

POLICY COMMITTEE

5th April 2022

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

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer), Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Finance Manager, Cultural Services Manager, Exchequer and Performance Manager and Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apology for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrett, Heseltine, Madeley, Morrell and Ogden.

Confirmation of Minutes – The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 1st February 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7.42pm

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Place back to Committee following his recent illness.

Minutes for Report

POL.1175

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 3 2021/2022

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report advising Members of the revenue budget position of the Council based on the quarter 3 review of income and expenditure to the end of December 2021.

The Council's financial position continued to be affected by the impacts of the pandemic and some of the major income streams such as car parking and leisure were significantly affected in the last financial year. However, income streams appeared to be recovering, albeit slowly by quarter three and close monitoring would continue throughout the year.

Performance against service budgets was a forecasted overspend of £173k for the full financial year prior to the consideration of a number of mitigation measures. The report set out a summary of costs by each service area and the position with regard to the income and savings plan.

The Council continued to hold a general fund unallocated balance of £995k but the implications of local government reorganisation in North Yorkshire would also need to be carefully considered for 2022/23.

Resolved – (1) That, the revenue budget monitoring position as at 31st December 2021 is noted.

(2) That, the latest savings position as outlined in Appendix B to the report now submitted is noted.

POL.1176

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT - QUARTER 3 2021/2022

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report informing Members of the Council's capital programme position of the Council based on the quarter three review of income and expenditure to the end of December 2021.

Further to the Council agreeing a 2021/22 capital programme of £2,230, a further £9,380k of carry forward from the 2020/21 programme as well as recognising the Langcliffe Quarry development, giving a revised programme of £13,362k.

The Chief Finance Officer's report set out the planned capital programme performance at quarter three, the forecasted outturn and the available capital resources available and utilised. The current estimate of slippage was around £2.1m but that figure would be confirmed in the quarter four report.

Resolved - (1) That, capital budget position of the 2021/22 capital programme as at 31st December 2021 is noted.

(2) That, the 2021/22 capital programme and the proposed funding for the projects agreed at quarter 3 are noted.

POL.1177

PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 3
2021/2022

The Chief Finance Officer presented performance highlighted for quarter three of the financial year 2021/22 in accordance with arrangements set out in the Council's performance management framework.

The majority of Council Plan actions were progressing as planned although five actions were not on track and rated as 'amber', these were:

- High speed broadband
- Fly tipping
- Risk management
- Recycling rates
- Waste education programme

Resolved – That, the performance highlights described in the report now submitted, are noted.

POL.1178

CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROGRESS UPDATE

The Chief Executive put before Committee, a report presenting an annual update on the Council's Climate Emergency Strategic Plan. The report provided details progress against 29 actions taken by the Council and its partners that was agreed in March 2020 following the Council's declaration in 2019 of a climate emergency.

Despite the unexpected challenges posed by the pandemic and LGR there had been good progress in some areas. Improvements in energy generation and efficiency were well under way across the Council's estate; tree planting had increased; and the Council along with its partners were close to completing a wide reaching public electric vehicle charging network.

However, those additional challenges had impacted on the ability to achieve what was already an ambitious set of goals, and many actions within the plan were not currently on track to realise carbon neutrality for the District by 2030. Changes in national and regional policy, legislation and funding would be required to achieve all of the Council's carbon neutral goals.

Resolved – (1) That, the progress described in the report now submitted is noted.

(2) That, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive to make any final changes to the content and presentation of the Climate Emergency Strategic Plan based on the update now submitted.

POL.1179

SKIPTON TOWN HALL NATIONAL PORTFOLIO
ORGANISATION STATUS

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report informing Members about the Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding programme. The national portfolio was a group of organisations that received regular funding from Arts Council England and in return provided a backbone of creative and cultural provision across the country to realise their new strategy, Let's Create.

The next period of investment would commence on the 1st April 2023 and Members were asked to support a Skipton Town Hall Collective application to Arts Council England's National Portfolio. The Strategic Manager's report set out the application process and outlined the proposed bid. The bid involved Skipton Town Hall taking the lead and working in partnership with three other cultural organisations in Craven: The Folly Museum; Skipton Camerata and Craven Arts.

The collective would aim to deliver two of the three Let's Create strategic outcomes 'creative people' and 'cultural communities' which dovetailed with Craven's cultural strategy outcomes.

Resolved – (1) That, permission is granted for the Cultural Services Manager to submit an application to the NPO programme by the funding deadline of 18th May 2022.

(2) That, permission is granted for the Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration and the Cultural Services Manager to enter into the NPO negotiation process, should the application be successful and work with the legal department to enter into a funding agreement thereafter (as detailed in Section 5.2 of the report now submitted).

(3) That, permission is granted for the Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration and the Cultural Services Manager to establish an independent oversight board for the NPO, should the bid be successful (as set out in Sections 3.5 and 3.6 of the report now submitted) which then reports to Members on a quarterly basis.

Any Other Business

POL. 1180

HOMES FOR UKRAINE SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

Because of the urgency of the situation in the Ukraine and the need to engage in the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme as quickly as possible, the Chairman was satisfied that the report as now submitted by the Director of Services, should be considered as a matter of urgency.

Members were asked to agree to Craven District Council engaged in the Government's Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, working in partnership with North Yorkshire County, District and Borough Councils.

The Government had launched the scheme whereby households and organisations in the UK could offer to sponsor and host evacuee guests from the war in Ukraine. Offers had to be made through a Government online portal with the Home Office undertaking initial vetting of sponsors and guests before deciding whether to accept the sponsorship offer and issue a visa to the guests.

Rather than by invitation, the scheme assumed that all local authorities would participate and enter into an agreement with the Home Office. Initial guidance included the roles expected of local authorities, including checking accommodation was suitable, DBS checks on sponsors, distributing financial payments and importantly ensuring the provision of wrap round services to support evacuees.

Resolved – (1) That, approval is given for the Council to engage in the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in partnership with North Yorkshire county, district and borough council, within Government issued guidance.

(2) That, the Director of Services is given delegated authority to enter into any necessary agreements to engage in the scheme and accept any relevant funding from the Government, in consultation with the Leader of the Council or relevant Lead Member.

Date and Time of Next Meeting – to be agreed by Council on 26th April 2022.

Chairman