

Council

Venue: Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9FT

Date: Tuesday, 19 April 2022

Time: 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Duggan in the Chair

Councillors D Mackay, K Arthur, D Brook, D Buckle, J Cattanach, I Chilvers (Vice-Chair), J Chilvers, S Duckett, K Ellis, T Grogan, M Jordan, A Lee, C Lunn, J Mackman, J McCartney, M McCartney, R Musgrave, W Nichols, R Packham, C Pearson, N Reader, C Richardson, S Shaw-Wright, R Sweeting, M Topping and G Ashton

Officers Present: Janet Waggott, Chief Executive, Karen Iveson, Chief Finance Officer (remotely), Alison Hartley, Solicitor to the Council, Dave Caulfield, Director of Economic Regeneration and Place, Suzan Harrington, Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning, Victoria Foreman, Democratic Services Officer

Press: None

Public: None

60 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Crane, K Franks, J Shaw-Wright and P Welch.

61 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Arthur declared a personal interest in agenda item 9 – ‘Reports from the Executive’, specifically to the mention of the Selby Gateway Project in Councillor Buckle’s report, as he was employed by Network Rail.

62 MINUTES

The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2022.

Members were informed that there were two proposed amendments; firstly,

the wording of the second resolution at minute number 48, relating to the Low Carbon Strategy item, should be amended as follows:

'To support and select the first option of offsetting scope 1 and 2 emissions with regards to carbon offsetting from 2018 to 2023 as outlined in section 4.2.'

Secondly, that the attendance details for the meeting mistakenly omitted Councillor G Ashton, who had been present. Councillor Ashton would be added to the amended version.

The two amendments were proposed, seconded and a vote taken.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2022 for signing by the Chairman, subject to the amendments detailed above.

63 COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

64 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

65 PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

66 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

67 COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

There were no Councillors' questions.

68 REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council – presented by Councillor Richard Musgrave, Deputy Leader, in Councillor Crane's absence

The Deputy Leader presented the Leader's update on the work he had undertaken recently, as outlined in the report.

The Leader of the Opposition asked for further clarification on the section about Devolution. The Deputy Leader explained that the proposals had been agreed by the Executive in August 2020 and the other Councils in the area around the same time. An update from the LEP would be provided soon and a

further meeting held after the elections.

Members asked for more information so that were also aware of what was being proposed. The Deputy Leader stated that the Executive report in question was a public document and could be viewed on the Council's website.

The Member for Tadcaster thanked the Leader for approval of the emergency grant to assist with the recent flooding in the town; the Deputy Leader would pass on his thanks.

Members asked for an update on the Afghan refugee scheme so that the refugees could be made welcome. The Deputy Leader confirmed that this information would be shared with Members.

Councillor Richard Musgrave, Deputy Leader and Lead Executive Member or Place Shaping

The Deputy Leader gave an overview of his report and informed Members that the figures for the Development Management supplied in the update were only up to February 2022; updated figures would be sent out in due course.

Planning applications were up 30% more than usual and as such, fee income had increased, which reflected the number of applications that had been submitted. He thanked the Development Management Team for their work and gave details of the new interim Head of Development Management.

Councillor Cliff Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Councillor Lunn gave an overview of his report and asked if Members had any further questions.

The Leader of the Opposition stated that a question raised at a previous meeting, about the spending of the P4G funding, had not yet been answered; £1m had been spent but there was an estimated £5.4m left to spend. Members wanted to know when the rest would be spent.

A further question was also asked about the energy rebate and how those customers without bank accounts or access to the internet would receive the payment.

The Executive Member explained that the accounts for the P4G were still being finalised. There were several ongoing projects but there had been some delays, and the scheme could continue into the 2022-23 year. If the schemes were not finished by the end of 2022-23, the money would transfer to the new North Yorkshire unitary authority. The total spend would be £5.5m, £2m of which would be community investment, as well as staff costs.

Regarding the payment of the energy rebate, the team who were administering the payments were waiting for the software to enable them to

make direct debit payments. Letters would be sent to all those who would receive the payment, including the 26% of residents who could not use direct debit. There was no facility to pay customers by cash due to the risk of fraud, but there weren't many residents who did not have bank accounts. The Council's Customer Service Team were able to assist residents when filling in their direct debit forms; the authority would make every effort help, including the elderly and most vulnerable, who were at risk of scams.

The Executive Member assured Members that the matter was being taken seriously and again informed the Council that the delays had been due to the requirement for new software to make the payments. The issues experienced were common to another local authority in the county. The problems had been tested and were now resolved, with payments starting that week. Residents who could not be paid by direct debit would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

A further query was raised about the Test and Trace support payments to the clinically vulnerable, those on furlough and people self-isolating. The Executive Member stated that he would ask Officers and provide a written reply.

Councillor David Buckle, Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development

Councillor Buckle summarised his report to the Council. There were no questions from Members.

Councillor Tim Grogan, Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture

Councillor Grogan submitted his report to the Council and gave further updates on the trial usage of hydrogenated vegetable oil as fuel for the Council's vehicles. The trial in November 2021 went well and saved an average of 60 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

An illegal traveller site had been removed recently by the Police using Section 61 powers, without Council involvement.

Councillor Grogan also informed Members that he would be looking into the state of letter boxes in the district, as many were in a poor state of repair.

Members asked about fly tipping and the use of CCTV cameras, both real and false. Councillor Grogan responded that the Council was working closely with the Environment Agency and the Police on the matter, with one or two leads being followed up. He was an advocate of the use of CCTV with two currently in use. If Members wanted them to be used in their areas, they needed to apply to do so. The use of false cameras would need to be investigated, and if a real camera was being used it needed to be in place for at least a few weeks.

A report had been approved by the Executive in March 2022 for the

Environmental Services contract succession strategy and re-procurement exercise in April 2022. A cross-party task and finish group would be actively involved over the next twelve months.

Members were concerned that the previous contract had excluded ginnels in Sherburn and elsewhere in the district and asked that they were included in the new contract. Councillor Grogan asked Members to contact him separately outside the meeting about the matter.

Concerns around an abandoned skip in Tadcaster on the river gateway were raised and it was requested that it be removed as soon as possible. Councillor Grogan confirmed that he was aware of the issue and had updated Tadcaster Members about this. The skip was owned by a company that had gone out of business and specialist equipment was required to move it as it was unclear what the contents were.

It was proposed, seconded and a vote taken that the Executive reports be noted.

RESOLVED:

To note the Executive reports.

69 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Councillor Karl Arthur – Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor Arthur commended his report to the Council. There were no questions from Members.

Councillor Chris Pearson – Chair of the Policy Review Committee

Councillor Pearson presented his report to Council. There were no questions from Members.

Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright – Chair of Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Pearson presented his report to Council. There were no questions from Members.

It was proposed, seconded and a vote taken that the reports from Committees be noted.

RESOLVED:

To note the reports from Committees.

70 MOTIONS

There were no motions.

71 GAMBLING POLICY 2022 (C/21/19)

Councillor A Lee declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as he owned an establishment that held a gambling licence. As such he left the room during the item's consideration.

The Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture introduced the report which asked the Council to adopt the proposed Gambling Policy 2022 as set out at Appendix A of the report.

It was proposed, seconded and a vote taken that the Gambling Policy 2022 be adopted.

RESOLVED:

That the Gambling Policy 2022 be adopted.

72 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2022-23 MUNICIPAL YEAR (C/21/20)

Councillor A Lee re-joined the meeting.

The Deputy Leader introduced the report that asked Members to approve the calendar of meetings for the 2022-23 municipal year, as outlined at Appendix A to the report.

Members noted that there was a minor amendment; Policy Review Committee would now be meeting on 12 July 2022, and Council on 19 July 2022.

Some Members were disappointed that a few meeting dates were amended regularly and suggested that District Council meetings be planned in conjunction with County Council meetings.

It was proposed, seconded and a vote taken to approve the calendar of meetings for the 2022-23 municipal year, as outlined at Appendix A.

RESOLVED:

To approve the calendar of meetings for the 2022-23 municipal year.

73 REPORTING OF URGENT DECISION: TADCASTER BUSINESS FLOOD GRANT SCHEME

The Chief Executive presented the report which set out the reasons for the urgent decision taken, by the Chief Executive, to vire Programme for Growth budget to deliver flood recovery fund grants through a scheme to provide financial assistance to Tadcaster town centre businesses suffering hardship following the flooding caused by Storm Franklin in February 2022.

Tadcaster Ward Members thanked the Council for the funding which would benefit several businesses, some of which were unable to acquire insurance for flooding. There were some concerns that the turnover of the business should be over £100k to qualify for the funding, for which smaller businesses

could be excluded. The Chief Executive confirmed that the grant was for small businesses and there could be some flexibility.

Members thanked Officers for their work on the scheme, and in particular those present during the flooding who helped as soon as possible.

Following a query about assistance for private householders, Members were informed that a link on the Council's website had gone live that day which set out how residents could obtain the appropriate support.

Some minor errors in the financial details of the report were raised. Members asked that if there were similar flooding in other areas of the district the same approach would be taken. The Chief Executive explained that Tadcaster was a one-off due to the promised £12m flood alleviation scheme not being forthcoming.

The deadline for applications was by the end of April 2022; a press release would be published shortly to advertise this. Members asked if there would be a way to write directly to businesses to inform them about the scheme; the Chief Executive explained that as Two Ridings Community Foundation were administering the scheme on behalf of the Council, it would need to be raised with them. The matter would be taken up by Officers and further details sent to the Tadcaster Ward Members.

It was proposed, seconded and a vote taken to agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED:

To note the urgent decision of the Chief Executive:

- 1. that £100,000 unallocated Programme for Growth funding and £22,500 of 'Growing Enterprise' Programme for Growth Funding be vired to establish a Tadcaster Business Flood Grant Scheme;**
- 2. that authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning to enter into an agreement with an external provider to deliver the grant scheme, subject to appropriate conditions.**

74 URGENT ITEM - RECALCULATION OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY OF THE COUNCIL AND SUBSEQUENT CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2021-22 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Deputy Leader introduced the report which provided details of the recalculation of political proportionality of the Council following recent changes to political groups, and the subsequent amendments to the number of places on, and membership of, the Council's committees for the remainder of the 2021-22 municipal year.

Members noted that at point 1.4 of the report there was an error; Councillor Charles Richardson was still a member of the Planning Committee.

It was proposed, seconded and a vote taken that Councillor Mark Topping be appointed as Chair of the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To note the changes to the membership of political groups on the Council and the subsequent recalculation of political proportionality on the Council's Committees.**
- 2. To agree, as a result of these changes, the places on the Planning Committee for the remainder of the 2021-22 municipal year.**
- 3. That the position of Chairman of the Planning Committee be given to Councillor Mark Topping.**

75 URGENT ACTION

There were no urgent actions to report.

The meeting closed at 7.01 pm.