

Council

Venue: Council Chamber
Date: Tuesday 21 February 2017
Time: 6pm

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73	Independent Remuneration Panel Review of Members' Allowances
74	Changing of Village Name – Walden Stubbs
75	Political Balance and Committee Membership
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Present: Councillor Mrs J Chilvers in the Chair

Councillors K Arthur, D Buckle, E Casling, I Chilvers, M Crane, J Deans, K Ellis, M Hobson, D Hutchinson, M Jordan, C Lunn, D Mackay, J Mackman, B Marshall, Mrs M McCartney, 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: Julie Slatter, Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning, Dave Caulfield, Director of Economic Regeneration and Place, Karen Iveson, Chief Finance

Officer, Gillian Marshall Solicitor to the Council and
Palbinder Mann, Democratic Services Manager.

Press: 1
Public: 0

57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs S Duckett and C Metcalfe. Apologies were also received from the Chief Executive, Janet Waggott, who was attending the Ryedale District Council meeting which was taking place at the same time. It was noted that the Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning would be substituting for her at the meeting.

58. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

59. MINUTES

The Council considered the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 December 2016.

It was noted that there was an error in the first paragraph of the Leader's update to Council where it stated 'national aware' and it should have in fact stated 'national award'.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 December 2016 with the above amendment for signing by the Chairman.

60. COMMUNICATION

The Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning informed the Council that the Boundary Commission for England would be publishing all of the representations received on the Parliamentary Boundary Review on Tuesday 28 February 2017 and that an email would be sent to all Councillors when they were published.

61. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

62. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

63. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions from members of the public were received.

64. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

No questions from Councillors were received.

65. 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. In response to a query concerning the Chief Executive's post going forward, the Leader of the Council explained that he would be arranging a meeting with the Leader of the Labour group to discuss how to take the matter forward.

A query was raised regarding the devolution proposals for the Yorkshire area and whether Hull would be included in the proposals. The Leader of the Council explained that devolution discussions continued but to have a whole Yorkshire agreement, Hull would have to be included in the proposals.

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.

In response to a question concerning the Planning Service review, the Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that the actions arising out of the review should be delivered by the end of March. He added that a further update would be provided at the next meeting.

A query was raised regarding the Sites and Policies Local Plan. The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that meetings had taken place with the Planning Advisory Service and different options had been discussed. Council was informed that it was important to align the Sites and Policies Local Plan with the Core Strategy and the emerging Economic Development Strategy. With regard to the timetable for the delivery of the Sites and Policies Local Plan, the Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that it was difficult to formulate an accurate timetable until the Executive had considered the options in detail.

In response to a query on Neighbourhood Plans, the Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that the Council was assisting with plans currently and that the neighbourhood plan for Appleton Roebuck would soon be going to an examination in public.

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 that the local government settlement had now been received and no changes were needed to the draft budget as a result.

In response to the information presented regarding the 2016 Pension Fund, the Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources explained that the pooling of the North Yorkshire pension fund had been decided by the Government. Concern was raised regarding the lack of staff representatives on the North Yorkshire Pension Fund Committee. The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources agreed to raise this issue with the County Council.

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

Councillor M Crane, 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.

In response to a query concerning parking availability for Members at the Civic Centre, the Leader of the Council explained that an extra 41 spaces would be created as a result of the Police Co-location project. The levels of parking would then be analysed to ensure they were adequate.

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

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

It was felt that the partnership with Ryedale District Council to develop the Council's Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategy would be beneficial to the district.

A query was raised why two of the schools in Selby had not been involved in the Pathways to Health Project. It was agreed this would be looked into.

Concern was raised over fixed betting terminals including the amount of money which could be lost on them. Council were informed that there was a section on fixed betting terminals in the new Gambling Policy which would be considered by the Policy Review Committee and the Licensing Committee.

The Leader of the Council stated that there was a campaign against fixed betting terminals led by the London Borough of Newham. This would be looked into and

a report would be brought to the next Council meeting to consider whether Council wished to support the campaign.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the reports from the Executive.

66. 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.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee clarified that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Thursday 23 March 2017 and not 21 March as stated in the report.

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.

67. MOTIONS

There were no motions.

68. PAYMENT OF PENSION FUND DEFICIT

The Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources presented a report on a proposal to pay-off the current pension fund deficit.

The Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources explained that there was approximately a £9.4m deficit on Selby's pension fund and that an opportunity had arisen to pay off the deficit which would in turn deliver an annual revenue saving of £560k in 2017/18.

RESOLVED:

- i) To make arrangements for Selby District Council to settle its £9.391m Pension Fund Deficit by 31 March 2017;**

- ii) **To fund the payment by diverting resources held in earmarked reserves (as set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report);**
- iii) **Subject to the confirmation of renewable business rates, to replenish the General Fund reserves in 2017/18, with the first call on these receipts being the top-up of the General Fund Balance.**

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

To deliver an on-going revenue saving.

69. THE BUDGET, RESERVES AND BALANCES 2017/18

Karen Iveson, Chief Finance Officer presented the report which provided the Council with assurance on the proposed budget and the Council's reserves in order to formally set the budget and Council Tax for 2017/18.

The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that she felt that the Council's budget proposals were robust.

RESOLVED:

To consider the Chief Finance Officer's statements in paragraphs 2.6 and 2.13 of the report when setting the Council Tax.

REASONS FOR DECISION

To provide Council with assurance on the proposed budget and the Council's reserves in order to formally set the budget and Council Tax for 2017/18.

70. THE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2017/18

The Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources provided a presentation on Executive's recommended revenue budgets, capital programmes and Programme for Growth, for 2017/18 to 2019/20 following public consultation.

The key elements of the presentation were:

- The final Local Government Finance Settlement announced had been made last night however no changes were needed for the budget proposals which had been supplied to Council.
- Over the next three years:
 - The Revenue Support would be completely phased out.

- The New Homes Bonus would reduce from a six to a four year scheme and there would be an introduction of a 0.4% growth baseline.
 - It was anticipated that settlement funding would be reduced by around £2m per annum by 2019/20.
- It was estimated that over the next three years there would be a total funding shortfall of £4.6m.
 - The Council would have to await proposals for the distribution of business rates funding as it moved to 100% retention for local government.
 - It would be ensured that the Council's finances remained viable and resilient not just for the short term but for the foreseeable future.
 - The proposed budget included a rise of £5 per annum in Council Tax for a band D property which on average worked out to be 10p a week.
 - The Council had reduced its on-going service costs by nearly £5m per year through processes such as transforming the way it worked and generating income.
 - The proposed budget included a refreshed savings plan which built upon the work already completed to date.
 - The budget report outlined approximately £16m in capital investment over the next three years.
 - An initial programme of £2.45m for the Programme for Growth was proposed in 2017/18.

Concern was raised on the decision making process over the spending in the Programme for Growth. It was stated that the budget proposals lacked detail and that a full review was needed on how the spending in the Programme for Growth was decided. It was also noted that some of the information in the appendix was missing due to the conversion of the document in the agenda and it was agreed that the full version of the appendix would be circulated to Councillors.

Concern was also raised at the Council Tax increase and it was felt this would place more pressure on residents.

In line with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the Chairman explained that a recorded vote must be taken on the proposals which had been put forward as outlined in the report.

For the proposal: Nineteen

Councillors K Arthur, D Buckle, Mrs E Casling, I Chilvers, Mrs J Chilvers, M Crane, J Deans, K Ellis, M Hobson, D Hutchinson, M Jordan, C Lunn, J Mackman, R Musgrave,

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C Pearson, I Reynolds, B Sage, R Sweeting and Mrs D White.

Against the proposal: Eight

Councillors D Mackay, B Marshall, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs W Nichols, B Packham, Mrs J Shaw-Wright, J Thurlow and P Welch.

Abstain: None

The motion to approve the recommendations as outlined in the report 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 £5 to £170.22 for a Band D property for 2017/18;**
- 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 2017;**
- iv) To approve the formal Council Tax resolution set out in Appendix B;**
- v) To finance the General Fund Deficit of £377k from the Business Rates Equalisation Reserve and the Surplus of £1.194m on the HRA be transferred to the Major Repairs Reserve to support the capital programme;**
- vi) To approve that any required variation to balance the General Fund budget as a result of the final Local Government Finance Settlement be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources, through an increase or decrease in the transfer from the Business Rates Equalisation Reserve.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

To ensure the Executive's budget proposals are fully funded for 2017/18.

71. TREASURY MANAGEMENT – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

**STATEMENT 2017/18, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY
STATEMENT 2017/18, ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2017/18 AND
PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2017/18**

The Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources presented the report which outlined the draft Treasury Management Strategy together with the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy for 2017/18 and Prudential Indicators 2017/18 as required by the Department of Communities and Local Government and CIPFA.

The Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources informed Council that the Council's authorised limit for external debt was £81m for 2017/18. It was stated that the Council needed to consider a range of options to ensure its spending plans were prudent.

RESOLVED:

- i) To set the Operational Borrowing Limit for 2017/18 at £76m**
- ii) To set the Authorised Borrowing Limit for 2017/18 at £81m**
- iii) To delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer to effect movement within the agreed authorised boundary limits for long-term borrowing for 2017/18 onwards.**
- iv) To delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer to effect movement within the agreed operational boundary limits for long-term borrowing for 2017/18 onwards.**
- v) To approve the treasury management strategy statement 2017/18.**
- vi) To approve the minimum revenue provision policy statement for 2017/18.**
- vii) To approve the treasury management investment strategy for 2017/18.**
- viii) To approve the prudential indicators for 2017/18 which reflect the capital expenditure plans which are affordable, prudent and sustainable.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

To ensure the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and associated policies are prudent and affordable.

72. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2017/18

Councillor Crane, Leader of the Council presented the report which sought approval of the Council's Pay Policy Statement 2017/18 in accordance with section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.

RESOLVED:

To approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18 as outlined in Appendix A.

REASONS FOR DECISION

To comply with Localism Act 2011 (the Act) to prepare a Pay Policy Statement articulating the Council's policy towards the pay of the workforce.

73. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Councillor Crane, Leader of the Council presented the report which outlined the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) following the completion of a review of Members' allowances.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Panel for their work and confirmed that the proposed new allowances would increase at the same rate as the local government pay settlements for officers.

Concern was raised that it was inappropriate to increase the allowances of Members while the Council was raising the Council Tax levels for residents. It was felt that a future annual increase linked to local government pay settlements for officers was sufficient for Members. An amendment was proposed and seconded to keep the members basic allowance and all of the special responsibility allowances at the current rate. As a result of this, the amendment proposed to only support recommendations 10 to 18 as outlined in the report.

Following a request under rule 19.4 of the Council procedure rules, a recorded vote was requested by at least five Members of Council on the amendment.

For the proposal: Eight

Councillors D Mackay, B Marshall, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs W Nichols, B Packham, Mrs J Shaw-Wright, J Thurlow and P Welch.

Against the proposal: Nineteen

Councillors K Arthur, D Buckle, Mrs E Casling, I Chilvers, Mrs J Chilvers, M Crane, J Deans, K Ellis, M Hobson, D Hutchinson, M Jordan, C Lunn, J Mackman, R Musgrave,

C Pearson, I Reynolds, B Sage, R Sweeting and Mrs D White.

Abstain: None

The motion to support the amendment was lost.

Council then voted on the recommendations as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED:

To approve the following recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) with regard to Members Allowances as the Council's scheme:

Basic Allowance

- i) To approve a 4.2% increase to the level of Members' basic allowance from £4,115.38 to £4,288.23;**

Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)

- ii) To recalculate all existing Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) to reflect the increase in Members' level of basic allowance;**
- iii) To increase the weighting given to the Deputy Leader from 1 to 1.3, raising their SRA from £4,288.23 to £5,574.70;**
- iv) To increase the weighting given to Executive Members from 1 to 1.2, raising their SRA from £4,288.23 to £5,145.88;**
- v) To reduce the weighting given to the Chair of Licensing Committee from 1 to 0.75, decreasing their SRA from £4,288.23 to £3,216.17;**
- vi) To remove the SRA given to the Majority Group Leader from the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme;**
- vii) To not amend the SRA given to the Opposition Group Leader which will remain at £2,144.12 taking into account the revised calculation following the increase in the basic allowance;**

- viii) To approve that if as a result of a Scrutiny Review, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Policy Review Committee are combined into one Committee, the weighting given to the Committee chairman is set at 0.9, giving the chair a SRA of £3,859.41;
- ix) To approve that if the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Policy Review Committee remain as separate entities then the SRA for both Chairmen are not amended therefore remaining at £3,216.17 taking into account the revised calculation following the increase in the basic allowance.

Dependents' / Child Carers' Allowance

- x) To approve that the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme includes a dependents' / child carers' allowance and that eligible Councillors are reimbursed, on production of receipts or evidence of expenditure, for expenditure incurred with regard to the care of their children or dependents when undertaking the following official duties:
 - Attendance at a meeting of the Council including any Committee, Sub-Committee or Working Party of the Council;
 - Attendance at any outside body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations, or at any Committee or Sub-Committee of such a body;
 - Attendance at a meeting of the Executive or of any other meetings in the role of an Executive Member;
 - Attendance at a meeting of any association of Authorities of which the Council is a member.
- xi) To approve that eligible Councillors' costs are reimbursed at the rate of the National Living Wage (currently £7.20 an hour) and that this reimbursement covers reasonable travel time to and from the location of the meeting.

Members' ICT Allowance

- xii) To approve that the Council amends its current ICT allowances and introduces a £10 monthly ICT allowance for home broadband and consumables only;
- xiii) To approve that the Council implement an acceptable usage policy for Members in line with that of the Council's ICT acceptable use policy for staff if they were provided with tablet devices in the future.

Members' Travel and Subsistence Allowances

- xiv) To approve that Members' travel and subsistence allowances are in line with those given to Council staff;
- xv) To approve that all claims are supported by receipts, and that Members submit their claims within three months of the meeting/engagement for which they are claiming taking place.

The Chairman's Allowance

- xvi) To approve that the Chairman's allowance of £5,910 is split into an allowance of £1,000 and a budget of £4,910, and that any remaining money in the Chairman's budget at the end of their civic year be given to the Chairman's charity;
- xvii) To approve that the Vice Chairman's allowance is reduced from £960 to £500.
- xviii) To approve that the Council's overall Members' Allowances Scheme is indexed for the next four years to match local government pay settlements using the NJC annual cost of living pay award including any pay award agreed for Council staff from 1st April 2017.

REASONS FOR DECISION

To ensure the council has reviewed and made recommendations on Members' Allowances under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

74. CHANGING OF VILLAGE NAME – WALDEN STUBBS

Councillor Crane, Leader of the Council presented the report which outlined a proposal to change the name of the village of Walden Stubbs.

An amendment was proposed to only approve the proposal subject to confirmation that there was sufficient support of the majority of residents in the village. This amendment was not seconded.

RESOLVED:

To approve amending the name of the village of Walden Stubbs to Stubbs Walden.

REASONS FOR DECISION

To approve the request for the name change by the Parish Meeting.

75. POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Crane, Leader of the Council presented the report which outlined changes to the political balance and the membership of Committees of the Council.

It was confirmed that Council would be considering the membership changes as outlined in the recommendations and not the table in the report. An updated list of Committee places in line with the proposed recommendations was circulated.

RESOLVED:

- i) To make the following changes to Committee places in light of the formation of the Independent Group:**
 - **To allocate the Independent Group a place on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee instead of the Conservative Group.**
 - **To allocate the Independent Group a place on the Policy Review Committee instead of the Labour Group.**
 - **To allocate the Independent Group a place on the Audit and Governance Committee instead of the Labour Group.**
- ii) To appoint the members and substitutes to the Committees in accordance with the nominations by the Group Leaders and as outlined in the circulated list of Committee places.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

To ensure Committee places are allocated in accordance with legislation and the political balance of the local authority.

76. URGENT ACTION

The Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning informed Council that the Chief Executive had taken urgent action under the functions delegated to her in the Constitution on 2 February 2017 as she had approved changes to the membership of the Planning Committee and this change was outlined in the Committee membership list that had been circulated.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.