



Meeting: **POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE**
Date: **15 APRIL 2014**
Time: **5.00PM**
Venue: **COMMITTEE ROOM**
To: **Councillors Mrs M Davis, K Ellis, M Jordan (Chair), Mrs K McSherry (Vice Chair), Mrs E Metcalfe, R Musgrave, I Nutt, R Packham and Mrs A Spetch.**

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence

2. Disclosures of Interest

A copy of the Register of Interest for each Selby District Councillor is available for inspection at www.selby.gov.uk.

Councillors should declare to the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest in any item of business on this agenda which is not already entered in their Register of Interests.

Councillors should leave the meeting and take no part in the consideration, discussion or vote on any matter in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Councillors should also declare any other interests. Having made the declaration, provided the other interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest, the Councillor may stay in the meeting, speak and vote on that item of business.

If in doubt, Councillors are advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer.

3. Minutes

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Review Committee held on 15 January 2013.

Pages 3 to 6 attached

4. Chair's Address to the Policy Review Committee

5. PR/13/19 – Housing Rents and Misc. Charges 2014/15

To consider the report from the Lead Officer Policy (pages 7 to 13)

6. Welfare Reform Update

To receive a verbal report from the Lead Officer Community Support on the work of the Task & Finish Ggroup

7. PR /13/20 – Annual Report

To consider the report from the Democratic Services Officer (pages 14 to 26)

8. Work Programme 2014/15

To consider the Work Programme for 2014- 2015 (pages 27 to 28)

**Mary Weastell
Chief Executive**

Enquiries relating to this agenda, please contact Richard Besley on:
Tel: 01757 292227
Email: rbesley@selby.gov.uk

Policy Review Committee

Venue: Committee Room

Date: 14 January 2014

Present: Councillors M Jordan (Chair), Mrs K McSherry (Vice Chair), I Chilvers (for Mrs E Metcalfe), Mrs M Davis, K Ellis, R Musgrave, I Nutt, R Packham and Mrs A Spetch.

Apologies for Absence: Mrs E Metcalfe (substitute I Chilvers)

Officers Present: Karen Iveson – Executive Director (S151), Helen Drye – Lead Officer, Policy, Ruth Hardingham – Planning Officer and Palbinder Mann – Democratic Services Officer

25. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

26. MINUTES

The Chair explained that the Task and Finish Group looking into the Recovery Policy would be set up once Councillor Mrs Eileen Metcalfe was back from holiday.

RESOLVED:

To receive and approve the minutes of the Policy Review Committee held on 17 December 2013 and they are signed by the Chair.

27. CHAIR'S ADDRESS

The Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year and explained that he would be amended the running order of the agenda with the item on the Renewable Energy Strategy being taken first.

28. PR/13/16 – RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY

Helen Drye, Lead Officer, Policy presented the report and explained that recommendation three outlined in the report would be amended as the Committee has previously agreed not to take forward the AECOM Renewable Energy Capacity Plan. It was also explained that with regard paragraph 4.2, this was referring to looking at the Sites and Policies Plan into the general area of renewable energy and not at allocating specific sites for wind farms.

The Committee were referred to the Wind Farm Guidance which had been produced by the Planning Officer. The Lead Officer, Policy stated that the Chair had also asked for information on the wider community impact and this was circulated to the Committee. It was also explained that correspondence had been received from Bartle and Son and this was circulated to the Committee.

In response to a query concerning the Core Strategy, the Lead Officer, Policy explained that despite the legal challenge to the Core Strategy, substantial weight was still given to it as it was still compliant with planning policy. Queries were also raised on the implications if planning applications on wind farms were submitted to the Council which were not compliant with the guidance. The Lead Officer, Policy explained that the guidance would be used in assisting officers and other planning policy guidance would still apply to planning applications.

It was stated that all forms of energy should be considered and in particular Fracking was mentioned as an area which could be explored. Queries were raised regarding Fracking that despite it being promised that Local Authorities would receive 100% of the domestic rates, the County Council has the responsibility for minerals and therefore they may be eligible to receive some of the income.

RESOLVED:

- i) To endorse the guidance for Wind Farm planning applications and recommend the Executive to adopt the guidance for use as part of the Council's development management processes.**
- ii) To endorse the guidance for Solar Energy planning applications and recommend the Executive to adopt the guidance for use as part of the Council's development management processes.**
- iii) To take forward the overlaying of the wind and solar planning approvals onto the capacity plan to enable the cumulative impact of the applications to be taken into account.**

29. PR/13/15 – DRAFT BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Executive Director (s151) presented the report and informed the Committee the report contained the Executive's draft budget proposals which were currently out for consultation. It was explained that the budget had been formulated in accordance with the financial strategy.

Some of the key points highlighted included:

- A 2% Council Tax increase had been planned for which raised the average bill for a Band D property by 6p a week.
- The authority was still dealing with some uncertainty regarding the impact of localised Non Domestic Rates (NDR).
- The Council had three key strands with regard to savings:
 - Transforming
 - Growing
 - Commissioning
- The Housing Revenue Account had a surplus of nearly £1m.
- The Committee were taken through the Capital Programme and the Executive Director (s151) explained that commitments such as ICT Replacements and the Telephony systems were important updates for the Council. It was explained that the Capital Programme was funded primarily through reserves. It was explained that the programme was designed to run to 2015.
- Specific funds had been earmarked for the Programme for Growth which included major projects such as the new leisure centre.
- With regard to reserves, it was explained that the current balance of reserves would be £8.2m.

A query was raised concerning the separate deficits transferred from the balances for the Core and Access Selby. The Executive Director (s151) explained that Access Selby were working within a fixed cost envelope and if there were cost pressures in their budget then they needed to be drawn from other areas of the Access Selby budget. Although the funding for Access Selby and the Core was separate, the money did come from the same pot of money.

A Member of the Committee requested further information on the following areas for the last few years where Council Tax had been frozen:

- The levels of inflation, both RPI (Retail Price Index) and CPI (Consumer Price Index) during the years Council Tax has been frozen.
- What the Council would have had to increase Council Tax by to compensate for the loss due to inflation levels.
- What funding had been received from the Secretary of State for the years that Council Tax has been frozen.

Discussion took place on the financing for Parish Councils. The Executive Director (s151) explained that in the previous Local Government Settlement, the Government had clearly outlined payments for Parish Councils and exact figures had been provided to Local Authorities. The Committee were informed that the figures for 2014/15 did not include the same breakdown and no funding for Parish Councils had been outlined.

The Executive Director (s151) explained that based on the measuring of 'spending power' which was used by the authority to measure the impact of the loss in funding from the Government, £131,000 had to be outlined for Parish Council funding. It was explained that if the Council decided to pass on funding to Parish Councils, the Council would be increasing its spending and further savings would need to be made as it would be difficult to provide funding from reserves.

The Committee were in agreement that this issue should be looked at again by the Executive to see if it was fair with possible alternative options being a reduced level in grant based on the same reduction level for local authorities.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To ask the Executive to look again at the decision on funding for Parish Councils to see if it is fair.**
- ii) **To support the draft budget.**

30. PR/13/18 – WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013/14 AND 2014/15

It was agreed to have a presentation on fracking at the April 2014 meeting. It was also agreed to bring back an update on the work on Welfare Reform including the work of the proposed Task and Finish Group at the July 2014 meeting.

The Chair asked the Committee email any comments they had on next year's work programme to himself or the Democratic Services Officer.

RESOLVED:

To note and amend the Policy Review Committee Work Programme for 2013/14 and 2014/15 as outlined above.

The meeting closed at 6.14pm.

To: Policy Review Committee
Date: 16 October 2012
Author: Richard Besley, Democratic Services Officer
Lead Officer: Helen Drye – Lead Officer Policy

Title: Housing Rents 2014/15

Summary: This report allows Policy Review Committee the opportunity to comment on Executive Report E/13/52 Housing Rents 2014/15

Recommendation:

To scrutinise the Executive's decision on E/13/52 and endorse or refer comment back to the Executive

Reason for recommendation

The Committee ensures the contribution of Scrutiny is effective in supporting service improvement and delivery against district wide and Council priorities.

1. Introduction and background

1.1 At its meeting on 6 February 2014 the Executive discussed report E/13/52.

2. The Report

2.1 The Executive asks the Policy Review Committee to review the report and its recommendations and forward any comments as appropriate.

2.2 To aid Policy Review Committee, the report and minutes are attached as appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

3. Legal/Financial Controls and other Policy matters

3.1 Legal Issues

As outlined in E12/29

3.2 Financial Issues

As outlined in E13/52

4. Conclusion

That Policy Review contributes to the effective interaction between the Council and the people of Selby district.

5. Background Documents

None

Contact Officer: Richard Besley
Democratic Services Officer
Selby District Council
rbesley@selby.gov.uk

Appendix:

Appendix 1 – Executive Report E/13/52

Appendix 2 – Relevant Executive Minutes 6 February 2014

Selby District Council

REPORT

Reference: E/13/52

Public – Item 9



To: The Executive
Date: 6 February 2014
Status: Key Decision
Report Published: 29 January 2014
Author: Kevin Ross – Senior Finance Officer
Executive Member: Cllr C Lunn
Lead Officer: Karen Iveson, Executive Director (and S151)

Title: Housing Rents 2014/15

Summary:

This report presents proposals for Housing Revenue Account rent levels in accordance with Central Government's policy on rent restructuring. Based on the Government's formula for rent increases, an average increase of 5.1% would be applied for 2014/15.

The government are consulting on proposals to replace this methodology one year early (for 1 April 2015) instead of a new method from 1 April 2016. This has the impact of many dwellings not meeting their convergence formula (target) rent and reducing the base budget going forward.

Bearing this in mind, it is proposed to apply the maximum increase allowed through the policy to those properties below formula rent giving an average increase of 5.6%.

Recommendation:

- i. **The Executive approve the proposed 5.6% average rent increase for 2014/15.**
- ii. **The Executive request that Policy Review Committee consider the implications for existing tenants wishing or needing to downsize, of re-letting vacant properties at target rents, and whether recommendations are required for an appropriate policy in such circumstances.**

Reasons for recommendation

To allow rent levels to be set in advance of the coming financial year within the constraints of Government rent restructuring policy.

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 Under the Government's rent restructuring policy, formula data was provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to ensure similar rents for similar properties in similar areas, are calculated over a transitional period. When convergence is achieved Housing Associations and Local Authorities will use the same formula for setting rent levels, which will ensure that tenants pay similar rents for similar properties regardless of whether the landlord is a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) or a Local Authority.
- 1.2 2014/15 will be the thirteenth year of the transitional period during which actual rents are moving towards formula (target) rent levels under the rent-restructuring scheme.
- 1.3 The transitional period for convergence looks set to end and it is proposed that 2014/15 will be the final year instead of 2015/16. From 2015/16 the model for rent calculation is set to change to increases of CPI plus 1% (this increase applies to both formula and actual increases). This is under consultation until 24 December 2013.
- 1.4 The move to CPI instead of RPI follows the Office for National Statistics announcement in January 2013 that the formula used to produce the Retail Price Index does not meet international standards. As a result the Government is looking to move to the Consumer Price Index, this change puts rent on a more stable footing: CPI has been less susceptible to sudden changes than RPI in recent years.
- 1.5 The Government plans to commit to this policy for ten years – until 2024/25, which is intended to give long term certainty and stability on rents.
- 1.6 Where a property is not at formula rent by 2014/15, the Government expect that from April 2015 following a vacancy, the property is re-let at formula, thereby the rent need not remain below formula rent permanently. There may be a risk of higher rents for tenants wishing or needing to down size and therefore further work is required to fully understand the implications in relation to the Council's housing stock and to potentially devise an appropriate policy in such circumstances.
- 1.7 The Policy Review Committee are currently considering the implications of the 'Spare Room Subsidy' for our rent and related policies and it is proposed that the committee be asked to consider this issue as part of that work.

2. The Report

- 2.1 The 2013/14 weekly average rent, set on a 48 week basis is £79.19.
- 2.2 Formula rent increases are calculated using the previous year's formula rent, increased by Retail Price Index (RPI) + ½%. RPI for the formula is taken at September of the preceding year i.e. 3.2% for September 2013.
- 2.3 The maximum any rent can increase follows the principal of Retail Price Index (RPI) + ½% + £2 per week for the remaining rent-restructuring period. Assumptions have been made that CPI + 1% will be used going forward using CPI at September 2013 at 2.7% for budget purposes.

2.4 Under current guidance applicable to 2014/15 there are two years of the restructuring period remaining. The proposed increase driven by the revised method to mitigate slightly lower future increases is to apply the maximum increase allowable under rent restructuring policy of Retail Price Index (RPI) + ½% + £2 per week effectively removing the 2 year transition to 1.

2.5 **Average Rent Charges on a 48 week basis**

Year	2014/15 Current Method	2014/15 Proposed Increase	2015/16	2016/17
Actual Rent £	83.20	83.56	86.65	89.86
% Increase	5.1	5.6	3.7	3.7
Formula Rent £	85.48	85.48	88.64	91.92
% Increase / (Decrease)	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
Difference Actual vs Formula £	2.28	1.92	1.99	2.06

2.6 The above table shows the formula rent against the actual rent to be charged to tenants. Formula rent is the rent target for our dwellings to be comparable with Registered Social Landlords. 2015/16 and 2016/17 increases are based upon the 2014/15 proposed increase.

2.7 For 2014/15 following the model there will be 2844 properties still not converging with the Formula Rent, of these, 538 will be lower than formula by more than 5%. Utilising the proposed maximum increase would still leave 1170 properties not converging and again 538 will be lower than formula by more than 5%.

3. Legal/Financial Controls and other Policy matters

3.1 Legal Issues

There are no legal issues as a result of this report.

3.2 Financial Issues

3.2.1 The rent yield from the proposals in this report are summarised as follows:

	2013/14 (£000)	2014/15 (£000)	2015/16 (£000)	2016/17 (£000)
Draft Budgeted Rent (£k)	11,742	12,267	12,725	13,202
Proposed / Estimated Rent (£k)		12,283	12,697	13,167
Increase / (Decrease) (£k)		16	(28)	(35)
Annual Increase (£k)		541	414	470

Under the HRA self financing regime, the Council keeps all of the rent collected and no longer has to pay subsidy. The amount of debt the Council took on as part of this change was influenced by rent income projections based on formula rent convergence. Rent generated is utilised to service the debt incurred, invest in maintaining our housing stock and new build opportunities as well as cover the running costs of our Housing Revenue Account service.

- 3.2.2 The move to a CPI based increase will give lower increases going forward which is good headline news for tenants but has a negative impact against the self-financing business plan, meaning that in the longer term there will be less resource for re-investment in our housing stock. The business plan assumed increases of 5% but it is not known what CPI will be for September 2014 (for 15/16 rent setting). Current CPI (Nov 13) is 2.1% which would give a total increase of 3.1%. Every 1% lost has an impact of approximately £105k.

4. Conclusion

Approval of the rent increase is fundamental to the continuation of funding of the HRA. A rise of 5.6% is higher than the current level of inflation but is necessary to assisting meeting the financial commitments of the HRA including debt repayment and maintenance of stock.

5. Background Documents

None

Contact Details

Kevin Ross
Senior Finance Officer
Selby District Council
kross@selby.gov.uk

81. Housing Rents and Misc. Charges 2014/15 – Key Decision

Councillor C Lunn presented the report on the proposals for Housing Revenue Account rent levels.

Councillor C Lunn set out that based on the Government's formula for rent increases, an average increase of 5.6% would be applied in 2014/15. The Government was currently consulting on proposals to replace the current methodology after 2014/15, a year earlier than planned. The Executive discussed the implications of this for the Council.

It was agreed to ask Policy Review to look at the potential issue of tenants needing to down size being faced with higher rents.

Resolved:

- i. To approve the proposed 5.6% average rent increase for 2014/15.**
- ii. To request that Policy Review Committee consider the implications for existing tenants wishing or needing to downsize, of re-letting vacant properties at target rents, and whether recommendations are required for an appropriate policy in such circumstances.**

Reason for the decision:

To allow rent levels to be set in advance of the coming year within the constraints of Government rent restructuring policy.

To: Policy Review Committee
Date: 15 April 2014
Author: Richard Besley, Democratic Services Officer
Lead Officer: Karen Iveson, Executive Director (S151)

Title: Policy Review Committee Annual Report

Summary: The report provides an update on the work of the Policy Review Committee for 2013/14.

Recommendation:

To note the Annual Report submitted by the Chair of the Policy Review Committee

Reasons for recommendation

The Committee ensures the contribution of Policy Review is effective in supporting service improvement and delivery against district wide and Council priorities.

1. Introduction and background

1.1 During the past 12 months the Policy Review Committee has met on seven occasions, scrutinising the work of Selby District Council.

1.2 The Annual Report (Appendix A) provides an update on the topics scrutinised and the work of the committee.

2. The Report

2.1 There have been eight Budget and Policy framework items for the committee to consider as well as matters referred to the Committee by the Executive and items the Committee has asked to scrutinise.

3. Conclusion

The committee agrees that the information submitted in the Annual Report is accurate and recommend the report to go to Full Council.

Contact Officer: *Richard Besley*
Democratic Services Officer
Selby District Council
rbesley@selby.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix A – Annual Report 2013/14 Document

Selby District Council

POLICY REVIEW
ANNUAL REPORT
2013/2014

Introduction by Councillor Michael Jordan - Chair of the Policy Review Committee

I am pleased to present the Policy Review Committee with the Annual Report for 2013/14.

The overall responsibility for the Committee is to contribute to the development of new Council policy and review the effectiveness of existing Council policy making reports and recommendations in connection with the discharge of any function. As Chair of the committee I provided a report to each Council meeting highlighting the committee's work.

The Policy Review Committee will have met seven times in 2013/14 and considered a range of different issues. The committee's Work Programme was contributed to by Councillors and ensured focus on the priorities of the Council and the concerns of local people.

Topical items were included on the Work Programme that were relevant and in line with the Council's Corporate Plan and Priorities for 2013/14.

I would like to thank all Councillors of the Policy Review Committee for their support and continued hard work. Many people have contributed to the success of Policy Review, including officers, external partner organisations and my thanks goes out to all of them.

I look forward to the continuing progress of Policy Review in 2014/15.

Policy Review Committee Annual Report

The Policy Review Committee

The Policy Review Committee membership comprised the following 9 members during the 2013/14 municipal year:

Conservative

M Jordan (Chair)
I Reynolds (Vice Chair) *until December*
K McSherry (Vice Chair) *since December*
K Ellis
E Metcalfe
R Musgrave
I Nutt
A Spetch

Labour

M Davis
R Packham

The committee met 6 times during the year.

Officer support was provided by Jonathan Lund, Deputy Chief Executive, Karen Iveson, Executive Director (and s151 Officer) and Richard Besley, Democratic Service Officer.

The Role of the Policy Review Committee

The Policy Review Committee is one of the Council's three overview and scrutiny committees. It is responsible for contributing to the development of Council policy, reviewing and making recommendations regarding existing Council policy and considering and commenting upon the implications on Selby District of the policies of partner organisations and other agencies delivering public services in the District.

2013/14 Work Programme

During 2013/14 the Policy Review Committee reviewed and commented upon:

- The Council's strategic priorities set out in the State of the Area Address;
- The Council's financial and budgeting arrangements;
- A variety of matters associated with the Council's planning framework and policies;
- The Council's approach to affordable housing delivery through Selby and District Housing Trust;
- Matters associated with Welfare Reform

Committee Member Development

There were no specific development events relating to the Policy Review Committee.

List of Policy Review Committee (PRC) Reports 2013/14

Report No.	Report Name	Policy Review Outcome	Final Outcome
16 July 2013			
PR/13/1	State of the Area Address	<p>Councillor M Crane, Leader of the Council presented the State of the Area Address.</p> <p>Discussion took place concerning the planning service and member involvement in planning applications. Concern was raised at some of the services offered to Members by the Planning Department.</p> <p>The committee requested that leisure facilities in Sherburn be considered but accepted that it was important to focus on the Abbey Leisure Centre development and following that some form of leisure development for Sherburn could be considered.</p> <p>The report was noted.</p>	The SoAA was approved by full Council in June 2013.
PR/13/2	Selby Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document	As local consultation was still underway, the committee deferred consideration of this report pending the results of the public consultation.	
PR/13/3	Selby District Council Housing Development Strategy	<p>The report set out the Council's approach to deliver affordable housing along with the framework. It was also explained that there would be a separate report produced for potential sites.</p> <p>The committee endorsed the report and provided their</p>	The strategy was approved by full Council in September 2013.

		support to the proposals.	
12 September 2013			
PR/13/4	Selby Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document	Having undergone public consultation the report came back to the committee who were asked to consider the SPD and offer amendments to the Executive. The level of Affordable Housing percentage was a major discussion point although no amendments were agreed.	Council agreed to adopt the Affordable Housing SPD at its meeting on 25 February 2014
PR/13/5	Medium Term Financial Strategy	<p>The Executive Director (S151) presented the report that offered an update on the revised medium term Financial Strategy (MTFS) - the aim being to set the framework for the 2014/15 budget round.</p> <p>The Director reported that the Council's Reserve Strategy was robust and it provided crucial financial resilience and capacity in these challenging financial times.</p> <p>The committee agreed to support the Strategy</p>	Executive notified of the PR Committee support
15 October 2013			
PR/13/6	New Local Plan for the District & Revised Local Development Scheme	<p>Cllr Mackman as the lead Executive Member for Place Shaping presented the report to the committee.</p> <p>With the closure of Core Strategy's Examination in Public (EIP) and the publication of the Inspector's report the Executive are recommending to Council at its 22 October meeting that they approve the modifications and adopt the Core Strategy and is now moving forward with a combined Sites and Policies Local Plan (SAPP) to implement the Core Strategy.</p>	Council approved the revised LDS and SAPP on 22 October 2013

		<p>The proposals would allow Policy Officers to return to the Issue and Option Stage and create a new SAPP which the committee will consider and comment on as new policy development to the Executive.</p> <p>The committee noted the report.</p>	
PR/13/7	Planning Conditions	<p>Officers presented the report drafted as a result of a motion tabled by the Labour Group at Council.</p> <p>The report covered two areas of concern from Council, Contractors Site Compounds and facilities for Wheel Washing and their enforcement.</p> <p>In response to the concerns of Council relating to the impact on the local highway network resulting from the implementation of planning permissions, Officers take the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attach conditions to planning permissions relating to the provision of contractors' site compounds and wheel washing facilities where considered appropriate, based on the scale of the development and the likely impact on the area, including cumulative impact. Where such conditions are not proposed in relation to major developments informatives are used and the officer's report will explain why it is not considered necessary; 2. Look at ways of working with the Civil Parking Enforcement team and County Highways to address problems where conditions are not attached to planning 	

		<p>applications, (for example where developments are of limited scale) and issues arise relating to parking or mud and debris on the highway;</p> <p>3. Consider how the issue can be further addressed by the inclusion of a development management policy in the Selby Area Local Plan;</p> <p>4. Draft an advisory note for developers, explaining the above approach; and</p> <p>5. Raise the matter at the Developer forum, explaining members concerns.</p>	
PR/13/8	Renewable Energy Task and Finish Group	<p>The committee had previously formed a Task & Finish Group to look at a preparing a Council Policy on Renewable Energy. The Group had brought a draft paper to the committee to seek a way forward.</p> <p>The committee asked the Group to:</p> <p>i. Develop a Guidance Note on wind farm development consistent with the Selby District Core Strategy and compliant with the national Planning Policy Framework and associated guidance be developed.</p> <p>ii. The guidance note should cover the issues identified in paragraph 2.33.</p> <p>iii. Review the AECOM Renewable Energy Capacity Plan (Appendix 3) to ensure that it provides a current evidence base.</p>	To develop a Guidance Paper to be discussed in January 2014

		<p>iv. Map all built and approved wind turbines on the Selby District to the AECOM Renewable Energy Capacity Plan (Appendix 3)</p> <p>v. Include Solar Energy into the Scope of the Task and Finish group and meet to research this area of activity.</p> <p>vi. full fees and charges for planning applications are charged, including pre and post application advice.</p>	
PR/13/9	Welfare Reform	<p>Council asked the committee to review the current policy on Spare Room Subsidy (SBS), Simon Parkinson, Lead Officer Community Support attended to report on the current position on SBS and to seek the committee's direction on a proposed policy report to be brought before the committee.</p> <p>The Policy paper will also consider an exemptions policy, as the Council are currently adhering to statutory exemptions only.</p> <p>The committee considered the scope of the policy with a wide remit on Welfare Reform. The committee felt that the policy should include details on Benefit Cap as well as SBS.</p>	To receive report at next PR Committee

17 December 2013			
PR/13/11	Welfare Reform	<p>Simon Parkinson, Lead Officer Community Support presented the report on the impact of the Spare Bedroom Subsidy (SBS) within the Selby District.</p> <p>The report sought a steer on three elements of the effects SBS had on Council procedures:</p> <p>Rent Recovery; Discretionary Housing Payments and The adoption of exemptions</p> <p>The committee agreed that these items should be considered by a Task and Finish Group who would bring a report back to committee. The committee agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To establish a Task & Finish Group to consider the current rent recovery policy and to bring a report back to the committee. ii. To endorse the Discretionary Housing Payments policy. iii. To refer consideration of exemptions in relation to re-classification of bedrooms to the Task & Finish Group. 	To receive reports from T & F Group at later meetings
PR/13/12	Contaminated Land Strategy	The Strategy explained how sites would be identified and prioritised and how land would be dealt with if it was felt that harm was being caused. The committee acknowledged that contaminated land had potentially significant cost implications for the Council and it was	The Executive approved the Strategy at its meeting on 6 March 2014.

		important that the risks and issues were understood. The committee endorsed the report	
PR/13/13	Asset Transfer Policy	Executive Member, Councillor C Lunn presented the report to the committee on the Asset Transfer Policy, which would allow consideration of the transfer of assets from Selby District Council to Selby and District Housing Trust. The committee endorsed the report	The Executive discussed the Policy on 6 February 2014 and agreed to note the results of the consultation and to recommend Council to approve the policy. Council approved the Policy on 25 February 2014
14 January 2014			
PR/13/15	Draft Budget And Medium Term Financial Plan	i. To ask the Executive to look again at the decision on funding for Parish Councils to see if it is fair. ii. To support the draft budget.	At the Executive on 6 February 2014 agreed to recommend to Council that grant be paid to parish Councils and the Budget be approved. Council approved the Budget on 25 February 2014.
PR/13/16	Renewable Energy Strategy	i. To endorse the guidance for Wind Farm planning applications and recommend the Executive to adopt the guidance for use as part of the Council's development management processes. ii. To endorse the guidance for Solar Energy planning applications and recommend the Executive to adopt the guidance for use as part of the Council's development management processes.	Executive notified of the PR Committee endorsement

		iii. To take forward the overlaying of the wind and solar planning approvals onto the capacity plan to enable the cumulative impact of the applications to be taken into account.	
--	--	---	--

Next Meeting

15 April 2014	
Topic	Action required
Housing Rents	Referred by Executive
Welfare Reform	Update from T&F Group meeting
Annual Report	To adopt Annual Report
Work Programme 2014/15	To consider any further items to be included in the 2014/15 Work Programme to present to 1 st meeting in 2014/15 calendar

Policy Review Committee Work Programme 2014/15

Date of Meeting	Topic	Action Required
15 July 2014	Time of Meetings	To agree a start time for meetings for 2014/15
	Work Programme	To agree the Committee's Work Programme for 2014/15
	<u>Budget and Policy Framework</u> The State of Area Address	To consider the Leader's State of the Area Address.
	<u>Committee Requested Item</u> Welfare Reform	To consider the findings of the Task & Finish Group
16 September 2014	<u>Budget and Policy Framework</u> Financial Strategy	To consider the Executive's proposals for the Council's long term (10 year), resource and spending framework in which the budget strategy and three year financial plan will be developed.
20 January 2015	<u>Budget and Policy Framework</u> Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan	To consider the Executive's proposals for revenue budgets and the capital programme for 2015/2016.
	Work Programme 2015/16	To consider the Committee's Work Programme for 2015/16

14 April 2015	Approve Policy Review Annual Report & Work Programme 2015/16	To consider the Committee's Annual Report
---------------	--	---