# Selby District Council



# **Minutes**

# **Executive**

Venue: Committee Room, Civic Centre, Selby

Date: 1 November 2012

Present: Councillor Mrs G Ivey (Chair), C Lunn, J Mackman

and C Metcalfe.

Officers present: Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive,

Executive Director (S151), Director of Business

Services, Director of Community Services,

Business Managers (ES,SS), ICT Shared Services Manager and Democratic Services Manager.

Also Present: Bill Herald and Christopher Phillipson – Burn

Parish Council and Honorary Alderman Roy

Wilson.

Public:

Press: 0

NOTE: Only minute numbers 57 to 68 are subject to call-in arrangements. The deadline for call-in is 5pm 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Decisions not called in may be implemented on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

# 53. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Crane.

# 54. Public Speaker - Mr Phillipson

With the prior agreement of the Chair, Mr Phillipson, Chairman of Burn Parish Council, addressed the Executive with regard to the proposed expansion of the Gypsy and Traveller Site at Burn Airfield. Mr Phillipson outlined a number of arguments in opposition to the expansion of the site.

#### Resolved:

To consider Mr Phillipson's comments as part of the Council's ongoing work to identify a suitable Gypsy and Traveller Site.

#### 55. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 4 October 2012 were submitted and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### 56. Disclosure of Interest

None received.

# 57. 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Corporate Plan Progress Report

Councillor Mrs G Ivey presented the report which provided details of Access Selby's key performance indicators following the second quarter of reporting for the financial year 2012/13. The update also provided progress against the development plan that was included within the Service Level Agreement between the Core and Access Selby.

The Executive discussed performance at the Contact Centre and provided officers with details of their experiences of it. Councillors considered performance within the Benefits Team and the associated recovery programme. Officers were asked to provide further information on the potential income streams for Access Selby.

#### Resolved:

#### To approve the report.

Reason for decision:

The ongoing management of performance and improvement data assists Access Selby in achieving its priorities for 2012/13.

# 58. Fees and Charges 2013/14 - Key Decision

Councillor Lunn presented the report which outlined consideration of cases where there was a justification to increase fees above the Retail Price Index (RPI).

The Executive considered the current subsidy level for senior citizen and disabled rail cards. The Executive discussed a number of options which included discontinuing subsidised railcards. The Executive approved the provision of a subsidy of £5 per card.

The Executive welcomed the decision to introduce an appointments system for the collection of bulky refuse items.

#### Resolved:

- To agree the proposed changes to fees and charges contained in the report as exceptions to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS);
- ii) To agree Option 3, to provide a £5 discount for the over 60's and Disable Persons Railcards.

Reason for the decision:

To allow Access Selby the opportunity to propose prices as appropriate.

# 59. 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Budget exceptions Report – Key Decision

Councillor Lunn presented the report to update the Executive with details of major variances between budgeted and actual expenditure and income for the financial year to 30 September 2012 for the Core, Access Selby and Communities Selby.

The Executive discussed the challenges facing the Council to continue to meet the financial savings targets. An update on the position with regard to Planning Fee Income was provided.

#### Resolved:

- To endorse the actions of officers and note the contents of the report;
- ii) To adjust budgets to reflect the savings expected to be achieved this year and the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan be amended to take account of projected savings in 2012/13 and 2013/14 where these are not currently allowed for in the budget.

Reason for the decision:

To ensure that budget exceptions are brought to the attention of the Executive with explanations from officers; in order to approve remedial action as necessary.

# 60. 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Treasury Management Report - Key Decision

Councillor Lunn presented the report which reviewed the Council's borrowing and investment activity for the first six months of 2012/13 and presented performance against the Prudential Indicators.

Councillor Lunn reported that overall investment interest was forecast to exceed the budget for the year. Despite the challenging financial environment, the Council was only slightly short of the interest rate target of 1.25% at 1.21%.

#### Resolved:

To endorse the actions of officers on the Council's treasury activities for the period ending 30 September 2012 and approve the report.

Reason for the decision:

To comply with the Treasury Management Code of Practice, the Executive is required to receive and review regular treasury management monitoring reports.

# 61. Leisure Landlord Maintenance Programme

Councillor Lunn presented the report on the two main items identified for the Year 4 Planned Maintenance Programme, Selby Park – Renewal of the crazy golf surface and Tadcaster Leisure Centre – replacement of the lift.

Councillor Lunn outlined that renewal of the surface of the crazy golf in Selby Park was not required at this time. He stated that more work was required to ascertain the feasibility and costs of repairing the lift at Tadcaster Leisure Centre.

#### Resolved:

- i) To defer the renewal of the crazy golf surface at Selby Park to later in the 10 Year Programme if required.
- ii) To delegate responsibility to the responsible Business
  Manager to arrange the repair or replacement of the lift at
  Tadcaster Leisure Centre in the most cost effective means
  within a budget of up to £20,500.

Reason for the decision:

To ensure that the lift at Tadcaster Leisure Centre be reinstated to support the continued use of the facilities. To make best use of Council resources.

#### 62. Homeless Prevention

Councillor Lunn presented the report on the proposed commissioning of Access Selby to deliver homeless prevention work using additional funding provided by Department for Communities and Local Government.

Councillor Lunn stated that the funding was outside the scope of the current Access Selby cost envelope and stressed that any services could only be sustained whilst additional government funding was available.

The Executive discussed concerns regarding the sustainability of the project and how it would be delivered. The Executive requested that

Access Selby produce a proposal outlining how these concerns would be addressed. The proposal would be considered by the Executive at a future meeting.

#### Resolved:

To request Access Selby develop a proposal outlining how the homeless prevention work would be delivered incorporating issues of sustainability.

Reason for the decision:

To ensure Executive approval of the proposal.

# 63. Repossessions Prevention

Councillor Lunn presented the report on the proposed commissioning of Access Selby to deliver a repossessions prevention scheme using additional funding provided by Department for Communities and Local Government.

Linking with discussion on the previous item, the Executive again raised concerns regarding the sustainability of the project and how it would be delivered. The Executive asked Access Selby to provide a proposal which addressed these concerns.

#### Resolved:

To request Access Selby develop a proposal outlining how the repossessions prevention work would be delivered incorporating issues of sustainability.

Reason for the decision:

To ensure Executive approval of the proposal.

# 64. Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

Councillor Metcalfe presented the report which detailed North Yorkshire's consultation with the Council regarding the proposed implementation of CPE in North Yorkshire.

Councillor Metcalfe highlighted that the scheme had been successfully implemented at both Harrogate and Scarborough Borough Councils. He outlined North Yorkshire County Council's commitment to subsidise losses the Council may incur in the first three years of the scheme's operation.

#### Resolved:

To support the proposed implementation of the Civil Parking Enforcement scheme throughout North Yorkshire and make an appropriate adjustment to the Access Selby Budget.

# 65. Review of the ICT Strategy

Councillor Lunn presented the report on the ICT Strategy.

Councillor Lunn outlined that the Strategy was based on five strategic themes, these were identified as Firm Foundations, Organisational Agility, Information to Intelligence, Value for Money and Being Competitive and Customer Centred Business.

The ICT Shared Services Manager responded to questions from councillors regarding the level of challenge the service was subjected to, joint procurement issues and disaster recovery. The Executive were keen to see progress regarding the Council's disaster recovery provisions.

#### Resolved:

# To agree the ICT Strategy 2012-2017.

Reason for the decision:

ICT is vital for the delivery of efficient, cost-effective services which are responsive to the needs of our customers. By having a clear Strategy in place the organisation will be able to make best use of resources to enable this to happen.

# 66. Core Strategy Update - Key Decision

Councillor Mackman presented the report which updated the Executive on the progress of the Core Strategy through the Examination in Public (EIP) at the reconvened sessions that took place on 5 and 6 September 2012. The report also contained the Planning Inspector's Note, highlighting his steadily reducing areas of concern with the Core Strategy.

Councillor Mackman provided an overview of latest developments and highlighted the decisions to be taken at the Extraordinary Council meeting on 6 November 2012.

# Resolved:

- To note the contents of the draft report for the Extraordinary Council meeting on 6 November 2012;
- ii) To note the contents of the Inspector's Note;
- iii) To note the related issues set out in this covering report;
- iv) To amend the final Council Report as required taking into account the Inspector's comments.

Reason for the decision:

A formally adopted Core Strategy is an essential part of the Council's Local Development Framework (now referred to as the Local Plan) and is needed for the proper planning of the District of Selby. The recommendations seek to assist the progress of the Core Strategy towards adoption and will contribute towards the implementation of the statutory development plan within the timescale agreed with the Government Inspector.

# 67. Potential Site for the Travelling Community - Key Decision

Councillor Mackman presented the report which provided an update following the Executive decision to authorise Access Selby to open negotiations with HCA and submit applications to facilitate the delivery of a travellers site.

Councillor Mackman provided an overview of the current situation and summarised the progress made to date in identifying a suitable site for the Gypsy and Traveller Community.

The Executive discussed the arguments put forward earlier in the meeting by Mr Phillipson in opposition to the site at Burn Airfield. Councillor Lunn also spoke in opposition to the Burn Airfield Site. The Executive agreed to provide Mr Phillipson with a copy of the preferred scheme (scheme 2) for Burn Airfield.

Councillor Mackman put forward amended recommendations iv) and v), these read as below:

- iv) To open formal negotiations with the landowners to secure an option to purchase the land;
- v) To instruct officers to submit a planning application based on Scheme 2.

The Executive approved the amended recommendations and requested that the submission of the planning application should run concurrently with the negotiations to buy the land.

# To recommend to Council:

i) To request Council considers the request for match funding;

# Resolved:

- i) To note the action to date and current position with regard to delivery of a suitable Gypsy & Traveller site;
- ii) To authorise officers to prepare tender documents for the development of the site and the management of the site;

- iii) To open formal negotiations with the landowner to secure an option to purchase the land;
- iv) To instruct officers to submit a planning application based on scheme 2.

Councillor Lunn voted against the recommendations.

Reason for the decision:

To enable the Council to form and to robustly defend its future position in this matter.

# 68. Programme for Growth

Councillor Ivey presented the report on the proposed progress with the Programme for Growth, following the Executive's presentation to the Extraordinary meeting of the Council on 24 July 2012.

# Resolved:

- i) To accept the proposed programme.
- ii) To support its recommendation to Council.
- iii) To move on to the next stage of implementation

Reason for the decision:

To enable progress to be made with the Programme for Growth.

The meeting closed at 6.34pm.