

Contact Officer: Steve Copley

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday 7th March 2016

Present: Councillor Carole Pattison (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor David Hall
Councillor Robert Light
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Marielle O'Neill
Councillor Sheikh Ullah

Apologies: Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Andrew Palfreeman
Councillor Nicola Turner

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence noted on behalf of Cllrs Eric Firth, Naheed Mather, Andrew Palfreeman and Nicola Turner.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Policy Committee meeting on 15 February 2016 were approved

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

The meeting was held in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were submitted.

7 Member Question Time

No questions were submitted.

8 Policy Committee - Programme of Work for 2015/2016

Following on from the Policy Committee on 15 February 2016, Members considered a report which summarised the stage reached with the work of the informal task and finish groups. These groups are considering the following topics:-

- (i). Equality and diversity (See item 9 below)
- (ii). Working with schools and their roles as hubs in the local communities
- (iii). Passive housing
- (iv). Sustainable communities

Cllrs Pattison and Cooper also provided verbal updates on the progress made in the most recent meetings of the task and finish groups on (ii) and (iii) above, and explained that the work on some draft policy statements should be ready by the end of March 2016, and available for discussion at the next Policy Committee meeting in April 2016.

Members of the Policy Committee went on to discuss cancelling the Policy Committee meetings on 4 and 25 April 2016, and replacing these with one new meeting in mid-April 2016, to allow members to consider the work on these draft policy statements and then prepare formal reports to present to Cabinet and/or Council in the new municipal year.

RESOLVED - Members of the Policy Committee agreed

(1) The progress report be received and noted

(2) Plans to hold Policy Committee meetings on 4 and 25 April 2016 be cancelled, and replaced with a new date for one meeting in mid-April 2016 (The Governance Team will consult members of the Committee about the date for the new meeting)

9 Equality and Diversity in Kirklees

Cllr Marielle O'Neill and David Bundy, Corporate Policy Officer, presented a formal report to seek the approval of the Policy Committee to the work undertaken to prepare a new "Inclusion and diversity policy statement for 2016/17", along with a recommendation that a decision on the adoption of the policy statement be referred to the Cabinet meeting (8 March) and the Council meeting (23 March 2016)

Members of the Committee discussed the work on the draft policy statement to-date, and agreed to:-

- Offer their support for the report and its recommendations to be referred to Cabinet, followed by Council

- Ask officers to consider how a decision on the policy statement will be applied, promoted and translated in to an implementation plan and strategy for the council in 2016/17

- Ask officers to consider how the progress with this work will be monitored in 2016/17, and shared with members

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Arising from today's discussion, officers also agreed to follow up on a question from Cllr Robert Light and provide more information for members of the committee on the make-up of the council's workforce in 2015/16, how this has changed in recent years and how this may change in light of the move towards New Council.

RESOLVED - Members of the Policy Committee agreed:-

(1) To support the work on the "Inclusion and diversity statement for 2016/17" and refer consideration of the item to Cabinet (8 March) and Council (23 March) for approval and adoption by the council.

(2) To ask officers to provide additional information direct to members of the committee about the make up of the council's workforce in 2015/16.