

Council

Venue: Council Chamber

Date: 24 February 2015

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Present: Councillor R Sweeting in the Chair

Councillors L Casling, I Chilvers, M Crane, J Crawford, J Deans, Mrs S Duckett, M Dyson, K Ellis, M Hobson, W Inness, Mrs G Ivey, M Jordan, C Lunn, Mrs C Mackman, J Mackman, B Marshall, J McCartney, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs K McSherry, C Metcalfe, Mrs E Metcalfe, Mrs W Nichols, I Nutt, B Packham, C Pearson, D Peart, R Price, I Reynolds, Mrs S Ryder, R Sayner and J Thurlow.

Also Present: Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director (S151), Managing Director, Access Selby, Solicitor to the Council, Democratic Services Manager and Hilary Putman – Standards - Independent Person

Press: 1
Public: 5

87. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Cattnach, Mrs D Davies, Mrs M Davis, D Mackay, Mrs P Mackay, R Musgrave, A Pound, S Shaw-Wright and Mrs A Spetch.

88. Disclosures of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

89. Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 December 2014 were confirmed as a correct record.

Resolved:

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting on 9 December for signing by the Chairman.

90. Communications

None were received.

91. Announcements

The Chair announced that he and the Chairman had attended the funeral of former Councillor Stanley Turvey who had been Chairman of the Council in 1994/95.

92. Petitions

No petitions were received.

93. Public Questions

No questions from members of the public were received.

94. Councillors' Questions

No questions from Councillors were received.

95. Reports from the Executive

The Leader of the Council reported on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in the report. A question was asked about the value for money of the Tour de Yorkshire event for Selby and it was stated that the event would promote Selby and would lead to an increase in visitors to the town.

Councillor Mrs G Ivey, Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for External Relations and Partnerships, updated the Council on the work she had recently undertaken. The Council was informed that an open day for the new leisure centre would take place on 9 March and further details of this would be emailed to Councillors. The Deputy Leader of the Council also stated that the official opening of the new leisure centre would take place on 21 March.

Councillor C Lunn, Executive Member for Finance, reported on the work he had undertaken since the last meeting of the Council.

Councillor J Mackman, Executive Member for Place Shaping, provided an update on the work he had recently undertaken. The Council were informed of the Plan Selby consultation for which 249 responses had been received. It was explained that the responses would now be evaluated and further information would be released following the evaluation.

With regard to the date for when Plan Selby may be adopted to help the Council re-establish a five year land supply, the Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that the date could not be moved any earlier as the Council had to base the Plan on a sound evidence base which was being updated as well as a duty to cooperate and a requirement to carry out engagement on the plan.

Concern was raised about the implications on Planning Committee decisions because the Council did not have a five year land supply. The Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that 75% of local planning authorities did not have a five year land supply and that at present sites would be assessed on the basis of their sustainability as and when applications were received.

Councillor C Metcalfe, Lead Executive Member for Communities, provided an update on the work he had recently undertaken. Cllr Metcalfe responded to questions on the Council's policy to charge for parking in Selby but not in Tadcaster, on the condition of car parks in Selby and the need to replace the existing pay and display machines.

The Lead Executive Member for Communities explained that the investment to the car parking machines had been delayed as the £1 coin was due to be reconfigured. The Council was informed that the Selby Town Enterprise Partnership (STEP) Board was currently conducting a review of car parks in Selby and more research was needed before any decisions were taken.

Resolved:

To receive and note the reports from the Executive.

96. Reports from Committees

Councillor M Jordan, the Chair of Policy Review Committee, reported on the work of the Committee since the last update to Council.

Councillor J Crawford, the Chair of Scrutiny Committee, reported on work of the Committee since the last update to Council. The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee highlighted the Committee's discussions on Barlow Common. The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee also reported back on a meeting held on 18 February 2015 where the Committee had resolved to refer the Taxi Licensing Policy decision back to the Executive for reconsideration.

Councillor C Pearson, the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee, reported on the work of the Committee since the last update to Council.

Resolved:

To receive and note the reports from the Committees.

97. Motions

No motions were received.

98. Budget, Reserves and Balances

The Executive Director (s151) presented the report which confirmed the robustness of the Council's budget and the adequacy of its reserves and balances having regard to a variety of factors.

The Executive Director (s151) confirmed that that the Council's budget proposals were robust and its reserves were adequate.

Resolved:

To note the Executive Director's statements in paragraphs 2.7 and 2.12 and to consider them when setting the Council Tax.

99. The Budget and Council Tax 2015/16

Councillor C Lunn presented the report on the Executive's recommended revenue budgets, capital programmes and Programme for Growth, for 2015/16 to 2017/18 following public consultation.

Councillor C Lunn explained that more reductions in central Government funding were expected however the Executive were determined to plan ahead and look for innovative ways to maximise the Council's resources and generate local income for local services.

The Council were informed that over the next three years, the Executive proposed to reduce the cost of General Fund services by a further £1.4m per

annum. Councillor C Lunn stated that while the Council delivered great value services, it was believed that more could be done. It was explained that the Executive's proposals for further efficiency were challenging but realistic and were supported by a prudent and robust approach to reserves which helped balance risk and investment.

With regard to the New Homes Bonus, Councillor C Lunn explained that in 2015/16, the Executive proposed to allocate a further £880k to the Programme for Growth and use £1.2m to support Council services. The Council was also informed that work on the Better Together collaboration with North Yorkshire County Council had achieved national recognition with Selby achieving funding awards of nearly £700k.

Councillor C Lunn highlighted some of initiatives due to take place in the near future which included closer work with partners and other local authorities and opening of the new leisure centre alongside potential plans for a new leisure village on the site. Councillor C Lunn explained that the Council's strategy to balance on-going revenue efficiency to create capacity for longer term investment meant that the Council could freeze Council Tax while still investing in the district.

Councillor C Lunn explained that due to Newlands Parish Council's meeting to set their precept not taking place until this evening, the following wording was proposed as an addition to recommendation iv:

"and that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director (s151) to amend the figures shown for Newlands Parish and the resulting Parish totals and averages in appendices A to D, should that parish resolve to request a different precept at its meeting on 24 February 2015"

A further amendment was proposed to recommendation ii so that it read as follows:

Council Tax is frozen at £162.00 for a band D property for 2015/16.

Councillor C Lunn agreed to incorporate both suggestions into his recommendation to Council. The proposal was then seconded.

Councillor B Packham raised concern at the proposed budget, highlighting the future uncertainty of income, the reduction in grants and explained that the Labour Group would be proposing the following amendments:

Recommendation ii be amended to read as follows:

"Council Tax is increased by 1.90% for 2015/16"

Recommendation i be amended to read as follows:

"The revenue budgets, savings, and capital programme at Appendices E to G be approved; and that in relation to proposals for expenditure in relation to the Programme for Growth, the table on page 56 (Table H) be not approved"

A further recommendation be inserted to read as follows:

“That details of the project proposals and costs included in the Table on page 56 of the agenda be the subject of a separate and detailed report to Council to enable discussion and decision by all Members of the Council in relation to this significant part of the budget, and a proper assessment of alternative projects within the district”

This amendment was seconded.

In line with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the Chief Executive explained that a recorded vote must be taken on the amendment which had been put forward.

Voting on the amendment was as follows:

For the proposal: Seven

Councillors J Crawford, Mrs S Duckett, B Marshall, Mrs W Nichols, B Packham, R Price and J Thurlow.

Against the proposal: Twenty Three

Councillors L Casling, I Chilvers, M Crane, J Deans, M Dyson, K Ellis, M Hobson, W Inness, Mrs G Ivey, M Jordan, C Lunn, Mrs C Mackman, J Mackman, J McCartney, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs K McSherry, C Metcalfe, Mrs E Metcalfe, I Nutt, C Pearson, D Peart, I Reynolds, Mrs S Ryder and R Sayner.

The amendment was lost.

Voting on the substantive motion was as follows:

For the proposal: Twenty Three

Councillors L Casling, I Chilvers, M Crane, J Deans, M Dyson, K Ellis, M Hobson, W Inness, Mrs G Ivey, M Jordan, C Lunn, Mrs C Mackman, J Mackman, J McCartney, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs K McSherry, C Metcalfe, Mrs E Metcalfe, I Nutt, C Pearson, D Peart, I Reynolds, Mrs S Ryder and R Sayner.

Against the proposal: Seven

Councillors J Crawford, Mrs S Duckett, B Marshall, Mrs W Nichols, B Packham, R Price and J Thurlow.

The motion was carried.

Resolved:

- i) To approve the revenue budgets, savings, capital programme and programme for Growth at Appendices E to H.**
- ii) To freeze Council Tax at £162.00 for a band D property for 2015/16.**
- iii) To approve an empty homes premium equivalent to 50% of the Council Tax charge i.e. to charge 150% of the Council Tax liability on a property that has been empty and substantially unfurnished for more than 2 years, with effect from 1 April 2015.**
- iv) To approve the formal Council Tax resolution set out in Appendix B and to give delegated authority to the Executive Director (s151) to amend the figures shown for Newlands Parish and the resulting Parish totals and averages in appendices A to D, should that parish resolve to request a different precept at its meeting on 24 February 2015.**

100. Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Refresh 2015

Councillor C Lunn presented the report on the financial assumptions and implications within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan refresh 2015.

Councillor C Lunn explained that the current HRA Business Plan covered the period 2012-2017. The Council were informed that since this date, there had been significant government reforms including the move to self-financing, revised proposals for rent convergence and opportunities for the Council to be more involved in the development of new affordable homes in the district.

Councillor C Lunn informed the Council that a Stock Condition Survey had been carried out which had confirmed the Council's view of the stock. It was further explained that the survey had identified around £3 million of works which were likely to be required and which had been included in the capital programme.

Council was also informed that long term viability of the HRA would be kept under review and the plan will be updated on an annual basis to reflect any necessary changes.

Resolved:

To approve the financial assumptions and implications contained within the refreshed HRA Business Plan.

101. The Treasury Management Strategy

Councillor C Lunn presented the report on the proposed Treasury Management Strategy together with the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16 and Prudential Indicators 2015/16.

Councillor C Lunn explained that the proposed Treasury Management Strategy set out the Council's borrowing limits and parameters for investments. Councillor C Lunn stated that it aimed to prioritise security of capital and liquidity of funds to ensure the Council's cash flows were managed effectively and that the Council's capital spending plans were affordable, prudent and sustainable.

Council was informed that in order to allow the investments of the Council to be managed as part of the investment pool operated by NYCC, the Annual Investment Strategy and resulting approved lending list had been aligned to that of NYCC.

Resolved:

- i) To approve the Operational Borrowing Limit for 2015/16 to be set at £71m;**
- ii) To approve the Authorised Borrowing Limit for 2015/16 to be set at £79m;**
- iii) To delegate authority to the Executive Director (s151) to effect movement within the agreed authorised boundary limits for long-term borrowing for 2015/16 onwards;**
- iv) To approve the treasury management strategy statement 2015/16;**
- v) To approve the minimum revenue provision policy statement for 2015/16;**
- vi) To approve the treasury management investment strategy for 2015/16;**
- vii) To approve the prudential indicators for 2015/16 which reflect capital expenditure plans which are affordable, prudent and sustainable.**

102. Selby District Corporate Plan 2015 – 20

Councillor M Crane presented the report on the final draft of the emerging new Corporate Plan to cover the years 2015-2020. It was explained that the document had been developed with the input of key internal and external stakeholders including all Councillors.

Resolved:

- i) To approve the new Corporate Plan 2015-2020.**
- ii) To authorise the Chief Executive to approve the final version of the Plan having made any necessary changes to style and layout.**

103. Pay Policy Statement

Councillor M Crane presented the report on the implementation of the Council's Pay Policy Statement 2015/16.

Resolved:

- i) To approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2015/16 (Appendix 1).**
- ii) To endorse the Terms and Conditions relating to Pay (Appendix 2).**

104. Housing Replacement Software

Councillor C Lunn presented the report which proposed to replace the Council's existing housing and asset management systems and to procure a new consolidated software system that integrated with other key systems

Councillor C Lunn informed the Council that the single integrated system would deliver process efficiencies and on-going revenue savings of £55k per annum over the proposed five year contract.

The Council was informed that the replacement of the systems would ensure that the Council remained compliant with the Government's Public Services Network.

Resolved:

- i) To replace the Council's current housing and asset management software systems with one consolidated system;**
- ii) To pay £130k for the system from the ICT Capital Programme**
- iii) To pay £50k from the ICT reserve and repay from the first year revenue savings.**

Councillors J McCartney and Mrs McCartney entered the meeting.

105. Review of Council Representation on Outside Bodies

Councillor Mrs G Ivey presented the report on the review of Council representation on Outside Bodies.

Council was informed that if an Outside Body requested an elected Member representation then a written reply could be issued to them from the Monitoring Officer.

Resolved:

- i) To amend the list of appointments to outside bodies at Annual Council in May 2015 as set out in appendix A.**
- ii) After May 2015, to add an item to each Council agenda to allow councillors to feedback any relevant issues arising from their representation on outside bodies**

106. Councillor Code of Conduct – Councillor John McCartney

Councillor J Deans left the meeting for the consideration of this item.

The Monitoring Officer presented a report concerning potential further action which might be taken against Councillor John McCartney following a breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct. The Council had accepted the findings of the investigation and had imposed sanctions on Councillor McCartney which had not been fully complied with.

The Monitoring Officer explained that discussions had taken place with other Monitoring Officers over the options available and the Council's Independent Person, Hilary Putman had attended an all Parliamentary Group from which a number of recommendations had emerged for the Council to adopt.

Resolved:

- i) To endorse the action of the Monitoring Officer in publishing details of breaches, in all cases, on the relevant page of the Council's website relating to the Councillor in breach and to keep the details in place for 12 months or until full compliance, whichever is the longer period;**
- ii) To note and endorse the lessons learned (paras 1.17 to 1.20 of the report) for future reference in dealing with breaches of the code of conduct and to authorise the Monitoring Officer to amend the Council's Standards Arrangements to incorporate the lessons;**
- iii) To ask any future Councillor Remuneration Panel to consider incorporating provision within the Councillor Scheme of Allowances for the lawful suspension of some allowances as an appropriate sanction for breaches of the Code of Conduct or non-compliance with sanctions.**

- iv) **To thank Hilary Putman for representing the Council at last month's All Party Parliamentary Roundtable on Local Government Standards**

107. Schedule of Meetings

The Council were presented with the Schedule of Meetings for 2015/16. The Chief Executive informed the Council that there was one change to the printed Schedule, the Western Community Engagement Forum (CEF) scheduled for 1 December 2015 had been moved to 8 December 2015.

Resolved:

To approve the Schedule of Meetings for 2015/16 with the above amendment.

108. Nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman

The Council was asked to consider nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman for the next municipal year. Councillor Richard Sweeting was nominated for Chairman and Councillor Stephanie Duckett was nominated for Vice Chairman.

Resolved:

To nominate Councillor Richard Sweeting as Chairman and Councillor Stephanie Duckett as Vice Chairman for the next municipal year.

109. Urgent Action

The Chief Executive reported that since the last meeting of Council she had taken the following urgent action:

- Approve the membership change on the Danvm Internal Drainage Board where Councillor David Peart had replaced Councillor Ann Spetch.

Resolved:

To note the urgent action taken by the Chief Executive.

110. Sealing of Documents

To authorise the sealing of any documents necessary to action decisions of this Council Meeting, or any of its Committees and Boards for which delegated authority is not already in existence.

Resolved:

To grant authority for the signing of, or the Common Seal of the Council being affixed to, any documents necessary to give effect to any resolutions hereby approved.

111. Private Session

In accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting be not open to the Press and public during discussion of the following item as there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

112. Selby Leisure Village

The Council considered a report which asked for approval of the final tender for the proposed Selby Leisure Village.

Councillor Mrs G Ivey, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Executive Director (s151) provided a presentation on the proposed Selby Leisure Village which included details of the competitive dialogue and tender process.

Resolved:

- i) To approve the proposed funding package and the Final Tender;**
- ii) To include the costs within the Budget and Capital Programme for 2015/16 onwards;**
- iii) To note the variant proposals for an external skate park and consult skatepark users on these proposals and other options for providing an outdoor skating facility.**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.