

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Council held on 8 April 2008, in the Civic Suite, the Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 6:00 pm.

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824	Public Questions
825	Councillors' Questions
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827	Comprehensive Performance Assessment – Recategorisation
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832	Staffing Issues

Present: Councillor Mrs J Dyson (Chairman) in the Chair

Councillors: I Chilvers, M Crane, Mrs D Davies, J Deans, Mrs S Duckett, K Ellis, D Fagan, Mrs C Goodall, Mrs M Hulme, G Ivey, C Lunn, D N Mackay, Mrs P Mackay, B Marshall, W N Martin, J McCartney, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs K McSherry, Mrs C Mackman, J Mackman, Mrs E Metcalfe, Mrs W Nichols, I Nutt, R Packham, C Pearson, B Percival, A Pound, Mrs S Ryder, R Sayner, S Shaw-Wright, Mrs A Spetch, A Thurlow and Mrs D White.

Officials: Chief Executive, Mr J Lund, Strategic Director, Mr S Martin, Strategic Director, Head of Service – Finance and Central Services, Head of Service – Human Resources, Head of Service – Policy and Performance, Head of Service – Development Services, Democratic Services Officer and Committee Administrator.

Public: 4

Press: 0

The Reverend G Wardell offered opening prayers.

819 **Honorary Alderman Squire Bradbury**

The Chief Executive informed councillors of the death of Honorary Alderman Squire Bradbury who had been a member of the Council for a number of years.

Councillors stood in silent tribute to his memory.

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820 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E Casling, J Cattanach, M Jordan, W Inness, C Metcalfe and R Sweeting.

821 **Disclosure of Interest**

None.

822 **Minutes**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 12 February 2008 and the Extraordinary Council on 4 March 2008 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

823 **Communications**

- (a) Letter from Tim Yeo MP – Public Sector Buildings (Energy Performance) Bill

Chief Executive submitted a letter from Tim Yeo MP, Chairman of the House of Commons, Environmental Audit Committee asking the Council to support the Public Sector Building (Energy Performance) Bill.

The Bill was aimed at ensuring that public estate building were in the top quartile of energy performance.

Resolved: That the Council

- (a) Supports the Public Sector Buildings (Energy Performance) Bill (introduced into Parliament with cross-party support on 5 December 2007), which would give legal force to the Government’s commitment to procure only buildings in the top quartile of energy performance;**
- (b) Writes to**
- **Phil Woolas MP, the relevant Government Minister, urging him to support the Bill as drafted;**
 - **Local MPs urging them to sign EDM673 in support of the Bill and to pledge to attend the House of Commons to support the Bill at its Second Reading debate on April 25.**

(b) Letter from Ross Bennett – Selby NO21D Co-ordinator (ID Cards)

The Chief Executive submitted a letter from the Co-ordinator of NO21D asking the Council to formally oppose the proposed Governments Identity Card Scheme.

Moved by Councillor Crane and seconded by Councillor Deans.

- (a) That the Council takes no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the ID Cards or the NIR, unless specifically required to do so by law;
- (b) Make it policy of the Council to ensure that ID Cards will not be required to access council services or benefits, unless specifically required to do so by law;
- (c) Only co-operate with the ID Card scheme where to do so otherwise would be unlawful;
- (d) Ask that the Leader of the Council write to the Home Secretary expressing these views and asking her to reconsider her insistence on pushing forward with this scheme.

Moved by Councillor Shaw-Wright and seconded by Councillor Packham as an amendment

That a working group be established to examine the issues surrounding ID Cards and investigate the effects on Selby District Council.

Amendment lost.
Motion carried.

Resolved:

- (a) That the Council takes no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the ID Cards or the NIR, unless specifically required to do so by law;**
- (b) Make it policy of the Council to ensure that ID Cards will not be required to access council services or benefits, unless specifically required to do so by law;**
- (c) Only co-operate with the ID Card scheme where to do so otherwise would be unlawful;**
- (d) Ask that the Leader of the Council write to the Home Secretary expressing these views and asking her to reconsider her insistence on pushing forward with this scheme.**

(c) Letter from Selby District Nightstop

The Chief Executive reported that he had received a letter from the Selby District Nightstop advising him that with effect from 31 March 2008 the Nightstop Service would be withdrawn.

Resolved: That the letter be noted.

(e) Circular Letter from The Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP – Empowerment White Paper

The Chief Executive reported that he had received a circular letter dated 26 March 2008 from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government seeking the Council's comments on the White Paper by 10 April 2008.

Resolved: That

(a) The Chief Executive prepares a response based on the Council's current policies; and

(b) The Secretary of State be informed that, bearing in mind the democratic process the Council must follow, the consultation period is unacceptable.

(f) Eco Towns Consultation Document

The Chief Executive reported that the Government had decided that there would be 15 possible Eco Town locations identified nationally including 1 within the Leeds City Region. A study of potential sites within the Leeds City Region would be undertaken and fed into the consultation process.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

824

Public Questions

None.

825

Councillors' Questions

None.

Committee and Board MinutesLicensing Committee – 18 February 2008 and 17 March 2008**Resolved:****That the minutes be noted.**Economy Board – 19 February 2008**Resolved:****That the minutes be noted.**Environment Board – 21 February 2008**Resolved:****That the minutes be noted.**Social Board – 26 February 2008

It was reported that Minute 726 would need to be amended to clarify the figures set out in part (ii) of the resolution.

Reference was made to the successful launch of the Concessionary Bus Pass Scheme, which was implemented on 1 April 2008.

Resolved:

- (a) That the minutes subject to the amendment above be noted;**
- (b) The staff involved be congratulated on the manner in which they dealt with the issue of the revised Concessionary Bus Pass Scheme.**

Policy and Resources Committee – 4 March 2008

Councillor Mrs Ivey reported that she should have been included in the list of North Yorkshire County Councillors declaring an interest as set out in Minute 732.

The Chief Executive reported that in view of the concerns raised about contaminated land (Minute 743) he would provide details of the contaminated land register to councillors electronically.

It was reported that there was a minor typographical error in Minute 745 which should read “for” not “or”.

Resolved:

That the minutes subject to the amendments above be noted.

Planning Committee – 5 March 2008

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Planning Committee – 2 April 1008

Moved by Councillor Mackman and seconded by Councillor Deans that consideration of these minutes be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

Moved by Councillor Duckett and seconded by Councillor Marshall that consideration of these minutes be deferred until later in the meeting.

Amendment lost.
Motion carried.

Resolved:

That consideration of these minutes be deferred until the next meeting of Council.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 13 March 2008

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Grants Allocations Sub-Group – 20 March 2008

Resolved:

- (a) That the minutes be noted;**
- (b) Information concerning the criteria used to assess applications be supplied to councillors electronically.**

Comprehensive Performance Assessment – Recategorisation

The Strategic Director, Mr S Martin updated councillors on the prospect of a Comprehensive Performance Assessment of the District Council. The Council had been categorised as weak in the assessment undertaken in 2004 and in view of the improvements which had taken place since then it was now appropriate to seek recategorisation.

To assist the Council in moving forward it was suggested that temporary external expert support be engaged to help in the recategorisation.

Resolved:

- (a) That the Council applies for CPA recategorisation in June 2008;**
- (b) That an amount of up to £25,000 be allocated to support the project.**

Councillor Crane wished to be recorded as abstaining on the following item – Minute 828.

Review of Councillors' Allowances

Councillors received the report of the Chief Executive with regard to the recent review of councillor allowances undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

The Local Government Act 2000 required that the Council adopted a scheme for the payment of councillors' allowances and that such a scheme be subject of a report and recommendation from an independent panel.

The recommendations of the independent panel were set out in an appendix to the report together with two options for the payment of allowances to opposition leaders.

Resolved: That

- (a) The recommendations of the independent panel, with the exception of the recommendation relating to a system of appraisal be approved and adopted with effect from 1 April 2008;**
- (b) The level of allowances set out in Option A be approved and adopted.**

829

Urgent Action

Sale of Land to Tesco

The Chief Executive updated councillors on the position regarding the sale of land to Tesco and reported that agreement had been reached and the necessary documentation would be completed shortly.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

830

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.

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.

831

PRIVATE SESSION

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, as there will be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Section 12(A) of the Act, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

832

Staffing Issues

The Chief Executive reported that he had reached agreement with a former member of staff and as a consequence that member of staff had left the Council's employment on 31 March 2008.

He also reported that a part time member of staff had been appointed to assist with the Community Hospital Partnership Project.

Resolved:

That the reports be noted.

The meeting closed at 7:36 pm.