

Council

Venue: Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9FT

Date: Tuesday, 28 September 2021

Time: 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Duggan in the Chair

Councillors I Chilvers (Vice-Chair), D Mackay, K Arthur, D Buckle, J Cattanach, J Chilvers, M Crane, S Duckett, K Franks, T Grogan, A Lee, C Lunn, J Mackman, J McCartney, M McCartney, R Musgrave, R Packham, C Pearson, N Reader, C Richardson, S Shaw-Wright, R Sweeting and P Welch

Officers Present: Janet Waggott (Chief Executive), Dave Caulfield (Director of Economic Regeneration and Place), Karen Iveson (Chief Finance Officer (s151)), Alison Hartley (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), Claire Dickinson (Principal Planning Policy Officer and Palbinder Mann (Democratic Services Manager)

24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brook, E Jordan, M Jordan, J Shaw-Wright, W Nichols and M Topping.

25 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

26 MINUTES

The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2021.

A query was raised regarding whether there was an update on the Selby District Community Legacy Fund. The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development explained that a design workshop had been held in August with members and community representatives and the Two Ridings Foundation were now in the process of recruiting a local grant panel of members to review applications. Council was informed that the official

launch date for the new process was scheduled for 1 November 2021.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22 July 2021 for signing by the Chairman.

27 COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

28 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

29 PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

30 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

31 COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

One question had been submitted for consideration.

Councillor J McCartney asked the question of the Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development, which related to the current Selby Town Centre plans, including consultation with residents during the places and movement study.

The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development explained that some of the aspects that were considered when reviewing town centres included ensuring there were good public transport links, car parking, a variety of shops and clean streets.

With regard to the Places and Movement consultation, Council was informed that the consultation had cost £159k with contributions from the District Council, North Yorkshire County Council and the York and North York Local Enterprise Partnership. The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development explained that around 600 responses from residents had been received and that there would be a second phase to the consultation to consider the findings of the first phase.

Councillor J McCartney asked a supplementary question regarding the importance of speaking to residents regarding their views as they lived and therefore understood their local areas

The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development explained that during the first phase of the consultation there had been two

live briefings for the public to ask questions and there had also been a Member briefing. Council was informed that face to face consultation was not possible during the first phase due to Covid however it was hoped this would be possible during the second phase.

32 REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Councillor M Crane, Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council presented his update on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report and added that the first meeting of the Implementation Board regarding Local Government Reorganisation had taken place however the Deputy Leader of the Council had attended as he had not been able to.

Concern was raised regarding the lack of input from residents into the proposals for Local Government Reorganisation and that decisions were going to be made with little input from residents and local Members. The Leader of the Council explained that as a member of the Implementation Board, he would forward any views expressed to him by any local Members. It was explained that there were differing views from Members on the proposals however the Government had made the decision to proceed with the option of one unitary authority for the area therefore the proposals would be going ahead.

With regard to the number of members in the new authority, the Leader of the Council informed Council that it was proposed to have 90 members in the new authority and due to this number, local members would be representing larger wards than they currently were.

A further query was raised regarding the size of the new wards and that the proposals were being implemented too quickly which meant all considerations could not be taken into account. The Leader of the Council explained that the Government had agreed for elections in 2022 to avoid Members having six year terms in the new authority. It was noted that the Local Government Boundary Commission were unable to review boundaries before the implementation however would be undertaking a review once the new authority had commenced.

Councillor R Musgrave, Deputy Leader and Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping

The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping presented his update on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report.

A query was raised regarding the financial commitments to the work on low carbon as the majority of the budget already seemed to have been committed. The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that a report on the Low Carbon work would be going to the next Executive meeting in October and that further funding was available should there be effective business

cases presented.

The following additional discussion took place:

- Concern was raised regarding plastic sheeting being placed around newly planted trees and whether this was needed. The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping agreed to look into this.
- Concern around the lack of planning enforcement in an area where planning permission wasn't followed. The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that there was a backlog of work with planning enforcement however agreed to speak to the respective Member outside of the meeting regarding the issue.
- In response to a query regarding the removal of the requirement to send neighbours notification letters in respect of planning application, the Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that since the change, he had not received any complaints and that the report regarding the implications of the changes would be sent to Members as soon as possible.
- Concern was raised at the length of time it took for planning enforcement to be taken against unauthorised planning developments. The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that it was important to engage positively with planning enforcement officers if there were any issues and that they had to operate within a legal framework with regard to their powers.
- A query was raised regarding conservation areas, in particular in the Riccall ward. The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that there was a lengthy process for changing conservation areas and that he would look into the issue raised.

Councillor C Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources

The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources presented his update on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report and informed Council that quarter two finance reports would be available a month later than expected.

A query was raised regarding the budget relating to the Programme for Growth as 60% of the budget was related to staff salaries however there did not seem to be spend on project delivery. The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources explained that the Programme for Growth contained multiyear projects and outlined the amounts of spend that had been spent on project delivery and was forecasted to be spent in future years. The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources added that there was an element of spending at the commencement of projects on planning and other administration which was necessary.

Councillor D Buckle, Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development

The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development presented his update on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report and thanked all Councillors for attending the Shining Stars event which had recently taken place.

The following discussion took place:

- A query was raised regarding an update on the current situation with the sites at 43 Kirkgate and the former NatWest bank in Tadcaster. The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development explained that discussions were still taking place regarding the former NatWest bank and that the property at 43 Kirkgate was looking to be brought back into use.
- In response to a query regarding skilled jobs in the district, the Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development outlined the various businesses that had brought new skilled and well paid jobs into the district.
- In response to a query regarding the development of the Legacy Fund Grant Policy, the Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development explained that it was hoped this would be considered by the Executive at their meeting in November.
- Concern was raised regarding offensive graffiti in Selby town centre which had been there for a considerable time. The Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture stated that details of the graffiti should be sent to him to look into.
- A query was raised regarding the finances of the Transforming Cities Fund. The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development informed Council that the overall budget for the project was £23.5 with a £20m grant being provided from the Department for Transport. It was explained the other £3.5m was split between North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council.

Councillor Tim Grogan, Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture

The Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture presented his update on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report and explained that Selby had been chosen by Arts Council England as one of their 54 priority places. Additionally, the Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture thanked the Police and the Council for their work on the Section 61 notice regarding the unauthorised travellers camp in Lumby.

The following additional discussion took place:

- In response to a query concerning the £780k funding from the Arts Council, the Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture explained that the funding could be used to enhance the arts and culture across the district.
- In response to a query concerning the use of covert cameras for the prevention of fly tipping, the Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture stated that cameras were indispensable in the fight against fly tipping and that he would be looking to continue their use.
- Concern was raised that local Councillors had not been informed of the forthcoming residents festival on 16th and 17th October. The Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture stated he would look into this.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the reports of the Executive.

33 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Councillor Karl Arthur, Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor Arthur, Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee, provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in his report.

There were no questions for Councillor Arthur.

Councillor C Pearson, Chairman of the Policy Review Committee

Councillor Pearson, Chairman of the Policy Review Committee, provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in his report.

There were no questions for Councillor Pearson.

Councillor S Shaw-Wright, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Shaw-Wright, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in his report.

There were no questions for Councillor Shaw-Wright.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the reports from Committees.

34 MOTIONS

It was noted that one motion had been submitted for consideration as follows:

‘As we head towards COP26 it is disappointing to see the Selby District Council Executive watering down the Council’s commitment and ambitions to tackling climate change in the Selby District and cutting the funding available.

Whilst Central Government is still talking up their commitment to taking action on Climate Change, the Selby District Council Executive is simply walking away.

The all-party Low Carbon Working Group spent over two years developing a plan for the Selby District only to see the Executive turn their backs on it.

We urge the Executive to reconsider, to reflect the public's concerns on this important issue and to accept the all-party Group recommendations in full.'

Councillor R Packham proposed the motion and stated that the Council was now aware of its carbon footprint therefore it was important the work of the Low Carbon Working Group was taken forward. Councillor Packham also stated that if the budget of £250k allocated to low carbon work was exceeded then it was important that further requests of funding were not brought back to Council as this would result in further delays.

The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping responded to the motion and stated that the Executive had not turned their backs on the plan with their being progress on low carbon already taking place with the recruitment of a Low Carbon Officer and the calculation of the Council's carbon footprint. The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that there had been un-costed actions in the plan by the Working Group and it would be better for the Group to look at the plan again to re-consider this. The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping added that further money was available if effective business cases were presented.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was rejected.

RESOLVED:

To reject the motion.

35 CHURCH FENTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 - 2027 (CFNDP)

The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping presented the report which asked the Council to formally make the Church Fenton Neighbourhood Development Plan 2020-2027 part of the Development Plan for Selby District, following the positive outcome of the referendum held on 3 August 2021.

The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping thanked officers for their work on the plan and stated that Church Fenton should be proud of their achievement.

RESOLVED:

To agree to make the Church Fenton Neighbourhood Development Plan 2020-2027 part of the Development Plan for Selby District, following the positive outcome of the referendum held on 3 August 2021.

36 URGENT ACTION

There was no urgent action to report.

The meeting closed at 7.38 pm.