

## Council

Venue: Council Chamber  
Date: Thursday 25 February 2016  
Time: 6pm

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Present: Councillor R Sweeting in the Chair

Councillors K Arthur, D Buckle, Mrs E Casling, J Cattanach, I Chilvers, Mrs J Chilvers, M Crane, J Deans, Mrs S Duckett, K Ellis, M Hobson, D Hutchinson, M Jordan, C Lunn, D Mackay, B Marshall, Mrs M McCartney, R Musgrave, B Packham, C Pearson, D Peart, I Reynolds, Mrs J Shaw-Wright, J Thurlow, P Welch and Mrs D White.

Officers Present: Mary Weastell, Chief Executive, Karen Iveson, Executive Director (s151), Gillian Marshall Solicitor to the Council, and Palbinder Mann, Democratic Services Manager.

Press: 1  
Public: 2

Prayers were said by the Chairman's Chaplain.

Before the commencement of the meeting, the Council held a minute's silence in remembrance of former District Councillor, Carol Mackman who had recently passed away. Tributes were also paid from Councillors Mark Crane and Bob Packham.

#### **80. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Crawford, J Mackman and C Metcalfe.

#### **81. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **82. MINUTES**

The Council considered the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting and Council meeting both held on 1 December 2015.

##### **RESOLVED:**

**To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting and Council meeting on 1 December 2015 for signing by the Chairman.**

#### **83. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman and Leader of the Council expressed their thanks to Council staff that had assisted during the recent flood in the district. The Chief Executive added that praise for the work from Council staff during the flooding had also been received from Tadcaster Town Council and Team Rubicon who had assisted with the recovery.

The Chairman informed Council that he would be participating in a bag pack at Tesco's on 5 March 2016 and would be located in the car park on Portholme Road on Easter Monday, 28 March 2016 in support of his charities and asked Members for their support during these events.

#### **84. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that he had attended the funeral of the Chairman of Richmondshire District Council, John Robinson which had taken place on Monday 1 February 2016 and stated that he had also sent a card on behalf of the Council to his wife and family.

The Leader of the Council informed Council that the Yorkshire Rows rowing team, two of whose members were from the Selby District had completed their challenge of rowing across the Atlantic. The Leader of the Council explained that the Council was currently looking into how best to recognise the achievement.

## **85. PETITIONS**

No petitions were received.

## **86. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No questions from members of the public were received.

## **87. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

No questions from Councillors were received.

## **88. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

The Leader of the Council reported on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report. Council was informed that discussions with regard to devolution proposals for the District were currently taking place.

In response to a query regarding the fire at Great Heck, the Leader of the Council stated that the Council's Enforcement Team had undertaken action based on relevant planning legislation.

The Leader of the Council on behalf of Councillor J Mackman, Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Lead Member for Place Shaping, provide an update on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report.

A query was raised regarding the traffic modelling as part of the Sites and Policies Local Plan (PLAN Selby) regarding what areas this would consider. The Leader of the Council stated that the work would cover, Selby, Sherburn and Tadcaster and that there were differing issues in those areas.

Councillor C Lunn, Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources presented his update on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report.

The Leader of the Council on behalf of Councillor C Metcalfe, Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development provided an update on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report. With regard to the update in Economic Development and Growing Enterprise, a query was raised regarding the evidence base being presented to the Executive on 26 November as a meeting of the Executive had not taken place on this date. It was clarified that this referred to a briefing for the Executive and not a formal meeting.

It was queried whether Town and Parish Councils would be consulted regarding the draft Economic Development Strategy. The Leader of the Council stated that further work was needed on the Strategy before it could be shared for wider consultation. It was agreed that a briefing would be prepared to present the draft evidence base to Councillors.

In response to a query regarding car parking, the Leader of the Council stated that a Car Parking Strategy was currently being written which would be taken through the decision making process.

Councillor D Peart, Lead Executive Member for Housing, Leisure, Health and Culture provided an update on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report.

Concern was raised at the considerable amount of money being spent on garages in Eggborough when funding was needed to improve car parking in the area.

Concern was raised regarding signage which had been erected at Barlow Common and the lack of public access to the fishing lake on the site. Further concern was raised that the Council was not receiving value for money from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust who were currently responsible for looking after the site. The Solicitor to the Council stated that the signage had been erected at the request of Network Rail and that the lease of the fishing lake was being looked into.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive and note the reports from the Executive.**

**89. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

In the absence of Councillor J Crawford, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Scrutiny Committee update was taken as read.

Councillor J Deans, Chair of the Policy Review Committee provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in his report. It was noted that there should be a correction in the update where it should state 'Councillor C Lunn advised Councillors that a 2% rise was an under inflation rise since 2003'.

Councillor M Jordan, Chair of the Audit Committee provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in his report and informed Council that he had attended a regional meeting with the Council's external auditors on 3 February and would be attending a further one in June.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive and note the reports from Committees.**

**90. MOTIONS**

No motions were received.

**91. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (GENERAL FUND)**

Councillor C Lunn, Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources presented the report on the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) following consideration by the Executive and Policy Review Committee in September 2015

and again by the Executive in December following the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

The Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources explained that the MTFS set the framework for the budget and the financial plan and had been delayed due to the announcement of the financial settlement. It was explained that as a result of the financial settlement, the mid case had been updated and a target revenue budget of £16.3m was proposed along with the creation of a new Local Plan Reserve.

Concern was raised at the lack of information on the finances for the Programme for Growth. The Executive Director (s151) explained that the Executive received quarterly finance update reports which outlined further information regarding Programme for Growth projects.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) To approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy and updated mid-case scenario.**
- ii) To establish a new Local Plan Reserve as of 31 March 2016 from balances currently held for Access Selby.**

**92. BUDGET, RESERVES AND BALANCES**

Karen Iveson, 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) informed Council that this was a statutory report and stated that she agreed that the budget proposals were robust.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note and to consider the Executive Director's statements in paragraphs 2.6 and 2.12 of the report when setting the Council Tax.**

**93. THE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2016/17**

Councillor C Lunn, Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources provided a presentation on Executive's recommended revenue budgets, capital programmes and Programme for Growth, for 2016/17 to 2018/19 following public consultation.

The key elements of the presentation were:

- £5m of on-going savings had been delivered to the end of 2015/16.
- Overall funding to local authorities had been substantially reduced by the Government and would cease in 2020.

- The Council was currently at the safety net of Business Rates however would be receiving 100% of the Business Rates from Drax Power Station.
- A 1.99% increase in Council Tax which equated to 6p a week.
- The tax base for Council Tax had increased by 3.5% due to property growth.
- The net General Fund budget for 2016/17 was £16.3m however was reliant on achieving savings of £752k.
- The net Housing Revenue Account budget would be £11.2m.
- £24m of investment was currently planned over the next 3 years through capital programmes and the Programme of Growth.

Concern was raised that adaptations for homes with disabled residents were not being implemented and it was queried where was the finance for this. The Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources agreed to provide a response on this once the details of the individual case had been received.

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 proposals which had been put forward.

For the proposal: Twenty

Councillors K Arthur, D Buckle, Mrs E Casling, J Cattanach, I Chilvers, Mrs J Chilvers, M Crane, J Deans, , K Ellis, M Hobson, D Hutchinson, M Jordan, C Lunn, D Mackay, R Musgrave, C Pearson, D Peart, I Reynolds, R Sweeting and Mrs D White.

Against the proposal: None

Abstain: Seven

Councillors Mrs S Duckett, B Marshall, Mrs M McCartney, B Packham, Mrs J Shaw-Wright, J Thurlow and Mrs D White.

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 increase Council Tax by 1.99% to £165.22 for a Band D property for 2016/17;**
- 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 2016.**

- iv) To approve the formal Council Tax resolution set out in Appendix B;**
- v) The General Fund Surplus of £181k be transferred to General Balances and the Surplus of £1.52m on the HRA be transferred to the Major Repairs Reserve to support the capital programme;**

#### **94. THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Councillor C Lunn, Executive Lead Member for Finance and presented the report on the proposed Treasury Management Strategy together with the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy for 2016/17 and Prudential Indicators 2016/17 as required by the Department of Communities and Local Government and CIPFA.

Council were informed that the Council's investments totalled £33.1m.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- i) To set the Operational Borrowing Limit for 2016/17 at £74m.**
- ii) To set the Authorised Borrowing Limit for 2016/17 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 2016/17 onwards.**
- iv) To delegate authority to the Executive Director (s151) to effect movement within the agreed operational boundary limits for long-term borrowing for 2016/17 onwards.**
- v) To approve the treasury management strategy statement 2016/17.**
- vi) To approve the minimum revenue provision policy statement for 2016/17.**
- vii) To approve the treasury management investment strategy for 2016/17.**

- viii) **To approve the prudential indicators for 2016/17 which reflect the capital expenditure plans which are affordable, prudent and sustainable.**

**95. CHANGES TO THE FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE OF SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Councillor M Crane, Leader of the Council presented the report which informed Council of the changes to the operating model for Selby District Council, following completion of a comprehensive review of functions and structure by the Chief Executive at the request of the Leader of Council and following approval of the resultant recommendations by the Executive.

The Leader of the Council informed Council that he has requested the Chief Executive to carry out a review of the organisation following the elections last year. It was explained that the new structure would allow clearer lines of demarcation and would reduce the number of senior managers. The Leader of the Council added that recruitment was on-going for the posts.

It was proposed that due to the changes, there should be a review of the Scrutiny process to ensure the Council had an effective model of Scrutiny. The Council was in agreement with this proposal.

It was proposed to amend the fourth recommendation to state that £136k should be drawn down from the Spend to Save (Business Development) Reserve.

**RESOLVED**

- i) **To note the content of the report and changes to the operating model of the Council.**
- ii) **To designate the post of Solicitor to the Council as Monitoring Officer under s5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.**
- iii) **To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to make changes to the Constitution to reflect the new operating model and structure.**
- iv) **To draw down £136k and £161k from the Spend to Save (Business Development) Reserve to cover pension strain costs in 2016/17.**

Mrs Mary McCartney left the meeting at this point and did not return.

**96. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2016/17**

Councillor M Crane presented the report on the Council's Pay Policy Statement 2016/17 in accordance with section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.



**RESOLVED:**

**To approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17 (Appendix A).**

**97. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Councillor M Crane presented the report which outlined the following two proposed changes to the membership of Committees:

- Councillor Cattanach to replace Councillor Ellis on the Policy Review Committee.
- Councillor Welch to be added to the list of substitutes of the Planning Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- To approve Councillor Cattanach as a member of the Policy Review Committee to replace Councillor Ellis.**
- To approve that Councillor Welch be added to the list of substitutes for the Planning Committee.**

**98. URGENT ACTION**

The Chief Executive reported that she had authorised the following financial commitments to assist in the clear up of the site at Great Heck following the fire:

- £150k commitment for phase one and two.
- £150k commitment for phase three.

**99. 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.**

The meeting closed at 7:45pm.