16 attached).

4. **Communications**

To consider any communications received by the Chief Executive and to pass resolutions thereon if deemed necessary.

5. **Public Questions**

To consider questions, if any, notice of which has been given in accordance with rule 5.21 of the Constitution.

6. **Councillors' Questions**

In accordance with rule 5.22 of the Constitution:

6.1) Councillor McCartney has given notice of the following questions:

“Could the Leader of the Council set out the benefits to Selby District Council of the North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC)/Selby District Council Countryside Management Partnership?

“Does the Leader of the Council understand that NYCC brings nothing of substance to the partnership, except a pie-in-the-sky possibility of some volunteer workers who would be expected take over the day to day maintenance of Barlow Common whilst the current Selby District Council staff take on duties on behalf of NYCC, many of which will be outside the Selby District?

“Does the Leader of the Council recognise that Barlow Common is a

value for money success that Selby District Council be rightly proud of? But, that this partnership could undermine the continuing development of this Local Nature reserve?"

6.2) Councillor Mrs Davis has given notice of the following questions:

Councillor Mrs Davis has been contacted by the occupier of 8 Topcliffe Court, Selby, who expressed concern about residue left after a recent thunderstorm which he felt was carbon looking and contained ash which was oily. The occupier collected a sample, which he still has.

The questions are:

- a) "Who is monitoring the current trial burnings of petcoke – is it Selby District Council or the Environment Agency and where these samples are being collected and how regularly
- b) "If it is the Environment Agency are we as the local authority undertaking any independent sampling and analysis of samples and where these samples are being collected and how regularly
- c) "If the answer to b) is No, then is Selby District Council prepared to collect the sample from the occupier and send this for analysis and report back to full Council on the findings and whether we would be prepared to put local people's minds at ease by carrying out such analysis and reporting regularly
- d) "When the current trial burn of petcoke will cease and a full report back from whoever is doing the official monitoring made to Selby District Council."

7. Committee and Board Minutes

Planning Committee (19 July 2006)	Green	Minutes 981 – 989 Pages 17 - 25
Planning Committee (16 August 2006)	Green	Minutes 1037 – 1046 Pages 26 - 33
Environment Board (20 July 2006)	Blue	Minutes 990 – 998 Pages 35 - 39
Economy Board (29 August 2006)	Pink	Minutes 1066 – 1079 Pages 41 - 47
Special Policy and Resources Committee	Gold	Minutes 1008 – 1014 Pages 49 - 51

(1 August 2006)

Policy and Resources Committee (22 August 2006)	Gold	Minutes 1047 – 1065 Pages 53 - 61
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Social Board (8 August 2006)	Yellow	Minutes 1015 – 1030 Pages 63 - 69
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Licensing Committee (14 August 2006)	Cream	Minutes 1031 – 1036 Pages 71 - 73
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Licensing Committee (4 September 2006)	Cream	To follow
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Overview and Scrutiny Committee (7 September 2006)	Salmon	To follow
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8. **Equality and Diversity Policy**

Report of the Head of Service – Housing (pages 74 – 86).

9. **Sport and Cultural Strategy**

Report of the Strategic Director (Pages 87 – 117).

10. **Local Strategic Partnership Update Report**

Report of the Chief Executive (Pages 118 – 127).

11. **2007 District Council Elections – Counting of Votes**

Report of the Head of Service – Legal & Democratic Services (Pages 124 – 127).

12. **Change in the Chamber Consultation**

Report of the Head of Service – Policy & Performance (Pages 128 – 131)

13. **Urgent Action**

The Chief Executive will report on any instances where he has acted in urgent or emergency situations under the functions delegated to him in the Constitution.

14. **Sealing of Documents**

To authorise the sealing of any documents necessary to action decisions of this Council Meeting, or any of its Committees and Boards for which delegated authority is not already in existence.

15. **PRIVATE SESSION**

It will be recommended that in accordance with Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting be not open to the Press and public during discussion of the following items as there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described in paragraphs 3 & 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

16. **Tadcaster Town Centre**

Report of the Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services.

Report to follow.

17. **Tesco Agreement**

Report of the Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services.

Report to follow.

COUNCILLORS ARE REMINDED TO UPDATE THE REGISTER OF INTERESTS AFTER ANY CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAY AFFECT CURRENT ENTRIES

DESCRIPTIONS OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes –
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Council held on 18 July 2006, in the Civic Suite, the Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 6.00pm.

964	The Late Councillor M Patrick
965	Apologies
966	Disclosure of Interest
967	Minutes
968	Matters Arising
969	Communications
970	Public Questions
971	Members' Questions
972	Committee and Board Minutes
973	State of the Area Address 2006
974	Urgent Action
975	Sealing of Documents
976	Private Session
977	Procurement Option for Refuse Contract
978	Customer Service Centre Development
979	Communications
980	Emergency Powers

Present: Councillor J Mackman (Chairman) in the Chair

Councillors: Mrs J Ashton, D N Bain-Mackay, J Bedworth, Mrs E Casling, J Cattanach, I Chilvers, R Collins, M Crane, J Crawford, G Croston, Ms M Davis, Mrs D Davies, Mrs S Duckett, Mrs J Dyson, P Harvey, Mrs M Hulme, Mrs G Ivey, C Lunn, B Marshall, W N Martin, Mrs W May, J McCartney, Mrs K McSherry, D McSherry, C Metcalfe, Mrs W Nichols, W Norton, I Nutt, R Packham, R Parker, D Peart, C Pearson, B Percival, Mrs F Ryan, Mrs R Sayer, S Shaw-Wright and R Sweeting .

Officials: Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Head of Service - Policy and Performance, Head of Service - Housing, Head of Service - Environment and Leisure Services, Head of Service - Finance and Central Services, Principal Environmental Services Officer, Acting Democratic Services Manager, Committee Administrator.

Public: 3

Press: 0

964 THE LATE COUNCILLOR M PATRICK

The Chair paid tribute to the late Councillor Patrick and Councillors observed a minutes silence in his memory.

Resolved unanimously:

That the late Councillor Patrick be posthumously made an Alderman of the Council.

The Reverend S Jukes offered opening prayers.

COUNCILLOR MAY

The Chairman welcomed Councillor May back to the Council following her recent illness.

965 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Meehan and Wilson.

966 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillors B Marshall and M May declared a personal interest in minute 978.

Councillor Crane declared a personal interest in minute 971 in so far as it relates to VAT.

967 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on 16 May 2006, with the inclusion of Councillor J Ashton in the list of those present, be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

968 MATTERS ARISING

Economy Board-It was reported that Councillor D McSherry had resigned

from the Economy Board, where he had held the position of Vice Chairman.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor D Bain-Mackay be appointed to the Economy Board and as Vice Chairman in place of Councillor D McSherry.

Conservation Area Advisory Committee (North)-Councillor R Parker informed the Council that he represented Tadcaster Town on this Committee and not Selby Council.

Representation on Outside Bodies-It was reported that Councillor W Nichols wished to be the Council's representative on Groundwork Selby in place of Councillor S Duckett.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor W Nichols be appointed to Groundwork Selby in place of Councillor S Duckett.

969

COMMUNICATIONS

(a) E-mail from Councillor Crawford

The Chief Executive reported that he had received an e-mail from Councillor J Crawford expressing concern about changes made to the dates of Council and Board meetings and asking the Council to review the situation.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) **the Leader of the Council be requested to review the situation regarding changes to scheduled Council and Committee/Board meetings; and**
- (ii) **any notices of changes to meetings be circulated to Councillors in hard copy.**

(b) Letter from Selby and York PCT

The Chief Executive informed Councillors of the contents of a letter from Dr D Geddes, Medical Director of the Trust concerning a review of emergency night cover for Selby District. Dr Geddes was willing to discuss the review in more detail with council representatives.

RESOLVED:

That the letter be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

(c) Head of Financial Services

The Chief Executive reported that the Panel for the appointment of the Head of Financial Services would consist of Councillor C Metcalf, Councillor W Norton and Councillor J Crawford.

(d) Association Voluntary Services (AVS)

The Chief Executive reported on a request from the AVS Board which related to a confidential issue.

RESOLVED:

That the request be considered at the end of the meeting in private session (see minute 978).

(e) Angela Stevens

The Chief Executive reported on the circumstances in which he had approved the early retirement of Angela Stevens of the Central Services

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(f) York and North Yorkshire Development Board

The Chief Executive reported that the Council had been invited to nominate a representative to serve on the Board.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Percival be appointed to the York and North Yorkshire Development Board.

970

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None received.

971

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

None received.

972

COMMITTEE AND BOARD MINUTES

Special Overview and Scrutiny 4 May 2006

Councillors considered minute 829 concerning derelict property.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) the minutes be noted; and
- (ii) the Chief Executive be requested to write to John Grogan MP asking him to lobby the government for more powers for local authorities to enable them to combat the problems caused by derelict property.

Special Overview and Scrutiny 29 June 2006

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be noted.

Overview and Scrutiny 13 July 2006

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be noted.

Planning Committee 24 May 2006

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be noted.

Planning Committee 21 June 2006

Councillor Norton referred to minute 898 relating to Providence Mill Holme Lane, Selby and reported that the minute had been amended and the words "in respect of affordable housing" contained in the resolution had been deleted.

Councillors considered minute 902 relating to the establishment of a Sub Group.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) the minutes be noted; and
- (ii) approval be given to the establishment of an Enforcement Sub Group consisting of Five Councillors of the Planning Committee until May 2007.

Special Planning Committee of 12 July 2006

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be noted.

Environment Board 25 June 2006

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be noted.

Special Environment Board 6 July 2006

Councillors considered minute 950 relating to the Waste Minimisation and Recycling Strategy 2006-2010.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) the Waste Minimisation and Recycling Strategy 2006/2010 be approved; and
- (ii) the recommendation regarding an extension to the existing refuse collection contract be considered later in the meeting in connection with the report on the refuse contract (minute 976 refers).

Social Board 14 June 2006

Councillors considered minute 883 relating to Community Safety Initiatives and the Council's role in ensuring that its own properties were protected from vandalism.

Reference was also made to minutes 887 and 888 regarding the sale of land.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) the minutes be noted; and**
- (ii) minute 888 relating to the sale of land at The Meadows, South Milford be referred back to the Social Board for further consideration.**

Economy Board 13 June 2006

Councillors considered minute 865 recommending the Board's work programme for 2006/2007.

Consideration was also given to minute 873 concerning funding proposals to support a visitor information centre.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) the minutes be noted; and**
- (ii) the recommendations set out in minutes 865 and 873 be approved.**

Policy & Resources Committee 27 June 2006

Councillors commented on the revised expense claim forms and sought clarification on the type of receipt which had to be submitted in respect of fuel costs.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) the Chief Executive be requested to arrange for the situation regarding fuel receipts to be clarified; and**
- (ii) the recommendations set out in minutes 922 (Electoral Administration), 925 (Pre Ballot Costs for LSVT), 927 (Revenue Budget Outturn), 928 (Capital Programme Outturn) and 931 (Referrals from other Committees and Boards) be approved and adopted.**

973

STATE OF THE AREA ADDRESS 2006

Councillor M Crane, Leader of the Council, submitted the State of the Area Address for 2006 and Councillor Crawford responded as Leader of the Labour Group.

RESOLVED:

That the State of the Area Address be approved as a consultation document for discussion with the community.

974

URGENT ACTION

The Chief Executive reported that he had taken urgent action on a confidential matter which would be considered later in the meeting (see minute 980).

975

SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

To authorise the sealing of any documents necessary to action decisions of this Council Meeting, or any of its Committees and Boards for which delegated authority was not already in existence.

RESOLVED:

That authority be granted for the signing of, or the Common Seal of the Council being affixed to, any documents necessary to give effect to any resolutions hereby approved.

976

PRIVATE SESSION

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting be not open to the Press and public during consideration of the following items as there will be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

977

PROCUREMENT OPTION FOR REFUSE CONTRACT

Councillors considered a report by the Head of Service – Environment and Leisure Services concerning the Councils refuse contract. The contract ends in September 2007 and the report set out three options available to the Council for future provision of the service. Each option had been evaluated by Officers and the advantages and disadvantages of each option were set out in the report.

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to adoption of option two, a two year negotiated extension to the original contract.

978

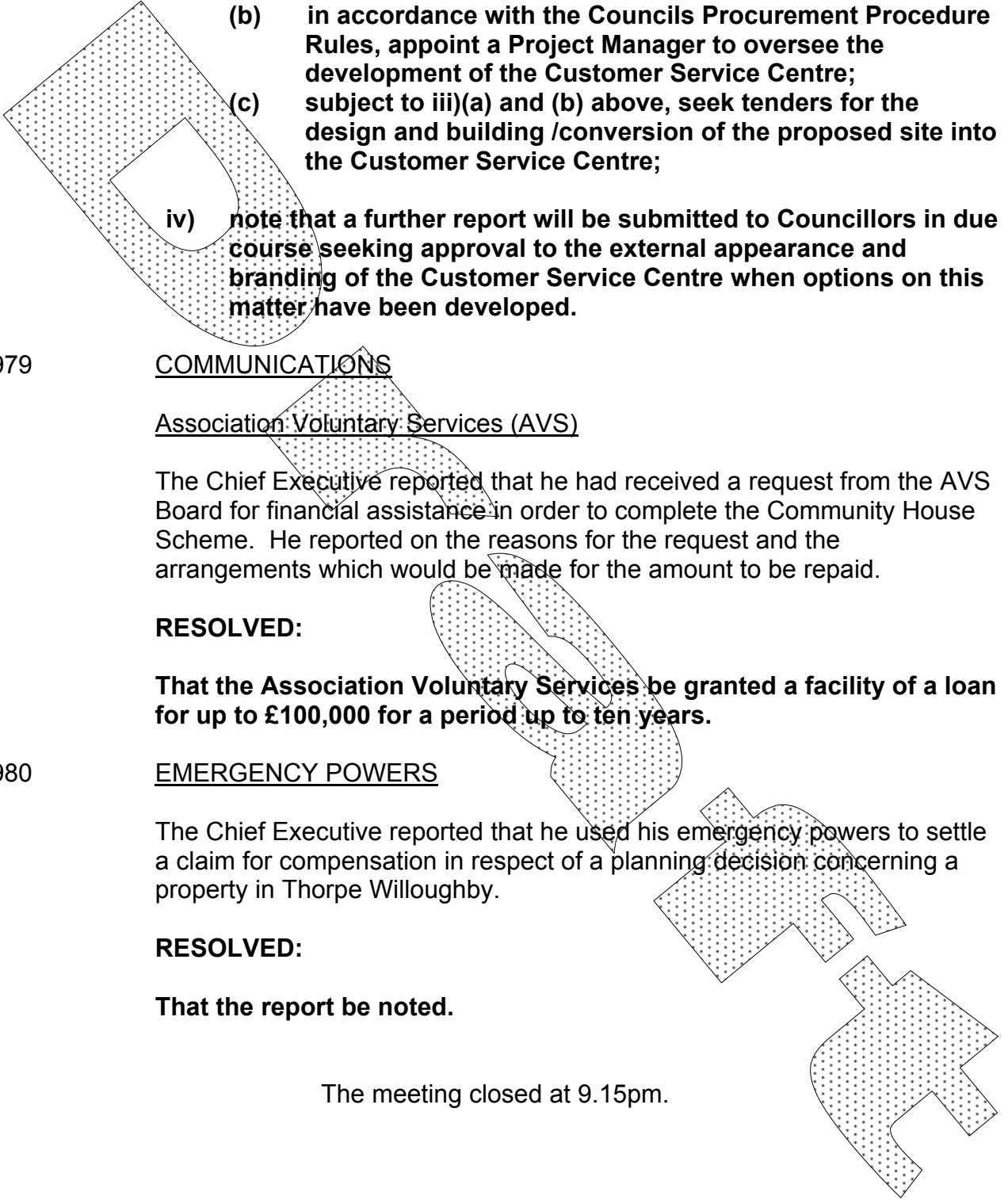
CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

Councillors received a detailed presentation from the Strategic Director, Jonathan Lund and Head of Service – Finance and Central Services concerning the provision of a Customer Service Centre.

Details were given of the preferred location of the Centre, its purpose and likely Capital and Revenue costs.

RESOLVED: That:

- i) the policy that the Customer Service Centre be located in the centre of Selby be reaffirmed and that;**
- ii) approval be given to:**
 - (a) a supplementary capital estimate of £600,000 for the capital costs of converting and furnishing the preferred site;**
 - (b) utilise up to £600,000 from the proceeds of the disposal of land at Riccall to fund the capital costs of converting and furnishing the preferred site;**
 - (c) the ongoing revenue costs associated with operating the facility, as identified in the presentation, to be included in the Councils medium term financial plan for 2007-10;**
 - (d) utilise £350,000 of the Your Community, Your Future Reserve to fund the revenue costs of the Customer Service Centre over two years noting that this is a finite reserve and that a permanent source of funding will need to be identified and in place once the reserve is exhausted;**
 - (e) a supplementary revenue estimate of £90,000 to fund the costs of undertaking Business Process Re-engineering in support of the development of the Customer Service Centre and the reconfiguration of front/back office activities;**
 - (f) approve the use of £90,000 from the Service Development Reserve to fund the cost of Business Process Re-engineering as set out in ii)(e) above**
- (iii) the Strategic Director be authorised to;**
 - (a) enter into and complete negotiations in respect of the lease for preferred location of the Customer Service Centre;**

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- (b) in accordance with the Councils Procurement Procedure Rules, appoint a Project Manager to oversee the development of the Customer Service Centre;
 - (c) subject to iii)(a) and (b) above, seek tenders for the design and building /conversion of the proposed site into the Customer Service Centre;
 - iv) note that a further report will be submitted to Councillors in due course seeking approval to the external appearance and branding of the Customer Service Centre when options on this matter have been developed.

979

COMMUNICATIONS

Association Voluntary Services (AVS)

The Chief Executive reported that he had received a request from the AVS Board for financial assistance in order to complete the Community House Scheme. He reported on the reasons for the request and the arrangements which would be made for the amount to be repaid.

RESOLVED:

That the Association Voluntary Services be granted a facility of a loan for up to £100,000 for a period up to ten years.

980

EMERGENCY POWERS

The Chief Executive reported that he used his emergency powers to settle a claim for compensation in respect of a planning decision concerning a property in Thorpe Willoughby.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19 July 2006, in the Civic Suite, The Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 4.00pm.

983	Minutes
984	Chair's Address to the Planning Committee
985	Applications received
986	Applications determined by County
987	Urgent Appeals
988	Private Session
989	Enforcement Issues

Present: Councillor W Norton in the Chair.

Councillors: D Bain-Mackay, J Cattanach, I Chilvers, Mrs D Davies, G Croston, B Marshall, N Martin, C Lunn, D McSherry, C Pearson, D Peart, Mrs F Ryan, S Shaw-Wright, R H Sweeting and R Wilson.

Officials: Head of Service - Planning and Economic Development, Head of Service for Legal and Democratic Services, Principal Planning Officer, Planning Policy Manager, Planning Officers, Conservation Officer, Committee Administrator and Democratic Services Assistant.

Public: 8
Press: 0

981 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION

Apologies were received from Councillor J Mackman.

982 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor N Martin declared a personal interest in item No 4, 5 and 6 Old Manor House, Main Street, Bilbrough, York.

983 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12 July 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chair informed Members that an additional set of conditions in respect of the following needed to be added to item 8/58/675B/PA Land of Moor Lane, Sherburn In Elmet.

- Landscaping
- Ecology
- Work to be carried outside of the breeding season
- Retention of the hedgerow
- Retention of boundary trees
- Archaeology

Members asked that a copy of these conditions be sent to the Parish Council for their information.

The Chair also clarified that future site visits would take place on Friday mornings commencing at 10.00am

RESOLVED:

That

- i) **the additional conditions be approved and sent to Sherburn Parish Council for information; and**
- ii) **that future Committee site visits will take place on Fridays commencing at 10.00am.**

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Consideration was given to the schedule of planning applications submitted by the Head of Service Planning and Economical Development.

RESOLVED:

That the applications set out in the agenda be dealt with as follows:

- 1 **8/72/2M/PA
Commercial Estates Group
Papyrus Works
TADCASTER**

Proposed application for the redevelopment of 'Papyrus Works' for residential and employment (B1) purposes, incorporating public open space provision, landscaping, footpath link, together with highways and ancillary works.

The Planning Officer gave a brief overview of the proposal and outlined the main reasons behind the Officers recommendation of refusal;

- Impact on the Green Belt
- Conflict with Housing Strategy
- No affordable housing provision

Public Speaker – Mr Choat - Agent

Mr Choat gave Members a verbal update on the background of the application.

The proposal had been under discussion for 2 years. There had been two exhibitions, which had been well attended by the public. Mr Choat confirmed that the site would be a mixture of houses and office accommodation and the proposed development would be an improvement to the present site, and that the following had already been carried out;

- A tree survey
- Full ecological survey
- A landscaping scheme

RESOLVED:

That the application be refused.

**2 8/72/2P/PA
Commercial Estates Group
Papyrus Works
TADCASTER**

Proposed Listed Building Consent for repair and refurbishment works to 'Newton Kyme Viaduct', including repairs to stonework and brickwork and reinstatement of safety rails to facilitate its use as a proposed new pedestrian route in connection with outline application 8/72/2M/PA.

RESOLVED:

That permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in the Officers report.

3 **8/72/2N/PA**
Commercial Estates Group
Papyrus Works
TADCASTER

Proposed repair and refurbishment works to 'Newton Kyme Viaduct' to facilitate its use as a proposed new pedestrian route in connection with outline application 8/72/2M/PA.

RESOLVED:

That permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in the Officers report.

4 **8/84/109H/LB**
Mr N Townend
Old Manor House,
Main Street
Bilbrough
YORK

Proposed re-submission of previously withdrawn Listed Building application (8/84/109D/LB) for the erection of an infill extension, minor alterations to existing property, conversion of existing outbuildings to provide additional living accommodation and garage at Old Manor House, Main Street, Bilbrough, York.

The Chair adjourned the meeting to enable Members and agents to consider a number of tabled documents.

Public Speaker – Mrs Parkin – Agent for the objectors

Mrs Parkin confirmed to Members that there were considerable objections to this application.

The objections surrounding the proposal were that if approved this would be out of keeping of the character and form of the village.

There would be loss of amenity to the neighbouring property with the existing wall being increased.

Public Speaker – Mr Torrible – Agent for applicant

Mr Torrible reminded Members that this application was for Listed Building Consent, the application would improve the Manor House by bringing it up to modern standards.

The proposed changes to the boundary wall would not affect the neighbouring property, as the rooflines ridge was away from the wall.

RESOLVED:

That permission be granted subject to the conditions contained within the report.

5
**8/84/109E/PA
Mr N Townend
Old Manor House,
Main Street
Bilbrough
YORK**

Proposed re-submission of outline permission for the erection of 4 dwellings including siting and access on land at Old Manor House, Main Street, Bilbrough, York.

The Principal Planning Officer outlined the application, and informed Members that no detailed plans had been received, but if Members were minded to approve these could be dealt with as reserved matters.

Public Speaker – Mrs Parkin – Agent for the objectors

Mrs Parkin detailed the following as the main objections;

- Over development in the Conservation Area
- Back land development
- Impact on the surrounding open country side
- Concern over vehicle access and removal and re-siting of a historic wall

Public Speaker – Mr Torrible – Agent for the applicant

Mr Torrible explained to Members that the application was within policy; the land was heavily wooded and did not believe the properties would be visible from the rear of site.

Members felt that the application was out of keeping with the character of the village and moved an amendment to the Officers recommendation of grant permission to one of refusal.

RESOLVED:

That permission be refused on the grounds inappropriate back land development in a green belt area.

6 **8/84/109G/PA**
Mr N Townend
Old Manor House
Main Street
Bilbrough
YORK

Proposed re-submission of previously withdrawn application 8/84/109A/PA for the erection of an infill extension, minor alterations to existing property, conversion of existing outbuildings to provide additional living accommodation and erection of a garage at Old Manor House, Main Street, Bilbrough, York.

RESOLVED:

That permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in the report.

7 **8/19/107AU/PA**
Tesco Stores Ltd
Portholme Road
SELBY

Proposed erection of a new supermarket with two storey car parking to side, associated car parking to front, creation of a new vehicular access, landscaping and associated works (following demolition of existing supermarket).

The Principal Planning Officer reminded Members that they had considered this application and that of Dransfield Properties in August 2005 and on that occasion Members had been minded to approve the Tesco application, contrary to Officer's recommendation.

The application had been referred to Government Office who had called it and that this would be considered at a Public Inquiry, which was scheduled for 31st October 2006.

Following this the opinion of Counsel had been sought who had advised that Members should re-consider the application using the sequential test, and taking into account the recently approved Dransfield Property Scheme.

Public Speaker – Mr D Hale – Objector

Mr Hale confirmed that the company had a vested interest in Selby and felt that by bringing his clients application forward first would enhance the town itself.

Mr Hale confirmed there were a number of shops empty on Gowthorpe and that larger units were needed to attract a wider range of business.

If this application were to be successful Tesco could expand creating a one-stop shop effect, jeopardising surrounding shops.

Mr Hale asked for Members support and to refuse the application.

Members debated the issues surrounding the applications, and felt that the choice of where people wanted to shop should be left to individuals themselves. They felt that there existed quantitative need for both schemes and in addition a qualitative need to prevent leakage out of Selby to larger supermarkets. Members did not feel that any circumstances had changed dramatically and therefore moved a change to the Officers recommendation of refusal to one of minded to approve, on the following grounds.

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried.

RESOLVED: That Members be minded to approve the application.

8 **8/48/181/PA**
Q7 Art Studios
Land adjacent to Meridies
Rawfield Lane
Fairburn

Outline application for a single storey artist studio to include siting and means of access on land adjacent to Meridies, Rawfield Lane, Fairburn.

The Senior Planning Officer updated on the application. She stated that there were eight formal accesses on to the road and approximately 24 point of entrance some to garages some to gardens off the unadopted road.

The road was very narrow and had no street lighting, could not be conditioned easily, although the tidiness of the land could be dealt with using enforcement powers.

Public Speaker – Mr Hetherington – Applicant

Mr Hetherington confirmed that he had lived at a property for a number of years and highlighted the following issues;

- The road was unadoptable but still of a good standard.
- There is no long stay parking permitted or the storage of larger vehicles for example caravans by him

- An application had been made a number of years ago but had not been completed due to the road not being adoptable
- There were no plans for a turning circle on the application, but there as room to turn within the site.

Mr Hetherington thanked Members for their time.

Following a short debate Members were unhappy with regard to the condition of the road and the lack of street lighting.

RESOLVED:

That permission be refused as set out in the Officers report.

986 APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY COUNTY COUNCIL ON WHICH THE VIEWS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL ARE REQUESTED

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

987 URGENT APPEAL DECISIONS

None received

988 PRIVATE SESSION

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting be not open to the Press and public during consideration of the following items as there will be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

989 ENFORCEMENT ACTION UPDATE

Members were given a verbal update with regard to the proposed formation of an Enforcement Sub-Group.

A recommendation was made to the meeting of Council held 18 July 2006, which proposed that a Sub-Group be formed, the Chair asked for Members to register their interest in sitting on this group. The Sub-Group would look at outstanding enforcement issues to which they could assist Officers in

bringing to a satisfactory conclusion.

The following nominations were received;

- Councillors D Bain-Mackay, G Croston, J Mackman, B Marshall, W Norton and R H Sweeting.

RESOLVED:

That an Enforcement Sub-Group be formed of the following Members and that the Group meet bi-monthly till April 2007.

Councillors D Bain-Mackay, G Croston, J Mackman, B Marshall, W Norton and R H Sweeting.

The meeting closed at 6.33pm.

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16 August 2006, in Committee Rooms 1 and 2 The Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 4.00pm.

1039	Minutes
1040	Chair's Address to the Planning Committee
1041	Site Visits
1042	Applications received
1043	Urgent Appeals
1044	Planning Committee 2006/2007 Performance Indicator Report: April 2006 – June 2006
1045	Budget Monitoring
1046	Tree Preservation Orders - Confirmation

Present: Councillor W Norton in the Chair.

Councillors: J Cattanach, I Chilvers, Mrs D Davies, Mrs S Duckett (for S Shaw-Wright), G Croston, J Mackman, B Marshall, N Martin, C Lunn, D McSherry, C Pearson, D Peart, Mrs F Ryan and R Wilson.

Officials: Head of Service - Planning and Economic Development, Head of Service for Legal and Democratic Services, Senior Planning Officers, Committee Administrators.

Public: 10
Press: 0

1037 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION

Apologies were received from Councillors D N Bain-Mackay, S Shaw-Wright and R H Sweeting.

Substitute Member was Mrs S Duckett for S Shaw-Wright.

1038 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor N Martin declared an interest on Minute no 1041 (9/79/132D/PA – Beech Cottage, Appleton Roebuck) as a Member of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee (North) and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor S Duckett declared a personal interest on Minute no 1042 - (8/20/67G/PA St Wilfrids Church, Brayton, Selby) as a Member of the

Conservation Area Advisory Committee (South) and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

1039

MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19 July 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

1040

CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Referring to the planning application (reference TIPO/2006/0722/FUL), which was due to be presented to the Planning Committee on 16th August 2006, I can confirm that the Highways Agency as the Secretary of State for Transport had herby given notice to Selby District Council under Article 14 of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 that directs that the planning authority shall not grant permission for this application.

The Highways Agency's reasons are: -

"There is insufficient information presently available to the Secretary of State to determine whether the proposed development would generate traffic on the A63 trunk road to an extent that would be incompatible with the use of the trunk roads as part of the national system of routes for through traffic in accordance with Section 10(2) of the Highways Act 1980, and with the safety of traffic on the trunk road network."

We have been informed that the direction shall be maintained until such time as the Secretary of State had received sufficient information about the traffic and access implications to enable him to come to a view. Therefore Members were unable to determine this application.

The Chair asked Members to approve a change to the minutes of the 26 April 2006, under minute No 799 the resolution should read that;

That the under-mentioned Tree Preservation Order be confirmed as an opposed order:

Resolved: That the minutes be amended accordingly.

SITE VISITS**2006/0810/FUL****Beech Cottage, Main Street, Appleton Roebuck.**

Resubmission of previously withdrawn 8/79/132C/PA for proposed erection of 3 no. terraced houses with single detached garage, 2 no. semi detached dwellings and 1 no. detached dwelling with integral garage with new access road to serve new property following demolition of existing property.

Public Speaker – Mr Wolfe – Objector

Mr Wolfe occupier of Cambridge Cottage, objected to the application on the following grounds

- *Loss of light to the front elevation of his property*
- *Loss of amenity to his rear garden from the proposed gable end on the new dwelling*
- *Reduction in width of driveway which would increase parking on Main Street.*

Public Speaker – Mr T Phillips – Parish Council

Mr Phillips raised concern on the following points the application was in the heart of the Conservation Area, the proposal would see the demolition of a large detached bungalow and the erection of a set of three terrace houses a large detached house and one set of semi-detached houses.

The Parish Council objected strongly to the proposal as it felt that this was out of character for the village and that the density was too high.

Mr Phillips asked Members to reconsider the application and recommend refusal on the grounds of scale, massing and over-development.

Public Speaker – Mr Jackson - Agent

The design before Members was in keeping with the village having open views to the frontage; there would be a well-defined landscape scheme, which would enhance the site. Parking provision on the site was higher than standards required. The access would still allow vehicles on and off but there were no legal rights for parking for Nos. 5 and 6 Main Street, Appleton Roebuck.

Members were concerned with the proposal and it's effect on the amenity of surrounding properties especially No 6 Cambridge Cottage's rear garden which would suffer the overbearing and massing of the proposed semi-detached gable end.

Members agreed and an amendment to the recommendation for one of refusal was moved and seconded and on being put to the vote was carried.

RESOLVED:

That permission be refused on the grounds of loss of residential amenity to No 6 Cambridge Cottage and its garden, the massing and overbearing development in a rural Conservation Area and the density of application.

2006/0809/CON

Beech Cottage, Main Street, Appleton Roebuck.

Previously withdrawn application 8/79/132B/PA Conservation Area Consent for demolition of existing dwelling, double garage and outbuildings to facilitate the erection of 6 dwellings, garages, new access and associated works.

That permission be refused on the grounds on the unsuitability of the submitted scheme.

At this point the Vice-Chair asked for clarification as to why certain Members of the Committee were using Laptop computers and if the information they were viewing was in fact the same as all the other Members and the general public?

The Head of Service for Planning and Economic Development confirmed that the computers were a pilot scheme following a request from the Access to Services Group, the information being viewed was identical on all screens including the one view by the public.

Councillor Wilson expressed his support for the pilot but insisted that the reports and agenda must still be supplied in hard copy.

2006/0727/FUL

27 Watergarth Quarry, Lunnfields Lane, Fairburn.

Proposed erection of 8 no. 4 and 5 bed roomed dwellings with garages and 6 no. 2 bed roomed apartments on land to the rear of 27 Watergarth Quarry, Fairburn.

The Senior Planning Officer updated Members with regard to the application. The size of the site was incorrect therefore the density quoted was inaccurate, but the numbers still fell in recommended guidelines.

The proposal should read application for four and three bed-roomed houses not four and five.

Public Speaker – Ms J Redman – Objector

Ms Redman queried the proposed numbers of properties to be built, also the figures contained within the Section 106 Agreement.

Also concerns were raised with regard to the land being contaminated and problems with noise and vibration to surrounding properties. There also did not appear to be any on site recreational play area.

Ms Redman concluded that Fairburn was a small village and any development needed to take this into consideration.

Public Speaker – Mr A Senior – Parish Council

Mr Senior outline the severe problems residents were having with sewerage drains and asked that no more development took place until the problems had been resolved.

Public Speaker – Councillor J Crawford – Local Member

Councillor Crawford explained that he had met with local residents, and on the whole they were not against the development but wanted the proposal to be right. The village of Fairburn suffered greatly with ongoing drainage and sewerage problems, and these needed resolving before more development took place.

The proposed road did not meet the minimum standards and had no footpath just a very narrow raised kerb. The density for the site was excessive and had been misquoted in the Officers report.

If the proposal were to be granted then the residential amenity to No 27 would seriously be effected also that the proposed new road would add to already existing Highway Safety issues. Councillor Crawford urged Members to re-consider the recommendation for approval and change it to one of refusal.

Public Speaker – Mr A Roberts – Agent

Mr Roberts confirmed that his company had been establish for 50 years with a good repretation.

Consultation had been carried out with Yorkshire Water and Highways and no objections had been raised.

Mr Roberts confirmed he had spoken with the past owner of No 27 who had confirmed that they had not suffered drainage problems over the past 10 years.

Mr Roberts explained that the site was a Brownfield site within development limits, the application conformed with policy and provided a good mixture of properties including a number of affordable homes, there would be no loss of amenity to surrounding properties and urged Members to approve the application.

Members raised a series of concerns regarding the application, which included density, loss of amenity, health and safety issues surrounding the proposed access and especially where it was very narrow to a pinch point.

Members acknowledge that there were serious issues with regard to the drainage and sewerage issues, and suggested that a future meeting be arranged between Yorkshire Water and the members of the Planning Committee.

Following a comprehensive debate it was moved and seconded that the recommendation be changed to one of refusal and on being put to the vote was carried.

RESOLVED:

That permission be refused on the grounds of loss of residential amenity to No 27 Watergarth Quarry, Lunnsfieds Lane, highway safety issues surrounding the proposed new access.

1042

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Consideration was given to the schedule of planning applications submitted by the Head of Service for Planning and Economic Development.

RESOLVED:

That the applications set out in the agenda be dealt with as follows:

- 1 **2006/0435/FUL
Providence Mill, Holme Lane, Selby.**

Erection of 123 residential dwellings and associated car parking and landscaping on land at Providence Mill, Selby.

Public Speaker – Mrs L Coulson - Applicant

Mrs Coulson thanked the Committee for their support if the Section 106 Agreement were to be approved today the redevelopment of the land at Providence Mill could commence, with properties available as early as next year, Mrs Coulson also thank the Selby Town Council for their

support.

RESOLVED:

That permission be granted subject to the conditions contained within the Officers report and the developer entering into an Section 106 Agreement.

- 2 **2006/0722/FUL**
Selby Business Park, Oakney Wood Road, Selby.

Application for a 60 bed Hotel, Restaurant and conference facilities on land at Selby Business Park.

RESOLVED:

That this item not be considered.

- 3 **2006/0527/FUL**
St Wilfrid's Church, Doncaster Road, Brayton.

Proposed erection of a single storey Church hall on land at St Wilfrid's Church, Doncaster Road, Brayton.

Public Speaker – Mr A Williams – Applicant

Mr Williams addressed to Committee on behalf of supporters of the Church. There would no increase to traffic but the proposal would greatly improve facilities at the hall. The applicant and Officers had worked together and agreed landscaping etc for the hall.

RESOLVED:

That permission be granted subject to the conditions contained with the Officers report.

1043

APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY COUNTY COUNCIL ON WHICH THE VIEWS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL ARE REQUESTED

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

1044

PLANNING COMMITTEE 2006/2007 PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT: APRIL 2006 – JUNE 2006

This report had been produced in accordance with the format recommended by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 10 March 2005.

The 'star' ratings for the statutory performance indicators were categorised by using the quartile ratings that were calculated from the performance statistics submitted by District Councils. They were used to compare performance both nationally and locally.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

1045

URGENT APPEAL DECISIONS

None received

1046

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS (TPO) – CONFIRMATION

Members considered the report from the Head of Service for Planning and Economic Development and Head of Service for Legal and Democratic Services.

Members expressed concern on the TPO No 4/2006, and requested that a site visit take place to view the tree in question before a decision could be made at the next meeting of the Planning Committee to take place of 13 September 2006.

RESOLVED:

That a site visit take place to consider TPO No 4/2006, 68 Green Lane, Selby.

RESOLVED:

That the under-mentioned Tree Preservation Orders be confirmed.

3/2006

11 Saunters Way, Riccall.

5/2006

Saddlers Walk, Escrick

7/2006

Bunkers Hill, Brotherton

The meeting closed at 6.35 pm.

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Environment Board held on Thursday 20 July 2006, in Committee Room 2, The Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 4.00 pm.

992	Minutes
993	Chair's Address to the Environment Board
994	Environment Board 2005/2006 Performance Indicator Report: April 2006 – May 2006
995	Grounds Maintenance Contract
996	An update on the Petcoke Trial at Drax Power Station
997	Private Session
998	Markets Service Strategy and Procurement of Contract for the Erection and Dismantling of Market Stalls

Present: Councillor C Metcalfe in the Chair

Councillors: D Bain-Mackay, Mrs D Davies (for R Packham), Mrs G Ivey, C Lunn, Mrs W May (for J Crawford), I Nutt, R Parker, R Sayner and S Shaw-Wright

Officials: Strategic Director – S Martin, Head of Service – Finance and Central Services, Principal Environmental Health Officer (Pollution), Principal Environmental Services Officer (Commercial), Principal Environmental Services Officer and Committee Administrator

Observers: J Stewart – e.gov Officer

Public: 0

Press: 0

990 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION

Apologies were received from Councillors J Crawford, P Harvey and R Packham.

Substitute Members were Councillors Mrs D Davies (for R Packham) and Mrs W May (for J Crawford).

991 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Environment Board held on 06 July 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

993

CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE ENVIRONMENT BOARD

The Chair gave Members a brief update on the following:

- A team of 4 Officers worked on Saturday 24 June 2006 to alert business in response to the Food Alert regarding Cadburys. A press release was released along with details being given out on Radio York.
- A food hygiene promotional event was held at the Civic Centre in conjunction with National Food Hygiene Week (w/c 12 June 2006). This involved a mock kitchen with various hygiene problems. Information was posted on the Council's website with links to the Food Standards Agency National Campaign.
- The number of stray dogs collected to date this year was 16, last year over the same period the figure was 20. This suggests that proactive educational work is paying dividends. This year the Dog Warden has carried out 4 talks at schools, microchipped 100 dogs (with owners consent) and neutered 6 dogs.
- Officers from the Environmental Health Department were involved during a field fire incident in Selby on Monday 18 July 2006. Fields caught fire between Foxhill Lane and Leeds Road areas of the town. The Chair thanked the two members of staff who attended the scene.
- Rigid Paper at Denison Road, Selby had entered a 30 day consultation period with staff regarding the closure of their card-making operation. The Principal Environmental Services Officer informed Members that he was in discussion with other firms, with regard to the kerb side collection of waste paper still being collected without disruption.
- Green Bins to be provided across the District to households that had not received them in the first roll out was still a priority and that this would be looked at in the next financial budget.
- There was an increase of an extra 209 tonnes of green waste collected which was a 13% increase being collected and put to composting. The Chair informed Members that residents were performing very well.

PUBLIC SESSION

994

ENVIRONMENT BOARD 2005/2006 PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT: APRIL 2006 – MAY 2006

The Principal Environmental Services Officer updated Members on the progress being made in 2005/2006 for the corporate and statutory Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI's) for which they were responsible.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

995

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Members received the report of the Principal Environmental Services Officer on the scope of the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

The report outlined the scope of the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract currently being procured.

The 30-month Contract is primarily for the provision of the service within the whole of Selby District. It was noted that although the services were predominantly grounds related, the contractor would be required to undertake work relating to play areas, grassed areas, markets and car parks.

RESOLVED:

That the Scope of the Grounds Maintenance Contract being procured through the OJEU (Office of the Journal of the European Union) procedure be approved.

996

AN UPDATE ON THE PETCOKE TRIAL AT DRAX POWER STATION

The Principal Environmental Health Officer (Pollution) gave Members an update on the Petcoke Trial being undertaken at Drax Power Station.

Members were informed that no formal report for the end of the 1st phase had been received. There was a delay due to the amount of data that needed to be considered.

It was anticipated that the report would be reported to the Environment Board to be held in October 2006.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer informed Members that there were no areas of concern and he would know more by the end of September 2006.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer responded to Members questions and concerns.

RESOLVED: That the verbal update be noted.

CAMP FOR CLIMATE

The Principal Environmental Health Officer briefed Members on an event planned to take place in the District.

The Chair informed Members that they would be kept informed of any developments once the information had been received.

997

PRIVATE SESSION

RESOLVED:

NOT FOR PUBLICATION BY VIRTUE OF PARAGRAPH 4.12 OF THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION (D) EXEMPT INFORMATION PART 3.

998

MARKETS SERVICE STRATEGY AND PROCUREMENT OF CONTRACT FOR THE ERECTION AND DISMANTLING OF MARKET STALLS

Members received the report of the Principal Environmental Health Officer (Commercial) to seek approval of a strategy for the markets service incorporating a supplementary estimate in respect of the income budget

and proposals for the procurement of the contract for the erection and dismantling of market stalls.

Consultation had been carried out with traders, shoppers and local businesses in respect of Tadcaster market.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer (Commercial) responded to Questions and issues raised by Members.

Members wished to give their congratulations to Dean Richardson, the Principal Environmental Health Officer (Commercial) for his comprehensive and detailed report.

RESOLVED:

- (I) That the Markets Strategy be approved;**
- (II) That the mission statement and aims and objectives of the markets service be approved;**
- (III) That the market stall rents remain at the current rate for 2007/2008**

RECOMMENDATION:

- (I) That Policy and Resources Committee approve the provision of a supplementary estimate to amend the budgeted income in respect of Selby Market from £102,820.00 to £90,000.00;**
- (II) That the decision of Environment Board on 25 May 2006 to enhance the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract to include streetscene related activities also includes the erection and dismantling of market stalls;**
- (III) That authority be given to the Head of Service – Environmental Health and Leisure to enter into negotiations with the current contractor, in respect of the erection and dismantling of market stalls, to extend the existing contract for a period of six months with effect from 1 October 2006;**

That in view of the need to revise the specification for the new contract at (ii) above and the proposed extension at (iii) above, waive the requirement of procurement procedures rule 7.2 (requirement to obtain tenders).

The meeting closed at 4.37 pm.

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Economy Board held on 29 August 2006 in Committee Room 2, The Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 4.00pm.

1068	Minutes
1069	Chair's Address to the Economy Board
1070	Date and Commencement of Future Meetings of the Economy Board
1071	Economy Board 2006/2007 Performance Indicator Report: April 2006 – May 2006
1072	Budget Monitoring Report to 30 June 2006
1073	Strategic Economic Assessment and Sub Regional - Investment Plan
1074	Community Investment Partnerships (CIPs) Update
1075	Selby District Urban Renaissance Programme – Progress Update
1076	Selby District Leader + Programme Update
1077	Benefits – Vision and Strategies
1078	Private Session
1079	Economic Development Partnership Arrangements with North Yorkshire County Council

Present: Councillor B Percival in the Chair.

Councillors: Mrs J Ashton, D Bain-Mackay (Vice Chair), C Lunn (for C Pearson), Mrs W May, W N Martin, W Norton, R Packham, R H Sweeting and R Wilson.

Officials: Head of Service for Planning and Economic Development, Accountancy Services Manager, Benefits Manager, Leader + Programme Leader, Community Link Officer and Committee Administrator.

Observer: Councillor Mrs D Davies

Public: 0

Press: 0

1066 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION

Apologies were received from Councillors C Pearson and R Sayer.

Substitute Councillor was Councillor C Lunn (for C Pearson).

1067 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None received.

1068 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Economy Board held on 13 June 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

1069 CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE ECONOMY BOARD

The Chair presented Councillors with a detailed and comprehensive address which highlighted;

- Growing the economy
- Renaissance
- Recycling issues

Councillors conveyed their thanks to the Chair for his interesting and informative statement.

1070 DATE AND COMMENCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE ECONOMY BOARD

Councillors received a verbal report from the Head of Service – Planning and Economic Development. Councillors were asked to confirm the following start times and dates of future meetings of the Economy Board.

RESOLVED: That

03 October 2006	4.00pm	Be cancelled
13 November 2006	4.00pm	Be confirmed
10 January 2007	3.00pm	Be Confirmed
13 February 2007	3.00pm	Be confirmed
11 April 2007	4.00pm	Be confirmed

1071 ECONOMY BOARD 2006/2007 PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT: APRIL 2006 – MAY 2006

Councillors received the report of the Head of Service - Policy and Performance updating them on the progress being made in 2005/2006 on

the corporate and statutory Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) for which they were responsible.

Councillors asked for clarification on two items contained within the report

- i) BV78a
- ii) Home working

The Chair asked that officers from the relevant sections contact Councillors direct with a response.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

1072

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2006

Councillors were presented with the details of major variations between budgeted and actual expenditure for the Board for the first three months of the 2006/2007 financial year.

Councillors asked that the report be put into a simpler format, so they could balance the figures contained within the report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

1073

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT AND SUB REGIONAL INVESTMENT PLAN

The Head of Service - Planning and Economic Development presented a report which sought to update councillors on the current position in respect of the:

- i) Production of a Strategic Economic Assessment (SEA)
- ii) review of the Sub Regional Investment Plan,
- iii) review of partner structures and the
- iv) issues which were still to be considered at a local level, sub regional and regional levels.

Following the meeting of Council held 18 July 2006, councillors were asked to approve the nomination of the Chair of the Economy Board, Councillor B Percival, as the Council's representative on the York and North Yorkshire Development Board.

RESOLVED: That;

- i) **the emerging Strategic Economic Assessment be noted;**
- ii) **the Chair of the Economy Board be the Council's representative on the York and North Yorkshire Development Board.**

1074

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS (CIPs) UPDATE

Councillors were asked to receive the report of the Head of Service - Planning and Economic Development on the progress being made on CIPs:

Since the launch of the CIP Action Plan Report in December 2006, the CIP Groups had continued to be extremely active in their communities, providing funding and support to community groups throughout the District. To date a total of £10,000 of CIP funding had been given to local projects; this had enabled project groups to pump prime other funding streams for a further £120,000.

A total of 45 new community projects had been identified through work with local groups and were being supported by the CIP Groups and the Community Link Officer.

Councillors expressed their thanks to officers for their continued hard work and commitment to the project, which had gone from strength to strength.

RESOLVED:

That the CIP Groups' progress be noted.

1075

SELBY DISTRICT URBAN RENAISSANCE PROGRAMME – PROGRESS UPDATE

The Head of Service - Planning and Economic Development, updated councillors on the progress of the Selby District Urban Renaissance Programme.

Since the last report, was been presented to the Economy Board in June 2006, progress had been made on the management of the Urban Renaissance programme and the Project Board had held its first meeting.

The Strategic Development Framework had still not been finalised. The Project Board had decided that because of the lateness of the publication of that document (originally scheduled for October 2005), it would not now be issued for consultation, but it would be made publicly available (in libraries, etc.).

Projects in Selby and Sherburn In Elmet were moving forward.

The energy and water themes were generating a great deal of interest from external bodies (both public and private).

RESOLVED:

That the progress being made on the Urban Renaissance Programme be noted.

1076

SELBY DISTRICT LEADER+ PROGRAMME UPDATE

Councillors were asked to receive the report on the progress being made by the Selby District LEADER+ programme and an assessment of the future of rural funding from 2007.

This report updated councillors on the progress of the Selby District LEADER+ programme.

The programme started in early 2003 and is set to run until the end of December 2007.

To date, the programme had brought £1,768,000 of external funding in to the District.

The programme outputs were detailed in the main report.

The paper also looked at the future of rural funding after the LEADER+ project finishes.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

1077

BENEFITS – VISION AND STRATEGIES

Councillors were asked to receive the report of the Head of Service - Finance and Central Services, which sought the endorsement of the Benefits Service's updated vision, policies and strategies. The Benefit Service's vision included all areas of corporate responsibility for the administration of the Government's Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit schemes, as well as the duties, which related to the investigation of fraudulent activity.

Councillors express their thanks to the Benefit Manager and his section for their continued hard work and development.

RESOLVED:

That the vision, policies and strategies relating to the Benefit Service be endorsed subject to;

RECOMMENDATION:

That the policy and resources committee be asked to approve the Vision, Policies and Strategies relating to the Benefit Service.

1078

PRIVATE SESSION

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting be not open to the Press and public during consideration of the following items as there will be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

1079

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS WITH NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (NYCC)

Councillors were asked to consider the report of the Head of Service - Planning and Economic Development, which provided councillors with an update on the partnership arrangements for the Economic Development Service.

The report outlined the proposals for the Economic Development Partnership arrangements with NYCC.

The partnership agreement aims to build resilience and capacity into the unit. Currently the unit is dependent on external funding to develop new initiatives and support projects of strategic importance.

Councillors raised concern on the structure and proposed reporting line and felt that the proposed structure would not fulfil councillors' requirements.

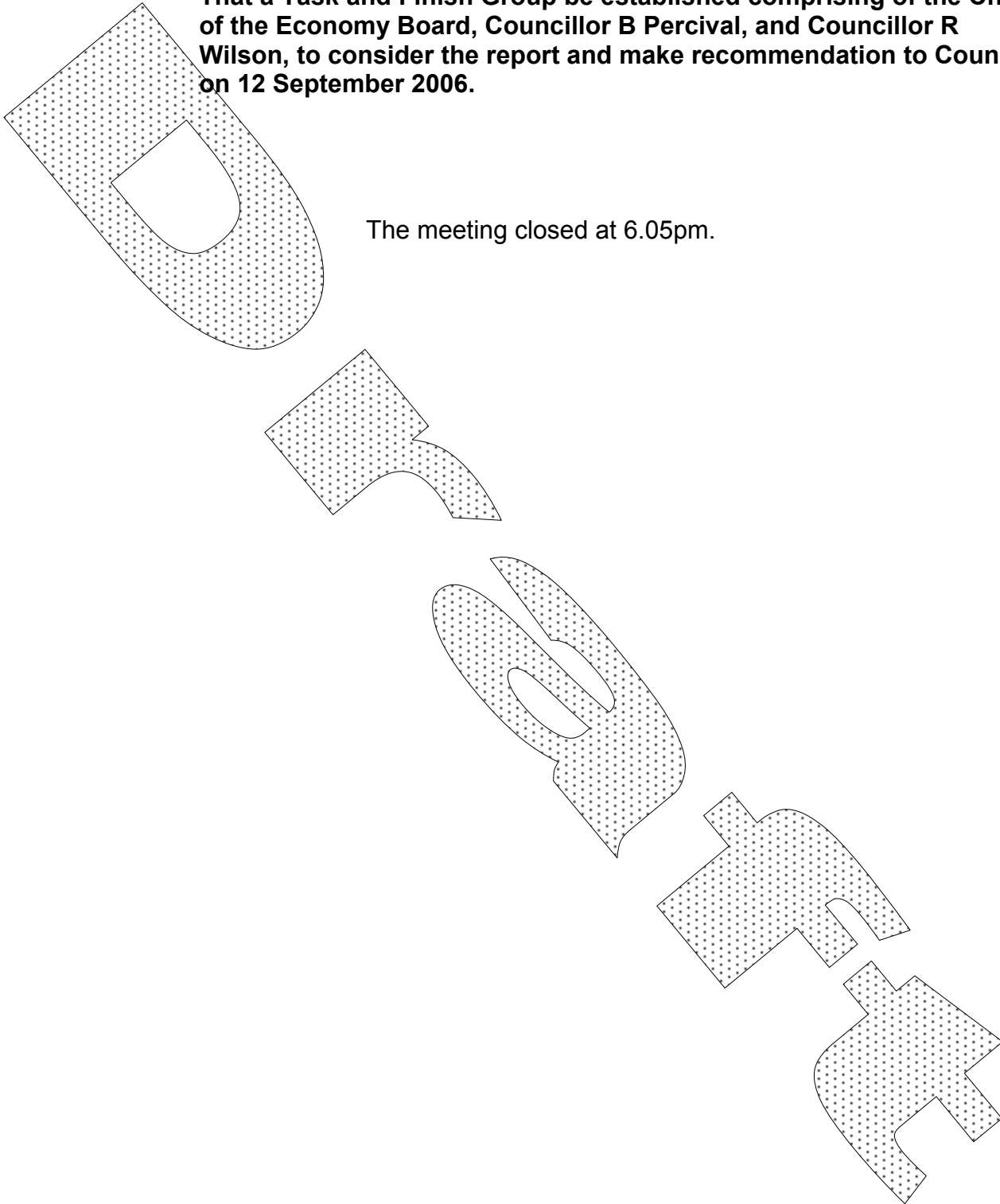
It was proposed by the Chair that due to the very short deadline attached to this report, a Task and Finish Group should be formed from the Board, who would meet and agree a way forward. The Group would then report their findings, along with other recommendations contained within the agenda to

the next meeting of Council for approval.

RECOMMENDED:

That a Task and Finish Group be established comprising of the Chair of the Economy Board, Councillor B Percival, and Councillor R Wilson, to consider the report and make recommendation to Council on 12 September 2006.

The meeting closed at 6.05pm.



SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a special meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Tuesday 1 August 2006, in Committee Room 2, The Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 4.00 pm.

1010	Minutes
1011	Selby District Local Development Framework: Draft Statement of Community Involvement
1012	The Use Of Section 106 Agreements and " Grampian Conditions" In Planning Decisions
1013	Private Session
1014	Re-grading of Planning Post

Present: Councillor M Crane in the Chair

Councillors: Mrs L Casling, J Crawford, Mrs D Davies (for Ms M Davis), Mrs G Ivey, D McSherry, C Metcalf Mrs W Nichols, B Percival, W Norton and R Packham

Officials: Strategic Director, Head of Service-Planning and Economic Development, Principal Planning Officer, Senior Planning Officers and the Acting Democratic Services Manager.

Public: 0
Press: 0

1008 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION

Apologies were received from Councillor Ms M Davis.

Substitute Member was Mrs D Davies.

1009 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None

1010 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 27 June 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

PUBLIC SESSION

1011

SELBY DISTRICT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Head of Service-Planning and Economic Development presented a report informing Councillors of the responses received as a result of the consultation exercise on the draft statement of community involvement (SCI). 46 replies had been received including four which had been received after the closing date. Councillors were advised that planning regulations did not contain any advice on the treatment of late responses.

The appendix to the report contained a summary of the responses received together with officer comments and recommendations. Councillors were requested to consider the comments and approve the SCI for submission to the Secretary of State.

Moved by the Chair and seconded by the Vice Chair

That the four representations received after the closing date be taken into consideration.

On the motion being put to the vote there was an equality of voting and the Chair exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion.

RECOMMENDED:

That

- (i) the four representations received after the closing date be taken into consideration**
- (ii) following consideration of the comments received the SCI be amended in accordance with the recommended changes set out in Appendix 1 as amended by the Committee**
- (iii) arising from the approved changes to the SCI officers be authorised to make consequential amendments in consultation with the Chair of this Committee and**
- (iv) arrangements be made to formally submit the SCI (as amended) to the Secretary of State and to make it available for inspection and comment for a period of six weeks in accordance with the regulations.**

1012

THE USE OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS AND “ GRAMPIAN CONDITIONS” IN PLANNING DECISIONS

Members considered a report by the Head of Service- Planning and Economic Development concerning the adoption of a mechanism to further improve the speed of determination of major planning applications.

Various strategies had been explored and discussions had been held with other planning departments within North Yorkshire as well as with the Planning Advisory Service. As a result of the discussions it was recommended that conditions be used to secure community benefits.

RESOLVED:

That agreement be given to the use of planning conditions as a mechanism to secure developer contributions in respect of planning applications in appropriate circumstances and by agreement with applicants.

1013

PRIVATE SESSION

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting be not open to the Press and public during consideration of the following item as there will be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

1014

RE-GRADING OF PLANNING POST

Councillors considered a report by the Head of Service- Planning and Economic Development on the results of a job evaluation of post LPS 37 in the Planning Section. The job evaluation panel had recommended that the post be re-graded from scale 1b to scale 2.

RESOLVED:

That Planning Post LPS 37 be re-graded from scale 1b to scale 2

The meeting closed at 5.25 pm

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 22 August 2006, in Committee Room 2, The Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 4.00 pm.

1047	Apologies for Absence and Substitution
1048	Disclosure of Interest
1049	Minutes
1050	Treasury Management Annual Report
1051	General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring
1052	Budget Monitoring to 30 June 2006
1053	General Fund Capital Programme to 31 July 2006
1054	Performance Indicators 2005/2006 and 2006/2007
1055	Draft Harassment and Bullying Policy
1056	Anti-Fraud, Theft and Corruption Policy and Strategy
1057	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)
1058	Local Development Scheme (LDS)
1059	House Building Monitoring 2005/06
1060	Request for increase in Enforcement Resources
1061	Referrals from Other Committees and Boards
1062	Private Session
1063	Referral from Social Board
1064	Computer Section Structure
1065	Asset Management Plan 2006/10

Present: Councillor W Norton (Vice Chair in the Chair).

Councillors: J Crawford, Mrs D Davies (for Ms M Davis), Mrs G Ivey, D McSherry, C Metcalfe, Mrs W Nichols, I Nutt (for M Crane), B Percival, R Packham and Mrs R Sayner (for Mrs E Casling).

Officials: Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Head of Service-Finance and Central Services, Head of Service-Human Resources, Head of Service-Planning and Economic Development, Head of Service-Policy and Performance, Accountancy Services Manager, Planning Policy Manager and Acting Democratic Services Manager.

Public: 0

Press: 0

1047

Apologies for Absence and Substitution

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs L Casling, M Crane and Ms M Davis.

Councillors Mrs R Sayner, I Nutt and Mrs D Davies acted as substitutes.

1048

Disclosure of Interest

None.

1049

Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 1 August 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

1050

Treasury Management Annual Report

The Head of Service - Finance and Central Services submitted a report which set out details of the operation of the Treasury Management Function for the year ending 31 March 2006.

Resolved:

That the report be approved.

1051

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

The Head of Service - Finance and Central Services submitted a report concerning the results of a budget monitoring exercise carried out on the Council's General Fund Revenue Budget as it stood at 30 June 2006.

The estimated outturn for the Council's Revenue Budget 2006/2007 was an overspend of £67,000 or 0.6%. However, it was recognised that the prediction of the outturn position was difficult based on the first quarter's activity. It was not proposed to take any action on the forecast overspend at this stage but monitoring would continue and, if necessary, remedial action would be recommended at a future meeting.

Resolved:

That the forecast outturn position on the Council's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2006/07 be acknowledged and that further reports be submitted to future meetings of this Committee.

1052

Budget Monitoring to 30 June 2006

The Head of Service - Finance and Central Services submitted a report setting out details of variations in the Committee's budget for the first three months of the financial year 2006/07.

Information was given relating to the forecast outturn for full year expenditure, the reasons for major variations and changes to the original budget approved by this Committee. Officers would continue to monitor the budget and report to the Committee on a regular basis.

Resolved:

That the report be noted and the action taken by officers be endorsed.

1053

General Fund Capital Programme to 31 July 2006

The Head of Service - Finance and Central Services submitted a report setting out details of the Council's General Fund Capital Programme as it stood at 31 July 2006.

There had been a number of adjustments to the Programme which meant that it stood at £1,100,020 for 2006/07. Supplementary estimates were required for two schemes; £20,680 for an upgrade of the Document Imaging Process (DIP) system and £22,000 for enhancements to the home/remote working facility.

Resolved:

That the position regarding the Council's General Fund Capital Programme for 2006/07 be noted.

Recommended:

That officers' action in monitoring the programme be endorsed and approval be given to a supplementary estimate of £20,680 for the upgrade of the DIP system and £22,000 for enhancements to home/remote working facilities, both to be funded from the computer development fund.

1054

Performance Indicators 2005/2006 and 2006/2007

The Head of Service - Policy and Performance submitted a report updating councillors on performance indicators for 2005/2006 and on the progress which had been made in 2006/2007 towards the achievement of the corporate and statutory Best Value Performance Indicators

(BVPIs) for which they were responsible.

Councillors commented on the report with particular reference made to e-government targets, land charges and concessionary fares.

Resolved that:

- (i) **the staff associated with the achievement of the figure of 99.19% for the number of transactions carried out electronically be congratulated, and**
- (ii) **the report be noted.**

1055

Draft Harassment and Bullying Policy

The Head of Service - Human Resources submitted a proposed Harassment and Bullying Policy which would replace the existing Sexual Harassment Policy. The proposed Harassment and Bullying Policy sets out proposals to deal with any incidents of harassment within the Council, together with the procedure for dealing with those involved.

Recommended:

That the Policy be approved and adopted.

1056

Anti-Fraud, Theft and Corruption Policy and Strategy

The Head of Service - Finance and Central Services submitted a proposed Anti-Fraud, Theft and Corruption Policy and Strategy. The Council's existing policy has been in place a number of years and is now in need of revision.

Recommended:

That the Policy and Strategy be approved and adopted.

1057

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)

The Head of Service - Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which set out the Council's responsibilities under RIPA relating to the covert collection of information. The Council would be subject to an inspection of its procedures and arrangements by the Office of Surveillance Commissioner during September 2006. In order to ensure that the Council met its obligations under the Act it would be necessary to address a number of issues.

Officers would need to be authorised to approve the covert collection of information and receive training to assist them. In addition the 'single point of contact' officer had retired and it was necessary to appoint a successor.

Recommended that:

- (i) the following officers be designated as 'authorising officers' for the purposes of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000:

**Chief Executive
Strategic Directors
Heads of Service**

- (ii) the Council's Monitoring Officer be designated as the single point of contact for the Council, and

- (iii) approval be given to the organisation of a training day for 'authorising officers' at a cost of £2,000 + VAT plus travelling and accommodation expenses, and for training the Head of Service - Legal and Democratic Services as the single point of contact at a cost of £300 + VAT.

1058

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

The Head of Service - Planning and Economic Development submitted a report informing councillors of the progress made in addressing current LDS milestones and of the future programme for local development documents.

Progress had been made on the production of a Statement of Community Involvement, the Core Strategy Development Planning Document (CSDPD) and the Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (DCSPD). The need to undertake a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and to produce a DCSPD for controlling the release of housing land had been identified as immediate priorities.

Councillors debated the part played by village design statements in the planning process and the need to produce action plans for appropriate areas within the Council's boundaries.

Resolved that:

- (i) the conclusions and timetable set out in the report be approved as a basis for reviewing the LDS in consultation with the Government Office for Yorkshire and Humberside
- (ii) authority be given to commission a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in order to supplement the LDF, and
- (iii) consideration of the scope of area action plans in relation to a review of a wider Selby be deferred to a future meeting of this Committee.

1059

House Building Monitoring 2005/2006

The Head of Service - Planning and Economic Development submitted a report giving the result of the annual survey of housing completions within the District and compared it with the Selby District Local Plan requirement and the forecast for the figure made in the 2005/2006 monitoring report.

Councillors commented on the problem faced by some local residents in securing suitable affordable housing.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

1060

Request for Increase in Enforcement Resources

The Heads of Service - Planning and Economic Development and Legal and Democratic Services submitted a joint report seeking approval for the appointment of an enforcement officer to assist with both the Planning and Licensing sections. Demands on both sections had increased over the past year at a time when the number of enforcement staff had fallen.

Some of the additional cost of £43,060 could be met from within the Council's budget.

Resolved that:

- (i) the proposal to appoint an enforcement officer as set out in the report for a fixed term period ending on 31 March 2008 be approved
- (ii) authority be given to the utilisation of £34,560 from the LABGI reserve as a contribution towards the cost of the post (with the balance being met from within the existing budget provision), and
- (iii) a proposal to submit a budget bid as part of the 2008/09 budget process for a permanent appointment to the post will be made, subject to an evaluation during 2007 of the success of the appointed officer.

Recommended:

That approval be given to a supplementary estimate of £43,060 to fund the cost of the post in 2006/07 and 2007/08.

1061

Referrals from Other Committees and Boards

Councillors considered the referrals below:

- (a) Social Board (Minute 1013)

Councillors were requested to approve the proposed Equality and Diversity Policy.

Resolved:

That the Policy be referred to the Council for consideration.

- (b) Social Board (Minute 1014)

Councillors were requested to approve the proposed Sports and Culture Strategy.

Resolved:

That the Strategy be referred to the Council for consideration.

1062

Private Session

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting be not open to the Press and public during consideration of the following items as there will be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

1063

Referral from Social Board (Minute 1021)

Councillors were requested to approve the proposed financial arrangements to fund the purchase of 17 Douglas Street Selby.

Resolved that:

- (i) a supplementary capital estimate of £90,000 be included in the Council's Housing Investment Programme
- (ii) the purchase be funded by way of a contribution of £90,000 from the balance of capital receipts held by the Council, and
- (iii) a revenue contribution to capital of £90,000 be made to be funded from the Housing Special Projects Reserve.

1064

Computer Section Structure

The Head of Service - Finance and Central Services submitted a report on proposals to delete a post of analyst programmer and to make the current post holder redundant.

Resolved that:

- (i) approval be given to the deletion of the post of analyst/programmer from the computer services structure
- (ii) the current post holder be made redundant, and
- (iii) the proposal to seek a re-evaluation of the post of technical support assistant in view of residual workload following the change in (i) above.

Asset Management Plan 2006/10

The Strategic Director (Steve Martin) submitted a report concerning the Council's Asset Management Plan. The previous plan had expired and an update was required to meet audit requirements and to support the Capital Strategy. He had drawn up an interim plan as a holding action and it would be necessary to produce a three year plan during 2007.

Resolved that:

- (i) the interim Asset Management Plan be approved, and**
- (ii) Councillor B Percival be appointed to the Asset Management Team in place of Councillor E Casling.**

The meeting closed at 6.35pm.

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Social Board held on 08 August 2006 in Committee Room 2, The Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 5.00 pm.

1017	Minutes
1018	Chair's Address to the Social Board
1019	Performance Indicator Report for the Social Board 2006/2007: April 2006 – June 2006
1020	Community Safety Work to Tackle Drug and Alcohol Related Problems
1021	Templates for Land Sales Reports
1022	Equality and Diversity Policy
1023	Sports and Culture Strategy
1024	Housing Revenue Account – Outturn 2005/2006
1025	Partnership Working Between North Yorkshire County Council Adult and Community Services and Selby District Council Housing Services
1026	New Political Governance Arrangements Relating to Strategy Housing Issues in North Yorkshire
1027	Key Lines of Enquiry Balanced Housing Markets/Affordable Housing
1028	Private Session
1029	Land to the Rear of 17 The Meadows, South Milford
1030	Proposed Purchase of 17 Douglas Street, Selby

Present: Councillor Mrs E Casling in the Chair

Councillors: M Crane, Mrs D Davies (for Mrs W Nichols), C Lunn, J Mackman, I Nutt, R Parker and C Pearson.

Officials: Strategic Director Steve Martin, Head of Service - Legal and Democratic Service, Head of Service - Housing Services, Accountancy Manager, Leisure Services Manager, Community Services Officer and Committee Administrator.

Observers: 2

Public: 0

Press: 0

1015 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION

An apology was received from Councillor Mrs W Nichols

Substitute Member was Councillor Mrs D Davies

1016 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor D Davies declared a personal interest in minute no 1014.

1017 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Social Board held on 6 June 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

1018 CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE SOCIAL BOARD

The Chair informed Members with regard to the Tenant Participation Strategy which needed an elected Member nomination. If Members were interested then they should contact Nicola Lees directly

1019 PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT FOR THE SOCIAL BOARD
2006/2007: APRIL 2006 – JUNE 2006

Members received the report of the Head of Service - Policy and Performance updating the Social Board on the progress being made in 2005/2006 for the corporate and statutory Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) for which they were responsible.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

1020 COMMUNITY SAFETY WORK TO TACKLE DRUG AND ALCOHOL
RELATED PROBLEMS

Members were presented with the report of the Head of Service – Policy and Performance.

Drug and alcohol problems were the worst of all five of the priority problems that were being tackled within the Community Safety Strategy. As such they were highlighted in the strategy as a major area on which to focus on, in order to achieve the outcomes of the strategy.

The report before Members set out the main framework used in order to address drug and alcohol problems, as well as highlighting some of the key work being delivered by Selby District Council.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

1021

TEMPLATES FOR LAND SALES REPORTS

The Head of Service for Legal and Democratic Services presented Members with a report on a proposed report template.

The Chair had requested that the standard Committee report format be enhanced so that Members could have an agreed template in relation to dealings with land within the Board's control.

The Chair asked Members to consider what they would like to see contained within the template and feed them to the Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services, who would compile a draft template and bring it to a future meeting of the Social Board for approval.

RESOLVED: That following Members' comments, a draft template be brought to a future meeting of the Social Board.

1022

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

Members were asked to consider the report of the Head of Service for Housing Services, which sought the approval of the revised Equality and Diversity Policy for Housing Services.

In response to the Code of Practice in Rented Housing, the Housing Service Unit had produced a statement on equality in 2001/2002. In order to ensure that the Housing Service Unit's policies were up to date with current practice and legislation, a revised Equality and Diversity policy had been produced and approval for the policy was sought from Members.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Policy and Resources Committee be asked to approve the revised Equality and Diversity Policy for the Housing Service.

1023

SPORTS AND CULTURE STRATEGY

The Head of Service for Environmental and Leisure Services presented Members with the Sport and Cultural Strategy.

The Cultural Strategy had been in place since 2002. However, the Strategy had not been formally adopted and therefore Members were asked to approve the Strategy and refer it to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Policy and Resources Committee be asked to approve the Sport and Culture Strategy.

1024

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - OUTTURN 2005/2006-08-01

Members received the report of the Head of Service for Finance and Central Services, which informed Members of the final outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account.

RESOLVED: That;

- i) the outturn position on the Council's Housing Revenue Account for 2005/2006 be noted;**
- ii) the budget slippage for 2005/2006 be approved**
- iii) the allocation of the £193,000 increase in the contribution to Housing Balances for use in the Housing Investment Programme be confirmed.**

1025

PARTNERSHIP WORKING BETWEEN NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL HOUSING SERVICES

Members received the report from the Head of Service for Housing Services, which set out proposals with regard to joint working between North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council.

Both North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council were committed to the continuation of partnership working, with a concentration on ensuring that citizens were at the centre of how services were planned and delivered.

RESOLVED: That

- i) the report be noted;**
- ii) that Members continue to support Officers exploring a partnership approach to developing services**

1026

NEW POLITICAL GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO STRATEGIC HOUSING ISSUES IN NORTH YORKSHIRE

Members received the report of the Policy and Partnership Officer to seek agreement for the new political governance arrangements in relation to strategic housing issues within the sub-region.

Following debate, the Chair asked that an amendment be made to the second part of the Officer recommendation that delegated authority be given to the Chair of the Social Board to appoint an attendee to sit on the proposed board.

RESOLVED: That;

- i) **the proposed governance arrangements be approved;**
- ii) **the Chair of the Social be given delegated authority to appoint an attendee to sit on the proposed strategic board.**

1027

KEY LINES ENQUIRY BALANCED HOUSING MARKETS/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Members received the report of the Strategic Director, Mr S Martin, who advised Members of the forthcoming Balanced Housing Markets/Affordable Housing Review and requested that Members to agree the key lines of enquiry.

The Audit Commission were to undertake an Affordable Housing and Balanced Housing Markets review for the whole of North Yorkshire in September 2006. Each Authority was to send a Key Line, of Enquiry submission by 28 July 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the Key Line of Enquiry submission to the Audit Commission be agreed.

1028

PRIVATE SESSION

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 in view of the nature of the business to be transacted the meeting be not open to the Press and public during discussion of the following items as there will be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described Part 3 of Schedule

12A to the Act.

1029

LAND AT THE REAR OF 17 THE MEADOWS, SOUTH MILFORD

Members received the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to re-consider their decision of refusal made on 14 June 2006 in respect of the owners of 17 The Meadows purchasing an area of Council-owned land at the rear of their property.

Members raised concern, in relation to access to and from adjoining properties. Therefore the Chair asked that the local member undertake a site visit to consider the access and the effect on the street scene and report the findings back to the Head of Service - Legal and Democratic Services to conclude matters in consultation with the Chair and local member

RESOLVED:

That under the terms of the delegated outline in the constitution authority be given to the Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the local member and Chair of Social Board to decide on whether or not the request should be agreed.

1030

PROPOSED PURCHASE OF 17 DOUGLAS STREET, SELBY

Members were asked to consider the report of the Head of Housing Services, which sought approval to negotiate proceedings for the purchase of 17 Douglas Street, Selby.

Members were given the detailed background to the proposal and the reasons for the request for the supplementary estimate. Members were asked to give delegated authority to the Head of Service Housing to continue negotiations for the purchase of the property.

RESOLVED:

That under delegated authority the Head of Service – Housing continue negotiation, the purchase of 17 Douglas Street, Selby, upto the maximum amount set out in the report

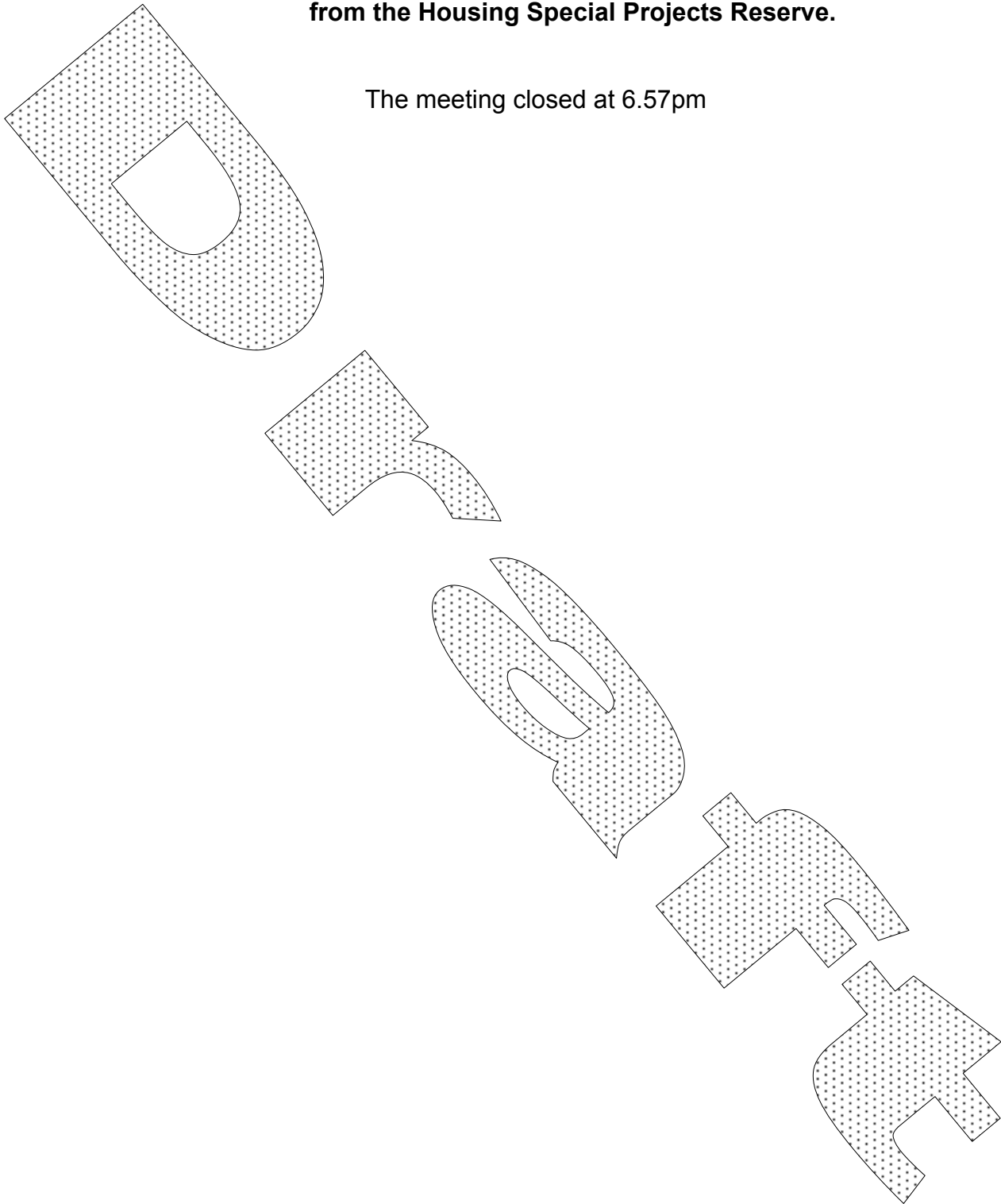
RECOMMENDATION:

That the to Policy and Resources Committee be asked to approve

- i) a supplementary capital estimate of £90,000 to be included in the Council's Housing Investment Programme;**

- ii) **fund the purchase by way of a contribution of £90,000 from the balance of capital receipts held by the Council;**
- iii) **a revenue contribution to capital of £90,000 to be funded from the Housing Special Projects Reserve.**

The meeting closed at 6.57pm



SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Monday 14 August 2006, in Committee Room 2, The Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 10.00 am.

1033	Minutes
1034	Procedure
1035	Chair's Address to the Licensing Committee
1036	Application by Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries for an additional gaming machine at The Abbey Vaults Public House, Selby

Present: Councillor R Sayner in the Chair

Councillors: G Croston, Mrs D Davies, Mrs S Duckett, Mrs J Dyson, J McCartney, C Pearson and D Peart

Officials: Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Committee Administrator

Also in Attendance: Mr Cawood – Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries
Mr Goodchild – Licencee, Abbey Vaults Public House

Public: 0

Press: 0

1031 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs J Ashton and Mrs K McSherry.

There were no substitute Members.

1032 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None

1033 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 12 June 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

PUBLIC SESSION

1034

PROCEDURE

The Procedure was noted.

1035

CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Chair informed Members that the Gambling Policy was still out for consultation and that at the present time there was no feedback.

The Chair also informed Members that the Licensing Officer would give Members an up-date on issues that may be of interest to them.

At the end of the Meeting, the Licensing Officer informed Members of the following:

1. Policy and Resources Committee was to be requested to approve additional resources for enforcement duties.
2. Selby Times had been requested to correct its recent report in relation to a "No Drinking Zone" in Selby.

1036

APPLICATION BY WOLVERHAMPTON AND DUDLEY BREWERIES FOR AN ADDITIONAL GAMING MACHINE AT THE ABBEY VAULTS PUBLIC HOUSE, SELBY

Members received the report of the Licensing Officer in respect of an additional gaming machine to be sited at the Abbey Vaults Public House.

The Licensing Officer outlined details of the application and that the Abbey Vaults Public House was currently permitted to use two gaming machines and had applied to increase the number to three.

Mr Cawood from Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries informed Members that the additional machine was due to demand in the public house and that it would be sited within an area that could be monitored by the bar staff in an area which did not cause an obstruction and was equidistant between the two entrances to the premises. The maximum payout for this machine would be £20 jackpot.

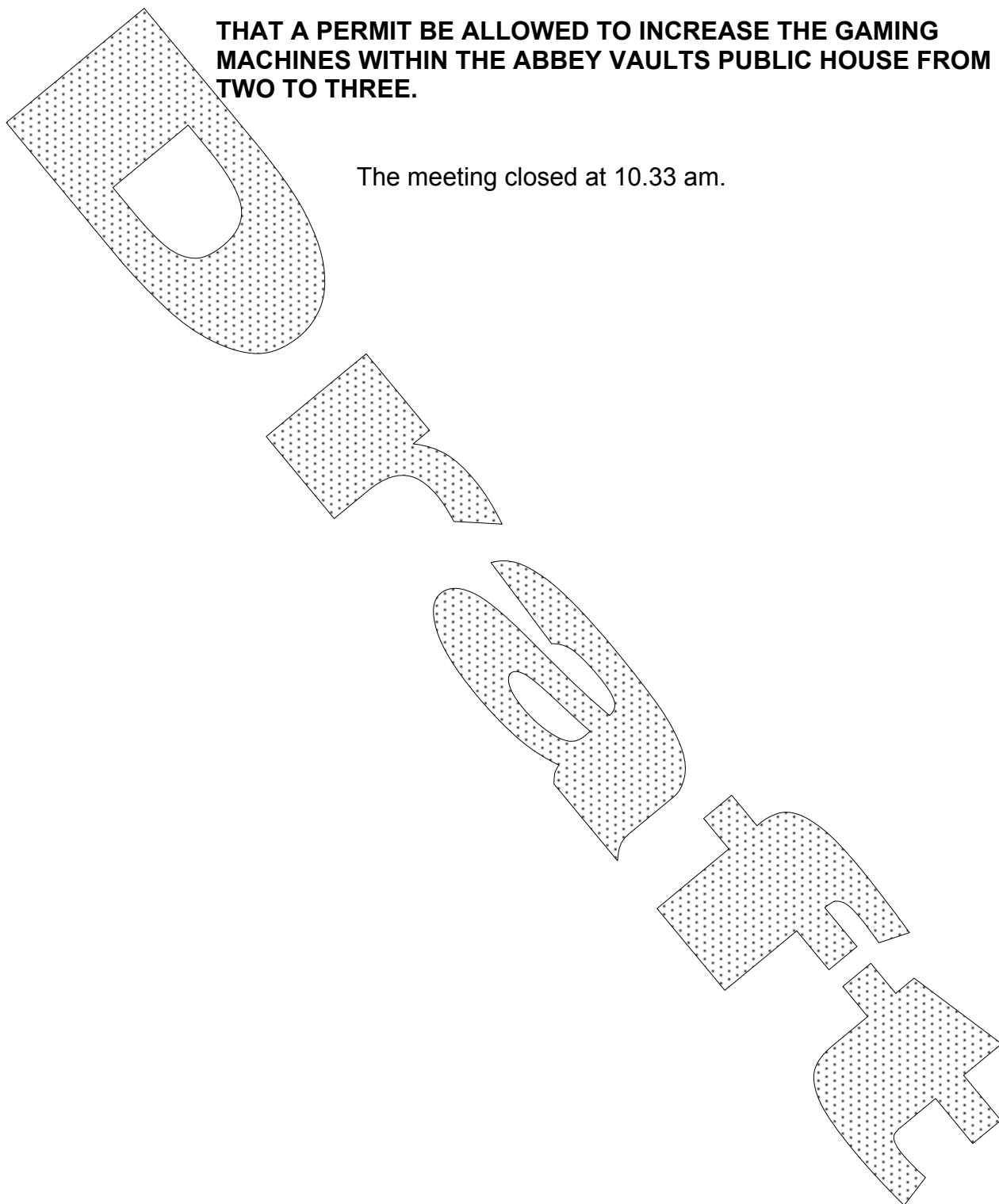
Members asked various questions in relation to this application and the Licensing Officer and Mr Cawood responded to them.

The Members considered the application and resolved to grant the increase in gaming machines within the Abbey Vaults from two to three.

RESOLVED:

THAT A PERMIT BE ALLOWED TO INCREASE THE GAMING MACHINES WITHIN THE ABBEY VAULTS PUBLIC HOUSE FROM TWO TO THREE.

The meeting closed at 10.33 am.



AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 8

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE : EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY
TO : COUNCIL
DATE : 12 SEPTEMBER 2006
BY : MARK STEWARD - HEAD OF SERVICE - HOUSING
AUTHOR : KATE ROBINSON, POLICY AND PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

1.0 LINK TO COUNCIL POLICY

1.1 Council's commitment to Level 2 of the Equalities Scheme for Local Government.

2.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek approval for the new Equality and Diversity Policy for the Housing Service Unit.

3.0 LINK TO CORPORATE AIMS AND PRIORITIES

3.1 ***Strategic Themes:***

1) Putting Customers First

5) Community Safety

Selby District LSP:

Reduce inequalities in the area

RECOMMENDATION

That members approve the revised equality and diversity policy for the housing service.

4.0 IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES

The scheme affects the Council's approach to Best Value, Equalities, Crime Reduction, Procurement, Risk Management and Sustainability in the following manner:

4.1 • Best Value

Consultation with tenants has taken place on the policy and the policy has been compared to best practice. The policy clearly sets out national and local measures of performance and targets relating to equality and diversity.

4.2 • Equalities

The new policy complies with the Council's various policies on equality and diversity.

4.3 • Community Safety and Crime Reduction

The policy sets out the Housing Service unit's approach to dealing with harassment and discrimination.

4.4 • Procurement

Section 11 of the policy looks at the area of contractors, consultants, suppliers and procurement.

4.5 • Risk Management and Risk Register

Compliance with the policy will assist in ensuring the Council complies with current legislation relating to equality and diversity and in so doing will reduce the risk of certain members of the community not receiving a fair and equal service from the Housing department.

4.6 • Sustainability

The policy is developed with the needs of local communities in mind. Through compliance with the policy it is hoped individuals, groups and local communities will feel they have an equal access to services and action and therefore promote good relations between individuals and groups.

4.7 • Gershon Efficiency Savings

No impact.

5.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to the Code of Practice in Rent Housing, the Housing Service Unit produced a statement on equality in 2001/2002. In order to ensure that the Housing Service Unit's policies are up to date with current practice and legislation, a revised Equality and Diversity policy has been produced and approval for the policy is sought from Members. A copy of the revised policy is attached.

6.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 6.1 The Housing Service Unit have produced a revised Equality and Diversity Policy to ensure that the department promotes equality and diversity in all its activities and services to customers, recognising the needs of individuals, groups and local communities.

The policy aims to compliment the Council's corporate Equality and Diversity policies whilst providing specific guidance on how the Housing Service Unit can ensure equality and diversity is at the heart of all its practices.

- 6.2 The Council has made a commitment to ensuring that matters of equality and diversity are addressed in all areas of Council services, and, through the Equal Opportunities Working Group, the Council has progressed towards Level 2 of the nationally recognised Equalities Scheme for Local Government. As part of this work, equalities impact assessments have taken place on priority areas of service delivery.

- 6.3 In recognition of the importance of equality issues for everyone using the services provided by housing, property services and revenues, the attached revised policy has been produced.

6.4 Consultation

- 6.4.1 Consultation on the policy has taken place with staff and tenants.

Consultation with staff revealed the need to look more closely at how the Potentially Violent Register works in practice. This has been highlighted at the Housing Managers meeting and will be taken forward as a corporate issue through Operational Management Team.

- 6.4.2 Consultation with tenants has been via the Tenants' Forum and the tenants' newsletter. The consultation revealed a need to ensure all Tenants' groups receive training on equality and diversity issues and receive assistance to ensure that equality and diversity principles are integrated into the Tenants' Forum and Tenants' and Resident Association's terms of reference and are acted upon.

6.5 *Monitoring*

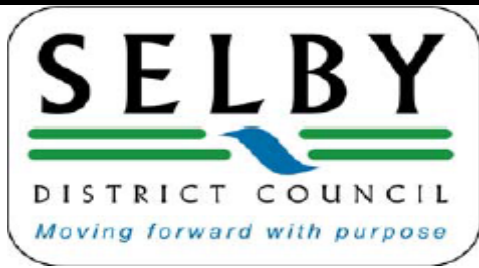
The policy will be monitored through the performance management system and a review of the policy will take place annually or in response to changes in legislation, national policy or good practice.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Implementation of the policy can be met through existing resources.

8.0 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The Council's Corporate policies on Equality and Diversity can be found on the Council's Intranet or via request from Kate Robinson, Policy and Partnership Officer at krobinson@selby.gov.uk



Selby District Council Housing Services

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The overall purpose of this policy is to ensure that Selby District Council's Housing Service Unit promotes equality and diversity in all its activities and services to customers, recognising the needs of individuals, groups and local communities.

This policy aims to complement Selby District Council's corporate Equality and Diversity policies whilst providing specific guidance on how the Housing Service Unit can ensure equality and diversity is at the heart of all its practices.

HOW THE POLICY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

Those working at a management level are responsible for making sure that all legal and regulatory obligations are met. All staff will receive guidance and training to make sure that they are fully aware of their responsibilities with regard to equality and diversity policies and have the necessary skills to carry them out.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

BVPI's

BV74 - The percentage of all council tenants, or a representative sample of council tenants, stating that they are satisfied with the overall service provided by their landlord when surveyed: with results further broken down by (i) black and minority ethnic and (ii) non-black and minority ethnic tenants.

BV75 - Satisfaction of tenants of council housing with opportunities for participation in management and decision-making in relation to housing services provided by their landlord: with results further broken down by (i) black and minority ethnic and (ii) non-black and minority ethnic tenants.

BV156 – The percentage of authority buildings open to the public in which all public areas are suitable for, and accessible to, disabled people

Development of tenant empowerment (numbers of tenants involved in decision-making)

Local Indicators

LIE01 - % housing applications from ethnic minority backgrounds

LIE02 - % allocations made to ethnic minorities

LIE03 - % of anti-social behaviour cases reported by ethnic minorities

LIE04 - % of homeless decisions made relating to ethnic minorities

LIE05 - Number of racially-motivated incidents

TARGETS

Corporate Target

To achieve Level 2 of the Equalities Scheme

Satisfaction

82.5% tenant satisfaction with overall service provided by the Housing Service Unit

70% tenant satisfaction with arrangements for participation

Lettings

To ensure that lettings to BME applicants are proportionate to BME householders in housing need in the area

Dealing with Racial Harassment

To achieve 100% victim satisfaction with the support and manner in which their incident was dealt

Tenant Groups

To ensure that representation of BME tenants and residents is proportionate to the ethnic profile of the community the Housing Service Unit serves

To ensure that the terms of reference for every tenant group includes a statement on equal opportunities

To ensure all tenant groups receive training on this policy and on equality and diversity

Policy approved by Social Board:

First Review Date: August 2007

Responsible Officer: Policy and Partnership Officer

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

1 STATEMENT OF INTENT

- 1.1 Selby District Council's Housing Service Unit is committed to the principle that all customers and staff have the right to the same high standards of provision and services.
- 1.2 The Housing Service Unit is committed to fair and equal treatment for all people regardless of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religious belief, age, disability or any other reason.
- 1.3 The Housing Service Unit is committed to the recognition of ethnic and cultural diversity, which enables people from all ethnic groups to achieve their potential and not be subject to racial prejudice and racial discrimination.
- 1.4 The Housing Service Unit will seek to ensure that no unlawful or unfair discrimination takes place against an individual or group, directly or indirectly, because of their gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religious belief, age, disability or any other reason.
- 1.5 The housing department's approach to equality and diversity will be based upon:
 - Transparency;
 - Accountability;
 - Proportionality;
 - Consistency;
 - Targeting.
- 1.6 The Housing Service Unit will monitor performance and is fully committed to working with the Equal Opportunities Work Group (EOWG) and implementing the Corporate Equality Scheme to aid the improvement of equality practices within the Council.
- 1.7 The Housing Service Unit accepts its responsibilities to comply with all relevant legislation including the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and 1986, The Equal Pay Act 1970, the Race Relations Act 1976 and 2000, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, and the Sex Discrimination (Gender Reassignment) Regulations 1999.
- 1.8 This policy applies to all aspects of the Housing Service Unit including Property Services, Rent collection and Arrears Recovery. All Housing Service Unit policies will be reviewed to ensure they comply with this policy.

2 OUTLINE OF SERVICE

- 2.1 The Housing Service Unit will ensure that the principles of equality apply across all of its activities and that it is an integral part of service delivery. We will work to ensure that our staff, residents and tenants are not subjected to discrimination, harassment or injustice – either directly or indirectly on the grounds of race, disability, religion and cultural practice,

sexual orientation, gender, language and communication, age, economic status, employment status, lifestyle or appearance.

- 2.2 The housing department recognises its obligation to ensure the fullest participation of the whole community in every aspect of its operations and the housing department aims to embrace equality and diversity across all of its activities.
- 2.3 This policy aims to support Selby District Council's corporate policies on equality and diversity and improve the ways in which the housing department try to eliminate discrimination and promote good practice.

3 SPECIFIC NEEDS

- 3.1 The housing department will take into account the specific needs, which may arise of older and vulnerable people, people with disabilities, and Black and Minority Ethnic groups, in a manner that promotes equality and inclusiveness. The housing department will also learn from its partners and other organisations in order to deliver better services to meet the needs of its customers.

4 STAFFING AND EMPLOYMENT

- 4.1 The Housing Service Unit will ensure that Selby District Council's corporate policy on 'Equal Opportunities in Employment' is fully implemented within its department.
- 4.2 The Housing Service Unit will ensure that every housing employee is trained on equality, in partnership with the Human Resources Unit. Those with management responsibility will ensure that this policy is implemented throughout the department and that all employees understand it.

5 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 The Housing Service Unit will ensure equality of opportunity for all staff in the selection procedures for courses leading to qualifications identified at a JPR and will make a provision for this annually within the training budget.
- 5.2 It will ensure that all staff have the same training opportunities regardless of their working arrangements, receiving support from line managers.

6 MEETING HOUSING NEED

- 6.1 The Housing Service Unit will work to identify and address the housing needs and related needs of local communities through a range of options and initiatives, to provide affordable and supported housing. The needs of the local community will be addressed in the Housing Strategy.

7 ALLOCATIONS

- 7.1 The Housing Service Unit is committed to allocating homes in a way that promotes choice, considers peoples' needs and encourages the development of sustainable and balanced communities.

- 7.2 The Housing Service Unit will develop its housing strategy to remove barriers, which may discourage applicants from certain groups or communities.
- 7.3 The Housing Service Unit will ensure that its Selection, Allocation and Transfer policies and related procedures do not discriminate directly or indirectly in relation to gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religious belief, age, disability or any other reason.

8 SERVICE DELIVERY

- 8.1 The Housing Service Unit is committed to delivering the highest standards of housing and related services in meeting the diverse needs of local communities. It will achieve this by implementing the corporate 'Equal Opportunities in Service Provision' policy and by:
- Treating people fairly regardless of ethnicity in all aspects of housing service delivery and access to services;
 - Promoting good relations between people regardless of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religious belief, age, disability or any other reason;
 - Monitoring demographic changes in the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population resulting from any dispersal of asylum seekers to Selby district and thus ensuring that asylum seekers and refugees receive appropriate support services in assisting their integration into local communities;
 - Promote social inclusiveness through working in partnership with other housing providers to establish housing support needs and preferences to meet the diverse needs of local communities;
 - Providing periodic reports to Social Board and management meetings on how existing and future services meet the diverse needs of local communities;
 - Providing housing services that are sensitive to the diverse needs of individuals, groups and local communities;
 - Ensuring that customers, stakeholders and service users have suitable access to our customer service access points, ensuring that the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 are met.

9 HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION

- 9.1 The Housing Service Unit will take vigorous action against perpetrators of any form of harassment to its residents or staff.
- 9.2 The Housing Service Unit will implement the Corporate Statement on Equal Opportunities by working with other agencies and organisations to eliminate discrimination, harassment and attacks on any group or individual.
- 9.3 The Housing Service Unit will actively encourage the reporting of racial incidents, provide effective support and guidance and proactively resolve any incidents.
- 9.4 All forms of harassment or discrimination against or by a tenant, employee or contractor will be dealt with promptly, firmly and sensitively.

- 9.5 Where the perpetrator is known and is a service user, employee or contractor, the housing department will take appropriate action against them. All potentially violent incidents will be recorded and monitored. Relevant staff will be informed of any new additions to the Potentially Violent Register, to ensure their safety.
- 9.6 The Housing Service Unit will ensure that all staff are also made aware of the Discrimination Reporting Form, which should be used to report any incidents of discrimination. This involves discriminatory practice including incidents relating to race, religion, disability, gender, age or sexual orientation.
- 9.7 The Housing Service Unit is committed to working in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership and providing any necessary help and assistance to implement the Selby District Community Safety Partnership Action Plan.
- 9.8 For further information on harassment and discrimination please see the Housing Service Unit's policy on Anti-Social Behaviour.

10 RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, FEEDBACK AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND ADVICE

- 10.1 The Housing Service Unit places tenant involvement and participation at the heart of all its activities, and this includes incorporating BME residents' views, expectations and aspirations regarding our housing service.
- 10.2 The Housing Service Unit will deliver high standards of service to people living in our communities within a framework of empowerment and Best Value.
- 10.3 The Housing Service Unit will reflect the views and expectations of local residents in its service planning and review processes in monitoring performance and improving services.
- 10.4 In supporting community groups, including Tenants' and Residents' Associations, the Housing Service Unit will work with those groups to ensure that equality and diversity principles are integrated into their terms of reference and are acted upon.
- 10.5 As part of its general approach to tenant participation and involvement, the Housing Service Unit will develop and support structures to ensure that all groups are able to become involved in our activities regardless of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religious belief, age, disability or any other reason.
- 10.6 The Housing Service Unit will actively consult all key diversity group representatives on how they would like to be involved in participation and consultation in relation to service delivery and review.
- 10.7 The Housing Service Unit will provide translation and interpretation services that encourage and facilitate involvement from all of our customers, stakeholders and service users.

11 CONTRACTORS, CONSULTANTS, SUPPLIERS AND PROCUREMENT

- 11.1 The Housing Service Unit will ensure that contractors, consultants and suppliers and organisations receiving funding from the housing department adhere to this Equality and Diversity Policy.
- 11.2 As a criterion for award of work or contracts and as a condition for doing business, the Housing Service Unit will specify its requirements on contractors, consultants and suppliers in meeting equal opportunities legislation and eliminating all forms of discrimination.
- 11.3 Further information is available in Selby District Council's Contracts Procedure Rules and Code of Practice.

12 CONSULTATION

- 12.1 The Housing Service Unit will seek the views of customers and staff on our policies in a variety of different ways.
- 12.2 The Housing Service Unit will ensure that all information provided to service users is in plain language and in a variety of different formats and languages on request including Braille, large print and audio cassette. A Language Line service will be made available and Induction Loops provided at all Service Access Points.
- 12.3 The Housing Service Unit will involve tenants and other stakeholders in setting standards, monitoring performance, evaluating and reviewing services and carrying out service reviews as required.
- 12.4 The Housing Service Unit will ensure that tenants are involved at a level at which they choose in accordance with the standards of the Tenant Participation and Consultation Policy, ensuring equality of access for consultation and involvement.

13 MONITORING

- 13.1 The Housing Service Unit will use information from surveys and research to continually improve policies and services. It will also collate other relevant statistics and information and will use this when it undertakes review of policies and services. We will monitor services to ensure that people from diverse backgrounds find them equally accessible and are equally satisfied with our service delivery.
- 13.2 The Housing Service Unit will monitor the needs of housing applicants, tenants and service users to ensure that targets are being met in accordance with this policy.
- 13.3 The collection and analysis of information regarding the numbers, ethnic origin and disability status of staff or services users shall be kept in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

14 REVIEW

- 14.1 The Housing Service Unit will periodically review this policy, ensuring that Equality and Diversity lies at the heart of all housing services and employment practices.
- 14.2 There will be an automatic review of this policy whenever there is a change of policy or legislation from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The policy will be reviewed when other information becomes available that will impact on the policy, such as the outcome of a Best Value Review.

15 LEGISLATION AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

Race Relations Act 1976 and associated Code of Practice issued by the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE)

Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and associated Code of Practice issued by the CRE

Code of Practice in Rented Housing CRE

Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Sex Discrimination Act 1975 & 1986 Amendment and associated Code of Practice issued by the Equal Opportunities Commission

Human Rights Act 1998

Equal Pay Act 1970

Employment Rights Act 1996

Employment Relations Act 1999

Employment Act 2002

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

Data Protection Act 1998

Housing Act 1988

Housing Act 1996

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

Race and Housing Inquiry Challenge Report 2001

Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003

Employment (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003

Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

16 OTHER RELATED POLICIES

The housing department aims to reflect its policy on Equality and Diversity throughout all its policies and procedures and specifically through continuous improvement reviews. The following policies are those most closely related:

Corporate Policies:

Selby District Council's Corporate Statement of Equal Opportunities

Selby District Council's Equality Scheme – Celebrating Diversity

Selby District Council's Equal Opportunities in Employment

Selby District Council's Equal Opportunities in Service Provision

Selby District Council's Equal Opportunities Policy (Service Area)

Selby District Council's Discrimination Reporting Form

Selby District Council's Contracts Procedure Rules and Code of Practice

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 9

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE : SPORT AND CULTURAL STRATEGY

TO : COUNCIL

DATE : 12 SEPTEMBER 2006

BY : STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

AUTHOR : LEISURE SERVICES MANAGER

1. LINK TO COUNCIL POLICY

- 1.1 *To review that the Sport and Cultural Strategy is in line with the Council's policy of continuous improvement.*

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The aim of the report is to bring the Sport and Cultural Strategy to Members for formal approval.

3. LINK TO CORPORATE AIMS AND PRIORITIES

- 3.1 ***Promote health and leisure***

RECOMMENDATION

That Members adopt the Sport and Cultural Strategy.

4. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES

To indicate how the report affects the Council's approach to.

- 4.1 • Best Value

Continuous improvement.

Service improvements may be achieved by the introduction of new and improved activities.

- 4.2 • Equalities

The Sport and Cultural Strategy offers equal opportunities for all residents of Selby District including: children, older people and disabled.

- 4.3 • Community Safety and Crime Reduction

Many of the activities identified in the action plans may offer diversionary activities for potential criminal offenders

- 4.4 • Procurement

No impact

- 4.5 • Risk Management and Risk Register

No impact

- 4.6 • Sustainability

Local Agenda 21

- 4.7 • Gershon Efficiency Savings

No impact

5. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 5.1 *A Cultural Strategy has been in place since 2002. However, the strategy has never been formally adopted by Members. This report places the strategy in front of Members, for approval.*

6. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 6.1 A Cultural Strategy has been in place since 2002.
- 6.2 It was renamed to Sport and Cultural Strategy in 2005 to better reflect the content of the document.
- 6.3 The strategy is reviewed on an annual basis.
- 6.4 The Strategy aims to cater for all those who live and work in the District of Selby.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 8.1 NB: Previous versions of the Cultural Strategy.

‘To Improve the quality of life for those who live and work in the District’

A Sport and Cultural Strategy for Selby District

2006-2011

June 2006

Next Review: June 2007

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FOREWORD

Within the boundaries of Selby District is a landscape of countryside, rivers, market towns and villages that combine to make it an attractive place to live, work and visit.

The historical and current traditions, successes, recent achievements in so many areas of the District and many exciting new developments are credit to the people who live, and/or work, in the District. This diversity of people has the understanding for a need to protect the environment, heritage and customs of the area, whilst having the vision and drive to push forward with new and innovative ideas.

Our long-term goal is to ***'Improve the quality of life for those who live and work in th District'***, and the aim of the Sport and Cultural Strategy is to provide a document that can influence all those who have a role to play in improving quality of life within Selby District.

The Sport and Cultural Strategy has close ties with the District Councils Community plan, Crime and Disorder Strategy and other area Strategies such as the Health Improvement Plan.

The Sport and Cultural Strategy will lead to specific action plans for all elements of culture including the Arts, Sport, Leisure and Tourism.

A priority will be to ensure that the contents of The Sport and Cultural Strategy and our action plans remain all-inclusive, i.e. includes all forms of culture (where and whenever possible), and that these be accessible to all (where and whenever possible).

SCOPE

Below is an example of just some of the possible activities we include in this Sport and Cultural Strategy.

Scope	Activity
Arts	Visual Art, Open Competitions, Performance, Theatre, Dance, Music, Film, Talks, Workshops, Studios.
Children – up to 12	Youth Groups, Play Areas, Holiday Activities, Sports Coaching, Classes, Camps, Picnics, Trips, Walks, Fun Fair, Art and Craft Demonstrations.
Young people – 12 to 18	Play Areas, Skate Parks, Informal Activity, Youth Clubs, Outdoor Cinema, Music Venue, Environmental Activity, Riverside Cycle Tracks, Graffiti Wall, Milkshake Café-Bar, and Youth Hostel.
Older people	Range of cultural activities, Café Gallery, Excursions (shopping, musicals, art, nature), Book Depository, Lectures, tai chi in the park and Improved Transport Links.
IT	Photoshop Workshops, Film/Music Editing, Printing Facility, Group Projects, Cyber cafes, Information, Links, Projection Equipment,
Media	Local, regional and national television, press, magazines and radio, Selby Radio Station, Encouraging Film-Makers, Location Finders, Casting Agents, Modelling Scouts to the area.
Religious organisations	Provide services for older people and youth especially, Activities/ Exhibitions/Concerts/Gigs/Fashion, Festivals for all religions, Specialist Markets, Flags/Banners.
Environment	Landscape shaped activities, cycling walking. Issue of access, Public Art, Lighting/Landscaped Walkways, Tree Planting, Marina, Gardens, Landscaped Seating Areas, Recycling/Litter Bins, Pavement Cleaning.

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

'To improve the quality of Life for those who live and work in the District' - A Sport and Cultural Strategy for Selby, was originally written as a response to the Government's requirement for each Local Authority to produce a Local Cultural Strategy. It follows a unique collaboration of a consortium of Local Authorities and National Park Authorities that has produced a North Yorkshire wide Cultural Framework. This consortium is made up of North Yorkshire County Council, the City of York, the seven District Councils of Craven, Harrogate, Ryedale, Hambleton, Selby, Scarborough and Richmondshire, the two National Park Authorities in North Yorkshire, The North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. It also includes a range of agencies such as Health, Police and the Government agencies for Arts, Sport, and Museums etc.

These organisations recognised the need to address both local and countywide issues, and also the potential for improving the quality of life in the area by taking a sub regional approach.

The formation of the North Yorkshire Cultural Officers' Group (NYCOG), which is made up of the Chief Officers/Lead Officers in the cultural field from these organisations, was a response to the need to draw up a cultural framework. This would identify the County-wide priorities and provide a co-ordinated approach for the region that will influence regional and national policies.

The strength of the Sport and Cultural Strategy will come from different sectors taking an integrated approach. It was felt that with a two tier Local Government, plus the influence of two National Parks working together, the co-ordinating of, for example, libraries and tourism would provide added value to

the quality of life in the County.

It is important to recognise the context of the Yorkshire Regional Cultural Strategy, but given the diverse nature of Yorkshire as a whole, compared to the more homogenous nature of North Yorkshire, it was felt that a sub-regional framework would provide a closer, more specific focus.

The development of the sub-regional framework has drawn upon the work undertaken in compiling the Yorkshire Cultural Strategy and therefore the two complement each other. It is intended that Selby's own Local Sport and Cultural Strategy will further this whilst being more sharply focused and specific to the District.

This Sport and Cultural Strategy is set out in 5 sections:

- ◆ **Case for Culture** – This defines culture and why cultural activities are so important to the life and well being of the District's residents, workers and visitors.
- ◆ **A Profile of Selby** – Outlining the distinctive and unique characteristics of the District and the issues affecting it.
- ◆ **Vision and Aims** – Sets out the vision, aims and policies that will address the issues, and shape the future growth and development of culture in Selby.
- ◆ **Action Plan** – Provides the approach to deliver the policies and aims with identified roles and responsibilities for all parties and a timescale to achieve these common goals.
- ◆ **Monitoring and Evaluation** – Provides an approach for the success of the Cultural Strategy to be evaluated and monitored.

The Sport and Cultural Strategy is a working document that will be a reference for the many partners and agencies delivering culture in the District.

Whilst the document is a significant step forward in its own right, it will ultimately need to be judged in five years time by the improvements it has achieved in the quality of life of the people in Selby District.

CASE FOR CULTURE

There are many examples and definitions of culture that focus on the social aspects relating to distinctive ways of life and groups of people. There are definitions relating to supposedly elite forms of culture and activities within the arts, for example, Fine- Art, Opera, and Ballet, and there are also definitions of popular culture related to television, the media, popular music and cinema.

The lack of clarity of the term, and the fact that it has become a term used by the Government, is not helpful as it can lead to a great deal of focus on the terminology and not the action.

For the purposes of this Sport and Cultural Strategy, culture is considered to be about people and who they are and how they communicate with others. It is how they express their cultural identity through what they eat, wear, say, believe, produce and do. Culture is influenced by the history of the District, our families, national and local traditions and the landscape around us. Culture makes us feel different to others and it can make us feel like we belong to a group or community who share our experiences. It helps us develop our identity and sense of place, celebrate our diversity and distinctiveness, understand and value our past and create the future for future generations and ourselves. It is something to be shared and celebrated as different cultures are recognised and combined, creating cultural diversity.

This Sport and Cultural Strategy uses, as a basis of its definition, the one adopted by the Yorkshire Cultural Consortium:

“Culture is about People. It is this that brings individuals, families and communities together to make up the region. It influences our lives and helps shape and define us as individuals and groups. It is also influenced by us, in that it is our participation in cultural activities and our creativity which allows culture to develop and be so diverse”.

Yorkshire Cultural Consortium – February 2001

Culture cannot be just about a list of activities and services. It is about the way people live their lives and the values that support it. Culture is about improving the quality of life for individuals and communities and, as such, has an important part to play in making the District a healthier, vibrant and successful place to live, work, and visit.

Residents say that services and facilities are important ingredients for:

- The quality of life
- The things for young people to do
- The things for older people to do.

This is the case, especially for leisure amenities, transport and education. People living right across the District hold this view, and these factors influence their choices about where to live, work, visit, and spend leisure time.

Culture is not an “add on” but is a fundamental part of the development process and as such must be included in the overall planning alongside areas such as, economic development, education and housing.

In its simplest form cultural activity is worth supporting because it is at the centre of people’s lives, promotes happiness and well-being, and is a fundamental part of society.

It is recognised that culture shapes and influences our built and natural environment and can also be used to promote investment in our area, attract visitors as well as sustaining the community and its interests. It can be used to help enhance, protect and understand our natural and built environment and inform and shape future generations.

Cultural provision is central to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in our communities as taking part in cultural activities contributes to our health and provides social opportunities, reduces isolation, crime and contributes to active communities.

It is also recognised that culture can play a key role in tackling some of the challenges facing society, such as anti-social behaviour, social exclusion, isolation, etc. Culture can help toward better social inclusion, community safety and healthy lifestyles.

Through the development of cultural initiatives there is an opportunity for promoting a sense of place and promotion of civic pride as well as community improvement. Therefore recognising and understanding what people’s cultural needs and aspirations are helps us to understand what they want out of life and what the various agencies should be providing.

The Sport and Cultural Strategy is led by Selby District Council, in partnership with a range of agencies and therefore it focuses on how these agencies can strategically intervene to develop cultural activities in both the public and private sectors.

It is recognised that these agencies are not the only providers of cultural activities as there are a range of different mechanisms across the District involving commercial operators, voluntary and private sectors, partnerships between various bodies. All of these are extremely important and need to be recognised as part of the cultural framework of the District and need to be part of the work that emerges from the local Sport and Cultural Strategies.

However, it must be acknowledged that Local Authorities have a major influence on cultural provision, both through direct and indirect means, and as such, are ideally placed to lead the development and implementation of the Sport and Cultural Action Plan.

With culture having such an important part to play, and with so many local authorities, organisations and individuals involved in the development and delivery of such activities, it is essential that their efforts and resources are co-ordinated and focused towards a common vision.

Residents should not have to worry about which tiers of local government provide which facilities. It is the delivery that matters, and it is up to local government to encourage and support that. Residents want their priorities to be heard by the public bodies and for action to follow.

The Sport and Cultural Strategy is aimed at achieving this and ensuring that the best value is obtained and there is a continued provision of resources for cultural activities.

A PROFILE OF SELBY

The District of Selby has a population of 77,200 and 33,600 households. It contains more than 60 Parishes, and covers an area of about 60,000 hectares. Key industrial and visitor cities, including York, Leeds, Harrogate, and Hull, surround the District. The Selby District has been affected by the introduction, and then closure of its' coal mines. It has also weathered the loss of the shipyards and now looks toward key new developments including retail parks on the bypass.

The Market Town of Selby, with its Abbey, lies in the heart of the District. Selby is traditionally said to be the birthplace of Henry I, the youngest son of William the Conqueror. The town itself retains much of its old character. As well as the brewery town of Tadcaster, there are many picturesque and historic villages in the District, including Sherburn-In-Elmet; characteristically a town. The District is distinctly rural and there are still many productive farms with modern, as well as historic, farm buildings within the countryside. Sherburn-In-Elmet is the main western centre in the District and was once a capital of the ancient kingdom of Elmet. The town of Tadcaster boasts three breweries and many fine historic buildings.

The District offers a wide variety of things to see and do from traditional crafts, weekly markets and historic buildings to outdoor walks and cycling through its peaceful and picturesque villages.

With the loss of the ship- yards and other industry, tourism is seen as being significant in maintaining the economy. Whilst agriculture and food manufacturing is a major activity, the District's excellent communications also make it attractive to light industry.

Issues for Selby

With such a diverse range of geography, history and cultural background there are a whole series of issues that face Selby. Some of these issues are common to all areas of the District but others are specific to particular areas.

Whilst it is acknowledged that there are also wider issues affecting Yorkshire as a whole, the following issues were seen as being most relevant in influencing the cultural life of the District.

Sparsely Populated

The geographical size, location, industrial bypassing and sparse population in Selby has led to its rural isolation. This issue influences a number of barriers preventing increased enjoyment of cultural activity in the District. Barriers include physical access, increased cost, poor awareness and quality of facilities.

Accessibility

This relates not only to physical but also intellectual access. This is primarily concerned with the limited transport infrastructure, long distances, financial cost of getting to facilities and limited awareness of cultural activities and resources.

Distinctiveness

Selby has a strong and distinct cultural identity that should be celebrated but equally there is a need to promote cultural growth and greater diversity whilst preserving local distinctiveness and heritage.

Partnership

There is a recognised need for greater collaborative work between all bodies to raise awareness of and increase access to cultural opportunities. This is particularly important in the sharing of resources (both rural and urban) and should not be confined to administrative boundaries.

Pockets of Deprivation

Selby has pockets of deprivation that are often masked by low population and proximity to relatively wealthy communities. This makes it difficult to attract priority funding for regeneration and development initiatives. However, Selby is working with Sport England, Yorkshire Arts and the Coalfield Regeneration Trust to increase external funding.

Quality

Facilities, largely due to the rural nature of the District, tend to be of a lower quality or standard than in larger urban areas. There is a clear need to raise both the quantity and the quality of cultural provision in the District.

Sustainability

This relates to the need to retain the District's current cultural identity whilst encouraging cultural growth that is economically sustainable in largely rural environments.

Research

It is recognised that there is a need to undertake more detailed work into what people want with regard to cultural provision and then to match resources to those needs.

Under-represented Groups

There are a number of groups who are not actively engaged in cultural activity and it is important that greater opportunities are created and maintained to involve and support them.

Profile

There is a need to raise the profile of culture within the District, to increase participation, encourage visitors and attract funding.

Whilst it is recognised that many of these issues are influenced by wider national and regional policies and agendas and they cannot all be tackled in isolation, it is important that the Sport and Cultural Strategy sets out clear policies, aims and targets to address them.

By linking the aims of the Sport and Cultural Strategy to these issues we can clearly set a vision for the District for the next 10 years that will focus the work of all those involved in the delivery and development of cultural issues.

It will also seek to influence other areas of work that culture impacts upon including health, regeneration, crime, education, transport and the economy.

AIMS AND VISION

Whilst there are many issues facing the provision of cultural opportunities and activities in Selby, there must be one vision for all Partners involved in the future of culture in the District.

The Sport and Cultural Strategy sets out this vision to be as follows:

By 2016 the District of Selby will be an area of high quality, accessible cultural activity. Everyone will be aware of their cultural opportunities and the diverse cultural provision available to the District and will be inspired to participate at all levels, leading to individual and community enrichment.

This is a vision that focuses on retaining and creating opportunities for people to experience and participate in sport and cultural activities regardless of geographical location, education, background, physical abilities or income, and that it reflects the diversity of population within the Selby District. It also focuses on maximising resources to ensure greater cultural provision within the area, but recognises that much needs to be done to support the agencies working towards this vision.

This vision is supported by a series of broad aims:

- ◆ Increasing awareness of cultural provision and activity and promoting the notion that cultural activity and participation is enjoyable and available.
- ◆ Removing the physical and psychological barriers to increased participation in cultural activity.

- ◆ Providing cultural services, activities and venues of the highest quality and opportunities for those at all levels of ability.
- ◆ Strengthening the contribution of the cultural sector in Selby District and encouraging sustainable economic growth in line with the wider regional agenda.
- ◆ Maximising internal and external investment into the cultural sector and providing a more effective and equitable distribution of resources.
- ◆ Promoting a District that recognises its cultural diversity and excels in the harmony between preserving traditional culture and developing new and exciting opportunities for cultural growth.
- ◆ Identification and agreement of common goals.
- ◆ Increased co-operation and sharing of information and resources between partners to avoid conflict.
- ◆ Developing and promoting the District, both within the United Kingdom and internationally, as a diverse and quality tourist and business destination.

The Sport and Cultural Strategy has identified 6 key priorities that reflect the main cultural issues facing the District. The Plan then outlines a policy statement to address these priorities and in the later sections sets out an agreed Action Plan to tackle the identified issues.

The 6 priorities, in no particular order, are:

- ◆ Providing Equality of Opportunity
- ◆ Building on Strengths
- ◆ Developing Partnerships
- ◆ Developing Individuals and Communities
- ◆ Revising the Profile of Culture
- ◆ Maximising Investment

Providing Equality of Opportunity

This relates to three key areas:

- ◆ Quality
- ◆ Access for All
- ◆ Promotion and Awareness

It is concerned with providing opportunity for people of all ages, social and financial status, ethnic group, background, geographic location and ability to be able to participate in the cultural activity of their choice. People should have access to the highest quality cultural venues and performances and they should be offered the opportunity and be inspired to become involved.

It will require the image of cultural activity to be addressed; changing it from something that someone else does to something that everyone wants to, and can, do. The barriers to participation and perception among under-represented groups will also need to be tackled, providing a quality of cultural provision and experience that exceeds expectation and is broadly appealing, and that provides the necessary skills, equipment and expertise for people to develop their own interests and talents.

Another aspect of this work is to determine community needs for cultural activities in the District, as this is a key element in providing equality of opportunity.

Building on strengths

Selby has a wealth of cultural strengths. The area must build upon these, preserving, sustaining and enhancing existing assets, and it must manage them effectively for the benefit of present and future generations. Investment in culture must go far beyond the financial if it is to ensure that cultural activity and identity is to be enjoyed by future generations.

Selby District's strengths are what make it special and distinctive. They include:

- Its location within the outstanding natural environment of the Vale of York
- Its built heritage, including a wealth of scheduled monuments and historic churches, in particular Selby Abbey, which is listed as one of the world's top one hundred endangered buildings
- The region's picturesque market towns and historic villages.

The people of Selby are also one of its greatest assets. With the mixture of humour and plain-speaking comes a warm and friendly welcome. There is also a sense of independence and a strong self-help ethos, giving rise to a keen volunteering spirit that means many communities are keen to help themselves in the first instance. This is all expressed in the diverse but high-quality appearance of many villages in the District.

These strengths provide Selby with its distinctive character. This character should be preserved and a delicate balance sought between conservation and development, in terms of both the physical and the wider cultural plans of the area. While diversity should be encouraged, the region should aim to preserve and promote the elements of culture and heritage that are specific to the character of Selby.

Developing Partnerships

Partnerships will be a crucial priority in order for the cultural sector to maximise the use of its resources and to influence decision-makers outside the sector. Working together and sharing information and experience will lead to greater efficiency and help increase awareness, access and availability. Partnerships can lead to a more effective co-ordinated cultural promotion that can maximise resources and benefits.

Partnerships should not only be between agencies and bodies within the cultural sector, such as museums, sports arenas, historic archives or the built heritage but should also be with those working outside the immediate cultural sector, such as within education, health and the police. This will bring together a valuable mix of skills, awareness, understanding and insight from within and outside the sector. Partnerships between the voluntary and professional, and the public and private sectors should be encouraged to help realise new opportunities, share resources, nurture creativity, increase awareness and reach those who have been previously excluded.

There are already many effective partnerships and the approach will be to build on these and to instigate new partnerships in areas of need, taking care to avoid duplication.

Developing Individuals and Communities

Although cultural activity is first and foremost undertaken for enjoyment, its benefits are much more far-reaching. It not only maintains and enhances our quality of life at an individual and community level, but also contributes to our physical and mental health, and can play a key role in tackling some of the challenges facing society, such as social exclusion, racism and community safety.

Through the development of cultural initiatives there is an opportunity for both promoting a sense of purpose and of civic pride, as well as community empowerment.

It is important that there is continuity in opportunities for development in order to ensure cultural growth at a personal and sub-regional level. People should be able to develop their cultural skills, whether at work or play, at whatever level and have the opportunity to reach higher levels of attainment. It should be a priority to ensure the continuity in personal and community development in education and lifelong learning, support for business and volunteers and training and professional development.

Revising the Profile of Culture and Maximising Investment

Raising the profile of culture should be a fundamental priority. Its profile should be raised to a point where cultural activity is widely regarded as something that we all do and can do, its benefits acknowledged and appreciated and it is at a level that attracts sufficient investment.

Although cultural provision and activity is not solely determined by how much money is invested within it, financial investment should nevertheless be maximised. This means both maximising the amount of funding being invested in the region's culture and ensuring that it is distributed efficiently, effectively and appropriately. The relative prosperity of Selby, as an area, can hide the poverty experienced by certain individuals and communities. Generally, the area is suffering from agricultural decline, and its market towns are consequently suffering as shops close and cultural provision declines.

Investment is crucial to all aspects of culture. Culture is as important as health, education and employment and transcends all three. It is important that investment reaches where it is needed most and is used to make the greatest impact possible. Greater interplay between cities and their hinterlands should be encouraged. This will mean interplay between district towns and their villages, and district towns and the larger economic centres. This will inevitably require inter-authority connections with York and Leeds.

Supporting the Cultural Economy

Selby has a limited cultural industry sector and this needs to be nurtured, supported and built upon. The cultural industries and tourism are vital components of both the activity and economy of the area. If this sector is to continue to develop from increasing birth rates to sustainable growth, then further support and assistance will need to be available. This will require support through training, awareness and events to highlight the potential of both existing and future opportunities.

One of the key ways of doing this will be for the Sport and Cultural Strategy to link in with the Economic Development Strategies of the County, Districts and York.

These priorities will set the agenda for the many partners who will be delivering the Selby Sport and Cultural Strategy over the next 5 years and beyond.

These priorities have led to the formulation of a number of Policy Statements as the basis for the Sport and Cultural Strategy.

POLICY STATEMENTS

The following policy statements provide the focus for the Sport and Cultural Strategy.

The 6 key Policy Statements are:

- ◆ **To improve access, inclusion in participation and enjoyment of sport and cultural activity throughout Selby**
- ◆ **To develop effective partnerships and communication networks to achieve common goals**
- ◆ **To sustain and build upon current diversity of sport and cultural provision within Selby and to retain the distinctiveness of the District**
- ◆ **To develop with individuals and communities by providing access and opportunities to continue to acquire skills, knowledge and experience through cultural activity**
- ◆ **To maximise investment into sport and cultural activities in the District**
- ◆ **To actively support and encourage the cultural economy of the District**

These policy statements have been translated into a Sport and Cultural Action Plan to address the priorities identified as crucial to cultural development within Selby.

Priorities identified by Sport England in the 'National Framework for Sport' have also been considered.

ACTION PLAN

The Sport and Cultural Strategy Action Plan provides a basis to enable the various agencies within Selby to influence the development of sport and cultural provision both by the public, voluntary and commercial sectors.

It outlines the key objectives required to realise a cultural vision for Selby

The aim of the Sport and Cultural Strategy for Selby is to provide "cross-cutting" opportunities to break down existing sector and service barriers and the Sport and Cultural Action Plan concentrates on this approach.

TIMESCALE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Sport and Cultural Action Plan will be implemented over a five-year time horizon and targets are set to be measurable.

KEY:	
SDC	- Selby District Council
STC	Selby Town Council
NYCOG	- North Yorkshire Cultural Officers' Group
NYS	North Yorkshire Sport
NYCC	- North Yorkshire County Council
RDA	- Regional Development Agency
LSP	- Local Strategic Partnership
AVCS	- Volunteer sector
SE	- Sport England
YA	- Yorkshire Arts
BHS	- Barby High School
LSC	- Learning Skills Council
TSPT	- Tadcaster swimming pool trust
FE	- Further Education
Cultural Agencies – the lead body for professional area, e.g. Sport England, Yorkshire Sport	

SELBY SPORT AND CULTURAL STRATEGY – SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTION PLAN (2006 - 2011)

Policy Statement 1: v

To improve access, inclusion, participation and enjoyment of cultural activity throughout Selby

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
To identify and remove the barriers to participation by wider represented groups and individuals	Undertake a Disability Audit to identify areas for improvement in provision and targets for implementation	NYCC Social Services	Disability agencies, voluntary sector, charities, community groups	In progress
	Introduce social inclusion policy and cascade throughout cultural sector	SDC	Voluntary Sector, Police, Social Services, Cultural Agencies	Dec 2006
	Work to ensure Culture is prominent in Community Plans and represented on Local Strategic Partnership	SDC	Local Authorities, RDA, LSP's	In progress
To ensure everyone has convenient access to information relating to the sport and cultural opportunities across Selby	Support the provision of sport and cultural activities within the District by providing marketing support and act as a box office when appropriate.	SDC	STC	In progress
	Develop improved links with non-cultural agencies (education, IT etc)	LSC	Learning Skills Council	In progress
To make it easier for people to access cultural activities	Review pricing structure and Passport to Leisure Schemes to meet local needs etc	SDC	Cultural Agencies	In progress
	Seek to develop the potential of information networks (including libraries etc) as a focus for sport, leisure and cultural opportunities	NYCC	Partners – LA, NPA, Cultural Agencies	In progress
	Extend the community use of educational facilities for cultural purposes	NYCC	LA's School Governing Bodies	In progress
	Develop initiatives that target excluded/isolated areas	NYCC	LA's Social Services, volunteer sector	In progress
	Participate in Countywide sports activities	SDC	Schools and clubs	In progress – June annually

SELBY SPORT AND CULTURAL STRATEGY – SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTION PLAN (2006 - 2011)

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
To increase the quality of sport and cultural provision available and to ensure best value	Ensure that buildings are well maintained, safe and attractive with long-term building maintenance plans.	Owners of buildings	Selby District Council, English Heritage, the Civic Trust, Private sector, Cultural Agencies, Community groups.	In progress
	To set up a working group of Members and Officers and explore in more detail the development and expansion of Abbey Leisure Centre.	SDC	Selby District Council,	September 2006
	Ongoing commitment to support Barby High School in the provision of sport and cultural provision.	SDC/BHS	Selby District Council, Barby High School, North Yorkshire County Council.	In progress
	Fully evaluate the provision of Sport and Leisure and the Arts for Tadcaster and its surrounding area and to develop Tadcaster Leisure Centre through increased marketing and partnership working.	SDC/TSPT	Selby District Council, Tadcaster Swimming Pool Trust, Tadcaster Town Council and Community Education.	In progress
	To ensure there are suitably qualified personnel to provide opportunity	SDC	Governing Bodies, Cultural Agencies, suppliers of provision	Annual training plan
To strengthen and develop outreach programmes and the use of community facilities to address deprivation in rural areas	Develop a district wide sports development action plan for outreach work to strengthen targeted provision	SDC	NYS	In progress
	Encourage District wide Initiative via grant aid and training to tackle issues surrounding sparse population	AVCS	LA's, Chamber of Trade	In progress
	Develop broader based volunteer programmes to encourage support for the Cultural Sector	AVCS	Voluntary Sector, Cultural Agencies	In progress
To introduce development sports identified in 'Game Plan' and referenced in the 'National Framework for Sport'	Introduce taster sessions at Abbey Leisure Centre, which will include development sports including: gymnastics, indoor athletics and basketball.	SDC	North Yorkshire Sport, Sport England	In progress

Encourage the development of Cultural Events and Festivals	Provide support and funding to those festivals and events that promote/contribute to cultural identity of the District such as continental and craft markets.	SDC	Regional Agencies, Cultural Agencies, sponsorship from commercial sector	In progress
	<p>Introduce a season of band concerts to Selby Park</p> <p>Support the development of community based events that enhance partnership working</p> <p>Focus on increasing usage of facilities by the disadvantaged and those who consider themselves disabled through a 'leisure card' scheme.</p> <p>Promote awareness and protection of Barlow Common and other wildlife areas</p> <p>Develop the delivery of Countryside Services through a partnership arrangement with NYCC to expand the level of service provision</p> <p>Promote and extend sympathetic use of Scout camp by improving access</p> <p>Review facilities and activities in Selby Park and seek ways of improving these and overall appearance and link to the town.</p> <p>Review play and skateboard provision and bring forward improvement plan</p>	SDC	User groups	Summer 2006
		AVCS	Community Groups, Parish Councils, schools	In progress
		Disability groups	Social Services	In progress
		SDC/NYCC Countryside Management Partnership	Schools, media groups	In progress
		SDC / Scouts	Schools etc	In progress
		SDC	User groups	Summer 2006 In progress
Groundwork	SDC, Parish Councils, Youth Groups	In progress		

SELBY SPORT AND CULTURAL STRATEGY – SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTION PLAN (2006- 2011)

Policy Statement 2:

To develop effective partnerships and communication networks to achieve common goals

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
Define the role of the relevant agencies in cultural provision	Formalise NYCOG role and establish mechanism for links with Key Regional Agencies and commercial sector	SDC input into NYCOG	Regional Agencies, commercial sector	In progress
	Review communication links between the various sectors to identify areas of improvement	NYCC	LA's, Regional Agencies, Regional Cultural Consortium	In progress
	Develop further links with relevant non-cultural agencies	NYCC	Police, Social Services, Health, Education/Life Long Learning	In progress
	Establish an Exchange Network for Cultural Information	NYCC	Libraries (for public dissemination)	In progress
Bring about effective cross-agency partnerships to make the most of cultural -opportunities to enhance the District	To target funding bids to projects that create increased benefits for wider communities	AVCS	All other agencies including Leader+ Programme	In progress
	Identify examples of good partnership development and disseminate examples of good practice	NYCC	LA's, all other agencies and services, commercial sector	Annual conference in summer
	Encourage resource and information sharing between agencies	All	Cultural Agencies	In progress
	Investigate opportunities for joint marketing between Partners to maximise impact and use of resources Promote the usage of www.selbyleisure.service.co.uk	All SDC	Cultural Agencies Community groups and clubs	In progress In progress

SELBY SPORT AND CULTURAL STRATEGY – SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTION PLAN (2006 - 2011)

Policy Statement 3:

To sustain and build upon the current diversity of cultural provision within Selby to retain the distinctiveness of the District

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
To maximise the use of existing resources and facilities	Support the provision of sport and cultural activities within the District by providing marketing support and act as a box office when appropriate.	SDC	Selby Town Council	In progress
To protect and enhance the natural and built heritage	Seek to ensure that sufficient funding is available to enable activities/facilities operate at appropriate standard To encourage and develop sound environmental practices in delivery of cultural activities through the introduction of an Environmental Policy	Leader+ SDC	Cultural agencies, commercial sector	In progress In progress
	Manage public access to key areas of land and buildings	EH	Environment /Agency, English Heritage, National Trust	In progress
	Encourage initiatives that engage community in conservation and interpretation of local area	SDC	Environment Agency, Governing Bodies, Energy providers, local communities	In progress
	Review district wide grounds maintenance specification with partners	SDC	Fountains, Parish Councils, Housing Associations	In progress New Contract to be let in April 2007
	Develop further the potential of countryside recreation through co-ordination of authorities and agencies in North Yorkshire	CA	LA's, Governing Bodies, Cultural Agencies, British Waterways, Transport Agencies	In progress

SELBY SPORT AND CULTURAL STRATEGY – SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTION PLAN (2006 - 2011)

Policy Statement 4:

To develop individuals and communities by providing access and opportunities to continue to acquire skills and knowledge and experience through cultural activity

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
To ensure people can access the necessary skills, training, information and expertise to maximise the opportunities available to them. Promote the value of sport and cultural activity as a tool to support personal, community and economic development	Offer advice on training opportunities for coaches, teachers, leaders etc.	SDC	Voluntary Sector, FE Sector, Learning Skills Council, Cultural Agencies	In progress
	Link cultural activities to: (1) Health Improvement Plan (2) Community Safety Plans (3) Education Development Plan (4) Adult Learning Plans (5) Local Strategic Partnerships	SDC	Learning Skills Council, Health Authority, County Council	In progress
Promote sport and cultural activities as a means of providing personal enjoyment, fulfilment and increasing social interaction Raise awareness and access to sport and cultural activity.	Raise awareness of benefits of sport and cultural activities to healthy lifestyles	PCT	Health Authority (PCT), Schools, Regional Agency	In progress
	Promote sport and cultural activities to specific audiences, and in so doing, assist in meeting the government objective, identified in the 'National Framework for Sport', to encourage people to start in sport, stay in sport and succeed in sport	Various	Regional Agency, Health Authority (PCT), Voluntary Sector	Project led

SELBY SPORT AND CULTURAL STRATEGY – SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTION PLAN (2006 - 2011)

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
Identify and support talented performers in all areas of Cultural Activity	Establish process for talent identification in various sectors. Again, this will assist in meeting a government objective, identified in the 'National Framework for Sport' and 'Game Plan', which states "Our target is for British and English teams and individuals to sustain rankings within the top 5, particularly in more popular sports"	SDC	Regional Agency, Governing Bodies, Voluntary Sector	In progress
	Develop funding streams to support training and development needs	SDC and Leader+	Regional Agency, Government Bodies, FE, LSC, commercial sector (sponsorship)	In progress

SELBY SPORT AND CULTURAL STRATEGY – SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTION PLAN (2006 - 2011)

Policy Statement 5:

To maximise investment into Cultural Activities in the District

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
Identify and promote the potential funding sources for sport and cultural activities	Develop a strategic approach to securing of funds for identified areas of most need	SDC	Leader+	In progress
	Develop database of funding streams and promote to all sectors (particularly cross sector)	Leader+	Funding Agencies.	In progress
	Assist sport and cultural providers to develop realistic funding strategies for bidding for funds	SDC / AVCS	Funding Agencies. Leader+	In progress
	Develop strategy to encourage partnership bids for larger funds	AVCS	Funding Agencies, Regional Agencies, Health. Leader+	In progress
	Disseminate good practice arrangements related to successful bidding strategies	AVCS	Funding Agency, Government Bodies Leader+	In progress
Section 106 Funding	Maximise opportunities of leveraging in funding via planning gain through housing and retail outlet developments	SDC/STC	Major developers, existing communities, Parish Councils, Town Councils	In progress
Maximise existing funding	Maximise the benefits of funding from 'Your Community Your Future' in relation to sports and arts.	SDC	Parish Councils, community groups	In progress

Maximise the benefits of funding from 'Money 4 U' in relation to sports and arts.	SDC	Youth groups	June 2006
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IMPLEMENTING THE SPORT AND CULTURAL STRATEGY

The Sport and Cultural Strategy focuses on what can be provided, supported and influenced by Selby District Council, North Yorkshire County Council and a range of partners.

There is a need to consult with a range of partners and the community at large to finalise the action plans and then help to deliver them.

These bodies will seek to do this through:

- Direct service delivery
- Partnership with other agencies and commercial operators
- Grant aid and financial support to independent organisations
- Planning policies and strategies
- Regulatory control
- Economic development and business support
- Transport, planning and provision
- Joint working to achieve funding through various Grant Programmes

This Sport and Cultural Strategy will impact upon the resources currently available in the cultural sector and at this stage it is not possible to identify the resources needed to implement the strategy.

Much of the work is targeted at more effective partnerships and greater co-operation that could bring more effective use of resources. However, it is inevitable and essential that new resources will be required. This will be in the form of staff, capital investment and revenue contributions.

The next stage of the Sport and Cultural Strategy is for the partners to identify how best to invest for the future in maximising additional resources for the work involved in implementing the strategy.

One of the key aims in producing the Sport and Cultural Strategy was to consolidate the current sport and cultural resources within Local Authorities and to support the bidding process for external funding. However, it is essential that the National and Regional bodies take note of these Sport and Cultural Strategies and ensure that funding addresses the local needs and does not relate to “blanket policies” across the District.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Sport and Cultural Strategy is a “live” document and it should grow, change and develop throughout its life as the various actions are implemented.

There will be a need to review and monitor the Sport and Cultural Strategy on a regular basis. It is proposed to do this in a number of ways:

- ◆ Selby District Council’s Leisure and Cultural Services Manager will monitor the overall process against the policies, actions and timescales set out in the document
- ◆ The Sport and Cultural Strategy will be reviewed annually by Selby District Council’s Leisure Services Manager.
- ◆ Partners involved in delivering the Strategy will report progress through their own appropriate decision making mechanism

Within this review process there will be a number of key performance indicators that will assist in evaluating the longer-term effectiveness of the Sport and Cultural Strategy.

These need further consideration but could include:

- ◆ Increased participation in local cultural activities and services
- ◆ Assessment of quality of services via satisfaction surveys
- ◆ Government indicators that may emerge for the sector

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 10

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE : LSP UPDATE
TO : COUNCIL
DATE : 12 SEPTEMBER 2006
BY : CHIEF EXECUTIVE
AUTHOR : MARTIN CONNOR

1. LINK TO COUNCIL POLICY

- 1.1 Council policy is to support the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in pursuing a partnership approach to securing an improved quality of life for those who live and work in the District.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To update councillors on the work of the LSP.

3. LINK TO CORPORATE AIMS AND PRIORITIES

- 3.1 ***How does this link to the Council's themes and priorities?***

The delivery of the Council's themes and priorities is aided by the partnership working of the LSP.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCILLORS NOTE THE REPORT.

4. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES

- 4.1 • Best Value

Joint working assists in the delivery of best value.

- 4.2 • Equalities

Joint working assists in reaching more diverse sections of our population.

- 4.3 • Community Safety and Crime Reduction

The report itself has no impact on Community Safety, though the actions of the LSP and the Community Safety Partnership as one of its four sub-

groups have an impact.

- 4.4 • Procurement

No direct impact.

- 4.5 • Risk Management and Risk Register

No direct impact.

- 4.6 • Sustainability

No direct impact.

- 4.7 • Gershon Efficiency Savings

No direct impact.

5. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 5.1 Councillors have asked for a regular report of the work of the LSP. This report sets out the main issues arising and progress made since the last report.

(For greater detail see the main report).

6. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 6.1 As Councillors will be aware, the LSP meets on a quarterly basis and conducts the bulk of its work through four sub-groups:

- Social
- Economy
- Environment
- Community Safety

Reports from the sub-groups are included at Appendix A.

- 6.2 At the meeting of the full LSP in June, the partners discussed the following:

- Local Area Agreement
- Reconfiguration of Selby & York Primary Care Trust
- Work of the Subgroups
- Partner Updates

- 6.3 Councillors are asked to note the report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
 - 7.1 There are no financial implications.
8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
 - 8.1 Minutes of the LSP and sub groups.

Selby District Local Strategic Partnership
Subgroup Updates at September 2006 meeting of Council

Social Subgroup

This group has been working closely with the Community Safety Partnership, Extended Schools and others to actively engage the communities in Flaxley Road and Abbots Road areas.

They have been involved in providing family leisure activities to promote healthy living and developing community capacity. Some local parents are now training to become football coaches and hope to set up a local team. The group is preparing a bid to the big lottery fund for two community workers and a community trainer to develop this project and add community capacity.

A task group entitled Selby Together has developed a welcome pack for Polish workers to help them find the support they need when they arrive in the community, such as information on relevant services and contacts. A survey of local Polish residents found that the biggest need is for spoken English language classes.

The group has also been working with colleagues across the county to develop the North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) and make sure that the outcomes and targets in the agreement really focus on issues that matter in Selby District. The LAA will influence the future work of the sub groups, as the LSP will be responsible for local delivery.

Economy Subgroup

This group has been involved in looking at the strategic economic development that is taking place at the moment. This involves the Strategic Economic Assessment and the development of the Sub Regional Investment Plan.

The group has also been looking at the skills assessment for the area and is keen to develop the image of the area, one of the themes of the Community Strategy, which has yet to be addressed.

Environment Subgroup

Street-scene and open spaces

In response to consultation, Selby District Council is preparing an 'interim' street-scene contract, where services can be brought together in the short-term, running from April 2007 – October 2009, such as

- adding market services,
- maintenance of the Council's own car parks
- some Countryside Management work

- some grass-cutting and play-ground inspection work for parishes and town councils
- weed control on Council-owned land.

A second long-term contract will run from October 2009 and will seek to more fully integrate all street-scene services such as:

- street cleansing, fly-tipping, abandoned cars
- work of the County Council such as verge cutting, weed control and gulley emptying.

Early work is required to begin the discussions with NYCC and also discussions with councillors on alternative ways of providing grounds maintenance services, including identifying high-cost/low-impact areas such as shrub maintenance and replacing this with more environmentally-beneficial tree planting with grass.

Countryside Management and Biodiversity

The County Council and the District Council continue to work closely together to develop a partnership approach to the Countryside Management project. Work is well advanced and the project should bring significant benefits.

Waste Minimisation

Selby District Council recently adopted its Waste Minimisation, Management & Recycling Strategy 2006 – 2010. Copies of this document have been distributed to the group.

The group reviewed their progress and decided to focus their efforts on two aspects of the Strategy for the future.

Climate change

We are taking forward the Nottingham declaration on climate change with the partners of the LSP. The Environment Agency has previously made presentations on this to the LSP, but this group now feel that it is time to make a further commitment as partner organisations and individual organisations. This group will, on behalf of the LSP, spread the development of this area of work.

Sustainability

This is an area which has been lacking co-ordination amongst individual organisations, and the LSP and the group feel it can add value by bringing partners together to develop a joint understanding of sustainability and developing joint plans and strategies to develop sustainability in our organisations and communities. The group proposes to use the Regional Assembly sustainability framework for this work.

Community Safety Partnership

Crime and Disorder Act Review - The Government has recently undertaken a major review of the Crime and Disorder Act - the Act that officially sets up community safety partnerships. There is a large range of changes likely to follow this over the coming years.

Young People Alcohol Support Workers, Dee Croft and Kate Smith have now started in the newly-funded Young People Alcohol Support Worker roles based with the District Alcohol Service.

Community Safety Joint Action Groups (JAGs) - JAG meetings will bring together Police, Council and other partner representatives with councillors of the local community to identify and jointly address local community safety priorities. Dates are now set in October and November for the first meetings of five of the six groups and publicity will be distributed shortly to ensure all partners and communities are able to be involved.

Safe Neighbourhood Sweeps – We have launched the new programme of local neighbourhood sweeps involving the Council, Police and other partners engaging with local councillors and parish councillors to address issues relevant to specific local communities. Every parish area in the District will be visited during the year and 'swept' to identify any graffiti, damage, excessive litter problems or other community safety concerns at a very local level.

Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign - This campaign to tackle alcohol-related violence and disorder was rolled out to coincide with the World Cup. It involved deployment of a large-scale TV screen displayed in Selby Town with a warning video shown to highlight the dangers of alcohol, linking into disorder, violence and domestic abuse. A programme of test-purchasing in pubs and off-licences, organised by Trading Standards, and giving out information, anti-drink-spiking devices and bottled water was also undertaken.

Crucial Crew - The annual Crucial Crew programme was delivered for the first time in Selby District this summer, allowing for local practitioners from a range of agencies to give a local focus to the messages passed on. Almost every year six pupil across the District attended the event, which consisted of a series of 10 minute workshops exploring issues such as road safety, stranger danger, fire safety, drugs and alcohol, consequences of crime and more.

Local Area Agreement (LAA)

All of the subgroups have been engaged in the development of the LAA and have commented on the document detailing draft targets and outputs, which is in circulation at the moment. This is an activity that many partners, including the Council, have been involved in.

This may lead to a review of the Community Strategy so that the priorities and targets identified within LAA are aligned to the Selby Community Strategy and can be monitored and measured effectively.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 11

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE : 2007 DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS – COUNTING OF VOTES

TO : COUNCIL

DATE : 12 SEPTEMBER 2006

BY : HEAD OF SERVICE - LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

AUTHOR : RICHARD BESLEY, ELECTORAL SERVICES OFFICER (ESO)

1. LINK TO COUNCIL POLICY

- 1.1 The work of the Electoral Services team provides statutory functions for the Council on behalf of the Chief Executive, as both Returning Officer (RO) and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) by ensuring those who live in the District are able to exercise their democratic rights.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To ask members to approve that the counting of votes be conducted on the morning of Friday 4 May instead of the Thursday night following the close of poll at 22:00.

3. LINK TO CORPORATE AIMS AND PRIORITIES

- 3.1 ***The work of the Electoral Services team is linked to all Council priorities and the additional monies are needed to ensure that a proper service is given.***

RECOMMENDATION

- i) TO COUNT THE VOTES CAST AT THE MAY 2007 DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON THE MORNING OF FRIDAY 4 MAY.**

4. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES

- 4.1 • Best Value

The move to a Friday count will allow the RO to employ experienced count staff, who may otherwise have been unavailable to work, due to being employed at Polling Stations on Polling Day.

- 4.2 • Equalities

No impact.

- 4.3 • Community Safety and Crime Reduction

No impact.

- 4.4 • Procurement

No impact.

- 4.5 • Risk Management and Risk Register

Our statutory service is needed to avoid risks.

- 4.6 • Sustainability

No impact.

- 4.7 • Gershon Efficiency Savings

The employment of experienced, rested staff on the Friday morning rather than those who may have been at polling stations for 15 hours, should make for a faster count.

5 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 5.1 The report asks Members to consider and agree to the counting of votes cast at the May 2007 elections on the Friday morning following the close of the polls.

- 5.2 There are a number of reasons why this request is made and they are set out in the supporting information in section 6.

6 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 6.1 Since the advent of absent voting on demand, ROs have seen levels of postal voters rise dramatically.

Although ballot papers are posted some two weeks prior to polling, it is strange that most voters leave the returning of their votes until the last day, with many choosing to deliver the papers to their polling station.

This practice obligates the RO to provide a postal vote opening facility at the count when his presiding officers deliver them along with their ballot boxes.

This growing trend further reduces the number of staff working on the

count, as more hands are required opening and checking postal votes. This slows the count down. This was highlighted last year at the Parliamentary election count when a break was called while the last postal votes were being checked.

This is not a problem peculiar to Selby but is common to many authorities.

- 6.2 Delays in counting votes and late declared results are tiring for staff with an increased potential for mistakes and is frustrating for all involved, especially candidates.
- 6.3 This has been exacerbated by the making of a Regulation under the Electoral Administration Act, brought into force in time for last May's local elections at Metropolitan Councils. This increased the polling hours for Local Government elections from 07:00 (7am) to 22:00 (10pm) in line with Parliamentary polling.

This was why West Yorkshire authorities last May moved their counts to a Friday morning.

- 6.4 At Wakefield, where I was invited as an observer, staff were employed on the Thursday night to receive the ballot boxes delivered from Polling Stations. RO staff were able to complete paperwork and other staff were employed to open and check postal votes which were then boxed ready for the following morning.

This efficient preparatory work meant that Wakefield's count could start at 10:00 with the prompt opening of ballot boxes for verification and the immediate merging in of postal vote ballot papers thereafter.

The exercise was successful for all councils which tried it and they will be seeking to continue the practice.

To enable our count to run as efficiently, I recommended to the RO that the Council adopt a similar procedure next May.

- 6.5 However, since May, the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has been passed. Regulations within the Act concern the security of postal voting and the prevention of electoral fraud.
- 6.6 The Act introduces personal identifiers for postal voters.

The RO will be instructed to write to all postal voters to request a full current signature together with their date of birth.

At election time, postal voters will need to record their date of birth on the declaration of identity, as well as sign to say they are the voter.

RO staff will then need to check the date of birth and signature on the declaration of identity against the recorded signature and date of birth

obtained from the voter prior to the election.

This will now place new duties on the RO and his staff at the opening of postal votes, as well as add to the time taken in processing them.

- 6.7 This procedure now seems likely to make the switch to a Friday morning count a necessity rather than better practice, as the effect on postal vote opening cannot be estimated.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Although operations will still need to be conducted and staff required on the Thursday night on polling day, it should be on a smaller scale, although the effect of new security procedures will be hard to quantify.

However, the move to a day time count should reduce the cost of staff employed at the count.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 12

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE : CHANGE IN THE CHAMBER CONSULTATION
TO : COUNCIL
DATE : 12 SEPTEMBER 2006
BY : HEATHER WATTS, HEAD OF SERVICE - POLICY AND PERFORMANCE
AUTHOR : TIM WILLIAMS, CORPORATE RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION OFFICER

1. LINK TO COUNCIL POLICY

1.1 *The change in the chamber consultation links to all Council policies.*

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform councillors of the results of the recent community engagement concerning the change in the chamber.

3. LINK TO STRATEGIC THEMES AND PRIORITIES

3.1 *The change in the chamber consultation links to all Selby District Council's strategic themes and priorities.*

RECOMMENDATION:

That councillors consider the results of the change in the chamber consultation.

4. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES

The full impact will depend on the final recommendations.

4.1 • Best Value

No impact.

4.2 • Equalities

The consultation exercise sought views from all parts of our diverse community.

- 4.3 • Community Safety and Crime Reduction

No impact.

- 4.4 • Procurement

No impact.

- 4.5 • Risk Management and Risk Register

In managing our resources.

- 4.6 • Sustainability

The decision-making structure of the Council will impact for the future, on where people live, can get jobs, feel part of the community, feel healthy, feel safe, have a feeling of pride, and have a respect for their environment, neighbours and future generations' needs.

- 4.7 • Gershon Efficiency Savings

No impact.

5. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 5.1 The community's view was sought on whether Selby District Council should either continue with its current decision-making structure or move to one of three different political decision-making structures.

The most 'popular' of the four options presented to a random sample of residents was Option 4, which was to continue with our present structure. 669 residents (or 49% of the total) chose this option. However, just over half (51%) of those residents who returned their forms chose one of the three options which would lead to a change in the chamber. Of those, the majority (55%) who wanted a change in the chamber 'voted' for Option 1 (the Leader and Cabinet model), 24% preferred Option 2 (the Mayor and Cabinet model) and 20% preferred Option 3 (the Mayor and Council Manager model).

The Citizens' Panel's perspective closely matched that of the random sample of residents and indicated that the findings of the community engagement exercise accurately reflected our citizens' views. Whilst the majority preference was for Option 4, just over half preferred a change in the chamber. Of these, 62% preferred Option 1, 20% preferred Option 2 and 18% preferred Option 3.

The majority of Selby District Council staff (75%) who returned their survey forms preferred a change in the chamber. Of these, 62% preferred Option 1, 20% preferred Option 2 and 17% preferred Option 3.

6. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 6.1 A major community engagement exercise took place recently. The community's view was sought on whether Selby District Council should either continue with its current decision-making structure or move to one of three different political decision-making structures.

1. Quantitative research

A questionnaire survey was sent to a random sample of 10,000 residents, all 480 parish councillors (via their quarterly newsletter), all 440 Selby District Council staff, all 250 Citizens' Panel members, 30 of our partners and partner agencies and both Chambers of Trade.

In addition, a web survey was uploaded onto the Selby District Council website.

In total, nearly 11,000 people, a substantial proportion of the adult population were involved in this exercise. The response from residents and the Citizens' Panel was more than sufficient to achieve the necessary levels of confidence and statistical rigour. However, there was a limited response to the website survey and from both the Authority's partners and town and parish councillors.

2. Qualitative Research

Selby District Council's Head of Service - Policy and Performance and the Authority's Corporate Research and Consultation Officer gave a presentation on the four options to a meeting of the Selby District Voluntary Forum. A lively discussion followed. Qualitative comments were also received via the freephone telephone number, by the special email address, and from the survey forms themselves.

One of the main themes recurring in the qualitative research concerned the potential costs and benefits of each option. Some stated that it was difficult to deliberate over, and choose, a particular option in the absence of any information about costs and potential costs. The Selby District Voluntary Forum also raised a number of points concerning the political workings of each of the different options.

- 6.2 These figures were reported to the CPA Working Group, charged by the Council to progress this matter, immediately after the close of the consultation period. The view of the Working Group was that there was not sufficient support for a move to an executive model and that all further work on this project be suspended pending an instruction from the Council.

Councillors are requested to consider the outcome of the consultation and determine whether the project continues.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report. However, councillors should note that, subject to the preferred option for political management arrangements, there may be financial implications for the Council.

In the absence of a preferred option, it is not possible at this stage, to provide any detailed financial analysis on the cost of such an option. Suffice to say that if a decision to change the political management structure is made, more detailed financial analysis would need to be undertaken.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 8.1 The change in the chamber consultation file held by Tim Williams Corporate Research and Consultation Officer.