



Minutes

Policy Review Committee

Venue: Committee Room

Date: 24 January 2012

Present: Councillor M Jordan (Chair), Councillor Mrs M Davis, Councillor Mrs E Metcalfe, Councillor R Musgrave, Councillor I Nutt, Councillor R Packham, Councillor I Reynolds, Councillor Mrs A Spetch and Councillor R Sweeting

Apologies for Absence: None

Also Present: Councillor Mr C Metcalfe

Officers Present: Karen Iveson, Executive Director (S151); Rose Norris, Executive Director Communities Selby; Eileen Scothern, Business Manager; Andrew McMillan, Policy Officer and Richard Besley, Democratic Services

26. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

27. Minutes 1 November 2011

RESOLVED:

To receive and approve the minutes of the Policy Review Committee held on 1 November 2011 and they are signed by the Chair.

28. Minutes 24 November 2011

RESOLVED:

To receive and approve the minutes of the Policy Review Committee held on 24 November 2011 and they are signed by the Chair.

29. Chair's Address to the Policy Review Committee

The Chair welcomed Councillors and Officers, wishing them a happy new year.

The Chair introduced the agenda, which included the requested summary of recommendations and outcomes to date and an opportunity to discuss the operation of CEFs.

The Chair also asked the Committee to consider issues they would like the Committee to scrutinise in the next municipal year. He asked Councillors to forward suggestions to the Democratic Services Officer for possible inclusion to the 2012/13 Work Programme.

30. PR/11/11 – Review of Policy Review Committee Recommendations to date

The Democratic Services Officer presented the report drawing particular attention to the Appendix and the recommendations that the Committee had forwarded to the Executive and its corresponding response.

Councillor Packham referred to the meeting of 9 August on the SADPD, with regard to the Committee's recommendation to make highway impact a material consideration in allocating sites. Councillor Packham proposed that the consideration of traffic impact assessments should take greater precedence. He urged that the correct evidence be available so it can be tested in the three main settlements with proper assessment prior to allocating sites for the SADPD.

Councillor Nutt felt that the proposal should be widened to all areas.

RESOLVED:

- i. To note the summary report.**
- ii. To conduct a full and proper Highway Assessment before allocating all sites in relation to the SADPD.**

31. PR/11/12 – Village Design Statements

The report was presented by the Policy Officer, Andrew McMillan.

Councillor Packham raised questions on the large consultation list that was appended to the report, he was concerned that there was some duplication among entries and that some entries that may have responded in the past, now, no longer exist.

The Officer agreed to look at the list with a view to updating relevant entries.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the report.

32. PR/11/13 – Community Engagement Forums (CEFs)

The report drafted by the Democratic Services Officer introduced the Scoping Paper produced by Communities Selby Executive Director, Rose Norris.

The Executive Director outlined the recent review into the operation of CEFs. The purpose of the scoping paper was to share the findings of the review and to set out a range of proposals around localism, empowerment and communities being better placed to help themselves.

Councillor Metcalfe provided some background to the creation of the CEFs and their growth. The Executive Member felt that in their infancy the CEFs dealt with a lot of local issues. In the main, these issues had been addressed and the CEFs needed to change. He saw localism now shaping itself and the onus was on councillors to lead their communities.

Councillor Packham felt that the geographical areas of the existing CEF boundaries needed to be reconsidered. He felt that Sherburn had stronger links with some communities included within other CEF areas.

The committee discussed the respective roles of the CEFs and parish and town councils and how the two can work together to achieve maximum benefit in communities.

The Committee discussed the allocation of funds and whether they should be split more in line with population density. The Committee asked that the costs of running CEFs to date be provided for the next meeting.

At this point Councillor Sweeting left the meeting, together with the Executive Member and Executive Director Communities Selby.

The Committee, in noting the scoping paper felt that it should be distributed to all councillors and agreed the following recommendations to the Executive.

RESOLVED:

- i. To provide the Committee with information regarding the costs and benefits of the CEFs to date**

Recommended to the Executive

- ii. **To review the distribution of money to CEFs;**
- iii. **To review the geographical boundaries of the CEFs;**
- iv. **To review the terms of reference of the CEFs to ensure a strategic overview is in place;**
- v. **To ask the Executive to trial moving resources the resources of running CEFs to the towns and parish Councils for 1 year.**

33. PR/11/14 – Draft Budget and Financial Plan

Executive Director (S151), Karen Iveson, presented the report informing the Committee that the final budget would be presented to Council on 28 February 2012.

The Executive Director reminded the Committee that proposals may need to be revisited once Formula Grant, HRA self-financing debt and formula rent levels are known.

The Executive Director clarified that Access Selby had set charge out rates for staff members, so the Council was aware of relevant costings. The Director also confirmed that details on the decentralisation of planning fees were still awaited.

The Committee highlighted some concerns at the reduction in income from the projected Council Tax level for 2012/13 and that of the second award of Council Tax Freeze Grant and the impact the shortfall would have on the Council's future position and on the delivery of services.

RESOLVED:

- i. **To note the report.**
- ii. **To ask the Executive to reconsider their proposal to freeze Council Tax for 2012/13 over concerns for the impact this will have on the financial position of the authority and the impact on service provision.**

34. Policy Review Committee Work programme 2011/12

The Chair referred the Committee to the attached Work Programme.

To accommodate the report back on the CEF recommendations at the April meeting it was agreed to move Enforcement Policy on to the 2012/13 Work Programme.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note changes the Work Programme.

The meeting closed at 7:00pm