

Policy and Resources Committee

Held at Council Chamber, Ryedale House, Malton
on Thursday 15 June 2017

Present

Councillors Paul Andrews, Steve Arnold (Vice-Chairman), Val Arnold, Bailey, Cowling, Ives (Chairman), Oxley, Potter and Wainwright

In Attendance

Councillors Clark and Cussons MBE (Overview and Scrutiny observers), and Councillor Raper

Peter Johnson, Nicki Lishman, Alan McCarten, Janet Waggott and Anthony Winship

Minutes

1 **Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

2 **Minutes**

Decision

The minutes for the Policy and Resources Committee held on 23 March 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Voting record

7 For

2 Abstentions

3 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

4 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor P Andrews declared a personal non pecuniary but not prejudicial interest in Item 7 as Mayor of Malton.

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

5 **Appointment of Working Parties 2017/18**

Members were appointed to the following Working Parties/Sub-Committees for the ensuing year, until such time as new appointments are made, as follows:

Senior Management Contracts Working Party / Appointments Sub-Committee

3 Conservative Members - Councillors Ives, S Arnold and Goodrick

Substitutes: Councillor Farnell

2 Independent Member - Councillors Wainwright and Cowling

Substitutes: Councillors Frank and Hope

1 Liberal Member - Councillor Clark

Substitutes: Councillor Thornton

1 New Independent Member - Councillor Burr

Substitutes: Councillor P Andrews

Voting record

Unanimous

Resources Working Party

5 Conservative Members – Councillors Ives, S Arnold, V Arnold, Bailey and Oxley

Substitutes: Councillors Cleary, Farnell and Goodrick

2 Independent Members – Councillors Wainwright and Cowling

Substitutes: Councillors Frank and Hope

1 Liberal Member – Councillor Potter

Substitutes: Councillor Thornton

1 New Independent Member – Councillor P Andrews

Substitutes: Councillor Burr

1 Liberal Democrat Member – Councillor Mrs Shields

Substitutes: Councillor Keal

Voting record

8 For

1 Abstention

Grants Working Party

2 Conservative Members - Councillors S Arnold and V Arnold

Substitutes: to be confirmed

1 Independent Member - to be confirmed

Substitutes: to be confirmed

1 Liberal Member - Councillor Clark

Substitutes: Councillor Potter

1 Other Member - Councillor Jowitt

Substitutes: to be confirmed

Voting record

Unanimous

Sub Committee – Appeals Panel

3 named Members – Councillor Oxley (Conservative), Councillor Wainwright (Independent), Councillor Clark (Other)

In the absence of any of these Members, the panel to consist of 3 Members (1 Conservative, 1 Independent, 1 Other) to be appointed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of Policy and Resources, or in the Chairman's absence, the Vice Chairman. The panel to meet as and when required.

Voting record

Unanimous

Constitution Working Party

Chairman of Council, Group Leaders, Councillor Ives and Councillor S Arnold (Joint Leader of the Conservative Group).

Voting record

8 for

1 Abstention

Corporate Peer Challenge Improvement Plan Working Party

To be the same membership as the Resources Working Party.

Voting record

8 For

1 Abstention

PART 'B' ITEMS - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

6

Budget Strategy 2018/19

Recommendation to Council

That Council be recommended to approve the following strategy for the preparation of the 2018/19 budget

(i) Proposals to be brought forward for a £5 increase in Council tax

(ii) Increases in fees and charges to be to a maximum of 4.5% on a cost centre heading basis excluding VAT and only those charges officers recommend above this figure to be considered by the relevant policy committee

(iii) Efficiencies to be maximised

(iv) The use of New Homes Bonus in line with the revised medium term financial plan

(v) Options for service cuts to be provided if necessary. These proposals to be considered by the Resources Working Party and brought to the Policy and Resources Committee and Council

(vi) That the Council ceases the special levy arrangement for street lighting in Malton, Norton and Pickering Rural with effect from 1st April 2018

Voting record

6 For
1 Against
1 Abstention

7

Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy

Councillor Ives moved and Councillor S Arnold seconded the following amendment:

Point 7.7 of the Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief Policy be reworded to make clear that stage 1 is the Senior Revenues Officer, stage 2 is the Resources and Enabling Services Lead (S 151) and it should be the gift of the person who is appealing, they should make the decision whether it goes on to the next stage - not the person who's actually deciding the appeal. So stage 3 should be the Policy and Resources Committee, which will be the final decision of this Council. It is giving the power to decide where it goes to and making really clear the procedure and eliminating that ambiguity.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was carried.

Voting record

Unanimous

Recommendation to Council

That Council be recommended to approve:

(i) the Discretionary Business Rates Policy at Appendix A subject to the following revision of the appeals provisions:

Delete existing paragraph 7.7 and replace with new paragraphs 7.7 and 7.8 as follows:

7.7 If a ratepayer wishes to appeal against a decision made by the Senior Revenues Officer under this policy, the application will be reconsidered by the Resources and Enabling Services Lead (S 151) .

7.8 If a ratepayer wishes to appeal against a decision made by the Resources and Enabling Services Lead (S 151), the application will be reconsidered by the Policy and Resources Committee whose decision will be final.

(ii) that officers be delegated to approve the new revaluation element of Discretionary Business Rates Relief in cases where the business rates rateable value is less than £20,000

Voting record

Unanimous

8 Any other business that the Chairman decides is urgent.

There being no items of urgent business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.