

POLICY COMMITTEE

21st July 2015

Present – The Chairman (Foster) and Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Dawson, English, Heseltine, Ireton, Kerwin-Davey, Lis, Mulligan, Myers, Place, G Quinn and Sutcliffe.

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Strategic Manager – Financial Services (S.151 Officer), Strategic Manager (Planning and Regeneration), Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Asset and Project Manager, Housing and Environmental Health Manager, Communications and Partnerships Manager and Committee Administrator.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hull.

Start: 6:30pm

Finish: 8:47pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 9th June 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Exclusion of the Public

Resolved – That in accordance with the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public is excluded from the meeting during consideration of Minute POL.674 (marked \$) on the grounds that it is not in the public interest to disclose Category 3 (financial or business affairs of any particular person including the Council) exempt information therein.

Minutes for Report

POL.672

COLLECTION POINT POLICY PROGRESS REPORT – FEEDBACK FROM PILOT

Further to the Health and Safety Executive's Improvement Notice requiring the Council to consider its edge of property collection service, the Director of Services submitted a report providing feedback to Members on the implementation of the Collection Point Policy and in particular the pilot scheme that had been undertaken in four areas; Ingleton, Cowling, Hellifield and Farnhill.

Various options to address the manual handling risk had been considered and it was felt that the best option had been to introduce bin collection points throughout the District along with an assisted collection scheme for those householders who were physically unable to move bins.

Consultations with the residents in the pilot areas had taken place to ascertain the most convenient location for the collection points and to explain the reasons for the change.

The pilot had emphasised the importance of ensuring the impact on residents was considered fully and all alternatives explored including using a smaller vehicle in some circumstances but this could require additional capital investment.

A timetable for the implementation (including consultation with householders) of the collection point scheme to the remaining parishes was included within the report.

Resolved – That the report is noted.

POL.673

DEVOLUTION

The Chairman updated Members on the current situation regarding devolution for the Yorkshire authorities which would seek to achieve decision making to be made more locally with greater autonomy.

There were a number of options being considered including:

- The creation of a Greater Yorkshire
- A West Yorkshire Combined Authority; or
- North Yorkshire, York, East Riding, Craven and possibly Hull.

Craven DC was still in the process of finalising a list of 'asks' which would be put forward as part of the negotiations with Whitehall.

Resolved – That, the verbal report is noted.

\$POL.674

INTEREST IN OFFICE UNIT TO LET AT SKIPTON TOWN HALL

The Director of Services submitted a report asking Members to authorise the progression of terms in relation to a potential lease of an office unit, Council Chamber and Town Hall frontage.

Resolved – That, in consultation with the Leader or Deputy Leader and Lead Member (Asset Management) or Lead Member (Enterprising Craven), the Director of Services is authorised to agree the terms of the lease for first floor office space and the Council Chamber following conclusion of negotiations with the interested party.

(Councillors Heseltine and Dawson declared Appendix B interests in the above item as they were both Members of Skipton Town Council. They did not take part in the debate or vote on the matter thereon.)

Minutes for Decision

POL.675

REQUEST FOR A SUPPLEMENTARY REVENUE ESTIMATE

The Director of Services submitted a report asking Members to consider a request for a supplementary estimate of £50,000 per annum for 2015/16 and 2016/17 for additional resources within the Council's Assets and Property Services Unit in order to deliver the Council's priorities.

Because of continuing central government funding cuts, the Council's Long Term Financial Strategy required savings of at least £650,000 and to achieve this, the Council would need to continue being innovative in finding savings and increasing income. Members were advised that the Assets and Property Services Unit was instrumental in the delivery of a number of Council priorities in the current Council Plan as well as exploring the potential to generate income and efficiencies from a range of Council assets such as Ashfield toilets, Craven Pool and Waltonways crematorium/cemetery.

Currently the service was drawing on external agency staff and consultants but it was considered more efficient to invest in developing the Council's own resources to ensure the unit was adequately staffed by suitably qualified persons. In particular, a qualified RICS building surveyor and a commercial surveyor were required, both of whom would support and help develop various opportunities, including acquisitions, the build to rent programme and negotiating tenancies etc.

RECOMMENDED – That, a supplementary revenue estimate of £50,000 each year in 2015/16 and 2016/17 from the Enabling Efficiencies Reserve to fund additional resources in the Council's Assets and Property Service is approved.

POL.676

SKIPTON TOWN HALL : FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE CONCERT HALL

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report seeking Members' agreement for the preparation of a feasibility study for the restoration of the Concert Hall and ancillary rooms within Skipton Town Hall.

The restoration of the Concert Hall was part of a long term project to restore and improve the Town Hall as a vibrant community venue to educate, inspire and entertain. A feasibility study by an appropriately qualified and experienced consultant would include an assessment of the demographics of existing and potential new audiences, ensure how the Town Hall could become a financially sustainable building and show how the space could be restructured to maximise income from commercial events. In addition, the feasibility study would provide the necessary information required by the Arts Council should they wish to consider giving permission to the Council to apply for capital funding.

RECOMMENDED – That, up to £20,000 is made available from the Council's New Homes Bonus Localism Reserve to fund the costs of preparing a feasibility study for the restoration of the Concert Hall and ancillary rooms within Skipton Town Hall.

POL.677

LEEDS CREDIT UNION PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT 2015-18

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking approval for the Council to work in partnership with Leeds Credit Union. The partnership would enable Craven residents and people who worked in Craven to access credit union services as an alternative to vulnerable people who had few options to access cash when they needed it most.

Although Craven (relative to the national average) was a prosperous area, pockets of deprivation existed with the South Skipton wards of Greatwood and Horse Close ranked within the top 20% most deprived in England.

Revenue costs required to promote and deliver Leeds Credit Union services in Craven has been budgeted at £10,000 per annum for three years commencing 2015/16 and it was proposed that £30,000 was set aside within the Enabling Efficiencies Reserve to fund the Council's costs.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the proposal to work in partnership with Leeds Credit Union to offer and promote their services to Craven residents and people who work in Craven is approved.

(2) That, a supplementary estimate of £10,000 per annum for three years from 2015/16 to 2017/18 to cover the financial costs for promotion and delivery to be funded from the Enabling Efficiencies Reserve is approved.

POL.678

THRESHFIELD QUARRY PUBLIC ART

The Director of Services submitted a report asking Members to approve the allocation of funding to support the construction of a significant piece of public art in Threshfield Quarry. The quarry, owned by Lafarge-Tarmac has been recently closed and restored in exchange for an extension to the working area at nearby Swinden Quarry.

A masterplan for the future of Threshfield Quarry was being developed by a team led by Bauman Lyons Architects of Leeds and Estelle Warren Landscape Architects in Otley with funding by the

York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership with support from Craven District Council and Lafarge-Tarmac. In addition, the Threshfield Quarry Trust had been established by Lafarge Tarmac, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Grassington Festival and the Yorkshire Dales Landscape Research Trust. The Trust's focus was to develop and deliver key projects that otherwise would not be possible.

Whilst the lower quarries had been designated by the Yorkshire Dales National Park as employment land, the top quarries and lagoons have been developed into a crayfish sanctuary and the large upper chamber was being allowed to return to nature. It was this top quarry where it was proposed to site a piece of public art commissioned by the internationally renowned artist Andy Goldsworthy.

The cost of the design, construction and installation of the piece was £220,000 and whilst the Trust had applied to Lafarge Tarmac for the Aggregate Levy Fund for the full amount, Lafarge Tarmac had to recover the tax element of 10%. This resulted in the Trust needing to raise £22,000 to cover the arising shortfall. Craven District Council had, therefore, been asked to contribute an £11,000 grant towards the project and also provide a further £11,000 of funding to underwrite the search for other sources of funding.

RECOMMENDED – That, £22,000 is allocated from the New Homes Bonus to go towards the creation of a piece of public art in Threshfield Quarry comprising of a grant of £11,000 and £11,000 underwriting.

POL.679

**NORTH YORKSHIRE BUSINESS RATE POOL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT TOP SLICE – FUNDING WELCOME TO
YORKSHIRE**

The Chief Executive and the Strategic Manager for Financial Services submitted a joint report providing an overview of the North Yorkshire Business Rates Pool and to seek an additional £10k as a contribution to Welcome to Yorkshire.

The first year of the Business Rates Pool had been successful in generating an overall surplus of £730K to be distributed amongst the members. When the Pool was established it was envisaged that it would be an important enabler to drive forward economic growth with targeted investment across North Yorkshire. The Pool included a top slice which amounted to £250,000k or 20% to be used to fund economic development projects which would benefit all districts within the Pool.

Leaders and Chief Executives of Pool authorities that operated in the Leeds City Region and North Yorkshire areas had recently met with Welcome to Yorkshire representatives when issues relating to the on-going financial position and its business plan activities were discussed. They felt that an additional investment was a worthwhile move to underpin Welcome to Yorkshire's 2015/16 programme of activities.

Members were therefore asked to approve a supplementary estimate to the 2015/16 budget of £10,000 from the Enabling Efficiencies Reserve as a contribution to Welcome to Yorkshire.

RECOMMENDED – That an additional contribution of £10,000 from the Enabling Efficiencies Reserve is made to Welcome to Yorkshire.

POL.680

TOUR DE YORKSHIRE 2016/17

The Chief Executive submitted a report setting out the implications of securing host status for the Tour de Yorkshire cycle race in 2016 and 2017 and sought agreement to pursue host status in Settle.

The inaugural event ran earlier this year and proved to be a huge marketing opportunity with live TV coverage broadcast to 177 countries around the world. Welcome to Yorkshire and the Amaury Sport Association were starting to explore options for towns that would start or finish the race and Settle had been suggested as a potential candidate.

Members were informed that with the growing profile of the Tour de Yorkshire, hosting the event provided a real opportunity for both Settle and Craven to be showcased as a tourist destination whilst adding to the growing enthusiasm for cycling in the UK.

The financial implications for seeking host status included the payment of a hosting fee of £100,000 together with operational costs and potential costs for staging an accompanying festival such as a big screen and interactive events.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the pursuit of host status for Settle is approved.

(2) That, if host status for Settle is successfully secured, a sum of £170,000 which is not to be exceeded, is set aside from the New Homes Bonus localism reserve to cover the costs associated with the event.

(3) That, it is noted that a more detailed report will be brought back to a future Policy Committee if host status for Settle is successfully secured, and following detailed negotiations with the race organisers and potential sponsors and partners.

(4) That all parties are made aware that the Craven District Council contribution is limited to £170,000.

Chairman