

Extraordinary Council

Venue: Council Chamber
Date: 24 July 2012

33	Disclosures of Interest
34	Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)
35	The State of Area Address
36	The Programme for Growth
37	Localism Act 2011 – Standards Arrangements – Appointment of Independent Person

Present: Councillor J Crawford in the Chair

I Chilvers, M Crane, Mrs D Davies, Mrs M Davis, J Deans, Mrs S Duckett, M Dyson, K Ellis, M Hobson, W Inness, M Jordan, C Lunn, D Mackay, Mrs P Mackay, Mrs C Mackman, J Mackman, B Marshall, J McCartney, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs K McSherry, C Metcalfe, Mrs E Metcalfe, R Musgrave, Mrs W Nichols, I Nutt, R Packham, C Pearson, D Peart, A Pound, R Price, I Reynolds and Mrs S Ryder.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J Cattanach, Mrs G Ivey, Mrs W Nichols, R Price, S Shaw-Wright, I Reynolds, Miss R Sayner, Mrs A Spetch, R Sweeting, and J Thurlow.

Also Present: Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Director of Community Services, and Democratic Services Officer.

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33. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

34. Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)

Dr Colin Sinclair and Tim Bowden from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England provided a presentation on the

forthcoming electoral review for Selby. The main points discussed included:

- It was explained that the role of the Boundary Commission included overseeing boundary changes and ensuring electoral equality. Information was also provided on the criteria needed for an electoral review. It was explained that the Commission had received a request from Selby District Council to carry out an electoral review.
- Mr Bowden explained that Selby would not be compared with other local authorities as each authority was viewed as unique by the Commission. Council was informed that the Commission had requested electorate forecasts from the Council for the next five years from the date of the end of the review along with information on likely residential developments in Selby.
- Councillors were informed of the review process. It was explained that the final recommendations would be approved by the Houses of Parliament. It was emphasised that during the consultation, the most effective representations would be based upon strong evidence. Councillors were encouraged to inform as many people and groups as possible during the consultation process.

Councillors raised the following queries:

- It was queried how would a large remote geographical area with a strong community identity be allowed to vary significantly from the elector:councillor ratio. In reply it was said that the Commission always aimed to get everything within +/- 10% variance however this was not always possible. The geographical size of an area would not be considered alone and evidence would need to demonstrate how communities sat together. It was explained that the Commission would consider adding two communities together rather than imposing an arbitrary split.
- It was queried how far ahead the Commission thought in terms of future electoral forecasts. It was explained that forecasts were being requested up to 2019.
- A query was raised concerning timescales and what was being required from Councillors and groups. The Commission were aiming to publish its recommendations by early 2014 and these would be implemented in time for the election in 2015. The Commission were after information outlining what was the right number of Councillors to run the authority and what would be the correct ward boundaries.

- A query was raised concerning the County Council boundaries and the cost to the authority of this review. Councillors were told that County divisions would not be considered in the review. The Commission was funded by the Speakers Committee and did not charge the Council for the work undertaken. It was explained that the Commission would publish a number of reports for the review and these would be sent to the Council for printing and distribution. It was also acknowledged that there would be a resource implication with officers having to provide the Commission with the information requested.

The Chairman thanked Dr Sinclair and Mr Bowden for their attendance.

Resolved:

To receive and note the presentation from the Boundary Commission.

35. The State of Area Address

Councillor Crane, Leader of the Council, submitted the State of the Area Address for 2012.

Resolved:

- To receive and note the State of Area Address from the Leader of the Council;**

36. The Programme for Growth

The Leader of the Council introduced a presentation on the Programme for Growth which contained the following 'five big things'.

- Stronger Council
- Changing Places
- Living Well
- Tackling Tough Stuff
- Switched On

Each member of the Executive presented the element of the programme that they were responsible for.

Stronger Council

Councillor Crane, Leader of the Council, explained that due to the pressures on local Government, the Council had to be innovative in its approach to service delivery. Council was informed that there was a cross party design group reviewing the Council's community engagement process and it was aimed to have direct contact with the Chair of the Leeds and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership

(LEP) to allow the voice of the Council to be heard. Council was informed that the Programme for Growth would have a focus on jobs including attracting and supporting the creation of high quality jobs within the district.

Changing Places

Councillor Mackman, Executive Lead Member for Place Shaping explained that it was important to make the most of the district and that a key driver was the Local Development Framework. Councillor Mackman explained that key elements of this initiative were housing and infrastructure. One aim was to improve the quality of housing which included bringing back housing into use that had fallen into disrepair. Council was informed that it was important that quality housing was available to all and developers would be worked with to bring forward key initiatives.

Councillor Mackman explained that the public realm was important and the Council would aim to provide greater flexibility with regard to section 106 agreements. Council was informed that there was a particular issue with regard to infrastructure in the Sherburn area and this would be raised when necessary with North Yorkshire County Council.

In response to a query on involving local Councillors in the process, Councillor Mackman explained that there would be a programme board created to over see the implementation of the 'five big things' and any potential schemes would go in front of the board. It was further explained that there would be a team for each of the five elements and each team would have the capability and opportunity to bring anyone on board.

It was stated that local co-ordinated transport assessments were important. Councillor Mackman stated that it would be useful to get together with North Yorkshire County Council regarding this. It was also suggested that Local Councillors should be invited to any meeting that was arranged.

Living Well

In the absence of Councillor Mrs Ivey, Executive Lead Member for External Relations, Councillor Crane, Leader of the Council presented this element.

Councillor Crane stated that it was important to work with partners however it was also important that the Council took a lead in the provision of leisure and cultural facilities in the district. It was explained that due to the fire at Abbey Leisure Centre, the Council had to re-appraise provision of leisure services in the district and improve access to leisure for communities outside Selby.

Council were informed that work would be done to identify the extent of existing provision in the district along with any gaps requiring attention or facilitation. Councillor Crane added that there would also be a project to make sure the Council offered affordable access to leisure to those who would be put off by cost.

Councillor Crane summarised that the Programme for Growth, working alongside partners and the wider community would ensure that the Council maximised everyone's opportunity for living well and enjoying longer and healthier lives.

In response to a query concerning a swimming pool at the proposed new facility, Councillor Crane confirmed that whether the Abbey Leisure Centre was reinstated or replaced it would have a pool and he thanked Sherburn and Barlby high schools for the access to their pools in the current period.

Tackling the Tough Stuff

Councillor Metcalfe, Executive Lead Member for Communities presented this element.

Councillor Metcalfe explained that it was important to break down myths and stereotypes with regard to the travelling community. It was stated that a small team had been set up to look at this and meetings had been held with residents. Ideas were currently being formulated to decide a way forward.

Councillor Metcalfe explained that housing was important and it would be necessary to challenge existing thinking and engage with Councillors and developers. A project board had been created and work streams had been scoped for this.

Council was informed that another important aspect was to develop the retail experience.

In response to a query concerning social housing, Councillor Metcalfe stated that discussions needed to be held with developers and it was important that Councillors were also engaged on this issue. The different ways of getting people on the housing ladder needed to be investigated and explored.

Concern was raised over the council house allocations system and that people from outside Selby were being allocated Council housing in the district. Councillor Metcalfe recognised this issue and stated the social housing element needed to be raised however discussions were being focused on getting people onto the private housing ladder.

Councillors B Inness, J McCartney and Mrs M McCartney left the meeting.

Switched On

Councillor Lunn, Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources presented this element.

Councillor Lunn explained that development would not have been possible without efficiency savings and that the Council was committed to delivering more with less. One of the developments that was mentioned was the introduction of high speed broadband which would assist businesses. It was expected that high quality broadband for the area would be rolled out at the end of this year which would allow people to have access to regular and next generation broadband.

Councillor Crane summed up and explained the work which would be undertaken by the Programme for Growth in the next three years. Councillor Crane recommended to Council that funding be allocated from the Special Projects Reserve for the programme.

Resolved:

- i) To receive and note the presentation from the Executive.**
- ii) To allocate £1,729m from the earmarked 'Special Projects Reserve – Revenue' to the Programme for Growth.**
- iii) To allocate £493k useable capital receipts, to a 'Special Projects Reserve' – Capital' for the Programme for Growth.**

37. Localism Act 2011 – Standards Arrangements – Appointment of Independent Person

The Monitoring Officer explained that the Chief Executive had used his emergency powers to approve the appointment of two Independent Persons before the latest deadline of 23 July 2012. It was explained that had an Independent Person been appointed after this date then they could only be appointed for one year.

Resolved:

- i) To note and endorse the Chief Executive's actions in appointing two Independent Persons.**

The meeting closed at 8:15pm.