

POLICY COMMITTEE

6th March 2018

Present – The Chairman (Foster) and Councillors Brockbank, Dawson, Graham (substitute for Ireton), Heseltine, Hull, Lis, Madeley, Morrell, Rose, Solloway (substitute for Barrett) and Welch.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrett, Ireton, Jaquin, Myers and Mulligan.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7:50 pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 6th February 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Exclusion of the Public - That, in accordance with the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public is excluded from the meeting during consideration of Minutes POL.921 below on the grounds that it is not in the public interest to disclose the Category 3 (financial or business affairs of any particular Person (including the Council)) exempt information therein.

Minutes for Report

POL.913 **ATTRACTING FAMILIES AND YOUNGER PEOPLE TO THE YORKSHIRE DALES**

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report informing Members on progress of the initiative to attract and retain more families living in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. In particular, the report sought approval to work with other local authorities and the National Park to discuss with Government, appropriate approaches to achieve that aim.

Subsequent to the report being published, Richmondshire District Council had decided not to support the National Park Authority's proposed initiative voting against joining with the other partner authorities in seeking talks with Government on the options available for increasing Council Tax for second homes within the Park.

With the proposal requiring the support of all partner authorities in order for talks to proceed, the Yorkshire Dales National Park had decided not to proceed with its proposal and therefore, the Chairman requested that the item be withdrawn from this Committee meeting.

In agreeing that attracting and retaining families not only in the Yorkshire Dales National Park but other areas in Craven was very important and required further consideration by this Council in due course, it was

Resolved – That, the item be withdrawn from this meeting.

POL.914 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 3 2017/18**

The Chief Finance Officer 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 2017.

The forecasted revenue budget surplus at the end of quarter three was £158k and it was proposed that £129k was transferred to reserves. 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.

Resolved – (1) That, the revenue budget position as at 31st December 2017 is noted.

(2) That, £30,610 of savings achieved this quarter and identified as green in Appendix B to the report now submitted is noted and that these savings will be transferred to an earmarked reserve to support the 2018/19 budget and beyond.

(3) That, the Council's Long Term Financial Strategy be amended to take account of the 'green' savings in 2018/19 and beyond where these are not currently allowed for in the budget.

(4) That, the transfer of £129k of the forecasted budget surplus to earmarked reserves as detailed in paragraph 5.5 of the report now submitted is approved.

POL.915

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT –
QUARTER 3 2017/18**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report advising Members of the Council's capital programme, based on the quarter three review of income and expenditure position based on the quarter three review of income and expenditure to the end of December 2017.

The Council approved the 2017/18 capital programme of £2,460k in February 2017. Subsequently, £2,008k of slippage from the 2016/17 was included and adjustments to the programme approved in quarters one and two gave a revised capital programme of £5,121k.

Since quarter two, it had been agreed that Craven would underwrite the Capital Funding to cover the external funding applications for the further redevelopment of Skipton Town Hall and Museum totalling £4.578m. After taking into account the works previously approved the adjusted amount was £3.428m giving a revised total capital programme of £8,549m.

The Chief Finance Officer informed Members that although not formally requested at this stage, a number of projects were likely to be slipped into the 2018/19 programme.

Resolved – (1) That, the capital budget position of the 2017/18 capital programme as at the 31st December 2017 is noted.

(2) That, the reflection of the supplementary estimate (POL.864) for the further refurbishment of the Skipton Town Hall subject to the HLF funding bid is noted.

(3) That, the 2017/18 capital programme and the proposed funding, including the supplementary estimates/sources of funding for overspent projects is noted.

(4) That, the 2017/18 estimated capital programme slippage position is noted.

POL.916

**PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 3
2017/18**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report presenting the Council's performance and progress made in 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. Eleven had been assessed as on target and four

were on amber as some elements of the projects were behind schedule. Data relating to all the six benefits and planning indicators were achieving their target.

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

POL.917 **ONE PUBLIC ESTATE : LAND RELEASE FUND FOR SMALL HOUSING SITES**

The Director of Services submitted a report informing Members of an award of funding from a national programme called the One Public Estate Land Release Fund. The fund provided for land remediation and infrastructure works to release land for small housing development sites.

The Government had announced a £45m land release fund under which local authorities would be allowed to bring forward surplus land that would not otherwise be developed, for housing. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) of which Craven was a member, had submitted an application and four surplus Council owned land sites in Craven had been included in the submission:

- Airedale Avenue, Skipton
- North Parade, Skipton
- Harper Grove, Sutton
- Backgate, Ingleton

The WYCA had been awarded a total grant of £662,125 with Craven's share for the four sites being £493,750. It was noted that the process for releasing the funding had to be established and should it be found that there were onerous terms and conditions required of the Council a further report would be put before the Policy Committee.

Resolved – (1) That, the One Public Estate Land Release Fund grant of £493,750 for land remediation and infrastructure works to release land for small housing development sites is accepted.

(2) That, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services in discussion with the Monitoring Officer to accept the terms and conditions of the offer.

POL.918 **DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP WITH REGISTERED PROVIDERS**

The Director of Services submitted a report advising Members of partnering arrangements with Registered Providers (RPs) for the delivery of affordable housing on mixed tenure sites and to seek approval to extend arrangements for three years from 1st April 2018.

The Development Partnership currently comprised twelve housing associations as well as Craven and Harrogate councils. The framework for the delivery of S106 homes between Harrogate Borough Council and RPs had been in place for almost 20 years and more recently Craven District Council had joined bringing consistency of approach and strength in numbers.

Extending the arrangement for a further three years meant robust arrangements would continue for the allocation and development of affordable homes on S106 sites, minimising abortive work by RP partners and the cost to the public purse. Partner contributions had also funded a valuation surveyor post to carry out viability appraisals on behalf of both Craven and Harrogate councils. Craven would not be required to make a cash contribution to that post but would continue to provide office accommodation for the post of Affordable Housing Development Officer to support the partnership.

Resolved – (1) That, the existing partnering arrangements for the delivery of affordable housing on mixed tenure sites is noted.

(2) That, an extension of partnering arrangements for three years from 1st April 2018 is approved.

POL.919

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2017/18
APPOINTMENT TO THE YORK, NORTH YORKSHIRE AND
EAST RIDING LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP –
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY GROUP

The Solicitor to the Council submitted a report seeking approval for the appointment of a Member to represent the Council on the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership's Overview and Scrutiny Group. Appointments to outside bodies were normally made at the Annual Council Meeting each year but Policy Committee were authorised to make in-year appointments in accordance with Minute COU.187(g)(vi)04-05.

Resolved – That, the appointment to the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership's Overview and Scrutiny Group goes with the office of Chairman of the Council's Select Committee.

Minutes for Decision

POL.920

REVENUES AND BENEFITS SHARED SERVICE
ARRANGEMENT/PARTNERSHIP WITH BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report seeking approval for the Council to enter into a shared service partnership with Bradford Metropolitan District Council (Bradford). In 2015, a decision had been taken to pursue the opportunity for a strategic partnership with a commercial provider and a temporary arrangement was put in place with Bradford to provide management cover and back up resilience whilst the procurement exercise was undertaken.

However, expressions of interest received in February 2016 did not align sufficiently with the Council's aspirations and since that time, Bradford had continued to provide resources for management and team leader roles.

The team at Craven was small and it was now considered sensible to make a decision to either continue under a more formal arrangement or revert back to individual arrangements. In order to increase resilience and provide in-depth technical expertise, the preferred option was to formalise the arrangement under a shared service arrangement for a period of up to five years.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Resilience to negotiate a mutually acceptable shared service arrangement with Bradford Metropolitan District Council for the delivery of the revenue and benefits service.

(2) That, a further report is brought back to Members when the details of the arrangements are finalised.

\$POL.921

SHARED OWNERSHIP HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking approval for the acquisition of land together with a supplementary capital estimate to develop shared ownership housing units.

[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.]

Chairman