

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

20<sup>th</sup> January 2015

**Present** – The Chairman (Foster) and Councillors Barrett, Beck, Brockbank, Harbron, Heseltine, Kerwin-Davey, Lis, Mulligan, Myers, Place, Sutcliffe and Turner.

Also in attendance: Councillors Barrington and Roberts.

**Officers** – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Corporate Head (Business Support), Strategic Manager – Financial Services (S.151. Officer), Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer and Committee Administrator.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Moorby.  
Councillors Brockbank and Lis arrived at 6.36pm.

Start: 6:30pm

Finish: 8.20pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **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.638 (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.634      TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND SCHEDULES UPDATE**

The Strategic Manager for Financial Services submitted a report presenting an updated Treasury Management Practices and Schedules document which defined the manner in which the Authority would seek to achieve, manage and control its treasury management policies and objectives.

Since Policy Committee had adopted the 2011 CIPFA Code of Practice on treasury management, there had been several changes which needed to be reflected in the document:

- Impact of inflation risk
- Staffing variations
- Change in the Council's bank
- Appointment of new treasury management advisors
- Financial environment
- Amended counter party limits
- Duration of investment

**Resolved** – That, subject to minor amendments, the updated treasury management practices and support schedules are approved.

POL.635

### **TOUR DE FRANCE FINAL REPORT**

The Chief Executive submitted a report highlighting the impact the UK stages of the Tour de France had had in Craven and Yorkshire generally. An economic impact assessment report commissioned by all the delivery organisations stated that the overall economic benefit had been in the region of £128m with £102m for Yorkshire. Over the three days, 2.3m roadside spectators in Yorkshire had watched the race benefiting many local businesses.

It was hoped that the Tour de France would leave a lasting legacy in Craven and a strategy to 'get more people cycling more often' was being finalised. The main objectives would be to:

- Improve the cycle infrastructure;
- Develop cycle events and festivals; and
- Improve training and promotion.

Members were advised that from an agreed total budget of £147,000 together with specific additional funding from other sources including Skipton Town Partnership and Skipton Town Council, a balance of £2,505 remained. It was recommended that this should be used as a contribution to fund a legacy project, specifically a town centre cycle race in Skipton.

During the ensuing debate, Members expressed their thanks to officers, town/parish councils (including Skipton Town Partnership) and the people of Craven who had made the event such a huge success.

**Resolved** – (1) That, the report is noted.

(2) That, the remaining Tour de France budget of £2,505 is used as a contribution to fund legacy projects, namely a potential town centre cycle race in Skipton.

(3) That, it is noted that a separate legacy strategy report will be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

POL.636

### **SELECT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON CAR PARKING MATTERS**

The Chairman of Select Committee presented a report on the outcome of the Committee's considerations of matters relating to car parking for which Policy Committee was responsible:

#### **Civil Parking Enforcement**

The review of the operation of the civil parking enforcement arrangements centred on ascertaining the impact of the new arrangements had had on the remainder on the Council's parking service. Although there were no outstanding issues associated with the implementation of the arrangement, the transfer had resulted in some resilience and capacity issues which were now being addressed.

The net cost of the car parking enforcement arrangement in the first year of operation was £14,482 compared to £23,496 when the service was delivered internally.

The Select Committee had been satisfied that the parking enforcement arrangement with Harrogate was operating to a satisfactory standard bearing in mind that the issues identified were being addressed by officers.

## **Extension of Pay and Display Parking Charges**

The Select Committee, at the request of Policy Committee had reviewed the proposed introduction of charges on the Council's car parks at Grasmere Drive, Bentham, Hall Street and Milligans Field, Cross Hills and North and West Street, Gargrave. The Committee decided, that before embarking on a process which could potentially have taken up a considerable amount of time, it was prudent to first establish the position of North Yorkshire Police and the Highways Authority.

Whilst North Yorkshire Police had no comments, the Highways Authority stated that they would object to charges being introduced at the car parks in Cross Hills and Bentham. The primary reason was, that in their view, displacement of cars onto the immediately adjacent roads would cause congestion and obstruction with consequential effects on highway safety.

In relation to the car parks at North and West Street, Gargrave, the Highways Authority recognised that the proposals would place extra pressure on on-street parking but considered that the existing waiting restrictions were sufficient to mitigate any problems to manageable levels. Therefore, they had indicated that they would object to charging being imposed in both car parks.

In accepting the view of the Highway Authority, Select Committee had recommended:

1. That, Policy Committee be recommended not to introduce charges on the Cross Hills and Bentham car parks due to the objections of the Highways Authority.

It should be noted that in recommending that charges not be introduced on the Cross Hills and Bentham car parks at this time due to the objections of the Highway Authority, it would be my view as Chairman of the Select Committee that, if at some future point discussions result in the Highway Authority withdrawing its objection, a consultation exercise should be carried out with the relevant parish(es) and other interested parties.

2. That, Policy Committee is recommended to introduce car parking charges on one of the two car parks (North Street and West Street) in Gargrave.
3. That should Policy Committee be minded to accept the recommendation at (2) above, it should first satisfy itself that it would be financially viable to introduce car parking charges and also consult Gargrave Parish Council.

During the ensuing debate, Members' comments included:

- Seeking the views of North Yorkshire Police and the Highways Authority before commencing the review had been judicious;
- Encouraging people to shop locally in Bentham and Cross Hills also applied to Gargrave;
- Counter-productive to introduce charges in areas where businesses were struggling financially;
- Introducing charges would encourage on-street parking in residential streets and residents' parking schemes would need to be considered.

In receiving the report, Members thanked the Select Committee for their work on the review, and it was

**Resolved** – That, pay and display car parking charges are not introduced on either the North or West Street Car parks, Gargrave.

POL.637

### **MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

The Chairman presented the minutes of the Community Grants Sub-Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 and re-produced as Appendix A to these minutes.

The Chairman of Standards Committee presented a report on the outcome of the Committee's considerations of matters relating to car parking for which Policy Committee was responsible.

**Resolved** – That, the minutes are noted.

\$POL.638

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

The Director of Services submitted a report informing Members of an opportunity for a strategic partnership to deliver the revenue, benefits and IT services and seeking approval to issue an expressions of interest in undertaking a competitive dialogue process.

Members were advised that, due to the continuing reduction in Central Government funding, the Authority had to consider new ways of working in order to protect quality front line services. Although Craven was well positioned to meet the required savings as identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, previous successful efficiencies would not be enough in the future and new service models such as working with commercial partners had to be explored.

**Resolved** – (1) That, the Director of Services is authorised to issue an expression of interest to undertake a competitive dialogue process with a view to establishing a strategic partnership for the delivery of revenue, benefits and IT services.

(2) That, a report is submitted to a future Policy Committee consisting of:

- a) Research of the market place to quantify the available business prospects;
- b) Identify a proposed preferred bidder with detailed terms of the offer; and
- c) A financial case for pursuing the partnership opportunity.

**Minutes for Decision**

POL.639

**COLLECTION FUND – COUNCIL TAX SURPLUS/DEFICIT**  
**2014/15**

The Strategic Manager for Financial Services submitted a report declaring an estimated surplus of £475,000 on the Council's collection fund in respect of council tax for the financial year 2014/15.

There was a statutory requirement to declare an estimate of the surplus or deficit likely to occur. The calculated surplus would be shared between the precepting authorities as follows:

North Yorkshire County Council	£329,218
Police & Crime Commissioner North Yorkshire	£ 63,682
North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority	£ 19,332
Craven District Council	£ 62,769

Craven District Council was required to take the £62,769 into account when setting it's element of the council tax for 2015/16.

**RECOMMENDED** – (1) That, an estimated surplus of £475,000 on the Council's collection fund at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 relating to council tax collections is declared.

(2) That, as part of the budget strategy, the Council's element of the estimated surplus is used in calculating the level of council tax for 2015/16.

POL.640

**COLLECTION FUND – NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES**

**SURPLUS/DEFICIT 2014/15**

The Strategic Manager for Financial Services submitted a report declaring an estimated deficit of £2,400,175 on the Council's collection fund at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 relating to national non domestic rates (NNDR) transactions.

Under the rates retention scheme which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, local authorities were able to keep a proportion of the business rates collected, giving authorities a direct financial interest and therefore an incentive to work with business communities to grow local economies. In addition, Craven was financially better off having joined the North Yorkshire Business Rates Pool.

Any surpluses or deficits had to be shared in prescribed proportions and based on the estimated deficit, the amount that had to be distributed between the precepting authorities was as follows:

North Yorkshire County Council	£ 216,016
Central Government	£1,200,087
North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority	£ 24,002
Craven District Council	£ 960,070

Members were advised that Craven District Council had to take the £960,070 into account when it set its element of the Council Tax for 2015/16.

**RECOMMENDED** – That, an estimated deficit of £2,400,175 on the Council's collection fund at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015 relating to NNDR transactions is declared.

Chairman