



# Minutes

## Policy Review Committee

- Venue: Committee Room
- Date: 16 October 2012
- Present: Councillor M Jordan (Chair), Councillor Mrs M Davis, Councillor K Ellis, Councillor R Musgrave, Councillor R Packham, Councillor I Reynolds, and Councillor Mrs A Spetch
- Apologies for Absence: Councillor Mrs E Metcalfe and Councillor I Nutt
- Also Present: Councillor M Crane
- Officers Present: Karen Iveson, Executive Director (S151); Eileen Scothern, Business Manager, Drew Fussey, Communities Selby and Richard Besley, Democratic Services

### **16. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

### **17. Minutes 17 July 2012**

#### **RESOLVED:**

**To receive and approve the of the Policy Review Committee held on 17 July 2012 and they are signed by the Chair.**

### **18. Chair's Address to the Policy Review Committee**

The Chair welcomed Councillors and Officers.

The Chair confirmed that two planned sessions to scope the Renewable Energy Strategy had been postponed and urged Councillors to respond to an on-line invitation, to ascertain availability in the coming weeks.

**19. PR/12/8 – Outcomes from last meeting**

There were no outcomes to report.

**20. PR/12/10 – Countryside Management and Green Space Strategy**

Presented by Drew Fussey, Communities Selby, the report allowed the Committee to scrutinise the Executive's decision to approve the final version of the Strategy, with annex for the latest round of consultation.

Public consultation on the final document was necessary in order for the strategy to be robust, as it forms part of the evidence base which would underpin future actions such as negotiation on planning obligations.

Mr Fussey confirmed that Officers were considering a six week period to receive further representation before the strategy would go to full Council.

Councillor Reynolds felt that some communities' facilities had not been recorded and additional information could have been included.

Mr Fussey confirmed that Parish Councils had been part of the earlier consultation and the document contained the information supplied but the consultation would provide an opportunity for further refinement.

Councillors felt that in some areas the information was incomplete and asked that those community bodies consulted be urged to respond fully.

The Business Manager hoped that the Strategy would go out for consultation before the Christmas break and would allow time to clear any inaccuracies and investigate missing information. It was noted that a caveat could be added to state that opinions from consultees were not necessarily the view of Selby D.C.

Officers agreed to allow two weeks for Councillors to comment on the contained information once they had received the electronic copy of the strategy as requested.

Councillors also requested that Officers, when completing detailed documents that referred to measurements of distance and land size, record imperial measurements as well as metric.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the report and endorse the Countryside Management and Green Space Strategy in principal with further scrutiny and comment to follow from the Committee in two weeks**

**21. PR/12/9 – Financial Strategy**

The Executive Director (s151), Karen Iveson, presented an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

The report, which had also been received by the October Executive meeting, set out the key issues for the 2013/14 budget, these included the continuing economic recession and its impact on investment returns and income generation. The Executive Director (s151) outlined that there remained significant risk and uncertainty to public sector funding and that a cut of 10%, as assumed in the report, was a prudent mid-range forecast for 2013/14.

In response to the Committee's concerns regarding Access Selby's savings, the Executive Director (s151) confirmed that plans were in place and alternative efficiencies were being considered.

**RESOLVED:**

**To approve the draft update to the Medium Term Financial Strategy**

**22. PR/12/11 – Review of the Asset Management Strategy**

The Business Manager presented the report which allowed the Committee to scrutinise the Executive's decision to approve the Strategy.

The Committee moved into private session to consider a number of issues.

**23. Private Session**

**Resolved:**

**In accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, to exclude from the meeting the Press and Public during discussion of the following item as there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.**

Leader of Council, Councillor Crane, provided an update on the usage of certain sites in Council ownership.

**24. Public Session**

To return to public session.

**25. PR/12/11 – Review of the Asset Management Strategy – continued**

The Business Manager confirmed that the asset list was up to date and that a survey of garages was underway to ascertain necessary repair work to maximise their worth.

**RESOLVED:**

**To approve the Asset Management Strategy.**

**25. PR/12/12 – Enforcement Policy**

The Business Manager presented the report to the Committee. She confirmed that the Enforcement Policy brought together all Enforcement Services under one delivery team.

The policy was reviewed by an Officers Working Group and would be reconsidered in January 2013.

The policy was located on the Council website with the Executive approved priorities appearing as an appendix.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the Enforcement Policy**

**26. Work Programme 2012 - 2013**

The Committee agreed to defer the item on Renewable Energy to allow the Task & Finish group to report back to Committee.

The Committee asked to consider Affordable Housing Policy and the Section 106 policy.

The Business Manager agreed to look at those items and report when those reviews could be added to the Work Programme.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive and note the Work Programme.**

The meeting closed at 6:40pm