

POLICY COMMITTEE

10th September 2013

Present –The Chairman (Councillor Knowles-Fitton) and Councillors, Barrington, Polly English (substitute for Paul English), Foster, Green (substitute for Lis), Hart, Heseltine, Ireton, Jaquin (substitute for Wheeler), Kerwin-Davey (substitute for Barrett), Myers, Place, Sutcliffe, Turner.

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Corporate Head of Business Support, Strategic Manager for Legal and Democratic Services, Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Communications and Partnerships Manager, Interim Finance Manager, and Committee Administrator.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrett, Beck, Paul English, Lis and Wheeler.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 9.02pm

Note : A five minute comfort break was taken at 8.05pm.

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 9th July 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Exclusion of the Public

In accordance with the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public is excluded from the meeting during consideration of Minute POL.543 below (marked\$) on the grounds that it is not in the public interest to disclose Category 1 (relates to an individual) Category 2 (likely to reveal the identity of an individual) and Category 5 (legal professional privilege in proceedings) exempt information of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Minutes for Report

POL.537

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Bob Young a resident of Sutton-in-Craven and a member of the Sutton Village Hall Committee and Sutton Village Committee expressed his concerns about the progress of the new Craven Local Development Plan which would contain strategic policies and identify development sites to meet the needs of Craven to 2026.

In particular, Mr Young felt it was very important to protect Craven's character and open countryside and that sporadic development outside the current limits should be curtailed. He was concerned that there was a lack of infrastructure to support further development in South Craven and that Sutton-in-Craven had had more than its fair share of development. He stressed that evidence should be provided to substantiate the reasons for including development sites in the Local Plan.

POL.538

SELECT COMMITTEE REVIEWS OF HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE PARKING AND CRAVEN POOL CAR PARK

The Chairman of the Select Committee presented the findings and recommendations of the Committee's working group following its review of heavy goods vehicle parking and the Craven Pool car park. The review of coach parking would be the subject of a further report. The Committee had examined whether charges should be introduced for heavy goods vehicles parking on the Council's car parks and evidence had been gathered from Council officers and a number of

organisations including representatives of North Yorkshire Police and the County Highways Authority together with relevant parish councils.

In making recommendations, the Working Group were mindful of the potential for the displacement of large vehicles onto the highway which could lead to objections to revised draft parking orders but balanced this against the Council's duty to secure value for money from its assets together with the Council's existing parking strategy in relation to heavy goods vehicles.

Having considered all the various options, the Select Committee made the following recommendations:

1. That subject to any introduction of charges first being fully costed within a business case, including clarification of potential charges and/or permits, the Council
 - a) Introduces charges for heavy goods vehicles and coaches parking on the Skipton High Street car park between the hours of 6pm and 8am, and that the parking order is amended to prohibit heavy goods vehicles from parking on the car park before 6pm, the suggested charge for overnight parking to be £10.
 - b) Ban heavy goods vehicles from the Hellifield car park
 - c) Introduces charges for heavy goods vehicles on the Backgate car park, Ingleton.
 - d) Allows heavy goods vehicles to park in the coach bays at Whitefriars car park, Settle between the hours of 5pm and 8am.
 - e) Retains the Lairgill car park in Bentham free of charge for all vehicles.
2. That if charges are introduced as recommended, a report reviewing the situation is presented to Select Committee after a period of 12 months' operation.

In relation to Craven Pool, the Select Committee believed there was the potential to generate income by taking advantage of spare capacity. Current arrangements allowed swimming pool car park vehicles to park free of charge for up to three hours. For periods in excess of three hours a charge of £8 is levied. These charges applied between 9am and 6pm Monday to Friday (except Christmas Day).

Whilst the Working Group was conscious that displacement to the highway was possible and there could be a negative impact and objections from those wishing to park for purposes of visiting Aireville Park the Select Committee was convinced that the following recommendation would have no or minimal effect on members of the leisure facility other customers of Craven Pool and operation of the reception:

1. That, provided changes are introduced in such a way so as not to disadvantage or unduly inconvenience users of the facilities at Craven Pool, for example through the use of permits and reimbursement, and subject also to it being satisfied on the question of viability, Policy Committee is recommended to seek to put in place arrangements to allow charging for less than three hours on the Craven Pool / Aireville Park car park, between the hours of 6am and 10pm, subject to an observation period similar to that applied to other car parks.
2. That, if charging arrangements are introduced as suggested at (1) above, consideration should also be given to varying the days to which charges are applied.
3. That, if charges are introduced as recommended, a report reviewing the situation should be presented to Select Committee after 12 months' operation.

Resolved – That the reports of the Select Committee are accepted and that officers present reports on the business case and viability in respect of the recommendations therein.

POL.539 **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING – QUARTER 1**
2013/2014

The Corporate Head of Financial Management submitted a report informing Members of the revenue and capital budget position of the Council based on the first quarter review of income and expenditure to the end of June 2013.

The Council's overall performance against revenue budget was a projected underpend of £79k for the full financial year.

The 2013/14 budget included a compensatory grant of £34k, contributions to the Enabling Efficiencies Fund (£30K) and the New Homes Bonus Reserve (£553k). There was also a corporate contingency of £67k which had been adjusted to £100k by utilising surpluses generated in 2012/13. The general fund revenue balance was currently £1030k and this would assist in mitigating against the risk of unplanned expenditure and any changes in local government funding.

The Council's approved capital programme of £1.842m and this included £306k slippage from 2012/13. The forecast was that the Council would receive £1,349k in capital receipts during 2013/14 of which £927k would be required to support the capital programme with the balance being carried forward to support future years. To date £699k had been received. In addition, the Council had £1,726k in earmarked reserves of which £861k was currently planned to be utilised in the 2013/14.

Resolved – (1) The revenue budget and capital budget monitoring position as at 30th June 2013 is noted.

(2) That the £71k of the savings expected to be achieved this year as identified in Appendix C now submitted and that these savings will be carried forward to support the 2014/15 budget and beyond is noted.

(3) That the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan is amended to take account of the savings identified in (2) above where these are not currently allowed for in the budget.

POL.540 **PERFORMANCE MONITORING – QUARTER 1 2013/2014**

The Corporate Head of Financial Management submitted a report presenting the Council's first quarter performance monitoring report for the 2013/14 financial year as determined by arrangements set out in the Council's Performance Management Framework. Members were informed of progress and details of current performance against the Council Plan and Priority Indicators.

Monitoring against the Council Plan showed that good progress had been made on implementing the Council Plan actions. Twenty two of the twenty seven had been assessed as on target; two were due to start and some elements on three projects were behind schedule. Seven of nine Council Plan indicators were collated quarterly; one was on target, two were below target and data was not available for two others. The remaining two which related to unemployment rates and new business formations were viewed as context information.

Resolved – That the progress and outcomes achieved are noted.

POL.541 **THE LOCAL GROWTH FUND AND THE POOLING OF THE NEW HOMES BONUS**

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report setting out the key issues for the Council relating to the consultation on the Government's plans to pool £400m of the New Homes Bonus (NHB) in 2015/16 to create a Single Local Growth Fund.

The intention was to pool more financial resources to strengthen incentives for Local Enterprise Partnerships and their partners to generate growth. To do this they intend to pool £400m from the New Homes Bonus within Local Enterprise Partnership areas to support strategic locally led economic growth priorities. If implemented, in 2015/16 the New Homes Bonus would be allocated on its current basis but local authorities would then be required, via a condition on their Section 31 grant, to pool funding within partnership areas to a total of £400m nationally, with the lead authority for each area holding the funding.

The proportion to be pooled would be set centrally, however the percentage or actual figure would not be known until February 2015 although it was currently estimated at 35% of the New Homes Bonus.

The impact on the New Homes Bonus was dependent on the outcome of the consultation exercise and following negotiations with the Local Enterprise Partnerships. Potential consequences of pooling would be on the approach to delivering the Infrastructure Reserve element of the New Homes Bonus as it was clear that the money must be used to deliver the Local Strategic Economic Plans.

Resolved – (1) That the proposals in the Government consultation are noted.

(2) That delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and the Lead Member for Enterprising Craven to conclude negotiations with the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding (LEP) (YNYER LEP) and Leeds City Regions (LCR LEP) regarding the use of the pooled New Homes Bonus.

(The Chairman, Councillor Knowles-Fitton declared an Appendix B interest as he was a member of the Local Enterprise Partnership.)

POL.542 **AIREVILLE PARK MASTERPLAN**

Further to Minute POL.525/13-14, the Director of Services submitted a report firming up details of the Aireville Park Masterplan showing shared Council and community aspirations for the park. The report also highlighted estimated costs, potential funding streams and timescales for the delivery of each priority within the plan.

Prior to the Tour de France grand depart in July 2014, improvements would be made to some existing facilities in the park and these would be financed from previously agreed property and asset maintenance budget as external funding had yet to be finalised.

Resolved – That the Aireville Park Masterplan as detailed in the Appendix to the report now submitted is approved.

\$POL.543 **STAFFING MATTER**

The Strategic Manager for Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) reported verbally to Members on staffing matters further to the meeting held on 22nd August 2013.

[A separate excluded full minute has been prepared for this item. It is published (on pink paper) in an Appendix to Members, relevant officers and others who are entitled to all details.]

Minute for Decision

POL.544 PROPOSAL FOR NORTH YORKSHIRE BUSINESS RATES POOL

The Corporate Head of Financial Management submitted a report seeking approval for the Council to join a North Yorkshire Business Rates Pool from April 2014 under the Government's voluntary Business Rates Retention Scheme.

Under the scheme, local authorities are allowed to keep a proportion of the business rates collected with the aim of providing more of an incentive to enforce the collection of business rates and encouraging them to work together. Because the size of authorities' business rates bases vary widely, each year some of the business rates income would be transferred between local authorities by means of a top up or tariff. 50% of the business rates collected nationally are passed to central Government to fund the Revenue Support Grant. Craven District Council had estimated that it collects £18,674m and therefore £9.631k goes to the government. Calculations based on the retained element would mean retained funding of £1.3m for Craven.

The proposal before Members was to be part of a North Yorkshire Pool including the County Council and the Fire Authority as top up authorities and Craven, Hambleton, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby as tariff authorities. Harrogate was already part of the Leeds City Region Pool.

The Corporate Head of Financial Management's report highlighted both the main risk areas and the benefits and, on balance, subject to satisfactory governance arrangements, current financial modelling had indicated that the potential rewards exceeded the relatively low risks of pooling within North Yorkshire.

RECOMMENDED (1) That, in order to meet the Government deadline of 31st October 2013, the negotiations for the terms and conditions of the Council's membership of the pool are delegated to the Corporate Head of Financial Management in consultation with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

(2) That delegated authority is given to the Corporate Head of Financial Management in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Finance, to join a business rate pool for 2014/2015 should they be satisfied that such an arrangement is likely to be in the financial interests of the Council.

(3) That a further report to update Members is brought back to the next meeting of this Committee on 19th November 2013.

(Councillor Polly English declared an Appendix B interest as she was a member of North Yorkshire County Council.)

Chairman