

Minutes

Policy Review Committee

Venue:	Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9FT
Date:	Tuesday, 18 October 2022
Time:	5.00 pm
Present:	Councillors C Pearson (Chair), M Jordan (Vice-Chair), K Arthur, C Richardson, R Packham, J Shaw-Wright and M McCartney
Officers present:	Alison Hartley, Solicitor to the Council (attended remotely via Teams) and Dawn Drury, Democratic Services Officer

9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

10 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

11 MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the Policy Review Committee meeting held on 12 July 2022.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Policy Review Committee meeting held on 12 July 2022 for signing by the Chairman.

12 CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

There was no Chairs address.

The Chair indicated that he would be amending the order of business to allow agenda item number 7, Monk Fryston and Hillam Community Buildings Sustainability Project to be considered first as

agenda item number 5; the rest of the business would follow as set out in the agenda.

13 MONK FRYSTON AND HILLAM COMMUNITY BUILDINGS SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

Mr Ray Newton from the Monk Fryston and Hillam Community Buildings Sustainability Project was welcomed to the meeting and gave an overview of the project, which aimed to make five community buildings across the two villages of Monk Fryston and Hillam carbon neutral.

The Committee noted that the original five community buildings included the Community Centre, the Primary School, St Wilfred's Church and Church Hall and the Cricket Club, with the Football Club as a late addition to the group.

It was explained that the project had come about through a small group of people who wished to reduce the communities carbon emissions, and who joined forces with other like-minded people and organisations within the two villages to effect change.

Members noted that external advice had been provided by the Chief Officer at Selby District Association of Voluntary Services (AVS), and the Yorkshire Energy Doctor, Kate Urwin. It was commented that their contribution had been invaluable in terms of signposting the group towards organisations who could potentially offer grant funding and in establishing baseline electricity usage data, suggesting ways in which to make the buildings more energy efficient, and investing in a thermal imaging camera.

Members heard a timeline of events for the project which had been conceived in 2019, with the Community Association and the Primary Schools Parent Teachers Association (PTA) agreeing to use sustainable materials and recycle all waste. Following this the leaders and management groups of the five community buildings had agreed to become partners in the project and a Steering Group had been formed.

Despite the pandemic, a community survey established that there was strong support for the project, and in view of this the group applied for a grant from the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) to undertake a feasibility study to assess if the aim of making the buildings carbon neutral was realistic; the application was successful.

The feasibility study clearly showed that given the dispersal of the buildings round the two villages that they could not benefit from a shared power generation system or a community heating system, therefore each building was surveyed on its individual requirements with a customised solution developed for each one.

Members heard that to date the community centre had installed roof

mounted solar panels, EcoWall insulation and an electricity storage battery, and the Primary School had replaced lights and windows and installed a new heating control system.

The Committee acknowledged that the children at Monk Fryston CE Primary School were very engaged with the environmental work, and keen to achieve the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award; this was seen as a positive step for the future.

Mr Newton informed the Committee they had been encouraged by the Council's Low Carbon Project Officer to write a press release that would publicise what the group were achieving, and this had prompted pod casts and the group being featured on a Radio York broadcast. The Group were able to share their knowledge and what was achievable with a little bit of tenacity.

Members asked questions to include, were any local businesses involved with the project, where were the simplest savings to be made, who was responsible for the governance and any grant funding monies received; and how many electricity storage batteries were in use at the Community Centre.

Mr Newton informed the Committee that as the project had started at the beginning of the pandemic, all the local businesses had been closed, and therefore none were involved with the project, and the simplest savings were made through a reduction in energy consumption. In terms of governance, the Steering Group met twice yearly, with any advice being passed to the individual organisations. Any individual funding received sat within the organisation that had applied and been granted the funds.

With regard to the Community Centre, the Committee were advised that the building had one electricity storage battery, as the electricity supply cable limited the number of batteries which could be installed. In the five months from May to September 2022 it was noted that the building had only taken 4% of electricity from the national electricity grid.

In terms of what was next for the group, Members were advised that the installation of an air source heat pump was planned for the Community Centre in 2023, and the Cricket Club were due to replace their cess pit later this year.

Mr Newton stated that Monk Fryston and Hillam Community Buildings Sustainability Group did not offer advice, as they were not suitably qualified to do so, however they did share their experience and learning with other village groups in the hope that they would not make the same mistakes made by the group in the early days of the project.

Finally, in relation to what it was felt the Council could do to enable sustainability, Mr Newton listed a number of suggested initiatives to include developing an exemplar building, supporting local community groups, signposting groups to public works loans via Parish Councils; and

demonstrate what can be achieved, then ensure that momentum is developed and maintained.

The Chairman thanked Mr Newton for attending the meeting, and for sharing the groups experiences and knowledge gained during the course of their journey.

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

The Committee had received a short update note on the work of the Low Carbon Working Group (LCWG) from the Head of Service for Business Development and Improvement prior to the meeting.

Members had a number of queries regarding the information contained within the note in relation to the role that the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Y&NYLEP) would be taking in co-ordinating on the low carbon agenda in the future, the total number of trees which had been planted in the district by Selby District Council, were solar farms included within the Climate Change Strategy; and did fuel poor homes refer to poor insulation, and if so was there a target to be met.

The Committee had noted that NYCC had secured £2m of funding through the local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme to deliver electric vehicle charge points across deeply rural parts of the county. Members queried why the funding was being used for this purpose when local bus service routes were being discontinued. It was considered that public transport was more of a necessity in rural areas.

The Solicitor to the Council was unable to provide an answer to the queries but stated that she would speak with the officers concerned and circulate the information to the Committee.

Councillor Jordan informed the Committee of the activity going on in the district around solar farms and the associated cabling required to connect to the national electricity grid via Drax Power Station.

Members agreed that they would like an additional Committee meeting adding into the calendar to discuss the low carbon agenda within the district and also to receive a presentation on the Y&NY LEP's Routemap to Carbon Negative. The Democratic Services Officer was asked to invite Chris Hailey-Norris from Selby District Association of Voluntary Service (AVS), and officers from Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council to attend.

RESOLVED:

- i. The Committee noted the update.**
- ii. To ask the Democratic Services Officer to extend an invitation to Chris Hailey-Norris from Selby District Association of Voluntary Service (AVS),**

to attend a future meeting of the Policy Review Committee.

15 UNIVERSAL CREDIT UPDATE (PR/22/2)

The Committee had received a short update published within the agenda pack, which showed that the number of recipients of Universal Credit within the Selby area, taken from the latest figures available from May 2022, stood at 3921 recipients.

Members queried why the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) managed migration of legacy benefit recipients onto Universal Credit had stopped. The Solicitor to the Council was unable to provide an answer to the query but stated that she would speak with the officers concerned and circulate the information to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

To note the update.

16 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the work programme for 2022-23.

At the last meeting of Policy Review in July 2022 Members had requested that once the Selby Local Plan consultation period had closed, that the Committee review the documentation arising from the Local Plan work. The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that, after speaking with officers, the item had been added to the Policy Review work programme in January 2023.

Members were reminded that the next date in the Committee Calendar for Policy Review Committee was Tuesday 6 December 2022 however this was being held provisionally and it was queried if the date should be removed from the calendar.

The Committee agreed that they wished to confirm the 6 December 2022 date and requested that, as had been discussed at agenda item number 5, Chris Hailey-Norris from Selby District Association of Voluntary Service (AVS) along with officers from Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council be invited to attend the meeting, to discuss the low carbon agenda within the district, and receive a presentation on the Y&NY LEP's Routemap to Carbon Negative.

Members noted the work programme.

RESOLVED:

That the committees' 2022-23 work programme be amended to reflect Members' suggestions as detailed above.

The meeting closed at 6.05 pm.
Policy Review Committee – Minutes
Tuesday, 18 October 2022