

POLICY COMMITTEE

28th July 2015

Present – The Chairman (Foster) and Councillors, Dawson, Heseltine, Hull, Ireton, Kerwin-Davey, Mulligan, Myers, Place, G Quinn, Solloway (substitute for English) and Thompson (Substitute for Brockbank).

Officers – Chief Executive, 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, and Committee Administrator.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, English, Lis and Sutcliffe.

Start: 6:30pm

Finish: 8.40pm

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.682 (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.681

Revenue Budget Outturn 2014/15

The Strategic Manager Financial Services (S.151 Officer) submitted a report advising Members of the final revenue budget position of the Council, (subject to audit) of income and expenditure to the end of March 2015.

It was reported that the impact of the economy on the Council's income streams and their volatility is a risk to the Council and will need to be managed closely going forward. The General Fund Revenue Balance stood at £1,030k at 31 March 2015. This would assist in mitigating against the risk of unplanned movements from budgeted net expenditure levels, as well as the impact of changes in local government funding. The Council has managed its budget within 2014/15 and generated savings for its budget targets in 2015/16 and beyond.

Resolved- (1) That, the outturn revenue budget monitoring position as at 31st March 2015 is noted.

(2) That, the transfers to earmarked reserves is noted.

\$POL.682

Skipton Town Hall Lettings

The Director of Services submitted a report inform members that the Council has received formal confirmation from Waterstones that they have withdrawn their offer on unit 1 in Skipton Town Hall. The report also reported on the progress made on the further marketing of the large retail unit (Unit 1) in Skipton Town Hall and requested Members to authorise the progression of the terms of a lease on one of the two offers received.

Resolved- (1) To approve Tasty PLC T/A Wildwood as the preferred option to

progress heads of terms with the intention of negotiating and agreeing a suitable lease between the Council and approved company for the leasing of a large unit (shown as Unit 1 in Appendix A) within Skipton Town Hall.

(2) Authorise the Director of Services in consultation with the Leader or Deputy Leader and Lead Member Asset Management or Lead Member Enterprising Craven to agree the terms of the lease following conclusion of negotiations.

(3) Should the terms of lease not be successfully negotiated with the preferred company to give delegated authority to the Director of Services in consultation with the Leader or Deputy Leader, Lead Member Asset Management or Lead Member Enterprising Craven to negotiate and agree terms with any other suitable party the disposal of the lease of the unit identified at (1) above and an update report be presented to this Committee in due course.

(Note: Councillor Myers declared a pecuniary interest as the owner of a restaurant in Skipton, under part A of the Member Code of Conduct, and left the meeting before consideration of the item.)

Minutes for Decision

POL.683

North Yorkshire Housing Strategy 2015-2021

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking Members approval and adoption of the North Yorkshire Housing Strategy, following adoption by the Local Government York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Housing Board in March 2015.

The document set out how the Housing Board partners would work with stakeholders to deliver the housing aims of the LEP and Housing Board members. Investing to increase the supply of housing was at the core of the Strategy.

RECOMMENDED -

(1) To approve and adopt the North Yorkshire Housing Strategy 2015-2021 and associated sub regional and local action plans as set out in Appendices B, D & E to the report.

(2) That the Environmental Health & Housing Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing be authorised to make minor changes to the Strategy and Action Plans as and when required within the lifetime of the Strategy.

POL.684

Craven Homelessness Review and Strategy 2015-2020

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking approval of the Craven Homelessness Review & Strategy 2015 – 2020.

The Strategy responded to the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002) which placed a duty on local authorities to take a strategic approach to tackling and

preventing homelessness.

Members requested that figures the numbers of homeless and rough sleepers in the District be circulated to all members.

- RECOMMENDED -**
- (1) To approve and adopt the Craven Homelessness Review & Strategy 2015 - 2020 and associated Homelessness Delivery Plan as set out in Part 4 of the document.
 - (2) The Environmental Health & Housing Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder be authorised to make minor changes to the Strategy and Action Plans as and when required.

POL.685

Infrastructure Reserve : Leeds & Liverpool Canal Corridor

The Director of Services submitted a report inform Members on progress with regard to improvement of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal corridor and seeking agreement on how some of the funds identified in the Council's New Homes Bonus Infrastructure Reserve should be used to support future delivery.

Future activities were proposed in relation to the ongoing delivery of the Access Development Plan, heritage interpretation on the canal network, and Investigation of Gallows Bridge, to be funded from the New Homes Bonus Infrastructure Reserve.

- RECOMMENDED -**
- (1) Progress in producing the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Access Development Plan and success in securing financial investment to enable delivery be noted.
 - (2) To allocate a sum of up to £300,000 from the Council's New Homes Bonus Infrastructure Reserve to support future funding applications submitted by the Council and partner organisations to improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal towpath corridor between Gargrave, Skipton and the Aire Valley. Subject to any proposed funding in excess of £100,000 being brought to this Committee for approval.
 - (3) That officers work up proposals to be brought back to this Committee to support measures that are designed to enhance Heritage and visitor interpretation in the Leeds & Liverpool Canal corridor.
 - (4) Subject to the approval of recommendation 2 and 3, give delegated authority to the Director of Services in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Lead Member for Enterprising Craven and the Strategic Manager (Financial Services) to agree how the monies are assigned.
 - (5) Allocate a sum of £10,000 from the Council's New Homes Bonus Infrastructure Reserve to undertake feasibility and initial design options for the replacement of Gallows Bridge, Skipton.

POL.686

Leeds City Region ESIF Programme – Enterprise Growth Proposals

The Director of Services submitted a report proposing that the Council contribute funding to an enterprise growth project as part of a local authority-led consortium formed in response to a European Structure and Investment Funds (ESIF) Programme call for proposals relating to Enterprise Growth in the Leeds City Region.

The project would be aimed at promoting the start-up and growth of SME's across the Leeds City Region. It was proposed that the Council's contribution be funded from the New Homes Bonus Localism Reserve.

- RECOMMENDED -**
- (1) Endorse the proposed bid by the local authority-led consortium to deliver an Enterprise Growth Project (Ad:Venture) across the Leeds City Region.
 - (2) Agree to contribute up to £46,123 as matched funding for the proposed Enterprise Growth Project (Ad:Venture) being developed by the local authority-led consortium for the Leeds City Region.

POL.687

Cross Hills Village Centre Improvement Plan

The Director of Services submitted a report setting out some of the key challenges to make Cross Hills village centre a vibrant location for residents from across South Craven. The report explained the progress that had been made to date and the initial projects seeking resources

Proposed projects identified in the report were the refurbishment of pavements, review of the recycling bring site and a Cross Hills heritage building scheme. Estimated costs were £100,000 to be funded from the New Homes Bonus Infrastructure reserve.

- RECOMMENDED -**
- (1) To allocate a sum of £100,000 from the Council's New Homes Bonus Infrastructure Reserve to support delivery of the actions in section 6.
 - (2) Give delegated authority to the Economic Development Manager, in consultation with the Lead Member for Enterprising Craven and the Ward Members for Glusburn and Cross Hills to agree how the monies are assigned.
 - (3) Grant permission to officers to seek and apply for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other sources to develop and deliver the Cross Hills Heritage Building Scheme.
 - (4) Establish a time limited grants panel to oversee the Cross Hills Heritage Building Scheme comprised of four Craven DC members including the ward representatives, a parish councillor and a local retailer.

Chairman

