

POLICY COMMITTEE

17th September 2019

Present – The Chairman (Foster) and Councillors, Barrett, Brockbank, Handley (substitute for Lis), Madeley, Moorby (substitute for Ireton), Morrell, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Place and Shuttleworth (substitute for Heseltine).

Also in attendance: Councillors Brown, Jaquin, Pringle and Staveley.

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer), Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Environmental Services and Housing Manager, Information Governance Manager, Democratic Services Manager and Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Heseltine, Lis, Ireton, Rose and Welch.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 8:20pm

The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 23rd July 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.1021 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.

POL.1010

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Brown, a Member of the Select Committee addressed the Committee in respect of item POL.1010 – Review of Development Control Performance. He recommended that the service remained under close review as it recovered from staffing pressures and felt it was important for the reputation of the Council that the perception that developers could expect significant advice and guidance whilst objectors received little or none at all. His view was that those who paid for Council services, as well as parish councils held the perception that they could receive reasonable help and support when enquiring about planning matters.

Minutes for Report

POL.1011

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PERFORMANCE

The Democratic Services Manager submitted a report presenting Select Committee's review of development control performance. The aim of the review was to make an assessment of performance and, where appropriate, make recommendations on a number of key areas. The review was conducted over three sessions between March and April 2019 when Select Committee received a range of evidence both written and verbal.

In concluding the review, Select Committee recognised that Planning Services continued to make good progress in relation to major, minor and other applications. The cumulative figure remained a concern which was largely due to past performance. Measure had since been introduced to address those concerns and deliver improvements.

In receiving the report, Members thanked the Select Committee and officers for their work on the review, and it was

Resolved – That, the recommendations in the report as now submitted, are accepted.

POL.1012 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 1**
2019/2020

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report advising Members of the revenue budget position of the Council, based on the first quarter review of income and expenditure to the end of June 2019. The Council's performance against the budget was a forecasted underspend of £300k for the financial year. However, due to the volatility of income streams highlighted in the report, any reduction in estimated income could reduce the surplus to a deficit.

Insofar as the Income and Savings Plan was concerned, no savings had been confirmed as being achieved, although a number were in progress and would be reported in the quarter two monitoring report.

The Council had, at 1st April 2019, a General Fund balance of £995k and it was expected to remain at that level during 2019/20 to cover the risk of unplanned movements from budgeted next expenditure levels and day to day cash flow variances. In addition, the Council had earmarked reserves of £7,218k at 1st April 2019 and taking into account in-year contributions and budget utilisation in 2019/20 and a commitment for future year's use, meant an estimated balance at 31st March 2020 of £5,578k.

Resolved – (1) That, the revenue budget position as at 30th June 2019 is noted.

(2) That, the £53,782 of the slippage from 2018/19 and £67,250 revenue growth bids that have been reflected in the revised budget figure are noted.

(3) That, it is noted that no items have been identified as green on the income and savings plan as at 30th June 2019.

POL.1013 **PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 1 –**
2019/20

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report presenting the Council's performance monitoring report for quarter one 2019/20 in accordance with arrangements set out in the Council's Performance Management Framework.

Progress against the Council Plan showed that good progress had been made in the implementation of Council Plan actions. Fifteen had been assessed as on target, one was amber as some elements of the project were behind schedule and one had not yet started. Data relating to all of the six benefits and planning indicators were all currently achieving their targets.

Resolved – (1) That, the progress and outcomes achieved are noted.

POL.1014 **RESOURCING OF NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE, FIRE AND**
CRIME PANEL

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer submitted a report asking Members for their views on proposals from North Yorkshire County Council for constituent Councils to provide an allowance for their Member appointed to the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

North Yorkshire County Council was the host authority and also provided secretariat support; legal guidance; communication support and wider administration services. The County submitted a report to the Local Government North Yorkshire and York meeting on 28th June 2019 seeking a contribution towards back office costs which was reportedly exceeding the Home Office grant. The report also sought to increase the remuneration of its participating Members following recommendations from the North Yorkshire County Council Independent Remuneration Panel as follows:

- Chair's allowance to increase from 3 to 5 units (to £8,485)
- Vice Chairs' allowance to increase from 1 to 2 units (to £3,394)
- Community Co-opted Members' allowance to increase from 0.5 to 1 unit (to £1,697)
- All other Panel Members to receive an allowance of 1 unit - £1,697 payable to all members.

In addition to consideration around the provision of a Member allowance and in view of the increased responsibilities for the Panel and its supporting officers, the Panel asked Leaders of the constituent authorities to consider contributing towards supporting the role of the Panel. If fully implemented, the total cost of the recommendation for Craven District Council would be £2,390 which included a Member allowance of £1,697 plus a contribution towards administrative support of £693.

In the ensuing debate, Members commented that it was part of the duty as a Councillor to attend this type of Panel meeting and there was a risk of setting a precedent if other panels and outside bodies requested financial support from Craven District Council. In addition, they felt that North Yorkshire County Council were not obliged to accept the recommendation of their Independent Remuneration Panel and that as Councils were having to make cuts to local services, the allowance may not be well received by the public, and it was

Resolved – (1) That, a Member allowance for Craven District Council's Panel Member is not approved.

(2) That, a contribution towards administrative support for the Panel is not approved.

(The Chairman, Councillor Foster declared Appendix B and Paragraph 15 interests in the above item as he was the Council's appointed representative on the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel. The Vice-Chairman took the Chair for this item as the Chairman left the room and did not take part in the debate or vote thereon.)

POL.1015

FUNDING FOR CRAVEN ROUGH SLEEPER SERVICES

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking Members' approval for the Council to award revenue funding to Horton Housing for the purposes of providing services to rough sleepers in Craven.

Craven had a statutory duty towards the homeless and providing funding to Horton Housing supported the delivery of those duties and formed a key priority within the Council's emerging homelessness and rough sleeping strategy. Horton Housing currently provided ten units of supported housing via the Homeless Hub, located at Pinder House, Skipton as well as outreach services including a programme of day activities.

The Council had, in 2016, been awarded grant funding of £162,000 to ensure that people had a safe place to stay whilst services worked with them to resolve their homelessness crisis. Craven had been permitted to entering into a contract with Horton Housing as the delivery partner for the project on the basis that they were the sole provider with the resources to purchase a Hub building and had the necessary expertise to deliver the service. Horton Housing received Housing Benefit for the ten units but that did not cover the staffing cost, this was covered by the Council grant.

The contract with Horton Housing was due to end on 31st October 2019 and as no further funding would be forthcoming until the Comprehensive Spending Review had been concluded in the Autumn, the Council and Horton Housing had been exploring other funding opportunities to no avail. In order to prevent losing a valuable resource and leaving chaotic homeless people on the streets of Craven, the Council had identified monies in housing reserves as set out in the report submitted, that could be allocated to the funding of Pinder House for the next 15 months. In addition, a private individual had expressed an interest in providing long term revenue funding to Horton Housing, but this was still to be concluded.

During the debate, Members commended the current service provided to rough sleepers and that it was the Council's responsibility to look after the most vulnerable persons in the District. Because the funding for the service was not secure beyond the next fifteen months, Members asked that officers pursue alternative funding opportunities in order to secure the longer term provision of the service.

Resolved – (1) That, £110,000 is awarded to Horton Housing to extend the current contract for a further fifteen months for the provision of services to rough sleepers from the 1st November 2019.

(2) That, £110,000 is drawn from the Council's existing housing Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government ring-fenced funding budget for homeless prevention be made available to fund the extension of the contract for the existing rough sleeper provision.

POL.1016

AMENDMENTS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS
INTRODUCTION

The Director of Services submitted a report requesting approval to amend the location of the electric vehicle charging bays and wording to the draft Parking Places Amendment Order. Further to an in-depth survey of the car park and availability, it was found that, for viability purposes, that the electric vehicle charging bays needed to be relocated within the car park. The revised locations and changes to the wording of the Order to prevent any ambiguity were included within appendices attached to the report.

Resolved – (1) That, the revised location of the two electric vehicle charging points at the High Street Car Park, Skipton is approved.

(2) That, the revised wording to the Parking Places Order to ensure clarity over the charges applicable on the electric vehicle charging bays is approved.

Minutes for Decision

POL.1017

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 1
2019/2020

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report informing Members of the Council's capital programme position, based on quarter one review of income and expenditure to the end of June 2019. Since the capital programme had been agreed on 5th February 2019, supplementary estimates had been approved totalling £143k; £18k for boundary signs; and £125k for the DNAire project, although £75k of that would be utilised in the 2020/21 programme. Additionally, a supplementary estimate of £2,920k for the joint venture developments projects had been requested. These and other projects gave a revised programme of £8,586k.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the capital budget position of the 2019/20 capital programme as at 30th June 2019 is noted.

(2) That, a supplementary estimate of £2,920k for the LEP funded joint venture development projects, to be funded from grant awards; £543k from the Land Release Fund and £2,377k from the Accelerated Construction Fund is approved.

(3) That, the 2019/20 capital programme and the proposed funding, including the supplementary estimates for new projects agreed in quarter one, is noted.

POL.1018

TREE PLANING ON CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OWNED LAND

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking approval to release three areas of land for the purposes of tree planting in Skipton and to apply for funding from the Northern Forest Fund. The three sites were land off Shortbank Road, Aireville Park and land off Gargrave Road.

In response to the Climate Emergency declared by Council on 6th August 2019, an assessment of land holdings was being made to identify suitable land for tree planting as an essential component of tackling climate change was the requirement to drawdown carbon and the simplest way was through the planting of trees. The importance of making a start to increase the tree coverage in the District was acknowledged and, in doing so, the proposals supported the Council's 'Greener Craven' priority. Should the £40,000 grant application be successful, it was

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the release of sites AS015, AS016, AS288, AS076 and AS475 for the partial planting of trees in accordance with the outline in the appendix to the report now submitted, is approved.

(2) That, the funding application to the Northern Forest Fund for £40,000 is approved.

POL.1019

SKIPTON GATEWAY – CREATING AN ACTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL CORRIDOR

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report seeking Members' approval for the continued development of a package of schemes to improve local accessibility from Skipton Railway Station and to work in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to deliver the agreed scheme of work as part of the Transforming Cities Fund submission for the Leeds City Region. A supplementary estimate of up to £35,000 was requested from the New Homes Bonus to help fund the costs of preparing a strategic outline case to demonstrate that sufficient, robust and evidenced scoping for delivering the preferred scheme objectives had been undertaken.

The Leeds City Region was one of twelve areas that had been shortlisted by the Government to submit proposals for a share of £1.28b Transforming Cities Fund which aimed to drive up productivity by investing in infrastructure to improve public and sustainable transport connectivity. Whilst there were no guarantees, it was recommended that the Council continued to progress the development of the proposed package of schemes to strengthen the case for Skipton being offered a share of any funding that may be awarded to the Leeds City Region.

The list of schemes identified for Skipton were:

1. Railway Station Plaza
2. Railway Station to Swadford Street Active Travel Corridor
3. Railway Station to Skipton Academy Footpath Improvements
4. Black Walk/Cavendish Street Crossing
5. Gas Street Pedestrian Improvements (including Gallows Bridge)

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration's report requested permission for the Council, alongside North Yorkshire County Council to carry out a programme of consultation with stakeholders, various interested organisations and individuals as well as the public. The results of the consultation would be presented to a future meeting of Policy Committee.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the development of a submission to the Transforming Cities Fund for the Leeds City Region is supported.

(2) That, subject to amendments, the proposed package of schemes for Skipton as detailed on the plans attached at appendix A to the report now submitted is approved for consultation.

(3) That, subject to (2) above;

- a) Permission is given to carry out a programme of consultation with stakeholders and the public and to present the findings to a future meeting of this Committee.
- b) That, a budget of up to £35,000 is made available to help subsidise the costs of continuing to develop the proposed schemes for Skipton, including the provision of information required for appraisal by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Department for Transport.
- c) That, subject to approval of (3)(b) above, permission is given for the monies to be drawn down from the New Homes Bonus reserve in the form of a supplementary estimate to be included in the Council's revenue budget for the current financial year 2019/20.
- d) That, the Director of Services, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council and the Chief Finance Officer, is given delegated authority to agree the governance, delivery and funding arrangements for the agreed package of schemes for Skipton with North Yorkshire County Council and to enter into the associated agreements.
- e) That, subject to funding decisions by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and provision of a financial contribution from North Yorkshire County Council, the Council agrees to make a financial contribution of £100,000 towards the cost of delivering the agreed package of schemes for Skipton, and that provision is to be included in the Council's capital programme for the financial year 2020/21.

POL.1020

**INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE
STRATEGY**

The Chief Information Officer submitted a report presenting Members with a draft revised strategy which had been produced to reflect new legal requirements and new powers acquired by the Information Commissioner to enable firm action to be taken against organisations that failed to adequately comply with legislation particularly in relation to the General Data Protection Regulations.

RECOMMENDED – That, the draft Information Management and Governance Strategy 2019-2022 as submitted, is approved and adopted.

\$POL.1021

**JOINT VENTURE – DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT AIREDALE
AVENUE, SKIPTON**

The Director of Services and Solicitor to the Council submitted a report presenting the final business case for the development of Council owned land at Airedale Avenue, Skipton and sought approval to dispose of the site to Craven Barnfield Regeneration Limited. In considering the report, Members agreed to the disposal of the site.

(Councillor Shuttleworth asked that it be recorded that he did not vote on the above item because he felt that, as a Member of the Planning Committee that would be determining a planning application in respect of the proposed scheme, he wished to keep an open mind).

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

Chairman