

## SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of an extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 12 June 2007, in the Civic Suite, the Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 6.00pm.

104	North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Bid for Unitary Status
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Present: Councillor Mrs J Dyson (Chairman) in the Chair

Councillors: Mrs E Casling, J Cattanach, I Chilvers, M Crane, Mrs D Davies, Mrs M Davis, J Deans, Mrs S Duckett, K Ellis, D Fagan, Mrs C Goodall, Mrs M Hulme, C Lunn, D N Mackay, Mrs P Mackay, W N Martin, J McCartney, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs K McSherry, Mrs C Mackman, J Mackman, Mrs E Metcalfe, Mrs W Nichols, R Packham, C Pearson, A Pound, R Sayner, Mrs A Spetch and R H Sweeting.

Officials: Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Service – Finance and Central Services, Head of Service – Policy and Performance, Democratic Services Officer, Committee Administrator

Observers: 0

The Reverend Gareth Wardell offered opening prayers.

### 102 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs S Ryder, I Nutt, Mrs D White, W Inness, B Percival, M Jordan, A Thurlow, Mrs G Ivey, B Marshall, C Metcalfe and S Shaw-Wright.

### 103 **Disclosure of Interest**

The following personal interests were disclosed:

- C Pearson – District Councillor and County Councillor
- Mrs W Nichols – employee of North Yorkshire County Council
- J Cattanach – employee of North Yorkshire County Council
- Mrs M Hulme – District Councillor and County Councillor
- Mrs E Casling – District Councillor and County Councillor
- Mrs M McCartney – employee of North Yorkshire County Council
- Mrs M Davis – on secondment to North Yorkshire County Council

## **North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Bid for Unitary Status**

The Chief Executive updated councillors on the current position of the bid by NYCC to establish a new unitary council in North Yorkshire.

In April 2007, the Department for Communities and Local Government announced that the bid that had been made by NYCC for had been one of those short-listed to go forward to stakeholder consultation. The deadline for responses was 22 June 2007.

The District and Borough Councils of North Yorkshire all favoured an enhanced two-tier approach in any new local government structure, as opposed to a single, unitary council.

During the consultation period, the District and Borough Councils of North Yorkshire, had worked together to examine the bid made by North Yorkshire and to carry out a MORI poll of North Yorkshire residents. The councils had identified a number of weak points within NYCC's bid and these were outlined to councillors as part of the presentation. In addition, the results of the MORI poll had shown that the majority of those North Yorkshire residents questioned opposed the unitary bid.

Harrogate Borough Council were considering bringing a legal challenge against the Secretary State for acting outside her statutory powers and had requested that the other local authorities of North Yorkshire support this action.

### **Resolved that:**

- (i) The presentation by the Chief Executive be accepted; and**
- (ii) Selby District Council support the legal challenge being brought against the Secretary of State by Harrogate Borough Council up to the sum of £8,000, with any further sums to be agreed by Council.**

**Councillor Mrs M Hulme abstained from the vote.**

The meeting closed at 7:04pm.