

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

4<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Present** – The Chairman, Councillor Foster and Councillors Brockbank, Moorby, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Ogden, Pighills (substitute for Councillor Heseltine), Rose, Solloway (substitute for Councillor Barrett) and Wheeler.

**Also in Attendance** – Councillor Staveley, Chairman of Select Committee)

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

**Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrett, Heseltine, Metcalfe, Morrell and Place.

**Confirmation of Minutes** – The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **Public Participation –**

There was no public participation.

### **Declarations of Interest –**

Councillors Brockbank, Moorby, Pighills and Solloway stated that they had sat on the Select Committee during the 2021/2022 municipal year when the review into tourism (POL.1193) had commenced.

Start: 6.30 pm  
Councillor Mulligan left the meeting at 8.05pm.

Finish: 8.20pm

### **Minutes for Report**

POL.1193

### **REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF TOURISM ON THE CRAVEN DISTRICT**

The Chairman of the Select Committee presented the Working Group's review on the impact of tourism on the Craven District. The review was conducted over six working group sessions that took place between October 2021 and February 2022 where a wide range of evidence was received both written and verbal. Evidence was provided by parish councils and parish meetings, town councils, Welcome to Yorkshire, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, emergency services and local businesses.

The report included a number of recommendations, which outlined the Select Committee's expectations regarding a number of improvement measures. Ongoing monitoring of the progress of the recommendations would be undertaken by the Select Committee during the course of the municipal year.

On conclusion of the Select Committee Chairman's presentation, Members discussed the recommendations in the report and the Chairman of Policy Committee stated that he was happy to hand over the Select Committee's work on the review to the new authority so they could pursue the recommendations.

Most of the ensuing debate focussed on the National Park's 'no bin' policy resulting in lots of litter and the problems encountered by 'honeypot' areas where residents were inundated with visitors resulting in blocked road, increased pollution and litter. To address the problem of litter many areas had to

arrange their own community litter picks'. Members acknowledged that tourism was welcome but it had to be managed by the various sectors working together.

**Resolved** – That, the Select Committee's review of tourism on the Craven District and the recommendations therein are accepted.

POL.1194

### **COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

The Chief Executive submitted a report updating Members on the drivers and potential impacts of the cost of living crisis currently facing the UK. The prices for many essential goods and services were increasing faster than household income, resulting in a real fall in comes. The impact was particularly severe in lower income households who already spent a greater proportion of their income on essentials such as food and fuel.

Attached to the Chief Executive's report was a report presented to the Yorkshire Leaders' Board that explored in greater detail the drivers and impacts of the cost of living crisis and proposed a potential Yorkshire and Humber wide approach to support residents. The Councils will be considering how best to support residents in their own local areas through actions such as supporting residents with financial and practical support and act as a convener of organisations across the District.

The Chief Executive's report highlighted two community projects, one targeted at children and families the other targeted at people, particularly older resident who would find it financially difficult to heat their homes and would need a warm place to be during the winter.

The Council had been in discussions with a local children's charity SELFA who had submitted a proposal to provide 100 meals and 20 food parcels each week during December, January and February at a cost of £3,000 to directly support local families affected by the cost of living crisis.

The second project was in response to several local community and faith organisations who had asked about support to provide warm welcoming spaces this winter for elderly and vulnerable people who would struggle to afford to heat their houses. Similar schemes had been developed in other local authority areas and a good example was being delivered by Gateshead Council. Their scheme provided granted of up to £500 to local community venues such as village halls, community centres, social clubs and places of worship to provide a warm place where people could come together to keep warm, socialise and perhaps enjoy additional activities.

The Chief Executive's report, proposed that, in order to deliver the scheme quickly and efficiently, an additional £15,000 be added to the Councillor Ward Member Grant budget to be used to support community venues that wished to provide a warm welcoming space over the winter months. The Chairman announced that since the report had been published, he was pleased to announce that a further £15,000 was to be made available towards the scheme.

Members were in total support of the two projects along with the production of information leaflets etc. and the establishment of an online directory so that people knew where they could access warm and welcome places in Craven and, it was

**Resolved** - (1) That, the contents of the report are noted.

(2) That, £3000 of funding to SELFA to enable them to provide 1200 meals to children who need them over the winter months is approved.

(3) That, an additional amount of £30,000 to be added to the Ward Member grant budget to enable community venues across the District to provide warm community spaces for people struggling to heat their homes.

POL.1195

### **COMMUNITY-LED RETROFIT EMPTY HOMES ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

The Chief Executive submitted a report sharing details of Craven's District Council's proposed involvement in a one-year feasibility study to test and evaluate the viability of a potential three-year local community led Retrofit Empty Homes Action Partnership in Craven.

Action of Empty Homes (AEH) had received grant funding of £60,000 to work with three local authority areas to deliver community based empty homes full retrofit demonstration projects. Craven had been approached as one those areas due to its rural nature and the specifics of local properties (including stone buildings that are harder to retrofit).

Craven District Council would work with AEH to explore and negotiate potential funding streams for revenue and capital works and on-site training, developing relationships with private, public and third sector funding bodies. A negotiated framework with funders would be established with detailed options to deliver community led retrofitting of empty homes.

As part of the Devolution Deal, the Government and the York and North York Local Enterprise Partnership had identified the opportunity for Craven District Council to draw down approximately £400,000 to part fund a pilot project. The project would involve the purchase of three empty properties, retrofit low carbon measure and renovate them as affordable houses. It was expected that the houses would have been vacant for at least two years, or the property was no longer able to be used for its traditional use.

The funding was subject Government approval of a strategic business case and that along with details of any required match funding would be presented to Policy Committee for approval.

**Resolved** – (1) That, agreement is given to work in partnership with Action on Empty Homes on the feasibility study to develop a three-year local community led Retrofit Empty Homes Action Partnership in Craven.

(2) That, agreement is given for officers to help identify empty properties or conversions that could be part of options to enable a potential full retro-fit demonstration project to take place in Craven.

(3) That, it is agreed that officer time can be utilised to identify and connect with local project partners and community groups to be involved in the feasibility study.

(4) That, the Chief Executive is authorised to negotiate the terms of a pilot project to purchase and convert empty properties into low carbon affordable dwellings.

POL.1196

**YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE'S ROUTEMAP TO  
CARBON NEGATIVE**

The Chief Executive submitted a report presenting details of the York and North Yorkshire's Routemap to Carbon Negative that the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Y&NY LEP) adopted in July 2022. The Routemap would be formally launched at the Y&NY LEP's Business Summit in October 2022. All authorities in the region had been approached to adopt the Routemap.

Whilst there were limited implications for Craven District Council over the next six months, it was felt that endorsing the Routemap was in keeping with the commitment that Craven had shown in addressing the climate emergency, and it was an important step in promoting awareness locally that there was much to be done in the longer term.

The Routemap contained a series of high level action plans which included clear timeframes for implementation, as well as a clear ownership of actions. The full version of the Routemap was appended to the Chief Executive's report including the scale of ambition targets for high emitting sectors. The implementation of the Routemap would be overseen by the LEP Board until new structures were established through the proposed Mayoral Combined Authority.

Councillor Noland asked that it be recorded that he strongly objected to any endorsement of Drax and BECCS and refused to endorse the recommendation.

**Resolved** – That, the York and North Yorkshire’s Routemap to Carbon Negative is endorsed.

**Minutes for Decision**

There were no minutes for decision.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting** – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Chairman