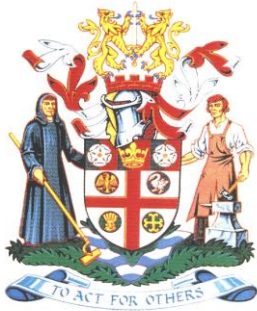


Selby District Council



Minutes

Executive

Venue:	Committee Room, Civic Centre, Selby
Date:	6 December 2012
Present:	Councillor M Crane (Chair), Councillor Mrs G Ivey, C Lunn, J Mackman and C Metcalfe
Officers present:	Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director (S151), Director of Community Services, Business Manager (ES), Lead Officer Benefits and Taxation, Policy Officer, Democratic Services Manager and Democratic Services Officer.
Also Present:	
Public:	0
Press:	0

NOTE: Only minute numbers 74, 75, 76 to are subject to call-in arrangements. The deadline for call-in is 5pm on 18 December 2012. Decisions not called in may be implemented on 19 December 2012.

69. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

70. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 1 November 2012 were submitted. The Executive approved two minor amendments to the minutes. At minute 58 the final sentence should read:

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

Secondly, the Executive approved, at minute 61, to correct a typographical error to change the word 'gold' to 'golf'.

The Chief Executive clarified that the Programme for Growth proposals approved at the 1 November Executive meeting would be received by the Council as part of the budget report.

71. Disclosure of Interest

Councillor C Lunn, having registered a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 (minute 73 - Council Tax Localisation) arising from the fact that he owns a number of properties which would be, from time to time, affected by the proposals set out in the report, left the meeting during discussion and voting on that item.

72. Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan – Key Decision

Councillor Lunn presented the report on the draft revenue budget and capital programme for 2013/14 to 2015/16. The proposals presented a balanced budget for the coming year, subject to the achievement of savings.

Councillor Lunn outlined that the Executive had considered the Government's offer of a one-off grant for a further year's Council Tax freeze. However, the future uncertainty regarding the new business rates regime meant that the Executive would be recommending a Council Tax increase of just 2% to protect the Council's financial position.

Councillor Lunn stated that the Council had made significant progress in delivering the savings needed to sustain priority services, but must be prepared for further cuts to central government funding.

The Executive felt that, in order to protect statutory services, consideration needed to be given to reducing subsidies provided to discretionary services. The Executive then discussed the introduction of charging for green waste collection.

Resolved:

- i) Subject to comments from the Policy Review Committee, the draft budgets, bids and savings be submitted to Council for approval;**
- ii) To request the Policy Review Committee to bring forward their recommendations for the implementation of charges for green waste collection.**

Recommended to Council:

To increase Council Tax by 2% for 2013/14.

Reason for decision:

To ensure the Executive's budget proposals are fully funded for 2013/14.

Having registered a disclosable pecuniary interest in the item set out below Councillor C Lunn left the meeting.

73. Localisation of Council Tax Support – Key Decision

Councillor Crane presented the report which proposed the provision of Localised Support for Council Tax. The report detailed the results of both the Major Preceptor and public consultation exercises.

Councillor Crane provided a brief overview of the latest developments including the Government's recent announcement of £100m to be made available nationally to reduce the impact of Council Tax Support Schemes. However, the funding was only available for one year and only to those Councils who met certain criteria in the design of their scheme.

The Executive were supportive of the scheme proposed and moved on to discuss the current uncertainty regarding the level of financial impact on Parish Councils.

Resolved:

To recommend to Council

- i) To adopt the proposed version of the Council Tax Support scheme;**
- ii) To approve the proposed changes to Council Tax discounts and exemptions from 1 April 2013;**
- iii) To approve the implementation of a Council Tax Support Hardship Scheme;**
- iv) To approve the Council Tax Support Scheme Vulnerability Policy.**

Reason for the decision:

To allow a cost neutral scheme for Council Tax Support to be implemented.

Councillor Lunn returned to the meeting

74. Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Replacement Business Case - Key Decision

Councillor Lunn presented the report which asked the Executive to consider the business case for a CRM replacement and to give authority for the procurement process to begin.

Councillor Lunn outlined that the current CRM system was shortly due for replacement. Advancements in technology meant that a more flexible and adaptable system could be purchased with a wider application across Council services, enabling improvements to the Council's website and supporting a phased move toward customer 'self service'.

The Executive discussed the potential benefits of the system for both the Council and its customers. The Executive Director S151 responded to a number of questions in relation to the costs and utilisation of the system. The Executive expected the system to deliver an improved customer experience.

Resolved:

- i) To accept the recommendation of procuring a new CRM system to replace the current system;**
- ii) To authorise procurement;**
- iii) To release resources of £75,148 from the ICT Reserve to finance the purchase and implementation of the system.**

Reason for the decision:

To ensure Access Selby has the correct system to help meet its business ambitions and help with its savings targets.

75. Community Right to Bid

Councillor Crane presented the report on the requirements under the Localism Act 2011 to have in place a Community Asset Register and the need to agree the Council's approach to the consideration of any requests.

Councillor Crane outlined that under the Localism Act, the Council had a duty to maintain a list of assets in the District which were of community value. The assets would be nominated by the local community and not the Council.

The Executive discussed the definition of assets which could be deemed to have community value and the costs associated with implementing and maintaining the register. There was no current Access Selby budget provision for administering the scheme. The Executive felt that an open book accounting exercise could be used to determine the final payment to Access Selby.

The Executive agreed to delegate decision making on Community Right to Bid applications to a senior officer. The Executive would take the decision only in exceptional circumstances.

Resolved:

- i) To commission Access Selby to introduce and manage the Community Asset Register;**
- ii) To delegate decisions on Community Right to Bid applications to the Executive Director (Communities Selby);**
- iii) To note that publicity will be given via the website.**

Reason for the decision:

To enable the Council to comply with requirements introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Regulations 2012.

76. Tenancy Policy – Key Decision

Councillor Mrs G Ivey presented the report which asked the Executive to endorse the approach to the development of the Tenancy Policy and to agree to the public consultation.

The Executive supported the policy and felt that it would assist in the effective stock management of the Council's properties and would help tenants receive accommodation suitable to their needs.

The Executive requested that the Allocations Policy and the Tenancy Policy be received at its meeting on 4 April 2013.

Resolved:

- i) To endorse the approach to the development of the Tenancy Policy;**
- ii) To agree consultation between December and March**

Reason for the decision:

To ensure that Councillors are aware of how work on the Tenancy Policy is developing prior to consultation.

The meeting closed at 5.39 pm.