

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2016

**Present** – The Chairman (Foster) and Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Dawson, Heseltine, Hull, Kerwin-Davey, Lis, Mulligan, Place, Quinn and Sutcliffe

**Officers** – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Corporate Head of Business Support, Strategic Manager – Financial Services (S.151 Officer), Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer), Strategic Manager – Planning and Regeneration, Housing and Environmental Health Manager, Communications and Partnerships Manager, Assets and Commercial Services Manager, Business Services Manager and Committee Administrator.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ireton and Myers.

Start: 6:30pm

Finish: 8:30pm

The minutes of the Committee's meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**Minutes for Report**

POL.734

**DEVOLUTION**

The Chief Executive submitted a report and gave a presentation on the current negotiations with regard to the two devolution proposals that affected Craven, namely Leeds City Region (LCR) and York, North Yorkshire and East Riding (YNYER). The position on the Combined Authorities was not clear due to a number of inherent complications and the fact that no deal had been completed which included Craven. Members were advised that becoming a full member of one Combined Authority precluded the Council from full membership of the other.

The report provided an analysis of the two deals but, at this stage, it was difficult to evaluate the benefits and risks for Craven although the transport and fiscal 'asks' were the most significant and intrinsically linked in economic terms and crucially important to Craven.

**Resolved** – (1) That, the report and the progress on the Leeds City Region (LCR) and the Yorks, North Yorkshire and East Riding (YNYER) proposals are noted.

(2) That delegated authority is given to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to negotiate all options and continue to report back to this Committee and all Members.

POL.735

**REVENUE BUDGE MONITORING – QUARTER 3 2015-2016**

The Strategic Manager for Financial Services (S.151 officer) submitted a report submitted a report advising Members of the revenue budget position of the Council, based on the quarter three review of income and expenditure to the end of December 2015.

The Council's overall performance against revenue budget was a forecasted underspend of £179k for the financial year. This included £51k from the Council's Income and Savings Plan as detailed in the appendix to the report now submitted. It was proposed that contributions of £154k were transferred to earmarked reserves.

The 2016/17 approved revenue budget at £7,183k which was subsequently increased by 2014/15 budget slippage amounting to £145k and capital programme slippage and additions amounting to £385k. In addition, the Council had approved £121k of supplementary estimates to be funded from earmarked reserves giving a net revised revenue budget of £7,834k for 2015/16. The general fund revenue balance stood at £995 and 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.

**Resolved** – (1) That, the revenue budget monitoring position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 is noted.

(2) That, the transfer of £47k of savings to be achieved this year and identified as green in Appendix B to the Future Years Budget Reserve, for support to the 2016/17 budget and beyond is approved.

(3) That, the Council's Long Term Financial Plan is amended to take account of the 'green' savings in 2016/17 and beyond where these are not currently allowed for in the budget.

(4) That, the transfer of £154k of the forecasted budget surplus to earmarked reserves as detailed in paragraph 5.7 of the report now submitted is approved.

POL.736

#### **CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING – QUARTER 3 2015-2016**

The Strategic Manager for Financial Services (S.151 officer) submitted a report advising Members of the capital programme position of the Council based on the quarter three review of income and expenditure to the end of December 2015.

The Council approved the 2015/16 capital programme of £1,329k in February 2016 and in August 2015 £1,131k of slippage from 2014/15 was added to the programme. In addition, previously approved and new projects had commenced adding a further £529k to the programme giving a total capital programme of £3,173k.

To the end of December 2015, expenditure on the programme was £1,103k and the forecasted outturn for the capital programme of £2,535k. It was currently estimated that that £568k of projects would slip to future year capital programmes and the current year programme had been adjusted to reflect those changes. In addition, £57k of funding was not required for projects that would be undertaken or had been completed via an alternative solution.

**Resolved** – (1) That, the capital budget monitoring position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 and the additions to the programme are noted.

(2) That, the amendments to the capital programme as mentioned in the report now submitted and the associated adjustments to the budget to give a revised capital programme of £2,535,180 are approved.

POL.737

#### **PERFORMANCE MONITORING – QUARTER 3 2015-2016**

The Strategic Manager for Financial Services (S.151 officer) submitted a report presenting the Council's performance monitoring report for quarter 3 of the 2015/16 financial year in accordance with arrangements set out in the Council's performance management framework.

Monitoring against the Council Plan showed that good progress had been made on implementation of Council Plan actions. Fifteen had been assessed as on target and one had not started as it was not required. Of the quarterly indicators attached to the Council Plan, three of the seven with targets were below target.

**Resolved** – That, the progress and outcomes achieved are noted.

POL.738

### **NEW HOMES BONUS REVIEW**

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report highlighting the key aspects of the current Government consultation on the reform of the New Homes Bonus together with an initial draft response to that consultation. The Government particularly wanted views on two aspects of the Bonus; reducing overall costs by moving from 6 years to 4 years of payments and reform the Bonus in order to better reflect local authorities' performance on housing growth.

The New Homes Bonus had been introduced in 2011 to provide an incentive for local authorities to encourage house growth in their areas by giving a bonus for each additional new build and conversion using the national average council tax in each band. Long term empty properties brought back into use were also included in the scheme and there was a premium for affordable homes.

The Government's aim was to save £800m for reallocation to adult social care and also to sharpen the incentive for council's to encourage more house building.

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration report set out the consultation questions and the Council's draft response. Members were asked to give delegated authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to produce the Council's final response to the Government's consultation.

**Resolved** – (1) That, the issues raised in the Government's consultation on reform of the New Homes Bonus are noted.

(2) That, authority is given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to produce the final consultation submission.

POL.739

### **AMENDMENTS TO PARKING PLACES ORDER**

The Director of Services submitted a report asking Members to consider the introduction of a Pop and Shop parking scheme on the Council's Coach Street Car Park, Skipton and the removal of motorcycle charges across the pay and display car parks within the District. In addition, approval was sought for the removal of an area of land adjacent to Skipton Bus Station from the Craven District Council Parking Places Order.

A local retailer located on Coach Street had asked if a small number of Pop and Shop spaces could be created on Coach Street similar to the successful scheme on the High Street car park. Not only would it benefit visitors who wished to make a quick visit to the Coach Street area shops but it would assist parents dropping off and picking up children from schools on Gargrave Road who often needed longer than the 15 minutes grace period.

In relation to motorcycle parking on the Council's pay and display car parks Members were advised that it was exceedingly difficult to effectively enforce and riders had expressed their concern about being able to retain a pay and display ticket on their bike and avoid receiving a parking charge notice. It was proposed that the Parking Places Order was amended to allow motorcycles to park free of charge in designated areas but charges would apply should they choose to park in a normal four wheeled vehicle sized parking bay.

However, on balance Members felt they could not support free parking for motorcycles at this stage until further options had been explored and that a further report setting out various options should be brought back to Committee.

Finally, the Director of Services' report asked Members to approve the removal of a small piece of land adjacent to Skipton Bus Station from the Parking Places Order. The land was of no benefit to the day to day operation of the car park or bus station but it had the potential to be rented out, thus providing an income for the Council.

**Resolved** – (1) That the introduction of Pop and Shop on Coach Street Car Park, Skipton by designating 10 spaces, in the area identified on the plan attached at Appendix A to the report submitted to complement the scheme already in place on the High Street Car Park, Skipton is approved.

(2) That, officers are requested to investigate the options for charging for motorcycle parking on all pay and display car parks and bring a report back to this Committee at a later date.

(3) That, the removal of land, as identified on the plan attached at Appendix B to the report now submitted, from the Parking Places Order to allow for an alternative use is approved.

(4) That, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council to seek consent from North Yorkshire County Council as the Highway Authority and make the formal Parking Places Order including considering and deciding on duly made objections to the Parking Order proposals.

POL.740

### **STRATEGIC REVIEW OF RECYCLING BRING-SITES**

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking approval for the removal of the bring site located on Hall Close, Cross Hills and for a review to be undertaken of all the Council's bring sites across the District. Currently, 24 bring sites were located on Council or Parish owned land with a further 94 situated on Schedule 2 premises such as campsites, schools etc. where a charge could be made or trade premises that had allowed the siting of containers on their land at no cost to the Council.

Since the introduction of alternate weekly collections in February 2010, all residents had direct access to doorstep recycling and therefore the requirement for bring sites had substantially reduced. Furthermore due to a significant fall in recyclates materials from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, the Council would be paying for the waste to be recycled. Added to this, there was strong evidence that businesses were using the facilities when they should be paying for collections by the Council or another commercial operator.

Following the Council's decision to provide up to £100,000 to support the delivery of a number of actions aimed at improving the quality of Cross Hill village centre, a consultation exercise had revealed that local traders and the parish councils of Glusburn and Cross Hills wanted to see a review of the bring site located in Hall Street car park, Cross Hills. The site was regarded as detracting from the Main Street because of its scale and proximity to the main retail area.

Having regard to the views of Glusburn and Cross Hills parish councils and the local traders, the Director of Services' report recommended the removal of the bring site at Hall Close car park in advance of the review. Not only would this action satisfy the local traders and parish councils, but it would assist in informing the District wide review.

However, during the ensuing debate, Members felt that the removal of the bring site at Hall Close, Cross Hills should be considered as part of the District wide review.

**Resolved** – (1) That, officers undertake a review on the current 'bring sites' arrangements across the District and report back to a future Policy Committee on the findings.

POL.741

**CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL'S EQUALITY OBJECTIVES**  
**2016-2020**

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Members to approve the adoption of the Equality Objectives 2016-2020 as now submitted. The Equality Act 2010 placed a duty on all public sector bodies requiring them to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work, whether that be shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. The Act required local authorities to publish one or more equality objectives every four years and the 2012-2016 equality objectives had been updated to reflect consultation feedback and discussions with relevant partners.

**Resolved** – That, the Equality Objectives 2016-2020 as set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted are approved.

**Minutes for Decision**

POL.742

**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 2016-2017**

The Director of Services submitted a report asking Members to approve a supplementary capital estimate for two projects connected with Skipton Town Hall and St Andrew's Church, Kildwick.

Skipton Town hall roof although assessed in 2013 as being in 'fair' condition, the current significant restoration and redevelopment project had highlighted that the roof section above the original building was now deemed in very poor condition, resulting in water leaking into many areas within the building. Additional capital expenditure estimated at around £180,000 was required in order to prevent further leakage and return the original section of the Town Hall building to a watertight state ahead on the ongoing restoration/redevelopment.

Members were also informed that a section of boundary retaining wall adjacent to the public highway at the front of St Andrew's Church in Kildwick was showing major signs of structural distress and potential collapse. Under Canon F13, maintaining the closed churchyard at Kildwick had been passed to the local authority and Craven District Council was therefore responsible for any maintenance and repairs. The indicative estimated cost of the works was £22,000.

**RECOMMENDED** – That, a supplementary capital estimate of £202,000 to fund the roof repairs within Skipton Town Hall and the reconstruction of the boundary retaining wall immediately adjacent to Skipton Road at St Andrew's Church, Kildwick is approved.

(Councillor Heseltine declared an Appendix B interest in the above matter by reason of his membership of Skipton Town Council.)

POL.743

**SKIPTON CYCLE RACES**

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Members' approval and support for Skipton Cycle Races to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 as part of the British Cycling Elite Criterium Series.

As part of the legacy strategy following the Tour de France in 2014, a town centre race was held in Skipton last year. As a result of the race's success, Skipton was approached with a view to being a potential race location in the British Cycling Elite Criterium Series. The race would be televised, showcasing Skipton and Craven to a wide audience whilst increased tourism would benefit local businesses.

Although corporate sponsorship was being sought and financial support had been confirmed from Skipton Town Council and Skipton Town Partnership, there was a shortfall of £10,000. In order to secure the event, Members were asked for approval for the Council to underwrite the race in the sum of £10,000 should sponsorship for the shortfall not be forthcoming.

**RECOMMENDED** – (1) That, approval is given for Skipton Cycle Races being held, this time as part of the British Cycling Elite Criterium Series.

(2) That, a supplementary estimate of up to £10,000 to underwrite the event, should the Council not gain corporate sponsorship, is approved.

Chairman

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