

POLICY COMMITTEE

17th January 2023

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

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

Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrett, Brockbank and Ogden.

Confirmation of Minutes – The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 29th November 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

Public Participation – There was no public participation.

Declarations of Interest – No Interests were declared.

Start: 6.30 pm

Finish: 7.20pm

Minutes for Report

POL.1207

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT QUARTER TWO (2022/2023)

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

Based on the monitoring exercise, the Council's performance against budget was a forecasted overspend of £631k for the full financial year. The figure reflected the fact that the Council was operating in very uncertain times; increased expenditure on energy bills; cost of living impacts on revenue income streams; and resource implications due to LGR.

Resolved – (1) That, the revenue budget monitoring position as at 30th September 2022 is noted.

(2) That, the additional commentary provided in sections 3.21 to 3.24 of the report now submitted is noted.

POL.1208

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT QUARTER TWO (2022/2023)

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report advising Members of the capital budget position of the Council as at 30th September 2022. The Council's capital programme, approved on 1st February 2022 and subsequently updated, reflect a number of carry forward items including an amount for 'Growth Deal – Highways Project the carry forward amount being £4,793k.

A summary of the programme was shown in the report together with detailed information about the progress of the programme and the funding resources available. As at 30th September 2022 expenditure on the programme was £5,760k. The forecasted spend was

being carefully monitored in part due to the current market conditions which were impacting on costs on some of the schemes, particularly the Growth Deal – Highways.

Resolved – (1) That, the capital budget position of the 2022/2023 capital programme as at the 30th September 2022 is noted.

(2) That, the 2022/2023 capital programme and the proposed funding for the projects agreed at quarter two is noted.

POL.1209 **PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT QUARTER
TWO (2022/2023)**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report presenting performance highlights for quarter two of the financial year 2022/23 in accordance with arrangements set out in the Council's Performance Management Framework.

The report provided a quarterly summary of the Council's performance against agreed actions, indicators and targets. A majority of Council Plan actions were progressing as planned. 17 Actions were rated 'green' and 2 were rated 'amber'. Sickness absence rates remained low and the number of PDR completions had increased from quarter one, although lower than expected, good progress had been made during quarter 3.

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

POL.1210 **CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Chief Executive submitted a report updating Members on the Council's Climate Emergency Strategic Plan and the various actions taken by the Authority and its partners after making a climate emergency declaration in March 2019.

Despite the unexpected challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and Local Government Reorganisation, there had been some good progress, improvements in energy generation and energy efficiency across the Council's estate were well underway and significant benefits should be realised during the current year. Tree planting had increased and the Council and its partners were close to completing a wide reaching public electric vehicle charging network that should increase confidence in using electric vehicles in the District.

However, it was noted that many areas of activity covered by the Plan were not in the Council's direct control and were not on track to realise the carbon reduction benefits that would be needed to achieve carbon neutrality for the District by 2030. Changes in national and regional policy together with legislation and funding would be required to fully achieve the Council's aims.

A draft North Yorkshire Council Climate Strategy was in its public consultation period and this outlined the approach the new council would take in order to tackle the causes and impacts of climate change.

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

(2) That, the revised actions and targets as set out in the Climate Emergency Strategic Plan as attached to the report now submitted, are approved.

