

POLICY COMMITTEE

22 June 2021

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

Officers – Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer), Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Cultural Services Manager, Chief Information Officer and Head of Assets and Commercial Services, Interim Spatial Planning Manager, Environmental Services Manager, Planning Officer, Senior Democratic Services Officer and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer.

Apologies for Absence and Substitutes – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Heseltine and Wheeler. Councillor Shuttleworth attended as substitute for Councillor Heseltine.

Confirmation of Minutes –

Resolved – The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 30 March 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

Chief Finance Officer – The Chairman drew Members' attention to the fact that Richard Weigh, Chief Finance Officer was leaving the Council to take up a position with Wrexham Borough Council. The Chairman and Members thanked him for all his hard work at Craven and wished him well in his new role.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

That, in accordance with the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public is excluded from the meeting during consideration of Minute POL.1140 marked\$) below on the grounds that it is not in the public interest to disclose the Category 3 exempt information (financial or business affairs of any particular person including the Council).

Public Participation –

There was no public participation.

Declarations of Interest –

There were no declarations of interest.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 8.21pm

Councillor Myers arrived at 6.32pm.

Minutes for Report

POL.1132

SELECT COMMITTEE REVIEW OF BUILDING CONTROL

The Select Committee presented their review of the Council's Building Control Service. The review considered the key roles of the services, staffing levels and the role of the North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership.

Resolved – That the review of the Building Control Services is accepted and that the recommendation within that review, that the service continues to be operated in-house, is approved.

POL.1133

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE
OMBUDSMAN: PUBLIC INTEREST REPORT

The Chief Information Officer submitted a report presenting a Public Interest Report issued by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman ('the Ombudsman') following an investigation into complaints numbered 20 001 522 and 20 001 603 which related to a discretionary grants scheme. Members were asked to consider whether to accept the Public Interest Report as set out in Paragraph 3.2 of the report now submitted.

The Ombudsman's investigation upheld two complaints regarding discretionary awards and found that there had been fault on the part of the Council and this had caused injustice to the complainants. The Ombudsman also made a number of recommendations to remedy the injustice which were set out in the Chief Information Officer's report.

Resolved – That, we reluctantly accept the Ombudsman's findings as set out in the Public Interest Report and will ask Select Committee to carry out a 'lessons learnt' exercise but we do not consider that the fault justifies an apology or payment of £500.

POL.1134

DEFRA CONSULTATION ON CONSISTENCY IN
HOUSEHOLD AND BUSINESS RECYCLING

The Director of Services submitted a report presenting the proposed Craven District Council response to the DEFRA consultation on consistency in household and business recycling. The Government's ambition, as set out in its 2018 strategy was for higher recycling rates, increased resource efficiency and a more circular economy. The Environment Bill 2020 includes for the creation of a new governance framework for the environment and a new direction for resources and waste management.

The DEFRA consultation sought to gather views on the detail of the powers in the Bill and how they should be used and implemented.

Resolved – (1) That, the draft consultation response as set out in the report now submitted is approved.

(2) That, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services, in consultation with the Lead Member, to make any final amendments and submit the consultation response.

POL.1135

TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND (SKIPTON) –
CONSULTATION FEEDBACK AND SCHEME
DEVELOPMENT

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report updating Members on the development of the Transforming Cities Fund scheme in Skipton. In particular, the delivery arrangements for the scheme; feedback on the recent public consultation exercise; and proposals for the creation of a new pedestrian route through Aireville Park.

The proposals for Skipton included four components:

1. Improvements to the Skipton Railway Station frontage including the car park and public realm.
2. Broughton Road Active Travel Corridor - provision of improved pedestrian and cycle connectivity from the railway station towards the town centre.
3. Improvements to the public right of way along the north side of the Canal from Gawflatt Bridge to the Auction Mart with a new connection into Aireville Park.
4. Black Walk, Carleton Street and Gas Street improvements to the route providing connectivity between the railway and bus station including Gallows Bridge,

Resolved – (1) That, the feedback from the consultation exercise as detailed in Section 5 of the report now submitted is accepted and the continued involvement of the District Council

in the development of the Skipton Gateway Transforming Cities Fund scheme is endorsed.

(2) That, a request is made, via North Yorkshire County Council, that the TCF Project Board and Skipton Project Team review and, where appropriate, through the preliminary and detailed design, address the opportunities and concerns raised during public consultation exercise to better serve all users of the proposed infrastructure and, that a further seminar is held with District Councillors during the design phase.

(3) That, the implementation of a pedestrian footpath on District Council land from the public right of way to the north of the Leeds Liverpool Canal towards Craven Leisure is agreed.

(3) That, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Enterprising Craven and the Solicitor to the Council, to confirm the final alignment of the route within the corridor detailed at Appendix B to the report now submitted and enter into all agreements required to facilitate its construction and operation.

POL.1136

PRIMARY AUTHORITY SCHEME

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking approval for the Environmental Health Food Safety Service to participate in the Primary Authority Scheme which was a statutory scheme allowing eligible businesses to form a legally recognised partnership with a single local authority in relation to regulatory compliance. The scheme applied to specified regulatory functions within environmental health, licensing trading standards and fire safety.

Resolved – (1) That, the Craven District Council's participation in the Primary Authority Scheme for the category of 'Food Hygiene and Standards' is approved.

(2) That, the Primary Authority charges of an initial set up fee of £367 and a fee per hour of £59 is approved.

POL.1137

COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND AND LEVELLING UP FUND APPLICATIONS

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report seeking approval for the Council to be actively involved in the delivery of four projects that are seeking funding through the Community Renewal Fund and also to act as Accountable Body for a project seeking funding through the Levelling Up Fund.

The Community Renewal Fund was a short term fund providing local authorities the opportunity to access up to £3m and applications had to be made via a county council. Applications for the much larger Levelling Up Fund aimed to support areas with specific capital projects and could be made direct by district councils, except for transport schemes.

The Levelling Up Fund was based on parliamentary constituencies and each district could only have one successful bid per MP and that MP could only give support to one bid.

With that in mind, and the fact that Craven and Harrogate had been placed in the lowest category it had been agreed that to give the best opportunity of success, Craven and Harrogate would work together as they formed the Skipton and Ripon Parliamentary Constituency with one MP.

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration's report highlighted the proposals and schemes to be included in the two funding applications.

Resolved – (1) That, it is agreed that the Council is actively involved in, and supports the delivery of four Community Renewal Fund projects: Towards a Zero Carbon Visitor Economy; 21st Century Towns – Connecting Skipton Triangle; North Yorkshire Natural Capital Work Programme and Green Futures: Energy – Craven Industrial Estates.

(2) That, the submission of an application, in partnership with Harrogate Borough Council, to the Levelling Up Fund is endorsed and that the Council acts as the Accountable Body is approved.

(3) That, subject to the application to the Levelling Up Fund being successful, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, to enter into Government precedent legal documents, including the funding agreement.

(4) That, subject to the application to the Levelling Up Fund being successful, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, to enter into a funding agreement with Harrogate Borough Council, including other legal documentation that may be required.

(5) That, the development of the Skipton Canal Basin element of the Levelling Up Fund is progressed with detailed designs, costing and delivery plans to be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

POL.1138

SKIPTON TOWN HALL FLAG FLYING POLICY

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report presenting a flag flying policy for Skipton Town Hall, its aim to clearly define when and how flags would be flown on Skipton Town Hall throughout the year.

Resolved – (1) That, the implementation of the policy as appended to the report now submitted is approved.

(2) That, delegated authority is given to the Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Lead Member for Enterprising Craven to agree requests to fly any other flags on Skipton Town Hall.

POL.1139

APPOINTMENTS TO SUB-COMMITTEE AND PANELS

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer submitted a report asking Members to consider the appointment of Members to the Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committee and the Craven Employees' Consultative Group.

Resolved – (1) That the Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committee is re-appointed for 2021/22, with a membership of seven and three named substitutes, comprising the Deputy Leader of the Council Councillor Myers and Councillors Brockbank, Pringle, Rose, Shuttleworth, Staveley and Sutcliffe. Substitutes: Councillors Madeley, Mulligan, Solloway.

(2) That the Craven Employees' Consultative Group is re-appointed for 2021/22, with a membership of five, comprising the Leader of the Council Councillor Foster and Councillors, Brown, Madeley, Myers and Solloway.

Minute not for Publication

\$POL.1140

COMMERCIAL LETTING SUPPORT PACKAGE

[A separate minute has been prepared for this item for those persons entitled to have the information]

Minutes for Decision

POL.1141

**ADOPTION OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report presenting the final version of the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and other required documents following two six week periods of consultation with the public and stakeholders during 2020 and 2021.

The adopted Local Plan committed the Council to preparing a SPD on affordable housing which added further details to the policies in the development plan to provide further guidance for the development on specific sites, or on particular issues such as design. This SPD would contribute to the Council's priority to create sustainable communities across Craven.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document as set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted, is adopted.

(2) That, the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document: Adoption Statement as set out in Appendix B to the report now submitted, is approved.

(3) That, the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document: Final Consultation Statement as set out in Appendix C to the report now submitted, is approved.

(4) That, the screening reports for the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment on the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document as set out in Appendix D to the report now submitted, is approved.

(5) That, delegated authority is given to the Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration to publish the above mentioned documents on the Council's website and inform those people and organisations who asked to be notified of the adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document.

POL.1142

CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR CRAVEN

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report presented for approval a five-year Cultural Strategy for Craven, to be delivered with cross-sector partners following the opening of Skipton Town Hall as a cultural hub for the District.

Consultation about strategic cultural development and priorities had been carried out with sector colleagues, contributing partners and through a workshop and as the physical hub venue had been completed the next step was to deliver on those strategic priorities for the benefit of the community, the economy and visitors to the area.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the Cultural Strategy for Craven 2021-2022 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report now submitted is adopted.

(2) That, delegated authority is given to the Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration for the development and delivery of the Action Plan.

Any other items – There were no late items of business to consider.

Date and Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday, 27 July 2021 at 6.30pm.

