

POLICY COMMITTEE

11th September 2018

Present – The Chairman (Foster) and Councillors Barrett, Heseltine, Jaquin, Lis, Madeley, Mulligan, Myers, Place, Rose and Whitaker (substitute for Dawson).

Also in Attendance – Councillor Hull.

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer, Solicitor to the Council and Committee Administrator.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brockbank, Dawson, Ireton, Morrell and Welch.

Councillor Heseltine left the meeting at 7:12pm.

Start: 6.45pm

Finish: 7:40pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 24th July 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Beth Graham

The Chairman opened the meeting by informing Members of the recent death of former Councillor Beth Graham who had served for 28 years as a ward member for Settle / Settle and Ribblebanks Ward. Several Members paid tribute to Miss Graham.

Minutes for Report

POL.938 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT : QUARTER 1**
2018/2019

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report informing Members of the revenue budget position of the Council based on the quarter 1 review of income and expenditure to the end of June 2018. At the meeting an amended summary of the forecast outturn was circulated.

The Council had approved its net revenue budget for 2018/19 at £6,788.689 which was subsequently increased from revenue budget slippage amounting to £21k and capital programme slippage of £621k.

The Council's overall performance against revenue budget was a projected underspend of £188k for the full financial year, however, because of the volatility of the Council's income streams as set out in 4.12 of the report now submitted, any reduction in the estimated income could reduce that surplus to a deficit.

The 2018/19 budget included contributions of £4k to parishes to assist them with the impact of the localisation of council tax; £98k from previous years council tax collection fund; £20k contribution to the business rates collection fund deficits; New Homes Bonus grant of £513k; net contributions to/from earmarked reserves of £431k; and a corporate contingency of £75k.

The general fund balance stood at £995k at 1st April 2018 and it was expected that this balance would remain during 2018/19.

The Council had £6,342k in earmarked reserves at 1st April 2018. Budgeted and in-year contributions of £553k, less £984k which would be utilised in 2018/19 and £921k had been committed for future use.

Resolved – (1) That the revenue budget position as at 30 June 2018 is noted.

(2) That, £2,780 of the savings achieved this quarter and identified as green in Appendix B to the report now submitted are noted and that these savings are to be transferred to an earmarked reserve for support to the 2019/20 budget and beyond.

(3) That, the Council's long term financial strategy be amended to take account of the 'green' savings in 2019/20 and beyond where these are not currently allowed for in the budget.

POL.939 **PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 1 –
2018/2019**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report presenting the Council's performance monitoring report for quarter 1 2018/2019 in accordance with arrangements set out in the Council's performance monitoring framework.

Monitoring against the Council Plan showed that good progress had been made with eleven actions being assessed as on target with three either not started or behind schedule.

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

POL.940 **CRAVEN GREEN APPLE AWARDS**

The Chief Executive submitted a report requesting approval for the implementation of the Craven District Council Green Apple Awards Scheme. The associated costs of the launching the programme in January 2019 were estimated at £2,000.

The Green Apple Awards were run by the Green Organisation, an independent non political and not for profit environment group dedicated to recognising, rewarding and promoting environmental best practice around the world.

By 'piggy backing' onto the established Green Apple programme, Craven's awards would promote and acknowledge the development of good practice across a range of businesses and voluntary organisations in the District.

Organisations would be invited to submit an application based on various Green Apple categories by the end of March 2019 and entries would be judged by a 'green panel' chaired by the Chairman of Council (currently Councillor Hull). Winners would be presented with their certificates at the Annual Council Meeting and subsequently submitted to the national Green Apple Awards Programme.

A donation would be made on behalf of the winners to the Dales Woodland Restoration Programme.

Resolved – (1) That, the implementation of the Green Apple Awards Scheme as set out in the report now submitted, is approved.

(2) That, a budget of up to £2,000 is allocated from underspends in identified services and that a growth proposal is included in the budget process for 2019/20.

Minutes for Decision

POL.941 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 1
2018/2019**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report informing Members of the Council's capital programme position, based on the quarter 1 review of income and expenditure to the end of June 2018.

The 2018/19 revised capital programme of £9,954k included £4,704k of slippage from 2017/18 previously approved projects.

At 30th June expenditure on the programme was £711k and the report summarised the programme and provided an update on the status of various projects. The forecasted outturn for 2018/19 was £8,955k.

Members were asked to authorise a supplementary estimate for the cremator project due to the inability to reclaim the VAT element of the project.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the capital budget position of the 2018/19 capital programme as at 30th June 2018 is noted.

(2) That, a supplementary estimate of £82k for the cremator replacement project, to fund the irrecoverable VAT element to be funded from the partial exemption reserve is approved.

(3) That, the 2018/2019 capital programme and the proposed funding, including the supplementary estimates for new projects in quarter one is noted.

POL.942

**APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR A NORTH YORKSHIRE 75%
BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOT IN 2019/20**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report seeking Members' approval for Craven District Council to be part of an application to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for a North Yorkshire 75% Business Rates Retention Pilot in 2018/19.

Following an unsuccessful bid for a pilot in 2018/19 the North Yorkshire chief finance officers had decided to consider applying to be a Business Rates Pilot in 2019/20 should research show it was beneficial to do so. The pilot would be for one year only.

75% pilots would retain all locally collected business rates and as a minimum would forego revenue support grant and the rural services delivery grant. The pilots would be fiscally neutral at baseline, but authorities would gain from retaining 75% of any above base-line growth – Craven currently retained 50%.

It was important that the Government were made aware of the complications for the North Yorkshire Pool as a whole because of rating changes to certain businesses causing issues for one authority making it so far below its safety net.

RECOMMENDED – That, Craven District Council as a member of the North Yorkshire Business Rates Pool is part of a submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to become a 75% Business Rates Pilot in 2019/20 and that delegated authority is given to the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) to put Craven in the most beneficial scheme.

POL.943

**REVIEW OF THE BOUNDARIES OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIPS COVERING CRAVEN**

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report informing Members about the current situation regarding the review of the boundaries of the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) that covered Craven.

Craven was currently covered by two LEPs (York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP and the Leeds City Region LEP) and had gained significantly from the scale of capacity of the Leeds City Region LEP which had provided superfast broadband, business start-up support and business grants. The York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP was much more focussed on the needs and opportunities for market towns and had funded the development of Skipton. It was clear from the Government's paper "Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships, July 2018" they would no longer allow the current arrangements to continue and that each local authority could only be in one LEP.

It was understood that the Government wanted the Humber LEP to continue so the East Riding of Yorkshire would have to leave the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP. Also, because it was not possible for North Yorkshire County Council to be in two LEPs, Craven could not leave the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP and join the Leeds City Region LEP.

Therefore, the two options for Craven were either being part of a reduced York and North Yorkshire area or a merged North and West Yorkshire area. The consensus was that a merger between the North and West Yorkshire areas provided the best opportunity to positively meet the requirements of the Government whilst creating a strong LEP that could deliver Craven's growth aspirations. The decision which LEP local authorities would join was ultimately the responsibility of the two LEPs who acted independently with the majority of each board coming from the private sector.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That the preferred option to create a North and West Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership is endorsed.

(2) That, authority is given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to negotiate and agree the option to merge the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP and the Leeds City Region LEP.

Chairman