

Policy and Resources Committee

Held at Council Chamber, Ryedale House, Malton
on Thursday 24 November 2016

Present

Councillors Joy Andrews, Paul Andrews, Steve Arnold (Vice-Chairman), Bailey, Clark, Cowling (Chairman), Ives, Oxley and Raper

By invitation of the Chairman: Councillor Jowitt

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Observers: Councillors Keal, Potter and Wainwright

In Attendance

Jos Holmes, Peter Johnson, Marcus Lee, Nicki Lishman, Kim Robertshaw, Clare Slater and Janet Waggott

Minutes

28 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor V Arnold.

29 Minutes

Decision
That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 22 September 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
Voting record Unanimous

30 Recommendations from the Resources Working Party held on 10 November 2016

Decision
That the recommendations of the Resources Working Party held on 10 November 2016 be agreed and the other business be noted.

31 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

32 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Raper declared a personal non pecuniary but not prejudicial interest in Item 11 as a member of the Vale of Pickering Internal Drainage Board and Councillor Ives declared a personal non pecuniary but not prejudicial interest in Item 11 as he has a business interest in a company that has a relationship with Yorkshire Water.

PART 'A' ITEMS - MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS OR MATTERS DETERMINED BY COMMITTEE

33 Revenue Budget Monitoring

Considered - Report of the Finance Manager (s151)

Decision

That the contents of the report be noted.

Voting record

For 6

Against 2

Abstentions 1

Councillors J Andrews and Clark requested that their votes against the recommendation be recorded.

34 Update on the Homelessness Strategy 2015-2020

Considered - Report of the Head of Planning and Housing

Decision

That the update on the 2015/2020 Homelessness Strategy Action Plan be noted.

Voting record

Unanimous

35 Delivering the Council Plan

Considered - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Decision

1. That the progress made in delivering the Council Plan be noted.

2. That members consider the performance information they would like to receive in future

Voting record

For 6

Against 2

Abstentions 1

Councillors J Andrews and Clark requested that their vote against the recommendation be recorded.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised members that any suggestions for performance information were to be welcomed.

PART 'B' ITEMS - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

36 Localisation of Council Tax Support Scheme

Considered - Report of the Finance Manager (s151)

Recommendation to Council

That Council be recommended to approve;

(i) a Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18 to include a minimum payment of 8.5%, and with the changes proposed to align the new Council Tax Support scheme with changes to Housing Benefit and Universal Credit regulations as follows:

(a) To reduce the length of time someone can be temporarily absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax Support from 13 to 4 weeks (some exceptions will apply)

(b) To change the treatment of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) cases affecting new claims made after 1 April 2017

(c) To limit the number of dependent children within the calculation for Council Tax Support to a maximum of two where the third child is born after 1 April 2017 (some exceptions will apply)

(d) To remove entitlement to the Severe Disability Premium where another person is paid Universal Credit (Carers Element) to look after them

(e) To use a set income for self employed earners after one years self employment

(ii) To authorise the Finance Manager in consultation with the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee to undertake the necessary consultation work to design a scheme for 2018/19, in light of the experience in previous years, to be presented to Policy and Resources Committee in December 2017.

Voting record

For 8

Abstentions 1

37 Scrutiny Review - The role of the Council in Flood Management

Considered - Report of the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The consensus of the Scrutiny Committee is that permanent pumps as proposed in the motion on notice to Council is not the best solution for flood prevention.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Cowling and seconded by Councillor Ives;

1. That RDC commits £12,000 funding (up to a maximum of 20%) to resource a project manager to progress delivery of the Malton, Norton and Old Malton Flood Study project and drive partnership working, and seeks match funding from the partners of the Malton and Norton Project Group
2. RDC commits £2.5k (20%) funding towards a CCTV monitoring survey to understand the drainage system in Old Malton.
3. That Natural Flood Management (NFM) considerations should be integral to all local flood management solutions and that RDC continues to facilitate links across the various partners and interested stakeholders endorsing a whole catchment approach

4. That RDC allocates a sum of £50,000 to a grant fund to support local flood solutions which will be allocated through Resources Working Party (similar to the arrangements for the allocation of Community Grants) where the criteria for allocation will also be agreed. Town and Parish Councils would be eligible to apply (including Malton and Brawby), as should any fully constituted community group, with any grant conditional on the preparation of a Community Resilience Plan to ensure sustainability and linkage to NYCC and other flood risk management partner organisations. Any contribution RDC makes towards a local solution involving equipment is on the basis that:
 - a) The community group or parish council engage with NYCC to set up a community resilience group (CRG) with a Community Resilience Plan (CRP)
 - b) The CRG undertake training and take responsibility for deploying and insuring the pump with sign off from NYCC`
 - c) That the Resources Working Party make recommendations to the Policy & Resources Committee on the grant applications for this fund, and that the criteria be similar to that used for the Community Grant applications ie;
 - i. Grant must not exceed £5000.00 or 25% of the total cost - whichever is the lowest
 - ii. Grants up to £1000 may be 100% of the total cost.
 - iii. In certain circumstances the above criteria may be waived if it is felt that an application will be of exceptional benefit to a community.
5. That the above spending be funded from the New Homes Bonus Reserve
6. That council may consider that funding be allocated from the New Homes Bonus towards the funding gap of £1.8m of the approved GiA scheme for the alleviation of flooding in Malton, Norton and Old Malton. That any contribution should be to a maximum of 20% of the funding gap.

Upon being out to the vote the amendment was carried.

Recommendation to Council

That Council be recommended to approve;

1. That RDC commits £12,000 funding (up to a maximum of 20%) to resource a project manager to progress delivery of the Malton, Norton and Old Malton Flood Study project and drive partnership working, and seeks match funding from the partners of the Malton and Norton Project Group
2. RDC commits £2.5k (20%) funding towards a CCTV monitoring survey to understand the drainage system in Old Malton.
3. That Natural Flood Management (NFM) considerations should be integral to all local flood management solutions and that RDC continues to facilitate links across the various partners and interested stakeholders endorsing a whole catchment approach
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Voting record

For 5

Against 3

Councillor P Andrews requested that his vote against the recommendation be recorded.

Members requested that a note be made that North Yorkshire National Park Authority had been successful in their recent bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

38 Timetable of meetings

Considered - Report of the Council Solicitor

Recommendation to Council

That Council be recommended to approve the timetable of meetings for 2017-2018, attached as Annex A of the report.

Voting record

Unanimous

39 Any other business that the Chairman decides is urgent.

There being no items of urgent business the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.