

## POLICY COMMITTEE (On-line)

19 January 2021

**Present** – The Chairman, Councillor Foster and Councillors Barrett, Handley (substitute for Welch), Heseltine, Ireton, Lis, Madeley, Metcalfe, Morrell, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Place, Rose and Wheeler.

**Officers** – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer), Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Business Services Manager, Communications, Customer Services and Partnerships Manager, Communications Officer, Senior Democratic Services Officer and Democratic Services Manager.

**Apologies for Absence** – An apology for absence was received from Councillor Welch.

**Confirmation of Minutes** – The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 1 December 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

### Exclusion of the Public -

**Resolved** – That, in accordance with the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public is excluded for the purposes of Minute \$POL.1115 below (marked \$) on the grounds that it is not in the public interest to disclose the Category 3 exempt information (relates to the financial or business affairs of any particular person).

**Start:** 6.32pm

**Finish:** 7.45pm

### Minutes for Report

POL.1110

#### COLLECTION FUND COUNCIL TAX SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) 2020/21

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report declaring an estimated deficit of £1,266,522 on the Council's collection fund in respect of council tax for the financial year ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

There was a statutory requirement to declare an estimate of the surplus or deficit likely to occur. The calculated deficit would be shared between the precepting authorities as follows:

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| • North Yorkshire County Council                | (£90,022.09) |
| • North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner | (£17,547.26) |
| • North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service       | (£ 4,799.30) |
| • Craven District Council                       | (£15,900.32) |

Craven District Council was required to take the £15,900 into account when setting its element of the council tax for 2019/20. However, due to the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic any deficits could be spread over the next three financial years in order to reduce the impact on any individual year. As a result of the spreading, the estimated closing cumulative deficit was £128,269.

**Resolved** – (1) That, an estimated deficit of £1,266,522 on the Council's collection fund at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 relating to council tax transactions is declared.

(2) That, it is noted that the estimated deficit declared for 2020/21 is eligible for spreading over the next three financial years

(3) That, as part of the budget strategy, the Council's element of the estimated deficit and subsequent spreading thereof, is used in calculating the level of Council for 2021/22.

POL.1111

**COLLECTION FUND NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES  
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) 2020/21**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report declaring an estimated deficit of £9,232,490 on the Council's collection fund at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 relating to national non domestic rates (NNDR) transactions.

Under the rates retention scheme, local authorities were allowed to keep a proportion of the business rates collected, giving authorities a direct financial interest and therefore an incentive to work with businesses to grow local economies.

Any surplus or deficits had to be shared in prescribed proportions and based on estimated deficit, the amount that had to be distributed between the precepting authorities was as follows:

- North Yorkshire County Council (£ 4,336)
- Central Government (£24,091)
- North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (£ 482)
- Craven District Council (£19,273)

Members were advised that Craven District Council had to take the £19,273 into account when it set its element of the council tax for 2020/21. However, due to the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic, any deficits could be spread over the next three years to reduce the impact on any individual year. The deficit spreading could only be applied to deficits that were not as a result of the additional grants awarded due to the reaction of Coronavirus. The overall adjusted deficit was £144,546 which could be spread over the next three years as it related to an assumed adjustment in non-collection allowance for the Collection Fund.

**Resolved** – (1) That, an estimated deficit of £9,232,490 on the Council's collection fund at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 relating to NNDR transactions is declared.

(2) That, as part of the budget strategy the Council's element of the estimated deficit, is used in calculating the level of Council Tax for 2021/22.

POL.1112

**SUPPORT FOR FRIENDS OF THE SETTLE CARLISLE LINE  
TO BECOME A COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP**

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Members to formally support the application of the Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line to become a Community Rail Partnership. Community rail was a Government supported programme that enabled community involvement in the planning and delivery of local rail services. Becoming a Community Rail Partnership opened up access to further funding and support as well as formal recognition as a consultative body for the planning and delivery of rail services.

Users of the Bentham line were currently represented by the successful Leeds-Morecambe Community Rail Partnership but despite a large and active membership, FoSCL was not formally recognised as a Community Rail Partnership and they had asked if the Council would support their application.

**Resolved** – (1) That, the intention of the Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line to apply to become members of community rail and be formally recognised as a community rail partnership is noted.

(2) That, this Council supports Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line to become a community rail partnership.

POL.1113

**REVIEW OF OPERATION OF WARD MEMBER GRANTS  
SCHEME 2018-2021**

The Chief Executive submitted a report presenting a review of the ward member grant scheme that had been launched in 2016/17 and revised in 2017/18. Funding for the continuation of the scheme was also requested.

The Council had a long standing commitment to empowering people and organisations to help their communities and ward member grants allowed every District Councillor to respond to local needs by recommending the allocation of small amounts of money, up to a maximum of £1000, to support projects or activities that benefitted the local communities they represented.

As part of the annual audit plan for 2017/18 an audit (as shown in appendix A), was undertaken reviewing key controls on 20 randomly selected projects. The subsequent audit recommendations were adopted and implemented effective from the 2018/19 financial year.

The Chief Executive's report highlighted the grant distribution and the projects the money had been used to support.

During the ensuing debate, Members commented on the value they placed on the scheme and the opportunity it gave them to make a real difference to projects in their ward and, it was

**Resolved** – (1) That, the report is noted.

(2) That, an annual budget of £30,000 for the scheme (£1,000 per Councillor) funded by £30,000 from the revenue budget is approved.

POL.1114

**CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR FORMER  
COUNCIL DEPOT SITE, LANGCLIFFE QUARRY, SETTLE**

The Chief Executive submitted a report presenting an updated Conservation Management Plan for the Council owned depot/workshop site at Langcliffe Quarry required by way of a Section 106 Agreement in order to obtain full planning approval for the proposed redevelopment to create a rural enterprise centre.

The proposal for the vacant former Council depot, derelict buildings and no longer needed quarry was to build a low density and low level development of commercial units together with the refurbishment into offices of the stone buildings closest to the iconic and Scheduled Ancient Monument the Hoffman Kiln.

A Conservation Management Plan had been produced in 2007 and an updated plan had been prepared as attached to the report now submitted. The revised plan took into account the proposed redevelopment of part of the site into a rural enterprise centre. The plan would last for 30 years and be reviewed every 5 years, in accordance with the terms of the Section 106 Agreement attached to the report at Appendix B. The Council was obliged to maintain a Conservation Management Plan for the extent of the Scheduled Monument area within its ownership, irrespective of the sites use because of the significant importance of the site as a heritage and ecological asset.

The Council had worked very closely with the Yorkshire Dales National Park officers to develop the brief for, and the development of, the Conservation Management Plan now presented to Members.

The development proposals had received positive feedback from a consultation event in October 2019 at Settle Victoria Hall and several local businesses had expressed a keen interest. The Yorkshire Dales National Park had considered and supported a planning application and provided delegated authority to officers to finally determine the application once all conditions had been satisfied.

Members had already approved an open tender route for construction companies to undertake the proposed redevelopment and the invitation to tender was currently live with an imminent closing date.

**Resolved** – (1) That, the updated Conservation Management Plan, attached at Appendix A to the report now submitted, secured by way of a S.106 planning obligation, the draft as attached at Appendix B to the report now submitted, is approved.

(2) That, the Chief Executive is authorised to instruct Council Officers to set up a Conservation Management Plan Liaison Steering Group to guide the implementation of the action plan attached at Appendix A to the report now submitted.

(3) That, the Conservation Management Plan Liaison Steering Group is instructed to produce an annual report providing an update on the progress of the Conservation Management Plan implementation together with a proposed work programme for the following 12 months' period.

(4) That, the Chief Executive is authorised to instruct Council Officers to undertake a five yearly review of the Conservation Management Plan actions to consider whether an update is required to the action plan, in accordance with the requirements set out in the draft S.106 as attached at Appendix B to the report now submitted.

### **Minutes for Decision**

\$POL. 1115

### **LOCAL GROWTH DEAL UPDATE: HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS – ENGINE SHED LANE LINK ROAD**

(A separate excluded full minute has been prepared for this item. It is published (on pink paper) in an Appendix to Committee Members, relevant officers and others who are entitled to all details.)

**Date and Time of Next Meeting** – Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 6.30pm.

Chairman