

POLICY COMMITTEE
(On-line)

28 July 2020

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

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer), Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Democratic Services Manager, CIO and Assets and Commercial Services Manager, Cultural Services Manager, Communications, Customer Services and Partnerships Manager, Affordable Housing Development Officer and Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Also in Attendance – Ward Councillor Eric Jaquin addressed the Committee about the former RAFA Club, Moorview Way, Skipton.

Start: 6.35pm

Finish: 8.49pm

Councillor Madeley left the meeting at 7.30pm.
Councillor Heseltine left the meeting at 8.05pm
Councillor Welch left the meeting at 8.12pm
Councillor Barrett left the meeting at 8.15pm.

The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 23rd June 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

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.1073 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.1066

RE-LETTING OF FORMER RAFA CLUB, MOORVIEW WAY, SKIPTON TO MOORVIEW COMMUNITY SOCIAL CLUB

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking approval for the re-letting of the former RAFA Club located at Moorview Way, Skipton to a non-profit community body constituted as the Moorview Community Social Club. The Trustees of this body were Trustees of the RAFA Club. The constitution of the club would replicate that of the RAFA Club.

The Council's property assets were a key resource and it was recognised that the present not for profit usage had social value to the area and in the current financial climate re-letting of a limited lifespan property would be difficult probably resulting in an unoccupied property.

The re-constituted Social Club although no longer affiliated with RAFA would follow in its footsteps and it was considered there were no additional risks to the Council from accepting a lease with the new group as its business plan and constitution were a continuation of previous behaviours.

Resolved – That, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services to issue a lease to Moorview Community Social Club Limited subject to the club obtaining a Club Premises Certificate or a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003. The lease to be for a term of 10 years with an option to break in favour of the Council on the 5th anniversary of the date of the lease and at a rent of £1500 p/a (exclusive of rates and taxes).

POL.1067

INTRODUCTION OF LOW USAGE STAFF PERMITS

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking approval to introduce low usage staff parking permits for a six months' period from 1st July 2020 to 31st December 2020 whilst Covid-19 restrictions applied.

Following lockdown restrictions introduced in March it was agreed to suspend charges for staff parking until July. The current scheme had two permits on offer; one for those working more than 25 hours per week; the second for staff working less than 25 hours per week at a monthly cost of £13.75 and £8.25 respectively. The Council had since issued instructions to staff to remain working from home until further notice unless it was absolutely necessary to perform duties that could not be done from home. As many staff are working from home for more than two days per week it would be inappropriate to charge for permits under the current scheme.

The Director of Services' report recommended that a low usage car permit for Cavendish Street Car Park and the Craven Leisure Car Park for staff working less than 15 hours per week on average in the Belle Vue Square Offices at a cost of £4.17 per month.

Resolved – That, the introduction of a staff low usage car park permit for Cavendish Street Car Park and Craven Leisure Car Park is approved. The permit to be for staff members working less than 15 hours per week on average in the Belle Vue Square Offices, at a cost of £4.17 per month.

POL.1068

JOINT WORKING WITH NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Director of Services submitted a report on the recent joint working between Craven District Council (the Council) and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) across two service areas which had offered up an opportunity in the provision of affordable housing that would meet the objectives of both organisations. The report sought approval to secure supported housing through the allocation of two new build homes outside the North Yorkshire Home Choice bidding framework. The homes would be for a cohort of North Yorkshire clients who had learning disabilities particularly those living at home with aged parents. Should the need for supported housing ever cease, those homes would revert to general needs affordable homes for allocation through Home Choice.

Resolved – (1) That, approval is given for plots 50 and 51, Corner Bailey Fields, Skipton to be designated and allocated as supported housing for clients referred by North Yorkshire County Council.

(2) That, plots 50 and 51 are to revert to general needs affordable rented housing for allocation through North Yorkshire Homes Choice should their use as supported housing cease to be required by North Yorkshire County Council.

ITEM EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

\$POL.1069

BRIEF FOR UNITARY COUNCILS BUSINESS CASE FOR NORTH YORKSHIRE

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Members to consider funding in order to join with the other districts in North Yorkshire in examining alternative models of unitary government.

[A separate excluded minute has been produced for those entitled to have the information.]

(Councillor Welch declared an interest in the above item, as he was a Member of North Yorkshire County Council. He took no part in the debate and did not vote thereon.)

Minutes for Recommendation

POL.1070

**WELCOME TO YORKSHIRE - REQUEST FOR
EMERGENCY FUNDING**

The Chairman welcomed Mr James Mason, the new Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire. He spoke to the Committee about the challenging issues the organisation had faced during 2019 but since then a new strategy had been developed and Mr Mason highlighted the future plans and aspirations they had for transforming Yorkshire's visitor economy as well as promoting the County as a place to work and live. One initiative to raise funds to plough back into Yorkshire was a membership scheme whereby a tree would be planted for everyone that took out a fee paying membership. Mr Mason outlined Welcome to Yorkshire's Recovery Plan together with a request for a one year emergency funding solution which would allow them to continue operating and contribute to the post Covid-19 economic recovery of the Yorkshire tourism sector.

The Director of Services' report summarised the request for £1.4m emergency funding which was sought from West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Hull and East Riding. The contribution from North Yorkshire was £386.4k with a proposed contribution from Craven District Council of £25,000. Whilst there was some reticence on continuing to fund Welcome to Yorkshire, Members noted that many tourism businesses in the District were in extreme difficulties and that any assistance to keep their businesses alive would be welcome.

RECOMMENDED – That the Council agrees to make a one off financial contribution to Welcome to Yorkshire of £25,000.

POL.1071

**DECARBONISING SKIPTON: GREEN FUTURE FOR
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND THE GREATWOOD ESTATE**

The Director of Services submitted a report, presenting to Members, the proposal for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) bid for decarbonising Skipton in support of the Council's Climate Emergency Strategic Plan.

The Council had set a target of achieving net zero carbon by 2030 and its buildings accounted for over two thirds of direct carbon emissions of 1822 tonnes a year. The Council had got through to the second stage of applying for a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Priority Axis 4: Supporting the Shift Towards a Low Carbon Economy in All Sectors grant. The project had to have a total value of at least £1m, 50% being match funded and the project had to be delivered by 30 June 2023.

The project, for renewable energy and carbon reduction measures on public buildings was the largest single step the Council could take towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. It fulfilled three actions from the Council's Climate Emergency Strategic Plan and the grant represented a one-off opportunity to access substantial external funding to achieve carbon reduction goals and realise a large saving for the Council.

The project had a total value of £1,204,400, 50% being match funded by ERDF which included a match funded investment in year 3 by Yorkshire Housing of £88,150 (£176,300), Craven District Council's proportion of the project held a value of £1,028,100. A capital investment by the Council of £375,700 was required to meet the match funding requirements of the grant application.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the submission of a grant application by the Director of Services to ERDF for £1,204,400 for renewable energy and carbon reduction measures on public buildings and acceptance of the grant if the application is successful, is approved.

(2) That, a supplementary capital estimate of £375,000 to meet the match funding requirements of the grant application is approved.

POL.1069

SUPPORT FOR SETTLE SWIMMING POOL

The Chief Executive, submitted a report setting out the Settle Area Swimming Pool's plan for a health and well-being extension to safeguard the future of the pool and request funding support from Craven District Council. The pool had been in operation since 1974 and had operated and managed by community trustees and sustained by local fundraising and support.

Records show that Craven District Council had supported the pool with grant funding in one form or another from 1992 but due to financial pressures core funding had gradually been phased out and stopped completely in 2016. However, a commitment was given that officers of the Council would continue to provide internal expertise.

In 2015, a leisure consultant undertook a business planning review and as a result Settle Area Swimming Pool (SASP) adopted a new constitution and in 2018 an application was made to Sport England for the funding of a partial rebuild to upgrade the changing facilities and extend the dry space for additional sporting and social activity. Following on, FMG Consulting were appointed to develop a new 5 year business plan for the centre building on the previously undertaken work.

On the strength of that plan Sport England granted a further £135k and along with other funding streams identified in the report, there was a shortfall £264,945 and the Council had been asked for funding in the sum of £155k with the remainder of £115k being underwritten by the Council whilst SASP undertook the community funding campaign they had committed to.

In debating the report, Members commented that the pool served mid and north Craven and it played a vital role in the health and well-being of those residents and it was,

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the contents of the report and the hard work of Settle Area Swimming Pool (SASP) trustees in making SASP financially viable since the Council's Core Funding ceased in 2016 are noted.

(2) That, SASP's request for funding in the form of £150k capital contribution to the rebuilding costs is supported.

(3) That, the Council underwrites up to £115k (for income generation and funding bids) in order to progress with the scheme whilst community fundraising campaign takes place

(4) That, this support is dependent on Planning Permission being obtained for the new health and wellbeing extension and confirmation that the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Lead Member for Resilient Communities and Lead Member for Financial Resilience is satisfied that the SASP business plan produced in February is still valid particularly around the costs and benefits relating to the capital investment. Confirmation on the State Aid implications of supporting the project should also be provided before financial support is given to SASP for the project.

POL.1073

UPDATE ON SKIPTON TOWN HALL RE-DEVELOPMENT

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report providing an update on progress to Members in relation to the Skipton Town Hall re-development project to create a cultural hub for the District with a fully upgraded Craven Museum and Exhibition Gallery and a beautifully restored Concert Hall with flexibility for a range of events, aspirational programming, dedicated education space and excellent facilities to support all of the functions of the Hall.

Covid19 had meant that re-development works continuing with a reduced workforce which had resulted in an extension of the programme and related costs. Added to that, there had been some

key unforeseen issues with the listed building that had resulted in large additional costs. All of those works were essential and unavoidable and would take result in a £45k overspend on the contingency budget.

The Council originally agreed to underwrite the project to a sum of £1.6m whilst aiming to reduce this funding requirement by securing external grant funding. The Director of Services' report set out the budget position of the and recommended that the support should now be increased to £1.7m as a consequence of the increased contingency required to deliver the project.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the current position of the project is noted.

(2) That, a supplementary capital estimate of £100,000 to increase the contingency required to complete the project is approved.

Chairman