

Resources Working Party

held at Ryedale House, Malton
on Tuesday 30 October 2007

Present

Councillors Wainwright (in the Chair), Aslett, Mrs Cowling, Keal, Knaggs and Legard.

In attendance

T Anderson, Miss C Gaynor, Mrs M Jackson, J Patten and Miss J Waggott

Minutes

RWP.49 Bereavement

The Chairman referred to the recent sudden death of former Councillor and Immediate Past Chairman of the Council, Miss Pamela Anderson. A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect in memory of Miss Anderson.

RWP.50 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies received.

RWP.51 Minutes

The minutes of a meeting of the Working Party held on 18 September 2007 were submitted (previously circulated).

Resolved

That the minutes of a meeting of the Resources Working Party held on 18 September 2007 as submitted be endorsed.

RWP.52 Urgent Business

The Chairman reported that there were no items that he considered should be dealt with at the meeting as a matter of urgency by virtue of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

RWP.53 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

RWP.54 Capital Programme – Monitoring Report

The Director of Policy submitted a report (previously circulated), which related to the

revised Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2007-2011: Work-stream Schedule as profiled in September 2007.

The report was prepared on a monthly basis and enabled Members to track progress on the various schemes within the programme. The Director of Policy drew members' attention to the changes that had been made since presentation of the previous monitoring report.

Resolved

That the report be received.

RWP.55 Capital Programme – Financial Schedule

The Financial Services Manager submitted for information a report (previously circulated), which related to the revised Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2007-2011: Financial Schedule as profiled in September 2007.

Members discussed the monitoring report in detail.

Resolved

That the report be received.

RWP.56 Revenue Budget – Monitoring Report

The Chief Financial Officer submitted for information a report (previously circulated), which updated Members on any major variations to the Council's revenue budget for the current financial year.

The revenue budget report (EMIS) was submitted to the Corporate Management Team on a monthly basis and had previously been forwarded to Group Leaders on a quarterly basis. The financial information provided in the report centred on the main areas of expenditure and financial risk in the Council's activities and was presented on a subjective basis rather than by service headings.

All service unit managers were provided with regular reports showing comparisons of actual income and expenditure with the profiled budget under the same service headings used to compile the budget book.

The Chief Financial Officer reported that in order to achieve a balanced budget for 2007/2008 a savings target of £90k had been included. The Council had achieved savings of £54k, largely due to the continuation of the policy to have a three-month moratorium before most vacant posts were filled, the rationalisation of central services and the benefits service review.

There were only a few overspends in the Council's revenue account to report at the

half-year stage. Members had previously been made aware of these additional costs.

The overall financial position was relatively healthy with income levels in general higher than estimated for the six months, particularly in relation to investment income. Significant salary savings were being achieved.

The report included a summary of potential revenue budget movements 2007-08 (Annex A of the report).

Resolved

That the report be noted.

RWP.57 Treasury Management Monitoring Report

The Chief Financial Officer submitted a report (previously circulated) the purpose of which was to report on the treasury management activities for 2007/08 and to update Members on current investments.

It was reported that due to the higher than expected interest rates and the level of balances available for investment, interest receipts for the mid year point were well in excess of the level of income estimated in the 2007/08 budget. The investment strategy had provided the Council with extra resources to finance its capital programme.

Members were assured that Officers would continue to ensure that there was full compliance with the Council's treasury management strategy and good practice. The latest forecast from the Council's Treasury Advisory Sector, was that the Money Monetary Policy Committee will keep the Bank Rate on hold at 5.75% until the end of 2007 before cutting the rates to 5.50% in the first quarter of 2008, followed by a further 25 base point cut in the subsequent quarter.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

RWP.58 Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 – Briefing Paper

The Chief Financial Officer submitted a report (previously circulated) the purpose of which was to advise Members in relation to the potential implications and impacts of the recent Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07), upon Ryedale District Council's services and functions.

The report outlined the main issues arising out of CSR07 and included the response from the Local Government Association and any local implications highlighted at this time in the following areas:

- Housing

- Economic Development
- Transport
- Waste and Environment
- Adult Social Care
- Children's Services
- Value for Money/Efficiency
- A Simpler Performance Framework

Resolved

That the report be received.

RWP.59 The New Performance Framework for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Single Set of National Indicators

The Director of Policy submitted for information a report (previously circulated) which set out the headline definitions of the 198 indicators which were to underpin the new performance framework for Local Authorities and Local Authorities Partnerships.

The national indicator set had been developed as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 so that it reflected the Government's national priorities. Performances against each of the 198 indicators were to be reported for every single tier and county council Local Strategic Partnership.

Resolved

That the report be received.

RWP.60 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 27 November 2007 at 3.00pm.