

## Council

Venue: Council Chamber  
Date: 26 June 2012

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Present: Councillor J Crawford in the Chair

J Cattanach, I Chilvers, Mrs D Davies, Mrs M Davis, J Deans, M Dyson, K Ellis, M Hobson, W Inness, M Jordan, C Lunn, D Mackay, Mrs C Mackman, J Mackman, B Marshall, J McCartney, Mrs K McSherry, C Metcalfe, R Musgrave, Mrs W Nichols, I Nutt, C Pearson, A Pound, I Reynolds, Mrs S Ryder, S Shaw-Wright, R Sweeting and J Thurlow

Apologies for Absence: Councillors D Peart, M Crane, Mrs E Casling, Mrs S Duckett, Mrs G Ivey, Mrs P Mackay, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs E Metcalfe, R Packham, R Price, R Sayner and Mrs A Spetch

Also Present: Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director S151, Executive Director Communities Selby, Managing Director of Access Selby, Director of Business Services, Democratic Services Manager.

Press: 0  
Public 8

#### **17. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **18. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 and 29 May 2012, were confirmed as a correct record.

**Resolved:**

**To approve the minutes for signing by the Chairman.**

#### **19. Communication**

##### Disabled Persons' Parking Badges Private Members' Bill

The Chief Executive reported correspondence received from Simon Kirby MP which requested the Council's support for his Disabled Persons' Parking Badges Private Members' Bill and asked the Council to write to the Local MP expressing support.. The aim of the Bill was to reduce fraudulent use of Disabled Badges whilst protecting those with genuine need. The Council supported the Bill.

**Resolved:**

**To write to Nigel Adams MP offering Selby District Council's support for the Bill.**

#### **20. Announcements**

The Chief Executive informed the Council that, due to her husband's ill health, Councillor Mrs G Ivey would be withdrawing from her Council duties for the foreseeable future. Councillor Mrs G Ivey had asked that her Special Responsibility allowance be suspended during this period.

The Council asked that its best wishes be sent to Councillor Mrs G Ivey and her husband.

Resolved:

**To send the Council's best wishes to Councillor Mrs G Ivey and her husband.**

**21. Petitions**

None received.

**22. Public Questions**

None received.

**23. Councillor's Questions**

Councillor J McCartney had submitted the following question to the Chair of Planning Committee.

Do you now regret telling the 30th May 2012 Planning Committee that the land to the rear of the old civic centre, that was proposed for new public car parking under the planning application to site a portacabin outside the old walkers bingo hall, was NOT up for sale? And, do you now accept that by telling the Planning Committee you effectively ensured that the planning Committee made a decision based on false information?

As Chair of Planning Committee, Councillor Deans responded by setting out the background to the issue. He highlighted that the land was not currently being marketed for sale.

**24. Reports from the Executive**

The Leader of the Council had submitted a report on the work he had undertaken since the last meeting. Councillor C Metcalfe outlined that during Councillor Mrs G Ivey's absence her portfolio would be split between the Leader and Councillor Lunn. Councillor Metcalfe stated that the Leader would respond in writing to questions on job creation and a meeting he had attended as Chair of the Employers Forum for Yorkshire and the Humber.

Councillor Mrs G Ivey, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Executive Member for External Relations and Partnerships had reported on the work she had recently undertaken. In her absence, Councillor Metcalfe stated that questions relating to swimming pool provision and the Anti Social Behaviour Strategy would receive written responses.

Councillor C Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance, reported on the work he had undertaken within his portfolio. He responded to questions regarding the impact of the Right to Buy scheme on the Housing Revenue Account. He offered to provide written responses to questions raised regarding replacement windows and doors for certain Council properties, the Right to Buy discount purchase scheme and a Culture and Leisure Strategy for the Council.

Councillor J Mackman, Lead Member for Place Shaping, provided a report on his latest work. He updated the Council on the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations DPD. He outlined that the Executive would receive a report on the next stages of the search for a suitable Traveller Site at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

Councillor C Metcalfe, Lead Member for Communities, gave an update on his work. He gave a detailed response to questions raised in respect of the future management of Barlow Common by The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

**Resolved:**

**To receive and note the reports from the Executive.**

**25. Reports from Committees**

The Chair of Policy Review Committee, Councillor M Jordan, reported on work of the Committee since the last Council meeting. He provided the Council with details of the debate at Policy Review Committee on the Olympia Park strategic development site.

Councillor Mrs W Nicholls, the Chair of Scrutiny Committee, outlined the recent work of the Committee. Councillor Nichols responded to questions regarding the presentation to the Committee from Selby Hospital Staff and in particular on the minor injuries unit.

Councillor Mrs C Mackman, the Vice Chair of Audit Committee, gave a verbal update to Council regarding the matters covered at the last meeting. She highlighted that the Committee had received the Annual Internal Audit Report 2011/12 in addition to Risk Registers for Access Selby, the Core and Communities Selby.

**Resolved:**

**To receive and note the reports from the Committees.**

**26. Motions on Notice**

A. Councillor Shaw-Wright moved the following motion.

**In the interests of local democratic accountability we respectfully request that the council looks to amend the constitution of the council to allow for questioning of executive members and Chairs of committees on any item that is within their remit, rather than items contained within the reports presented to council.**

Councillor Shaw-Wright outlined that the motion had been put forward to increase the level of accountability of the Executive and the

Committee Chairs to full Council. He also felt it would ensure improved access to information for all councillors.

Following debate, the Council broadly supported the proposal that each Executive member and Committee Chair could be questioned on any matter within their portfolio and that each executive councillor/chairs' question and answer session would be limited to no longer than ten minutes. Should they wish to do so, each councillor would be able to ask one question of each Executive member and Committee Chair followed by a related supplementary question.

**Resolved:**

- i) To amend, as necessary, the constitution to reflect that each Executive Member and Committee Chair could now be questioned, for a period of ten minutes, on any item within their remit. Furthermore, each Councillor would be able to ask one question of each Executive member and Committee Chair followed by a related supplementary question;**
- ii) To approve an operative date of 24 July 2012 for the amendments to the constitution.**

B. Councillor Mrs M Davis moved the following motion.

**The Labour Group wish to ensure that the rights of Scrutiny and the right to proper debate of call-in issues are enshrined within our Constitution to prevent the stifling of debate before an informed vote on the issue can take place.**

Councillor Mrs M Davis outlined that the motion had been put forward to improve the scrutiny process within the Council.

The Council discussed the perceived benefits and drawbacks of the current call in system. Councillor Mrs W Nichols highlighted some of the issues faced by the Scrutiny Committee. The debate focused on the process of validating a call in.

The Council felt that the motion should be referred to the Executive. The motion would then return to the 11 September 2012 meeting of the Council.

**Resolved:**

- i) To refer the motion to the Executive;**
- ii) To suspend debate on the motion until the meeting of Council on 11 September 2012.**

## **27. Olympia Park**

Councillor J Mackman presented the report which set out an appropriate policy framework to facilitate consideration of a planning application for the Olympia Park strategic development site.

Councillor J Mackman informed the Council that the report asked for approval to submit key documents for public consultation. He highlighted that the developers of the site had recently submitted a planning application which would be considered in due course by the Council's Planning Committee.

### **Resolved:**

- i) To approve the Olympia Park Delivery Framework Document, Masterplan and Consultation Draft Supplementary Planning Document for consultation;**
- ii) To approve the timetable set out at paragraph 2.8 in the report;**
- iii) To approve the delegation arrangements set out at paragraphs 2.9 and 2.10 in the report.**

## **28. The Localism Act 2011 – The Amended Standards Regime**

Councillor Lunn presented the report which provided a draft Local Councillor Code of Conduct for consideration and adoption and an update on the appointment of independent persons.

Councillor Lunn highlighted that the Council was also encouraging Town and Parish Councils to adopt the same code of conduct. The code was based upon one recently adopted by the Yorkshire Dales National Parks Authority.

### **Resolved:**

- i) To adopt the draft Local Councillor Code of Conduct attached at Appendix 1 to these minutes;**
- ii) To note the action being taken to appoint two Independent Persons.**

## **29. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes**

The Chief Executive introduced the report which asked Council to approve the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes.

The Work Programmes had been considered by each committee and the Executive prior to being received by Council.

**Resolved:**

**To approve the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes for the 2012/13 municipal year.**

**30. North Yorkshire Audit Partnership**

The Chief Executive reported that the North Yorkshire Audit Partnership ceased operations on 31 March 2012 and, as a consequence, the Council made no appointment to the Partnership Board for 2012/13. The Council had now been informed that a final meeting of the Board was necessary to effectively wind up the business and approve the final accounts.

**Resolved:**

**To appoint Councillors Crane and Lunn to the North Yorkshire Audit Partnership Board for the purposes of ensuring the proper winding up of the Partnership.**

**31. Urgent Action**

The Chief Executive reported urgent action he had taken in appointing an independent member to the Standards Committee. The appointment would continue for the remaining meetings of the Standards Committee.

**Resolved:**

**To approve the action taken by the Chief Executive.**

**32. 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:**

**To grant authority 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.**

The meeting closed at 7:54