

Minutes

Policy Review Committee

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| Venue: | Committee Room - Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9FT |
| Date: | Tuesday, 10 March 2020 |
| Time: | 5.00 pm |
| Present: | Councillors A Lee (Chair), K Arthur (Vice-Chair), T Grogan and R Packham Councillor K Franks as substitute |
| Officers present: | Victoria Foreman, Democratic Services Officer |
| Others present: | None |
| Public: | None |
| Press: | None |

51 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M McCartney and J Shaw-Wright.

Councillor K Franks was in attendance as a substitute for Councillor J Shaw-Wright.

52 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

53 MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2020.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Policy Review Committee

meeting held on 14 January 2020.

54 CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

There was no Chair's address to the Committee.

55 UPDATE FROM THE LOW CARBON WORKING GROUP (STANDING ITEM)

Members noted that there had been two meetings of the Low Carbon Working Group, at which presentations and benchmarking data on the Council's carbon footprint had been provided; however, there was still some outstanding data to be supplied.

Officers were looking for a steer from Members as to the priorities for the actions and projects resulting from their research.

Members acknowledged that the initial six-month time period was a tight timescale to work to and present recommendations to the Executive. A suggested way forward would be to provide an initial report to the Executive setting out 'quick wins' and actions that could be taken as soon as possible. Members would also request that the Executive allow the Working Group to continue its work throughout the rest of the year in order to examine longer term projects and ideas.

The Committee discussed the Northern Forest initiative and emphasised the importance of potential areas for planting in the district being identified as quickly as possible. Members felt very strongly that this should be moved forward at pace. It was noted that some parish councils had started to undertake similar work, and that some groups on the Council had a number of ideas that could be fed into policies such as the Local Plan.

Members asked that the following points be fed back to the Director for Economic Regeneration and Place:

- That tree planting in the district to be taken forward as soon as possible.
- That the Council begin to engage with parish councils, local landowners, estates and other stakeholders as soon as possible.
- That potential sites for tree planting be identified in time for recommendations to be made to the Executive.
- That if possible, some planting take place during the current planting season/this year.
- That any outstanding benchmarking data be gathered by the next meeting of the Low Carbon Working Group.

- To contact the County Council for schools to be involved in any tree planting initiatives.
- That at the next meeting of the Low Carbon Working Group Officers present suggestions for 'quick wins' that they have identified.
- That the Taxi Licensing Policy be amended to include a rule that taxis turn off their engines whilst waiting at ranks, and that a campaign against idling vehicles outside schools also be considered by Officers.

The Committee agreed at its next meeting in April they would want to be able to distil ideas into short and long term actions, working in conjunction with the 'Ideas Lab' that was agreed as part of the Council's budget in February 2020.

Lastly, Members asked Officers to check the resources available (estimated to be £300k) for the low carbon work agreed at Council in February 2020 as part of new project bids within the Programme for Growth (P4G).

RESOLVED:

- i. **That the report to the Executive on the work of the Low Carbon Working Group include identified 'quick wins' and actions that could be taken forward as soon as possible.**
- ii. **To ask the Executive to endorse the continuation of the work of the Low Carbon Working Group throughout the rest of the year, in order for longer term projects and ideas to be explored in full.**
- iii. **That the points set out in the minutes above be fed back to the Director for Economic Regeneration and Place.**
- iv. **To ask Officers to check the resources available for the low carbon project work as agreed at full Council in February 2020, as part of new project bids in the Programme for Growth (P4G).**

56 WORK PROGRAMME 2019-20 AND PLANNING FOR 2020-21

The Committee considered the work programme for the remainder of the 2019-20 municipal year but agreed that work planning for 2020-21 should be undertaken at the next meeting.

The Committee raised several points and asked that Officers provide responses to them outside of the meeting:

- Whether the Taxi Licensing Policy needs to come back to the Committee for consideration.
- Why consideration of the Animal Licensing and Alcohol Licensing policies had been delayed until June 2020.
- To make it clear to Officers that the review of the Affordable Housing Policy should be brought to the meeting of the Committee in April, as the last piece of the 'deep dive' work into housing at the Council that Members had undertaken.

Lastly, Members asked that additional date and time options be circulated to Members for the next meeting of the Low Carbon Working Group.

RESOLVED:

- i. To note the work programme for 2019-20.**
- ii. To ask Officers to respond to the points above after the meeting.**
- iii. To consider work planning for 2020-21 at the next meeting of the Committee in April 2020.**
- iv. That additional date and time options be circulated to Members for the next meeting of the Low Carbon Working Group.**

The meeting closed at 5.21 pm.