

POLICY COMMITTEE

24th July 2018

Present – The Chairman (Foster) and Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Dawson, Heseltine, Ireton, Jaquin, Lis, Mulligan, Myers, Place, Shuttleworth (substitute for Heseltine) and Welch.

Also in Attendance – Councillor Hull.

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Office, Solicitor to the Council, Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Economic Development Manager and Committee Administrator.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Heseltine, Madeley and Morrell. Councillor Mulligan left the meeting at 6.50pm.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7:10pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 19th June 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Minutes for Report

POL.932

TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2017/18

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report informing Members of the treasury activity undertaken during 2017/18 in the context of current and forecast economic climates.

The Council's investments had been managed in accordance with the Council's Investment Policy, and as at 31st March 2018 the Council had a total debt of £5,988,000, with investments of £12,829,624. The Council did not take any additional borrowing during the year and no loans matured during the year, therefore no repayments were necessary.

Resolved – (1) That the actual Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 are noted.

(2) That, the actual treasury management indicators for 2017/18 are noted.

(3) That, the treasury management annual report for 2017/18 is noted.

POL.933

BAD DEBT WRITE OFFS 2017/18

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report In accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, presenting details of total bad debts written off during the 2017/18 financial year under delegated powers.

The total write offs in the year to 31st March 2018 amounted to £226,129 across the following debt types:

Sundry Debtors: £14,551 (as compared to £12,281 in 2016/17);
NNDR Debtors: £48,627 (£120,375);
Council Tax Debtors: £100,014 (£86,037); and
Overpaid Housing Benefits: £62,938 (£45,564).

In writing off these debts, Members were informed the 2017/18 successful collection rates for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) had been 98.38% and 99.14% respectively.

Resolved – That the bad debts written off during the 2017/18 financial year are noted.

POL.934

**SKIPTON CANAL WATERFRONT – TOWN CENTRE
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report asking Members to endorse a scheme of works, including the necessary funding, to improve environmental quality of the Leeds Liverpool Canal Corridor and pedestrian connectivity in Skipton town centre. £5m had been awarded to the Council by the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver a scheme known as the Skipton Housing and Employment Growth Project.

In consultation with key stakeholders including a public consultation exercise, a scheme had been developed to raise the quality of the Canal environment whilst taking into account the 'industrial feel' of the Canal and maintaining its historic character including the removal of unnecessary street furniture and using traditional materials where possible. Members were asked to approve a supplementary estimate of £320,000 to be included in the 2019/2020 capital programme to be funded from the Local Growth Deal monies awarded by the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver the Skipton Canal Waterfront scheme.

To the west of Skipton from Gawflatt Bridge to Niffany Bridge, the towpath was in poor condition including uneven and muddy surfaces and was regularly highlighted as an issue for using the towpath to access the town centre, railway station and educational facilities. To address this concern and after discussions with the Canal and River Trust a sum of £140,000 was included in the District Council bid for Local Growth Fund Investment to fund part of the improvements to that stretch of towpath using the same specification as that recently delivered on the towpath to the South of Skipton. Members were therefore asked to approve a supplementary estimate of £140,000 to be included in the Council's 2019/2020 budget.

Resolved – (1) That, the draft scheme of works to improve the quality of the Leeds Liverpool through the Skipton Canal Waterfront scheme as set out in section 4 of the report now submitted is endorsed.

(2) That, subject to (1) above, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council to seek and enter into the required consents from relevant statutory organisations to enable the Council to deliver the proposed Skipton Canal Waterfront scheme.

(3) That, subject to (1) above, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council to seek and enter into an agreement under the 'Code of Practice for Works Affecting the Canal and River Trust' to deliver the proposed Skipton Canal Waterfront scheme.

(4) That, a supplementary estimate of £320,000 is included in the Council's capital programme for the current financial year (2019/20) to be funded from the Local Growth Deal monies awarded by the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver the Skipton Canal Waterfront scheme.

(5) That, an additional £140,000 of the Local Growth Deal monies awarded by the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership is used to part fund towpath improvements adjacent to Broughton Road, and that the work is delivered by the Canal and River Trust through the Improving Connectivity in the Southern Dales project.

(6) That, subject to (5) above, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council and the Chief Finance Officer to agree terms and enter into a written agreement with the Canal and River Trust for the delivery of towpath works adjacent to Broughton Road.

(7) That, subject to (5) above, that the allocation of £140,000 to be funded from the Local Growth Deal monies awarded by the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership is included in the Council's 2019/20 budget is approved.

POL.935 **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS WITHIN CRAVEN DISTRICT**

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking approval to commence the procurement of a network of rapid electric vehicles (EVs) charge points in the Craven District.

There had been a surge in demand for EVs in the UK with new vehicle registrations increasing from 3,500 in 2013 to more than 145,000 in April 2018. The Government was committed to supporting the growth of EVs and had announced a £400m charging infrastructure investment fund, £100m for a continuation of the plug-in car grant and £40m for research into charging technology. Current Government targets for EVs was 9% by 2020 and 60% by 2030 in order to meet EU carbon emission targets.

A growing number of local authorities were already developing extensive a network of EV charging points and the installation of charging points in Craven would support the Authority's environmental and health/well-being priorities for residents together with attracting visiting EV drivers to retail locations where they could recharge their vehicles.

The Council had the option of funding its own rapid charge points at an estimated cost of between £45k and £50k each for the hardware and installation but this would require the Council to buy in additional expertise to operate, maintain, collect revenue and deal with faults etc. Alternatively, it could look to private sector investment to provide a reliable and sustainable solution via a procurement framework. There were several companies offering fully funded off-street supply, installation and operation of rapid EV charge points while providing a revenue stream to the car park / landowner. A percentage of the profits would be shared by the Council.

Resolved – (1) That, the introduction of electric vehicle charging points on Council owned car parks is approved and the Director of Services is authorised to commence the procurement of services for the installation and management of the charge points.

(2) That, a further report is brought back to Members of this Committee confirming the final financial implications, the locations of the electric vehicle charging points and seek an amendment to the Parking Places Order if it is appropriate and addressing matters raised at Paragraph 4.5 in the report now submitted.

POL.936 **APPOINTMENT TO SUB-COMMITTEES AND PANELS**

The members Services Manager submitted a report asking Members to consider appointing two sub-committees and a consultative group.

Resolved – (1) That the Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committee is re-appointed for 2018/19, with a membership of seven and three named substitutes, comprising the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Dawson, Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Rose, Shuttleworth, Staveley and Sutcliffe. Substitutes: Councillors Madeley, Mulligan, Solloway.

(2) That the Craven Employees' Consultative Group is re-appointed for 2018/19, with a membership of four, comprising the Leader of the

Council, Councillors Dawson, Heseltine and Madeley with terms of reference as shown in the Appendix to the report submitted.

Minutes for Decision

POL.937 **FINAL OUTTURN REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**
QUARTER 4 2017/18

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report advising Members of the revenue budget position of the Council, based on the quarter 4 review of income and expenditure to the end of March 2018.

The general fund reserve balance stood at £995k 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.

The Council had £6,956k in earmarked reserves as at 1st April 2017. Budgeted and in-year contributions of £2,471k less utilisation in 2017/18 of £2,210 and commitment for future years' use of £413k meant a balance of £5,922k. It was proposed that the Chief Finance Officer allocated the final revenue budget surplus to appropriate reserves for the funding of capital or revenue projects going forward.

It was forecast there would be a net underspend of £347k on services and corporate expenditure for the full financial year. The Council's share of additional rates retention income was £789k which included £348k from membership of the North Yorkshire Business Rates Pool to give a net surplus of £1,136k.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the outturn revenue budget monitoring position as at 31st March 2018 is noted.

(2) That, £111,800 of the savings achieved this year and identified as green in Appendix B to the report now submitted is noted and that these savings are transferred to an earmarked reserve for support to the 2018/19 budget and beyond.

(3) That, a revenue budget carry forward of £20,683 for completion of revenue commitments in 2018/19 as identified in Appendix D to the report submitted is confirmed.

(4) That, the transfer of the balance of the revenue budget surplus to earmarked reserves is approved and the allocations are delegated to the Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer).

Chairman