

# Minutes

## Policy Review Committee

- Venue: Committee Room
- Date: 16 September 2014
- Present: Councillors M Jordan (Chair), Mrs K McSherry (Vice Chair), K Ellis, D MacKay (substitute for Mrs E Metcalfe) and I Nutt
- Apologies for Absence: Councillors Mrs M Davis, Mrs E Metcalfe (substitute D Mackay), R Musgrave, R Packham and Mrs A Spetch.
- Also Present: Councillor C Lunn, Executive Member for Finance & Resources
- Officers Present: Jonathan Lund, Deputy Chief Executive; Karen Iveson, Executive Director (S151) and Richard Besley, Democratic Services Officer

### 8. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 9. MINUTES

#### RESOLVED:

**To receive and approve the minutes of the Policy Review Committee held on 15 July 2014 and they are signed by the Chair.**

### 10. CHAIR'S ADDRESS

The Chair welcomed Councillors and Officers and informed the Committee that he had met with Councillor Crawford, as the Chair of Scrutiny to discuss the Constitutional Review being undertaken by the Audit Committee. It was explained that the review had raised the possibility of merging the Policy Review and Scrutiny Committees. The Committee were informed that both

Chairs had agreed to monitor the review and any submissions to Council on the matter.

#### **11. PR/14/3 – FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

The Executive Member, Finance and Resources supported by the Executive Director (s151) presented the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

It was explained that the Strategy had been updated to anticipate further pressure on Local Government finance. The Committee were informed that with a further reduction expected in the Revenue Support Grant, an overall savings target of £1.5m over the next three years was proposed.

Although there was doubt over the long term future of the New Homes Bonus, whilst it remained it could continue to support the Council's Programme for Growth however this was dependent on achieving the savings targets.

The Committee were informed that the Strategy assumed continuation of the Council Tax Support Grant for Parish Councils, however reduced pro rata depending on the level imposed on the Council's settlement funding.

The Deputy Chief Executive reminded the Committee of the significant progress achieved by the Council in delivering over £3m p.a. savings whilst maintaining service performance.

The Committee thanked the Executive Director (s151) and the Finance team for their work on the Council's budget and financial strategy.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- i) To note the Medium Term Financial Strategy and feedback the above comments to the Executive.**
- ii) To recommend to the Executive that the Council pay Council Tax Support Grant to parishes as proposed in the strategy.**

#### **12. PR/14/4 – SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL DRAFT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN REFRESH 2014**

The Executive Member, Finance and Resources supported by the Executive Director (s151), presented the draft Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.

It was explained although the HRA Business Plan covered the period 2012-2017, there had been significant government reforms on self-financing and rent convergence and this had allowed the Council the opportunity to be more involved in the development of new affordable housing in the district.

The Executive Member, Finance and Resources confirmed that the current

Plan performing well with excellent services provided and targets and efficiencies met during 2013/14. The Executive Member, Finance and Resources stated that the report set the Council's vision for its housing service to 2017 and beyond.

Concerns were expressed on the current Choice Based Lettings scheme but the Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the scheme was easier to manage along with it being transparent and less bureaucratic to run. It was explained that concerns expressed that tenants from North Yorkshire were taking up homes in the district were unfounded as tenancy records demonstrated that a number of Selby residents had taken up homes in other districts of North Yorkshire. It was added that the numbers were similar to those who had applied for homes in the district.

**RESOLVED:**

**To endorse the draft Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.**

**13. WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15**

The Democratic Services Officer presented the Committee's Work Programme for the 2014/15 municipal year.

As questions were raised on Section 106 agreements at the last full Council meeting, the Committee agreed to work with officers to consider the matter and it was agreed to place the matter on the Work Programme for the meeting on 18 November 2014.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the Policy Review Committee Work Programme for 2014/15 with the above amendment.**

The meeting closed at 5.58pm.