

POLICY COMMITTEE

(Online meeting)

15 September 2020

Present – The Chairman, Councillor Foster and Councillors Heseltine, Ireton, Lis, Metcalfe, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Place, Rose, Welch and Wheeler.

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer), Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Exchequer and Performance Manager, Democratic Services Manager and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer.

Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrett and Morrell.

Confirmation of Minutes – The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 11 August 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

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

Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7.45pm

Minutes for Report

POL.1079

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 1 2020/21

The Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) submitted a report which provided an update on the revenue position of the Council, based on the Quarter1 review of income and expenditure to the end of June 2020.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Revenue budget by service department
- Green and amber items on the income and savings plan
- Earmarked reserve detail.

The Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) presented the report and particularly highlighted the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on major income streams, such as car parking and leisure services.

Resolved –

- a) That the outturn revenue budget monitoring position, as at 30 June 2020, is noted.
- b) That the latest position of the savings achieved this quarter and identified as green in Appendix B and that these savings could be transferred to an earmarked reserve for support to the 2020/21 budget and beyond, is noted.
- c) That the revenue budget carry forward of £28,790 for completion of revenue commitments in 2020/21, is noted.
- d) That the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on income and the costs of the Council is noted and that it is likely some draw on reserves will be required in 2020/21. This apportionment will be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer).

POL.1080

**QUARTER 1 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING
REPORT 2020/21**

The Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) submitted a report which informed the Committee about the Council's Capital Programme position, based on the Quarter 1 review of income and expenditure to the end of June 2020.

A copy of the capital programme detailed analysis was appended to the report for Members' information.

Resolved –

- a) That the Capital Budget position of the 2020/21 Capital Programme, as at 30 June 2020, is noted.
- b) That the 2020/21 Capital Programme and the proposed funding for the projects agreed at Quarter 1, is noted.

POL.1081

QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE MONITORING UPDATE

The Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) submitted a report which presented highlights for Quarter 1 of the financial year 2020/21 in accordance with arrangements set out in the Council's Performance Management Framework.

The Lead Member for Financial Resilience advised that the Council's approach to performance reporting had been updated. Performance summaries were now provided for a number of key service areas containing headline information covering all areas of the Council's Performance Framework.

Resolved – That the proposed changes to service performance reporting arrangements, which will cover reporting for 2020/21 and 2021/22, are noted.

POL.1082

CHANGES TO THE CURRENT PLANNING SYSTEM

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report which sought approval from the Committee on the officer comments contained within the appendix to the report as the basis for the Council's response to the Government's consultation on proposed changes to the current planning system.

Resolved –

- a) That the officer comments contained in the appendix to the report are approved as the basis for Craven District Council's response to the Government's consultation on proposed changes to the current planning system.
- b) That delegated authority be granted to the Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration to use the officer comments in the appendix to the report, as amended by the Committee's views, to respond to the detailed questions set out in the consultation document, and forward these to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government prior to the consultation deadline on 1 October 2020.
- c) That the report is to be presented to Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committee and the input from this Sub-Committee will refine the Council's response to the Government's current consultation on proposed changes to the current planning system.

POL.1083

CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted a report which provided an update on the first 6 months of progress against the Climate Emergency Strategic Plan. Members were advised that the report was the first 6-month review of progress since the Plan was agreed by Council on 25 February 2020.

Resolved –

- a) That the progress that has been achieved against the actions described in the Climate Emergency Strategic Plan, is noted.
- b) That the quantitative progress measures that will be used for the annual review of the plan in February 2021, are noted.

POL.1084

LOCAL ELECTRICITY BILL

The Chief Executive submitted a report which sought Members' support for the Local Electricity Bill 2020.

It was advised that the Local Electricity Bill aimed to enable local community energy generation companies to act as commercial electricity suppliers. This would allow generators to supply electricity locally via the electricity grid at a rate that was competitive for local consumers whilst receiving a price per kWh which would make their schemes economically viable with reasonable setup costs.

Resolved –

- a) That the Committee expresses its support for the Local Electricity Bill 2020.
- b) That the economic and carbon reduction potential for local renewable energy generation that would be enabled by the successful passage of the Local Electricity Bill 2020, is noted.

POL.1085

APPOINTMENTS TO SUB COMMITTEES AND PANELS

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer submitted a report which sought to confirm membership of the Craven Employees' Consultative Group and agree terms of reference.

Resolved –

- a) That the following members be re-appointed to the Craven Employees' Consultative Committee for the 2020/21 municipal year; Councillors Foster, Brown, Madeley, Myers and Solloway.
- b) That the terms of reference included as an appendix to the report, are approved.

POL.1086

**APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2020/21 –
YORKSHIRE HOUSING GROUP (CRAVEN AREA
COMMITTEE)**

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer submitted a report which sought to agree the appointment of three representatives to serve on the Yorkshire Housing Group (Craven Area Committee) for a three-year term of office ending on the date of the Group's Annual Meeting in September 2023.

Resolved – That Councillors Heseltine, Jaquin and Lis are re-appointed to serve on the Yorkshire Housing Group (Craven Area Committee) for a three-year term of office ending on the date of the Group's Annual Meeting in September 2023

Minutes for Decision

There were no items for decision.

Date and Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday, 20 October 2020 at 6.30pm.

Chairman