



Policy Review Committee

**Annual Report
2017/18**

Introduction by Councillor James Deans - Chair of the Policy Review Committee



I am pleased to present the Policy Review Committee with the Annual Report for 2017/18.

The Policy Review Committee met four times in 2017/18 and considered a range of different issues, including (amongst others) Welfare Reform, Tackling Deprivation in Selby District, the Council's Budget for 2018/19, Taxi Licensing, Tree Management and Parks and Open Spaces Byelaws. Some Members of the Policy Review Committee were also appointed to serve on Licensing Committee Working Groups, alongside Licensing Committee Members, to look at Executive Hire Vehicles and the Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles Policy.

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 2018/19.

Cllr J Deans

Policy Review Committee Annual Report 2017/18

The Policy Review Committee

The Policy Review Committee membership comprised the following Members during the 2017/18 municipal year:

Conservative	Labour	Independent
J Deans (Chair)	J Shaw-Wright	Mary McCartney
M Hobson (Vice Chair)		
K Arthur		
J Cattanach		
D Hutchinson		
Substitutes	Substitutes	
E Casling	J Thurlow	
C Pearson	P Welch	
I Reynolds		

The Committee met four times during the year (June 2017, January 2018, March 2018 and April 2018).

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.

2017/18 Work Programme

During 2017/18 the Policy Review Committee reviewed and commented upon a number of topics, including:

- Welfare Reform/Universal Credit Rollout Updates
- Tackling Deprivation within Selby District
- Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan
- Executive Hire Working Group Update
- Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles Policy Review
- Private Sector Assistance Policy
- Draft Tree Management Policy
- Parks and Open Spaces Byelaws

Policy Review Committee Work Programme 2017/18

Date of Meeting	Topic	Discussion/Resolution
13 June 2017	Welfare Reform Update	<p>The report provided a review of the impact of the Welfare Reform changes in Selby District and highlighted future developments. The Committee asked a number of questions including how many tenants were in arrears, the UC application process how people in need were identified.</p> <p>The Committee noted the report and asked the Taxation, Benefits and Debt Team Leader to provide an update report to the Policy Review Committee in 12 months' time.</p>
	Policy Review Committee Work Programme 2017-18	The Committee considered the items for inclusion on the Committee Work Programme 2017/18 and agreed the revised Policy Review Work Programme.
16 January 2018	Tackling Deprivation in Selby District	<p>The Committee received a presentation on the Council's work and policies aimed at supporting residents living in areas of high deprivation, and were asked to review the effectiveness of the policies.</p> <p>Selby District had been identified as a generally prosperous area with low levels of deprivation, ranked 254 out of England's 326 Local Authorities by the Index of Multiple Deprivation. However, there were</p>

two small areas within Selby Town with comparatively high levels of deprivation; to the north of Selby Town centre near Charles Street and Flaxley Road, and near Abbots Road estate in the south of Selby Town.

The presentation provided an overview of deprivation levels in Selby District and the District's particular strengths and challenges, before emphasising the need to take a long term, whole system approach to various challenges.

The Committee discussed a number of points:

- How areas of deprivation were identified
- The links of the work on deprivation to a recent report circulated to Members on 'Children's Lives in North Yorkshire' produced by the Children's Society
- The difficulty of engaging with some residents
- Housebuilding and transport in some areas; and
- The importance of working with local schools to raise the aspirations of children from the areas identified as deprived, in order to try and break the cycle of deprivation.

The Committee noted the content of the presentation and endorsed the strategic approach to improving quality of life across the District outlined in the presentation, which focused on fostering inclusive growth to improve prospects for all of the District's residents, and supporting residents and local communities.

	<p>Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan</p>	<p>The Committee received a report setting out the Executive's draft budget proposals and were asked to provide comments.</p> <p>Members queried various aspects of the report, including funding for housing purchases, the Contact Centre move to the Civic Centre, council housing rents, renewable energy business rates and use of reserves. The Committee noted that there were still significant savings to be made by the Council and that further reductions in funding by the government were likely.</p> <p>The Committee were also of the opinion that the Better Together Programme with North Yorkshire County Council could be developed and explored further in order to share other services and potentially save additional money.</p> <p>The Committee noted the Draft Revenue Budget, Capital Programme 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan and recommended that Officers explore further the future development and scope of the Better Together programme with a view to achieving future savings.</p>
	<p>Executive Hire Working Group Update</p>	<p>The Committee received a report which asked it to note and endorse a number of changes to the application process and conditions upon the grant of discreet vehicle licences, and to agree the appointment of Policy Review Committee Members to a Working Group to look at amendments to the Licensing Policy.</p> <p>The Committee nominated and agreed the Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor Mrs J Shaw-Wright as appointments to the Working Group.</p>

		<p>The Committee noted and endorsed the changes to the application process, and agreed the Policy Review Committee's appointments to the Working Group that would meet in the coming weeks to agree the necessary amendments to the Taxi Licensing Policy for Executive approval.</p>
	<p>Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles Policy Review</p>	<p>The Committee received a report and were asked to nominate members to serve on a Working Group to consider the review of the Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles Policy. The Working Group would also include Members of the Licensing Committee.</p> <p>The Committee discussed and agreed the membership of the Working Group and nominated the Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor Mrs J Shaw-Wright.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to the formation of a Working Group and the Committee's appointments to the Working Group.</p>
	<p>Private Sector Assistance Policy</p>	<p>The Committee were asked to note the contents of the report and comment on the policy.</p> <p>The Committee asked Officers about the policy, specifically about the expected budget for discretionary disabled facilities grants and emergency repairs.</p> <p>Members were pleased to note that assistance had already been offered over the Christmas period to a vulnerable resident who required emergency repairs to a household boiler.</p> <p>The Committee noted the contents of the report.</p>

	<p>Policy Review Committee Work programme 2017-18 and Planning for 2018-19</p>	<p>The Committee considered the work plan for the rest of the 2017/18 year, and the draft work plan for 2018/19.</p> <p>The Committee's Annual Reports for 2017/18 and 2018/19 were added to the work programme, and Members were advised that consideration the Tree Management Policy would be at the provisional meeting in March 2018.</p> <p>The Chair also asked Members to think about topics they would like to look at in 2018/19, and send any suggestions to the Chair and the Democratic Services Officer.</p> <p>The Committee included the Annual Report on both the 2017/18 and 2018/19 Work Programmes, agreed to consider the Tree Management Policy at the provisional meeting of the Committee on 13 March 2018, noted the Committee's Work Programme for the remainder of the 2017/18 year and the 2018/19 year, and agreed to suggest topics for the 2018/19 Work Programme to the Chair and Democratic Services Officer.</p>
<p>13 March 2018</p>	<p>Draft Tree Management Policy</p>	<p>The Committee discussed a range of issues across the Draft Tree Management Policy including:</p> <p>The Council's statutory responsibility for the management and maintenance of trees on Council owned land, trees the Council or Parish Councils were responsible for, maintenance of the trees on Hambleton Hough, the Council's responsibilities if a site was jointly owned by the Council and the Local Health Authority, the matter of privately owned trees affecting Council property, responsibility for naturally occurring tree behaviour like blossom or leaf fall, access to funds and projects, such as community orchards, to increase the</p>

		<p>number of trees in the District and the disposal of green waste resulting from tree felling or trimming was discussed by the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee noted the content of the report and welcomed the introduction of the Tree Management Policy as it a) gave clarity and consistency to the Council's responsibilities, b) identified clearly the Council's legal responsibilities for trees in its ownership and c) ensured that the Council's resources were directed effectively.</p>
17 April 2018	Review of Parks and Open Spaces Byelaws	Details of the discussion on this item will be added to the Annual Report 2017/18 after the meeting.
	The Council's approach to supporting residents and tenants to claim and manage their Universal Credit entitlement	As above.

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