

Selby District Council



Minutes

Executive

Venue:	Committee Room, Civic Centre, Selby
Date:	6 October 2011
Present:	Councillor M Crane (Chair), Mrs G Ivey C Lunn, C Metcalfe and J Mackman
Apologies for Absence:	None
Officers present:	Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director (S151), Head of North Yorkshire Audit Partnership, Development Manager and Democratic Services Manager.
Public:	1
Press:	

NOTE: Only minute numbers 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 are subject to call in. The deadline for call-in is 5pm 18 October 2011. Decisions not called in may be implemented on 19 October 2011.

36. Disclosure of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

37. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 1 September 2011 were submitted. A minor amendment was approved which added 'in line with the SADPD' to resolution (v) at minute 28 (Site Allocations DPD Preferred Sites Version and associated LDF documents). Subject to this amendment the minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

38. Medium Term Financial Strategy

Councillor Lunn presented report E/11/26 which outlined the Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Executive heard that progress against the Savings Target was good, however further savings would be required over the next three years.

Councillor Lunn highlighted some of the assumptions made in the strategy with particular reference to the interest rate and inflation. He stated that the assumptions were subject to change and that this could affect the Council's financial position.

Following a question from Councillor Metcalfe, the Executive discussed the issue of the Council Tax Freeze Grant. The Executive Director (S151) was awaiting written confirmation of the Government's proposals for extending support for Councils limiting Council Tax rises in 2012/13 following recent announcements.

Resolved:

To approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Reasons for decisions:

To set the Framework for the 2012/13 budget and 2012 – 2014/15 Medium Term Financial Plan.

39. Future provision of Internal Audit

Councillor Lunn presented report E/11/27 setting out proposals for the future provision of Internal Audit for Selby District Council.

Councillor Lunn explained that Internal Audit was currently provided by the North Yorkshire Audit Partnership. The present Partnership Agreement would expire on 31 March 2012. The Partnership Officers and S151 Officers of the partner Councils had considered various options for the future provision of Internal Audit and had agreed in principle that a merger with Veritau offered the best opportunities for both financial savings and quality of service.

The Executive heard that Veritau would create a subsidiary company: Veritau (North Yorkshire) Ltd, to provide Internal Audit to the present North Yorkshire Audit Partnership Councils.

In response to questions, the Executive Director (S151) informed the Executive that each of the Districts would have equal representation on the proposed subsidiary company and that the company would be seeking admission to the North Yorkshire Pension Scheme.

Resolved:

- (i) To enter into formal contractual arrangements with Veritau Ltd to provide Internal Audit to the Council;**
- (ii) To grant the Solicitor to the Council authority to enter into such contractual arrangements;**
- (iii) To appoint the Executive Director (S151) Officer as the Selby District Council nominated Director of Veritau (North Yorkshire) Ltd.**

Reasons for decision:

To ensure the provision of cost effective and efficient internal audit services in partnership with other local authorities in North Yorkshire.

40. Leisure Planned Maintenance Programme

Councillor Lunn presented report E/11/28 which set out the Leisure Planned Maintenance Programme.

The Executive heard that, in the contract with Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT), the Council holds the landlord responsibility for Abbey and Tadcaster Leisure Centres and Selby Park. An indicative 10 year programme was set when the contract was agreed, this was then reviewed each time the Council refreshed its Medium Term Financial Strategy and rolling Capital Programme.

Councillor Mackman raised questions in relation to the proposed refurbishments of the roof and the Calorifier. The Executive Director (S151) undertook to respond to the Executive outside of the meeting.

The Deputy Chief Executive clarified that the Council's contract with WLCT provided an incentive for Abbey Leisure Centre to optimise energy efficiency.

Councillor Mackman suggested that the word 'that' be removed from the first recommendation. This was accepted.

Resolved:

- (i) To agree the Year Three Landlord Planned Maintenance Programme for Abbey and Tadcaster Leisure Centres and Selby Park;**
- (ii) To include £136,725 from the Building Repairs Reserve within the budget proposals for 2012/13;**
- (iii) To include the indicative maintenance programme for 2013/14 and 2014/15 within the Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme as appropriate.**

Reasons for decision:

To ensure essential maintenance work required at the Council's leisure facilities would be included in the Council's capital programme to enable the Council to discharge its duties as a landlord and ensure the facilities would be maintained to an appropriate standard.

41. Review of Car Parking Fees

Councillor Metcalfe presented report E/11/29 which outlined the responses received during the six week consultation on the proposed increase in Car Park tariffs.

Councillor Metcalfe provided a summary of the responses received. He had attended at Policy Review Committee on 26 July 2011 to listen to the Committee's views as part of the consultation. The Executive discussed the recommendation from Policy Review Committee to remove car parking fees in the four weeks leading up to Christmas. The Executive considered the costs to the Council as being prohibitive.

Councillor Metcalfe proposed that car park fees should not be charged on the two Saturdays leading up to Christmas for the next two years. This was supported by the Executive.

Councillor Crane reiterated that car park charges within Selby District were amongst the lowest within North Yorkshire.

Resolved:

- (i) To receive the comments from the consultation;**
- (ii) To approve the increase as outlined in the table in paragraph 2.6;**
- (iii) Not to implement car parking charges in Selby on the two Saturdays leading up to Christmas for the next two years.**

42. Private Session

Resolved:

In accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion of the following item as there was likely to be disclosure of exempt information.

43. Request for Write-Off Industrial Unit Rent, Over £5000

Councillor Lunn presented report E/11/30 which outlined a request to write off the balance of a debt outstanding for rental of an industrial unit.

The Executive heard that an offer had been received to pay off a proportion of the debt owed, this would leave a balance to be written off.

Resolved:

To accept the offer in full settlement of the debt and to write off the remaining balance of rent.

Reason for decision:

That it would inflict hardship on a former tenant and it would be uneconomical for the authority to pursue this further.

44. Land at Portholme Road, Selby

Councillor Mark Crane presented the report E/11/32 which gave an update on plans to market the Council's remaining non-operational land at Portholme Road, Selby.

The Deputy Chief Executive responded to a number of questions from the Executive regarding the options available to the Council on this matter.

Resolved:

- (i) To receive and note the report;**
- (ii) To pursue Option 1 set out in the report;**
- (iii) To authorises the Deputy Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, to conclude negotiations with NY Police in respect of their current occupation of the mast site.**

Reason for Decision:

To enable the Council to maximise the value of its capital receipt in respect of the sale of the remaining non-operational land at Portholme Road, Selby.

45. CCTV Provision

Councillor Metcalfe presented report E/11/31 which was in response to the items agreed at the Executive meeting on the 7 July 2011.

Councillor Metcalfe provided the Executive with details of ongoing discussions regarding a possible partnership with Selby Town Council, he would continue to work on the issue before bringing the item back to the Executive.

Resolved:

To explore partnering with Selby Town Council, with a final report presented to the Executive in December 2011.

Reason for Decision:

To allow the Council to maximise potential opportunities to reduce revenue costs whilst offering an efficient, effective and proportionate CCTV service which meets the needs of the public, the police and the Community Safety Partnership.

The meeting concluded at 4.55pm.