

Council

Venue: Council Chamber
Date: Tuesday 13 December 2016
Time: 6pm

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Present: Councillor Mrs S Duckett in the Chair

Councillors K Arthur, D Buckle, E Casling, I Chilvers, Mrs J Chilvers, M Crane, J Deans, K Ellis, M Hobson, D Hutchinson, M Jordan, C Lunn, D Mackay, J Mackman, B Marshall, Mrs M McCartney, C Metcalfe, Mrs W Nichols, B Packham, C Pearson, D Peart, I Reynolds, B Sage, Mrs J Shaw-Wright, R Sweeting, J Thurlow, P Welch and Mrs D White.

Officers Present: Janet Waggott, Interim Chief Executive, Dave Caulfield, Director of Economic Regeneration and Place, Karen Iveson, Chief Finance Officer, Julie Slatter, Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning, Gillian Marshall Solicitor to the Council, Ralph Gill, Lead Officer, Benefits and Taxation and Palbinder Mann, Democratic Services Manager.

Press: 1
Public: 0

41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Cattnach and R Musgrave.

42. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

43. MINUTES

The Council considered the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 September 2016.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 September 2016 for signing by the Chairman.

44. PROJECT A – CHURCH FENTON GARDEN VILLAGE

The Director of Economic Regeneration and Place presented a report on the Church Fenton Garden Village.

The Director of Economic Regeneration and Place explained that the Government had asked for expressions of interest for new Garden Villages in March 2016 and had agreed to provide support for the implementation of successful proposals. Council were informed that the Chief Executive had instructed officers to consider sites for the proposal and work had been undertaken on this between 19 and 30 March 2016. It was explained that following this process, a proposal was worked up and a decision to submit the final expression of interest was made by the Chief Executive on 26 July 2016.

Council were informed that work for the submission had involved numerous stakeholders including the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership, North Yorkshire County Council, City of York Council and the North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership.

The Director of Economic Regeneration and Place explained that the proposal sat outside of the Local Plan process and although other sites were considered, Church Fenton Airfield was considered to be the best location. It was explained that if the proposal was shortlisted by the Government, a comprehensive period of engagement with the local community and stakeholders would have been undertaken.

Council were informed that the decision to not proceed with the proposal was made by the Interim Chief Executive on 10 November 2016. It was explained that this was due to the Council having to focus on short term challenges such as ensuring there was a five year housing land supply.

The Leader of the Council explained that when initially presented with the idea, he was supportive of the proposal as the demands of additional housing on villages in the district meant that an additional settlement would eventually be needed. He added that there was a substantial amount of time and effort spent by officers on the proposals and it was felt that resources should be better focused on ensuring the Council had an adequate five year housing land supply in the immediate term. The Leader of the Council stated that the work undertaken on the proposal could be used again should the Council look to implement a similar idea in the future.

Concern was raised around the lack of transparency and on the decision making processes behind the decision. It was stated that the Ward Councillors should have been made aware of the proposal and that Council should have been consulted before the expression of interest was submitted. It was requested that in future, similar proposals should involve thorough consultation prior to any decision. The Leader of the Council explained that the proposal was not brought before Council due to it only being an expression of interest.

A query was raised around whether the procurement rules were followed for the proposal in particular the European Union (EU) procurement rules. The Solicitor to the Council explained that the cost of the proposal was under the EU procurement rules threshold and that the Council had agreed to waive the requirement for three quotes due to the tight timescales for the proposal to be submitted and that Spawforths who worked on the proposal had successfully tendered for other Council services.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

45. COMMUNICATION

There were no communications.

46. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

47. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

48. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions from members of the public were received.

49. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

No questions from Councillors were received.

50. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Councillor M Crane - The Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council reported on the work he had recently undertaken as outlined in his report and highlighted that the Council's Communication team had won a national award for their work during the major fire at Gateforth New Road earlier this year.

A query was raised regarding the timing for the completion of the Council staffing restructure. The Leader of the Council explained that the restructure proposals were hoping to be in place by the end of the year.

In response to a query concerning the completion of the rebuilding of Tadcaster Bridge, it was stated that the rebuild was expected to be completed by 27 January 2017.

The Council congratulated Selby College for their work and felt the college was a vital asset in the district.

Councillor J Mackman, Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Lead Member for Place Shaping

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

Queries were raised around the five year housing land supply and whether the Council would be forced to approve any applications due to the fact it did not have a housing land supply. The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that there were a number of other issues which needed to be considered when assessing planning applications and that the Council would not be forced to approve all applications.

In response to a query around the Council supporting Neighbourhood Plans, it was explained that if the plan met the requirement of the local body who were submitting it then the Council had a duty to offer support however the level of the support would depend on what resources could be offered.

Councillor C Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources

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

The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources informed Council the draft budget was now out for public consultation.

Councillor C Metcalfe, Executive Lead Member for Communities and Economic Development

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.

In response to queries on the Car Park Strategy, the Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development stated due to the importance and the effect on the district, the Strategy would be brought before the Council for approval even though it was an Executive decision.

It was queried whether the Prevent training would be offered to Councillors. It was agreed that this would be looked into.

Councillor R Musgrave, Executive Lead Member for Housing, Leisure, Health and Culture

Councillor M Crane, Leader of the Council presented the report on behalf Councillor R Musgrave.

An update was requested on the latest situation with Barlow Common and it was agreed an update would be provided.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the reports from the Executive.

51. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Councillor W Nichols, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor W Nichols, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in her report.

Concern was raised around the grass cutting in areas around the district however it was acknowledged that the responsibility in some areas fell to North Yorkshire County Council or the respective Parish Council and it was requested that details of which area were covered by which organisation should be provided.

Further information was also requested on whether the Council had a licence with North Yorkshire County Council with regard to advertising on roundabouts. It was agreed this would be looked into and a response provided.

Councillor J Deans, Chair of the Policy Review Committee

Councillor J Deans, Chair of the Policy Review Committee provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in his report.

Councillor M Jordan, Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor M Jordan, Chair of the Audit and Governance provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in his report.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the reports from Committees.

52. MOTIONS

There were no motions.

53. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

The Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources presented a report on the review of the Council Tax Support Scheme.

The Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources explained the proposal was to retain the Council Tax support level at 90% which placed the Council around the middle when compared with other North Yorkshire authorities. Council were also informed of the other changes as outlined in the report including the reducing dependents to two and the removal of backdating from six months to a month.

Concern was raised on the impact of the changes particularly on families who were struggling and it was requested that further information be provided on how the changes would affect residents on a ward by ward basis. It was agreed information could be provided on the impact of the changes relating to the family premium and this would be emailed to all Councillors.

RESOLVED:

- i) To approve the maximum Council Tax Support level for working age people remaining at the current level of 90%.**
- ii) To approve the changes to the scheme outlined in the report.**
- iii) To adopt the scheme for a period of two years from April 2017 to March 2019.**

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

To ensure the Council's Working Age Council Tax Scheme continues to support residents and is in line with wider Central Government welfare reforms.

54. CHANGES TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

The Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources presented a report on the changes to the arrangements for appointing External Auditors following the closure of the Audit Commission and the end of the transitional arrangements at the conclusion of the 2017/18 audits, as recommended by the Audit and Governance Committee.

RESOLVED:

To accept the Public Sector Audit Appointments' (PSAA) invitation to 'opt in' to the sector led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years commencing 1 April 2018.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

To ensure best value in the appointment of the external auditor.

55. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER – STANDARDS ARRANGEMENTS

The Monitoring Officer and Solicitor to the Council presented a report on the operation of the current standards regime for Selby District Council and Parish Councils within Selby District.

The Solicitor to the Council explained that since the Council last received an update, a low number of complaints had been received and the ones which had been received tended to be on areas such as Declarations of Interests and the respect of Councillors to each other and the public. Council was informed that further training would be organised on these area in the New Year.

The Solicitor to the Council highlighted the work of the Council's Independent Person who had performed a number of duties despite receiving no allowance for her work.

Council were informed that the Audit and Governance Committee would look into whether the current Standards process at the Council especially around the lack of Member involvement in the early stages of the process and whether this needed amending.

RESOLVED:

- i) To note the contents of the Report.**
- ii) To ask the Audit and Governance Committee to review the Standards arrangements and to report back to Council if they consider any changes should be made.**
- iii) To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make arrangements to advertise the posts of Independent Persons to ensure new appointments are made with effect from 22 July 2017.**

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

To ensure that high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-optees are promoted and maintained.

56. INTERIM REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2016

The Interim Chief Executive presented a report on the interim review of polling districts and polling places and explained that the majority of the changes had been place for the recent Police and Commissioner and EU Referendum elections.

Council were informed that the only objection received was for the relocation of the mobile polling station at Newton Kyme Village Green to Riley Smith Hall. The Interim Chief Executive explained that following the consideration of different options to retain a polling station in Newton Kyme, it was evident that this was not possible therefore the recommendation to move the polling station to Riley Smith Hall would remain.

A query was raised around whether the polling station at the Selby Rugby club could be moved to a more suitable location for electors. The Interim Chief Executive explained that this had been looked into however it had not been possible to move the station however further options would be looked into when another review was undertaken.

RESOLVED:

- i) To allocate Bolton Percy Old School Hall instead of Bolton Percy Parish Room as the Polling Place in the Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton ward.**
- ii) To allocate Church Fenton Village Hall instead of a Mobile Polling Station at the Blacksmith's Arms in Biggin as the Polling Place in the Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton ward.**
- iii) To allocate the Sloop Inn instead of the Chapel of St John as the polling place in the Camblesforth and Carlton ward.**
- iv) To allocate the Crown Inn instead of St Wilfrid's Church as the polling place in the Monk Fryston ward.**
- v) To allocate Beal Village Hall instead of St Mary's Church, Birkin as the polling place in the Monk Fryston ward.**
- vi) To allocate Sherburn Football Club instead of Harold Mills Community Centre as the polling place in the Sherburn in Elmet ward.**
- vii) To allocate Riley Smith Hall, Tadcaster instead of a mobile polling station at Newton Kyme Village Green as the polling place in the Tadcaster ward.**

- viii) **To allocate the George and Dragon Pub instead of the Whitley and Eggborough Children's Centre as the polling place in the Whitley ward.**
- ix) **To allocate Kirk Smeaton Community Hall instead of the caravan at Little Smeaton as the polling place in the Whitley ward.**
- x) **To allocate the Coultish Centre instead of Scott Road Community Centre as the polling place in the Selby West ward.**

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

To ensure that the Council continues to provide suitable polling station accommodation for electors.

57. URGENT ACTION

It was reported that the Chief Executive had not taken any urgent action since the last meeting of Council.

The meeting closed at 7.16pm.