

Selby District Council



Minutes

Executive

Venue:	Committee Room, Civic Centre, Selby
Date:	Thursday 1 December 2016
Time:	4pm
Present:	Councillors M Crane (Chair), J Mackman, C Lunn, C Metcalfe and R Musgrave.
Officers present:	Janet Waggott - Chief Executive, Karen Iveson - Chief Finance Officer (s151), Dave Caulfield – Director of Economic Regeneration and Place, Julie Slatter – Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning Gillian Marshall – Solicitor to the Council, Stuart Robinson – Head of Business Development and Improvement (for minute item 47), Mike James - Lead Officer, Communications and Palbinder Mann - Democratic Services Manager.
Public:	0
Press:	1

NOTE: Only minute number 48 to 50 are subject to call-in arrangements. The deadline for call-in is 5pm on Tuesday 13 December 2016. Decisions not called in may be implemented from Wednesday 14 December 2016.

The Chair announced that there would be an additional item considered which was not listed on the agenda relating to the approval of a funding package to enable Selby and District Housing Trust to purchase properties in Selby for us as affordable housing. The Chair explained that the report had been made available and published on the Council's website however the appendix to the report was considered private and confidential and therefore if any discussion took place on the appendix, the Executive would move into private session.

44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

45. MINUTES

The Executive considered the minutes from the meeting held on 3 November 2016.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2016 for signature by the Chair.

46. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Mackman declared a none pecuniary 'other' interest in the additional item added to the agenda relating to the approval of a funding package to enable Selby and District Housing Trust to purchase properties in Selby for us as affordable housing as Chairman of the Selby and District Housing Trust. Councillor Mackman added that he had been advised by the Monitoring Officer that he could remain in the room and vote on the item however although he would be involved in the discussion, he would not take part in the vote.

47. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 2 - 2016/17 (JULY TO SEPTEMBER)

Councillor Crane, Leader of the Council presented a report which provided a progress update on the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-20 as measured by a combination of: progress against priority projects/high level actions; and performance against KPIs.

Discussion took place on the following areas of the report:

- It was stated that there had been a recent press article raising concerns about the high levels of child obesity in the district. It was explained that despite the figures Selby was still below the national average and it was hoped that the

investment in the new leisure centre and Summit Indoor Adventure would help reduce the figures. It was added that work was needed to target parents to assist in improving the figures.

- With regard to the performance indicator relating to the percentage of the working age population in employment, Selby College had the highest figures in the country for retraining and assisting individuals back into employment.
- In response to a query relating to Olympia Park, the Director for Economic Regeneration and Place explained that discussions were taking place with both Local Enterprise Partnerships with regard to the site and it was hoped to unlock investment for the site going forward.
- In response to a query regarding empty homes and in particular the empty homes strategy, the Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning explained that there would be a resource in the new organisational structure for empty homes and it was agreed further details of the plans to refresh the current strategy would be emailed to the Executive.
- A query was raised around the figure for the performance indicator relating to council tax debt recovery. It was explained that the Council's target was to achieve 98.8% of collections and that the Council incurred further costs in pursuing debts above this figure. It was also noted that resources had been put into this service to ensure collection levels met target.
- The Leader also informed the Executive that the Marketing and Communications team had been announced as the winner of a national award for which they had been shortlisted as referenced in the report. The Executive congratulated the team.

RESOLVED:

To approve the report.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

The reporting of performance data enables the Council to demonstrate progress on delivering the Corporate Plan Priorities to make Selby District a great place.

**48. DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME
2016/17 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

Councillor Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources presented the report on the draft revenue budget, capital programmes and Programme for Growth for 2017/18 to 2019/20.

It was highlighted that the title in the report should state 2017/18 rather than 2016/17.

The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources explained that a £4.1m shortfall was forecast in the General Fund over the next three years as reductions in central government funding continued.

The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources explained that in accordance with the approved Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), the budget sought to strike a careful balance between savings and investment - applying 'one-off' cash windfalls to support the budget over the next three years whilst savings were delivered and there was investment in housing and business growth to generate more sustainable income.

The Executive were informed that the the draft budget included a refreshed savings plan, set out areas of growth and proposals for the Programme for Growth.

It was noted that the draft budget included a £5 per annum rise in Band D Council tax which equated to around 10p a week, and was in line with Government assumptions.

Discussion took place around the savings proposals. The Chief Finance Officer explained that a robust approach had been taken when compiling the savings plan to ensure it was realistic and a level of non-achievement had been provided for which meant that additional savings would need to be identified. The Executive were informed that as part of the budget consultation, two Councillor workshops had been arranged to help identify further options for savings.

The Executive also discussed the importance of investment in economic growth as part of their plans as growth in the council tax base and business rates would in turn help to close the funding gap.

RESOLVED:

Executive
1 December 2016

- i) **To approve the draft budgets, bids and savings for public consultation and submitted to Policy Review for comments.**
- ii) **To invite options for additional savings as part of the consultation.**

REASON FOR THE DECISION

To enable the views of the public and Policy Review Committee members to gathered through consultation.

49. REVISION TO TAXI LICENSING POLICY

Councillor Richard Musgrave, Lead Executive Member for Housing, Leisure, Health and Culture presented the report on the options for the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy following the end of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) test, currently a requirement of this Policy.

In response to a query on whether this applied to Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicles, the Solicitor to the Council explained that currently there were no wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles licensed by the Council and therefore the requirement for a wheelchair test for drivers would not apply to them.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To authorise the Solicitor to the Council to amend the taxi licensing policy to remove references to the DVSA test and replace it with a requirement to pass a specialist taxi drivers test administered by a provider on the approved list.**
- ii) **To add the following companies to the initial approved list : Blue Lamp Trust, Green Penny, Elite Driver Training (Diamond), AA DriveTech, ROSPA, Institute of Advanced Motorists, Driving Instructors Association.**

REASON FOR THE DECISION

To ensure potential applicants can meet the requirements attached to an application for a taxi licence.

50. APPROVAL OF A FUNDING PACKAGE TO ENABLE SELBY AND DISTRICT HOUSING TRUST (SDHT) TO PURCHASE PROPERTIES IN SELBY FOR USE AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

It was noted that this report has been added to the agenda after publication as it was considered urgent. The report outlined that the offer to purchase the properties was time limited and it was also noted that initial discussions with SDHT representatives suggested that the acquisition would potentially be of interest but it was not possible to consult with the SDHT Board and complete the financial modelling to reach a view of the feasibility of the proposals prior to the publication deadline.

The Chair reminded the Executive that any discussion on the appendix to the report would have to take place under private session as it was exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person under paragraph 10.3 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Councillor Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources presented the report on whether Selby District Council should work with Selby District Housing Trust (SDHT) to facilitate the purchase of four properties at Bridge Wharf, Ousegate, Selby and provide funding by way of a loan and potentially a grant.

The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources explained that an opportunity had arisen to purchase four properties located in Bridge Wharf, Ousegate. It was noted that there were seven properties located in the area. In response to a query on whether the other three properties had been sold or were for sale, the Director for Economic Regeneration and Place explained that they had been sold subject to contract. The Executive discussed the possibility of acquiring the additional properties should those sales not proceed.

The Executive agreed to move into private session to discuss the appendix to the report as the public interest lay in keeping the information contained in the appendix confidential to ensure that the negotiating position of the parties was maximised.

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted the meeting be not open to the press and public during discussion of the following items as there will be disclosure of exempt information as described in

paragraph 10.3 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

Discussion took place on the financial modelling contained in the appendix.

It was agreed to amend the resolutions as follows:

- Remove the number four from resolution one to allow the additional properties to be purchased subject to the same conditions should they become available.
- Include the words 'subject to meeting the Council's viability threshold in resolution three.
- To replace Selby and District Housing Trust with Selby and District Housing Trust Board in resolution two

RESOLVED:

- i) That subject to Selby and District Housing Trust wishing to acquire the properties and appropriate due diligence, officers are authorised to work with SDHT to negotiate and facilitate the purchase of properties (and adjoining land) at Bridge Wharf Ousegate Selby;**
- ii) To offer a funding package (loan and grant), subject to contract to Selby and District Housing Trust Board to facilitate the purchase of the units and the land for use as affordable housing with the funding package secured on the property.**
- iii) To delegate to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources and the Solicitor to the Council final approval of the terms and conditions of the funding package subject to meeting the Council's viability threshold (including a cap on grant funding of £50k per unit).**

REASON FOR THE DECISION

To facilitate the delivery of additional units of affordable housing within Selby town.

Executive
1 December 2016

The meeting closed at 5.15pm