

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 9 January 2007, in the Civic Suite, the Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 6.00 pm.

1393	Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities
1394	Internal Drainage Boards
1395	Selby United Charities
1396	Leeds City Region Leaders' Board

Present: Councillor J Mackman (Chairman) in the Chair

Councillors: D N Bain-Mackay, Mrs E Casling, J Cattanach, I Chilvers, 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, D McSherry, C Metcalfe, J Meehan, I Nutt, R Packham, R Parker, D Peart, C Pearson, B Percival, Mrs F Ryan, S Shaw-Wright, R H Sweeting and R Wilson.

Officials: Chief Executive, Strategic Director – Jonathon Lund, Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Service – Policy and Performance, Head of Service – Planning and Economic Development, Head of Service – Human Resources, Head of Service – Finance and Central Services, Head of Service – Housing Services, Principal Economic Development Officer, Democratic Services Officer, Committee Administrator

The Reverend S Jukes offered opening prayers.

Public: 1

Press: 2

1391 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Bedworth, Mrs K McSherry, Mrs W Nichols and R Sayner.

1392 **Disclosure of Interest**

None declared.

1393

Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities

At the last meeting of Council, it was resolved that an extraordinary meeting of Council be called on 9 January 2007 to discuss the Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities (minute 1359(f)).

The Chief Executive informed councillors that since then the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health (LGPIH) Bill had been introduced, and asked councillors to consider therefore, whether the response he had prepared to the White Paper was now superfluous. Councillors decided that there was no longer any need to submit the response prepared by the Chief Executive to the White Paper.

The LGPIH Bill would allow the Secretary of State to reserve the right to direct a change to current local government arrangements.

It was not known if North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) would submit a bid for unitary status.

Councillors discussed the options for new local government arrangements, which included an enhanced two-tier structure or unitary bids from NYCC or authorities outside North Yorkshire.

The issue was raised as to whether councillors who were also NYCC employees and councillors should declare an interest and abstain from the discussion or from the vote. The Chief Executive stated that in his opinion, there was no conflict of interest and it was for councillors to decide on an individual basis whether or not to participate in the discussion and to vote.

Resolved:

That Council support an enhanced two-tier approach in any new local government structure.

Councillor Mrs Hulme abstained from the vote.

1394

Internal Drainage Boards

The Chief Executive updated councillors on the current representation on the Internal Drainage Boards (IDB) and requested that councillors consider whether they wished to approve an increase in their representation on the Boards. This would then take effect from April 2008.

Councillors were informed that in the past, the Council had been able to recoup the full amount of the precepts levied by the IDBs from Central

Government. This situation had now changed and Central Government no longer repaid the full amount of the precepts. In addition, the IDBs had, in recent years, raised the precepts to what could be considered unacceptable levels.

Selby District Council was permitted to have 50% plus one of the total number of seats on each IDB. If councillors took up all the seats that were allocated to them, they would then be able to ensure the IDBs did not levy inappropriate precepts in the future.

Resolved that:

- (i) The Leader and Chief Executive negotiate directly with each IDB with regard to the precepts being levied on Selby District Council;**
- (ii) The Council take its full allocation of seats; and**
- (iii) The issues surrounding the IDBs be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

1395

Selby United Charities

At the meeting of Council held on 19 December 2006, the Chief Executive informed councillors that he had received a letter from Councillor Ms M Davis, with regard to Selby United Charities and St Richard's Chapel land (minute 1359(e)). Because sufficient notice had not been given, the Chief Executive was unable to address the issues raised at that meeting of Council. It was resolved, therefore, that he would bring the issue to the next meeting of Council.

When the land was transferred from Selby District Council to build St Richard's Chapel, a covenant was attached requiring the land be returned to the Council if the church was ever demolished. The matter was before Council now because Selby United Charities wished to demolish the church to build almshouses and a hall for worship and recreation. The charity, therefore, was requesting that the covenant be waived to allow it to carry out its proposals.

Resolved:

That the Council agrees, in principle, to waive the covenant, subject to any comments from District Audit, a consideration of the scheme proposals and discussions on nomination rights.

Leeds City Region Leaders' Board

Councillors considered the report of the Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services which contained details of the proposed agreement for the establishment of a Leeds City Region Leaders' Board.

Councillors discussed the new governance arrangements as well as the proposed legal agreement before them.

Councillors requested that the agreement should be amended to clearly show that each Leader could appoint a substitute to sit in his place on the Board, when required.

Councillors also discussed at length whether it was necessary, at this point, to set a budget limit for the Board.

Resolved:

That the agreement be approved as drawn, subject to the amendment regarding substitutes above, and that the Secretariat be requested to consider whether there should be a budget limit for the Board's expenditure.

The meeting closed at 7:40pm