

Council

Venue: Council Chamber
Date: 8 September 2015
Time: 6pm

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Present: Councillor R Sweeting in the Chair

Councillors K Arthur, D Buckle, Mrs E Casling, I Chilvers, Mrs J Chilvers, M Crane, J Crawford, J Deans, Mrs S Duckett, K Ellis, M Hobson, D Hutchinson, M Jordan, C Lunn, D Mackay, J Mackman, B Marshall, Mrs M McCartney, C Metcalfe, R Musgrave, Mrs W Nichols, B Packham, C Pearson, D Peart, I Reynolds, Mrs J Shaw-Wright, J Thurlow and P Welch.

Also Present: Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Managing Director - Access Selby, Executive Director – Communities, Director of Community Services, Solicitor to the Council, Head of Policy, and Democratic Services Manager.

Press: 1
Public: 4

At the beginning of the meeting, the Chairman informed Council of the death of former District Councillor and Chairman, Mrs Joyce Dyson. The Council stood for a minute's silence in remembrance of Mrs Dyson.

Prayers were then said by the Chairman's Chaplain.

26. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Cattnach and Mrs D White.

27. Disclosures of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

28. Minutes

The Council considered the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 June 2015.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting on 23 June 2015 for signing by the Chairman.

29. Communications

The Chief Executive reported that she had used powers delegated to her by the Council to approve new Contract Procedure Rules in anticipation of changes to procurement law and finalise and sign a Better Together collaboration agreement with North Yorkshire County Council.

30. Announcements

There were no announcements.

31. Petitions

No petitions were received.

32. Public Questions

No questions from members of the public were received.

33. Councillors' Questions

Councillor Mrs McCartney had submitted a question relating to the five year housing land supply.

The Leader of the Council explained that local authorities were required to identify and keep an up to date and deliverable five year land supply as instructed

by the National Planning Policy Framework. It was explained that without a housing land supply, the total number of houses built in the area could be taken out of the Council's hands and built in areas considered unsuitable by the Council.

The Council was informed that the Executive had received a report in February 2015 which had set out the five year housing land supply methodology and had identified that the Council had a 4.3 year supply of housing. Council was informed that the report had identified that by allocating a significant amount of land for housing through the local plan process, the Council could re-establish a five year deliverable land supply. The Leader of the Council explained that the current plan for site allocations (Plan Selby) was scheduled for adoption in July 2017 but delays could not be ruled out given the number of controversial matters that would need to be dealt with at the Examination in Public.

The Leader of the Council reported that in the interim period, the following steps had been put in place:

- Ensuring that the Council had an up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment.
- Updating the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.
- Developing a robust five year land supply methodology.
- Investing in a new post to encourage developments which contribute to a 5 year supply.

The Leader of the Council explained that the Council would carry out a five year supply calculation as soon as possible to inform the development of Plan Selby and help decision making on planning applications. The Leader of the Council stated that it was his intention that a more live document, which was updated regularly to continually show a deliverable supply should be produced.

The Council was informed that the current intention was to publish the latest position by the end of this year.

Councillor Mrs McCartney asked a supplementary question on what was the impact of challenges while the Council still did not have a five year supply.

The Leader of the Council stated that he was aware that applications had been approved in some areas with opposition and that the current situation was being monitored.

34. Reports from the Executive

The Leader of the Council reported on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report.

A question was asked about the Council's approach to welcoming refugees. The Leader indicated that the Council was working alongside other authorities in North Yorkshire and the Deputy Chief Executive indicated that a meeting was

due to be held with the Home Office and Migration Yorkshire to share information and better understand the Government's intentions.

Councillor J Mackman, Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Lead Member for Place Shaping, provided an update on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report.

Queries were raised regarding whether the Development Management Team was being strengthened and on the timescales for the Sites and Policies Local Plan (SAPP). With regard to the SAPP, the Deputy Leader of the Council reported that he had attended a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) presentation in August and there had also been a series of focus engagement sessions. He informed Council that there was a Programme Board for the SAPP which was chaired by the Chief Executive. The Deputy Leader of the Council added that once there was a way forward, the SAPP would go before the Executive and Council for consideration.

With regard to the query on staffing, the Director of Community Services reported that the Policy Team still contained two original members in place with another two recruited recently. There was also one agency staff member in post and Consultants were used only where necessary.

The Managing Director, Access Selby reported that there were currently eight full time equivalent employees in the Planning Team including two interim agency staff and that additional resources had also been made available to those areas that support the planning process. Recruitment is proving challenging in the current market conditions but remains on-going. Demand continues to be monitored to inform resources required.

Councillor C Lunn, Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources, provided an update on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report.

Councillor C Metcalfe, Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development, provided an update on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report. A request was made to see the tender documentation which had gone out to third sector providers regarding the Community Engagement Forums.

A question was asked about when the results of the car park review for Selby and Tadcaster would be known. The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development stated that this would be made available as soon as it was complete.

Councillor D Peart, Lead Executive Member for Housing, Leisure, Health and Culture provided an update on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report. The Leader of the Council explained that the Council had not bid to be a part of the Tour de Yorkshire in 2016 but was in discussions with Welcome to Yorkshire about being involved in the event in 2017. He added that a number of Councils had submitted a bid for either the start or finish for next year and as

Selby had hosted a start this year, it would have been unlikely for the District to be allocated either a start or finish for a second, consecutive year.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the reports from the Executive.

35. Reports from Committees

Councillor J Crawford, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in his report.

A query was raised regarding the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group looking into the Community Officer team. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee stated that the Task Group were satisfied with the way the team were operating and had raised concerns about workload which had been addressed.

Councillor J Deans, Chair of the Policy Review Committee provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in his report.

Councillor M Jordan, Chair of the Audit Committee provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in his report.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the reports from Committees.

36. Feedback from Outside Bodies

The Chairman explained that Democratic Services were still developing the procedure for this and it would be brought to a future meeting once it was ready.

RESOLVED:

To report back once a procedure has been agreed on updating Outside Bodies.

37. Motions

No motions were received.

The Chair agreed that the agenda would be amended and that item 13 Devolution would be considered at the end.

38. Community Engagement Forums – Review of Arrangements and Changes to the Constitution

The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development presented the report which summarised the findings of a review of the Community Engagement Forums (CEFs) and proposed minor constitutional changes to strengthen transparency and governance arrangements.

The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development stated that there had been an increased focus on governance at CEF meetings and therefore the decision making processes needed to be more robust. Council were informed that the strength of the current provider was around community work and not governance. The proposal would therefore be to bring the administration of the CEFs back within the Council to strengthen the work around governance.

RESOLVED:

- i) To note and endorse the future arrangements for Community Engagement Forums and the arrangements for supporting them.**
- ii) To authorise the Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution as set out in paragraph 2.9.**

39. Amendments to the Constitution

The Leader of the Council presented the report which proposed changes to the Constitution relating to Financial Procedure Rules, the Terms of Reference of Audit and Governance Committee, the delegations to the Monitoring Officer and the Code of Practice for dealing with planning matters.

The Leader of the Council explained that the Executive supported the first three changes outlined however did not support the proposals of the Audit and Governance Committee relating to planning site visits. It was stated that the Executive felt that the public needed to be involved in planning site visits and that any risk regarding site visits being used inappropriately for lobbying could be addressed by the Chair using the site visit protocol.

The Council was informed that that all Councillors needed to be aware that late requests for site visits could unnecessarily delay the planning process and could affect the number of applications determined 'in time'. In relation to this, the Leader of the Council stated that there was also a risk that too many decisions made outside the target time could result in the Council being designated under performing and then applications would be submitted directly to the Planning Inspectorate bypassing the Planning Committee.

Following the above discussion, it was proposed and seconded to amend recommendations (iv) and (vi) of the Audit Committee in relation to planning site visits as set out in paragraph 2.7 to read as follows:

- (iv) Ward Councillors, Parish Councillors and Objectors will be permitted to attend the site visit unless the landowner refuses access to the site.
- (vi) The Applicant/Agent or other parties e.g Parish Councillors, Ward Councillors, neighbours or objectors who attend the site visit will be permitted to point out the salient features relevant to the subsequent decision. However no discussion of or debate on the merits of the proposal

will take place on site. Discussion of such matters must take place in the Committee meeting itself.

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

RESOLVED:

- i) To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make amendments to the Constitution to give effect to the arrangements outlined in Section 2 of the report subject to the deletion of recommendations (iv) and (vi) of the Audit and Governance Committee set out in paragraph 2.7 and the insertion of the following:**
 - (iv)** Ward Councillors, Parish Councillors and Objectors will be permitted to attend the site visit unless the landowner refuses access to the site.
 - (vi)** The Applicant/Agent or other parties e.g Parish Councillors, Ward Councillors, neighbours or objectors who attend the site visit will be permitted to point out the salient features relevant to the subsequent decision. However no discussion of or debate on the merits of the proposal will take place on site. Discussion of such matters must take place in the Committee meeting itself.

40. Devolution Update

The Chief Executive provided a presentation updating Council on the latest situation with regard to the Devolution proposals.

The following key points were highlighted:

- The Government were accepting bids for combined authorities and possible Mayoral models and had offered to devolve significant decision making and budgetary powers to local areas.
- The Cities and Devolution Bill was the legislation behind the proposals and allowed for Mayoral or Combined Authority governance models.
- Current examples of devolved deals included Manchester and Cornwall on areas such as transport, economic growth, business support, and health and social care.
- An explanation of the Mayoral Governance and the Combined Authority model was provided.
- There had been 30 bids submitted in total to the Government with five coming from the Yorkshire area. The Yorkshire bids including a range of models involving different authorities.

- Selby had been proactive in outlining what it required including growing its economy, addressing housing needs, improving connectivity and creating efficiencies.
- There would be further dialogue with the Government over the next six weeks regarding further details of bids, boundaries and geographic groupings.

41. Urgent Action

It was reported that the Chief Executive had not taken any urgent action since the last meeting of Council.

42. 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 8.00pm.