

POLICY COMMITTEE

3rd March 2015

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

Also in attendance: Councillors Roberts.

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Strategic Manager – Financial Services (S.151. Officer), Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Waste and Recycling Manager, Communications Manager, Asset and Project Manager and Committee Administrator.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor English.

Start: 6:30pm

Finish: 9.25pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 17th February 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. 655 (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) and Category 5 (legal professional privilege in proceedings) .

Minutes for Report

POL646

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr Jackson presented a statement regarding proposed changes to the Waste Collection Policy. Dr Jackson stated that in trying to understand the rationale and methodology in developing the proposals a number of issues of concern had been found which had led to a suspicion that the changes were being introduced for reasons other than health and safety.

Dr Jackson then went on to make the following points:

That the Council has mis-interpreted or mis-represented the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Order;

The HSE made no specific recommendations on mitigation measures;

The Order only required the Council to carry out a risk assessment;

HSE guidance is not prescriptive;

A copy of the CDC risk assessment had been obtained from the HSE;

Inconsistencies undermine the CDC policy;

No changes are planned to blue bag collection but these have a higher risk rating than wheeled bin collection;

'Collection points are supposed to eliminate crews using un-adopted roads, but most back streets are adopted;

Weekly collections would mitigate the increased weight of wheeled bins but had been ruled out on the grounds of cost;

An alternative mitigation measure would be the reintroduction of plastic bin bags to affected household but this option had also been ruled out;

The CDC policy would transfer risk from trained employees to members of the public which could increase the likelihood of accidents;

Craven has a significant population of elderly people and there are also many people who will be physically incapable;

The potential costs of assisted collections have not been properly assessed.

The Chairman thanked Dr Jackson for his statement and Councillor Lis undertook to provide a written response and copy it to Committee members.

POL.647

COLLECTION POINT POLICY PROGRESS

The Director of Services submitted a report updating Members on progress in implementing the Collection Point Policy.

A number of members referred to the points made by Dr Jackson in his presentation above (Minute POL.647) and suggested that these and other concerns needed to be further considered. In particular members did not have a clear a clear idea of how many people would be require assistance and what evidence would be required.

Members commented on the consultation letter and asked that it be redrafted in a more consultative tone.

The following motion was moved and seconded, to:

'Pause implementation in order to receive all relevant information and to consider points raised by Dr Jackson, to review the situation as it currently stands with a report back to the next meeting of Policy Committee.'

On being put to the vote the motion was lost.

The following motion was then moved and seconded and on being put to the vote it was;

Resolved – To consider concerns raised by members and Dr Jackson as part of the consultation with a report back to Policy Committee before implementation.

POL.648

SELECT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT GARDEN WASTE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE AND BELLE VUE SQUARE OFFICES

The Chairman of Select Committee presented a report on the outcome of the Committee's considerations of matters relating to the Garden Waste Subscription Service and Belle Vue Square Offices for which Policy Committee was responsible:

a. Garden Waste Subscription Service

Select Committee had concluded that the introduction of a subscription for the garden waste service appeared to have been a success. The Select Committee will revisit the garden waste subscription service after a further two years of operation, but in the meantime has suggested to the Waste and Recycling Manager that the service retain a flexible approach to the end of year collection point, and also retain the option of a one off collection dependent on the impact of seasonal variations in the late autumn / early winter period.

b. Office Relocation : Savings

The Select Committee was satisfied that savings to be generated by the move to Belle Vue Square have been realised as predicted. Attention was drawn to the constraints presented by the existing reception arrangements to the Council's ability to sublet office space, and it was suggested that consideration be given to:

- a. the need to examine the signage and customer experience on entering the building; and
- b. access from the rear of the building should be examined, namely the introduction of the ability to use door passes to gain access to the civic suite via the current fire door to the car park.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

POL.649

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 3 2014/15

The Strategic Manager (Financial Services) submitted a report advising Members of the revenue budget position of the Council, based on the quarter 3 review of income and expenditure to the end of December 2014.

- Resolved** –
- (1) The revenue budget monitoring position as at 31 December 2014 be noted.
 - (2) It be noted that £126k of the savings expected to be achieved this year are identified as green in Appendix B and that these savings will be carried forward for support to the 2015/16 budget and beyond.
 - (2) That the Council's Long Term Financial Strategy be amended to take account of the 'green' savings in 2015/16 and beyond where these are not currently allowed for in the budget.

POL.650

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING QUARTER 3 2014/15

The Strategic Manager (Financial Services) submitted a report advising Members of the capital programme position of the Council, based on the quarter 3 review of income and expenditure to the end of December 2014.

Resolved – The capital budget monitoring position as at 31 December 2014 be noted.

POL.651

PERFORMANCE MONITORING QUARTER 3 2014/15

The Strategic Manager (Financial Services) submitted a report present the Council's performance monitoring report for quarter 3 2014/15 in accordance with arrangements set out in the Council's performance management framework .

Resolved – That the report be noted.

POL.652

TOUR DE FRANCE LEGACY PLAN

The Chief Executive submitted a report setting out the long term vision and key objectives for a Cycle Legacy for Craven District Council over the next nine years. The report identified opportunities Craven may want to explore further to bring about long term positive change and build the District's reputation for cycling. It was proposed that the Council adopt three high level strategic policy objectives: Improving Cycle Infrastructure; Developing Cycle Events and Festivals; and, Improving Training and Promotion.

Resolved – (1) The 3 high level strategic priority objectives detailed in Appendix A of the report be approved and adopted.

(2) The detailed Action Plan in Appendix B of the report be approved.

POL.653

AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUTED SUMS FRAMEWORK

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking approval to preferred options for the use of affordable housing commuted sums and the process for agreeing annual expenditure on individual schemes.

Resolved – (1) The list of preferred options for the use of affordable housing commuted sums set out at section 4 of the report be approved.

(2) Approval be given to the submission of an outline programme for the use of affordable housing commuted sums to Policy Committee as part of the Council's approval of the annual Capital Budget.

(3) Delegated approval (subject to resolution 2 above) for the specific expenditure of affordable housing commuted sums in line with the list of preferred options and the approved capital budget to the Director of Services in consultation with the Lead Member (Housing), ward councillor(s) and Council's Section 151 Officer.

POL.654

TERMINATION OF THE COUNCILS' MEMBERSHIP TO THE YORKSHIRE ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

(Note: Councillor Lis: declared an 'other interest' under Appendix B of the Member Code of Conduct as a Council appointed Director of the Yorkshire Energy Partnership Company and left the meeting during consideration of the item)

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking approval to terminate the Councils' membership of the Yorkshire Energy Partnership in view of the Council's participation in the 'Green Deal' programme.

Resolved – (1) That the termination of membership to the Yorkshire Energy Partnership Ltd – Company Number 03337712 be approved.

(2) That authority is given to Environmental Health & Housing Manger to terminate this membership by giving three months' notice to the company in writing a period of notice that is defined in the 'Articles of Association'.

\$POL655

HORSE CLOSE DEVELOPMENT

The Director of Services submitted a report update Committee on progression of the Development Agreement and to present the final preliminary offer made by Lovell in accordance with the Development Agreement for the land on the west side of Sharphaw Avenue, Skipton (also known as "Horse Close").

Resolved- (1) The report be noted.

(2) Approval be given to the offer contained in the Preliminary Financial Appraisal submitted by Lovell Partnerships Limited as detailed at Section 4 of this report, such approval to be given strictly in accordance with the terms of the Development Agreement dated 1st April 2011 and without prejudice to the Council's ability to terminate the Development Agreement;

(3) The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to agree a variation to the Development Agreement to deal with those matters set out at paragraph 4.3 of this report;

(4) Authorise the Director of Services in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Lead Member Asset Management to agree any further minor amendments to the Development Agreement; and

(5) A further report be presented to Policy Committee should the basis of the offer from Lovell Partnership Limited alter as they progress through the conditions of the Development Agreement which could potentially impact on the price achievable.

(Note: Councillors Barrett, Beck and Heseltine asked that their votes against the above decisions be noted)

Minutes for Decision

POL.656

CAPITAL STRATEGY 2015 – 2019

The Strategic Manager (Financial Services) submitted a report seeking approval of the Council's capital strategy for 2015/2016 to 2018/2019.

Recommended – That the Capital Strategy 2015/16 -2018/19 be approved.

Chairman