

## POLICY COMMITTEE

25<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Present** – The Chairman, Councillor Foster and Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Metcalfe, Moorby, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Ogden, Place and Rose,

**Also in Attendance** – Jan Garill, Chief Executive, Two Ridings Community Foundation; Andrew Wilson, Chair of Finance and Investment Committees; and Stephanie Dunnill, Head of Finance and Operations.

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

**Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Heseltine, Morrell and Wheeler.

**Confirmation of Minutes** – The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

### Public Participation –

There was no public participation.

### Declarations of Interest –

In relation to POL.1202, the Chairman stated that he was a member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park but had taken no part in any discussions or voting in respect of that item.

Start: 6.30 pm

Finish: 8.11pm

### Minutes for Report

POL.1197      **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 1 2022/2023**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report advising Members of the revenue budget position of the Council, based on the quarter 1 review of income and expenditure to the end of June 2022.

The Council's performance against the approved net revenue budget was a forecasted underspend of £16k for the full financial year. As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 expenditure on the programme was £3,700k. Detailed information together with an update on progress of the programme was set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted.

The forecasted underspend was heavily caveated as the Council was operating in uncertain times due to current rising energy bills and the cost of living expenditure and how that might impact on revenue income streams and any resource implications because of local government reorganisation.

Members noted that the Council continued to hold a general fund reserve balance of £995k and it was the policy to maintain the balance at a prudent level.

- Resolved** – (1) That, the revenue budget monitoring position as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 is noted.
- (2) That, the additional commentary provided in sections 3.21 to 3.24 of the report now submitted is noted.

POL.1198

**CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT –  
QUARTER 1 2022/2023**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report informing Members of the Council's position, based on a quarter 1 review of income and expenditure to the end of June 2022.

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report informing Members of the Council's capital programme position, based on the quarter two review of income and expenditure to the end of September 2019.

The 2022/2023 capital programme was approved on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 and subsequently updated to include a carry forward amount of £4,793k for the 'Growth Deal – Highways Project' giving a total capital programme of £16,064,310. None of the carry forward items were new expenditure budgets, as they had all been previously approved.

A summary of the programme was set out in the report presented to Members and as at June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022 expenditure on the programme was £3,706k. The report gave a forecasted outturn for 2022/23 of £14,307,529 because a few projects within the programme, that have been identified as likely not to be started or completed in 2022/2023 as a consequence of local government reorganisation.

- Resolved** – (1) That, the revenue budget monitoring position as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 is noted.
- (2) That, the additional commentary provided in sections 3.21 to 3.24 of the report now submitted is noted.

POL.1199

**PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER  
1 2022/2023**

The Chief Finance Officer presented a report setting out performance highlights for quarter 1 of the 2022/2023 financial year in accordance with arrangements set out in the Council's Performance Management Framework.

The majority of Council Plan action were progressing as planned, however this was based on only a few service updated and it was noted that these would be addressed in the quarter 2 monitoring exercise. Waste Management indicators for recycling had improved from the last quarter but were still below target.

Sickness absence remained low across the Council and as was usual for quarter 1, the rates of PDR completions were lower than originally forecast but the Council was committed to completing all PDR's during the year.

The range of additional challenges of increased costs of fuel and utilities faced by certain services had resulted in an overspend compared to the budget position in some areas.

- Resolved** – (1) That, the performance highlighted described in the report now submitted are noted.

POL.1200

**REQUEST FOR FUNDING TO COMMISSION A LONG-  
TERM DYNAMIC MASTERPLAN FOR THE  
SANDYLANDS SITE**

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Members to approved funding in order to Commission a masterplan for the Sandylands site. The site had been established in 1947 by the Coulthurst Trust and the land was protected through a number of covenants to be used for the “purpose of rugby, cricket and other kindred sports”.

Complex arrangements meant that it had been challenging to develop a whole site approach the Chief Executive’s report recommended the appointment of an independent organisation to develop an overarching masterplan in conjunction with all stakeholders.

A masterplan would provide a framework and evidence base for any future growth and development of the site and it would assist with accessing potential funding bids. Furthermore, the allocation of future Section 106 monies, as had been done to great effect at Aireville Park, could be considered.

As well as providing guidance on future growth and development on the site, the masterplan could set out how stakeholders could best work together for maximum effect.

**Resolved –** (1) That, the proposed approach of undertaking a procurement exercise to appoint consultants to undertake a comprehensive master planning exercise for the Sandylands site is approved.

(2) That, a budget of up to £40,000 from the planning reserve to complete this piece of work is approved.

### **Minutes for Decision**

POL.1201

### **CRAVEN COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND**

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Members’ approval to establish an endowment fund that would provide grants for the benefit of Craven’s voluntary sector and communities in perpetuity. As a restricted fund, the area of the fund (Craven) would be enshrined in law and could not be affected by Local Government Reorganisation.

For a Craven investment fund to work, an initial investment from the Council would be required in order to generate enough interest to provide a grant pot similar to the current Craven District Council Ward Member Grant scheme of £30k. Based on a 5% return and taking into account costs an investment of £850,000 would be needed to provide £30k per annum in perpetuity. The investment of £850,000 including one-off set up costs of £2,500 would be met from earmarked reserves.

The main community fund management organisation in North Yorkshire was the Two Ridings Community Foundation. In order to provide Members with more details, the Foundation’s Chief Executive, Chair of Finance and Investment Committees and Head of Finance and Operations gave a presentation to the Committee highlighted their experience and expertise in fund management and explained the philanthropic ethos of the organisation, enabling individuals, families, trusts and businesses to make targeted grant funding for specific purposes within a geographically defined area.

The representatives from Two Ridings Community Foundation emphasised the decision making process and identified some of the organisations, including North Yorkshire councils such as Harrogate and Selby they had as clients.

The Chief Executive’s report set out how the fund would operate including the legal, finance and risk implications.

Members had an opportunity to ask questions of the officers from the Two Ridings Community Foundation before they left the meeting and after the ensuing debate it was,

**RECOMMENDED** – (1) That, an endowment fund to support Craven’s communities is approved.

(2) That, £850,000 is invested from an appropriate reserve, to be determined by the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance, to make the initial investment into the endowment fund. In addition, allocate £2500 set out costs to be paid to the Two Ridings Community Foundation.

(3) That Two Ridings Community Foundation is appointed as the fund manager, subject to a satisfactory due diligence report to be agreed with the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Lead Member for Finance.

(4) That, the Chief Executive is authorised to enter into a funding agreement with the Two Ridings Community Foundation, subject to 2.3 above and Section 24 Direction approval.

POL.1202

**REDEVELOPMENT OF FORMER COUNCIL DEPOT SITE,  
LANGCLIFFE QUARRY, SETTLE**

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking Members’ approval to dispose of an area of Council owned land at Langcliffe Quarry to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA). The site was a vacant former Council depot with derelict buildings and undeveloped vacant overgrown land in the south. Historically, the site was occupied with railway sidings associated with Craven Lime Works with a large quarry to the east. The sidings were replaced with a Council depot and a number of small buildings and the quarry acted as a refuse tip. By 2000 the landfill was not needed and the site was abandoned and was now in disrepair.

Craven District Council was currently developing the site in phases to create a purpose built rural enterprise centre as part of the Council’s drive to promote growth of small enterprises. The only remaining undeveloped area and included within a planning approval is a depot building to be located on the upper level of the site and was earmarked at the outset as a potential site for the relocation of the Yorkshire Dales National Park ranger depot.

The Director of Services’ report advised Members that the Council would not be developing that part of the site and Discussions had taken place with YDNP in relation to their acquisition of that parcel of land so that they could develop the ranger depot themselves.

Members noted that the Council had entered into a legally binding S106 agreement for the delivery of a 15-year Conservation Management Plan and delivery of the said plan presented financial expenditure implications for the Council. Many of the actions contained within the plan could be undertaken by YDNPA and it was proposed that the transfer of land to them would be mutually beneficial to both organisations.

Appendix A to the Director of Services’ report contained details of the proposed works and costings and a robust legal agreement would be put in place as part of the land transfer and

annual monitoring arrangements would occur to ensure the full costs value was delivered over the proposed 10-year period.

**RECOMMENDED** – (1) That, the disposal of an area of Council owned land outlined at Appendix B to the report now submitted, to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to develop as a ranger depot unit is approved.

(2) That, the equivalent value in conservation management plan action plan works to be undertaken by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, at their officer time expense, in exchange for the land outlined at Appendix B at the report now submitted, is approved.

POL.1203

**ADOPTION OF THE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND  
BIODIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT AND  
THE FLOOD RISK AND WATER MANAGEMENT  
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report presenting the final version of the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document and the Flood Risk and Water Management Supplementary Planning Document and other required documents following two, four week periods of consultation with the public and stakeholders during 2022.

The supplementary planning documents added further detail to the policies in the adopted Craven Local Plan and provided auxiliary guidance for development on specific sites, or on issues such as design. In addition, supplementary planning documents were capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions, although not part of the development plan.

**RECOMMENDED** – (1) That, the Adoption of the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity SPD and Flood Risk and Water Management SPD set out at Appendices A and E respectively to this report is approved.

(2) That, the Adoption Statements for the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity SPD and Flood Risk and Water Management SPD set out at Appendices B and F respectively to this report are approved.

(3) That, the Consultation Statements for the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity SPD and Flood Risk and Water Management SPD set out at Appendices C and G respectively to this report are approved.

(4) That, the screening reports for the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment on the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity SPD and Flood Risk and Water Management SPD set out at Appendices D and H respectively to this report are approved.

(5) That, delegated authority is granted to the Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration to make any necessary minor amendments/corrections to the above documents, to publish them on the Council's website and inform those people and organisations who asked to be notified of the adoption of the SPDs.

Craven District Council

**Date and Time of Next Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**

Chairman