

POLICY COMMITTEE

5th March 2019

Present – The Chairman (Foster) and Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Dawson, Heseltine, Ireton, Jaquin, Lis, Madeley, Morrell, Mulligan, Myers, Place, Rose and Welch.

Also in attendance – Councillor Hull

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer), Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Communications, Customer Services and Partnerships Manager and Committee Administrator.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 9:10pm

Councillor Madeley left the meeting at 8.22pm.

Councillor Barrett left the meeting at 8.34pm.

Councillor Ireton left the meeting at 8.41pm.

Councillor Mulligan left the meeting at 8.45pm.

Councillor Place and Councillor Lis left the meeting at 9.09pm.

The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 5th February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Exclusion of the Public –

Resolved – That in accordance with the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the press and public is excluded from the meeting during the consideration of \$POL.985, \$POL.990 and \$POL.991 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.

Minutes for Report

POL.981 **PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 3**
2018/19

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report presenting the Council's performance monitoring report for 2018/19 quarter three 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 implementing the Council Plan actions. Twelve had been assessed as on target and three were on amber as some elements of the projects were behind schedule. Data relating to all the six benefits and planning indicators showed that four were not achieving their target, however Members were informed that there had been some good progress in the last couple of months.

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

POL.982 **INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING**
POINTS

The Director of Services submitted a report providing Members with an update on the issue of electric vehicle charging points and the procurement of services for the installation and management (including financial implications and locations) of the charging points. The provision of charging points also required an amendment to the Council's Parking Places Order.

In July 2018, this Committee resolved to introduce electric vehicle charging points on Council owned car parks and gave delegated authority to the Director of Services to commence the procurement of services for the installation and management of charging points.

The Council received five proposals and the pre-determined evaluation criterion was applied to each submission and a company that most closely met the specification was selected.

The investment required by the company for the installation of two charging points including the infrastructure etc. was circa £70k and the Council would receive a percentage profit share on electric charge fees paid in exchange for a lease of two parking bays.

Consideration was given to the location and number of charging points and it was recommended that the High Street car park would be the most convenient for accessing other services such as shops and refreshment facilities. The charging bays would be the equivalent size to disabled bays and best sited adjacent to a wall or fence. A plan attached to the report showed the proposed location of the charging bays and this would involve locating two disabled bays elsewhere on the car park.

The estimated cost of providing the charging points was estimated at £2,450 and this would be met out of existing budgets. Should the pilot prove successful the next step would, subject to viable business cases, be to provide charging points at other car parks in the District.

Resolved – (1) That, the implementation of two electric vehicle charging points at the High Street (Skipton) car park based on the outcome of the procurement process is approved.

(2) That, the amendments to the current Parking Order set out in the draft Craven District Council (Off Street Parking Places) and Consolidation (Amendment) (Electric Vehicle Charging Points) Order 2019 attached to the report now submitted is approved.

(3) That, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services in consultation with the Council Solicitor to publish the proposed amendments for statutory consultation in accordance with The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and associated regulations.

POL.983 **PARKING PLACES ORDER AMENDMENT – ABANDONED VEHICLES**

The Director of Services submitted a report asking Members to approve an amendment to the Parking Places Order in order to provide clarity and thereby strengthen the ability of the Council in dealing with abandoned vehicles on its car parks, particularly where vehicles may need to be removed from the car park.

It was proposed that an additional clause be added to the current Parking Places Order, as set out in the appendix to Director of Services' report, in order to provide the necessary clarity to deal with abandoned vehicles for parking management purpose, should the need arise.

Resolved – (1) That, the amendments to the current Parking Order set out in the draft Craven District Council (Off Street Parking Places) and Consolidation (Amendment) (Abandoned Vehicles) Order 2019 attached to the report now submitted is approved.

(2) That, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services in consultation with the Council Solicitor to publish the proposed amendments for statutory consultation in accordance with regulation.

POL.984 **COMMUNITY HOUSING FUND - UPDATE**

The Director of Services submitted a report reviewing Council expenditure from monies received from the Government's Community Housing Fund. The report also updated Members on the progress of specific community led housing schemes across Craven which had benefited from this funding.

The purpose of the Community Housing Fund was to enable and facilitate community led housing opportunities and Craven had been awarded £605,964. Across North Yorkshire an amount had been top sliced from each local authority's allocation (£18,179 for Craven). This had been used to support a North Yorkshire and East Riding wide 'hub' to provide services and advice to newly forming community groups across the whole area for two years.

Although new groups continued to emerge, at January 2019, a total of five community groups had benefited from the Community Housing Fund in Craven:

- Carleton in Craven
- Burton in Lonsdale
- Otley Street Arts Group
- Skipton Town Council
- Hartley Educational Foundation, Long Preston

Out of the £605,964 awarded to the Council, £513,209 was still available and it was likely that the Council could be prevented from accessing the second wave of Government funding until the first phase funding had been fully allocated to community led housing projects.

Resolved – That, how the Community Housing Fund has, and is being used within the Council's District to increase the level of affordable housing is noted.

(Councillors Dawson, Heseltine and Jaquin declared an interest in the above item as they were Members of Skipton Town Council).

\$POL.985 **JOINT VENTURE – DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT BACK GATE,
INGLETON**

The Director of Services and Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report presenting an outline business case for the development of Council owned land at Back Gate, business case.

(A separate excluded full minute has been prepared for this item. It is published (on pink paper) in an Appendix to Members, relevant officers and others who are entitled to all details.)

(Councillor Mulligan declared an Appendix B interest in the above item and left the room taking no part in the discussion or voting thereon as he was a director of Craven Barnfield Regeneration Ltd.)

Minutes for Decision

POL.986 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING Q3 2018/19**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report advising Members of the revenue budget position of the Council based on the quarter 3 review of income and expenditure to the end of December 2018.

The forecasted revenue budget surplus for the financial year was £123k, however the volatility of the Council's income streams could mean that any reduction in the estimated income could reduce the surplus to a deficit. The general fund balance was £995k and this would assist in mitigating against the risk of unplanned movements from budgeted net expenditure levels as well as the changes in local government funding. The Council had £6,342k in earmarked reserves at 1 April 2018 with budgeted and in year contributions of £553k, less utilisation in 2018/19 or a commitment for future year's use of £2,078k meant an estimated balance at 31st March 2019 of £4,817k.

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

(2) That, £18k of the savings achieved this quarter and identified as green in Appendix B to the report now submitted are noted and that these savings will be

transferred to an earmarked reserve for support to the 2019/20 budget and beyond.

(3) That, the Council's Long Term Financial Strategy is amended to take account of the 'green' savings in 2019/20 and beyond where these are not currently allowed for in the budget.

(4) That, the supplementary estimate of £50k to continue to fund the work associated with the latter stages of the Local Plan is approved.

(5) That, the transfer of a proportion of the current balance of the revenue budget surplus to earmarked reserves is approved and that the allocations are delegated to the Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer).

POL.987

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING Q3 2018/19

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report informing Members of the Council's capital programme position, based on the quarter 3 review of income and expenditure to the end of December 2018.

The Council approved the 2018/19 capital programme of £3,164k in February 2018. Subsequently, £4,704k of slippage from the 2017/18 was included and supplementary estimates of £2,185k for new projects were added to the programme giving a revised capital programme of £10,023k.

The Chief Finance Officer's report detailed the progress of the programme and the possibility that a number of projects were likely to be slipped into the 2019/20 programme and that slippage was estimated to be £5,990,377k.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the capital budget position of the 2018/19 capital programme as at the 31st December 2018 is noted.

(2) That, a supplementary estimate of £50,000 to fund the works on the Cross Hills Village Plan is approved.

(3) That, a supplementary estimate of £20,000 to fund additional works on the Aireville Park Playground is approved and this is to be funded by additional external funding.

(4) That, the 2018/19 capital programme and the proposed funding, including the supplementary estimates for new projects agreed in quarter three are noted.

POL.988

ATTRACTING YOUNGER PEOPLE TO CRAVEN ACTION PLAN

Further to Minute POL.924/18-19, the Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report that introduced an action plan for the Attracting Younger People Programme and requested that the Council made a financial contribution to delivering aspects of the action plan.

The Action Plan, developed by Craven District Council, Eden District Council, Richmondshire District Council, South Lakeland District Council and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority set out a range of objectives and listed a range of actions related to housing, better jobs, community services and promoting the Dales. It was anticipated that the action plan would evolve as actions were completed and new requirements and opportunities were identified.

The reasons for the loss of younger people from Craven and the wider Yorkshire Dales were varied and the action plan had concentrated on a holistic approach with the following objectives:

- Create at least 400¹ new dwellings in a range of tenures, sizes, types and prices.

¹ New YDNP target = 55 p.a. Added 10 p.a. for new area of National Park.

- Increase the number and quality of jobs, so as to increase gross value added (GVA) by 10%².
- Deliver at least one significant economic development project in each of Craven, Eden, Richmondshire and South Lakeland.
- Connect Grassington, Hawes, Reeth, Sedbergh, and their surrounding 'service villages', to fibre-to-the-premises broadband, and secure at least the Universal Service Obligation (10 mbps) for the rest of the National Park.
- Provide basic mobile phone coverage across the National Park, and ensure 4G (or better) services are available on all networks in Grassington, Hawes, Reeth, Sedbergh and their surrounding service villages.
- Seek to retain access to local services — like primary schools and GP surgeries — that are essential to the long-term viability of local communities.
- Undertake a 5-year programme of measures to promote the National Park as a place to live for younger, working age households.

The action plan was well received by Members and during the ensuing debate, concern was expressed in the loss of younger people from Craven and they were keen for the Council to be proactive and positively promote Craven and what it had to offer. Members also commented that rural school rolls were in decline resulting in school closures because they were not economically viable. Additionally, Members noted that Craven whilst having high employment, had a low wage economy that affected young people's ability to be able to afford to buy their own home in the District and more affordable homes were needed.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the contents of the Attracting Younger People Action Plan are approved.

(2) That, a contribution of £20,000 is allocated from the New Homes Bonus reserve towards the delivery of the Attracting Younger People Action Plan.

(3) That, the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Leader of the Council agrees with partner authorities how the budget shall be used.

(4) That, the Leader of the Council is appointed to the Yorkshire Dales Attracting Younger People Families Group until Annual Council 2019 and thereafter the appointment to go with the office of Leader of the Council.

POL.989

POTENTIAL TOUR DE YORKSHIRE 2020 START IN SKIPTON

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Members to consider putting Skipton forward as a potential host location for the 2020 Tour de Yorkshire (TdY). The TdY was a legacy of the 2014 Tour de France Grand Depart and was recognised as one of the pre-eminent European cycle races. The TdY had continued to grow and brought many economic benefits to the region.

The 2020 TdY was being held over four days from 30th April to 3rd May and hosting a start in Skipton on one of those days would enable a route to be planned that would predominantly take in the Three Peaks of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, an area which had not previously featured in the race and would showcase the iconic landscape to the world.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park had already committed an allocation of up to £50k from their Opportunities Fund, as a potential contribution towards the start of the 2020 TdY in Skipton, with the proviso that the route would take in a large part of the National Park. Other potential sponsors and

² Currently £400 million (Employment-based GVA estimates, 2016, Cumulus Consultants)

partners were being sought to minimise the direct cost to the Council. The Council would also work with Welcome to Yorkshire on various aspects, particularly media coverage.

Should the Council's application for Skipton to be a host location be successful, a further report would be put before the Policy Committee setting out in more detail the anticipated costs and likely Council contribution but £180,000 would initially have to be put aside to underwrite the whole event.

Members discussed the report in detail and after a lengthy debate, it was

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, Skipton is put forward as a potential host town for a Tour de Yorkshire 2020 start.

(2) That, should Skipton be chosen as a host town for the 2020 start, £180k is set aside from the New Homes Bonus localism reserve, in order to underwrite the total costs associated with the event.

(3) That, the Committee notes that a more detailed report will be brought back to a future Policy Committee should Skipton be chosen as a host location and following detailed negotiations with the race organisers and potential sponsors and partners.

(Councillor Barrett, Madeley and Mulligan voted against the recommendation and asked that their vote be recorded.)

\$POL.990

FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND (SKIPTON)

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report which proposed the submission of a Future High Street Fund application for Skipton and sought agreement of the key themes related to the funding bid.

(A separate excluded full minute has been prepared for this item. It is published (on pink paper) in an Appendix to Members, relevant officers and others who are entitled to all details.)

\$POL.991

JOINT VENTURE – DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT AIREDALE AVENUE, SKIPTON

The Director of Services and Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report presenting an outline business case for the development of Council owned land at Airedale Avenue, Skipton and sought approval to proceed to the next phase of the development.

(A separate excluded full minute has been prepared for this item. It is published (on pink paper) in an Appendix to Members, relevant officers and others who are entitled to all details.)

(Councillor Heseltine voted against the recommendation and asked that this be recorded. Councillor Mulligan declared an Appendix B interest in the above item as he was a director of Craven Barnfield Regeneration Ltd and left the room taking no part in the discussion or voting thereon.)

Chairman