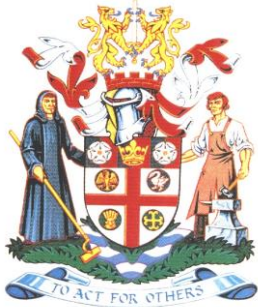


Selby District Council



Minutes

Executive

Venue:	Committee Room, Civic Centre, Selby
Date:	Thursday 3 September 2015
Time:	4pm
Present:	Councillors M Crane (Chair), J Mackman (Vice Chair), C Lunn, C Metcalfe, and D Peart.
Officers present:	Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director (s151), Director of Community Services, Solicitor to the Council, Lead Officer – Finance (items 4 to 5), Housing Development Manager (item 9), Executive Director – Communities (items 10 to 11), Project Manager, Customer and Communities and Democratic Services Manager.
Also Present:	Councillors J Crawford and B Packham
Public:	1
Press:	0

NOTE: Only minute numbers 30 to 38 are subject to call-in arrangements. The deadline for call-in is 5pm on Tuesday 15 September 2015. Decisions not called in may be implemented from Wednesday 16 September 2015.

27. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

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28. Minutes

The Executive considered the minutes from the last meeting on 2 July 2015.

It was agreed to replace the word 'brought' with the word 'bought' in the second paragraph of item 23.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2015 with the above amendment.

29. Disclosure of Interest

Councillor Mackman declared an "other interest" in item 9 "A Review of Temporary Accommodation Requirements" arising from his appointment by the Council to the Selby and District Housing Trust.

30. Financial Results and Budget Exceptions Report to 30 June 2015 – Key Decision

Councillor Lunn presented the report which provided the financial results and budget exceptions to 30 June 2015.

Councillor Lunn explained that there had been a successful start to the financial results for 2015/16 and the capital programme was progressing well however there was expected to be slippage relating to ICT projects and the Portholme Road culvert.

It was clarified that the estimated surplus in section 1.1 should read as £133k and not £89k.

In response to a query concerning the amalgamation of Citizenlink between the District and County Council, it was confirmed that an agreement had been reached for the current edition however not on future editions.

RESOLVED:

To endorse the actions of officers and note the contents of the report.

Reasons 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 if necessary.

31. Treasury Management – Monitoring Report to June 2015 – Key Decision

Councillor Lunn presented the report which reviewed the Council's Treasury Management activity for the three months period 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015 and presented performance against the Prudential Indicators.

Councillor Lunn explained that most of the District Council's money was invested through North Yorkshire County Council. In response to a query concerning borrowing, it was confirmed that the Council's borrowing was governed by the Prudential Code.

It was clarified that the Operational Borrowing Limit in section 2.16 of the report should read as £71m and not £79m. It was also stated that the principal sums invested for over 364 days in 1 to 2 years at Appendix B should read £5m and not £50m.

RESOLVED:

To endorse the actions of officers on the Council's treasury activities for the period ending 30 June 2015 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.

32. Medium Term Financial Strategy – Key Decision

Councillor Lunn presented the report which provided an update to the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) approved by Council in December 2014

The Executive Director (s151) explained three scenarios had been prepared outlining possible cuts in Government funding of 25% through to 40%. The Executive were informed that there was uncertainty regarding the New Homes Bonus and there was a risk with the Business Rates system with the current situation around Eggborough Power Station.

It was confirmed that the Strategy would be presented to the Policy Review Committee at their next meeting,

The Executive Director (s151) explained that as the accounts for 2014/15 were still be finalised, it was expected that the reserves

appendix would change. It was agreed that the table would be circulated to the Executive as soon as it was finalised.

RESOLVED:

To submit the draft update to the Medium Term Strategy to Council for approval, subject to comments from the Policy Review Committee.

Reasons for the decision

To set the framework for the 2016/17 budget and 2016 – 2018/19 Medium Term Financial Plan.

33. Renewable Energy Feasibility – Key Decision

Councillor Lunn presented the report on the findings of a feasibility study on the potential for renewable energy projects which was part of the Council's Programme for Growth and its approved savings plan.

Councillor Lunn explained that a number of options had been considered and the most viable option was a Solar Farm on the land at Burn Airfield. The Executive were informed that Burn Parish Council had already been contacted to discuss the proposals and if the proposal was developed then a planning application would have to be submitted. It was acknowledged that a detailed business case would have to be prepared in the first instance.

Concerns were raised around the financial subsidies for solar energy and how the Government's changing attitude might affect the proposals. It was agreed to seek guidance from the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) regarding this issue.

RESOLVED:

- i) To have a detailed business case prepared for a ground mounted 5MW solar farm on the site at Burn Airfield, with a report back to the Executive in October/November;**
- ii) To commence a consultation with local stakeholders;**
- iii) To submit a planning application at risk, as soon as reasonably practicable with the cost (subject to quotes and virement limits) met from the Programme for Growth Contingency;**

- iv) **To submit a report at a later date on the detailed business case for a building based scheme(s).**
- v) **To seek advice from the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) regarding the Government's stance on solar farms.**

Reason for the decision

To enable the Council to deliver a solar power scheme in accordance with the aspirations of the Programme for Growth, and to take advantage of the current subsidy arrangements that are available to deliver the approved savings target of £150k p.a.

34. A Review of Temporary Accommodation Requirements

Councillor Peart presented the report that reviewed the current temporary accommodation provision at Edgerton Lodge and Ousegate Lodge and looked at the options for future provision for the service as part of a wider review of the council's assets.

Councillor Peart explained that the occupancy rate at Edgerton Lodge was 34% last year and the future demand was not expected to increase.

The Executive accepted that the building was used less for accommodation and were of the view that it could be put to better use.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To approve the decommissioning of the use of Edgerton Lodge as temporary accommodation.**
- ii) **To approve the future use of dispersed temporary accommodation.**

Reason for the decision

To make best use of Council assets and supplement the use of Ousegate Lodge with dispersed accommodation using our own housing stock. Dispersed accommodation will allow the service to be flexible when responding to changing demands.

35. Housing Development Strategy Phase 2 Update

Councillor Peart presented the report on the further work which has been undertaken on the viability of sites included in phase 2 of the delivery of the housing strategy.

Councillor Peart clarified that there would be four general units for Camblesforth instead of two vulnerable and two general as stated in the report.

RESOLVED:

To approve the revised phase 2 programme as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report.

Reasons for the decision

- *To enable the target of 40 homes for intermediate rent to be achieved in phase 2*
- *To ensure clarity about the delivery targets for phase 2*

36. Customer Strategy

Councillor Metcalfe presented the report which outlined the feedback and responses to the draft Customer Strategy consultation and sought the approval of a draft Customer Strategy.

Councillor Metcalfe explained the strategy was created out of the Better Together programme between Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council and the vision was for the District Council to implement the strategy within five years.

It was stated that the move to more online services should not take away the option of a face to face or telephone service for residents who were not able use the internet.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To note the feedback and responses to the draft Customer Strategy**
- ii) **To adopt the Customer Strategy from October 1st 2015**

Reasons for the decision

To ensure that the adopted Customer Strategy is fit for purpose and proper regard is had to the consultation responses

37. Community Engagement Forums – Review of Arrangements and Changes to the Constitution

Councillor Metcalfe presented the report on the findings of a review of the Community Engagement Forums (CEFs) and on the minor constitutional changes to strengthen transparency and governance arrangements that would be proposed to Council at its meeting on 8th September.

Councillor Metcalfe explained that this was an opportunity to review the governance arrangements for the CEFs and provide a more consistent approach. The proposal involved bringing back the administration of CEFs within the Council and conducting a procurement exercise to find a third party to carry out the community development function of CEFs.

The Executive Director, Communities explained that alternative methods to administer the CEFs had been considered including working with North Yorkshire County Council however it had been decided that the most effective solution was via the Democratic Services team at the District Council.

The Executive discussed the proposed minor changes to the constitution but had no substantive observations to present to Council.

RESOLVED:

To note and endorse the proposed future arrangements for Community Engagement Forums, the arrangements for supporting them and the constitutional changes.

Reason for the decision

To ensure that Council is aware that the Executive have no specific observations to make before the matter is considered.

38. York, North Yorkshire and East Riding (YNYER) Spatial Plan

Councillor Crane presented the report on the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding (YNYER) Spatial Plan.

The Executive were supportive of the document and it was stated that the document was useful to provide a position statement of where each authority was at in terms of their local plans.

RESOLVED:

To endorse the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding (YNYER) Spatial Plan.

Reason for the decision

To support the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Spatial Plan.

39. Amendments to the Constitution

Councillor M Crane presented the report on the proposed changes to the Financial Procedure Rules, the Terms of Reference of Audit and Governance Committee, the delegations to the Monitoring Officer and the Code of Practice for dealing with Planning Matters in the Constitution.

Concern was raised regarding the proposals for planning site visits and it was felt that members of the public and local members should be allowed to attend to point out any salient features on the site. It was also felt that landowner's may have an advantage during site visits as they would know when they were taking place and the public would not be informed or may not be granted access to the site. It was proposed and seconded to add a resolution outlining this point. Upon being put to the vote, this motion was agreed.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To note the report and;**
- 2) To raise concern that the proposals suggested by the Audit and Governance Committee would limit the essential effectiveness of planning site visits, curtail the legitimate contribution of local representation and be poorly perceived by the public. It would be better if the existing procedure could be adapted to limit abuse but allow material planning issues to be identified.**

Reason for the decision

To enable these further comments to be taken into consideration by Council.

The meeting closed at 5.50pm