

**POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**(On-line)**

23 June 2020

**Present** – The Chairman (Foster) and Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Ireton, Lis, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Place, Rose, Solloway (substitute for Heseltine), Welch and Wheeler.

**Officers** – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer), Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Democratic Services Manager and Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Madeley and Morrell.  
Councillor Welch left the meeting at 7.58pm.

**Start:** 6.30pm

**Finish:**8:02pm

The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were confirmed as a correct record. The Chief Finance Officer updated Members on the current position regarding the Council's Discretionary Business Grant Scheme following the recent introduction of the Government measures to support businesses in response to Covid-19 by way of a local scheme.

**Minutes for Report**

POL.1062

**FINANCE UPDATE**

The Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer) submitted a report updating Members on the potential financial implications of the national response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the actions the Council has taken and is developing in response. The report highlighted the most significant issues, particularly income losses as a substantial element (39%) of the Council's funding came from external sources, primarily generated from fees and charges levied for services.

So far, additional costs incurred had not been significant when compared to the income and potential funding losses. One-off costs had been incurred in equipping those staff needing laptops to allow home working at a cost of about £20k, £10k allocated for community support grants and £5k had been spent on PPE. The most sizable ongoing cost of approximately £24k per month, was the additional cost of staff redeployments and providing waste collections while maintaining distancing and safety requirements.

The Government had provided two tranches of un-hypothecated funding to support local government. Craven had received £26k and £565K, it was unclear whether there would be further support but, if not, the impact for the Council could be in the range of £2m-£4m.

The impact on the revenue budget and capital plan would be presented in more detail when quarter 1 monitoring was complete and that a revised Medium Term Financial Plan. In the shorter term, actions were being taken to limit the immediate shortfall and these were highlighted in the report

**Resolved** – (1) That, the actions taken and being developed in response are noted.

(2) That, the additional expenditure approved under emergency delegated powers as part of the Council's immediate response is noted and that the expenditure will be charged directly to Government grant funding.

POL.1063

**CRAVEN COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN**

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report setting out the emerging Covid-19 recovery plan for Craven and sought approval to allocate the Reopening High Streets Safely

Fund. The impact of Covid-19 on the Craven economy was expected to be dramatic with some estimates placing the District as the 16<sup>th</sup> worst affected economy in the country. Tourism was likely to be the largest affected sector and was expected to lose 30% of its output in 2020/21.

The impact was also being seen in households across the District with an increase in the number of people receiving out of work benefits increasing by 170% in April 2020. As furloughing reduces it was expected that the number of redundancies would significantly increase.

The York and North Yorkshire LEP had led the economic recovery response and the emerging approach was to follow the principle of Greener, Fairer, Stronger aiming to create something that was stronger and more resilient than before the pandemic. The current structure of the LEP recovery plan was set out in the report together with the draft Craven Recovery Plan. The Government had provided £50k to support the reopening of town and the funds would be used to provide business support; support service settlements; and establish entertainment and alcohol licenses across Craven.

In order to oversee the short and long term implementation of the recovery plan it was proposed to establish a Sub-Committee and, if Members approved the establishment of such a Sub-Committee a report would be presented to the next meeting setting out the Terms of Reference, decision making powers and selection process.

In thanking the Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration and his team for putting together the recovery plan, it was

**Resolved** – (1) That, the projects identified in the draft recovery plan are noted.

(2) That, agreement is given to distribute the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund as set out in Section 6.1 of the report now submitted and that allocations of funding to be agreed by the Director of Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Enterprising Craven.

(3) That, a sub-committee is appointed overseeing the recovery plan and that a report is brought to the next Policy Committee.

POL.1064      **AMENDMENT TO TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CRAVEN  
SPATIAL PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report presenting revised terms of reference for Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committee to reflect adoption of the Craven Local Plan and future reviews, and to address recent changes to spatial planning legislation. The report also presented a Scheme of Delegation to Officers relating to the designation of Neighbourhood Plan areas.

**Resolved** – (1) That, the revised terms of reference for Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committee as set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted are approved.

(2) That, in relation to the designation of Neighbourhood Plan areas as set out within the Scheme of Delegation to Officers as set out in Appendix C to the report now submitted, delegated authority is granted to the Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration.

(3) That, in dealing with all aspects of the preparation and the review of the Craven Local Plan, that consideration is given to the role the Local Plan has in achieving the Council's recent climate emergency declaration for a "Net Zero Carbon Craven by 2030".

POL.1065      **SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

## AGENDA ITEM 2

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report informing the Committee of the urgent decisions made between the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 by the Chief Executive during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

**Resolved** – That, the urgent decisions made by the Chief Executive (or his authorised deputy) between the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report now submitted, are noted.

Chairman