Selby District Council



Minutes

Executive

Venue: Committee Room, Civic Centre, Selby

Date: 4 June 2015

Present: Councillor M Crane (Chair), J Mackman, C

Lunn and D Peart.

Officers present: Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive,

Executive Director (s151), Solicitor to the Council, Access Selby Director, Policy Officers

(Michelle Dinsdale items 8 and 9; Julia Jennison items 11 and 10), and Democratic

Services Officer.

Also Present: Councillor Mrs S Duckett and Councillor J

Crawford.

Public: 2 Press: 0

NOTE: Only minute numbers 5 to 13 and 15 are subject to call-in arrangements. The deadline for call-in is 5pm on the 18th of June 2015. Decisions not called in may be implemented on the 19th of June 2015.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor C Metcalfe.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 16 April 2015 were considered.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2015 and to submit them for signing by the Chair.

3. Disclosure of Interest

None.

4. Start Time of Meetings

The Executive considered the start time of meetings for the municipal year 2015/16.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve 4 pm as the start time for meetings of the Executive for the 2015/16 municipal year.
- (ii) To approve 2 pm as the start time for Executive Briefing meetings for the 2015/16 municipal year.

5. Treasury Management: Annual Review 2014/15 - Key Decision

Councillor Lunn presented the report (E/15/1) which reviews the Council's borrowing and investment activity (Treasury Management) for the financial year to 31 March 2015 and presents performance against the Prudential Indicators.

It was confirmed that the Council's investments totalled £29.1m over the financial year. Interest was earned at a rate of 0.7%, or £213k, which was £77k below budget. The shortfall in interest earnings was mitigated by in year revenue savings.

Long-term borrowing totalled £60.3m at the end of the financial year, with interest charged at an average rate of 4.19%. Of this, £57.7m related to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The Council had no short-term borrowing in place at 31 March 2015.

Prudential Indicators – the Council's affordable limits for borrowing were not breached during this period.

RESOLVED:

To endorse the actions of officers on the Council's treasury activities for 2014/15 and approve the report.

Reason for the decision:

To comply with the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

6. Resourcing PLAN Selby - Delivering the Ambition

Councillor Mackman presented the report on PLAN Selby progress (E/15/2) outlining progress to date and future timescales. The report noted concerns about staff resources and risks to the delivery of PLAN Selby within the agreed timescales, which require Planning Policy Officers to work at least 90% of their time to PLAN Selby. Currently officers are spending circa 60% of their time on PLAN Selby work.

The report considered four options ranging from option one which provided for the full increase in resources to option four which recommended no increase in resources. The Programme Board asked the Executive to approve the financial requirements necessary to enable option one to be actioned.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the position on PLAN Selby.
- (ii) To approve the virement of £52k from Access Selby's operational contingency to enable recruitment of the Principal Planning Policy Officer post.
- (iii) To recommend to Council a drawdown of £281k from the Contingency Reserve.

Reason for the decision:

Approval for the full increase in resources recommended by the Board will mitigate the resource based risks to the PLAN Selby and significantly increase the likelihood of achieving the local plan timetable.

7. Economic Development Commission

Councillor Crane presented the report which identifies additional areas where the Council can take a more proactive role to promote economic development. The report recommends commissioning East Riding of Yorkshire Council to develop an action plan for economic growth on behalf of Selby District Council.

The Executive expressed support for the aim to support job creation in the district, particularly high quality skilled jobs and that this proposal will provide for a clear and specific action plan to be developed.

RESOLVED:

To approve a virement of £50,000 from the Programme for Growth contingency to fund the economic development commission.

Reason for the decision:

To commission East Riding of Yorkshire Council to develop an action plan for economic development.

8. Scrap Metal Dealers Policy

Councillor Crane presented report E/15/4 which asks the Executive to approve the draft Scrap Metal Dealers policy and thanked the Policy Officer for her work on it. There had been no responses to the consultation, which included the Licensing Committee, and the policy conforms to national policies and legislation.

In response to questions from councillors it was noted that an Advisory Note could be included in the policy making reference to scrap metal vehicles being appropriately caged or of a height suitable for the goods being carried.

RESOLVED:

To approve the draft policy.

Reason for the decision:

To have a comprehensive policy in place to ensure that the Council is in a position to act and respond to any future changes in legislation.

9. Taxi Licensing Policy (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators)

Councillor Crane presented report E/15/5 which asks the Executive to approve the draft Taxi Licensing Policy which was subject to 'call in' by the Licensing Committee on 6 February 2015. The Licensing Committee had raised concerns about the 75/25 split between wheelchair accessible and non-wheelchair accessible vehicles and had asked the Executive to consider a 60/40 split.

Councillor Mrs Duckett was invited to address the Executive on behalf of the Licensing Committee. Councillor Mrs Duckett explained that the committee had been made aware of non-wheelchair users finding

wheelchair-accessible vehicles to be difficult to use, although collating non-anecdotal evidence to bring to the Executive was difficult.

The Executive suggested that the concerns of the Licensing Committee be noted and that the split be adjusted to 70/30 wheelchair accessible to non-wheelchair accessible vehicles.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To reconsider the decision to approve the Taxi Licensing Policy, taking into account representations made by the Licensing Committee.
- (ii) To approve the Taxi Licensing Policy subject to the policy objective for the ratio of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles to non-Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles being amended from 75/25 to 70/30.

Reason for the decision:

To ensure that the Council is in a position to respond to any future changes in taxi and private hire legislation.

10. Amendments to the Constitution

Councillor Crane presented report E/15/6 which set out further amendments to the Constitution which are required by law and/or necessary to speed up decision making and improve transparency.

Councillor Mackman raised concerns about previous changes which removed the ability for Councillors and others to speak at planning site visits. The Council's Solicitor confirmed that this change had been previously approved and conforms to the model planning code recommended by the Planning Advisory Service.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To ask the Audit and Governance committee to consider as part of the review the procedures for planning site meetings in light of the views expressed;
- (ii) To refer all proposed changes to full Council in light of any comments provided by the Audit and Governance committee

Reasons for the decision:

- (i) To consider whether Councillors and others are afforded adequate opportunities to make representations during the planning process.
- (ii) To update the Constitution as required by law and in other respects to speed up decision making and increase transparency.

11. York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Strategy and Selby Action Plan 2015-21 – Key Decision

Councillor Peart presented report E/15/7 on the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding (YNYER) Housing Strategy which has been developed to provide an overarching vision for the area. It replaces the previous North Yorkshire sub-regional Housing and Homelessness Strategy and requires that each district will produce a separate Homelessness Strategy for 2015-20. The strategy has been produced with input from each local authority and Local Enterprise Partnership in the Leeds City Region and the Humber. Once approved by each of the districts it will be formally launched in September 2015.

In Selby the action plan will be developed by a small working party (already in place) with the Head of Operations in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Housing, Leisure, Health and Culture,

RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Strategy 2015-21;
- (ii) To delegate development of the Action Plan to the Head of Operations in consultation with the appropriate Executive member.

Reasons for decision:

To enable the joint approach to strategic housing to continue. This approach will help all partners to develop ambitions around new market and affordable homes and the significant and positive economic impact that this will have for the area, in line with the Local Growth Deals from July 2015.

12. Selby Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2015-21 – Key Decision

Councillor Peart presented report E/15/8 which detailed the draft Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan for Selby, and asked the Executive to approve the draft to go out to consultation. The consultation is proposed to run from 15 June to 3 August 2015, and then be brought back to the Executive on 1 October 2015.

RESOLVED:

To approve the draft Selby Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2015-20 for consultation.

Reasons for decision:

To enable the draft Selby Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2015-20 to be published for consultation.

13. Sale of land at Barlby

Councillor Crane presented report E/15/9 relating to the sale of Council owned land at Barlby following the granting of planning permission for a residential development on the site at the Planning Committee meeting held on 11 March 2015. The development includes a small area of land currently owned by the Council and the Executive were asked to approve, in principle, the sale of the land and to delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive to finalise the terms of the sale after consultation with the Lead Councillor for finance and resources.

RESOLVED:

To approve, in principle, the sale of land at Barlby and delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive to finalise terms of the sale after consultation with the Lead Councillor for finance and resources.

Reason for decision:

To enable the sale of land to proceed, generating a capital receipt and delivery of benefits identified in the planning application.

14. Burn Gliding Club Lease

The Executive Director (s151) reported that there was no further information to update the Executive with. Councillor Crane explained that the Burn Gliding Club had requested a 20 year lease, but that the Council had to remain mindful of the 2027 end date for PLAN Selby. Councillor Crane suggested that a meeting be arranged with representatives of the Gliding Club.

15. Executive Representation on Outside Bodies

Councillor Crane presented the report which asked the Executive to consider its appointment of representatives on Outside Bodies for 2015/16. The Executive agreed to the addition of the Leeds City Region Planning Portfolios Group and the Trans-Pennine Trail Board to the list.

RESOLVED:

To approve the schedule of appointments on outside bodies as amended, attached at appendix A.

Reason for the decision:

To ensure the Council is represented on Outside Bodies as necessary in 2015/16.

The meeting closed at 5.28pm