

## AGENDA ITEM 6

### COUNCIL MEETING

26 April 2022

**Present** – The Chairman (Councillor Sutcliffe) and Councillors Brockbank, Brown, Handley, Heseltine, Hull, Ireton, Jaquin, Lis, Madeley, Metcalfe, Moorby, Myers, Noland, Ogden, Place, Pighills, Pringle, Rose, Shuttleworth, Solloway, Staveley, Wheeler and Whitaker.

**Officers** – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer, Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Solicitor to the Council and Deputy Monitoring Officer, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager.

Start: 6.40pm

Finish: 7.10pm

**Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrett, Foster, Mercer, Morrell and Mulligan

**Minutes** – Councillor Brockbank asked that it be noted under CL.1249 that Councillor Foster confirmed he would make further enquiries into the reduction of bus services from Bentham to Lancaster.

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 February 2022 were confirmed as a correct record following inclusion of the wording above to CL.1249.

**Public Participation** – There were no members of the public in attendance.

**Declarations of Interest** – There were no Declarations of Interest

CL.1257

#### CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A list of engagements attended by the Chair was included within the agenda pack. Covid continues to impact on the number of events taking place.

CL.1258

#### CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2022/23

**Resolved** – That the Calendar of Meetings 2022/23 is approved.

CL.1259

#### MOTION ON NOTICE

A Notice of Motion was submitted under Council Procedure Rule 12 proposed by Councillor Solloway and signed by all Group Leaders. The Motion was unanimously supported.

**Resolved** – That all Councillors support the following Motion:

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This Council is well aware of the recent trend to only consider cases at Skipton Law Courts, where Guilty pleas are made. This creates great concerns for local justice. It does not serve our local communities well, if cases where defendants plead Not Guilty, are now having to be heard at Magistrates' Courts as far away as Harrogate, York or even Scarborough.

This has huge implications for all Craven residents, including vulnerable people, who now have to travel great distances for their cases to be heard. This also has a detrimental effect on local justice, given that witnesses, solicitors etc will also have the same travel and cost issues.

Craven District Council condemns this policy and places on record its firm belief that local justice needs to be delivered locally and that Skipton Law Courts must firmly remain a fully functioning part of the Justice system.

**For the Motion:** Councillors Brockbank, Brown, Handley, Heseltine, Hull, Ireton, Jaquin, Lis, Madeley, Metcalfe, Moorby, Myers, Noland, Ogden, Place, Pighills, Pringle, Rose, Shuttleworth, Solloway, Staveley, Sutcliffe, Wheeler and Whitaker (24)

**Against the Motion:** None

**Abstain:** None

CL.1260                    **STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Myers, Deputy Leader wished all Members good luck in the upcoming election.

CL.1261                    **STATEMENT FROM LEAD MEMBERS, CHAIRMEN OF  
COMMITTEES AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES  
ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

No statements were made.

CL.1262                    **GENERAL QUESTION / STATEMENT TIME**

Councillor Brown asked for an update on the measures taken by the Council to support people in this area helping refugees, and will the Council support the district becoming an Area of Sanctuary?

Councillor Myers explained that since December 2021, an Afghan family of 12 has resettled in Skipton and the father has successfully gained fulltime employment. They are being supported by the Council and Craven Refugee Support Network. A further property in Skipton is currently being prepared for another Afghan family. The Ukraine resettlement programme is managed by Central Government so the Council is limited in how it can support the scheme. Its main role is to carry out joint visits to properties with NYCC to assess suitability. NYCC is leading on support for the refugees and

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potential hosts. Although in its early stages, the resettlement schemes are running smoothly, and a report is being presented to June's Policy Committee about the Craven district becoming an Area of Sanctuary. Councillor Rose welcomed this and hoped it would remain a place of sanctuary long after the move to the new authority. Councillor Brown stressed that although there is an efficient Ukrainian refugee matching process, it is proving to be very difficult for families to be granted the relevant paperwork that enables them to travel to the UK.

Councillor Moorby asked if Members would consider allocating £100 from their Ward Member grants towards a digital piano for Skipton Town Hall to be used as a community resource for all Craven residents. The Chief Executive explained that there may be some funding available for this and an update will be provided to Policy Committee.

CL.1263

### **ANY OTHER ITEMS**

There were no other items of business to consider.

CL.1264

### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 24 May 2022 at 6.30pm.

Chairman