

POLICY COMMITTEE

28th February 2023

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

Also in Attendance – Councillor Solloway.

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer), Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Principal Spatial Planning Officer, Spatial Planning Officer x 3 and Senior Democratic Services Officer.

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

Confirmation of Minutes – The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 17th January 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

Public Participation –

Glusburn and Cross Hills Parish Councillor Mike Ashdown and Ian Gibson, Secretary of the Cross Hills and District Allotments Association.

Declarations of Interest –

No Interests were declared.

As this was the last meeting of Craven District Council's Policy Committee, the Chairman, Councillor Richard Foster thanked both Members and officers for their contributions over the years. He also thanked the press for their diligent and fair reporting.

In response, Councillor Myers thanked Councillor Foster for chairing the Committee and doing an excellent job.

Start: 6.30 pm

Finish: 7.28pm

Councillor Place left the meeting at 7.19pm.

Minutes for Report

POL.1211

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Parish Councillor Mike Ashdown and Mr Mike Gibson, Secretary of the Cross Hills and District Allotments Association addressed the Committee regarding Cross Hills and Glusburn Allotments and requested that as the allotments had been in use for many years they should be given Statutory Allotment status. This would enable the transfer of the allotments to the Parish Council in line with relevant legislation. In addition, the current twenty years' lease had 4 years' left to run and whilst appreciating it would take some time for Statutory Allotment status to be granted and that the process would need to be completed by the new North Yorkshire Council, in the interim, a request was made for a 125 years' lease to be granted by Craven District Council.

The Chairman responded by stating that the allotment site had been designated for housing and Craven District Council would not want to fetter the discretion of the new North Yorkshire Council but would like to see the allotments protected and safe for the future. He

acknowledged there was insufficient time for Craven to accede to the Parish Council's request as it would need approval by Policy Committee and Council and that the Parish Council would have to enter into discussions with the new Council in due course.

POL.1212

SELECT COMMITTEE – SKIPTON MAGISTRATES

The Chairman of the Select Committee Working Group presented findings and recommendations following a review of the working arrangements of Skipton Magistrates Court. The review was undertaken because it had been brought to Members attention that residents were often required to attend courts that were outside the District. Members wanted to understand why that was happening, rather than the cases being heard at Skipton Magistrates Court.

The review was conducted over three sessions and Members received both written and verbal evidence from HM Courts and Tribunals Service, Skipton County and Family Court, the Bench Chair for the North Yorkshire, North Yorkshire Police, Craven District Council officers, and local law firms.

The recommendations arising from the review were as follows:

As this Select Committee will no longer exist from 1st April 2023, Members will not be able to review if HM Courts and Tribunals Service do increase the number of cases heard in Skipton as explained in their correspondence to the Working Group.

Therefore, Members strongly recommend that bi-annual reviews of the working arrangements of Skipton Magistrates' Court (including the number of cases heard) are presented to the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee so that the situation can be monitored. If improvements are not evidenced, the Working Group strongly recommends that further reviews are carried out to understand the reasons behind this.

The Chairman thanked Select Committee and the valuable work it had undertaken over the years. He particularly thanked the Chairman and Vice-Chairman as it had been a well-run Committee. The Chairman stated that he could not guarantee the matter would be taken to the Area Committee but committed to keep an eye on the situation.

Resolved - (1) That, as the Select Committee will not exist from 1st April 2023, the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee are asked to review the working arrangements of Skipton Magistrates' Court and consider further scrutiny reviews if necessary.

POL.1213

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 3 2022/2023

The Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer) submitted a report advising Members of the revenue budget position of the Council based on the quarter three review of income and expenditure to the end of December 2022.

Based on the September budget monitoring exercise, the Council's performance against budget was a forecasted overspend of £544k for the full financial year. The figure reflected the fact that the Council was operating in uncertain times such as the increase in energy bills, cost of living increases and how that may impact revenue income streams and the resource implications in respect of local government reorganisation. The specific details of the variances were set out in appendix A of the submitted report.

As reported at the last Committee, the Council continued to hold a general fund unallocated balance of £995k as at 1st April 2022 and it remained the Council's policy to sustain the balance at a prudent level.

Resolved – (1) That, the revenue budget monitoring position as at 31st December 2022 is noted.

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

POL.1214

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT –
QUARTER 3 2022/2023**

The Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer) submitted a report informing Members of the Council's capital programme position, based on the quarter three review of income and expenditure to the end of December 2022. The initial approved programme had been updated to reflect a number of carry forward items from the previous years' programmes. Since the last update the Craven Net Zero Affordable Housing Project had been taken through Section 24 consent, had been approved and subsequently added to the programme.

A summary of the programme was set out at table one in the report now submitted. As at December 2022, expenditure on the programme was £8,182k which was 55% of the revised programme total.

Continued review and updates of the projects are carried out on a quarterly basis and the outturn report will be presented through the North Yorkshire Council reporting mechanism in 2023/24. For that report, further analysis was being undertaken about the deliverability of specific items within the programme and what the likely levels of any anticipated carry forward budget figures may be into 2023/24. This would help information the construction of the new Council's capital programme.

Resolved – (1) That, the capital budget position of the 2022/23 capital programme as at the 31st December 2022 is noted.

(2) That, the 2022/23 capital programme and the proposed funding for the projects agreed at quarter three is noted.

POL.1215

**PERFORMANCE MONITORING UPDATE – QUARTER
3 2022/2023**

The Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer) submitted a report presenting performance highlights for quarter three of the financial year 2022/23 in accordance with arrangements set out in the Council's Performance Management Framework.

A majority of the Council Plan actions were still progressing as planned. Services returned updates and of those, 17 actions were rated 'green' and two were rated 'amber'. Sickness absence rates remained low across the Council and the rates of PDR's completed had increased from quarter two with good progress being made during quarter three.

Resolved – That, the report is noted.

Minute for Confirmation

POL.1216

FINALISATION OF THE CRAVEN CONSERVATION AREAS ASSESSMENT PROJECT

The Director of Services presented for adoption, the final output of the Craven Conservation Areas Assessment Project. Conservation Areas were areas of special architectural or historic interest which were important to conserve for present and future generations.

So far, the Council had identified and designated 29 Conservation Areas within its planning jurisdiction and a number were in need of review. Furthermore, the historic settlements of Glusburn, High Bentham and Low Bentham had no designated Conservation Areas despite having areas of historic and architectural interest including significant industrial heritage.

Specialist consultants had been appointed to undertake an assessment project in a joint commission by the Council and Historic England. The project produced draft appraisals for 16 existing Conservation Areas and three potential new ones as mentioned in the previous paragraph. These were accepted into the Local Plan evidence base on 16th September 2016 but public consultation on the draft appraisals were put on hold pending adoption of the Craven Local Plan (November 2019) and took place from October to December 2019.

The draft documents from 2016 had been corrected, updated, expanded and enhanced. Public comments had been taken on board and the final documents produced by the Craven Conservation Areas Assessment Project (all dated February 2023) were set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted.

The Chief Executive advised Members that the new North Yorkshire Council had 5 years in which to produce a new Local Plan so it was very important that Craven's Local Plan was as up to date as possible and as strong as possible.

Recommended – (1) That, the final documents produced by the Craven Conservation Areas Assessment Project are accepted into the evidence base for use in the formulation of planning policies, the allocation of local plan sites and the determination of planning applications, as well as in other relevant council decisions, proposals and projects are adopted. These final documents are set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted and comprise: an Introduction; Conservation Area Appraisals for Burton-in-Lonsdale, Carleton, Cononley, Cowling, Eastby, Embsay, Farnhill, Gargrave, Ingleton, Kildwick, Kildwick Grange, Lothersdale, Low Bradley, Sutton-in-Craven, Thornton-in-Craven and the Settle-Carlisle Railway (within the planning area of Craven District Council); and Appraisals of Proposed Conservation Areas for Glusburn, High Bentham and Low Bentham.

(2) That, the recommendations for new Conservation Areas at Glusburn, High Bentham and Low Bentham, extended Conservation Area boundaries at Carleton, Gargrave, Ingleton and Thornton-in-Craven, and combined Conservation Area boundaries at Farnhill and Kildwick, as set out in the relevant documents contained in Appendix A and described at (1) above are accepted.

(3) That officers are instructed to implement the recommendations of each Conservation Area Appraisal at the earliest opportunity, beginning with the designation of new Conservation Areas at Glusburn, High Bentham and

Low Bentham, the designation of extended Conservation Area boundaries at Carleton, Gargrave, Ingleton and Thornton-in-Craven, and the combination of Conservation Area boundaries at Farnhill and Kildwick.

Chairman