

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee

20th April 2023

Held at 5.15pm in Town Council Offices, Kingsway Court, Bishop Auckland

In attendance: Cllr K Lawson (Chair), Cllr M Siddle, Cllr M Harker and Cllr J Blackburn.

Also In attendance: Mrs Sarah Harris, Town Clerk and Assistant Clerk Vicki Booth.

SP001/22 Apologies for absence - apologies were received and noted from Cllr S Zair as he was unwell.

Resolved: That the Members noted and accepted the apologies.

SP002/22 - Declaration of Interests –No declarations were made.

SP003/22 Review of Committee Structure and Terms of Reference – the clerk presented the report (see file copy) regarding current committee structures, and the call by the Council to look to rationalise the number of committees whilst also ensuring that the Council business was appropriately undertaken.

Resolved: that the Members agreed to recommend to full council that the current committee structure having been reviewed isn't fit for purpose, and therefore they recommend adoption of a leaner process which focus on Policy and resources committee to look at finance, policy, and resources (human and physical), Community - to address events and community liaison, and engagement, Allotments to manage and monitor the council allotment service, with separate Appeals and General appeals panels for when the need arises.

SP004/22 Review of Standing orders and financial regulations - the Standing Orders and Financial regulations need to be reviewed annually. These are based upon the model standing orders and regulations from NALC. NALC are reviewing the financial regulations but the update won't be ready until after the Annual meeting. Any changes to committees would need to be updated in the standing orders too.

Resolved: that the members wished for the Clerk to update the standing orders ready to present to full Council at the annual meeting, based upon the proposed amendments to the committee structure. That they would be recommending to full council to review the finance regulations once the NALC update has been completed.

SP005/22 Public Participation – no members of the public were in attendance.