



POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Thursday 23 March 2017 at 6.30 pm

Council Chamber, Ryedale House, Malton

Agenda

1 Emergency Evacuation Procedure

The Chairman to inform Members of the Public of the emergency evacuation procedure.

2 Apologies for absence

3 Minutes

(Pages 3 - 6)

4 Recommendations from the Resources Working Party held on 16 March 2017
(To Follow)

5 Urgent Business

To receive notice of any urgent business which the Chairman considers 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.

6 Declarations of Interest

Members to indicate whether they will be declaring any interests under the Code of Conduct.

Members making a declaration of interest at a meeting of a Committee or Council are required to disclose the existence and nature of that interest. This requirement is not discharged by merely declaring a personal interest without further explanation.

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

- 8 Energy Efficiency Repayment Loan** (Pages 15 - 18)

9 Changes to Disabled Facilities Grant Policy (Pages 19 - 30)

- 11 Corporate Peer Challenge Improvement Plan** (Pages 51 - 56)

- 13 Proposed Waste Transfer Station for Ryedale** (To Follow)

- 14 Any other business that the Chairman decides is urgent.

Policy and Resources Committee

Held at Council Chamber, Ryedale House, Malton
on Thursday 2 February 2017

Present

Councillors Joy Andrews, Paul Andrews, Steve Arnold (Vice-Chairman), Val Arnold, Clark, Cowling (Chairman), Goodrick (Substitute), Ives, Oxley.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Observers: Councillors Acomb, Cussons and Wainwright

In Attendance

Councillor Di Keal, Will Baines, Jos Holmes, Gary Housden, Peter Johnson, Clare Slater and Janet Waggott

Minutes

40 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bailey.

41 Minutes

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 24 November 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Voting Record

8 For
0 Against
0 Abstentions

42 Recommendations from the Resources Working Party held on 19 January 2017

Decision

That the recommendations of the meeting of the Resources Working Party held on 19 January 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Voting Record

5 For
1 Against
2 Abstentions

43 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

44 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ives declared a personal, non-pecuniary but not prejudicial interest in Item 10 (Policy for allocation of S106 monies) as he had been lobbied on the use of Section 106 funds.

Councillor Ives declared a personal, non-pecuniary but not prejudicial interest in Item 7 (Ryedale Development Fund) as he had been lobbied on a previous application to the fund that was rejected by Council and led to the surplus of funds under consideration.

Councillor Andrews declared a personal, non-pecuniary but not prejudicial interest in Item 10 (Policy for allocation of S106 monies) as a member of Malton Town Council.

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

45 Ryedale Development Fund - Progress and Next Steps

Considered – Report of the External Partnerships Lead.

Decision

That:

(i) £35,334 from the 'Ryedale Employment Initiative' strand be re-allocated to delivery of the REAP objective 3 - Inspired People to support '3(a) School Based Activities and '3(b) Business Employability Charter'.

(ii) £25,000 from the 'Major Projects' strand be reallocated to REAP objective '4(b)i towards project development/feasibility work to enhance rail parking and measures to reduce congestion at the rail crossing, Norton.

(iii) Dalby Forest: Forest Artworks project be included as a major project in the Ryedale Economic Action Plan, under 'Successful and Distinctive Places'. Any financial contribution from the Council will be the subject of a future report to P&R including detail of the Forestry Commission Investment Plan, the impact of the project, with the level of funding required and the total project cost.

Voting Record

Unanimous

46 Delivering the Council Plan

Considered – Report of the Deputy Chief Executive.

Decision

That the report be noted.

PART 'B' ITEMS - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

47 Financial Strategy 2017/18

Considered – Report of the Resources and Enabling Services Lead (s151).

Recommendation to Council

That Council is recommended:

- (i) To approve the Council's Financial Strategy (Annex A) which includes:
 - a. Savings/additional income totalling £1.081m (Financial Strategy Appendix A)
 - b. Growth Pressures totalling £328K (Financial Strategy Appendix A)
 - c. The Prudential Indicators (Financial Strategy Appendix B)
 - d. The revised capital programme (Financial Strategy Appendix D)
 - e. The Pay Policy 2017/18 (Financial Strategy Appendix E)
- (ii) a Revenue Budget for 2017/18 of £6,156,794 which represents a £4.34 increase in the Ryedale District Council Tax, increasing the total charge to £186.05 for a Band D property (note that total Council Tax, including the County Council, Fire and Police is covered within the separate Council Tax setting report to Full Council);
- (iii) to approve the special expenses amounting to £49,620, equivalent to £0.66 increase at band D;
- (iv) to note the financial projection for 2017/18 - 2021/22 (Annex B);
- (v) to approve the reserve movements as highlighted in paragraphs 6.38 to 6.40 of this report.

Voting record

6 For

3 Abstentions

48 Policy for allocation of S106 Monies

Considered – Report of the Head of Planning.

Recommendation to Council

That applications be invited from community groups for funding from s106 monies collected for enhancement of or improvements to existing POS or for Sports and Recreation which will be allocated through the Resources Working Party. Recommendations will be made by the Resources Working Party to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval. Local parish and town councils along with ward members to be included in the assessment process of the applications received.

Voting Record

8 For

1 Abstention

49 **Any other business that the Chairman decides is urgent.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:20pm.

Council Plan



















Generated on: 13 March 2017




1. Employment Opportunity & Economic Success												
	EC 10	EC 12a	EC 12b	EC 12c	EC 12d	EC 13a	EC 13b	EC 40				
2. Housing Need												
	BS RB 2	BS RB 3	FP 7	FP 8	HS 1	HS 2	HS 5	HS 8	HS 11b	HS 14	HS 10b	HS 17
3. High Quality Environment												
	DM 157a	HE 13	SS 15	SS 16	SS 17	DM 157b	DM 157c	SS 192	DM 2	SS 35	SS 36	
4. Active Safe Communities												
	HE 10	EC 77										
5. Transforming the Council												
	BS AS 1 RDC	BS AS 3	BS BI 02	BS RB 12	BS RB 11	HR A 01 R	BS MD 1					




Status Icon Key

On track	Warning	Alert	Data only indicator	Long term trend arrow
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1. Employment Opportunity & Economic Success













		EC 10	Total Job Seeker Allowance and Universal Credit Out of Work Claimants Aged 16 - 64			
Current Value		1.4%	January 2017	Previous Result	1.1% Nov 2016	
Yorkshire & Humber 2.2%, Great Britain 1.9%						
		EC 12a	% Ryedale population aged 16-64 qualified - NVQ1 or equivalent			
Current Value		83.5%	2015/16	Previous Result	83.1%	
Ryedale had 25,100 residents between January-December 2015 aged 16-64 studying at NVQ1 level and above. Young people achieve level 1 and 2 NVQ's in order to improve their career prospects. The council has targeted resources through various apprenticeships. This level is a stepping stone to future learning opportunities.						
		EC 12b	% Ryedale population aged 16-64 qualified - NVQ2 or equivalent			
Current Value		70.5%	2015/16	Previous Result	67.5% 2014/15	
Ryedale had 21,200 residents between January-December 2015 aged 16-64 studying at NVQ2 level and above. Young people achieve level 1 and 2 NVQ's in order to improve their career prospects. The council has targeted resources through various apprenticeships. This level is a stepping stone to future learning opportunities.						
		EC 12c	% Ryedale population aged 16-64 qualified - NVQ3 or equivalent			
Current Value		43.1%	2015/16	Previous Result	54.4% 2014/15	
The percentage of Ryedale residents aged 16-64 reaching NVQ3 and above dropped from 15,900 attaining the qualification to 13,600 from January-December 2015.						
		EC 12d	% Ryedale population aged 16-64 qualified - NVQ4 or equivalent			
Current Value		29%	2015/16	Previous Result	41% 2014/15	
The number of the Ryedale residents qualified to NVQ4 or equivalent has dropped from 12,000 to 8,700						
		EC 13a	Gross weekly earnings by workplace			
Current Value		£460.10	2016/17	Previous Result	£410.40	
Ryedale has the lowest median gross weekly wage in the LEP area. Although unemployment is low, low wages cause many people to have more than one job and also cause housing affordability issues. Priorities to increase wage levels for local people are in the Ryedale Economic Action Plan.						

		EC 13b	Gross weekly earnings by residency			
Current Value	£443.10	2016/17	Previous Result	£411.80 2015/16		
Earnings by Workplace 2015 annual data (pounds) Ryedale £411.80, Craven £450.20, Scarborough £467.90, Hambleton £479.50, York £496.00, Harrogate £518.00, Richmond £518.50, Selby £526.50. Yorkshire and Humber region average £480.50, Great Britain £529.60						
Ryedale has the lowest median gross weekly wage in the LEP area. Although unemployment is low, low wages cause many people to have more than one job and also cause housing affordability issues. Priorities to increase wage levels for local people are in the Ryedale Economic Action Plan.						




		EC 40	Employment Rate - aged 16-64			
Current Value	81.5%	2015/16	Previous Result	84.5% 2014/15		
2015/16: Yorkshire and Humber 72.2% Great Britain 73.7%						
Although generally buoyant, the high technology manufacturing sector specialising in sub sea technologies has been declining due to global oil price depressing oil exploration activity. RDC is continuing to support the high technology manufacturing sector through training and infrastructure support. Seasonality is also an issue addressed in the Visitor Economy activity delivered by RDC.						

2 Housing Need




age




		BS RB 2	Speed of processing - new HB/LCTS claims			
Current Value		24.9 days	February 2017	Current Target	25.0 days	
The delay in processing new claims for Housing Benefit has reduced but for Local Council Tax Support has increased as there are still delays with Universal Credit up to six weeks for new claims which is administered by the Department for Work and Pensions but we use as income in the assessment of Local Council Tax Support. Performance is improving following the challenges of the implementation of Universal Credit Full Service.						
		BS RB 3	Speed of processing - changes of circumstances for HB/LCTS claims			
Current Value		3.9 days	February 2017	Current Target	12.0 days	
The performance for changes of circumstance for both Housing Benefit and Local Council Tax Support remains strong despite the delays with Universal Credit and impact of implementation.						
		FP 7	Net additional homes provided			
Current Value		245	2015/16	Current Target	200	
The target of 200 is the LDF plan requirement. 261 net additional homes were provided in 2014/15						
		FP 8	Supply of deliverable housing sites			
Current Value		116.0%	2015/16	Current Target	100.0%	See Annual Monitoring Statement and Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments. Target five year housing supply= 100%

The new five year deliverable supply figure at 31/3/16 is 1158 plots which equates to 5.8 years of deliverable supply (based on the Plan requirement of 200) or 116%					
✓	▬	HS 1	Homeless applications on which RDC makes decision and issues notification to the applicant within 33 working days (was LPI 70)		
Current Value	100.0%	Q3 2016/17	Current Target	100.0%	Target is to decide on all applications within 33 days
4 decisions made within period and notified within 33 days of application					
✓	↑	HS 2	Length of stay in temporary accommodation (B&B, weeks) Snapshot		
Current Value	0.43 weeks	Q3 2016/17	Current Target	4.00 weeks	Target: National maximum allowable is 6 weeks. Local target of 4 weeks
2 occasions only where a total of 3 days were spent in B & B (1 day + 2 days)					
✓	↑	HS 5	Number of Homeless Applications		
Current Value	5	Q3 2016/17	Current Target	13	Total number of applications for 2014/15 = 30
5 Applications were received in the is period (01/10/16 - 31/12/2016)					
✓	↑	HS 8	Prevention of Homelessness through Advice and Proactive Intervention (values and targets are per quarter, not accumulative)		
Current Value	44	Q3 2016/17	Current Target	39	Target is to achieve 10% improvement in numbers of preventions year on year
Between 01/10/16 and 31/12/2016 there were 44 Homelessness Preventions through Advice and Proactive Intervention through the Local Authority					
✓	↑	HS 11b	Properties empty for six months or more		
Current Value	226	2016/17	Current Target	233	
This figure is included on the government return CTB1 which informs the New Homes Bonus Allocation. The figure is calculated in October and is the total of empty properties which have been empty for six months or more					
⚠	↓	HS 14	Affordability Ratio		
Current Value	8.5	2015/16	Current Target	8.39	Target is to improve on previous years performance
Affordability ratios in 2015 were calculated using earnings data from April 2015 and house price data for the period September 2014-September 2015.					
⛔	↓	HS 10b	% Households in Ryedale in Fuel Poverty (Low Income High Cost)		
Current Value	15.9%	2014/15	Current Target	10.6%	Target is to improve on previous years performance
In 2014 (using the low income / high costs methodology) it suggests that Ryedale has 22,827 homes of which 3,636 are considered fuel poor. This is 15.9% of all homes in the area. And although there are less homes in fuel poverty compared to larger areas, Ryedale has the highest proportion of fuel poor households in the Yorkshire and Humber region.					
The Government have yet to release the 2015 and 2016 figures.					



		HS 17	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)			
Current Value		27	2016/17	Current Target	75	35% of market housing target would result in 70 affordable homes arising from 200 net additional homes.
For the period of Q3 2016-2017 10 affordable homes were delivered						

3. High Quality Environment

		DM 157a	Processing of planning applications: Major applications (13 weeks)			
Current Value		86.20%	February 2017	Current Target	70.00%	Targets originally set under Planning Delivery Grant regime
At the end of February 2017 performance stood at 86.2% being dealt with within agreed target times exceeding the target of 70% (25 out of 29 applications).						



















		HE 13	% of Food establishments in the area broadly compliant with food hygiene law			
Current Value	86%	2015/16	Current Target	72%	Target is to improve on previous year. Assessments of premises undertaken using risk based scoring and national guidance. 17% of premises are low risk and not accessed and by default not compliant under the national definition for this indicator.	




The "broadly compliant" performance Indicator is defined as the percentage of food establishments within the local authority area that are broadly compliant with food law. The assessment is based on a scoring system that is defined in the national Code of Practice. When officers inspect a food business they rate the business with respect to several aspects. Three of those aspects namely the standard of hygiene, the structural standard and the confidence in management are awarded numerical values and if any one of them falls below a prescribed level then the establishment is judged to be non broadly compliant.

		SS 15	% of Household Waste Recycled			
Current Value		21.73%	2015/16	Current Target	20.00%	Target set following analysis of previous performance levels
Performance continues to improve. The priority is to maintain this level of performance.						







		SS 16	% of Household Waste Composted			
Current Value	24.07%	2015/16	Current Target	23.00%	Target set following analysis of previous performance levels	

The target has been reduced from 30% to 23%. This is to reflect the reduction in tonnages post garden waste subscription, which is circa 35-40% per annum. Although overall tonnage PA has reduced, it is clear to see from sales and tonnage data that participation per household has increased by 36%. Taking the average kg's per household from 297 kg's up to 462 kg's. So whilst tonnage has reduced and impacts on overall recycling performance, residents using the service are 'super users' justifying the kerbside collection. In addition to this rates of contamination have reduced to almost zero.










		SS 17	Household Waste Collection - % change in kilograms per head			
Current Value		-3.45%	2015/16	Current Target	0.25%	Target is to improve on previous years change
Year on year the amount of household waste collected has significantly reduced, giving a net change of -3.39% in 15/16.						
2015-16 408.78 kg/per head, 2014-15 423.41 kg per head.						
		DM 157b	Processing of planning applications: Minor applications (8 weeks)			
Current Value		72.40%	February 2017	Current Target	80.00%	Targets originally set under Planning Delivery Grant regime
Performance has improved over 2015/16 end of year performance with 72.4% of applications dealt with in time.						
		DM 157c	Processing of planning applications: Other applications (8 weeks)			
Current Value		89.20%	February 2017	Current Target	90.00%	Targets originally set under Planning Delivery Grant regime
Performance at 89.2% at the end of February 2017 is marginally below the 90% target level. This however is an increase over the 2015/16 end of year figure.						
		SS 192	% of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting			
Current Value		45.80%	2015/16	Current Target	49.70%	National target to achieve 50% by 2020
<p>2016 is the first full year of data that reflects the full impact of charging for garden waste. Results are positive, achieving 46% subscription rate against a target of 35%. The overall recycling rate has reduced by 8% against a forecast reduction of 15%.</p> <p>2016 45.8% (first full year charging for garden waste)</p> <p>14/15 48% (Part year charging for garden waste collection)</p> <p>13/14 53% (no charge for garden waste collection)</p> <p>A new target will be issued upon a review of current performance.</p>						
		DM 2	Planning appeals allowed			
Current Value		40.0%	Q3 2016/17	Current Target	33.0%	Target based on national averages and benchmarking
At the end of Quarter Three 15 decisions had been received which included six allowed . It is of note that two of these were on adjacent sites relating to appeals by Gladmans at Langton Rd Norton . Whilst the 33% allowed appeals target is being exceeded it is also of note that this target can be extremely volatile because of the low numbers of appeals lodged. The running total to date stands at seven appeals allowed out of a total of 18 (38.8%).						
		SS 35	% CO2 reduction from LA operations.			
Current Value		18.5%	2015/16	Current Target	-12.5%	Target set for three years, based on national guidance. To be reviewed following analysis of performance to date
A recent audit has identified issues in the calculation of performance data and targets. This matter is being investigated and a revised target will be set. The issue identified is in the analysis of data and NOT performance. However both need assessing to determine a fair and reasonable level of performance.						













		SS 36	Tonnes of CO2 from LA operations			
Current Value	1,680	2015/16	Current Target	1,418	Target set for three years, based on national guidance. To be reviewed following analysis of performance to date	
The large increase in CO2 emissions in 2015-16 is due to the energy consumption of the pools not being included for part of 2014-15. The pools are still owned by the Council and therefore should be included in the calculation of this performance indicator. As such future targets will be revised based on 16/17 performance.						

4. Active Safe Communities

		EC 77	Total Crime in Ryedale			
Current Value	1,143	2016/17 to date	Previous result	1659 2015/16		
The level of crime recorded in 2014/15 was unsustainably low and the performance for subsequent years will be higher than this. In 2013/14 2273 crimes were recorded.						
		HE 10	Adult participation in sport and active recreation. Sport England Active People Survey-Annual			
Current Value	35.5%	2015/16	Current Target	32.7%	Target is to improve on previous years performance	
The percentage of Ryedale residents exercising with moderate intensity for 30 minutes at least once a week has increased for 2015/16 to 35.5%. This is above the Yorkshire (35.0%) but below the percentage for England (36.1%)						

Transforming the Council

13			BS AS 1 RDC	Service enquiries resolved at first point of contact (telephone)			
Current Value		68%	December 2016	Current Target	50%	Target is for year on year improvement	
Following changes of staffing within the team at front of house, performance has improved, and call volumes managed at peak times, such as council tax billing and garden waste licence renewals, with support of other hub teams.							
			BS AS 3	Payments made using electronic channels			
Current Value		97%	January 2017	Current Target	85%	Target is set to maintain performance	
Electronic channels include web, telephone and Direct Debit.							
			BS BI 02	% FOI Requests responded to within 20 working days			
Current Value		99%	January 2017	Current Target	95%		
94 out of 95 requests were responded to within 20 days.							

		BS RB 12	% of Non-domestic Rates Collected			
Current Value		94.29%	January 2017	Current Target	94.13%	Target is set to maintain performance
Decrease in collection compared to previous year attributable to various factors. Primarily increase in uptake of 12 monthly instalment plans and Rateable Value changes.						
		BS RB 11	% of Council Tax collected			
Current Value		95.27%	January 2017	Current Target	95.49%	Target is set to maintain performance
In-Year collection drop attributable to uptake of 12 monthly payers increasing. The effect of this is that collection is lower between April & January compared to the previous year, but catches back up in February & March.						
		BS MD 1	Standard searches completed in 5 working days			
Current Value		60.8%	February 2017	Current Target	90.0%	Target is set to maintain performance
NYCC late responses they are sending the responses late in the day so they meet there deadlines but too late for us to deal with and dispatch search						
		HR A 01 R	Average number of Working Days Lost Due to Sickness Absence per FTE, RYEDALE			
Current Value		0.86 days	January 2017	Current Target	0.63 days	Average absence last year for the public sector was 8.7 days and in the private sector 6.9. the target has therefore been revised to 7.2 days for RDC to reflect our ambition to be more commercial in how we deliver our business.
Performance has improved significantly since November 2015, but has dipped in January 2017. The total number of days lost to sickness absence in 2015/16 was 2450 days. The number of days lost pin April 2015 was 236 compared with 140 days in April 2016, for both long term and short term absence. The % of working days lost to sickness absence in 2015/16 was 4%, an improvement of 2% on 2014/15.						



PART A:	MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES
DATE:	23 MARCH 2017
REPORT OF THE:	FRONT LINE SERVICE DELIVERY LEAD BECKIE BENNETT
TITLE OF REPORT:	ENERGY REPAYMENT LOAN
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on a new regional loan product - Energy Repayment Loan (ERL) - and to seek approval to adopt this to be administered on behalf of the Council by Sheffield City Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee agree:
- (i) to introduce the new Energy Repayment Loan (ERL) scheme to enable the community to benefit from the Ryedale allocation of £23,000.
 - (ii) that pursuant to the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 this Council's powers under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 in respect of ERLs be delegated to Sheffield City Council to administer the ERL scheme on behalf of the Council.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The introduction of the new indicator for Fuel Poverty has indicated that although fuel poverty levels in the District are generally below the national and regional average, there is still an issue with Fuel Poverty across the entire District.
- 3.2 The ERL presents an opportunity for Ryedale to adopt the new loan, benefit from an allocation of £23,000 from the Regional pot and to delegate the administration to Sheffield City Council.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 The risk of not introducing the ERL scheme is that an allocation of £23,000 would not be available to assist the community to receive valuable energy efficiency measures and who would otherwise not be eligible for grant funding.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Contributes to the Council's Corporate plan, meeting housing needs in the district and forms part of the Council's Housing Strategy to tackle fuel poverty.
- 5.2 Officers from Ryedale have been part of the collaborative working group developing the loan. The new loan has been presented to the Regional Private Sector group which is formed from a partnership of 21 councils. All are seeking to adopt the new loan in order to assist the community.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Energy Repayment Loan (ERL) has been developed by the Regional Homes and Loans Service aimed at alleviating fuel poverty within the district and seeks to expand the remit of the original Regional Home Appreciation Loan (HAL) Scheme. This was first set up through the then Regional Housing Board as a regional fund with Sheffield City Council as the fund holder and regional loan administrator, for all 21 local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber. The purpose of these loans was to provide an affordable way for financially vulnerable home owners living in non decent properties to repair and improve them without resorting to grant assistance.
- 6.2 The intention was, and still is, to enable this fund to be recycled as loans are redeemed. Although no new funding has been received from government since 2010, the value of loans redeemed over the years has built up to enable further small loans to be advanced across the region. Ryedale have been allocated £23,000 if we adopt the new loan.
- 6.3 It is proposed to recycle funds from redeemed HALs to help tackle excess cold and fuel poverty across the Yorkshire and Humber region. Excess cold is one of the most common reasons for failure of the Decency Standard, and which contributes most significantly to ill health and costly fuel bills, particularly for the most vulnerable.
- 6.4 Development, direction and monitoring of loans and performance is done through and in consultation with the Regional Loans Board, comprising local authority representatives across the region. The Regional Loans Board, with whom we have worked closely in the development of this proposed scheme, supports the introduction of an affordable Energy Repayment Loan (ERL) available across the region to complement and supplement other energy efficiency measures available through other routes.

7.0 REPORT

7.1 ENERGY REPAYMENT LOANS

- 7.1.1 The ERL is designed to be a loan of last resort, where other forms of finance are not viable. It is specifically designed to help address excess cold and fuel poverty. In order for the Council to carry out this function, it will need to delegate power to Sheffield City Council to award the grant using the principle established for Home Appreciation Loans in the past.
- 7.3 An Energy Repayment Loan is an interest free monthly repayment loan between £300 and £3000 for a term of 1 to 5 years.
- 7.4 Where Sheffield City Council is not satisfied that an applicant will be able to make the repayments required under an ERL then alternatives will be looked at.
- 7.5 Loans from the Regional monies will be secured as a Legal Charge in Sheffield City Council's name and administered by the Homes and Loans Service on behalf of the local authorities in the region.

7.6 Loan Repayment

- 7.6.1 Each loan is based on regular affordable monthly repayments managed by the Homes and Loans service. Repayments will normally be by means of a Direct Debit and annual statements of account are sent to applicants.

7.7 Set Up Charges

- 7.7.1 The loan will be interest free, therefore ensuring maximum affordability. However, there are set up charges of £50 per case which will be charged to partially cover the loan administration set up costs plus applicants will be required to meet the costs of registering a legal charge.

7.8 Default on Loan

- 7.8.1 Information from other similar loan providers would indicate the likelihood of default is very low. However, in the event of a default on loan repayments, the circumstances of each case will be dealt with individually as to the remedial action required. It will be for the Regional Homes and Loans Manager to determine such action having regard to the financial circumstances of the client and their repayment history to date.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The following implications have been identified:

a) Financial

There is no financial implication on the current budget however introducing the ERL will secure Ryedale an allocation of £23,000 to help homeowners in Ryedale install energy efficiency measures to make their homes feel warmer and reduce their fuel bills.

b) Legal

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Order 2012 and all other enabling powers, the discharge of the loan function relating to the Energy Repayment Loans scheme may be delegated to another local authority.

c) Staffing

There are no staffing implications as the YES Energy Solutions and the Senior Specialist (People) and the Community Team will support the scheme.

9.0 NEXT STEPS

- 9.1 Subject to approval, a memorandum of understanding will be signed between Ryedale and Sheffield City Council in order for the scheme to progress.

Beckie Bennett, Front Line Service Delivery Lead

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Background Papers: None

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PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES
DATE:	23 MARCH 2017
REPORT OF THE:	FRONT LINE SERVICE DELIVERY LEAD BECKIE BENNETT
TITLE OF REPORT:	CHANGES TO DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT POLICY
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of changes to the Better Care Funding allocation and to seek approval for the consequential changes to the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Policy and increase in the fees applied for capital works.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council agrees the following changes to the DFG Policy:
- a) The removal of means test contributions from clients for all applications where the value of works is less than £5000
 - b) The use of private occupational health therapists where NYCC in their role as social service authority are unable to respond to requests for assistance and undertake assessments within a reasonable period.
- 2.2 That Council also agrees to an increase of fees levied for capital works undertaken by the White Rose Home Improvement Agency (WRHIA) from 12.5% to 15%

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Government has made a national commitment to increase levels of capital funding to help Local Authorities (LAs) enable disabled and elderly and vulnerable people to live independently. At the national level £394M has been allocated for this purpose as compared to £220M in the previous year. As part of that commitment LAs are being given additional flexibilities as to how that money can be spent, with an expectation that funds shall be used strategically to meet local health, social care and housing priorities.
- 3.2 Scarborough Borough Council (SBC) have already made changes to their policy and are managing two different policies at present. Therefore it is practical to streamline RDCs policy to incorporate the recommended changes.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 There are no significant risks associated with this report.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Government have released the extra funding in tandem with the publication of the Local Government Ombudsman's (LGO) Report, *Making a House a Home: Local Authorities and Disabled Adaptations 2016*. That report sets out a range of national issues associated with the poor delivery of DFGs by many Councils' such as long waiting times for assistance.
- 5.2 In response to the LGO report and the additional funds awarded a number of changes to the Councils DFG policy are proposed. These include the removal of a means test for applicants under certain circumstances. These ideas in partnership with the Scarborough and Ryedale CCG, Local Occupational Health Managers and Foundations (who have been appointed by Government to help support good practice in relation to DFG provision nationally). In addition in amending this policy officers have also had regard to *Home Adaptations for Disabled People: A detailed guide to related legislation, guidance and good practice: DCLG/Home Adaptations Consortium: 2013*
- 5.3 To ensure that the WRHIA has sufficient resources to undertake this work without requiring growth in the Council's budgets, it is also recommended that the current fee levied against the cost of managing DFG works is increased from 12.5% to 15% to ensure all costs are satisfactorily covered.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 On 25 February 16 the Department of Health wrote to all Directors of Social Services to confirm levels of funding to be allocated to Local Housing Authorities within their overall Better Care Fund for the financial year 2016/17.
- 6.2 RDCs allocation from this fund for 2016/17 was £452,569. This is an increase of £208,000 compared to the allocation for 2015/16. We are still waiting for the allocation for 2017/18. SBC received an allocation of £1,145,100 in 2016/17 compared to £685,399 in 2015/16.
- 6.3 Overall these increases represent an approximate £667,000 increase in the value of capital works undertaken by the WRHIA in 2016/17. Existing levels of staffing within WRHIA are not sufficient to meet this additional workload. Additional Technical Support is needed and it is proposed that these costs will be met via fee income levied at a rate of 15% against the cost of capital works.

7.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 7.1 As a Housing Authority the Council has a statutory duty to provide Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) to eligible households. These grants cover a range of works, most typically level floor showers, lifts and extensions. These grants and adaptations are administered on the Council's behalf by the WRHIA who also provide the same service for SBC as set out in a joint partnership agreement.
- 7.2 Funding is provided from Government towards the cost of DFGs with a further contribution from RDC on an annual basis. These funds are included within the Better Care Fund administered by NYCC on behalf of the Health and Well Being Board. This Better Care Fund is used by health and social care to commission a range of

joint preventative initiatives. Within that fund *minimum amounts* to be allocated by the Health and Well Being Boards to the local Housing Authorities to pay for DFGs are highlighted separately and remain determined by Government.

- 7.3 The Government appears to be very much committed toward the continued provision of DFGs and associated capital works as part of its national prevention strategy to reduce health and social care costs. Nationally the budget to pay for DFGs increased to £394M for 16/17 from £220M the previous year.
- 7.4 At the local level the Council's funding allocation has increased from £208K in 2015/16 to £452,569 for 2016/17. The Government recognises that this additional funding provides flexibilities for LAs to think more strategically in terms of how these funds can be used to meet a range of joint priorities for housing, social care and health providers.
- 7.5 The Council also continues to support the programme through capital resources in order to meet the need. In 2017/18 this was £125K. This contribution has been agreed as part of the Council's financial plan.
- 7.6 The release of this funding to the Council from NYCC (in their role as the administrator of the wider Better Care Fund) had been delayed. NYCC have sought to use the additional funding in the DFG allocations to help offset wider budgetary pressures. Negotiations around the release of these funds have been lengthy and agreement has been reached. For 2016/17 an allocation of £44K from the fund has been allocated to NYCC.
- 7.7 From 2017/18 no additional funding for NYCC has been agreed. However from 1 April 2018, due to budgetary cuts for NYCC they will be decommissioning the funding of the Handypersons services across the County. For Ryedale the cost of this can be covered through the growth in the Better Care Funding allocation, if this remains at the same level and as such will not affect services.
- 7.8 Given levels of demand locally it is not recommended that for 2017/18 that any request from County to use such funds is agreed. Spend to date in 2016/17 is £305K, outstanding approvals of £92K, in addition there are current works in the pipeline not yet approved for Ryedale totalling £257K. Also NYCC have confirmed that there are approximately 50 cases for RDC on the waiting list, with a value of £175K.
- 7.9 A range of changes are proposed to the Council's current DFG policy. These changes are intended to speed up the process by reducing administration relating to means tests and to ensure the services can be provided to as many of those that need them as possible.
- 7.10 **Removal of Means Test**
- 7.10.1 In accordance with the legislative framework, the Council currently requires that all applications for a DFG undergo a test of resources/ means test. Essentially within this test disabled households in receipt of certain benefits are not required to make any financial contribution to the cost of a DFG. However other households who have savings or an income over a certain level are required to make a contribution.
- 7.10.2 The administration of this means test is resource heavy for the WRHIA. It estimated that in terms of hours the administration of this test accounts for around 0.5 of a FTE. More importantly it forms a key and very time consuming part of the application and

given its complexity and the need to obtain various proofs of income which on average take between 2- 3 weeks to process.

- 7.10.3 Income received by the Council generated from contributions from households required to pay towards the cost of works is very low. In 2015/16 £5,769 in contributions was received and for 16/17 this has been £55.00.
- 7.10.4 Given the limited income received from this source when considered against the time taken to administer this as a process it is therefore recommended that this means test is scrapped for all proposed works that have a value of less than £5000. This £5000 limit will capture the vast majority of DFGs provided and will significantly speed up the time taken to process DFG applications for the benefit of customer (by around 2-3 weeks). In addition this will free up capacity within the WRHIA to more effectively deal with the increased volume of work anticipated following the growth in levels of funding being awarded.
- 7.10.5 RDC has the flexibility to introduce this change within its policy and this approach is being promoted as good practice. Annex A provides further details assessing the removal of the means test for information.
- 7.10.6 In addition to the removal of the means test for works of a value of less than £5000 it is also recommended that certain 'emergency' works are fast-tracked through the system without applying a means test.
- 7.10.7 This approach would be taken where it is confirmed by a health or social care professional that the adaptations are required as an emergency, for example where they:
- a) Allow the applicant to be discharged from hospital, or;
 - b) The applicant is terminally ill, or
 - c) The applicant cannot access essential hospital appointments, dialysis or day care without adaptations.
 - d) The current situation is placing the service user and their Carers at considerable risk of injury e.g. from unsafe moving or handling

7.11 The Use of Private Occupational health Therapists

- 7.11.1 RDCs current DFG policy allows for the use of private Occupational Therapists (OTs) under certain circumstances, for example when an alternative or second opinion is required.
- 7.11.2 The amended policy however extends this to include the need to use private OTs in circumstances where NYCC are unable to provide the necessary response as to whether works are 'necessary and appropriate' within required statutory timescales.
- 7.11.3 As highlighted, NYCC social services currently have backlogs of disabled households awaiting social care assessments. This presents a risk in that the Council has a legal duty to determine an application for a DFG within 6 months of receipt. As part of that determination, the Council must consult with NYCC to help determine whether proposed works are necessary and appropriate. Following the recent LGO report it is clear that this leaves the Council vulnerable to censure. The Council cannot allow for DFG applications to be delayed because of NYCCs own processes.
- 7.11.4 To assist with this it is recommended in certain circumstances, e.g. where RDC receives an application for a DFG directly from a client and where NYCC are unable

to provide a response as to whether works are necessary and appropriate within a reasonable timescale, that an opinion is sought from a suitably qualified private OT.

- 7.11.5 It is anticipated that the use of private OTs will be low (less than £5000 pa). The vast majority of referrals for DFGs come after a social care assessment has been made. However additional flexibility is now needed to flip this process where required in order to ensure statutory timescales are met.

7.12 Proposed Fee Increase

- 7.12.1 Given that future levels of funding are likely to be based on both historical spend and levels of local need, it is important that the benefits of this additional funding are maximised and that funds are spent. Sufficient staffing capacity is required within the WRHIA to administer the additional work and RDC needs to ensure that this increased workload does not impact on the budget.

- 7.12.2 Currently RDC levies a 12.5% fee against the cost of all capital works undertaken by the WRHIA. In 2015/16 this fee generated around £40K in revenue funding to help cover the cost of administering these works. This is expected to be similar for 2016/17. In future due to the increase in fee this will generate £60K to £70K for 17/18, this is based on current likely DFG adaptations.. The amount payable to SBC will increase from £92K in 16/17 to £105K in 17/18, which is 33% of the cost of running the service as agreed as part of the partnership arrangements. The increase is due to staffing and pension increases.

- 7.12.3 It is recognised however that the current level of fee being levied only partially contributes to the cost to the Council of administering DFGs and that overall the Council subsidises this activity through its budgets.

- 7.12.4 The increased fee income will generate additional monies that can be used to help offset additional costs. A 15% fee reflects actual costs and mirrors the typical level of fee charged against the management of other capital programmes.

- 7.12.5 In real terms this increase will have a minimal impact on clients themselves because of the removal of client contributions in most instances. Ultimately this does mean that whilst the Council seeks to recover its own costs, fewer adaptations may be undertaken, however within the context of the overall grant increase the impact of this is extremely low. In Ryedale we do not have a waiting list for DFGs.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The following implications have been identified:

a) Financial

There are no financial implications on the Councils budget as the recommended fee increase seeks to recover costs incurred.

b) Legal

The proposals as set out in this report have been developed within the context of the:

- Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996

This act lays out the requirements in respect of the provision of DFGs

- Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance (England and Wales) Order 2002.

This order specifies that LAs may provide, directly or indirectly, assistance to any person for various purposes including those of enabling them to adapt or improve or repair living accommodation.

c) Equalities

The provision of both statutory and non-statutory assistance to enable the elderly, the disabled or other vulnerable groups to live independently and to improve their living conditions has a positive impact in terms of equality and diversity issues.

d) Staffing

The additional grant funding being made available to RDC and SBC has staffing implications for the WRHIA, however the recommended increase in administration fees from 12.5% to 15% against works undertaken is proposed to cover this.

e) Planning, Environmental, Health and Safety, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder
No Implications

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Background Papers:

Local Government Ombudsman - *Making a House a Home: Local Authorities and Disabled Adaptations 2016*

https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0ahUKEwj3q4LA8czSAhUElcAKHQmQC0YQFggcMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.lgo.org.uk%2Fassets%2Fattach%2F2815%2FFR%2520-%2520DFG%2520March%25202016.pdf&usg=AFQjCNGk_iibgevBi66rEsZo9uKKBs24AA&cad=rja

Annex A - Assessing the removal of the means test for works costing less than £5000

Background Papers are available for inspection at:

www.ryedale.gov.uk

Annex A

Accessing the removal of the means test for works costing less than £5000

Background

The government is increasing the amount given to Local Authorities significantly in the coming years. In 2016/17 the amount is rising from £220m to £395m reaching £500m in 2019/20. The expectation is that the powers under the RRO will be used to allow authorities to be more flexible in how the money is spent. The DFG monies are now contained within the Better Care Fund (BCF) and it is expected that health priorities will become more important in the way DFG is spent. (Foundations, 2017)

Under the current system all DFGs, apart from those where the disabled person is a child or qualifying young person, are subject to means testing. However, since 2003 local authorities have had the power to apply a much simplified system for provision of adaptations which do not follow all DFG conditions such as waiving means testing for certain types of works or works costing less than a specified amount (e.g. £5,000). The rationale is that the related administrative process of means testing can cost more than the value of a grant for smaller works and result in a significant slowing of the delivery process. This issue is discussed in detail in the DCLG 2011 report, Disabled Facilities Grant allocation methodology and means test. (Good Practice Guide 2013)

Examples where the RRO is already in use include

Somerset- Where DFG money has been top-sliced to focus on non means tested minor adaptations facilitating discharge and keeping people independent in the home.

Croydon- Where a fund has been made available to the HIA allowing them to support anybody coming out of hospital. The cost is fully met by the fund and is not means tested. It can include moving furniture, cleaning the property to ensuring there is adequate heating.

Wigan- The CCG has given additional money to the authority to facilitate non means tested adaptations for people being discharged from hospital or at risk of being readmitted.

Lichfield- The local authority has approved use of a Home Adaptation grant that can be used in place of a DFG allowing for a quicker less bureaucratic use of DFG monies.

Cornwall - Cornwall Home Solutions(CHS) introduced a new form of assistance called the Accessible Homes Assistance to help fast track works up to £5K. There is no means test and the application process is much leaner.

Scarborough – The local authority has a range of provision, including non means tested grants up to 5k, Fast Track Grants (non means tested) to aid hospital discharge. Re-allocation grants. Top slicing the DFG fund to widen the scope of works under the DFG to provide more flexibility to support the needs of disabled occupants.

How does the existing means test work?

The means test itself is complex and requires applicants to supply detailed information which needs to then be checked and processed by local authority staff.

The test calculates the average weekly income of the means tested person(s) taking account of any savings above a certain level (which are converted into a tariff income equivalent). Some types of income are disregarded including housing and council tax benefit, disability living allowance and attendance allowance. The income of those on income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance/joint jobseeker's allowance, pension credit guarantee element, housing benefit, council tax benefit, working tax credit with an income below £15,050 or child tax credit with an income below £15,050 is deemed to be nil.

Expenditure needs are assessed by awarding allowances and premiums in respect of each person or couple and any dependent children.

Where the total income of those means-tested exceeds the total expenditure allowances, this surplus amount is used to calculate a notional loan (by applying loan generation factors) which the applicant could afford to raise. This will determine the applicant's contribution to any grant supported works.

Works recommended to support disabled children are not means tested regardless of the income/savings of the parent(s).

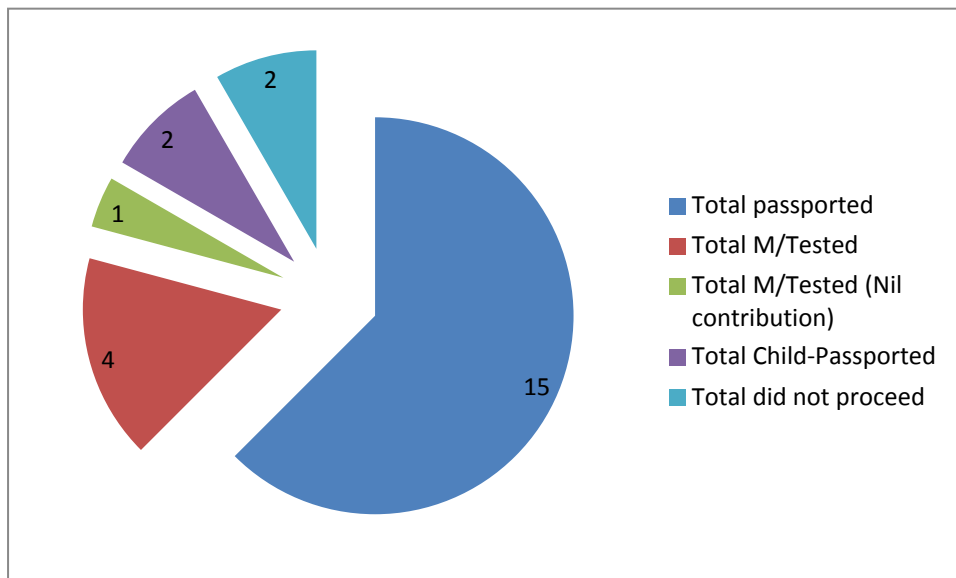
Why we should consider changes to the means test

The means test has been subject to reviews by the DCLG on various occasions. The reviews stressed that the means test and its complexity had contributed to delays in actually delivering disabled facilities grant pointing out that such delays can limit the independence of the disabled person and may add to personal and/or local costs of care. The current system requires considerable staff resources and the costs of these may exceed the amount of grant awarded in many cases; especially as the bulk of grants are for minor works.

Some local authorities have therefore reduced the number of applications that they means test by using their discretionary powers to exempt certain additional groups of people (e.g. registered social landlord tenants) or certain types of works or works costing less than a specified amount (e.g. £5,000) from means testing altogether.

Analysis of referrals to Ryedale District Council (via the Home Improvement Agency) for Disabled Facilities Grant (between 1 September 2016 and 31st January 2017)

Chart showing referrals received (pass ported and means tested) for Disabled Facilities Grant



Twenty Four referrals were received in total for Ryedale District Council. Of these, seventeen cases were automatically pass ported (either due to the client receiving a pass porting benefit or because the works were recommended for a child)

Five cases were means tested. Of these, one case had a nil contribution, so works proceeded. Four had contributions which exceeded the cost of works meaning that they would receive no grant funding. In one instance the client had £17,000 of savings but lived in a Yorkshire Housing property, so did not feel they should pay for something that wouldn't belong to them.

In all the other instances the clients had insufficient funding in their savings/accounts to cover the cost of the works and were unable to proceed.

Therefore during the last quarter, four residents did not get their adaptations despite being disabled and requiring them, this means that they continue to struggle to access basic essential facilities around their own homes. This is likely to have an effect on their long term health and their ability to remain independent in their own homes. Ultimately, they may therefore be more likely to require additional and unnecessary support from statutory services such as their Local Authority, GPs, A & E, Social Care etc., at a greater expense to the statutory purse in the long run. This goes against the requirements of the Better Care Fund guidance, which requires local authorities to work jointly with health/social services care to deliver a more joined up service.

Experience of staff dealing with disabled people in relation to means testing

The means test is complex. HIA staff travel across the area to collect financial information to complete the means tests or prove receipt of pass porting benefit.

Supporting evidence has to be provided of all bank accounts/income/pass porting benefit. The evidence needs to be up to date; it often isn't, so officers can make several journeys trying to get the correct information. For the disabled person, particularly where they have little family support this can be distressing; they may have to contact DWP or visit their bank to get the evidence required. Although the HIA staff will assist, due to data protection etc., it is very difficult and time consuming. This causes delays and takes up valuable staffing resources from the HIA.

Looking at disabled people of working age, in a situation where there is a partner, applicants often have a contribution despite the fact that they have very little/no savings at all. The means test takes into account all income and savings, but does not look at specific/real housing costs and outgoings. Often applicants of a working age still have mortgages and are supporting a young family, so have little or no savings and their monthly income only just covers their outgoings.

For older/retired people it is hard to replace limited savings so they can be reluctant to use these to cover the cost of an adaptation, preferring keep their funds for emergencies, i.e. car repairs, washing machines, house maintenance etc.

Sometimes tenants have means tested contributions. Not surprisingly, they are often reluctant to spend their own savings on a property that they don't own. Landlords are asked to contribute and will on occasion cover small contributions.

Where disabled people are unable to find the funds to cover their contributions, they will continue to struggle to remain independent. So for example, instead of having a shower installed, they will have to strip wash, instead of a ramp being installed to give access in/out of their property they will become confined within the property and become reliant on others for support, instead of having a stair lift, they will be confined to the ground floor of their property utilising a commode. The overall loss of independence affects not only their physical but mental well-being.

Removing the means test for works valued up to £5000 (ramps, showers, stair lifts) would have allowed the four referrals above to proceed giving the disabled occupant access to their basic amenities.

Addressing concerns that removing the means test for small works in Ryedale, will allow people who are able to fund to receive adaptations at no cost.

It is hard to estimate how many disabled people will come to us that would have previously not come through, as they may have felt that they would fail a mean test or didn't want to share their financial information. However, of the referrals received in the last quarter it shows that only 16% of referrals had a means tested contribution and on analysis of those it could be argued that these disabled people were not particularly wealthy.

If the changes are adopted in Ryedale there may be concerns that very wealthy people will get adaptations at no cost. It is difficult to advise on the likelihood of this, however from the HIAs experience it is felt unlikely. This is mainly due to the ability of the grant to meet the desires of someone with high levels of income/savings. The adaptations carried out are of a basic standard and not necessarily what you would chose if you had the funds to arrange your own works. Also the route of referral

means that applicants have to go through a full Occupational Therapy assessment to be referred for a grant; this in itself is likely to deter this client group. There may be an odd client who wishes to take advantage of the scheme; however we should remember that any client wishing to do so must have a level of disability that requires such as adaptation.

Focusing on the majority client group may be a more helpful approach, adopting a non means tested grant for works up to £5000 and fast track works means that disabled people will get access to essential facilities much quicker than before. It will also save the HIA time in staffing resources and help Ryedale DC to fully utilise their DFG budget. Proving a need for the level of allocation in the area and meeting the objectives of the Better Care Fund whilst supporting the partner organisations in Health and Social Care. For example, enabling people to stay in their own homes for longer, can generate substantial financial savings in residential care costs which can be in the region £29,000 per annum. People can also fall whilst waiting for adaptations. The average cost to the State of a fractured hip is around £30,000. This is more than 6 times the cost of a major housing adaptation such as a wet floor shower or ramp.

References

Communities and Local Government 2011 *Disabled Facilities Grant allocation methodology and means test: Final report* DCLG London

Home Adaptations for Disabled People

A detailed guide to related legislation, guidance and good practice, Home Adaptations Consortium, 2013

Foundations UK, 2017

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PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES
DATE:	23 MARCH 2017
REPORT OF THE:	FRONT LINE SERVICE DELIVERY LEAD BECKIE BENNETT
TITLE OF REPORT:	COMMUNITY HOUSING FUND
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to spend Ryedale's Community Housing Fund (CHF) allocation in accordance with the recommended principles.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council agrees:
- (i) the principle of using £86,200 (20%) of the total allocation for revenue purposes to support the delivery of new homes
 - (ii) that £43,100 (10%) of the allocation be used for additional Community Development capacity working with a specialised provider, in partnership with Hambleton District Council for a 2 year period
 - (iii) to passport £12,930 (3%) of the allocation into a pooled North Yorkshire enabling fund.
 - (iv) that the remaining £288,770 (67%) be used for capital works provided through grants, land acquisition or purchase of property in support of Community Led Housing

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council has been allocated £431,000 from Government to help promote the development of Community Led Housing within the District. These funds need to be committed and spent on their intended purpose and further information on CLH is provided in the slide pack attached at Annex A, which was delivered to the Parish Liaison meeting in October 2016.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 There is a risk that RDC does not spend its full allocation on its intended purpose. The Rural Housing Enabler will work closely with specialised community development providers to promote CLH across the district, in order to progress schemes. A proportion of funds will also be used to pay for additional revenue costs to speed up delivery. Capital funding will be used to de-risk potential schemes and make them viable for both communities and Registered Providers. Specialist technical support and programme management will come from the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Partnership to ensure the appropriate funding criteria is met.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Contributes to the Council's Corporate Plan, Meeting Housing needs in the district. The Council has been working across the North Yorkshire, York and East Riding Housing Partnership in order to develop a programme.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Community Housing Fund was announced by DCLG in December 2016 to support CLH developments in areas where the impact of second homes is particularly acute. £60 million has been allocated to 148 LAs (mostly rural) across England for 2016/17. Going forward, any further allocations will depend on the impact of the fund.
- 6.2 The Council has been allocated £431,000 of this fund. Payment is being made in two tranches, the first of which has been received and the second of which will be paid subject to the submission of a delivery plan to DCLG in March this year.
- 6.3 This report recommends the principles as to how this money should be spent and proposes that the majority of funds (87%) should be used as capital funds to support the delivery of potential community led development opportunities within the district.
- 6.4 It is also recommended that 20% of these funds are allocated to revenue to provide additional capacity where required, particularly in relation to community development activity. In addition it is also proposed that 10% is allocated be used for additional Community Development capacity working with a specialised provider, in partnership with Hambleton District Council for a 2 year period and that 3% is pooled into a wider North Yorkshire enabling fund.

7.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 7.1 The District Council's allocation is £431,000. It is understood that the funding formula behind the allocation is primarily based on levels of second home ownership within the district. It also takes into account affordability of housing to local people, especially as high levels of second homes can push up property values and make them unaffordable.
- 7.2 The criteria that Government sets out what the funds can be spent on is quite broad. Funds can be used for both capital and revenue purposes. The key requirement is that the community must be integrally involved throughout the process in key decisions. They do not necessarily have to initiate and manage the development process, or build the homes themselves, though this is an option.

- 7.3 It is important to note that funding has been made available to the Council to help communities take forward community-led development in their areas and not to act directly as a developer or indeed project manage individual developments. The role of the Council is primarily as an enabler. Key responsibilities for the Council in this role are:
- Developing a plan as to how the money shall be spent to meet its intended purpose.
 - Acting as accountable body for the funding and ensuring it is spent on their intended purpose and reporting progress back to DCLG.
 - Supporting the communities themselves to develop schemes, including help with site identification; securing development partners; assessing scheme viability; supporting the legal process including development of governance arrangements; community development work and needs identification.
- 7.4 Whilst it is proposed to use some of the funds for revenue purposes to cover the cost of this work, the bulk of the allocation is to be used to cover capital costs associated with the acquisition of land/property and the actual construction of homes. The mechanics of this process are yet to be determined, however it is envisaged that funding support may be in the form of grant payments.
- 7.5 The terms of grant payments to be made (to communities or developers) along with a mechanism to calculate the value of such payments need to be worked up and agreed. Ideas being considered include the provision of funding to bring additional flexibility into the development process including up front funding to enable the acquisition and de-risking of sites or the covering of abnormal costs. Alternatively a flat or maximum grant rate per unit could be considered. Negotiations have commenced with both the HCA and Registered Providers to determine the ways that this fund could bring most added value.

7.6 Registered Provider and Homes and Communities Agency Support

- 7.6.1 The funding allocation from Government will help meet local housing need and supports the Council's wider housing strategy. It is important to note however that in real terms £431K is likely to have a limited impact in terms of the actual number of homes that can be delivered through this fund. It is very important therefore that the Council looks to stretch and maximise the value of these funds to help draw in additional funding, particularly from the HCA's Affordable Housing Programme as well as through the use of Registered Provider (RP) funding.
- 7.6.2 Whilst it is not a requirement of any community-led housing developer to be supported through either the support of an RP or the HCA, it is recommended that the Council does adopt this approach to build capacity. Working with a RP and the HCA brings a range of benefits to the process including
- The drawing in of additional funding support to maximise delivery.
 - The provision of specialist development expertise.
 - Construction experience and capacity.
 - Assurance around the design and quality of the homes developed.
- 7.6.3 What still needs to be determined is the role that both the community and the RP may make in the process. As highlighted, the role of the community could range from helping to identify a need and a site for a RP to take forward to full ownership and management of the homes. It is proposed that a number of different options are developed through the Rural Housing Network.

7.7 Future Allocations

- 7.7.1 There is some uncertainty around the mechanism for future allocations with some mixed messages coming out from Government as to whether payments will continue to be made to LAs or be administered by the HCA or even paid to national community-led housing bodies directly. Regardless of the mechanism for future funding, these funds give RDC an excellent opportunity to work up a pipeline of future community-led schemes going forward. It is understood from DCLG that whilst there is no real expectation that funds will be spent or even committed by year end LAs are expected to provide assurance to DCLG that they have plans in place to spend the funds.

7.8 Specialist Support and Sub-Regional Delivery Models

- 7.8.1 Whilst some potential opportunities have already been identified, developing community-led housing will be resource intensive and will require specialist technical and enabling support. In particular, support will be needed to help develop different models for delivery. Ideally a range of options as to how different models could work needs to be established.
- 7.8.2 Some of this technical support can be accessed via the wider community-led housing sector and networks. In order to access this support and to help pump-prime potential alternative delivery models, it is proposed that RDC supports work being undertaken via the wider York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Partnership. It is recommended that a 3% fixed contribution of funds is agreed into a 'pooled' enabling pot to be used by the partnership to help draw in the specialist consultative support needed.
- 7.8.3 In addition there has been some discussion between districts both within the Rural Housing Network and via York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Board around the principle of pooling funds to support the development of alternative delivery models going forward. These could include using funds to develop such ideas as a 'revolving rural land-bank', and a shared sub-regional delivery vehicle that acquires and de-risks land. Whilst these ideas may have some merit, to date there is no real detail or agreement or timescale in place as to how such ideas could evolve or be taken forward sub-regionally.
- 7.8.4 It is understood that there is a commitment from other Councils within the sub-region to make similar and proportionate contributions into this fund. Spending against the fund will be monitored by the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Board at which the Leader of the Council attends. Payment would also be subject to a formal agreement.

7.9 Other Revenue Costs

- 7.9.1 It is envisaged that revenue funding will be needed to both help accelerate or unblock the development process. This could include for example using funds to help the planning authority support this process. An agreed revenue budget of 20% is recommended. The amount needed for each scheme may vary depending on the form and shape of each proposal going forward.

The revenue support given directly to community groups would cover;

- Professional fees (i.e. architect, QS, planning fees etc)
- Other Consultancy costs
- Project management costs
- Site specific issues

- 7.9.2 It is important to note that the development of community-led housing is likely to be resource intensive for RDC. Whilst it is expected that the Rural Housing Enabler (a 0.5FTE post shared with Scarborough BC) will have a key role to play, these schemes will be far more resource intensive especially in terms of community development. There will also be a need for more focused community development work and capacity building of local communities and community groups both in the short and longer term that cannot be met with current staffing resources.
- 7.9.3 It is proposed therefore that some funds are used to pay for additional specialised community development support within the district. Hambleton DC would like to commission this service in partnership with RDC and initial discussions have taken place with Rural Action Yorkshire. This is needed to be able to work with communities on a range of activities including
- Developing the group including legal structures and governance
 - Assistance with wider funding applications and other support
 - Developing a proposal and business plan
 - Support on project planning and management
 - Longer term group and business development
- 7.9.4 At this stage it is recommended therefore that 10% of the total budget is set aside for this purpose which would cover a 2 year period.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial
There are no additional budget implications notwithstanding the CLH funding allocation is a positive financial boost to support the development of community led housing.
- b) Legal
There are likely to be legal implications for the Council going forward depending on the community led model adopted. These could include support from the Council in drawing up governance arrangements and or development agreements for the new homes.
- c) Equalities
CLH will have a positive impact in terms of equalities and diversity issues and will increase the availability of accommodation in areas of high demand.
- d) Staffing Issues
Developing community-led housing is likely to be resource intensive for the Council, particularly in relation to community development type activity. The report recommends that part of the funding is used to pay for delivery by Hambleton District Council on our behalf.
- e) Planning, Environmental, Health and Safety, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder
No implications.

9.0 NEXT STEPS

- 9.1 The first tranche of funding has have been received, subject to approval a submission will be made to the DCLG outlining the plan for the areas of work the funding will be allocated to and it is expected that the second tranche of funding will be received during 2017/18.

Beckie Bennett
Front Line Service Delivery Lead

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Background Papers:
Annex A - Community Housing Fund Slides.

Community Housing Fund

How to get the most from this Community Led Housing opportunity.



Overview

- 1)What is Community Led Housing?
- 2)What are the different approaches and routes to delivery? What makes it different?
- 3)What you might plan to do with your allocation.

What is Community Led Housing?

1 – Community integrally involved throughout the process.



What is Community Led Housing?

2 – Presumption in favour of a long-term role for the community.



What is Community Led Housing?

3 – Benefits to the community are defined and protected in perpetuity.



CLH is not...

Just a more intensive engagement and consultation.

A housing association scheme with parish council or community backing.

Completely different to a conventional housing development process.

Dependent on free land or unusual subsidy.

Approaches to CLH

Cohousing

Community Land Trusts

Cooperatives

Self/custom build

Self-help

Cohousing communities are created and run by their residents. Each household has a self-contained, private home but residents come together to manage their community and share activities. Cohousing is a way of combating the alienation and isolation many experience today, recreating the neighbourly support of the past.

Approaches to CLH

Cohousing

Community Land Trusts

Cooperatives

Self/custom build

Self-help

Community Land Trusts (CLTs) enable ordinary people to develop and manage homes as well as other assets important to that community, like community enterprises, food growing or workspaces. The CLT's main task is to make sure these homes are genuinely affordable, based on what people actually earn in their area, not just for now but for every future occupier.

Approaches to CLH

Cohousing
Community Land Trusts
Cooperatives
Self/custom build
Self-help

Cooperative and mutual housing has a community membership comprising the residents and sometimes other local community members. They democratically control the housing organisation which can result in benefits for members such as a better service and new skills.

Approaches to CLH

Cohousing
Community Land Trusts
Cooperatives
Self/custom build
Self-help

All local authorities have a duty to maintain a register of individuals and groups interested in building their own homes, and to provide enough permissioned plots to meet that demand. Forming people into CLH groups can help to organise and develop their projects.

Approaches to CLH

Cohousing
Community Land Trusts
Cooperatives
Self/custom build
Self-help

“Self-Help Housing” involves groups of local people bringing back into use empty properties. Groups often involve people who can’t afford to buy or rent their own home, and who are unlikely to get a tenancy from a local authority or a housing association.

Routes to delivering CLH

Led by a new group (including self-builders).

Extension of existing community-based activity (including neighbourhood plans).

Led by a developer, housing association or council.

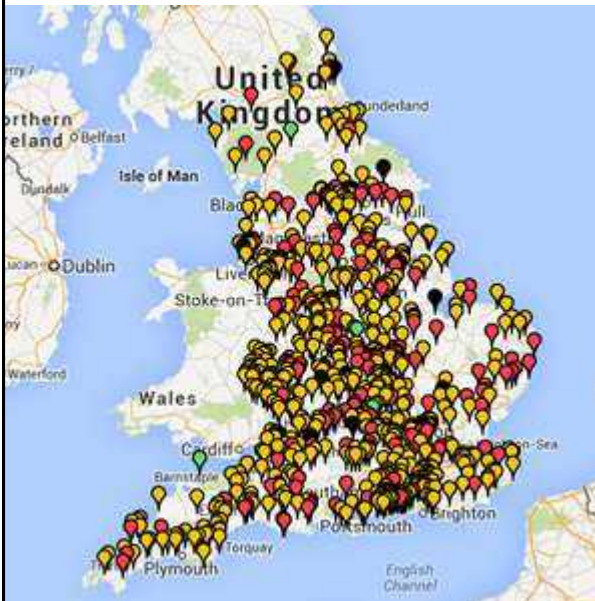
Self build registers

Supporting people to find and develop plots.



Neighbourhood plans

Supporting forums to build out their plans.



Using the Community Housing Fund

It is really flexible!



Community Housing Fund objectives

“deliver affordable housing units of mixed tenure...”

“build collaboration, skills and supply chains at a local level to promote the sustainability of this approach...”

“capital investment, technical support and revenue to be provided to make more schemes viable and significantly increase community groups’ current delivery pipelines...”

Using the CHF - capital

Unlocking/removing barriers on difficult sites.

Site purchase and preparation (with some costs recovered when scheme completed).

Grant for mixed tenure of affordable housing.

Revolving land purchase fund?

Using the CHF - revenue

Start up support – advice and grants.

Professionals' fees during development process.

Using the CHF – a legacy

Local / regional / national programme



Mechanisms to enable CLH

Vision and business case for CLH

CLH champions (officer and member)

Briefing relevant officers

Policy support (housing strategy, planning policy)

Next steps

DCLG require a plan by the start of March – how to complete the pro-forma.

Pooling funds across your authorities.

Developing a hub for Yorkshire.

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Annex 2

Community Housing Fund

Community-led housing is in essence where the local community takes on the lead role of developing, managing and/or owning affordable housing in their own area for the local community. The key features of community-led housing are:

- They are usually small scale, most schemes are under 20/25 homes and some are much smaller.
- Schemes are usually set up and run by local people in their own communities, often with external support from housing associations, local authorities or regional and national support organisations.
- They provide genuinely affordable homes for rent, shared ownership or sale on sites that are often difficult for mainstream housing providers to develop.
- Schemes meet long-term local housing needs, by the community retaining a legal and/or financial interest in the homes provided and ensuring they are always available to local people who need them.

Community-led housing is not for profit, involving considerable voluntary effort. There are a wide variety of approaches to community-led housing and no standard model. However, the main examples are:

- **Community Land Trusts (CLTs)**, which provide affordable homes for local people in need, by acquiring land and holding it as a community asset in perpetuity.
- **Housing Co-operatives**, which involve groups of people who provide and collectively manage affordable homes for themselves as tenants or shared owners.
- **Cohousing schemes** involve groups of like-minded people who come together to provide self-contained private homes for themselves, but manage their scheme together and share activities, often in a communal space.
- **Tenant Management Organisations** provide social housing tenants with collective responsibility for managing and maintaining the homes through an agreement with their council or housing association landlord.
- **Self-help housing** projects involve small, community based organisations bringing empty properties back into use, without mainstream funding and with a strong emphasis on construction skills training and support.
- **Community self-build schemes** involve groups of local people in housing need building homes for themselves with external support and managing the process collectively.

The key difference between housing community led housing and that developed by private house builders or Registered Providers is that the community takes a central role. Communities may work in partnership with a Registered Provider or can work on stand alone projects. They can provide affordable housing through a section 106 agreement and/or a rural exception site.

It is understood from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) that community-led builders can also access funding, such as the Home Building Fund and money from the HCA's affordable housing programmes. Community-led groups have also brought in significant revenue and capital resources not accessible to other housing providers, including commercial lending, social finance, charitable funds, community

bond issues and labour. As well as helping to meet local need they can build up new resources and resilience within communities.



PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES
DATE:	23 MARCH 2017
REPORT OF THE:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE JANET WAGGOTT
TITLE OF REPORT:	LGA CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present members with an improvement plan following the recommendations made by the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Review team

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council agrees the Corporate Peer Challenge Improvement Plan
- 2.2 That progress with delivering Improvement Plan be monitored by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To support the continuous improvement of the Council.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 There are no risks identified in relation to this report

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Corporate Peer Challenge and resulting Improvement Plan focused on the Council's corporate arrangements and ambitions for growth. The review team engaged with a wide range of partners, community representatives and staff members as part of the review.

6.0 REPORT

- 6.1 In October 2016 the Council welcomed the LGA peer challenge team to the organisation for a 3 day site visit. Following this a presentation was made to members of the Council and staff highlighting the key recommendations made by the review team. The Council then received the full and final report from the LGA.

- 6.2 The review looked in detail at the Council's long-term ambitions, its work to support business and housing growth and the way it delivers services for the community. The review involved staff from across the organisation, councillors and a number of representatives from other organisations and key partners who work alongside the Council.
- 6.3 The report described the Council as, 'a small but ambitious council with committed staff who are focused on delivering the best possible service to meet local needs, in partnership with others where possible in order to improve capacity. Staff are proud to work for the council, and have an excellent understanding of the local context. There is a commitment to seek housing and economic growth and an understanding that this needs to be done sensitively, and in partnership with others'.
- 6.4 Following the publication of the final report, an improvement plan has been produced based on the findings and recommendations, which can be found at Annex A.
- 6.5 The Peer Review Team have offered to return to RDC for a follow up site visit. Such a visit would usually take place within 12 to 18 months of the initial site visit.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial
There are no financial implications
- b) Legal
There are no legal implications
- c) Staffing
There are no staffing implications

Chief Executive
Janet Waggott

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Background Papers:

LGA Corporate Peer Challenge - Ryedale District Council Final Report (October 2016)

<http://ryedale.gov.uk/component/content/article.html?id=1982:corporate-peer-challenge-report>

LGA CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead
1	Establish a strong and effective strategic officer leadership team with a collective vision and shared strategic responsibilities, such as financial management.	May-17	CX
1.1	A fully functioning senior management team could help the Chief Executive delegate some responsibilities.	07 December 2016	CX, DCX, S151, Monitoring Officer
1.2	The Chief Executive spends a significant amount of time dealing with Member issues, but this should be more the role of the Monitoring Officer. The Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive need to be able to share corporate responsibilities with senior managers, and collectively to set the direction for the organisation, in particular financial management of the Council.	01 May 2017	CX, DCX, S151, Monitoring Officer
2	Review the expertise and capacity and resilience of the organisation	Sep-17	CX
2.1	Income generated by Planning is to be used to increase capacity in the Planning Department. - linked to the housing white paper	01 August 2017	Head of Planning
2.2	Develop a clear strategic direction for future models of working in partnership.	30 September 2017	CX & Leadership Team
2.3	Undertake strategic review of waste management and streetscene services. Aim to drive up income, reduce costs and build in resilience.	30 September 2017	DCX & Delivery & Frontline Services Lead
2.4	Develop key skills across teams to mitigate the risk for the future of too much expertise being concentrated in a small number of individuals.	30 September 2017	DCX
2.5	Identify intense specialist support in the short term for: - the Monitoring Officer role - Communications	03 April 2017 01 May 2017	CX
3	Review governance arrangements in order to prepare future political Leaders and ensure succession planning. Consider investing in external support to develop Member capacity through learning and development and consider how politicians are involved in priority setting.	Sep-17	CX, Leader
3.1	Ensure that there are clear succession planning options for Members and staff	30 September 2017	CX, Leader
3.2	If the current constitution is not supporting good decision-making processes, the council should consider revising it.	30 September 2017	Constitution WP
3.3	Distributing councillor responsibility more widely to enable the Leader to delegate.	30 September 2017	Leader
3.4	Explore how responsibilities could be shared more widely, for example identifying which Members could take the lead on certain issues, and appointing a deputy leader	30 September 2017	Council
3.5	Members have mixed views on the effectiveness of the 'Champion' system and the champion positions do not correspond with Council priorities.	30 September 2017	Member Champions

3.6	Formal leadership training or mentoring should be considered for elected Members in order to improve decision-making and strategic leadership.	30 September 2017	Member Development WP
3.7	A succession plan needs to be put in place to nurture the leaders of the future and further the skills of those in leadership positions.	30 September 2017	Member Development WP
4	Establish and demonstrate a collective commitment to shared values and behaviours, developed, agreed and demonstrated by all Members and officers.	Ongoing	Leader of Council & CX
4.1	Work with Members to agree that the behaviours framework is shared, reaffirming the principles for Member conduct as incorporated into the Constitution of the Council - Member Briefing 5 April 2017 to agree improvement plan. To be attended by representative of the LGA -Members to agree to work as 'One Ryedale'	06 April 2017	Leader of Council
4.2	Members to agree and commit to an agreed set of values, behaviours and ways of working.		Council
4.3	Members to respect and use the clear majority and mandate of the ruling group.	06 April 2017	Group Leaders
4.4	Clear, firm and consistent chairing of Council meetings to ensure that meetings are not excessively long. - linked to review of timing and scheduling of meetings - linked to review of the Constitution	30 September 2017	Chairman of Council Chair of O and S Constitution WP
4.5	Clear, firm and consistent chairing of Council meetings to ensure that personal attacks are not tolerated at meetings of Council. This responsibility is shared by all Members of Council.	06 April 2017 & ongoing	All Members
4.6	Under the One Ryedale banner take collective ownership of values, behaviours and strategic priorities at senior political and managerial level to drive improvements	06 April 2017	Group Leaders, CX & DCX
5	Develop and Deliver Strategic plans jointly with Members and staff	Sep-2017 & ongoing	CX
5.1	Set a firm strategic direction with clear lines of accountability and responsibility across the organisation	06 April 2017 & ongoing	CX
5.2	Work with Members to increase their understanding of the current constraints in the local government sector.	30 September 2017	CX
5.3	Develop a good understanding of the level of business rates and how their service drives growth for the district and the council in order to maximise delivery.	30 September 2017	JWR
6	Improve communication across the organisation.	Sep-17	DCX
6.1	Internal communication needs to be significantly improved for staff and Members.	06 April 2017	DCX
6.2	Consider holding parish liaison meetings more than twice a year.	30 September 2017	Customer Service Lead
6.3	Increase opportunities for engagement of staff with Members.	06 April 2017	CX

6.4	Improve information sharing at an early stage in decision-making, with clear boundaries and transparency	06 April 2017	CX, Group Leaders
7	Seek formal feedback regularly from staff and customers.	Ongoing	
7.1	Seek formal feedback regularly from staff and customers.	30 September 2017	Service Leads
8	Consider opportunities for using financial reserves to support the delivery of your priorities after conducting an appropriate financial risk analysis.	Sep-17	S151, P and R
8.1	Consider opportunities for using financial reserves to support the delivery of your priorities after conducting an appropriate financial risk analysis.	30 September 2017	S151, P and R
9	Develop a strategic commercial income generation plan, including use of assets.	Sep-17	Resources & Enabling Lead, Frontline Services Lead
9.1	There are excellent ideas from officers on using assets for income generation, but in order to realise this income this work needs to be translated into a delivery plan with clear lines of accountability and robust performance management.	30 September 2017	Resources & Enabling Lead, Frontline Services Lead
10	Develop and embed a robust performance management culture as part of the One Ryedale approach.	Apr-17	DCX
10.1	Further clarity is needed on economic and infrastructure targets.	06 April 2017	External Partnerships Lead
10.2	To build a robust approach to performance management as part of the new structure.	06 April 2017	Leadership Team
10.3	Develop a consistent performance management process to ensure the 'golden thread' is clear.	06 April 2017	Leadership Team

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PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
DATE:	23 MARCH 2017
REPORT OF THE:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE JANET WAGGOTT
TITLE OF REPORT:	THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES 2017-22
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the revised priorities for the Council's Business Plan for 2017-2022

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That members agree the priorities for the Council Business Plan for 2017/22 as:
- a) Promoting sustainable growth
 - b) Supporting customers and communities
 - c) Working together – One Ryedale

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council Business Plan sets the strategic priorities for the Council for 2017 to 2022. The aims and strategic objectives are reviewed by Members annually.
- 3.2 To ensure that the Councils Business Plan and The Medium Term Financial Strategy are in alignment and support the delivery of the Councils transformation programme – Towards 2020.
- 3.3 To respond to some of the recommendations resulting from the Corporate Peer Challenge 2016.

REPORT

4.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 The Council Business Plan has been revised following a review of the context in which the Council is operating, the Council's delivery of its priorities in 2015/16 and the challenges facing Ryedale in the next 5 years.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT

- 5.1 The Council Business Plan is the key policy statement of the Council and is complimented by other plans such as the Financial Strategy and key delivery strategies. Links to these can be found in the supporting document section.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Council engages with the communities it represents throughout the year and in relation to all policy development. The intelligence gathered from all engagement activities informs the delivery of the Council Business Plan and the annual budget process.

7.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 7.1 The following priorities are proposed for the Council Business Plan for 2017-22:

Aim 1: Promoting sustainable growth

Aim 2: Supporting customers and communities

Aim 3: Working Together – One Ryedale

- 7.3 Progress in delivering the Council's priorities will be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee. These reports will compliment the Revenue Budget Monitoring reports submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee. These reports are available on the Councils website and contribute to the delivery of the transparency agenda for local government.

- 7.4 A summary of the Councils Business Plan is attached at annex A.

- 7.5 The position statement prepared as part of the corporate peer challenge can be found on the CPC page of the Council website –
<http://ryedale.gov.uk/component/content/article.html?id=1982:corporate-peer-challenge-report>

. This provides contextual and performance information in support of the development of the Council priorities for 2017 onwards.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The following implications have been identified:

a) Financial

There are no new financial implications in considering this report which are not accounted for in the Financial Strategy.

b) Legal

There are no significant legal implications arising from this report

c) Other

There are no significant other implications arising from this report.

**Janet Waggott
Chief Executive**

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Background Papers:

Key strategies which inform the delivery of the Councils priorities:

Ryedale Plan - Local Development Framework - <http://www.ryedaleplan.org.uk/>

Ryedale Economic Action Plan
http://ryedale.gov.uk/attachments/category/992/Ryedale_Economic_Action_Plan_2016.pdf

Ryedale Housing Strategy Action Plan
Ryedale Homelessness Strategy
<http://www.ryedale.gov.uk/services/about-council/strategies-plans-policies/social-housing-policy.html>

RDC Financial Strategy
http://ryedale.gov.uk/attachments/article/365/Financial_Strategy_2017_2022.pdf

Delivering the Council Plan Reports – Reported quarterly to the Scrutiny Committee and Policy and Resources Committee

Corporate Peer Challenge:
Final Report,
Improvement Plan,
Position Statement,
Self Assessment
<http://ryedale.gov.uk/component/content/article.html?id=1982:corporate-peer-challenge-report>

Background Papers are available for inspection at:
www.ryedale.gov.uk

Vision:

The vision for Ryedale District Council is to continue doing what matters for Ryedale...

Values:

Passion:

We are passionate about our communities and the services we deliver

Respect:

We value every individual, respecting people for who they are and for their unique knowledge, skills and experience

Openness:

We are open and honest in our relationships and in our communications

Unity:

We will work as one organisation

Decisive:

We are willing to make brave decisions, to take on big challenges and see them through

Priorities:

Sustainable Growth

- Promoting a strong economy with thriving businesses and supporting infrastructure
- Capitalising on our culture, leisure and tourism opportunities
- Managing the environment of Ryedale with partners
- Enabling the provision of housing that meets existing and anticipates future need
- Minimising homelessness, improving the standard and availability of rented accommodation and supporting people to live independently

Customers & Communities

- Designing all of our services with the customer at the heart of everything we do
- Making the best use of resources to ensure maximum benefit for all customers and communities across the district, particularly the most vulnerable
- Helping our partners to keep our communities safe and healthy
- Supporting Communities to identify their needs, plan and develop local solutions and resilience

One Ryedale

- Working together as One Ryedale, members and staff share the PROUD values and behaviours
- Utilising assets in supporting the delivery of priorities
- Developing business opportunities for the Council and optimise income
- Building capacity and influencing policy in partnership
- Enabling services through the innovative use of IT
- Delivering the Towards 2020 programme and anticipating further savings required to 2022

Performance:

Sustainable Growth

- Economic growth indicator
- Housing delivery figures
- Homeless figures

Customers & Communities

- Customer satisfaction
- Timely delivery of services
- Take up of services

One Ryedale

- Budget monitoring
- Income generated
- Salaries monitoring



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