

Council

Venue: Council Chamber
Date: Tuesday 12 December 2017
Time: 6.00pm

34	Apologies for absence
35	Disclosures of Interest
36	Minutes
37	Communications
38	Announcements
39	Petitions
40	Public Questions
41	Councillors' Questions
42	Reports from the Executive
43	Reports from Committees
44	Motions
45	Report of the Monitoring Officer – Standards Arrangements
46	100% Business Rates Retention Pilot in 2018/19
47	Community Governance Review – Thorpe Willoughby Parish Council
48	Private Session
49	Potential Purchase of Commercial Properties
50	Loan to the Selby and District Housing Trust to Acquire New Builds s106 Properties
51	Urgent Action

Present: Councillor Mrs J Chilvers in the Chair

Councillors D Buckle (Vice Chairman), K Arthur, E Casling, J Cattanach, I Chilvers, M Crane, J Deans, Mrs S Duckett, K Ellis, M Hobson, D Hutchinson, M Jordan, C Lunn, D Mackay, J Mackman, B Marshall, Mrs M McCartney, C Metcalfe, R Musgrave, W Nichols, B Packham, C Pearson, D Peart, I Reynolds, B Sage, Mrs J Shaw-Wright, R Sweeting, P Welch and Mrs D White.

Officers Present: Janet Waggott, Chief Executive, Dave Caulfield, Director of Economic Regeneration and Place, Julie Slatter, Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning (for minute items 34 to 49), Karen Iveson, Chief Finance Officer, Gillian Marshall Solicitor to the Council, and Palbinder Mann, Democratic Services Manager.

Press: 1
Public: 5

Before the commencement of the meeting, a minute's silence was held in memory of former Councillor and Honorary Aldermen, Arthur Cawood.

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Thurlow.

35. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Mackman declared a personal interest in minute item 50 – Loan to the Selby and District Housing Trust to Acquire New Build s106 Properties as he was the Chairman of the Selby and District Housing Trust. He stated he would be leaving the room for the consideration of this item.

Councillor Mrs Duckett declared a personal interest in minute item 50 – Loan to the Selby and District Housing Trust to Acquire New Build s106 Properties as he was a member of the Selby and District Housing Trust. She stated he would be leaving the room for the consideration of this item.

36. MINUTES

The Council considered the minutes of the meeting of meeting held on 19 September 2017.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 September 2017 for signing by the Chairman.

37. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

38. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

39. PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

40. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A question from Maureen Weetman from Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) asked a question relating to the equalisation of the state pension age for women as outlined on the agenda.

The Leader of the Council responded to the question and stated that it was regrettable that the change was brought in the way it was as there was usually a statement issued from the Government before any change such as the one relating to pension age was undertaken.

The Leader of the Council stated that he noted and understood the concerns from WASPI regarding the impact the change would have on the women affected however noted the decision to make the change was undertaken by the Government and therefore could not be changed by the Council.

41. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

There were no questions from Councillors received.

42. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Councillor M Crane - The Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council reported on the work he had recently undertaken, as outlined in his report.

In relation to the Corporate Peer Challenge, Council were informed that the draft report from the Peer Review team had been received and that a report outlining how the recommendations of the peer review would be implemented would be taken to the Executive and Council meetings in February.

Councillor J Mackman, Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Lead Member for Place Shaping

Councillor Mackman, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping, provide an update on the work he had recently undertaken, as outlined in his report.

In relation to the outstanding actions in the Planning Review Action Plan, the Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that these would be completed in due course.

Concern was raised around the planning enforcement team as it had been reported that staff were struggling with the workload. The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that there had been some problems replacing key officers however the concerns had already been raised with the Head of Planning who would be looking into the issues.

The Council were informed that there had been new appointments to the post of Planning Policy Manager and the Head of Planning with the new starter in the latter role commencing in January.

Members requested that they be circulated notifications when new staff members were appointed and that consideration be given to having meetings with members and officers regarding the roles performed by the different officers.

Councillor C Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Councillor Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources presented his update on the work he had recently undertaken, as outlined in his report.

In relation to the merger of Veritau and Veritau North Yorkshire, the Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources explained that the proposal had been rejected by one of the district council shareholders therefore would be looked at again to see if an agreement on the merger could be reached.

It was requested that Members be sent the documents relating to the budget consultation.

Councillor C Metcalfe, Executive Lead Member for Communities and Economic Development

Councillor Metcalfe, Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development provided an update on the work he had recently undertaken, as outlined in his report.

The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development informed Council that positive feedback had been received regarding the Council's first Economic Growth Conference which had been held at Carlton Towers.

Concern was raised at the state of the roads, the lack of public transport and the links to infrastructure in the district. It was felt that larger developments needed to address these issues. The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development explained that the importance of infrastructure was fundamental to the economic development framework and as an example, there had been liaison with Transport for the North to push the case of electrification of the Selby railway line.

Concern was raised regarding the lack of progress with the development of the IT facility at Sherburn library and it was agreed that this would be looked into.

A query was raised around Gascoigne Wood and it was felt that the existing railway infrastructure should be linked with the location. The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development explained that the signage around the railway had been improved by Network Rail and that the site remained regionally attractive for development due to its location.

Councillor R Musgrave, Executive Lead Member for Housing, Leisure, Health and Culture

Councillor Musgrave, Lead Executive Member for Housing, Leisure, Health and Culture, provide an update on the work he had recently undertaken, as outlined in his report.

In relation to the impact and legacy report on the Tour de Yorkshire, it was queried whether it was value for money to host a start or finish event rather than allowing the tour to pass through the villages in the district. The Lead Executive Member for Housing, Leisure, Health and Culture explained that hosting a start or finish for the event had resulted in cash costs for the Council however the event had been viewed as an investment for the district with boosts to local businesses across the district.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the reports from the Executive.

43. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Mrs Nichols, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in her report. There was no discussion on the report.

Councillor J Deans, Chairman of the Policy Review Committee

Councillor Deans, Chairman of the Policy Review Committee confirmed that the Policy Review Committee had not met since the last meeting of Full Council and therefore no update was provided to Council.

Councillor M Jordan, Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor Jordan, Chairman of the Audit and Governance provided an update on the work of the Committee as outlined in his report. There were no questions for Councillor Jordan.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the reports from Committees.

44. MOTIONS

There were no motions.

45. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER – STANDARDS ARRANGEMENTS

The Solicitor to the Council presented the report of the Monitoring Officer which covered the operation of the current standards regime for Selby District Council and Parish Councils within Selby District.

Council were informed that the number of complaints received to the Monitoring Officer has increased slightly from the previous year however there had been no

requirement to form a Standards Sub Committee to consider any of the complaints. The Solicitor to the Council explained that the aim was to ensure all complaints were dealt with as efficiently as possible without any delay.

In response to a query concerning timescales to consider complaints, the Solicitor to the Council explained that the aim was to conduct an initial assessment of the complaint within 14 days however if there was an investigation then this would take longer. Additionally, it was explained the staff in the legal team were being trained on conducting investigations and aim was to complete them within four weeks however this was dependent on individuals co-operating to be interviewed.

RESOLVED:

To note the contents of the report.

REASONS FOR DECISION

To ensure that high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-optees are promoted and maintained.

46. 100% BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOT IN 2018/19

Councillor Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources presented the report that informed Councillors that an application had been submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for a North Yorkshire and East Riding 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot in 2018/19.

Council were informed that there was a potential financial benefit for Selby District based on estimates of business rates receipts of £178k.

RESOLVED:

To note the application to the DCLG for a 100% business rates retention pilot and to authorise the Chief Executive to proceed with the pilot should the application be successful.

REASONS FOR DECISION

To enable Selby to be part of the proposed pilot and potentially benefit from retention of additional business rates receipts in 2018/19.

47. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – THORPE WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Crane, Leader of the Council presented the report which outlined a request from Thorpe Willoughby Parish Council to conduct a Community Governance Review to amend the parish boundary.

It was noted that following initial discussions with Hambleton and Gateforth Parish Council, they were supportive of the proposals.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To proceed with a Community Governance Review as requested by Thorpe Willoughby Parish Council.**
- ii) **To agree the terms of reference as outlined at Appendix C including the timetable.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The request from Thorpe Willoughby Parish Council is a valid request for a Community Governance Review and the Council is legally required to consider any requests for a review.

48. PRIVATE SESSION

Council moved into private session to discuss the next two items.

RESOLVED:

In accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting be not open to the Press and public during discussion of the following item as there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

To ensure the Council complies with the correct legislation when discussion private and confidential items.

The Chairman agreed to amend the order of the agenda to take agenda item 17 before agenda item 16 to allow members with declared interests to leave after the item.

49. POTENTIAL PURCHASE OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

Councillor Crane, Leader of the Council presented the report which outlined an opportunity to purchase two buildings.

It was noted that funding for the purchases would be allocated from the Special Projects Reserve using funding earmarked from the Programme for Growth.

Discussion took place on the possibility of having an acquisitions policy for the Council to plan the usage of buildings before they were purchased to allow forward planning.

It was felt the purchase of the buildings would be an opportunity to get a better return on the investment and there was a great potential with both buildings.

RESOLVED:

- i) To allocate £1m from the Special Projects Reserve using funding earmarked for the Programme for Growth for this purpose to support the potential acquisition of two commercial properties.**
- ii) To note that approval of spend will be authorised by the Executive subject to the development of a full business case, with delegated authority to the Director of Economic Regeneration and Place in consultation with the s151 Officer and the Leader of the Council.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

To allow the Council to play a more direct and proactive role in local place management, creating vibrant market towns and thriving rural villages.

Following their earlier declarations, Councillors Mackman and Mrs Duckett left the meeting at this point and did not return.

50. LOAN TO THE SELBY AND DISTRICT HOUSING TRUST TO ACQUIRE NEW BUILD S106 PROPERTIES

Councillor Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources presented the report which sought the approval of a budget within the Capital Programme to enable the Council to provide loan funding to the Selby and District Housing Trust to facilitate the purchase of affordable housing provided under the terms of a s106 agreement with the Council on the site as outlined in the report.

The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources moved a proposal to add an additional resolution that if the Selby and District Housing Trust were not able to purchase the properties outlined, then the Council would consider purchasing them for the Housing Revenue Account.

Council was informed that the properties were subject to independent valuation and that the report proposed funding the purchase from borrowing with delegation given to the Chief Finance Officer to negotiate the appropriate finance terms.

RESOLVED:

- i) To approve a budget of £1,113,624 within the capital programme, financed from borrowing, to enable a loan to be provided to the Selby and District Housing Trust to facilitate the purchase of 12 affordable homes.**
- ii) To approve that if the Selby and District Housing Trust are not able to purchase the properties outlined, then the Council consider purchasing them for the Housing Revenue Account.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

To enable the Council to approve a budget of £1,113,624 to provide loan funding that will enable the Selby and District Housing Trust to purchase 12 family homes on the site shown on the plan in the report.

51. URGENT ACTION

It was noted that the Chief Executive had taken no urgent action since the last meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.41pm.