

POLICY COMMITTEE

29th November 2022

Present – The Chairman, Councillor Foster and Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Heseltine, Metcalfe, Moorby, Morrell, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Ogden, Place, Rose and Wheeler.

Also in Attendance – Councillor Jaquin.

Officers – Chief Executive, Finance Manager (S151 Officer), Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Solicitor to the Council and Deputy Monitoring Officer, CIO and Head of Assets and Commercial Services and Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for Absence – An apology for absence was received from Councillor Madeley.

Confirmation of Minutes – The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 25th October 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

Public Participation –

There was no public participation.

Declarations of Interest –

In relation to POL.1204, Councillor Morrell declared an interest in that a member of his family was involved with one of the organisations mentioned in the report.

Start: 6.30 pm

Finish: 7.36pm

Councillors Myers left the meeting at 6.40pm.

Councillor Metcalfe left the meeting at 7.09pm.

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.1205 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).

Minutes for Report

POL.1204

SOUP AND A SONG PROJECT

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking approval to support the Soup and a Song project to be organised and delivered by the Cultural Services Team of Craven District Council. Due to the cost of living increases, especially heating costs, the proposal was to support people who may be struggling to heat their homes, the wider cost of living and social isolation. Over the winter period sessions would be held weekly from January to March at venues across the District as a warm and safe space for people. The sessions would include a complimentary warm meal, tea and biscuits followed by an hour of singing and then socialising.

Working with local opera singer Nicola Mills, the events would be advertised as part of the Town Hall on Tour events programme and promoted as a cultural project in order to attract as many people as possible.

The costs of the one-off proposed scheme amounting to £6,090 would be met from existing revenue budgets.

The Committee was fully supportive of the scheme and, it was

Resolved – (1) That, the implementation of the Soup and a Song project is approved.

(2) That, the budgetary implications as set out in 4.1 of the report now submitted are noted

\$POL.1205 **SALE OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT LANE AT
AIREDALE AVENUE, SKIPTON**

The Director of Services submitted a confidential report requesting approval to progress with the sale of the residential development land at Airedale Avenue, Skipton, BD23 2LL.

Before Members debated the report, the Chairman invited Councillor Eric Jaquin to speak to the Committee in his capacity as Ward Member. Councillor Jaquin brought to the attention of the Committee his concerns regarding access to the site by construction traffic and that an alternative access off Otley Road or a new access should be created.

The Chairman pointed out to the Ward Member that the report before Members was purely to discuss the sale of the land as planning permission had already been dealt with and was not a matter for this Committee.

Members debated the various offers received by way of sealed informal tenders and it was

Resolved - (1) That, the sale of the residential development land at Airedale Avenue, Skipton is not progressed at this time.

Minutes for Decision

POL.1206 **CRAVEN NET ZERO AFFORDABLE HOUSING
PROJECT**

The Director of Services submitted a report presenting the Craven Net Zero Affordable Housing Project which was part of the York and North Yorkshire devolution deal. The report sought permission to purchase at least three empty dwellings which would then be retrofitted to a higher environmental standard and offered for use as affordable housing.

The intention was to identify the dwellings from various sources to ensure that different property types were purchased thereby allowing variation in the retrofit approach.

The budget for the project was £780k to purchase, retrofit and refurbish the properties and funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities was £400k for 2022/23 primarily to purchase the properties but the funding would be used flexibly for retrofitting and refurbishment if budget and timescales allowed. Craven's contribution would be £380k from ring-fenced funding in the Community Housing Fund (for the voluntary or compulsory purchase of empty homes by the Council), affordable housing commuted sums and sales proceeds from shared ownership sales, if applicable.

The objectives of the project were to reduce empty properties, increase the number of affordable homes, create low carbon dwellings and learning to understand which measures would have the greatest effect together with training and upskilling local people.

The project would run alongside Community Led – Retrofit Empty Homes Action Partnership that was agreed by Policy Committee on 4th October 2022. The year-long feasibility study would be shared across North Yorkshire and it would test the local supply chains and support the roll-out of successful components of the scheme across the North Yorkshire housing stock

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the purchase of properties within Craven District for the purposes of retrofitting, refurbishing, and providing at least three affordable homes is approved.

(2) That, the delivery of the Craven Net Zero Affordable Housing Scheme and acceptance of a grant of £400,000 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) is approved.

(3) That, £380,000 of match funding for the Craven Net Zero Housing Project is approved.

(4) That, the Director of Services is authorised, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer) and Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer), to negotiate and enter into a funding agreement with DLUHC).

(5) That, the Director of Services is authorised, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer) and Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer), to agree the purchase of the dwellings.

Date and Time of Next Meeting – 17th January 2023.

Chairman