

Council

Venue: Council Chamber
Date: 25 June 2013

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Present: Councillor M Dyson in the Chair

Mrs E Casling, I Chilvers, M Crane, J Crawford, Mrs D Davies, Mrs M Davis, J Deans, K Ellis, M Hobson, W Inness, Mrs G Ivey, M Jordan, C Lunn, D Mackay, Mrs P Mackay, Mrs C Mackman, J Mackman, J McCartney, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs K McSherry, C Metcalfe, Mrs W Nichols, I Nutt, R Packham, C Pearson, A Pound, R Price, I Reynolds, S Shaw-Wright, Mrs A Spetch and J Thurlow

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J Cattanach, Mrs S Duckett, B Marshall, Mrs E Metcalfe, R Musgrave, D Peart, Mrs S Ryder, R Sayner and R Sweeting.

Also Present: Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Managing Director of Access Selby, Executive Director (s151), Executive Director and Democratic Services Officer

Press: 2
Public

Before the commencement of the meeting, the Council stood in silence for a minute and paid tribute to County Councillor, and former District Councillor, Margaret Hulme who had recently passed away.

13. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

14. Minutes

The minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held on 14 May 2013 were confirmed as a correct record.

Resolved:

To approve the minutes for signing by the Chairman.

15. Communication

The Chief Executive reported that the Local Government Boundary Commission had published its draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Selby District Council for consultation.

Concern was raised at the errors in the publication with regard to the number of councillors and number of wards in Selby Town. The Chief Executive informed Councillors to let him know of any mistakes and that these would then be fed back to the Commission.

16. Announcements

Councillor J Mackman informed Councillors that on 20 June 2013 the Council had received a report from the Inspector concerning the Core Strategy. With 34 modifications, the Inspector had stated that the Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan did satisfy the legal requirements and met the criteria for soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework. Councillor Mackman explained that the Inspector's report would be published on 27 June 2013 with it also being made available at the Council's premises and libraries.

Council was informed that the Inspector's report was not binding and it was up to Council to formally adopt the Core Strategy. Councillor Mackman explained that since the publication of the report, the Council would give significant weight to the policies in the Core Strategy when assessing planning applications. Council was informed that the Executive would consider the Inspector's report in more detail in late summer or early autumn and then make recommendations to Council to adopt. Councillor Mackman thanked officers involved in the work on the Core Strategy.

17. Petitions

No petitions were received.

18. Public Questions

No questions from members of the public were received.

19. Councillors' Questions

No questions from Councillors were received.

20. Reports from the Executive

The Leader of the Council reported on the work he had recently undertaken. He responded to questions relating to implications of Scottish devolution.

Councillor Mrs G Ivey, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Executive Member for External Relations and Partnerships, reported on her latest work. Councillor Mrs Ivey responded to questions concerning the gates leading to the play area on Petre Avenue and agreed to look into the funding for this.

Councillor Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance, reported on the work he had undertaken.

Councillor J Mackman, Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping, reported on his latest work. Councillor Mackman responded to queries concerning the Core Strategy and the forthcoming Green Belt review. Concerns were raised regarding the administrative oversight which had led to the Council having to resubmit the planning application for the travellers site on Burn Airfield.

Councillor C Metcalfe, lead Executive Member for Communities, reported on his latest work. Councillor Metcalfe thanked staff for their work on the Tadcaster Central Area Car Park Judicial Review. In response to a query concerning rolling out the 'Tackling the Tough Stuff' project to other areas, Councillor Metcalfe stated that this would be happening in the next few weeks.

Resolved:

To receive and note the reports from the Executive.

21. Reports from Committees

The Chair of Policy Review Committee, Councillor Jordan, reported on work of the Committee since the last Council meeting.

Councillor Crawford, the Chair of Scrutiny Committee, reported on work of the Committee since the last Council meeting.

Councillor Pearson, the Chair of Audit Committee, reported on work of the Committee since the last Council meeting.

Resolved:

To receive and note the reports from the Committees.

22. Motions

Councillor Mrs M Davis proposed the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Shaw Wright:

The national legislation around the “bedroom tax” is causing considerable alarm and concern locally. Many local authorities are joining with members of the public in calling for the repeal of this iniquitous tax. This tax together with the ongoing changes to our Benefits system will cause distress and hardship to many families. We have all been contacted by local supporters of the “Hands off our Homes” movement and it is essential that we respond to the questions they have raised.

How Selby District Council enforces this is extremely important for our communities and how they view us as an authority

Following concerns expressed by the public, the Labour Group wish to ensure that all Councillors are kept informed and therefore would move that:

A six monthly update be given to Full Council on:

- ***the number of people affected by this legislation (the figure of 700 has been used when reporting to NYCC)***
- ***the number of people who have contacted SDC asking for a smaller property after receiving the notification letter from SDC***
- ***the number of smaller properties currently available and their location and further, that the Policy Review Committee be asked to review the current policy and its operation, and in particular***
- ***where individuals find alternative properties in the private or RSL market, what incentives are available to support their move and what might prevent individuals from qualifying for these incentives***

- **areas where SDC will provide exemptions in addition to the national recommendations (e.g. adapted properties, family health needs (children with ADHD who cannot share, elderly couples with health issues)**

As individual appeals are assessed and decided, it will be important to ensure we review our criteria. Many authorities and RSLs are re-classifying some rooms for certain groups to ensure fairness.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Resolved:

- i) **To receive a six monthly update to Council on the above issues in December 2013 and June 2014 with the process being reviewed following this.**
- ii) **To ask the Policy Review Committee to review the current policy, its operation and in particular:**
 - **where individuals find alternative properties in the private or RSL market, what incentives are available to support their move and what might prevent individuals from qualifying for these incentives**
 - **areas where SDC will provide exemptions in addition to the national recommendations (e.g. adapted properties, family health needs (children with ADHD who cannot share, elderly couples with health issues)**

23. The State of the Area Address

Councillor Crane, Leader of the Council, submitted the State of the Area Address for 2013.

Resolved:

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

24. Urgent Action

The Chief Executive informed the Council that he had not taken any urgent action in the time since the last Council meeting.

25. 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 7.34pm