

COUNCIL MEETING

5 August 2020

Present – The Chair (Councillor Harbron) and Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Brown, Foster, Handley, Heseltine, Hull, Ireton, Jaquin, Lis, Madeley, Metcalfe, Moorby, Morrell, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Place, Pringle, Rose, Shuttleworth, Solloway, Staveley, Sutcliffe, Welch, Wheeler and Whitaker.

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer), Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Manager.

Start: 7.10pm

Finish: 9.10pm

Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Mercer and Pighills.

Minutes – The minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 February 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

Public Participation – There were no members of the public in attendance.

Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

CL. 1173 **DEVOLUTION FOR NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK**

The Chief Executive submitted a report, which sought approval for the submission of the devolution proposal to Government for North Yorkshire and the City of York.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Letter from all York and North Yorkshire Leaders dated 13 February 2020
- Draft timetable
- A Mayoral Devolution Deal for York and North Yorkshire – Summary of proposals (July 2020)
- Mayoral Devolution Deal for York and North Yorkshire – Full devolution proposals (July 2020).

One Member sought clarification about the financial information associated with the proposals. The Chief Executive undertook to contact the Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP's) Chief Operating Officer, James Farrar, and report back to Members with a response.

Resolved –

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices are noted.
- (b) That submission of the proposal to government (attached as an appendix to the report) is approved and to delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, authority to make any minor amendments required following feedback from each constituent authority.

(Councillor Madeley left the meeting at 7.30pm during the consideration of this item.)

CL.1174

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONFIRMATION

Recommendations of Standards Committee held on 11 March 2020, Audit and Governance Committee held on 29 June 2020 and Policy Committee held on 28 July 2020 were submitted.

For each minute, the motion was proposed and seconded "That the recommendations in the minute are confirmed".

- STN.371 – Member and Officer Protocol

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute STN.371 are confirmed.

- AC.380 – Review of Procurement Policies and Procedures

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute AC.380 are confirmed.

- POL.1070 – Welcome to Yorkshire – Request for Emergency Funding

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1070 are confirmed.

- POL.1071 – Decarbonising Skipton: Green Future for Public Buildings and the Greatwood Estate.

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1071 are confirmed.

- POL.1072 – Support for Settle Swimming Pool

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1072 are confirmed.

- POL.1073 – Update on Skipton Town Hall Redevelopment

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1073 are confirmed.

CL.1175

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer submitted a report, which informed Council of the urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Resolved – That the urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive (or his authorised deputy) between 26 March 2020 and 1 June 2020, are noted.

CL.1176

STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council thanked staff for all their hard work in responding to challenges faced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members were advised that a considerable amount of time and effort had been spent recently on Local Government Reorganisation. Further information and updates were to be provided in due course.

CL.1177

**STATEMENT FROM LEAD MEMBERS, CHAIRMEN OF
COMMITTEES AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Brockbank reported that it was her last meeting as Lead Member for Internal Services before commencing her role as Chair of Planning Committee. It was reported that to date, 19 out of the 30 Councillors had made the transition from i-Pad to laptop. Councillor Brockbank thanked staff in IT for their hard work managing and assisting with the transition.

Councillor Mulligan provided a brief overview on income losses as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. An update was also provided on government grants available to support local authorities cover additional losses. A further update was to be provided to the September Policy Committee meeting.

Councillor Jaquin submitted a question to Councillor Foster, Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Affordable Housing, as follows:

"Following the 6 July Craven District Council (CDC) press release, headlined 'Bumper Year For New Rural Affordable Homes', I was disappointed that the press release reported that 370 homes, which were completed in the 12 months up to April 2020, only included two shared-ownership homes in Craven, at Laurel Croft, Embsay. Councillor Foster, speaking on behalf of regional housing providers, went on to say that he was 'really encouraged to see such a large number of new rural affordable homes.'

I was disappointed that there were only two affordable homes in Craven, but 345 in Harrogate and smaller numbers in other parts of North Yorkshire. As CDC are the planning authority, strategic housing authority and construction partner, I would like the Lead Member for Affordable Housing to outline any positive action by CDC to solve or at least alleviate the reported lack of affordable housing throughout Craven."

The following response was provided by Councillor Foster:

"47 affordable homes were completed in Craven in 2019/20. The figure would have been slightly higher were it not for Covid-19, which delayed sign off of four homes in Glusburn.

Each local authority was asked to submit a case study highlighting achievements. CDC chose to focus on two new build houses at Embsay, which will be offered for sale on a shared ownership basis. Available from as little as 25% of market value, these homes are great news for local first time buyers, giving them a chance to get on the property ladder in this high demand area.

For a number of years now, national policy has focussed on mixed tenure sites to deliver affordable homes. Sites below 11 dwellings have been exempt from this requirement.

Craven's Local Plan requires 30% of most sites of this size to be affordable (25% on previously developed land). This figure is supported by its evidence base (SHMA 2015) as

addressing 'a considerable proportion of annual affordable need'. Since 2015, sites of 11 dwellings and over have delivered a total of 679 new homes in Craven, 254 of which been affordable. At 37.4%, this is well above the SHMA requirement.

The number of new affordable homes will increase as planning permissions are granted. Following adoption of the Local Plan, a number of allocated sites are now under development. 243 affordable homes are currently on site and are expected to complete over the next two years, with more in the pipeline.

Work also continues to supplement these with 100% affordable housing schemes on small council owned sites (wherever viable), with two applications at Bentham to be considered by Planning Committee on 17 August 2020. In addition, discussions are underway with a number of landowners, agents and Registered Providers over the potential for sites that were not allocated in the Local Plan to be developed as affordable housing. This includes offering financial assistance to community led housing groups."

Councillor Staveley reported that the Select Committee had recently met to consider it's work programme for the forthcoming municipal year. The main areas of focus were likely to be on the impact of Covid-19 on council services and a review of building control. The Select Committee had also approved its Annual Report for 2019-20, which highlighted some of the Committee's key achievements over the course of the municipal year.

(Councillor Noland left the meeting at 8.40pm during the consideration of this item.)

CL.1178

GENERAL QUESTION / STATEMENT TIME

The following question was submitted by Councillor Brown to Councillor Foster, Leader of the Council:

"How much has Craven District Council spent on consultants and on legal advice in recent financial years?"

The Leader of the Council advised that a written response was to be provided in due course. (To assist with the response, Councillor Brown had been asked to set some parameters for the question, for example, the number of financial years for specific service areas and whether it included externally funded projects.)

Chairman