



Summons and Agenda for the
Council Meeting

to be held on

Tuesday, 21 March 2023

at

5.30 pm





To: All District Councillors

cc: Chief Officers

You are hereby summoned to an **EXTRAORDINARY** meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9FT on **TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2023** starting at **5.30 pm**. The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Waggott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janet Waggott
Chief Executive

Recording is allowed at Council, committee and sub-committee meetings which are open to the public, subject to:- (i) the recording being conducted under the direction of the Chairman of the meeting; and (ii) compliance with the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at meetings, a copy of which is available on request. Anyone wishing to record must contact, prior to the start of the meeting, Democratic Services via democraticservices@selby.gov.uk - any recording must be clearly visible to anyone at the meeting and be non-disruptive.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Disclosures of Interest

A copy of the Register of Interest for each Selby District Councillor is available for inspection at www.selby.gov.uk.

Councillors should declare to the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest in any item of business on this agenda which is not already entered in their Register of Interests.

Councillors should leave the meeting and take no part in the consideration, discussion or vote on any matter in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Councillors should also declare any other interests. Having made the declaration, provided the other interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest, the Councillor may stay in the meeting, speak and vote on that item of business.

If in doubt, Councillors are advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer.

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 20)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on:

- 13 December 2022 (ordinary meeting, special meeting and extraordinary meeting); and
- 17 January 2023 (extraordinary meeting).

4. Communications

The Chairman, Leader of the Council or the Chief Executive will deal with any communications which need to be reported to the Council.

5. Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Chairman, Leader or Members of the Executive.

Under this item the Chairman and Vice Chairman will give their valedictory addresses and gifts will be presented.

The presentation of cheques to the Chairman's charities, Long Covid Kids and Yorkshire Cancer Research, will be done at the end of the meeting. Kay Enion

will receive the cheque for Yorkshire Cancer Research, and Freya Chilvers for Long Covid Kids.

6. Petitions

To receive any petitions.

7. Public Questions

To receive and answer questions, notice of which has been given in accordance with rule 10.1 of the Constitution.

8. Councillors' Questions

To receive and answer questions submitted by councillors in accordance with rule 11.2 of the Constitution.

9. Reports from the Executive (Pages 21 - 34)

The Leader of the Council, and other members of the Executive, will report on their work since the last meeting of the Council and will respond to questions from Councillors on that work.

Please note that the Deputy Leader's report will be to follow.

10. Reports from Committees (Pages 35 - 42)

To receive reports from the Council's committees which need to be brought to the attention of Council. To receive questions and provide answers on any of those reports.

11. Motions

To consider any motions.

12. Reflections of Selby District Council since 1974

Members are invited to reflect on Selby District Council since its inception in 1974 and speak should they so wish.

13. Urgent Action

The Chief Executive will report on any instances where she has acted in urgent or emergency situations under the functions delegated to her in the Constitution.

MEMBERS WILL BE CONTACTED SOON BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES ABOUT THE RETURN OF THEIR IT KIT AND LANYARD TO THE COUNCIL BEFORE 31 MARCH 2023.

THERE WILL BE A BUFFET AND RAFFLE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING.

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Minutes

Council

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

Date: Tuesday, 17 January 2023

Time: 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor I Chilvers in the Chair

Councillors D Mackay, K Arthur, D Buckle, S Duckett, K Ellis, T Grogan, M Jordan (Vice-Chair), A Lee, C Lunn, J Mackman, R Musgrave, R Packham, C Pearson, N Reader, J Shaw-Wright, S Shaw-Wright, R Sweeting, M Topping, P Welch, G Ashton and J Duggan

Officers Present: Janet Waggott – Chief Executive, Karen Iveson – Chief Financial Officer, Suzan Harrington – Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning, Alison Hartley - Solicitor to the Council, Phil Hiscott – Strategic Asset Management and Property Services Manager, Victoria Foreman – Democratic Services Officer

Press: 0

Public: 0

46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Brook, J Cattanaach, J Chilvers, M Crane, K Franks, J McCartney, M McCartney, W Nichols and C Richardson.

47 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor S Duckett declared a non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 3 – Housing Revenue Account – Additional Funding Requirements as she was a trustee of the Selby District Housing Trust but was not required to leave the meeting during consideration thereof.

Councillor J Mackman declared a non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 3 – Housing Revenue Account – Additional Funding Requirements as he was Chairman and a trustee of the Selby District Housing Trust but was not required to leave the meeting during consideration thereof.

48 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (C/22/12)

The Deputy Leader introduced report C/22/12 which sought approval for the allocation of £2.047m additional funds to the Housing Revenue Account, using affordable housing Section 106 (S106) Commuted Sums previously earmarked for market housing acquisition, to support essential investment in the authority's social housing portfolio as outlined in option two in the report.

The Council noted that the report provided an update on the financial pressures faced by the Council's Housing Revenue Account as a result of increasing numbers of void properties being returned which required substantial work to bring them back in to use, coupled with unprecedented post Covid global economic and geo-political instability resulting in building material shortages and double-digit price increases.

Members were informed that the report included detailed background information and context to foster greater understanding of the challenges facing the Housing Revenue Account, and provided an explanation of mitigation measures implemented to lessen financial impact. It also provided clarity as to actions taken to improve the data held by the Council to enable improved management of the portfolio moving forwards and presented options for managing the current financial pressures.

The Deputy Leader emphasised the importance of investing in the Council's existing housing stock and reminded Members that Appendices 1 and 2 to the report were confidential; as such, should Members wish to make detailed reference to the content of either appendix the meeting would need to resolve to move into private session.

The Council's Section 151 Officer apologised that some financial information had been omitted from the report relating to further details as to options for funding, which included the major repairs reserve, capital receipts and S106 affordable housing committed sums. The use of capital receipts was not advised. The Section 151 Officer maintained that the recommended and most appropriate course of action was to use S106 funds.

Members debated the report, with the Chair of Scrutiny Committee making the point that the committee had asked numerous questions about housing repairs over the past few months; it had not been informed about the need for additional funding and wished to know how long the Deputy Leader had been aware of the issue.

The Deputy Leader made it clear that the matter was specifically to do with void and empty properties. As Lead Executive Member for Housing, the Deputy Leader had become aware of the need for extra funding in the late autumn. Officers had been working hard since this time to put together a plan to tackle the gap in funding. The Council was not permitted to overspend on its budget and as such the use of S106 monies was required.

The Leader of the Opposition asked why Option 2 had been recommended and commented on the statistics relating to refurbishments and partial repairs at paragraph 1.2.20 of the report; partial repairs were not efficient as they would require further work in the future. Full refurbishments were a better use of funds and provided a more positive message to the Council's tenants in respect of the Council's commitment to the Decent Homes Plus Standard. The Leader of the Opposition expressed his backing for Option 3 which supported the capital voids programme in full. The condition of housing stock was still the Council's responsibility and a legacy of the authority until the point it was handed over to the new North Yorkshire Council after 31 March 2023.

The Deputy Leader acknowledged the Leader of the Opposition's views and repeated the main issue that the Council had received back more void properties than expected and budgeted for, with a further 38 properties yet to be assessed by Officers.

The Section 151 Officer explained that Option 2 had been recommended due to the current amount of financial and economic uncertainty and the need for a sustainable plan in place so the Council could deliver what was required.

The Leader of the Opposition questioned the reliability of the forecast figure set out in the report that 65 properties would need refurbishment in 2022/23. Some Members expressed their support for the views of the Leader of the Opposition and asked what would happen to the S106 monies if they were not spent by the Council by 1 April 2023, i.e., if they be invested elsewhere in North Yorkshire after local government reorganisation.

The Deputy Leader explained that the S106 monies had been allocated specifically for spending within the district, but if they were not spent in time the Council would be required to hand them back to developers. Option 2 in the report was a way for the majority of the S106 funds to be spent.

The Leader of the Opposition acknowledged that Option 2 ensured that most of the S106 monies were committed and spent, made the point again that Option 3 should also be considered a viable choice and emphasised how important it was that the new North Yorkshire Council was aware of the commitment to the Decent Homes Plus Standard when the properties were handed over on 1 April 2023.

Option 3 was proposed and seconded, an amendment to the motion was then proposed and seconded, to follow Option 2. Upon taking the vote the amendment was carried and Option 2 became the substantive motion. Upon being put to the vote Option 2 was approved.

RESOLVED:

The Council approved the allocation of £2.047m additional funds to the Housing Revenue Account, using affordable housing Section 106 Commuted Sums previously earmarked for market housing acquisition, to support essential investment in the authority's social housing

portfolio, as outlined in option two in the report.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

Council

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

Date: Tuesday, 13 December 2022

Time: 3.30 pm

Present: Councillor I Chilvers in the Chair

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

Officers Present: Suzan Harrington – Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning, Alison Hartley – Solicitor to the Council, Karen Iveson – Chief Finance Officer, Glenn Sharpe – Deputy Monitoring Officer, Martin Grainger – Head of Planning, Caroline Skelly – Planning Policy Officer, Ryan King – Senior Planning Policy Officer, Victoria Foreman – Democratic Services Officer

Press: 0

Public: 12

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Duggan, Keith Franks, Paul Welch, Steve Shaw-Wright, Mark Topping and David Buckle.

Apologies were also received from Janet Waggott, Chief Executive.

29 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor K Arthur declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 – Reports from the Executive, specifically the update from the Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development, as he was employed by Network Rail, but would not be leaving the meeting during consideration thereof.

Councillors J Mackman and S Duckett declared personal non-pecuniary interests in agenda item 9 – Reports from the Executive, as the Deputy

Leader's update had referenced Selby District Housing Trust and the Charity Commission permission to offer the stock to Selby District Council as social housing. Councillor Mackman had been a member and Chair of Selby District Housing Trust. Councillor Duckett had also been a member of the Housing Trust.

30 MINUTES

The Council were asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 September 2022, and to reconsider and agree once again as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 17 May 2022, in order to rectify an error at minute number 9 – Council Appointments to Outside Bodies 2022-23.

Councillor G Ashton had been appointed as the Council's representative on National Association of Councillors (National and Northern Branch), not the National Association of Local Councils; the minutes required amending to reflect as such.

Once the minutes for the Annual Meeting were agreed again by the Council, subject to the correction, they would be updated and republished.

The Council reconsidered the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17 May 2022 and agreed the amendment.

The Council also considered the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2022.

RESOLVED:

To approve and republish the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17 May 2022, subject to the amendment at minute number 9 - Council Appointments to Outside Bodies 2022-23, and to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2022, both for signing by the Chairman.

31 COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

32 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

33 PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

34 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

35 COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

There were no Councillors' questions.

36 REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council presented the update on the work undertaken recently as outlined in the report.

The Leader of the Opposition asked about planning enforcement cases and related staffing levels. The Leader explained that the Council had received more cases than previously, many of which were relatively minor issues. Staffing levels were the same as the preceding year; there had been an agency worker who had assisted the team, but they had now left the organisation. Overall, enforcement cases had decreased over the last two years and had only very recently seen an increase.

Members queried the work of the Planning Team with North Yorkshire County Council on 5 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects that were at various stages with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) through the Development Consent regime. The Leader confirmed that it was the Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage project at pre-examination stage. There were currently a number of significant, large-scale and potentially contentious applications in the district. The Camblesforth Solar Farm project had been submitted to PINS and was awaiting acceptance.

Lastly, the Leader was asked by Members to chase up a response to a question that had been submitted at the 27 September 2022 meeting of the Council. The query related to 380 potential homes to be built on Low Street in Sherburn as presented in the Local Plan, which were identified as coming through a public open space, footpath and nature reserve. Members asked that Officers look into this and clarify the plans, and what the potential impact of such a development could be.

The Leader apologised that the information had not been provided and handed over to the Deputy Leader who would respond to the points raised as he had been closer to the Local Plan process. The Deputy Leader reminded Members that the time for making comments on the Local Plan, i.e., the consultation period, had ended.

Councillor Richard Musgrave, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Executive Member for Housing

The Deputy Leader of the Council presented the update on the work undertaken as outlined in the report.

The Leader of the Opposition thanked the Council for its investment in the

prefabricated homes at Beech Grove in Sherburn; this had been very welcome, and residents were delighted with the results.

Councillor N Reader joined the meeting at this point.

The Leader of the Opposition raised a question on void properties and the issues around repairing these properties to a high standard, and whether the Council was able to commit to continue to do this to avoid future costs and address environmental aspects of the work. The Leader of the Opposition also asked about the problem of mould in some Council houses, which was an issue that had been raised with him by some residents, and if an advice line or specific Officer contact details could be provided to tenants to address the matter.

The Deputy Leader expressed his pleasure at the positive feedback from residents regarding the work at Beech Grove; it was hoped that the work would be completed by the end of January 2023.

Regarding the points made about the mould, a recent update had been given to him by Officers which would be forwarded to the Leader of the Opposition. The Deputy Leader agreed that it was the Council's responsibility to review the current position and would be providing assessment information in the new year, as well as the details of Officers leading on the work.

The Deputy Leader acknowledged the emerging issue of more void properties requiring repair work. There was the potential for an urgent decision to be taken on the issue in the coming weeks. If the decision could not wait until full Council in February 2023, it would need to be taken by the Leader in consultation with the Chair of Policy Review or Scrutiny Committee. The Deputy Leader suggested that the Leader of the Opposition also be included in the deliberations. The Leader of the Opposition was firmly of the opinion that such a critical decision with long-term implications should be taken at an extraordinary meeting of the Council. The Deputy Leader went on to explain that a full housing stock survey was being undertaken and that the Council had a good reputation for the standard of repairs.

Members stressed the importance of housing repairs being undertaken for current tenants in a timely and efficient manner, particularly work on reported damp and mould. It was noted that there had been problems with recruitment of staff to carry out the repairs.

The Deputy Leader was asked how long the housing stock survey would take. The Deputy Leader expressed his willingness to work with Members on such matters and that he would raise problems with Officers directly should it be required. The stock survey was underway, and the mould report requested by central government was due for submission in January 2023.

Councillor Cliff Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources

The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources presented his update

as outlined in the report.

There were no questions from Members.

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

In Councillor Buckle's absence the Leader of the Council presented the update as outlined in the report.

Members asked about worries regarding legacy projects in Sherburn that had been raised at the Council meeting on 27 September 2022. There were particular concerns relating to a specific project due to an associated planning application, and it was requested that an undertaking be given that it be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive.

The Leader responded and explained that he had met with Officers to talk about the project and the desire to deliver it. However, the project in question to build three bungalows was legally not as straight forward as had been hoped. It had been anticipated that Groundwork North Yorkshire would undertake the work, but the costs of the scheme were significant, some aspects of which had not been budgeted for. The Leader had asked Officers to look into the matter in more detail ready for further meetings, with a view to providing more information to Ward Councillors in the future.

The Leader of the Opposition enquired about funding from the Changing Places scheme. Monies from the scheme had been provided for toilets in other parts of the district, but Sherburn had not been included for such work which was needed at Sherburn Library; the Leader was asked why this was. The Leader clarified that the Changing Places scheme was very particular and that funding had been allocated very specifically for schemes in Selby and Tadcaster; as such, further funding for Sherburn was not available.

Councillor Tim Grogan, Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture

The Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture presented his update as outlined in the report.

The Executive Member reassured Members that he received regular updates from Enforcement Officers and thanked those staff Members in the Enforcement Team and Environmental Health for their hard work.

Members referred to the numbers provided for the total of three fines given to an individual for fly tipping a bed, mattress and set of drawers; these figures did not add up to the amount given in the update (£580) and should have been £531. The Executive Member acknowledged the error.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the reports of the Executive.

37 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Councillor Karl Arthur, Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor Arthur, Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee, provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in his report.

The Chairman thanked Officers for circulating information requested by Members at the last meeting of the Committee so quickly

Members noted that an additional meeting of the Committee would be held on 29 March 2023 as internal audit across the district and borough councils in the county had confirmed that Selby District Council's decision would be required in March 2023 to provide final assurance reports. This was so the annual governance statement could be signed off at the 31 March 2023 year-end by the Leader and the Head of Paid Service.

Members congratulated the Chairman and the Committee for the amount of work that had been covered in 2022-23 and the number of issues addressed and challenged as a result.

Councillor Chris Pearson, Chairman of Policy Review Committee

Councillor Pearson, Chairman of the Policy Review Committee, provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in his report.

Members noted that a further meeting had been held on 6 December 2022 which had covered the emerging climate change strategy for North Yorkshire, the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) 'Routemap to Carbon Negative', and had welcomed the Chief Officer of Selby District Association of Voluntary Service to talk about the work being done to create a climate friendly future in the Selby area.

Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

In Councillor Shaw-Wright's absence, the Deputy Chair of the Committee, Councillor Wendy Nichols, presented the update on the work of the Committee as outlined in the report.

Councillor Nichols explained that lack of parking enforcement had been raised as a significant issue at previous meetings of the Committee and that the matter needed to be resolved soon.

The Leader and Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture acknowledged that there was a problem in the district, in particular Selby town, and that work had to be undertaken to address it.

The Leader of the Opposition advised Members that civil parking matters would be discussed at a meeting at North Yorkshire County Council in

January 2023.

It was proposed, seconded and a vote taken to note the reports.

RESOLVED:

To note the reports from Committees.

38 MOTIONS

There were no motions.

39 ESCRICK NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2035 (ENDP) (C/22/8)

The Leader introduced report C/22/8 which asked the Council to formally make the Escrick Neighbourhood Development Plan 2021-2035 part of the Development Plan for Selby District following the positive outcome of the referendum held on 6 October 2022.

The report explained that the referendum had posed the following question:

“Do you want Selby District Council to use the Escrick Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Escrick neighbourhood area?”

There was a 33% (246 ballot papers issued) turnout to the referendum with 89.7% (219 votes recorded) of the votes cast in favour of ‘Yes’. 10.2% (25 votes recorded) of votes were cast in favour of ‘No’. Two ballot papers were rejected.

The Leader explained that the matter had already been reported to the Executive where it had been supported. The Deputy Leader detailed his involvement in the plan during his tenure as County Councillor, when Escrick had been part of his County Division, and also expressed his support.

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

RESOLVED:

The Council agreed to formally make the Escrick Neighbourhood Development Plan 2021-2035 part of the Development Plan for Selby District following the positive outcome of the referendum held on 6 October 2022.

40 CONSTITUTION UPDATE (C/22/9)

The Monitoring Officer introduced report C/22/9 which asked the Council to note the administrative changes made to the Constitution since the last amendments reported to Council in December 2021.

Members noted that the Constitution was a key document in the Corporate Governance Framework of the Council. The two overarching principles of good governance as set out in the CIPFA code were:

- behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law; and
- ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.

A review of the Constitution was undertaken on a regular basis to consider whether there were any changes required as a result of legislative change, recommendations from internal or external auditors or in the light of experience and best practice.

Under Article 14 of the Constitution responsibility for the Constitution sat with the Monitoring Officer. Since the Monitoring Officer last reported to Council in December 2021, further administrative changes had been made including those to reflect reallocation of management responsibilities. The changes were set out in Appendix A to the report.

Members expressed their support. It was proposed, seconded and a vote taken to agree the recommendation as set out in the report.

RESOLVED:

The Council noted the administrative changes made by the Monitoring Officer since the last amendments were reported to Council in December 2021.

41 REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER - STANDARDS ARRANGEMENTS (C/22/10)

The Monitoring Officer introduced report C/22/10 which asked the Council to note its content.

Members noted that the report covered the operation of the standards regime for Selby District Council and Parish Councils (which included Town Councils) within Selby District. It considered the complaints history and concluded that the arrangements were satisfactory and met legal duties. Complaints continued to be processed and considered, with the Independent Persons extremely diligent in responding to consultation. The Independent Persons appointments had been extended to 31 March 2023.

Members asked why, as detailed at paragraph 2.2 of the report, where breaches were identified in two Parish cases, one of the cases was still outstanding. The Monitoring Officer explained that investigation and resolution of this case was taking longer than hoped due to staff availability and workloads.

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

RESOLVED:

The Council noted the content of report C/22/10.

42 URGENT ACTION

There were no urgent actions.

The meeting closed at 4.30 pm.

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Council

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Venue: | Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9FT |
| Date: | Tuesday, 13 December 2022 |
| Time: | 5.00 pm |
| Present: | Councillor I Chilvers in the Chair Councillors D Mackay, K Arthur, D Brook, J Cattanach, J Chilvers, M Crane, S Duckett, K Ellis, T Grogan, M Jordan (Vice-Chair), A Lee, C Lunn, J Mackman, R Musgrave, W Nichols, C Pearson, N Reader, C Richardson, J Shaw-Wright, R Sweeting, G Ashton and R Packham |
| Officers Present: | Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning – Suzan Harrington, Monitoring Officer – Alison Hartley, Democratic Services Officers – Victoria Foreman, Dawn Drury, Gina Mulderrig and Camila Maciel |
| Public: | 12 |

Before the start of the formal business of the meeting, the Council held a minutes' silence in honour of the recent deaths of former Councillor Ruth Sayner and Chief Executive Janet Waggott's husband.

43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Duggan, Keith Franks, Paul Welch, Steve Shaw-Wright, Mark Topping and David Buckle.

Apologies were also received from Janet Waggott, Chief Executive.

44 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

45 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN AND ALDERWOMEN (C/22/11)

The Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning presented report C/22/11 to the Council, who were asked to decide whether to confer the title of Honorary Alderman (or Alderwoman as appropriate) on the current and former

District Councillors, further details of which were set out in the report and Appendices 1 and 2.

Members noted that it was customary to regularly consider whether any individuals qualified for the title of Honorary Alderman (or Alderwoman as appropriate). Ahead of the dissolution of Selby District Council on 31 March 2023, all previous and current District Councillors were considered for the title. In line with legislation and the Council's previously adopted criteria, Councillors listed in the report's recommendations qualified for consideration to be appointed as Honorary Aldermen (or Alderwomen as appropriate) by Selby District Council.

The Council acknowledged the many years' service to the community of the proposed recipients and noted the upcoming dissolution of Selby District Council on 31 March 2023 due to the move to a new unitary authority for North Yorkshire, following local government reorganisation.

The recommendations set out in the report were proposed and seconded, a vote taken and were CARRIED.

The list of proposed recipients was read out and the titles presented to the recipients or their representatives and followed by a photograph. The Chairman thanked the Members, guests and representatives for attending and invited all those present to a reception after the meeting.

RESOLVED:

The Council considered report C/22/11 and agreed to confer the title of Honorary Alderman (or Alderwoman as appropriate) on the following current and former District Councillors:

- **Donald Bain-Mackay**
- **Elizabeth Casling**
- **John Cattanach**
- **Ian Chilvers**
- **Mark Crane**
- **Stephanie Duckett**
- **Cliff Lunn**
- **John Mackman**
- **Brian Marshall**
- **Chris Metcalfe**
- **Wendy Nichols**
- **Robert Packham**
- **Chris Pearson**
- **Steve Shaw-Wright**
- **Richard Sweeting**

The meeting closed at 5.25 pm.

Council

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Venue: | Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9FT |
| Date: | Tuesday, 13 December 2022 |
| Time: | 3.00 pm |
| Present: | Councillor I Chilvers in the Chair Councillors D Mackay, K Arthur, D Brook, J Cattanach, J Chilvers, M Crane, S Duckett, K Ellis, T Grogan, M Jordan (Vice-Chair), A Lee, C Lunn, J Mackman, R Musgrave, W Nichols, C Pearson, C Richardson, J Shaw-Wright, R Sweeting, G Ashton and R Packham |
| Officers Present: | Suzan Harrington – Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning, Alison Hartley – Solicitor to the Council, Karen Iveson – Chief Finance Officer, Glenn Sharpe – Deputy Monitoring Officer, Victoria Foreman – Democratic Services Officer |
| Public: | 12 |

25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Duggan, Keith Franks, Paul Welch, Neil Reader, Steve Shaw-Wright, Mark Topping and David Buckle.

Apologies were also received from Janet Waggott, Chief Executive.

26 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

27 PROPOSED REDUNDANCY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT: COUNCIL'S HEAD OF PAID SERVICE AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ("HOPS") (C/22/7)

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report to the Council which asked Members to consider report C/22/7, endorse and approve the proposed settlement terms set out at paragraph 6.5. of the report and agree that the Council delegate authority to the Deputy Monitoring Officer to arrange for the

Council to enter into a settlement agreement with the Head of Paid Service and North Yorkshire County Council on the terms set out in the report.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained that the purpose of the report was to seek approval to enter into a redundancy settlement agreement with Janet Waggott, the Council's Head of Paid Service and Chief Executive Officer ("HoPS") in the context of Selby District Council being abolished as a result of local government reorganisation and the post of HoPS ceasing to exist as of 1 April 2023.

A report was presented to the Council's Employment Committee on 24 November 2022, which resolved to accept the recommendation to enter into a redundancy settlement agreement in the terms described in this report, and further resolved to recommend that the Council endorse the said resolution.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer gave details of a minor change at paragraph 6.5 of the report, where following discussions, the agreement to be entered into would now be two-party. This was opposed to the original tripartite agreement, which would have been between Selby District Council, the affected HoPS and North Yorkshire County Council.

The new two-party agreement between Selby District Council and the affected HoPS would require submission to North Yorkshire County Council for the signing of a Section 24 consent. An additional bullet point would be added at paragraph 6.5 to reflect this arrangement.

Members were informed that specialised legal advice had been commissioned from external lawyers and the process reviewed by one of the Council's independent persons, who was content with the process and report. The financial implications had been considered by the Section 151 Officer and the Council's auditors, Mazars. The Council had been as open and transparent as possible throughout the process.

It was proposed, seconded and a vote taken to agree the recommendations as set out in the report, subject to the amendment at paragraph 6.5.

RESOLVED: The Council

- 1. endorsed and approved the proposed settlement terms set out at paragraph 6.5. of the report, with the inclusion of the additional bullet point:**

- 'That prior to the agreement being signed a Section 24 agreement was obtained from North Yorkshire County Council.'**

and;

- 2. delegated authority to the Deputy Monitoring Officer to arrange for the Council to enter into a settlement**

agreement with HoPS and North Yorkshire County Council on the terms set out in paragraph 6.5.

The meeting closed at 3.20 pm.

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Agenda Item 9



Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council

Report to Council 21 March 2023

This report covers the period from 21 February 2023. I have attended meetings of the Local Government Association (LGA) and District Council Network (DCN).

In my last report to Council, I would like to reflect on my time as Leader of the Council and Lead Executive Member for Leisure, Strategic Matters, Place Shaping and External Relations and Partnerships. When I joined the Council I never imagined that 24 years later I would have been Leader for 20 years. I can honestly say that it has been a pleasure and a privilege. I have enjoyed working with all Councillors and understand that whatever our political differences we wish our communities to be great places to live and work. The new hospital and leisure centre are highlights of my time, but there are so many other initiatives that we have completed in that time.

I wish all my fellow Councillors all the best for the future and hope that we stay in touch.

Leisure

Selby District Council has agreed a licence from 1 March 2023 for four local GP surgeries to hold joint clinics at the summit building which will enable the four surgeries to work together and assist more residents with similar medical conditions to access the health support network. It is also planned for the surgeries to work closely with IHL to access leisure facilities to assist treatment and support. This is a trial to assess the wider health benefits of working closer with local surgeries and will form part of the new Council's strategic review of leisure across North Yorkshire.

Planning Policy

At the Executive meeting held on 2 March 2023 Members agreed that given the changes to local governance that any future decisions on the Selby District Local Plan should be made by North Yorkshire Council. It is anticipated that the Selby District Local Plan will be considered by North Yorkshire Council's first Strategic Planning Committee in May 2023.

The Planning Policy team have been involved in preparatory work for the development of a new Local Plan for North Yorkshire which includes input into the development of a new consultation database, Statement of Community Involvement and draft Local Development Scheme. The team have also led on the preparation of North Yorkshire Council's response to the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Local Communities consultation on planning reforms.

Planning Development Management

For the period 1 January to 28 February 2023, 80% of 'major' applications were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 5 determined, of which 4 were within the extension of time period agreed. The figure significantly exceeds than the national designation target set by the government for majors which is 60%.

In the same period, 76.5% of 'minor' applications were determined within the statutory period or within an agreed extension of time, equating to 34 applications determined, 26 within the statutory or agreed extension of time periods. The figure exceeds the national designation target set by the government for minor applications which is 70%.

Of 'minor other' applications, 84.8% were determined within the statutory period or within an agreed extension of time. This equates to 46 determined of which 39 were within the statutory or agreed extended time period. The figure significantly exceeds the national designation target set by the Government for minor other applications which is 70%.

In addition to the above, there were a further 87 applications determined during this time period which are not reported to DLUHC. These include the following application types:

HENS (Larger Household Extensions), Agricultural Prior Approvals, Prior Notifications, Telecommunications, Discharge of Conditions, Minor Amendments, Works to Trees, Overhead Line Notifications, County and other Consultations, Scoping Reports and Screening Opinions for EIA applications.

There were also 26 Permitted Development Enquiry submissions dealt with and 8 Certificates of Lawfulness determined.

A total of 9 appeal decisions were received during January and February, of which 8 were dismissed and 1 was allowed.

During this same time period, 72 new enforcement cases were received, and 1 Planning Contravention notice was served.

Joint working continues with North Yorkshire County Council on the 5 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project falling with the Selby District, which are at various stages with the Planning Inspectorate through the Development Consent regime. The most advanced of these is Drax BECCS, which was subject to preliminary meetings about the DCO and scheme in January prior to more involved meetings in March 2023.

Quarter 3 Performance

At the final meeting of Executive, we considered Quarter 3 performance. Considering the significant challenges over recent years, colleagues and I were very pleased to note that performance continues to hold up across a range of services. Notable performance in Quarter 3 included Benefits processing, Planning, Housing voids and Leisure centre visits.

Almost two thirds of KPIs were showing improvement over the longer term whilst 84% were either on or close to target performance. Progress continues on many of our priority actions and work on a number of these will go on into the new council.

We are confident that the services we are handing over to the new council are in good health. Colleagues and I expressed our grateful thanks to all staff for their commitment to the residents of Selby over recent years and to Stuart Robinson and the team for their support in helping Executive manage performance.

Mark Crane, Leader of the Council

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Councillor Cliff Lunn, Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Report to Council on 21 February 2023

In my last report to Council, I would like to reflect on my time as Executive Member for Finance and Resources.

There have certainly been some major challenges to overcome for this Council, for local government and for the communities we serve. After economic turmoil in the late 'noughties' and a decade of public sector austerity, and more recently the impacts of Covid and then further economic upheaval as a result of events worldwide, I can say with confidence, that there has never been a more interesting time to be involved in local government finance!

Throughout these times this Council has embraced the challenges, delivered what has been needed, and ensured that our vital public services have continued day in, day out. Whilst we have had our share of difficult decisions and like the rest of local government, had substantial savings to make as central government funding reduced, with our longer-term outlook and the ability to plan ahead, we have been able to manage the reductions without adversely impacting on frontline services.

We have also had some fortune as changes in national funding systems meant business rates from renewable energy operations once destined for central government coffers, have been retained locally. Our Programme for Growth has supported an ambitious agenda to stimulate both local housing and business growth. This has enabled targeted investment across our district, resulting in for example: more affordable homes; investment in our town centres; the redevelopment of the Leisure Centre in Selby town; and the establishment of a legacy grant fund in partnership with the Two Ridings Foundation to support local communities in the former Selby District in perpetuity.

Our approach to financial management has been measured, robust and responsible, and I am pleased that throughout my tenure we have received unqualified opinions on both our final accounts and our arrangements to secure value for money. The finance function has been instrumental in our strong partnership with North Yorkshire County Council, enabling us to punch above our weight, drawing on the specialist expertise of our county colleagues. I would like to thank the Finance Team and our Chief Finance Officer who has supported me, my Executive colleagues and Members across the Council.

As Lead Member for Resources, I have regularly had the pleasure of updating on the significant transformation around IT and digital over recent years. I am particularly pleased that, on my final report, I can confirm that the second and final phase of our new Civica Housing and Assets system – which will include a new online portal for our housing tenants to check their account, pay rent and report repairs - has gone live. This system has been our largest single investment in IT and, I am sure, will underpin service improvements for both staff and tenants for years into the future. I would like to thank the IT and Transformation Teams for their huge efforts in supporting service delivery across the Council and improving the way we work for the residents of the Selby district.

I would also like to highlight the excellent work we have done to support our residents and businesses through the Covid pandemic. Our administration of the various grants and financial support schemes is something I am particularly proud of, and my thanks go to all the Officers involved.

Local government reorganisation has inevitably meant some of our plans have had to be put on hold as we have worked with our colleagues across North Yorkshire to prepare for the new Council. As we pass on the baton, we do so in a strong financial position. Whilst more savings were part of our future plans, these will now be for the new North Yorkshire Council to take forward. However, we can be safe in the knowledge that we have provided sufficient reserves to enable this in a sustainable and planned way; that is the Selby way.

And finally, I hope that those of us who are carrying on in the new authority will continue to help and work for Selby.

Councillor Cliff Lunn
Executive Member for Finance and Resources



Councillor David Buckle, Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development

Report to Council on 21 March 2023

It has been an honour for the last 4 years to be the Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development. In that time, I hope Members will agree, that a lot has happened in the Selby District, making it a better place to live and work. We had Covid, and I was proud of the Council supporting businesses with grants and funding.

I look forward in seeing the TCF project finished; I have been on a journey from the first meeting in Leeds with Officers to try and get the funding, to now when it is due to start. I would like to thank all Officers for the hard work in this very challenging large project for Selby; it will make a huge difference to the area around the station.

I would also like to thank all Members of the Council for their support in my roles as Executive Member and Chairman of the Council.

I wish all Members that are now North Yorkshire Councillors the very best for the future and I am sure you will all keep flying the flag for Selby District.

Lastly, I would like to thank Chief Executive Janet Waggott for all the support and help she has given to me in my time as a Councillor for Selby District Council.

Regeneration

Selby Station Gateway Transforming Cities Fund (TCF)

The £28m Selby Station Gateway project will begin on site during 2023, with demolition of the Railway Club and James William House to start in the next few weeks to allow the improvements to take place. The project has been allocated the largest TCF grant in York and North Yorkshire, with £20m coming to Selby from government via the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). This ambitious scheme will transform Selby station and the area around it, with a greatly improved station building and facilities, a new public square linking the station to the Abbey and town centre via the park, new station parking and a new eastern access to the station, together with improvements to the bus station and new links for pedestrians and cyclist to our residential areas, the college and local stores and services.

Complex land assembly negotiations are progressing to completion, and shortly all land required to successfully complete the scheme will be under Selby District Council (SDC) control.

North Yorkshire County Council's appointed contractor, Galliford Try (GT), continue to undertake relevant investigative work to support the final design solutions.

The detailed design for the scheme and associated project cost plan will be completed by summer 2023. The full business case will be submitted to WYCA thereafter. The main contract works are estimated to commence later in 2023.

The scheme will provide a major boost to Selby and the surrounding area and be a catalyst for further enhancements and investment in the town centre. Together with new housing on nearby brownfield sites, including scope to redevelop to the east of the station, and improvements through the Abbey Quarter project, there is an exciting future for Selby.

Town Centres Revitalisation Programme

Align are now progressing both the Low Street improvements scheme in Sherburn, and the Tadcaster bus station refurbishment scheme. Relevant Members have met with Align to understand the scope of project work, and the likely programme for the current stage of work. Both schemes are now being progressed to planning submission stage.

We are aiming to submit both planning applications towards the end of May 2023. That will complete the current phase of work.

Both schemes then need to be progressed through detailed design and once completed the work will be put out for tender. After tender evaluation and approval, the contractor will be appointed. A decision to proceed with the construction work will be required from the new North Yorkshire Council (NYC).

Early engagement is currently underway with the main stakeholders for the Selby Abbey Quarter project, which will enhance the marketplace and Selby park areas, expanding the transformation that will be delivered through the TCF for the Selby station area. These initial investigations will be completed in April. After this, it is proposed that final designs for Selby park and marketplace are produced, working closely with the major stakeholders. To agree the works will require public consultation and detailed design work to produce costed and publicly supported proposals aided by availability of visual material suitable for public consultation. This requires consultancy support to provide specialist skills and capacity and a decision will be needed from the NYC to proceed with spending some of the £2.06m allocated to this project by SDC.

There is a major opportunity to deliver some of the project via an expansion of the contract with GT, who are the contractors for the TCF works. This approach is agreed in principle with GT and NYCC but cannot be progressed until the detailed nature of the works are agreed.

We therefore intend to commission consultants early in the new authority to provide the detail necessary to contract with GT. This will allow the extent of the proposals to be tailored to meet the available budget.

The Council's proposals for how it will implement the Arts Council England 'Priority Place' designation were submitted at the end of January 2023. Our proposals are based upon the Abbey Quarter project being the focus for the new authority's central scheme in Selby town centre, in terms of place making and enabling a more effective physical provision for culture.

All three revitalising towns projects will take account of the Arts Council England Priority Place initiative and look to support delivery of the Priority Place objectives. Government announced recently that there will be a future third round of Levelling Up Fund (LUF). The Council can expand and enhance the Abbey Quarter project to bid for LUF, provided that a designed and costed proposal is agreed. There is the potential to include junction and highway improvements that are currently being developed for Selby town centre through Phase 2 of the Places and Movements Study, in partnership with NYCC highways, should the new Council decide to seek to implement such measures.

Town Centres Revitalisation Programme Grant Award

Three grants have been awarded under this grants programme. Projects include provision of cinema equipment and essential repair works to the Old Girls School Community Centre and physical improvements to Eversley Park entrance in Sherburn.

Two further grant applications have been submitted. The first one focuses on improvements the Fairways Park, and the second one request funds to widen the sports offer at White Rose Sports and Recreation Ground. Both projects are currently being progressed through the grant due diligence process.

Changing Places Toilets Grant Fund

The funding award will enable the construction of accessible Changing Places toilets as part of the Tadcaster Bus Station building improvements and Selby train station improvements. Detailed design of the units is being progressed. The final specification for the work and assessment of final construction costs are still being evaluated.

Inward Investment

Officers continue to meet with a range of businesses and developers who are keen to invest in Selby District, subject to planning. Discussions have included:

- Glentool, developer of Sherburn 2, who are seeking to deliver much needed, smaller industrial units on the next phase of their site. The developer is currently progressing with the construction of the access road within the site.

- A solar farm proposal close to the former Kellingley site to provide 10MW of energy.
- Campeys of Selby regarding their growth plans and their planned transition to a low carbon fleet of vehicles.

Business Support

There is considerable activity taking place to support the businesses of Selby District, including:

- The Selby District Business Awards will be held on the 28 March 2023. There were 247 nominations for over 70 local businesses. Each category has four businesses shortlisted.
- The ‘Eat Your Heart Out’ Celebration of Food and Drink in Selby Abbey on the 31 March has been publicised in the Yorkshire Post and In Your Area. The event will be covered live during the morning show on York Mix radio. Please do come along.
- The “Get to know your own heart” residents engagement festival on 1 and 2 April is building momentum with businesses encouraged to do special offers for residents during the weekend.
- 20 businesses have received support via the Business Scale Up programme.
- Issues around recruitment continue and we are holding a recruitment fair in Sherburn in Elmet with 20 local businesses offering immediate starts.
- The Elmet and Selby Business Forum is welcoming representatives to the Elmet Forum following the completion of a travel survey by businesses on the Sherburn Industrial Estate. It is hoped that the survey could lead to some resolutions regarding lack of public transport, which is believed to restrict recruitment opportunities.
- Round table discussions in relation to the Made Smarter programme for manufacturing businesses has seen local manufacturers invited.
- Focus will be working closely with Selby College, undertaking Training Needs Analysis with businesses and delivering workshop to Selby College students in relation to starting their own business.
- Working with the FSB, who have set up a working party to work with Women In Business, particularly in relation to the differential of funding obtained by women versus men. Currently planning an event in June.

Community Safety

Selby District Council has strong relationships with partners, and we continue to work to keep our communities safe.

The Community Safety Hub has recently worked in partnership with North Yorkshire Police to support diversionary patrols in local villages, tackling concerns of anti-social behaviour. In February, the Community Alcohol Partnership held a week of action, to raise awareness of under-age alcohol sales and to promote alternative, alcohol-free beverages.

Members Community Funding

The 2022/23 Member Funding Scheme has successfully supported community projects for the last two years. A variety of groups and projects have been supported, including but not limited to:

- Community activity in shared spaces throughout the winter.
- Support for community building repairs.
- Funding for school trips and supporting funded places for community spaces, including memorial and reflection gardens, play area refurbishments, and utility installation at allotments; and
- Support for local sports clubs, including the purchase of equipment, venue hire, facility upgrades and training for club volunteer and coaches.

Heart of Yorkshire Fund

The Heart of Yorkshire Fund for Selby District was established by a £2million donation from SDC to Two Ridings Community Foundation to provide a lasting community legacy for the residents of Selby District.

Seven projects have been supported so far, including peer to peer mental health support, play space refurbishment and support for people with dementia. The fund is set to open again for applications in the spring.

Councillor David Buckle
Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development

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Councillor Tim Grogan, Executive Member for Health & Culture

Report to Council on 21 March 2023

In my final report to Council, I would like to reflect for a moment on almost 20 years of being involved with Selby District Council. I was interviewed in 2003 for the vacancy of Licensing Officer. I was interviewed by our solicitors at the time Peter Devlin and Peter Burns: wonderful men. I graduated to manage the Enforcement section and consider my most significant contribution to energise the investigation of fly-tipping which has yielded excellent results since 2011 to this day.

The Councillors who have impressed me most were; Maurice Patrick, Rachel Cunliffe and Wally Norton. All three outstanding and effective, but more than this they were immensely personable, warm exceptionally accommodating with an ability to inspire enduring loyalty.

Regulatory Services

Licensing

A week of action took place in February involving the Community Alcohol Partnership, Licensing Officers, North Yorkshire Police Licensing and Trading Standards. Officers visited premises to provide advice in terms of underage drinking and anti-social behaviour. In addition, Officers visited a local school and provided education around alcohol consumption.

NYCC approved a new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy on the 21 February, which comes into force on the 1 April 2023.

New fees for North Yorkshire taxi licensing from the 1 April have been consulted upon, as have fares for Hackney Carriage drivers. The North Yorkshire Executive will make a decision on both on the 21 March.

Environmental Health and Enforcement

A moment of eaucastrophe can be reported when Environmental Health secured a successful prosecution for a breach of health and safety regulations. This followed an incident where a customer received a serious ankle injury in October 2021. On Friday 17 February 2023 the matter was heard at York Magistrates Court where the company director pleaded guilty to offences breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and fines and costs totalling around £60,000 were imposed.

A further conviction took place at York Magistrates Court involving Officers from the Enforcement Team who prosecuted a woman from Knottingley who failed to correctly dispose of a melange of household waste under the Householder Duty of Care Legislation.

A third matter again involved copacetic work by the Enforcement team on a case where a man involved in breeding and selling dogs without a licence was prosecuted. He was fined £120, ordered to pay costs and disqualified from dealing with dogs for 5 years.

Visitor Economy & Tourism

The district's first Food & Drink Network meeting welcomed over 20 participants, with presentations from guest speakers. The network have a number of aims, including localising the supply chain, maximising opportunities for food tourism and encouraging collaborative trade show attendance.

A good range of food and drink businesses are also taking part in Get to Know Your Own Heart, the 3rd annual Residents Engagement weekend, which is taking place on the 1st and 2nd of April. Offers include special residents' festival menus at the Drovers Arms (Skipwith), Castle Inn (Cawood) and Burro (Riccall), chocolate and distillery product sampling and discovery sessions at the Sun Inn (Colton) and 20% off at Aagrah in Tadcaster. Other offers for local people include free heritage walks in Selby, free house visits with pre-booked afternoon tea at Carlton Towers, and half-price entry at both Stillingfleet Lodge Gardens and the Three Haggas Woodmeadow Eggstravaganza.

In company with NYCC, work has begun to develop a Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP). There will be a national network of LVEPs (appointed by Visit England) to work strategically on shared priorities and targets to support and grow the visitor economy.

Cultural Development Framework

The Expression of Interest for a £350,000 Place Partnership bid to the Arts Council has been submitted. The focus of the programme is on cultural events and activities delivered in our town centres, with particular emphasis on opportunities for children and young people.

Selby Stories, the cultural programme accompanying Selby's High Street Heritage Action Zone, is progressing well and has entered its third and final year. The Minecraft event for February half-term was well attended, with over 200 children coming to the Abbey to take part. BBC Look North filmed a full segment, which included interviews with some of the young participants – Members can see this on YouTube. A further Minecraft event is planned for the Easter school holidays. The first printed scaffolding shroud, showing specially commissioned work by artist Ed Kluz, will be installed shortly.

Councillor Tim Grogan, Executive Member for Health and Culture

Agenda Item 10



Councillor Karl Arthur – Chair of Audit and Governance Committee

Update to Council on 21 March 2023

The Committee has met once since the last update provided to the Council on 13 December 2022. The meeting took place on Wednesday 25 January 2023.

Amongst items discussed in another very busy agenda Members received the External Audit Annual Review from the Manager at Mazars which summarised the external audit work undertaken for the year ended 31st March 2022. The Committee heard that the external auditor had issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of the Council on 30th November 2022, and in respect of the Councils Value for Money arrangements this work had now been completed and Members were pleased to note that no significant weaknesses had been identified. Members also praised the finance team for their hard work on this review. The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that Mazars had been appointed as the external auditors for the new North Yorkshire Council, which was seen as a positive step forward as there would already be an existing working relationship in place. Members then resolved to note the report.

The Audit Manager Veritau presented the Internal Audit Report which provided the Committee with an update on the delivery of the internal audit work plan for 2022-23, along with an update on counter fraud and information governance work undertaken to date in 2022-23. In terms of the high priority action Performance Management, the Committee were informed that since the prioritisation of Personal Development Reviews (PDR's) communication had been issued to all managers and staff, and completion rates had been monitored closely by the Leadership Team with the result that, as at the 9th January 2023, the completion rates for PDRs had risen to 92%. Members acknowledged the improvement made in the completion rate for PDR's and also queried the completion rate for the Information Governance (IG) training, in response the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the completion rate for IG training stood at 92%. After the discussion Members resolved to note the progress made on the delivery of internal audit, counter fraud and information governance work.

The Audit Manager Veritau presented the Audit Risk Register for 2022-23. The Committee was informed that there was a total of 12 risks on the Councils Corporate Risk Register for 2022-23 with no new risks being added. Amongst the risks highlighted it was confirmed that the 'Economic Environment' risk had increased due to high inflation and energy costs as well as continued challenges accessing labour supply, all of which threatened investor and consumer confidence. Members also heard that the 'Local Government Re-organisation' (LGR) risk remained the most significant risk faced to the Council and that this was due to the work required to be undertaken by the council as part of the transition and that uncertainty associated with LGR continued to create significant capacity challenges. Discussions took place regarding inflationary pressure, wage growth, fluctuations in interest rates, the cost-of-living crisis and the Councils investment income. Members also queried what

percentage of staff had completed the mandatory health and safety training and whether leaving the European Union would present a risk to Selby. Following these discussions members were assured by answers received and it was then agreed to note the status of the Corporate Risk Register.

The Committee then received the Review of Annual Governance Statement Action Plan for 2021-22 from the Chief Finance Officer which asked Members to note progress on the statement Action Plan which was approved by the Committee at its October 2022 meeting. The main item of review was relating to Performance Management and, as the Committee had heard earlier on in the meeting, the fact that significant progress against the approved action plan had been made, with PDR completion rates now at 92% with actions in place to encourage the remaining outstanding PDRs to be completed. It was confirmed that the 100% completion rate had not yet been attained because some staff members were on maternity leave or long-term sick leave with one or two other staff members not having received theirs due to capacity shortages within teams. After discussion Members then resolved to note the progress against the Action Plan for the Annual Governance Statement for 2021-22.

Finally, Members received an Internal Audit Report from Veritau in relation to the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Department which had explained that the control within the system only provided "Limited Assurance". Members noted that actions had been agreed which were appropriate to address the risks identified and proportionate in view of LGR. Members were assured that these actions were sufficient to overcome any problems within the departments control systems and noted the report.

Next Meeting of the Committee

The next and final meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee will be taking place on Wednesday 29 March 2023 commencing at 4:00PM.

I commend my statement to the Council.

Councillor Karl Arthur, Chair, Audit and Governance Committee



Councillor Chris Pearson, Chair of the Policy Review Committee

Update to Council on 21 March 2023

The Policy Review Committee has met once since the last update to Council on 13 December 2022. The meeting which took place on the 10 January 2023 was the final meeting of the Policy Review Committee.

Members considered the following matters:

York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Routemap to Carbon Negative.

Members received a detailed presentation on York and North Yorkshire's Routemap to Carbon Negative document.

The Committee were informed that the Routemap was a clear and co-owned plan with the aim to accelerate the transformation to a carbon negative York and North Yorkshire. The Routemap provided specific objectives such as strategic direction and a coordinated approach, to harness the economic opportunities presented, to catalyse collaborative action at pace and scale; and to build confidence that it was feasible to reach net zero and beyond to carbon negative in York and North Yorkshire.

The Committee were taken through a timeline for the Routemap which had started in 2020. Consultations and workshops had taken place with key experts and stakeholders on the findings of an initial carbon abatement pathways (CAP) study; with the final CAP study being finalised and published onto the LEP website in 2021. This work had then been followed by the co-development of sector priorities and sector action plans and aligning with other organisations strategies to avoid duplication and also to highlight any omissions which may have been made.

Members noted that the three key pillars behind the strategic framework the Routemap had been based upon, along with the five business sectors which the Routemap focused on in terms of greenhouse gas emissions: namely power, heat and buildings, transport, business and industry and land use.

The Officer highlighted some of the actions currently being undertaken within the five business sectors, along with examples of other actions needed to be driven forward, and how they would be delivered, to decarbonise these business sectors.

Finally, the Committee noted that the York and North Yorkshire Routemap to Carbon Negative had been adopted by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and endorsed by the North York Moors National Park Authority, with plans in place for local authorities in the region to adopt or endorse the Routemap.

Members asked a number of questions in relation to the view of the LEP in terms of solar farms within the North Yorkshire area, tree planting data for the region, actions in terms of bus routes and encouraging people to walk and cycle, infrastructure for the charging of electric vehicles, and the use of water as a source of power generator.

The Committee raised concerns regarding the timescales to achieve carbon neutrality and carbon negativity and asked what actions had actually been started and completed to date. It was confirmed that the Routemap detailed which actions were happening currently, which had been completed, and that all the actions had deadlines to be adhered to. It was further confirmed that all the actions within the Routemap were expected to have been started by the year 2027, however some of the actions depended on the improvement in technology and government policy.

Members thanked the Officer for attending the meeting.

Final Annual Report of the Policy Review Committee 2022-23

The Committee approved the annual report for 2022-23; and delegated authority to the Democratic Services Officer, in consultation with the Chair, to update the final version of the annual report 2022-23 following the inclusion of details from meeting on the 10 January 2023.

Work Programme

The Committee noted the work programme for 2022-23.

Councillor Chris Pearson, Chair of the Policy Review Committee



Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright, Chair of Scrutiny Committee

Update to Council – 21 March 2023

The Scrutiny Committee has met twice since the update given at the last meeting of Council in December 2022; the meetings took place on 19 January and 16 February 2023.

The following items were considered at the meeting on 19 January 2023

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (Barlow Common) and Wildlife Habitat Protection Trust (Hambleton Hough) Annual Reports 2021-22

The Chair welcomed to the meeting David Powell from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) and Martin and Craig Blakey from the Wildlife Habitat Protection Trust (WHPT).

Mr Powell advised Members that he had taken over the management of Barlow Common in April 2022, since that time he had been writing the new ten-year Management Plan, which would come into force from April 2023. Members heard that the new Plan had a more holistic approach to the management at the site which aimed to support and boost some of the species that had been found to be present at Barlow Common. It was noted that the site benefitted from a dedicated group of volunteers who had provided 449 hours of volunteer time in the past ten months.

Members heard that the YWT were working to promote and encourage the re-introduction of school visits as the site was important for educational purposes, along with exploring different funding options to help make better, sustainable use of the visitor centre building. The Chair stated that he visited Barlow Common regularly and he felt that the site had improved noticeably.

In terms of Hambleton Hough, the Committee were informed that over the past 12 months the WHPT had concentrated its efforts on planting 4000 new trees and putting measures in place to control bracken and undergrowth to allow the new trees to grow and mature unhindered. In April 2022 a large section of Hambleton Hough had been destroyed by fire, however Members were pleased to hear that the site had since been re-planted and re-staked. Moving forward the WHPT would be monitoring the site, providing regular maintenance of the woodland to ensure all the paths were clear; and replacing any trees that did not survive the replanting.

Members felt that Hambleton Hough was a lovely place which local people could reach easily by bicycle, with their families, for a cost-free day out.

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards Annual Reports 2021-22

The Committee heard that the aim for the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB) was to reinforce the message that keeping people safe in our communities during a pandemic was everyone's business. Other priorities for the NYSAB included homelessness, preparing for the introduction of the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS), changes in the Integrated Care Systems (ICS), the Local Government Re-organisation (LGR); and creating a culture of shared learning to enable partner agencies to continue to work together to keep adults in North Yorkshire safe from harm, abuse and neglect.

In respect of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) Independent Scrutineers Annual Report, the Committee were informed that the priorities moving forward were focussed on the development of the NYSCP website to support the broader focus on the BYINY priorities, access to the information, and seeking to develop the way feedback from frontline practice shaped the work of the group.

In terms of the Selby Local Safeguarding Partnership (LSP), it had been agreed that the local priorities for further development would be domestic abuse and both child and adult exploitation, predominantly around online safety.

Director of Public Health – Annual Report 2021-22

The Director of Public Health presented her report which asked the Committee to consider and note the content of the 2021-22 Director of Public Health Annual Report: lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic, with the report focusing on the broader experiences of what individuals and communities across North Yorkshire had lived through during the Covid-19 pandemic, the wider impacts felt by communities; and the lessons to be learned from these for the future.

Members noted that communications and cascading the messages out to the public had played a key part, and that the mantra had been hands, face, space. The vaccination programme had also played a critical part in moving forward and allowing the freedoms that the public enjoyed today, and that it was not only about protecting communities but also about improving health, the quality of life and having a healthy life expectancy.

Members acknowledged that the pandemic had brought out the best qualities in people and that the local community had come together to support each other during the pandemic.

Update on Leisure Services Provision

Members noted the quarterly update on the provision of leisure services, covering the period April to December 2022. It was confirmed that there had been a positive trend in terms of gym membership and attendance at the leisure centre but that the year-on-year performance figures did indicate utilisation of the facilities still remained below pre pandemic levels. The figures were attributed to a number of factors to include levels of inflation, utility costs, and households with less disposable money to spend on leisure activities, which all impacted on the service.

Members appreciated the difficulties being felt, the Chair stated that the issue of low attendance figures was County wide, and not just at leisure facilities but also at theatres and other facilities where people were in close proximity to other users.

Corporate Performance Report Q2, 2022-23

Officers summarised progress in Quarter 2, with 61% of KPIs reported showing improvement over the longer term, and 78% of KPIs reported were on target.

A query was raised in relation to the Council's housing revenue account and the additional funding requirements which had been presented to full Council at the meeting held on Tuesday 17 January 2023. A Member commented that they had heard a news bulletin run by Radio York earlier in the afternoon of the meeting. Radio York had reported that Selby District Council were to reduce the amount of money to be spent on housing repairs, while increasing the amount of money spent on Void properties, and it was queried if the figures quoted by Radio York were accurate. The officer stated that they would speak with the officers concerned to ensure that the radio station was contacted, and the correct monetary information supplied.

Work Programme 2022-23

The Committee agreed that the provisional meeting on the 16 February 2023 be confirmed in the Committee calendar.

The following items were considered at the meeting on 16 February 2023

Financial Results and Budget Exceptions – Q2, 2022-23

Members noted that at the end of Quarter 2, current estimated full year revenue outturn estimates indicated surpluses of (£371k) for the General Fund (GF) and (£68k) for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA); these figures included the proposed pay award. The capital programme showed an underspend at the end of Quarter 2. The General Fund programme had two projects which had seen delays, these resulted in a £500k in year underspend, with the projects expected to be undertaken in 2023-24.

Officers explained that the key forecasted variances were mainly as a result of the return on Council investment income which had performed positively when compared to the budgets for the year. In addition, an expected saving of £195k in the HRA which would have been generated from the implementation of the housing system would now not be achieved in year, due to the timing of the implementation of phase two of the project.

Treasury Management – Monitoring Report - Q2, 2022-23

Officers explained that on average the Council's investments held in the North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Investment pool totalled £85.9m over the quarter at an average rate of 1.37% and earned interest of £296.5k. The total interest earned to the end of September 2023 stood at £458.2 (£330.5k allocated to the General Fund; £127.7k allocated to the HRA) which was £382.0k above the year-to-date budget.

Members were informed that current performance trends indicated that forecast returns for the year could be in the region of £1,189.3k (£857.9k GF, £331.4k HRA) a total budget surplus of £1,036.8k.

Members noted that in addition to investments held in the pool, the council had £5.34m invested in property funds as at 30 September 2022. The funds had achieved a 3.08% revenue return and 2.20% capital loss over the course of the year. This resulted in revenue income of £84.5k to the end of Q2 and an 'unrealised' capital loss of £120.2k.

Work Programme 2022-23

The Committee noted the 2022-23 work programme as presented in the agenda.

Future Meeting: The next meeting of the Committee will be on 23 March 2023.

Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright, Chair of Scrutiny Committee