



Councillor Jim Deans – Chair of Policy Review Committee

The Policy Review Committee has met twice, on 11 September 2018 and 17 December 2018, since the previous update given to Council in September 2018.

A written update from the meeting on 17 December 2018 will not be ready in time for publication of the December Council agenda on 10 December 2018.

11 September 2018

The main items of business on the agenda for this meeting were the Gambling Policy Refresh, an update on Universal Credit, the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Committee's Work Plan for 2018-19.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources was also in attendance at the meeting.

Gambling Policy Refresh

The Committee noted that the minor changes to the policy were as follows:

- An updated population figure for Selby District at page 5 of the policy;
- A footnote relating to the stakes and prizes table at Appendix D to the policy to show they may change;
- An updated postal address for HM Revenues and Customs (a Responsible Authority) listed in the appendices of the policy; and
- An observation from the Gambling Commission to suggest that within section 12 of the policy, the Council may wish to include a requirement that Local Risk Assessments were kept on licenced premises.

The Committee acknowledged that the suggestion relating to Local Risk Assessments applied to certain types of gambling premises, and that the arrangement could prove useful for Enforcement Officers conducting visits. Members were supportive of the Gambling Commission's suggestion and agreed that it should form part of Selby District Council's Gambling Policy.

Universal Credit Update

- The Committee were pleased to note that the Department for Work and Pensions had reported on Selby District Council's transition to Universal Credit, and had stated that the Council's approach had ensured a smooth and supportive path for new Universal Credit claimants.

- Members agreed that the next update on the impact of Universal Credit should be brought to the Committee in 12 months' time.

Medium Term Financial Strategy

- The Committee debated the report and asked a number of questions of officers on a number of issues, including the impact of Brexit on the Council's finances, council tax levels and the level of financial uncertainty facing the Council in the coming years.
- Some Members expressed concern around spending on projects such as the Tour de Yorkshire and if there were measurable benefits from hosting such events.
- The Executive Member for Finance and Resources explained that the benefits of events like the Tour de Yorkshire were hard to quantify, but they did have an overarching positive effect on the local and regional economies.

Work Programme 2018-19

- The Chair took the Committee through the current work programme and explained that a number of items had been added on as a result of the meeting between the scrutiny Chairs and the Executive, held in July 2018.
- The Committee noted that PLAN Selby had been removed from the work programme as a revised timetable for consideration was being worked on; it would be added back on to the work programme when this new timetable had been established by officers.
- With reference to the 'potential items' section of the work programme, Members acknowledged that the GDPR impacts report and the Counter Fraud Strategy, Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy and Prosecution Policy were matters to be considered by the Audit and Governance Committee, and as such, should be removed from the Policy Review work programme.
- Lastly, the Chair explained that the monitoring of planning enforcement performance would be more appropriate as a matter for the Scrutiny Committee, and as a result asked Officers to discuss this with the Chair of Scrutiny, with a view to including it in the Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

The next meeting of the Policy Review Committee will be held on 15 January 2019.

Councillor J Deans
Chair, Policy Review Committee