

Resources Working Party

held at Ryedale House, Malton
on Tuesday 26 August 2008

Present

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

In attendance

T Anderson, Mrs L Carter, P Cresswell, D Summers and Miss J Waggott.

Minutes

RWP.92 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aslett and Legard.

RWP.93 Minutes

The minutes of a meeting of the Working Party held on 21 May 2008 were submitted (previously circulated).

Resolved

That the minutes of a meeting of the Resources Working Party held on 21 May 2008 as submitted be endorsed.

RWP.94 Matters Arising

With reference to Minute RWP.88 (Malton School Grant) the Corporate Director (s151) reported for information on the current position with regard to the provision of sports facilities at Malton School.

Two meetings of the Steering Group had been held and the current situation was that a development enquiry form had been submitted to the North Yorkshire County Council on behalf of Turner & Holman. Good progress had been made to date however a key point in the process would be the receipt of tenders and also receipt of the County Highway's requirements. The scheme was behind schedule and it was anticipated that tenders would be returned early January 2009, with a possible completion date of 2010. Councillor Knaggs reported that following receipt of the tenders the Council would need to make decisions regarding its contribution to the project. An outline plan of the proposed development was displayed and the Corporate Director (s151) reported that it was proposed that all weather pitch would have a robust plastic coated roof; this would be a good quality construction with a 20-year life span.

There was an outstanding planning issue and legal opinion was being sought on whether this should be an application for determination by the County Council or the District Council. The Corporate Director (s151) reported that the County Council had been invited to send a representative to the next meeting of the Steering Group.

Councillor Knaggs reported that there would need to be clarity of focus and responsibilities, the District Council were not project managing and should not become too involved in detail. The Council were to make a proportionate contribution and it was important to ensure that the scheme delivered according to the Council's requirements.

RWP.95 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.96 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

RWP.97 Capital Programme

The Corporate Director (s151) submitted a report (previously circulated), the purpose of which was to consider the current capital programme, reserve schemes for inclusion in the programme and the process and initial bids received for the bidding round later in the year. In addition, the Corporate Director (s151) circulated at the meeting a schedule of works together with estimated costs for the refurbishment of the civic suite. The list outlined potential works in the following categories: redecoration/floor coverings; electrical services and mechanical services and also indicated whether the work was considered essential or desirable. The total estimated cost of all the work amounted to some £200,000.

Members were reminded that at the last meeting of the Working Party Members had received the Capital Programme as approved by the Council as part of the budget setting process for 2008/09. It had been agreed that the Programme should be updated and re-profiled where appropriate, officers should consider any schemes on the reserve list which could be brought forward and outline the procedure for dealing with bids for new capital projects. Annex A to the report detailed a revised Capital Programme and some alterations to the profiling of expenditure across the years had been carried out. In addition the report listed the reserve projects as previously approved in the Capital Programme.

The Corporate Director (s151) reported that in 2007/2008 surplus investment income above budget totalling £293,000 had been earned. This provided an opportunity to consider additional schemes from the reserve list for inclusion in the Capital Programme ahead of the bidding process.

It was suggested that the following schemes be considered for inclusion:

- Milton Rooms - Lighting Gantry in the Auditorium
- Roof Repairs - Former Town Hall (Malton Museum/Tourist Information Centre)
- Public Conveniences at Rosedale

The report outlined the procedure for new bids. The Corporate Director (s151) reported that as part of the review of the Council's financial position the level of reserves were being reviewed. It was considered likely that this process would identify additional capital resources that it was prudent for the Council commit over the 4 year Capital Programme.

A number of new bids had been identified in outline, details of which were shown at annex B to the report, which also outlined a proposed timetable for the consideration of revisions and new bids.

The Council's improved financial position on interest receipts provided an opportunity to bring forward schemes from the reserve Capital Programme. It was suggested that in taking on further works consideration would need to be given to the capacity to deliver.

It was likely that some additional capital funding would be available to be committed as part of the review of the Council's financial position and its reserves. A proper auditable process would need to be used which linked to the Council's priorities. The timetable and processes including the new deliverability score should meet this requirement.

In considering the cost of the repairs to the former Town Hall roof, the Property Services Manager reported that a rolling programme of condition surveys for Council owned buildings was in place. Councillor Knaggs requested that a report be prepared for submission to a future meeting of the Working Party outlining the extent of the programme together with findings; spend to date and any future anticipated/likely capital requirements. The Corporate Director (s151) reported that the estimated cost of £145,000 represented the worse case scenario. The Property Services Manager reported that grant aid was available towards the work, however this was only available during the current financial year.

Councillor Keal referred to the Community Investment Fund, which had been oversubscribed and requested that consideration be given to providing additional resources to enable continuation of the initiative. Councillor Knaggs reminded the Working Party that he had previously expressed the view that a new Community Investment Fund with a new

remit should be considered. The new Fund being designed to specifically target where housing and environmental matters came together. The Corporate Director (s151) reminded Members that options, including the level of the Council's reserves, were to be brought before Members for consideration. The Chief Executive reported that affordable housing and A64 improvements were Council priorities, the grants system and allocation of funding was to be examined. There were no finite costs relating to the A64 improvements and these could be between £5m and £12m.

In response to questions from Members regarding usage figures for the Rosedale Toilets, the Property Services Manager reported that figures were not available. However, it was understood from the Parish Council and the Church that the facility was extensively used during the summer months.

Members welcomed the proposed refurbishment works to the civic suite and the potential introduction of a wireless sound system. The fixtures and fittings were some 30 years old and were tired and shabby. It was suggested that the furnishings would not meet current fire safety standards. The rooms were also used for registrar's ceremonies and concerns had been expressed regarding the poor condition of the facilities. Councillor Cowling expressed the view that staff facilities/accommodation should also be considered a priority for improvement.

Resolved

- (a) That the current position with regard to the Capital Programme be noted
- (b) That the Policy & Resources Committee be recommended to:
 - (i) Agree the inclusion of the following schemes in the Capital Programme:
 - Milton Rooms Lighting Gantry - £8000
 - Roof Repairs at the former Town Hall, Malton - £145,000
 - Rosedale Public Conveniences - £85,000
 - (ii) Note the current draft bids and process for considering additions to the Capital Programme later this year
 - (iii) Authorise the refurbishment works to the Civic Suite