



POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Thursday 6 December 2012 at 6.30 pm

Council Chamber - Ryedale House, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 7HH

Agenda

1 Emergency Evacuation Procedure

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

2 Apologies for absence

3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 27 September 2012

(Pages 1 - 6)

4 Minutes of the Resources Working Party held on the 20 November 2012 (Pages 7 - 8)

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

- 7 **Scrutiny Report - Support for the Voluntary & Community Sector** (Pages 9 - 38)
- 8 **Delivering the Council Plan** (Pages 39 - 48)
- 9 **Treasury Management Monitoring** (Pages 49 - 52)
- 10 **Revenue Budget Monitoring** (Pages 53 - 56)
- 11 **Ryedale Development Fund** (Pages 57 - 62)

PART 'B' ITEMS - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

- 12 **Fees & Charges** (Pages 63 - 74)
- 13 **Committee Responsibility for Economic Development** (Pages 75 - 82)
- 14 **Localisation of Council Tax Support 2013/2014 Scheme** (Pages 83 - 94)
- 15 **Pickering Flood Storage Proposals** (Pages 95 - 100)
- 16 **Any other business that the Chairman decides is urgent.**

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

Policy and Resources Committee

Held at Council Chamber - Ryedale House, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 7HH
on Thursday 27 September 2012

Present

Councillors Acomb (Chairman), Bailey, Mrs Goodrick, Ives, Knaggs, Mrs Knaggs, Maud and Woodward

By Invitation of the Chairman: Councillor P J Andrews and Councillor J S Clark

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Observers: Councillors Arnold and Wainwright

In Attendance

Simon Copley, Paul Cresswell, Peter Johnson and Clare Slater

Minutes

69 **Apologies for absence**

Councillors Mrs Burr and Legard.

70 **Minutes of the meeting held on the 21 June 2012**

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 21 June 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

71 **Minutes of the Resources Working Party held on the 4 September 2012**

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting of the Resources Working Party held on 4 September 2012 be received.

72 **Urgent Business**

There was one item of urgent business, to consider the statement of accounts and the 2012 external auditor's report. The reason this was urgent was that the accounts had to be approved and completed by the 30 September in accordance with the accounting code of practice after consideration by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 25 September 2012.

73 **Declarations of Interest**

The following interests were declared:

Councillor Ives - a personal non pecuniary but not prejudicial interest in agenda item 9 (Future Arrangements for Payment of Bills issued by the Council) as he had a business relationship with All Pay, who could be a service provider for the Council.

Councillor Arnold - a personal non pecuniary but not prejudicial interest in agenda item 9 (Future Arrangements for Payment of Bills issued by the Council) as a library volunteer.

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

74 **Delivering the Council Plan**

Considered – Report of the Head of Corporate Services.

Decision

That the report be noted.

PART 'B' ITEMS - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

75 **Community Right to Challenge**

Considered – Report of the Head of Corporate Services.

Recommendation to Council

1. That the Council notes the Community Right to Challenge (CRC) provisions in the Localism Act 2011.
2. That the Council approves the approach set out in section 6 of the report, in particular:
 - (i) To accept expressions of interest (Eol) under the CRC duty during the period from 18th February to 31st March each year.
 - (ii) To specify individually for each Eol, by 30th April in the year in which it was submitted, the maximum period that it will take for the Council to notify the relevant body of its decision and to publish details of the specification; and to delegate this decision to the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Chairman of the Commissioning Board).

- (iii) For services that are not currently contracted out, the maximum period that it will take to notify the relevant body of its decision and to publish details of the specification will be individually determined but normally 30th September in the year that the EOI was submitted. For services that are currently contracted out, the maximum period will be individually determined so as to fit with the relevant commissioning cycle.
- (iv) The procurement process arising from the acceptance of any EOI will start no sooner than two months and no later than six months after acceptance.

76 Future Arrangements for Payment of Bills issued by the Council

Considered – Report of the Head of Corporate Services.

Recommendation to Council

That Council is recommended to approve:

- (i) officers to implement barcoding of all Council invoices to enable payments to be made at any Post Office or PayPoint outlet within the district;
- (ii) following implementation of the above the area cash office service be removed; and
- (iii) the savings achieved from the implementation of the above to be considered as part of the Council's 2013/2014 budget strategy process.

77 Budget Strategy 2013/2014

Considered – Report of the Corporate Director (s151).

Recommendation to Council

That Council is recommended to approve the following parameters for the preparation of the 2013/2014 budget:

- (i) Proposals be brought forward for a 2.5% increase in Council tax;
- (ii) Increases in fees and charges to be 3.5% - 4.5% on a cost centre heading basis excluding VAT and only those charges officers recommend above or below this figure to be considered by the relevant policy committee;
- (iii) Efficiencies to be maximised;
- (iv) Options for service cuts to be provided. These proposals to be

considered by the Resources Working Party and the Policy and Resources Committee.

78 New Homes Bonus

Considered – Report of the Corporate Director (s151).

Recommendation to Council

That Council be recommended to approve in principle that the entire allocation of £439,779 is ringfenced into a Ryedale Development Fund for spending on projects which deliver or protect employment within Ryedale. The allocation of this funding to be made by Council based on recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee.

79 Maintenance of Closed Churchyards

Considered – Report of the Council Solicitor and Corporate Director (s151).

Recommendation to Council

That Members recommend to Council option 2 from paragraph 6.13 of the report, to apply a Special Expense to those parishes in which the closed churchyard is located to cover in full the maintenance costs.

80 Exempt Information

Decision

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item as there will be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as the information relates to any business or financial affairs of a company.

81 Applications for Hardship Relief from Non Domestic Rates

Considered – Report of the Corporate Director (s151).

Recommendation to Council

That Members are recommended to award non-domestic rates hardship relief for 2012/2013 for the application referred to in this report financed from the ICE fund.

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

Considered – The Statement of Account and the Report of the External Auditors for 2012.

Decision

That the Statement of Accounts and the Report of the External Auditors for 2012 be accepted.

There being no further items of urgent business, the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

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Resources Working Party

Held at Meeting Room 1, Ryedale House, Malton
on Tuesday 20 November 2012

Present

Councillors Mrs Cowling, Knaggs, Acomb and Mrs Goodrick

In Attendance

Paul Cresswell, Janet Waggott, Simon Copley, Gary Housden, Peter Johnson, Julian Rudd and Clare Slater

Minutes

64 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Knaggs and Legard.

65 **Minutes of the Resources Working Party held on 4 September 2012**

Decision

That the minutes of the Resources Working Party held on 4 September 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

66 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

67 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

68 **Budget Strategy**

Considered - Report of the Corporate Director (s151).

Decision

That the recommendations in the report be endorsed.

69 **Localised Council Tax Support**

Considered - Report of the Corporate Director (s151).

Decision

That the recommendations in the report be endorsed.

70 **Ryedale Development Fund**

Considered - Report of the Head of Economy and Infrastructure.

Decision

That the recommendations in the report be endorsed.

71 **Managed Workspace and Training Facility - Verbal report by the Head of Economy and Infrastructure**

Considered – Verbal report of the Head of Economy and Infrastructure.

Decision

That the report be noted.

72 **Committee Responsibilities for Economic Development**

Considered - Report of the Head of Economy and Infrastructure.

Decision

That the recommendations in the report be endorsed.

73 **Capital Programme Report**

Considered - Report of the Corporate Director (s151).

Decision

That the report be noted.

74 **Capital Monitoring Finance Report**

Considered - Report of the Corporate Director (s151).

Decision

That the report be noted.

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

There being no items of urgent business, the meeting closed at 3.30pm.

Scrutiny Review

Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector

RYEDALE
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Overview and Scrutiny Committee
4 October 2012

Executive Summary

This Report sets out the results of a review of the support that the Council gives to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Organisations. This review has been carried out by Ryedale District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The aim of the review was to try to answer the following questions:

- What is the current profile of the VCS in Ryedale?
- How sustainable is the sector in Ryedale and what is the role of the Council in this?
- How does the Council commission or procure work from the VCS, how is this funded, what is expected and what is the impact of this work?
- What expectations are there of the VCS in the current policy and funding environment and how can these best be met whilst delivering value for money for both the Council and the communities of Ryedale?
- Is there potential to increase the co-ordination of funding to the VCS both within the Council and with external partners?
- Can savings be made from the financial support provided or value added through pooling resources?
- Are there any grants that are not cost effective to administer or receive?
- Are there barriers to RDC working with the VCS and vice versa, VCS working with the Council?

The review involved an audit of the current support and funding given to local organisations. Consultation with the voluntary & community sector, other funding bodies and the Citizen's Panel was also undertaken.

Key findings included:

- The Voluntary and Community Sector in Ryedale comprises of a range of organisations from small community groups to large charities.
- Although Ryedale has a small population, the level of volunteering in Ryedale is among the highest in the country.
- The VCS is highly valued in Ryedale and provides important services that are not provided by the public sector.
- The Government's policy of Big Society is to empower communities to do more for themselves, requiring more volunteering.
- The Council's support which includes financial, non-financial and officer support is seen as essential in sustaining the voluntary and community sector in Ryedale.
- In 2012-13 the Council will pay £629,000 to the voluntary and community sector. 75% of this funding is paid on a regular ongoing basis.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

Key Recommendation

The contribution of the Voluntary and Community Sector is highly valued in Ryedale. The Council should help to sustain the Voluntary and Community Sector by providing financial and officer support.

Detailed Recommendations:

1. The Council should undertake a review of how it core funds organisations with a view to commissioning/contracts ensuring continuity for organisations and giving notice of any changes in line with the North Yorkshire Compact. This allows organisations to employ people and plan for the future.
2. Core funding for a longer time with more notice of change (ie 4 months minimum), linked to commissioning/procurement processes.
3. Investigate how the Council could help support Ryedale Voluntary Action to encourage volunteering in the Ryedale area.
4. Grant schemes should be streamlined making it easier for organisations to access and, all decisions should be made by one panel i.e. the CIF panel.
5. Development officers are essential in helping to develop projects within the voluntary and community sector and this role is highly valued by the sector. The Council should continue to provide development officers and continue to support their provision within the voluntary sector.
6. The Council should make it clear what its funding priorities are and what outcomes it is trying to achieve.
7. The Council should ensure that it is clear with all contracts and grants what it expects and monitor/evaluate/performance manage the outcomes accordingly ensuring Value for Money in the investment made.
8. Maintain a small grants element in all grant programmes.
9. The Council should take every opportunity to co-ordinate funding and evaluation processes with other funding bodies, for example, lists of projects supported and case studies illustrating the impact of the funding awarded should be published on the Council website.
10. The Council should use every opportunity to promote and champion Ryedale and all that it has to offer. It should also support, celebrate and recognise the value and contribution of the voluntary and community sector.
11. When considering future budget decisions, the Council must recognise that the funding available to the VCS to meet the needs of communities in Ryedale is reducing. The Council has a role in championing the needs of Ryedale with other funders.
12. The Council should ensure that any changes to the services it provides are clearly communicated to all those affected. This includes maintaining lists of key contacts with good signage for all services on the Council's website.
13. Investigate better use of the Council's website for communicating and advertising appropriate events on behalf of the voluntary and community sector.

14. Undertake joint member and officer training regarding funding schemes, priorities and processes for those members and officers directly involved with grant making.
15. Investigate the possibility of supporting VCS organisations with specialist skills available within the Council.
16. Review to be undertaken to define the members roles as champions and board members of voluntary and community organisations.

The Task Group wishes to thank all those who gave their time in contributing to this review.

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Scope of the review

The terms of reference for the Review were agreed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 15th December 2011. (See Appendix A)

The review will make recommendations to the policy committees of the Council on the options available for ensuring a sustainable voluntary and community sector through utilising any available resources in the most efficient, effective and economical way.

The review will try to answer the following questions:

- What is the current profile of the VCS in Ryedale?
- How sustainable is the sector in Ryedale and what is the role of the Council in this?
- How does the Council commission or procure work from the VCS, how is this funded, what is expected and what is the impact of this work?
- What expectations are there of the VCS in the current policy and funding environment and how can these best be met whilst delivering value for money for both the Council and the communities of Ryedale?
- Is there potential to increase the co-ordination of funding to the VCS both within the Council and with external partners?
- Can savings be made from the financial support provided or value added through pooling resources?
- Are there any grants that are not cost effective to administer or receive?
- Are there barriers to RDC working with the VCS and vice versa, VCS working with the Council?

Membership of the committee

Current : S Arnold, D E Cussons, G Hawkins, Mrs A D Hopkinson, J R Raper, Mrs E L Shields (Vice Chairman), C R Wainwright (Chairman), S Ward, J Windress

Meeting dates of the Scrutiny Review Task Group:

23/01/11 Initial meeting of Task Group.
07/03/12 Present initial findings of Audit of support provided by the Council to the VCS. Identify key areas to study the impact of the support provided
02/04/12 Present the audit report and assessment of impact.
26/04/12 Presentation by Andrea Hobbs, Chief Officer, Ryedale Voluntary Action
19/06/12 Consultation Café – consultation event held with voluntary and community organisations.
19/07/12 Consultation with other funding bodies.
16/08/12 Present results of consultation and engagement activities, review of application processes & schemes. Formulate recommendations.
13/09/12 Draft report and recommendations agreed by Task Group.
04/10/12 O and S Committee meeting consider draft report and recommendations.

Scrutiny Review Task Group supporting officers:

Clare Slater (Head of Corporate Services)
Jane Robinson (Transformation Officer)
Justine Coates (Business Improvement Officer)

Methodology

The Committee/Task Group approached the review through:

- Auditing the current support the Council gives to the voluntary and community sector both financial and non-financial.
- A consultation event was held with organisations that have previously received funding and support. Following the world café method of consultation, the group were divided into three groups and each had a different conversation or discussion. After 15 minutes, attendees were invited to join another conversation or remain with the same conversation. The topics used for the conversations were:
 1. What does your organisation value most about the support the Council offers to voluntary and community sector organisations?
 2. How can the Council improve the way it works with the voluntary and community sector?
 3. Thinking about the opportunities and threats facing your organisation, what role do you think the Council should play in supporting a sustainable voluntary and community sector in the future?
(See Appendix B for full results)
- Consultation with other funding organisations – both project and core funders (Appendix C)
- Survey sent to Citizen's Panel (See Appendix D for questionnaire and results)

Findings

The research undertaken highlighted the following key findings:

Profile of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Ryedale

The voluntary & community sector in Ryedale comprises a wide varied range of organisations, from small help groups run entirely by volunteers, to registered charities with a paid workforce. In fact, the fourth largest charity, operating nationally, in the Yorkshire and Humber region is based in Ryedale. There are five and a half times more registered charities per head in Ryedale (highest concentration in Yorkshire & Humber) than there are in Wakefield (lowest concentration). The voluntary and community sector in the UK employs over 750,000 people and generates £37 billion in income.

The major challenges facing voluntary and community sector organisations in Ryedale include:

- Finding volunteers for boards
- Core funding for organisations providing social care services
- Personalisation and changes to social care contracting and commissioning
- Meeting needs which are not well funded and can seem invisible
- Finding solutions to access issues
- Building an evidence base for funders
- Fuel costs, affordable meeting and work spaces

Volunteering in Ryedale

“The Big Society is about a huge culture change, where people, in their everyday lives, in their homes, neighbourhoods and workplace, don’t always turn to officials or government for answers to the problems they face, but instead feel both free and powerful enough to help themselves and their own communities.”

Prime Minister, Liverpool, 19 July 2010.

The government has a three strand approach to encouraging the development of the big society:

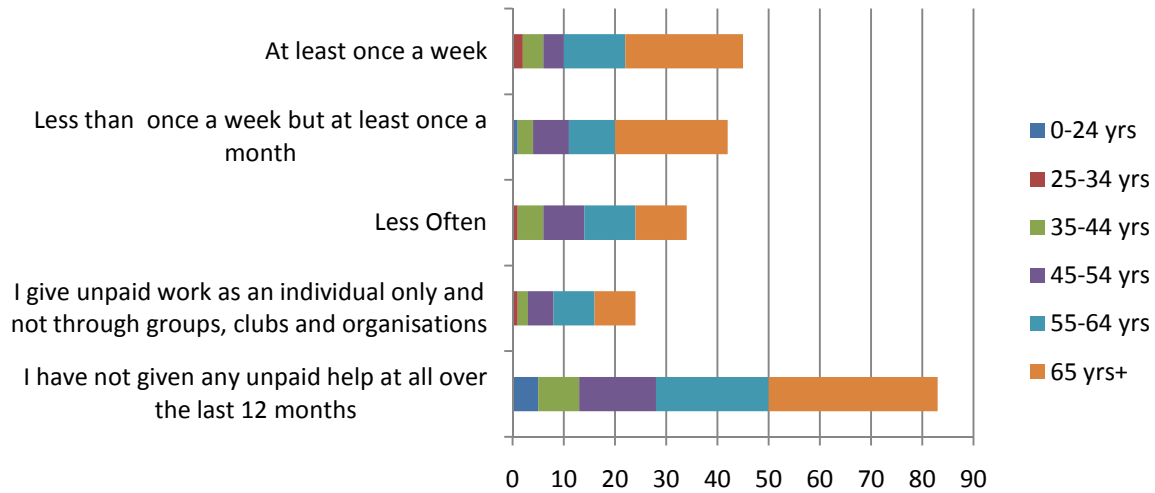
1. Encouraging social action
2. Public service reform
3. Community empowerment

Social action within the context of the Big Society agenda involves the encouragement of individuals to make a contribution within their communities and help solve social issues by volunteering.

Big Society theory presumes that there is a latent untapped capacity for volunteering, and therefore, volunteers could provide services and support that a streamlined public sector can no longer offer. Ryedale has one of the highest levels of volunteering in the country which means that there could be less capacity for an increase in levels of volunteering in Ryedale than other areas. This could have an impact on the sustainability of VCS organisations in future as big society policies are embedded.

In the 2008/09 Place Survey, 31.6% of the population of Ryedale participated in regular volunteering. Ryedale was ranked 21st out of 354 authorities in the country.

More recently, in July 2012, we asked the Citizen Panel the whether they had given unpaid help in the last 12 months.



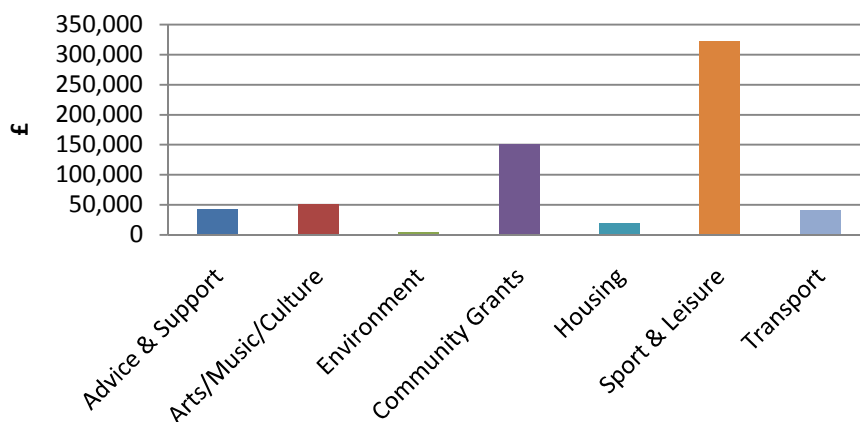
Current profile of the Council's support for the Voluntary & Community Sector

The Council has a long history of supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector by providing grants to enable communities to provide services for themselves.

In 2012/13, the Council has budgeted to pay approximately £694,000 to voluntary and community sector organisations working in the Ryedale area.

An analysis of this spend shows that the majority is spent on Sports & Leisure, which includes the Community Leisure Ltd grant, the organisation which runs the Council's swimming pools and Northern Ryedale Leisure Centre. The CIF Fund is divided into two elements: Community Grants and Ward Based funding. The Community Grants (£100,803) part of the CIF Fund is included in the analysis below. The Ward based element (also £100,803) of the CIF Fund is not included, as this part of the fund is paid out to parish councils.

Analysis of Grant Spend VCS organisations 2012-2013



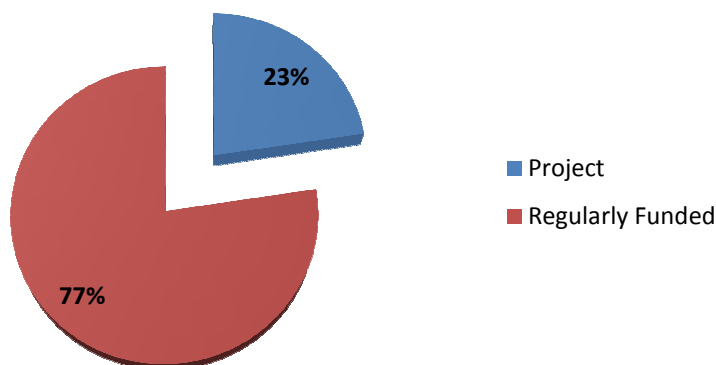
A more detailed breakdown of the organisations funded is detailed below:

Voluntary Community Sector Organisation	2012-13 BUDGET £
Beck Isle Museum	5,706
CIF Community Grants	150,773
Citizens Advice Bureau	27,400
Citizens Advice Bureau	12,000
Community Leisure Ltd	325,070
Foundation UK	1,500
Helmsley Arts	11,585
Helmsley Open Air Pool	10,300
Keyhouse	2,000
Live Music Now	2,316
Malton Museum	1,340
Malton Sports Hall	51,500
Pied Piper	5,566
REACT	5,000
Ryecat	43,000
Ryedale Festival	5,000
Ryedale Folk Museum	5,706
Ryedale Voluntary Action	15,206
SASH	3,000
Small arts grants	1,860
The Shed	11,329
Total	£694,157

NB: The budget above may not represent the amount paid to the relevant organisation.

The majority of the funding goes to organisations that the Council regularly funds which means that they are more reliant on this money to remain viable. 23% of the money allocated is paid towards project funding.

Analysis of funding type 2012-13



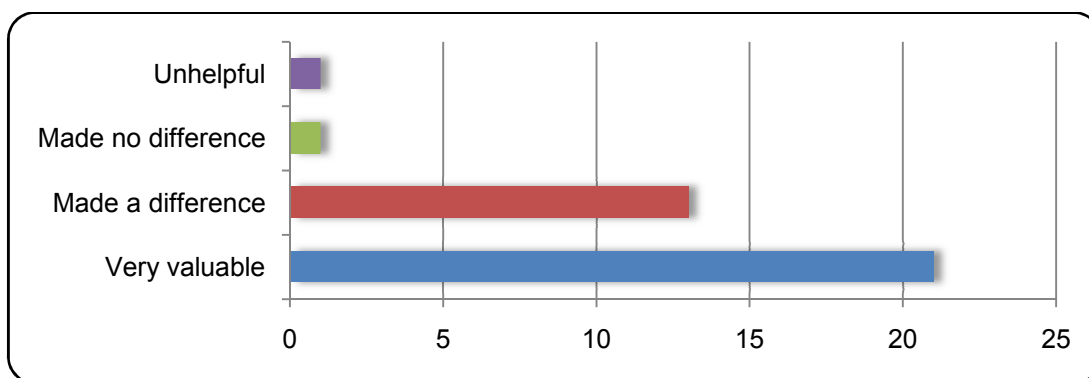
The Council also offers non-financial support, in the form of officer support for development work, helping with grant applications, funding option advice, CRB checks, equipment for tidy groups & waste disposal from litter picks, consultation and design work for parish plan groups.

How do our communities value the support the Council offers to the VCS?

40% of respondents felt that they know enough about voluntary and community organisations in Ryedale and the types of services they offer in order to benefit from them.

14% of respondents had received help, support or advice from voluntary or community sector organisations in the last 12 months.

Respondents rated the help, support or advice they were given:



Other funding organisations in the Ryedale area

Organisations in Ryedale have access to various funding schemes. Sources include:

- North Yorkshire County Council
- North York Moors National Park
- Howardian Hills AONB
- European funds in the form of LEADER.
- Sport England,
- Arts Council England
- Museums Development funded through Arts Council
- Broadacres
- Yorventure
- Key Fund Yorkshire
- Two Ridings Community Foundation
- BIG Lottery
- Lloyds TSB

The range of funding available means that an organisation can apply for funding from various sources. All these organisations have different assessment criteria and processes, monitoring and evaluation, different match funding requirements. Organisations, therefore, spend a great deal of time applying for funding.

Summary of findings from Consultation activities

The following themes emerged from the consultation:

Officer Support and advice

Officer support and advice was highly valued and was seen as an essential element in making projects and events successful. Organisations valued knowledgeable officers, who have drive and enthusiasm to make projects a success and can work through funding options.



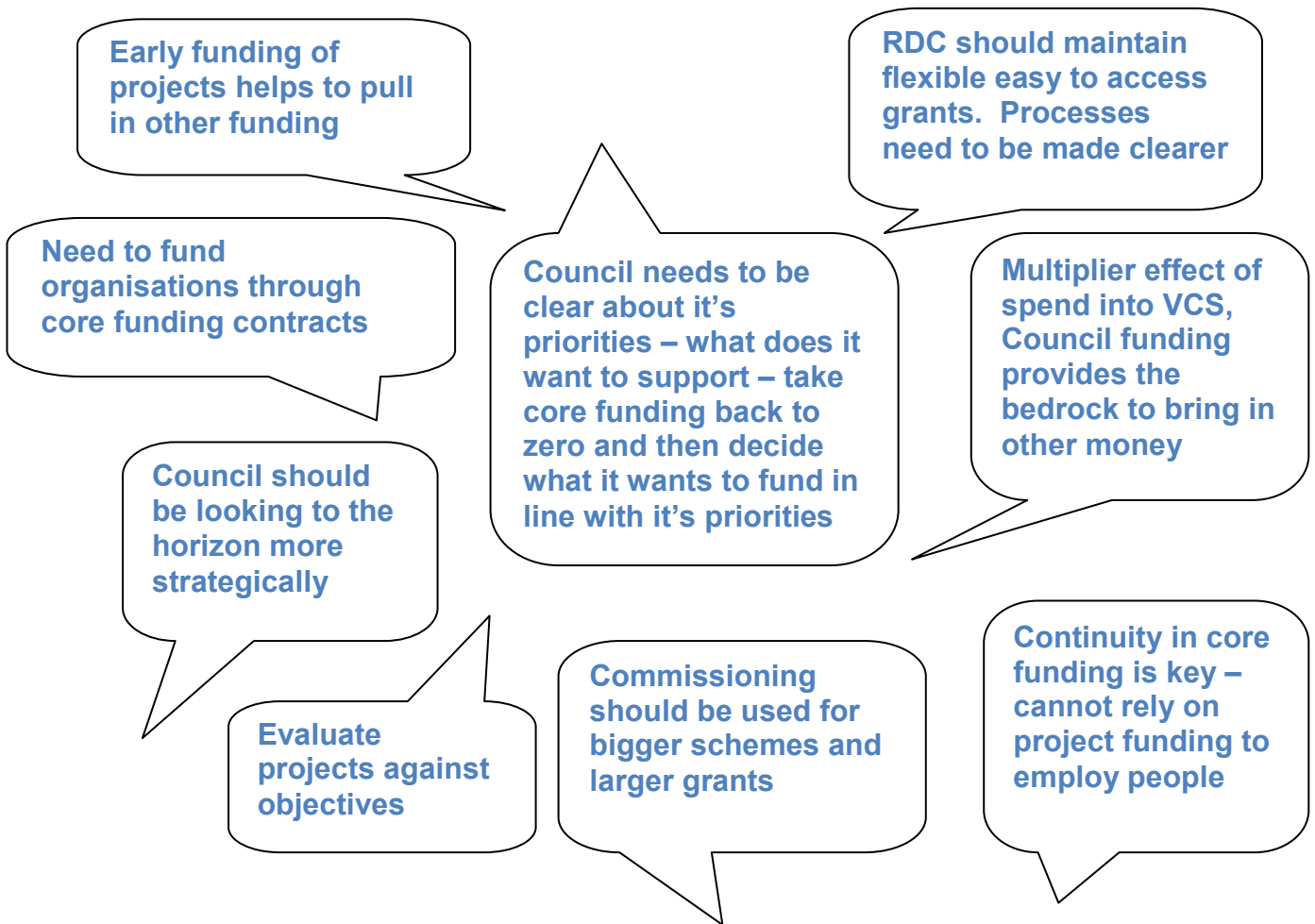
Recommendation

Development officers are essential in helping to develop projects within the voluntary and community sector and this role is highly valued by the sector. The Council should continue to provide development officers and continue to support their provision within the voluntary sector.

Funding and Grants

Through the consultation process, it became apparent, that organisations rely on the funding offered by the Council. Continuity in core funding was seen as key to sustaining organisations allowing these organisations to plan for the future and employ people. The project funding was also valued in that if the Council gave a grant it helps to give a project a seal of approval and helps to pull in other funding.

However, organisations did not find it easy to understand what the Council is trying to achieve or what outcomes are expected from the funding. For example, a musical cultural event – is the Council trying to provide events for local people to get them involved or is it about tourism and trying to attract visitors to the area. If outcomes are not clear how can the Council know whether the funding is value for money for its taxpayers and contributing to the Council's priorities. Better monitoring and evaluation is required.



Recommendations

The Council should make it clear what it's funding priorities are and what outcomes it is trying to achieve.

The Council should undertake a review of how it core funds organisations with a view to commissioning/contracts ensuring continuity for organisations and giving notice of any changes in line with the North Yorkshire Compact. This allows organisations to employ people and plan for the future.

Core funding for a longer time with more notice of change (ie 4 months minimum), linked to commissioning/procurement processes

Grant schemes should be streamlined making it easier for organisations to access and, all decisions should be made by one panel i.e. the CIF panel.

The Council should ensure that it is clear with all contracts and grants what it expects and monitor/evaluate/performance manage the outcomes accordingly ensuring Value for Money in the investment made.

Maintain a small grants element in all grant programmes.

Communication

In recent years, Ryedale District Council has lost key officers, which has had a big impact and the remaining officers are very busy. Organisations felt that these changes could have been communicated better – making it clear who is the best person to contact in the future and also the support that can be expected from that officer.

Some of the organisations which were consulted had received a cut in their grants for the 2012/13 year. Early communication and information about austerity and cuts would have been useful and allows organisations to plan ahead and manage expectations. If they had been aware that this may be an area that would possibly be cut they could have planned for it. Instead, they received two months notice which they felt was not enough.

The Council's website was felt to be not user friendly – people complained that the tourism site frequently dropped out and that arts and culture has poor prominence. It was felt that better use could be made of our site for forums and advertising events. Some other ideas included hosting a clash diary for events, available venues – contacts for village halls with a register of facilities available at each.

Internal communication between elected members and officers could be improved so that officers and members are both giving out the same message.

The Council could communicate changes better – making it clear who is the best person to contact – and what can be expected from them.

Elected members and officers often give out different messages!

Recommendations

The Council should ensure that any changes to the services it provides are clearly communicated to all those affected. This includes maintaining lists of key contacts for all services on the Council's website.

Investigate better use of the Council's website for communicating and advertising events on behalf of the voluntary and community sector.

Undertake joint member and officer training regarding funding schemes, priorities and processes for those members and officers directly involved with grant making.

Networking and Partnership Working

Organisations spend a lot of time chasing funding, filling out forms and promoting projects to different funding bodies. There can be duplication between the County Council, the Council and the RVA. The committee believes that there is scope for improved working with funding partners, holding joint meetings so the organisation can promote the project once instead of three times. Although, funding bodies probably not ready to pool funds and have one point of access.

People felt that there was a role for the Council to facilitate meeting with like VCS organisations to help similar VCS organisations within the district help each other by sharing skills and experience. Some interesting ideas included themed focus days and forums ie. Environment, arts, music, heritage.

Transport was considered a problem for public travelling to events, could this be improved by co-ordinating using RYECAT?

Some organisations felt that it is not just about how the Council can support the voluntary and community sector but should work two ways, in that how can voluntary and community organisations help the Council in delivering it's priorities for the community - usually have a common aim.

Smaller organisations often struggle with specialist skills that may be available at the Council. Could the Council offer wider support such as Marketing, HR, business planning, auditing, IT, Websites, Health & Safety, engaging younger audiences, possible sponsorship opportunities?



Recommendations

The Council should take every opportunity to co-ordinate funding and evaluation processes with other funding bodies, for example, lists of projects supported and case studies illustrating the impact of the funding awarded should be published on the Council website.

Investigate the possibility of supporting VCS organisations with specialist skills available within the Council.

Supporting Volunteering

Without volunteering the voluntary & community sector would struggle to provide services. However, volunteers do come at a cost – they still need to be trained and can often claim travelling expenses.

There is a concern that the ageing demographics of volunteers will be an issue in future years. The Council could have a role in raising awareness and encouraging regular volunteers.

The Council could help host a 'Volunteer Skills Bank' whereby volunteer skills can be shared across sectors.

'Volunteer Skills Bank' – involve RDC staff as volunteers

Supporting volunteers costs money - could the Council help with this in some way

Recommendation

Investigate how the Council could help support Ryedale Voluntary Action to encourage volunteering in the Ryedale area.

Elected members

The participating organisations really valued the support of the elected members. Elected members involvement helped to raise the profile of projects, having an elected member championing the cause helps in making projects successful and helps draw in funding.

However, it was felt that internal communication between elected members and officers could be improved. There had been occasions where elected members and officers were not giving out the same messages.

Also, the presence of elected members on boards of local charities as a representative of Ryedale District Council was called into question. Some questioned what value this added and thought that if elected members wanted to sit on boards it should be done independently.

Councillors need to see our work so that they can be advocates and champions for it

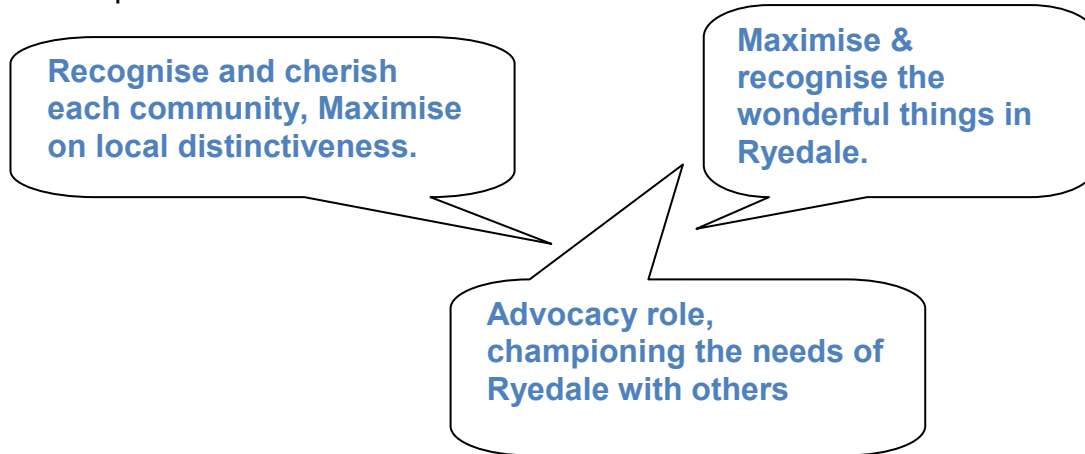
What value does this add and how much does it cost the Council?

Recommendation

Review to be undertaken to define the members' roles as champions and board members of voluntary and community organisations.

Advocate & Champion for Ryedale

People felt that Ryedale has a key role to play in influencing other sectors and giving out key messages about Ryedale. Other funders thought that the Council had a good close relationship with the community, understanding what they want and need and supporting them to help themselves.



Recommendation

The Council should use every opportunity to promote and champion Ryedale and all that it has to offer. It should also support, celebrate and recognise the value and contribution of the voluntary and community sector.

Future Threats

Looking to the future, there will be funding pressures on social care budgets and local authorities will rely more on the Voluntary and Community Sector to provide preventative, local care services. This local care is essential in preventing people from moving rapidly from independence to needing a high level of care.

As changes are made within the public health system, funding decisions will be made by Clinical Commissioning Groups of which the Ryedale area will have two. It is not yet clear what the potential impact will be on the funding available to VCS organisations in Ryedale who provide preventative services.

Recommendation

When considering future budget decisions, the Council must recognise that the funding available to the VCS to meet the needs of communities in Ryedale is reducing. The Council has a role in championing the needs of Ryedale with other funders.

Recommendations

The recommendations agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are:

Key Recommendation

The contribution of the Voluntary and Community Sector is highly valued in Ryedale. The Council should help to sustain the Voluntary and Community Sector by providing financial and officer support.

Recommendations to Commissioning Board

1. The Council should undertake a review of how it core funds organisations with a view to commissioning/contracts ensuring continuity for organisations and giving notice of any changes in line with the North Yorkshire Compact. This allows organisations to employ people and plan for the future.
2. Core funding for a longer time with more notice of change (ie 4 months minimum), linked to commissioning/procurement processes
3. Investigate how the Council could help support Ryedale Voluntary Action to encourage volunteering in the Ryedale area.

Recommendations to Policy & Resources Committee

4. Grant schemes should be streamlined making it easier for organisations to access and, all decisions should be made by one panel i.e. the CIF panel.

Recommendations to Commissioning Board and Policy & Resources Committee

5. Development officers are essential in helping to develop projects within the voluntary and community sector and this role is highly valued by the sector. The Council should continue to provide development officers and continue to support their provision within the voluntary sector.
6. The Council should make it clear what its funding priorities are and what outcomes it is trying to achieve.
7. The Council should ensure that it is clear with all contracts and grants what it expects and monitor/evaluate/performance manage the outcomes accordingly ensuring Value for Money in the investment made.
8. Maintain a small grants element in all grant programmes.
9. The Council should take every opportunity to co-ordinate funding and evaluation processes with other funding bodies, for example, lists of projects supported and case studies illustrating the impact of the funding awarded should be published on the Council website.

10. The Council should use every opportunity to promote and champion Ryedale and all that it has to offer. It should also support, celebrate and recognise the value and contribution of the voluntary and community sector.
11. When considering future budget decisions, the Council must recognise that the funding available to the VCS to meet the needs of communities in Ryedale is reducing. The Council has a role in championing the needs of Ryedale with other funders.

Recommendations to Management Team

12. The Council should ensure that any changes to the services it provides are clearly communicated to all those affected. This includes maintaining lists of key contacts with good signage for all services on the Council's website.
13. Investigate better use of the Council's website for communicating and advertising appropriate events on behalf of the voluntary and community sector.
14. Undertake joint member and officer training regarding funding schemes, priorities and processes for those members and officers directly involved with grant making.
15. Investigate the possibility of supporting VCS organisations with specialist skills available within the Council.
16. Review to be undertaken to define the members roles as champions and board members of voluntary and community organisations.

Appendices

Appendix A - Terms of Reference

Appendix B – Consultation Café – full report

Appendix C – Funding Body Consultation – full report

Appendix D – Results of Citizen’s Panel survey

Supporting Documents

Localism

Big Society

Appendix A - Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for a Scrutiny Review of the Councils Role in supporting a sustainable voluntary and community sector

<p>Aim of the Review</p>	<p>The review will make recommendations to the policy committees of the Council on the options available for ensuring a sustainable voluntary and community sector through utilising any available resources in the most efficient, effective and economical way.</p> <p>The review will try to answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the current profile of the VCS in Ryedale? • How sustainable is the sector in Ryedale and what is the role of the Council in this? • How does the Council commission or procure work from the VCS, how is this funded, what is expected and what is the impact of this work? • What expectations are there of the VCS in the current policy and funding environment and how can these best be met whilst delivering value for money for both the Council and the communities of Ryedale? • Is there potential to increase the co-ordination of funding to the VCS both within the Council and with external partners? • Can savings be made from the financial support provided or value added through pooling resources? • Are there any grants that are not cost effective to administer or receive? • Are there barriers to RDC working with the VCS and vice versa, VCS working with the Council?
<p>Why has this review been selected?</p>	<p>Changes being implemented by the government towards the achievement of 'The Big Society' agenda are placing increasing emphasis on the role of voluntary sector and community organisations. Members felt that the Council needed to review its policies and those of partners and the government in relation to these organisations.</p>
<p>Who will carry out the review?</p>	<p>The review will be carried out by a task group including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 2 members of the O and S committee (but open to all members of O and S) • The Head of Transformation • The Economic and Community Services Manager • Support will be provided by members of the Transformation Team
<p>How the review will be carried out?</p>	<p>The task group will consider the impact of the Localism Act and Big Society policy agenda on the Voluntary and Community sector and also review the Councils policies in relation to the sector.</p> <p>Consideration would be made of existing data and evidence, national research on the impact of recent policy decisions made by the government on the VCS and any local research undertaken.</p> <p>This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews undertaken previously by the Council • Reviews undertaken by other local authorities • Government policy and the impact of reviews of funding arrangements • Research undertaken by organisations representing the interests of the VCS

	The task group will also liaise with representatives from the VCS in Ryedale.
What are the expected outputs?	It is expected that the task group will produce a report, summarising the evidence they have gathered and containing specific recommendations for the Council and other partner organisations as appropriate.
Timescale	It is anticipated that the group will conclude the outcomes of the review In September 2012. Progress reports will be submitted to the committee throughout the review.

Appendix B - Appendix B – Consultation Café – full report

Consultation Café Event
17th June 2012
Council Chamber

Attendees

Organisation	Attendees	
RVA	Andrea Hobbs	David Wright
Helmsley Arts Centre	Em Whitfield Brooks	
Kirk Theatre	Jennifer Dale	Susan Stamper
Ryedale Carers Support	Claire Hall	
Live Music Now	Lucy Galliard	
Swinton & District Excelsior Band	Tracey Popham	Dorothy Ratcliffe
The Shed	Simon Thackray	
Yorkshire Cajun	J Adamson	A Shutt
Pied Piper	Colin Challen	
Ryedale Folk Museum	Tony Clark MBE	Emma McKenzie
Malton White Star Band	Gerald Cosens	
Norton Wildlife Watch	Sue Holmes	
Welburn Village Hall	Mrs Yvonne Myers	Mrs Sylvia Haines
Malton & Norton Tidy Grp	Sarah Housden	Nick Fletcher
Woodhams-Stone Collection	John Stone	

Total Attendance

22

Councillors

Cllr Robert Wainwright
Cllr Elizabeth Shields
Cllr Sarah Ward
Cllr John Raper
Cllr David Cussons

Methodology

Following the world café method of consultation, the group were divided into three groups and each had a different conversation or discussion. After 15 minutes, attendees were invited to join another conversation or remain with the same conversation.

Topics for the Conversations

1. What does your organisation value most about the support the Council offers to voluntary and community sector organisations?
2. How can the Council improve the way it works with the voluntary and community sector?
3. Thinking about the opportunities and threats facing your organisation, what role do you think the Council should play in supporting a sustainable voluntary and community sector in the future?

Key Findings

Support & Communication

- Not just about funding, which is essential, officer support and advice was highly valued. Officers who are very knowledgeable, have drive and enthusiasm to make projects a success and can work through funding options. However, some officers had left and not been replaced making it difficult to know who to turn to for help. Go back to the traditional officer roles at RDC, provide support in-kind, this is essential.

- The council needs to be clearer about who organisations can contact for support. More better open communication. The Council has lost a lot of key officers which has had a big impact – remaining officers very busy. The Council could communicate these changes better – making it clear who is the best person to contact – and what can be expected from them. Lost expertise in certain areas such as environment.
- RDC needs a dedicated Communities Officer to pull all of this together
- Organisations wondered if the Council could offer wider support such as Marketing, HR, business planning, auditing, IT, Websites, Health & Safety etc.
- Council could help with co-ordination or raising awareness of events especially young people, sponsorship.
- Offers of help in kind – eg reduced rate/free use of meeting rooms/warehouses/council staff support/equipment
- Could the council give a project a seal of approval – encouraging other funders to support
- Skills shortage in one sector that could benefit another sector – ‘Voluntary Skills Bank’
- Council website not user friendly – tourism site dropdowns awful - RDC has poor prominence for arts and culture on its website
- Could the Council host a clash diary for events, available venues – contacts for village halls with register of facilities available at each star ratings! Hold a Best Village Hall judged by the Chairman, privately sponsored with a cash prize or Village Hall X Factor competition
- the Council could support/facilitate meetings with like organisations – like organisations working in partnership – sharing skills – themed forums or focus days for networking ie. Environment, arts, music, heritage
- Transport – could transport be co-ordinated for events using Ryecat.
- Advocacy role

Partnership working

- Council needs to be more joined up with RVA - Meetings with organisations could be held together – supporting organisations jointly – rather than Council meeting with an org and then RVA meeting with an org and maybe giving mis-information about what each authority can do for the org.
- Voluntary sector gets caught between the County Council & the District Council – the Council could improve partnership working with the County. Can be duplication between the two.
- The Council should have cross-boundary discussions with neighbouring authorities – work more in partnership. Bring people in from York, Whitby, Scarborough and Thirsk but also attract local people.
- Duplication – why are the Council duplicating what the RVA is providing why not just give more funds to RVA and let them provide the service.
- Should be a two-way thing what can the voluntary & community sector do to help the Council.
- Joined up thinking with communities

Volunteers

- Supporting volunteers costs money – travelling expenses – could the Council help with this in some way
- Ageing demographics of volunteers – concern in future years – Council help with raising awareness

- Council could help in encouraging regular volunteers.
- People like to be rewarded/recognised for what they do, ie voluntary work and fundraising

Funding & Grant Schemes

- Core funding is key – cannot rely on project funding to employ people
- Early funding of projects helps to pull in other funding
- Early communication/information about austerity and cuts useful allows organisations to plan ahead and manage expectations. Two months before is not long enough to plan for the cut in income. Don't salami slice cuts – look at where the least damage will be done.
- Council needs to be clear about it's priorities – what does it want to support – take core funding back to zero and then decide what it wants to core fund in line with it's priorities. Also in funding organisations be clear about outcomes and what it is trying to achieve. Voluntary sector brings a lot of income into the area and the Council needs to clarify this in it's economic strategy for the area. Balance between economic benefit/supporting vulnerable people and local/national.
- RDC should maintain flexible easy to access grants. The process needs to be made clearer.
- Commissioning should be for bigger schemes
- Organisations spend a lot of time chasing project funding
- Continuity in allocating rules
- Members & officers of the Council should improve their knowledge of the Compact – how it works – guidance for year on year funding – and notice given.

Elected Members

- Should RDC members be spending their time on boards of local charities or should they do this independently and as part of their own interest. What value does this add? How much does this cost the council?
- RDC has key role to play in influencing other sectors and giving out key messages about Ryedale. Role for RDC in championing what Ryedale is, has and needs. Councillors need to see our work so that they can be advocates and champions for it eg Cllr Raper and Live Music Now. Support of elected members valued.
- Internal communication between elected members and officers should be better – both giving out the same message.

Future

- Concerns over funding, cuts
- Recession means dropping audiences people cannot afford to attend events
- Recognise and cherish each community, Maximise on local distinctiveness. Maximise the wonderful things in Ryedale. RDC should carry out a project recognising something unique in each village
- Recognise what is out there

Appendix C – Funding Organisations Consultation – Findings

Present:

Mike Horrocks	LEADER programme	North York Moors National Park Authority
Dee Mitchell	Coast, Wolds, Wetlands, Waterways (CWWW LEADER)	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Dieter Hopkin	Arts Council funded Initiative – museum development	Renaissance Yorkshire
Michael Hunt	Strategic Commissioning Manager, Health & Adult Services	NYCC

Findings:

Value

- Good projects need to be developed. Help build projects from good ideas into good projects. This needs support.
- Multiplier effect of spend into VCS, Council funding provides the bedrock to bring in other money
- Need to fund key organisation through core funding contracts

Risks

- Huge funding pressures on social care budgets. VCS provide preventative, local care. Prevents people jumping from no needs to high level of care
- Pressure on budgets of LA's will affect ability to fund and support VCS. Funding currently going through NHS to VCS will go through CCG's and Ryedale is divided.

Funding and evaluation

- Projects funded must be for public benefit not private gain
- Work with the aims of a project, develop binding contract for any support, site monitoring, evaluation visits
- Small grants funding key question is – how will your organisation move forward as a result of this funding?
- Evaluate projects against objectives – this event will attract 100 people – did it?
- If services are for vulnerable people, need extensive evaluation of provider – preferred provider list
- Annual evaluation of projects - is the desired outcome being achieved?

Networking and Partnership working

- RDC has a good relationship with the community – in other areas there is a chasm
- Encourage groups to work together and benefit from the skills of each other
- Face time builds trust! There is no better alternative than getting out there into the community.
- VCS will not thrive without active support and officer involvement. Need to work together. A little support goes a long way
- Support required can be intensive in the early stages, but the investment pays dividends later when the project delivers
-

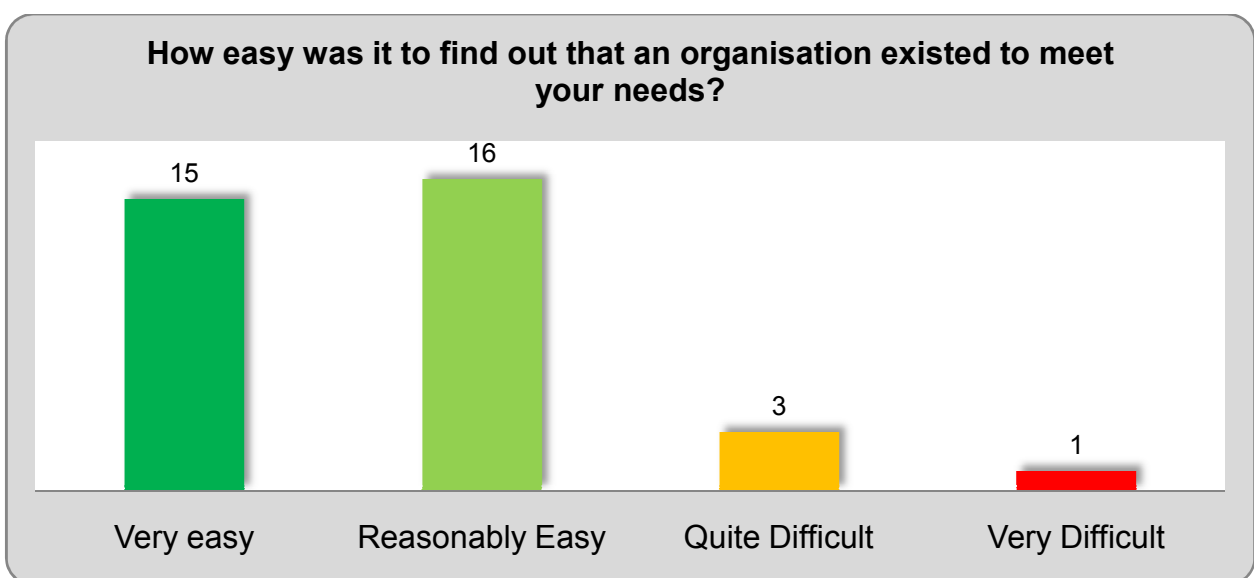
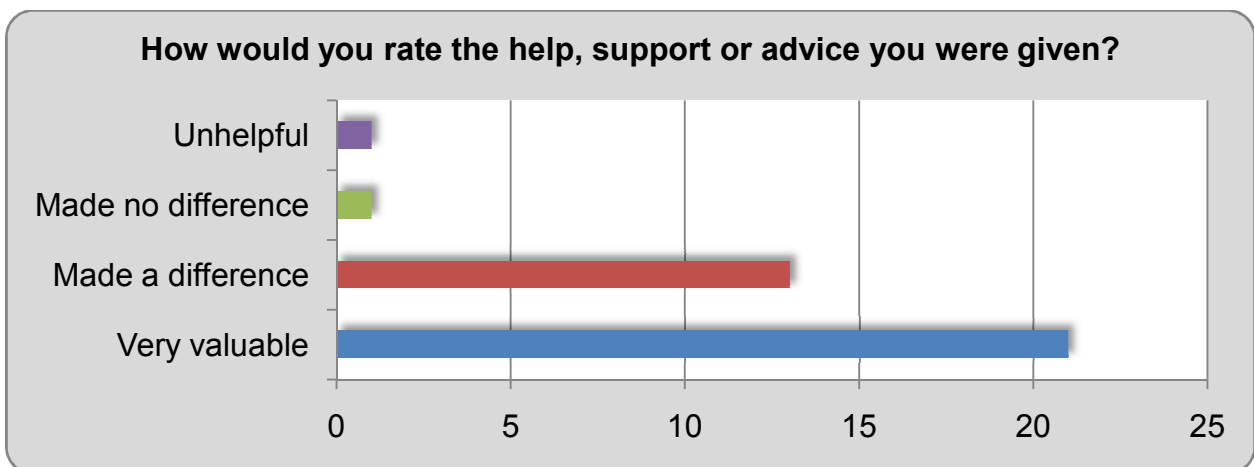
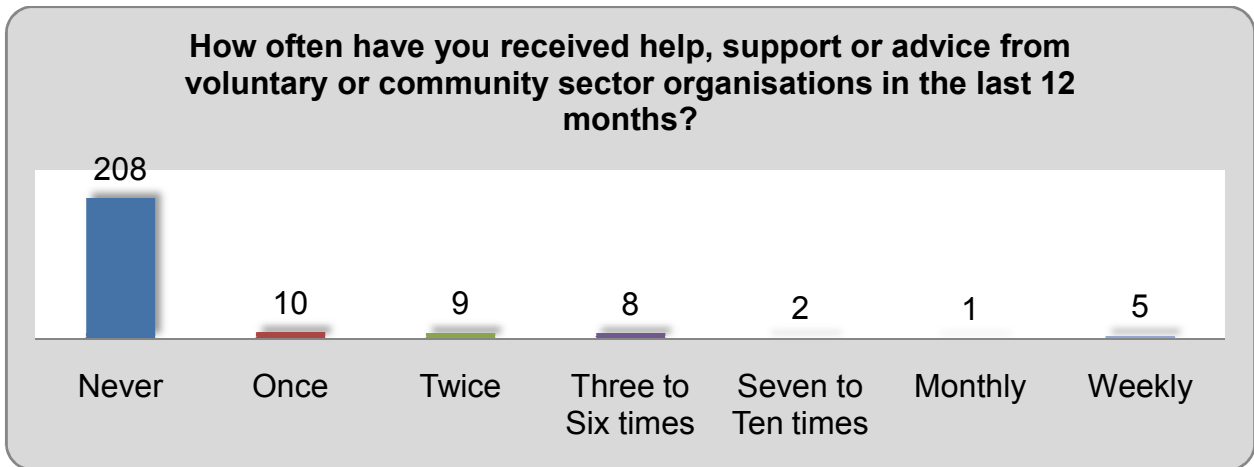
Two things RDC should be doing:

- Groups struggle with development support and who to go to for help – need a consistency of presence with resources available on the ground. RDC could provide directly or fund VCS to provide
- Council should be looking to the horizon more strategically

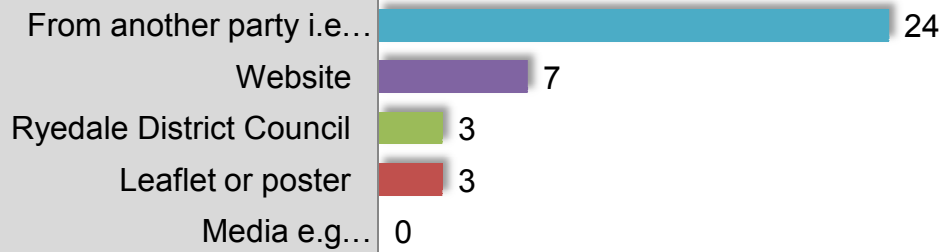
- Engage communities in identifying needs and opportunities locally – what will be the rural challenges in 2015-20?
- Continuity is the most important thing to the VCS – officer and member support and funding
- What do we want from the VCS and for the VCS – priorities
- Core business – health and wellbeing – enable people to live healthy active lives and reduce future need for social care
- RDC needs to make sure the voice for Ryedale is heard and what the needs are within the area – advocacy and champion the area

Appendix D – Results of Citizen’s Panel survey

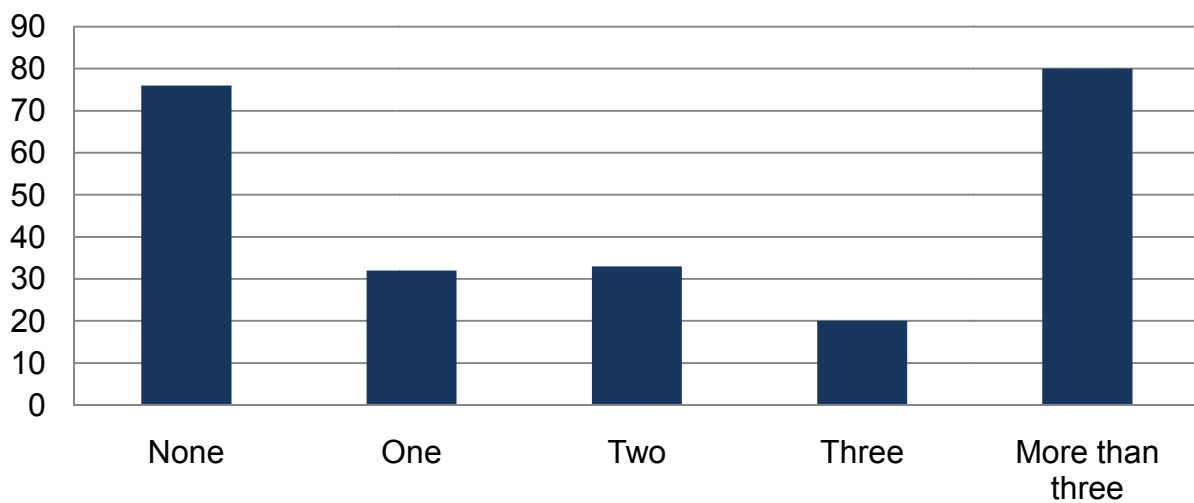
246 members of the Council’s Citizens Panel completed the questionnaire. 94 respondents feel that they know enough about voluntary and community organisations in Ryedale and the types of services they offer in order to benefit from them, 139 did not.



How did you find out about the organisation?



How many events organised by a local voluntary, community or charitable organisation have you attended in the last 12 months?



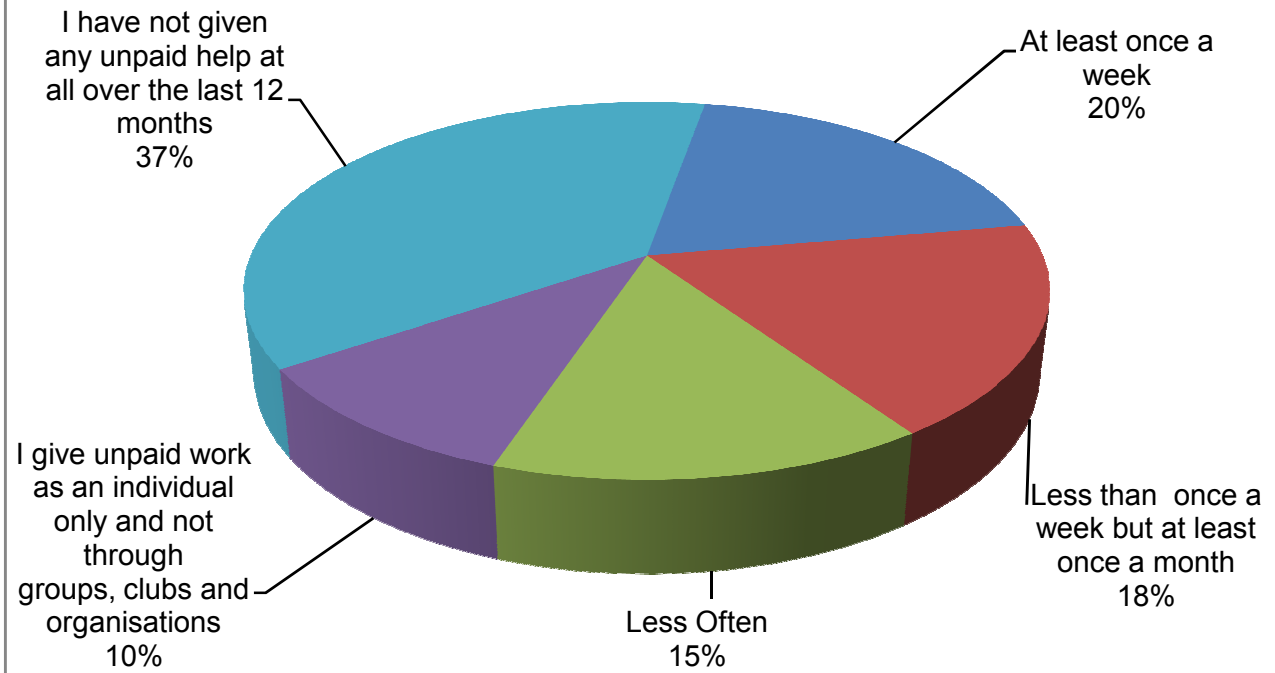
What type of event(s) have you attended?

Community Event	102
Fundraising	99
Music/Arts	62
Sports	33

What benefit did you get from attending the event(s)?

Personal enjoyment	132	33%
Felt I was supporting a good cause	111	28%
Felt part of something	92	23%
Raised my awareness for an organisation / cause	47	12%
Received advice / support	8	2%
Developed skills	6	2%

How often over the past 12 months have you given unpaid help to any group(s) club(s) or organisation(s)?



Respondent Demographics		
Gender	Male:	101
	Female:	132
Age	0-24 yrs	6
	25-34 yrs	4
	35-44 yrs	22
	45-54 yrs	39
	55-64 yrs	62
	65 yrs+	101
Disability	Yes	37
	No	198

Council Aim	Aim 1: Housing Need To meet housing need in the Ryedale District Council area			
Strategic Objectives	1. To change and add to housing stock to meet the local housing needs		2. To support people to access a suitable home or remain in an existing home	
Council Aim	Aim 2: Economic Success To create the conditions for economic success			
Strategic Objectives	3. Place of opportunity – economic structure and supporting infrastructure		4. Opportunity for people – increasing wage and skills levels	
Council Aim	Aim 3: High Quality Environment To have a high quality, clean and sustainable environment.			
Strategic Objectives	5. Reducing waste and CO2 emissions	6. Planning to adapt to climate change	7. To maintain the quality of our local environment	
Council Aim	Aim 4: Active Safe Communities To help all residents to achieve a healthy weight by encouraging an active lifestyle, in communities where everyone feels welcome and safe			
Strategic Objectives	8a. Safe Villages and Towns		8b. Healthy Villages and Towns	
Council Aim	Aim 5: To Transform the Council			
Strategic Objectives	9. To know our communities and meet their needs		10. To develop the leadership, capacity and capability to deliver future improvements	

Performance Narrative

Aim 1 – Meeting Housing Need

So far in 2012/13 there have been 50 affordable units delivered and the expected out-turn for the year is around 65, although this is closely linked to progress made on private sector housing sites. Rural housing needs surveys have been completed in Slingsby and Burythorpe, and sites are being discussed with parishes for affordable housing.

In 2012/13 to date 454 households in housing difficulty have sought assistance from the Council and its partners, compared to 424 households during the same period last year. In terms of homelessness applications there have been 25 compared to 35 in this period last year. Homelessness acceptances are similarly slightly lower at 10 compared to 11 in the first six months of 2011/12. Both of these statistics have been improved through the launch of Choice Based Lettings and the Young People's Partnership. In the first 6 months of 2012/13 the Council has successfully prevented 143 cases of potential homelessness compared to 96 cases for the same period in 2011/12.

Supporting Independent Living

The new White Rose Home Improvement Agency, a Partnership between Ryedale and Scarborough Councils, is now established and some 90 Disabled Facilities Grants in Ryedale are expected to be completed by the new Agency during 2012/13.

25 Energy Efficiency grants have been approved thus far and some £20k spent.

65 new lifelines have been installed by Ryecare.

Aim 2 – Creating Conditions for Economic Success

The Ryedale Plan strategy document is currently being examined. The inspectors' final report is expected by April 2013. Work has commenced on the Councils Community Infrastructure Levy scheme and it is expected that this will be developed, examined and adopted during April 2013. Progress with the Plan adds certainty to the decision making of the Planning Committee and enables progress with the Sites Document, which will be subject to consultation in following the adoption of the Ryedale Plan Strategy in 2013.

Improving Infrastructure

Work is underway on a major extension to York Road Industrial Estate that will provide opportunities for new jobs and investment in Malton. A range of business uses are anticipated and RDC Economy Officers are working with the developers to encourage investment. Support is also being provided to FERA in their transition from a public sector site to an Applied Innovation Campus, based around bio and food sciences, with major potential for significant numbers of businesses to move into the site and strengthen the provision of quality jobs in Ryedale and links to the York economy. Support is also being provided to other major Ryedale employers to encourage investment and jobs, with a planning application for a sizeable site extension expected soon. In September the improved Brambling Fields junction on the A64 opened to traffic. This takes through traffic away from the congested centre of Malton and so will improve the air quality problems at Butcher Corner. Although the opening of the scheme, which involved extensive earthworks, was delayed significantly after unprecedented levels of recorded rainfall for this period, the achievement of this essential piece of major infrastructure is a huge milestone for Malton and Norton and their economic future. The Council allocated £2.4m to jointly fund the £6m scheme with NYCC and the Highways Agency. Final outturn costs will not be known for several months but are potentially slightly above the allocated budget as a result of the impact of the extraordinary weather. The Council has recently helped fund (with Norton Town Council) work to advise Norton retailers on marketing and promotion to take advantage of opportunities offered by Brambling Fields. This is leading to mutual support amongst traders, with assistance from the District and Town Councils.

Wage and Skill Levels

The York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) guides and encourages public and private sector investment in and maximise support for enterprise and industry in the area. After its first year the LEP has re-focussed its key economic priorities, which now include the expansion of FERA at Sand Hutton plus supporting the new potash and off-shore wind activity on the North Yorkshire coast (both of which provide potential economic benefits for Ryedale. The success of the 201 and 2011 2012 'Opportunity Knocks' events, which highlight to young people in Ryedale the diversity of business and employment opportunities available in the local area, was repeated on November 13th 2012 with over 400 students involved and an even wider range of Ryedale employers present than in previous years. Plans are being developed for a 'Skills Summit', together with a range of business-related activities, all aimed at improving networks and the provision of appropriate local skills and encouraging investment in the Ryedale economy.

Aim 3 –Maintaining a High Quality Environment

Increasing the rate of recycling and reducing the amount of waste collected

The new recycling scheme has been implemented for 96% of the District regarding the additional materials collection complementing the glass, cans, paper and garden waste already collected. One final rural round is due to be implemented after Christmas, to allow officers to consider resource options, concentrate on round consolidation and focus on Christmas arrangements. Initial feedback has been extremely positive regarding the new system and the transition process, with high levels of public participation. Projections for 2012/13 are that the new scheme will divert 12,142 tonnes of waste from landfill, an estimated 850 tonnes being from the new collections of plastic and card (34.5 kgs per household). All recycle is taken to the new transfer station on Showfield Lane operated by Palm Recycling.

Managing the risk of future flooding

Final installations have been completed to properties in Pickering with agreement being reached with the Environment Agency to utilise any under spend on properties in Kirkbymoorside and/or Pickering. All £212,500 plus £50,000 funding from RDC is being utilised for the benefit of those residents most at risk of flooding.

Significant progress has been made regarding 'Slowing the Flow at Pickering' Project, further options have been investigated and costed. Following discussions North Yorkshire Moors railway and based on updated LIDAR data (survey of the catchment area), a large single reservoir option is now thought possible which will deliver the required protection and provide protection against 1 in 25 year events as a minimum.

Reduction of Co2 from Council Operations

Co2 emissions resulting from Council Operations have been significantly reduced by 15% since 2009/10. Work has been completed at Ryedale Pool Pickering regarding a gas-fired CHP, air source heat pumps and high efficiency domestic hot water storage, combined with appropriate amendments to the air handling equipment and the installation of a solar thermal array. The proposed scheme represents the most financially viable solution for energy used at the site and offers the potential for investing in renewable technologies and making significant reductions in CO₂ emissions likely to be in excess of 70 tonnes per year.

Aim 4 – Active Safe Communities

Safe and Welcoming Communities

The Safer Ryedale Partnership Plan for 2012/13 has been agreed by the Partnership Board and is being implemented. Compared to this period last year, crime rates have fallen again. The partnership is planning for anticipated changes, particularly in the allocation of funding, following the enactment of the Police and Social Responsibility Bill and the election of Police and Crime Commissioners on 15 November 2012.

Supporting Active Communities.

A draft detailed Sports and Active Lives Strategy has been completed and will be presented to members shortly. The strategy is not focused solely on participation within formal indoor and outdoor activity, but also considers the wealth of informal opportunities provided by Ryedale's natural assets, the emphasis being More People – More Active – More Often. In particular Ryedale is recognised as a world class venue for mountain and road biking

Aim 5 - Transforming the Council

The Council delivered savings of over £1 million pounds for the 2011/12 budget through the 'One 11' efficiency programme. In 2012/13 the 'Going for Gold' efficiency programme has delivered £628k of savings and £164k of cuts to balance the budget. The budget is currently being prepared for 2013/14 (the 'Round 3' efficiency programme) with a projected savings requirement of a further £700k to balance the budget.

Supporting Democracy

The scrutiny review of 'support for a sustainable community and voluntary sector' and the role of the Council in this, has been concluded with recommendations being considered by the Councils policy committees and by Management team. The scope of the next review will be considered at the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and will consider the topic 'The role of members on outside bodies'.

The election of the Police and Crime Commissioner for York and North Yorkshire will take place on 15 November 2012 along with the By-election for a District Council ward member for Norton West. The next election for the Police and Crime Commissioner is scheduled to take place in May 2016. A number of reviews are being undertaken into the low turnout for the PCC elections, however Ryedale did achieve the best turnout in North Yorkshire at 16.75%. The new ward member for the vacant Norton West seat on the District Council was won by Councillor Di Keal who is a member of the Liberal Democrat group. The turnout for the by-election was 23.3%.

The annual canvass was concluded on target ahead of the elections with a response rate of 96.9% which is a slight increase on last years return.

Both the election and the canvass are being delivered successfully from within the Business Hub.

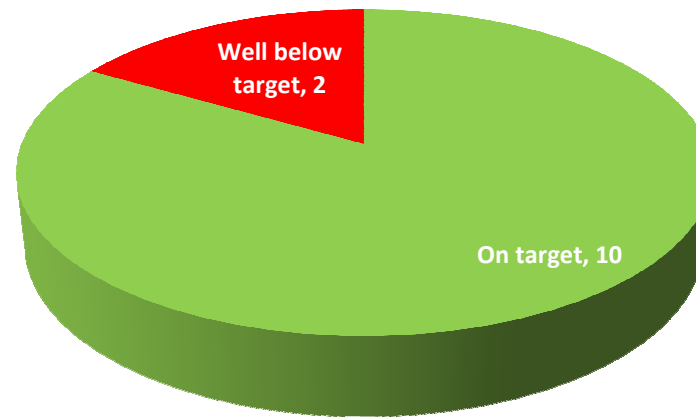
The Council engaged successfully with over 120 young people at the Opportunity Knocks event and the insights gained will be used to inform the development of the Councils priorities and budget for 2013/14 and also to support the development of the Council's approach to apprenticeships and work experience programmes.

Member Development

Following formal assessment by peers, Ryedale District Council has been awarded the Member Development Charter status by Local Government Yorkshire and Humber. The award of Charter status recognises the commitment the Authority has made and continues to make to the support and ongoing development of its members.

Aim 1. Housing Need – Performance Indicators

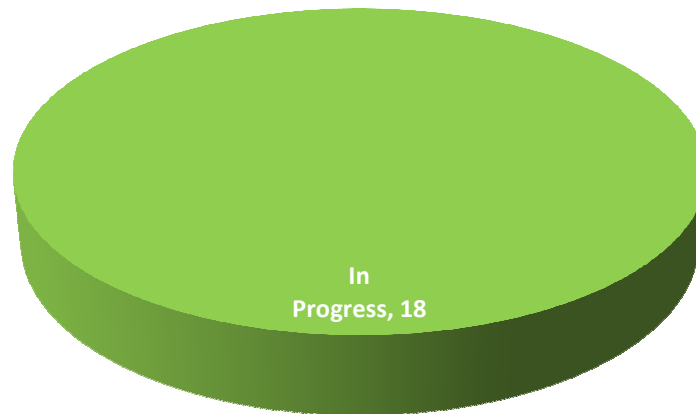
Status	Performance Indicator
✔	Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living
✔	The extent to which older people receive the support they need to live independently at home
✔	Number of current Lifeline users in Ryedale
✔	Number of empty properties in Ryedale
✔	Prevention of Homelessness through Advice and Proactive Intervention
✔	Number of affordable homes permissions granted



Status	Performance Indicator
✔	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
✔	Net additional homes provided
✔	Supply of ready to develop housing sites
✔	Time taken to process Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit new claims and change events
⊘	% households in Ryedale in Fuel Poverty
⊘	Affordability Ratio

Aim 1. Housing Need - Actions

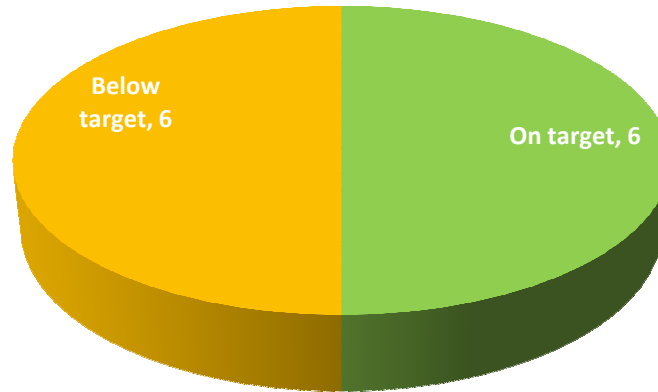
Target	Title
✔	Planning Gain
▶	Registered Social Landlord/Other Funded
▶	Homelessness - Projects & Initiatives
▶	New Homes Bonus
▶	Lifeline Service
▶	Young People – Homelessness prevention
▶	Property Improvement Loans 2012-13
▶	Landlord Improvement Grants & Loans 2012-13
▶	Energy Efficiency Grants 2012-13
▶	Disabled Facilities Grants 2012-13



On Target	Title
▶	Exception Sites Land Purchase
▶	Temporary Accommodation & Bridge House
▶	Empty Homes Strategy
▶	Homelessness applications & acceptances
▶	To deliver an LDF for Ryedale
▶	Provision of a Mortgage rescue scheme in partnership
▶	Homelessness Strategy Action Plan
▶	Support for HCA funding to Housing associations

Aim 2. Economic Success – Performance Indicators

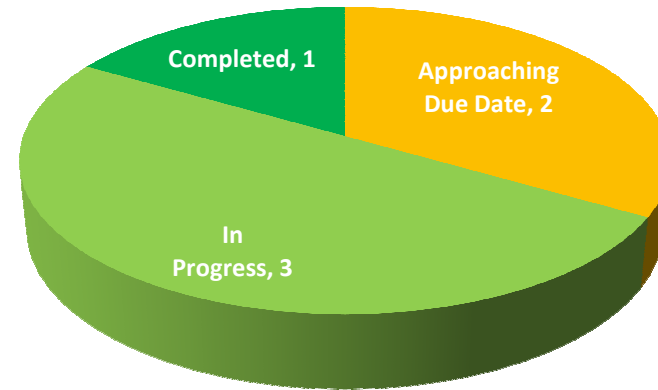
Status	Performance Indicator
✓	% Ryedale population qualified - NVQ1
✓	% Ryedale population qualified - NVQ2
✓	% Ryedale population qualified - NVQ3
✓	% Ryedale population qualified - NVQ4
✓	Industrial lettings vacancies
✓	Total Job Seeker Allowance Claimants
⚠	Employment Rate
⚠	NEETs



Status	Performance Indicator
⚠	Number of new business start ups
⚠	Footfall – Malton Town Centre
⚠	Average household earnings in Ryedale
⚠	Gross weekly earnings by workplace

Aim 2. Economic Success - Actions

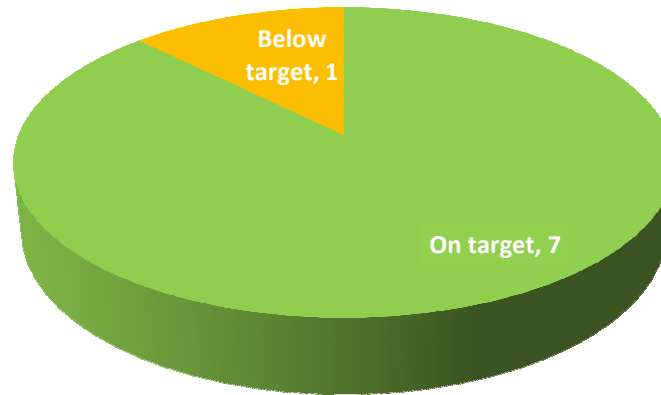
Target	Title
✓	A64 Brambling Fields Junction Upgrade
▶	Enable economic activity through supporting projects
▶	Support local businesses
▶	To deliver an LDF for Ryedale



On Target	Title
⚠	Improve Skills and Knowledge of the workforce
⚠	Provision in Capital Programme for Managed Workspace Facilities

Aim 3. High Quality Environment – Performance Indicators

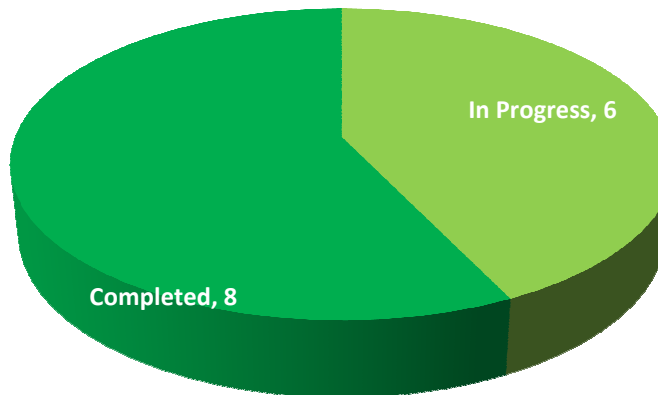
Status	Performance Indicator
✔	New homes built on previously developed land
✔	Flood and coastal erosion risk management
✔	Total number of properties flooded per year
✔	Overall/general satisfaction with local area



Status	Performance Indicator
✔	Improved Local Biodiversity
✔	CO2 reduction from Council operations
✔	% of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting
⚠	Residual household waste - kg per household

Aim 3. High Quality Environment – Actions

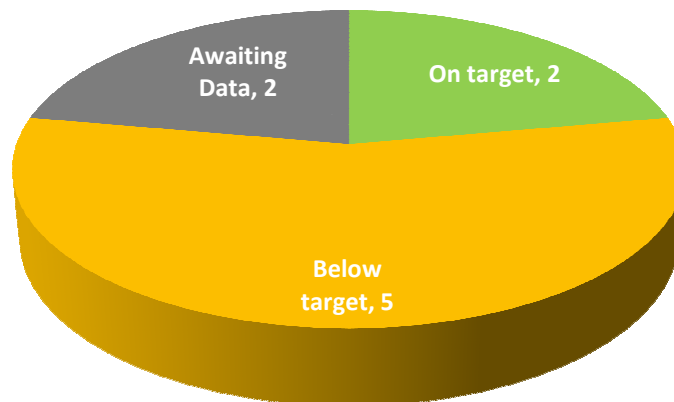
On Target	Title
✔	Prioritize flood risk areas and implement local catchment's of sandbags for immediate self help
✔	Maintain a current multi-agency risk plan
✔	Winter maintenance grant scheme
✔	Round review re waste management to ensure optimum efficiency
✔	Deliver on farm garden waste composting through partnership with local farmers
✔	Develop local transfer station for recyclable materials in partnership with private sector
✔	Recreational Open Space Development



On Target	Title
✔	Householder Flood Resistance Grants Scheme
▶	Vale of Pickering Channel Management Pilot
▶	Develop an Air Quality Action Plan.
▶	Enhance stakeholder participation re volunteer groups
▶	Pickering Flood scheme
▶	Refresh climate change strategy in line with new government guidelines
▶	Plastic Bottles & Cardboard Recycling Rollout

Aim 4. Active Safe Communities – Performance Indicators

On Target	Title
✓	Crime Rate for the District
✓	% of parishes covered by a current plan
⚠	Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6
⚠	Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing
⚠	Adult participation in sport and active recreation

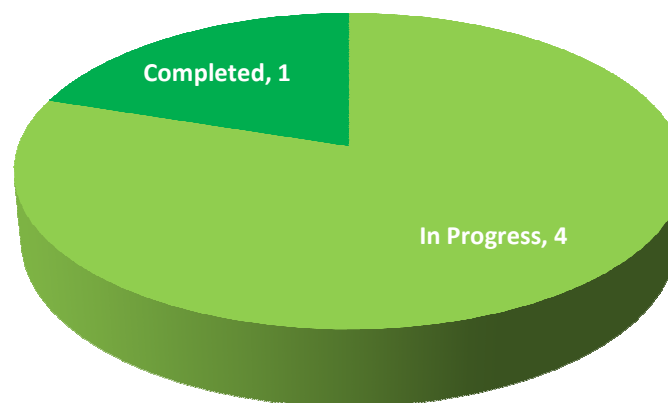


On Target	Title
⚠	Obesity in Adults
⚠	Levels of satisfaction with Council sport and leisure facilities
?	Residents satisfied with sports/leisure facilities
?	Swimming Pools & Sports centres no of visits per 1,000 population

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Aim 4. Active Safe Communities – Actions

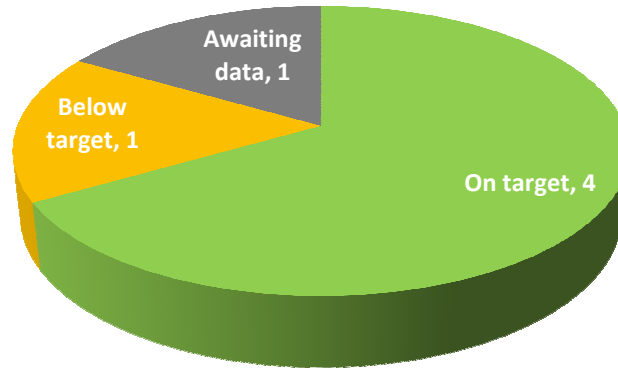
Target	Title
✓	Recreational Open Space Development
▶	Safer Ryedale Partnership Plan 2012-2013
▶	Investigate feasibility of a GP referral scheme in Ryedale



On Target	Title
▶	Grant for the redevelopment of existing sports facilities in Helmsley
▶	Review the Sports Strategy

Aim 5. To Transform the Council – Performance Indicators

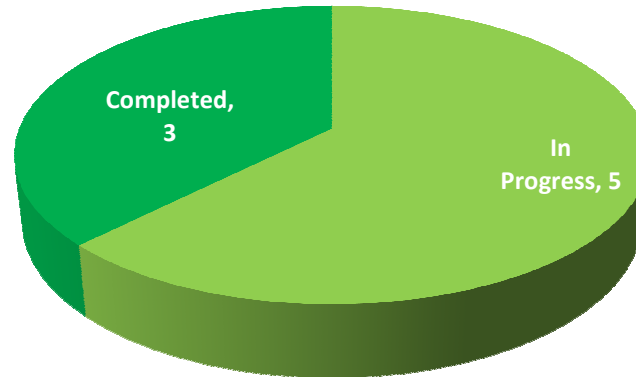
Status	Performance Indicator
✓	Civic participation in the local area
✓	Service satisfaction – customer satisfaction
✓	Top priorities for local people
✓	Queries resolved at first point of contact



Status	Performance Measure
⚠	Pulse Survey - employee satisfaction
?	Overall satisfaction with the Council

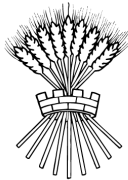
Aim 5. To Transform the Council – Actions

On Target	Title
Page 47 ✓	Formulate an action plan for maintaining IIP accreditation
✓	ICT Strategy Programme
✓	Going for Gold
▶	Value for Money



On Target	Title
▶	Partnership Protocol and significant partnerships
▶	A Plan for Every Parish
▶	Deliver the Police Commissioner elections
▶	Service Equality Monitoring

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PART A:	MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	6 DECEMBER 2012
REPORT OF THE:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR (s151) PAUL CRESSWELL
TITLE OF REPORT:	TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report on treasury management activities to date for 2012/13 and to update Members on current investments in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) Members receive this report; and
- (ii) the current investments and performance in 2012/2013 be noted.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council has adopted the Code. A provision of the Code is that the Policy and Resources Committee will receive and review regular monitoring reports relating to the treasury management activities of the current year.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 There are no significant risks in considering this report. There are significant risks when investing public funds especially with unknown institutions. However, by the adoption of the CIPFA Code and a prudent investment policy these are minimised. The employment of Treasury Advisors also helps reduce the risk.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Council has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Local Authorities and this report complies with the requirements under this code.

- 5.2 The Council use the services of Sector Treasury Services Limited (Sector) to provide treasury management information and advice.

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 The CIPFA Code states that Members will receive reports on the Council's Treasury Management policies, practices, and activities at regular intervals including an annual strategy, a mid-year review of the strategy and performance, an annual outturn report and monitoring reports.
- 6.2 In compliance with the Treasury Management scheme of delegation a mid-year review report will be submitted to the December meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for scrutiny, prior to the submission to Full Council.
- 6.3 The Council aims to achieve the optimum return on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate it is considered appropriate to keep investments short-term and only invest with highly credit rated financial institutions.
- 6.4 As at 31 October 2012 internally managed investments totalled £8,300,000 which were lent out as follows:

Period of Maturity	£
Cash Equivalents:	
Call Monies (SIBA)	1,800,000
Repayable within 1 month	0
Fixed Term Deposits:	
Repayable 1 month to 3 months	4,500,000
Repayable 3 months to 6 months	1,000,000
Repayable 6 months to 12 months	1,000,000
Repayable 12 months to 24 months	0
Total	8,300,000

- 6.5 The above investments were held with the following types of institutions:

Type of Institution	£
UK Clearing Banks	8,300,000
Foreign Banks	0
Building Societies	0
Local Authorities	0
Total	8,300,000

- 6.6 This Council uses the creditworthiness service provided by Sector Treasury Services as specified in the Council's Investment Strategy approved by Full Council 20 February 2012. The service uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit

ratings from all three agencies – Fitch, Moodys and Standard & Poors, forming the core element. The modelling approach combines credit ratings, credit watches, credit outlooks and credit default swap spreads in a weighted scoring system, which indicates the relative creditworthiness of counterparties.

6.7 Because of the ongoing uncertainty within the money markets, the temporary restriction to Sectors Credit Methodology is still in place. The restriction suggests a maximum investment duration of 3 months with the exception of UK Government and related entities such as local authorities, UK semi nationalised institutions such as Lloyds and RBS and Money Market Funds. New investments will be restricted to these limits until market circumstances begin to stabilise.

6.8 All the above borrowers met the required credit rating at the time of investment.

6.9 The following table shows the relative performance of cash equivalents (deposits restricted to a duration of under 30 days) and fixed term deposits, with the 7-day benchmark for the period ended 31 October 2012:

	Average Investment £	Gross Rate of Return	Net Rate of Return	Benchmark Return
Cash Equivalents	2,734,706	0.77%	n/a	n/a
Fixed Term Deposits	1,103,435	1.40%	n/a	0.42%

6.10 As illustrated above the Authority has to date outperformed the benchmark. The Council's budgeted investment return for 2012/13 is £100k, the interest received from investments and loans for the seven-month period to 31 October 2012 total £72k. The return on investments therefore is slightly above the profiled budget, however, due to continued quantitative easing, this return is likely to fall for the remainder of the year as banks reduce their investment interest rates. Nevertheless it is anticipated that the return on investments will meet the budget target for the financial year.

6.11 In October the policymakers at the Bank of England held interest rates at 0.5% for the 42nd month in a row. Sector's latest economic forecast predicts that the first Bank Rate increase will be in the third quarter of 2014 to 0.75%.

6.12 Officers can confirm that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the period 1 April 2012 to 31 October 2012.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

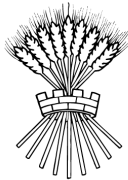
- a) Financial
The results of the investment strategy affect the funding of the Capital Programme.
- b) Legal
There are no legal implications regarding this report.
- c) Other
None to report.

Paul Cresswell
Corporate Director (s151)

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E-Mail Address: paul.cresswell@ryedale.gov.uk

Background Papers:
None.

Background Papers are available for inspection at:
None.



PART A:	MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	6 DECEMBER 2012
REPORT OF THE:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR (s151) PAUL CRESSWELL
TITLE OF REPORT:	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present to members a revenue budget monitoring report for 2012/13.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that members note the content of the report.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To ensure Members are kept regularly informed of the Council's financial position (in year).

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

4.1 There are no significant risks in receiving this report.

REPORT

5.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

5.1 Members regularly receive in year monitoring of the Council's financial position. This is important as part of the budget monitoring process and also allows members to be aware of potential issues in setting subsequent budgets. This report provides an in year position as at the 30 September 2012.

6.0 POLICY CONTEXT

6.1 This report is in line with existing policies.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 No further consultation has taken place on the content of this report.

8.0 REPORT DETAILS

8.1 Attached at Annex A is a summary of the significant variances within the Council's revenue accounts in the current year, 2012/2013. This report is derived from the information contained within the EMIS reports plus additional significant budgets within the Authority. EMIS reports are considered at Resources Working Party meetings.

8.2 Members will see that overall to date there is a net deficit of £97k with a projection for a full year deficit of £142k. This variance is largely due to a shortfall in income from Development Management fees and Car Park charges.

8.3 The following are additional comments on the Annex:

- (i) We are on target to achieve budgeted salary savings of £239k;
- (ii) The adverse variance to date under the heading Other Employee Related Expenses will be offset by a contribution from the restructure reserve;
- (iii) The cost of insuring the lease and fleet vehicles has increased significantly;
- (iv) External audit fee savings of £30k are anticipated.

8.4 In addition to the forecast deficit, the authority is likely to incur significant expenditure following the recent award of costs made by the Planning Inspectorate.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial
Any in-year deficit will be met from a reduction in the level of the Council's reserves.
- b) Legal
There are no new legal issues arising out of this report.
- c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)
There are no significant issues arising out of this report.

Paul Cresswell
Corporate Director (s151)

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Background Papers:None

Agenda Item 10

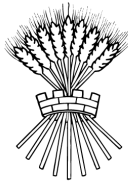
ANNEX A

SUMMARY OF REVENUE BUDGET MOVEMENTS 2012-13 Period 1 April - 30 September 2012

Key Subjective Headings	Profiled Budget £'000	Actual to Date £'000	Variance	
			to 30/09/12 £'000	for full year £'000
Expenditure				
Employee Expenses:				
Salaries	3,171.6	3,115.5	(56.1)	(249.0)
Other Employee Related Expenses	132.3	201.3	69.0	90.0
Other Service Expenses:				
Premises - Repairs and Maintenance	87.4	89.4	2.0	0.0
Insurance	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.6
External Audit Fee	52.9	0.0	(52.9)	(30.0)
Income				
Fees, Charges & Other Service Income:				
Development Management Fees	(199.3)	(177.8)	21.5	90.0
Car Park Charges	(494.4)	(425.4)	69.0	80.0
Other main fees & charges income streams	(554.9)	(559.9)	(5.0)	0.0
Interest and Investment Income:				
Return on Investments	(51.5)	(62.3)	(10.8)	0.0
Investment Property	(62.4)	(92.3)	(29.9)	(24.5)
Budgeted Provision for Savings	(239.0)	n/a	90.6	239.0
Movement on Reserves				
Restructure Reserve			0.0	(90.0)
Total Movement on Revenue Budget (surplus)/deficit			97.4	142.1

Note: A negative variance (shown in brackets) represents an increase in income or a decrease in expenditure

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PART A:	MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	6 DECEMBER 2012
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE JULIAN RUDD
TITLE OF REPORT:	RYEDALE DEVELOPMENT FUND
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report identifies potential uses for the Ryedale Development Fund.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Members consider the potential uses for the Ryedale Development Fund, as outlined in Annex A, and prioritise those projects that Members would like detailed in a report for the next Policy and Resources Committee. This could then lead to a Committee recommendation to Council to allocate part of the fund.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The potential uses for funding that are identified within this report are based upon the recently agreed Ryedale Economic Strategy and discussions with potential partner organisations. These also take account of national and local initiatives and opportunities.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

4.1 There are no significant risks associated with the recommendation.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

5.1 The Council has a corporate aim of creating the conditions for economic success. The detailed approach of the Authority is set out in the Ryedale Economic Action Plan 2012-15 (REAP). This identifies a range of actions under the headline objectives of 'To have economic structure and supporting infrastructure in place' and 'Opportunity for people and business; ensuring Ryedale businesses are at the centre of economic development and local people are equipped with the skills required by

our businesses'. The actions from the REAP are attached at Annex B.

- 5.2 The proposed target areas of spend in Annex A take account of the priorities in the REAP, together with those of the York and North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Economic Partnership (LEP).

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 The NHB scheme provides Local Authorities with an equivalent payment to the national average for the council tax band on each additional property. 2011/2012 was the first year of a planned six years of NHB. Grant is paid cumulatively i.e. year 2 includes the year 1 grant plus changes in year 2 and so on. It is paid as an unringfenced grant. In 2011/2012 the RDC element of the grant was £214K, and the total grant for 2012/2013 is £439K. It is already expected that the total grant in 2013/2014 will be over £600k. The RDC 2011/2012 NHB was allocated to a Community Investment Fund, split between ward-based allocations and a bidding process.
- 6.2 The 27 September 2012 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee considered a report regarding use of the 2012/13 allocation of New Homes Bonus for Ryedale. It was resolved:
'That Council be recommended to approve in principle that the entire [*New Homes Bonus*] allocation of £439,779 is ring-fenced into a Ryedale Development Fund for spending on projects which deliver or protect employment within Ryedale. The allocation of this funding to be made by Council based on recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee.'
- 6.3 The re-convened meeting of Council on 20 November considered the above resolution and resolved:
'That Council approve in principle that the entire allocation, subject to making provision for continuation of CCTV and Norton Skateboard Park, of £439,779 is ringfenced into a Ryedale Development Fund for spending on projects which deliver or protect employment within Ryedale. The allocation of this funding to be made by Council based on recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee.'
- 6.4 In order to identify the most effective and efficient uses of a 'Ryedale Development Fund' officers have been in discussion with the LEP and other key partners and have considered funding and other initiatives that are currently available for economic development purposes, such as the 'Growing Places' fund. Consideration has also been given to lessons learnt through earlier initiatives, such as the Council's Business Grants Scheme in 2010.
- 6.5 The resulting options for the use of the Ryedale Development Fund are set out at Annex A. Members are invited to consider these proposals.
- ### 7.0 IMPLICATIONS
- 7.1 Given that this report involves only suggested uses for a Ryedale Development Fund there are no financial, legal or other implications to note.

Julian Rudd, Head of Economy and Infrastructure

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Background Papers:

http://www.ryedale.gov.uk/PDF/Ryedale_Economic_Action_Plan_Final_web.pdf

PROPOSED USES OF THE RYEDALE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Proposed Use	Proposed Allocation £000
CAPITAL	
Development and investigation of potential economic projects - to bring forward 'shovel ready' initiatives for the capital programme and to bid for funding sources such as Growing Places. To include projects identified in the REAP to provide employment land, work space and infrastructure e.g. 'Develop managed workspace and training services'	70
Rural Growth Network - working with the LEP to develop the RGN idea of two 'enterprise support hubs', one in Malton / Norton and another in northern Ryedale – subject to the LEP pursuing this and match-funding.	tbc
Derwent Training Association expansion – contribution to cost of mezzanine at DTA to provide additional space for 15 engineering trainees.	20
Pickering Park and Ride – contribution to capital costs of establishing park and ride service to be operated by NYMR and Pickering Leisure Village. To support economic activity in Pickering.	tbc
REVENUE	
Business Grants - focussed on 'up-skilling' and workforce development. To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Development Grants – to businesses to upskill the existing workforce or for new entrants. This responds to the needs expressed previously in recent skills research. • Apprenticeship Development – working with the LEP to promote the increase in apprenticeships available locally and the promotion of these opportunities (avoiding duplication of existing measures). • Initiatives to improve skills in the social enterprise and care sectors within Ryedale e.g. Milton Rooms • Link grant provision to take up of business mentoring, where appropriate. 	tbc
Market Town Support – Grants for small scale activity to improve skills and resilience in the town centre businesses of the 5 market towns e.g. town apps, branding and marketing – as opposed to shop front improvements.	tbc
Youth Enterprise – to encourage enterprise / start ups and to support activity arising from the Ryedale Skills Summit in early 2013. Potential for mentoring support, with business planning, and to investigate potential for short-term use of empty premises to accommodate new businesses.	tbc
RDC employment package – to include a 2 year graduate placement (NGDP) within economic development (£56K), plus 5 apprentice posts (£49K). Assists in addressing youth and graduate unemployment.	105
Ryedale Economic Focus – funding to support a Ryedale Business week and a Rural Innovation Summit in partnership with FERA and the LEP	10
Science in Ryedale – two initiatives (Pop-up Lab and the Science Resource box) to support science activities and lesson-plans to link to science and engineering activities in Ryedale.	10

The Ryedale Economic Action Plan – Aims, Objectives and Actions

Ryedale District Council's aim is to create the right conditions for economic success in Ryedale. We translate this into two key objectives;

- A) To have economic structure and supporting infrastructure in place;
- B) Opportunity for people and business; ensuring Ryedale businesses are at the centre of economic development and local people are equipped with the skills required by our businesses.

Objective A: To have economic structure and supporting infrastructure in place;

A1 Provision of employment land

- Through the LDF Employment Land Review, to ensure that business have sufficient room for development and growth. Provision of information to potential investors.
- Employment land at Pickering. Investigating potential for investment in industrial site development.
- Supporting key strategic employers to expand and develop.
- Supporting the development of mixed use development on key sites in Ryedale to promote economic development and reduce the housing affordability gap.

A2 Provision of Work space:

- Provision of information to investors and businesses regarding availability of workspace, across all sectors in Ryedale.
- With partners, ensure the provision of a range of industrial letting units and office type accommodation around Ryedale, including quality accommodation and sites suitable for technology and office sectors. (These may be provided by the private sector).
- Develop managed workspace and training services at York Road (Malton) potentially in partnership with Derwent Training Association.
- Woolgrowers / Derwent Park project for employment and mixed use.
- Connections with Science City York & Food and Environment Research Agency – provision of quality commercial scientific laboratories.

A3 Housing: to consider the implications of new housing development to the local economy in terms of provision of accommodation for skilled people and local workers.

A4 Communications and Transport Infrastructure:

- Brambling Fields – Norton. Continued development of the A64 junction to open up employment land in Norton.
- Further A64 improvements to unlock development potential in key employment areas.
- Lobby and develop high speed broadband and mobile phone coverage to Ryedale's business parks and rural communities and promoting the benefits of this to business.
- Recognise the importance of the Malton rail link and to improving public transport facilities to support the role of Malton and Norton as a transport hub for Ryedale.

A5 Malton public realm improvements

Objective B: Opportunity for people and business; ensuring Ryedale businesses are at the centre of economic development and local people are equipped with the skills required by our businesses.

B1 Maintain economic intelligence through data management and Key Account Management – supporting our key employers and horizon scanning for new economic

strengths and threats.

B2 Ryedale Work and Skills Partnership projects

- Apprenticeships development.
- Addressing skills gaps for local business (new starters to graduate recruitment).
- Preparing for economic drivers (such as the Off Shore Wind Farm project).
- Influencing schools' enterprise agenda.
- Skills Summit (linking employers with schools).

B3 Supporting the business life cycle

- Supporting new business start ups and improving business survival rates.
- Support business growth – research, inward investment and export.

B4 Developing the RDC Corporate approach to businesses – “Ryedale’s a great place to do business”

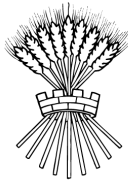
- Corporate Business Group to provide a proactive approach to business support.
- Ryedale Business Week.
- Link to existing “Engineering Week”.
- Supporting businesses through the planning application process and to understand the Local Development Framework.

B5 Sector specific support:

- High Technology Manufacturing – link to employment land provision and skills provision.
- Visitor and Creative Economy – supporting business led initiatives, product development and community owned facilities. Creative Economy Commissioning project.
- Social Economy – supporting the Coalition Government’s localism agenda through social enterprise.
- Agri Food – local food promotion and food manufacture support.
- Land-based Industries - working with partners to support businesses in the land-based sector.

B6 Market Towns - promotion of vital and viable town centres, through engaging with local businesses and supporting private sector initiatives. Working with businesses and residents on their local initiatives, particularly those aspirations identified in the LDF such as promotion of local heritage, retailing or social enterprise facilities.

B7 Sustainable business – promoting the ‘green’ economy for business growth.



PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	6 DECEMBER 2012
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF PLANNING & HOUSING GARY HOUSDEN
TITLE OF REPORT:	FEES & CHARGES
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report sets out the proposed fees and charges for 2013/14 for those services delivered which are recommending charges outside the parameters set by Full Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Council is recommended to approve the following fees and charges exceptions:

- (i) No increase in Local Land Charge fees.(Annex B);
- (ii) No increase in Development Management Discretionary Charges.(Annex C);
and
- (iii) Increase in Street Naming & Numbering Charges(as set out in Annex D).

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The above recommendations have considered the impact of any increases in line with the Council resolution.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

4.1 It is considered that the most significant risk is that the charges do not achieve target levels which could lead to additional savings to be found in other areas. This is mitigated by considerations of the factors and demand analysis for the relevant charges.

4.2 The Risk Matrix is attached at Annex A.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 This report supports existing Council Policy and the budget strategy.
- 5.2 Consultation on the proposals has not taken place.

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 Full Council on 1 November 2012 resolved that in relation to fees and charges:

'Increases in fees and charges to be 3.5% - 4.5% on a cost centre heading basis excluding VAT and only those charges officers recommended above or below this figure to be considered by the relevant Policy Committee'.
- 6.2 This report considers those charges under the purview of the Policy & Resources Committee.
- 6.3 Annexes B, C and D to this report set out the proposed charges for 2013/14 for the services listed.
- 6.4 The following charges are not proposed to be increased in line with the parameters set by Full Council.

Land Charges

- 6.5 Since the setting of Land Charge fees for 2011/12, the Council's in-house service has continued to be successful in gaining business back from Personal Search companies with approximately 83% of searches being carried out in-house. Income for the current year is again slightly ahead of budget predictions despite the difficulties in current market conditions. It is recommended, however, that there is no increase in the overall fees set for Land Charges in 2013/14 as these would be likely to undermine the competitiveness of the in-house service in relation to that provided by the Personal Search companies.
- 6.6 The Full Schedule of recommended Local Land Charge Fees is set out in Annex B.

Development Management Discretionary Fees

- 6.7 The current rates of charges for Development Enquiry forms and Pre-Application advice were set by Full Council on 10 March 2011. Members will recall that a sliding scale of fees was introduced in respect of pre-application advice from April 2011 in order to reflect the general levels of increased complexity associated with larger developments.
- 6.8 Since April 2012, the Development Management service has responded to 89 pre-application enquiries which have generated in excess of £11k of additional income to date. Whilst the number of enquiries is higher than the comparable period for 2012/13 the overall income level has remained the same and it is difficult to judge whether the demand and fees received from this service will continue at the current rate.
- 6.9 184 Development Enquiry forms have been received in the financial year to date, generating a further £4,600 of income. Whilst this is slightly higher than 2012/13 it is noted, that the number of Development Enquiry forms has remained lower than

previous years, reflecting the general state of the market and the number of householder commencements on site.

- 6.10 The discretionary fees for charging for Development Enquiry forms and Pre-Application advice are recommended not to exceed those set for 2012/13. This is to encourage potential applicants and developers to engage with the Local Planning Authority during a continued period of difficult market conditions.
- 6.11 The Full Schedule of recommended Development Management Discretionary Charges is set out in Annex C.

Street Naming & Numbering

- 6.12 Charges for Street Naming and Numbering were introduced in January 2011. The current level of fees was set after discussion had taken place with all North Yorkshire Districts with a view to standardising the charges across the County and the levels proposed in Annex D. Since that time individual authorities have developed their own fees and there is a greater variation of fees currently being charged across the County. Members will note a significant change in the proposed fees for the naming of new streets with up to ten properties from £180 to £500. This is to reflect a charge which more closely equates to the amount of work and consultation that is associated with the naming of developments of this scale. The charge is also similar to that currently charged by both Hambleton and Richmondshire Councils.
- 6.13 The budgeted full year income from these charges was set at £25k. The actual receipts for the year to date are £8.5k. This service however is not considered to be as sensitive to fee changes and the proposed fee increases set within Annex D are recommended for year 2013/14.
- 6.14 The Full Schedule of charges for Street Naming and Numbering is attached as Annex D.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial
As described in the report.
 - b) Legal
There are no legal issues arising from the report.
 - c) Other
There are no significant additional implications of the proposals.

**Gary Housden,
Head of Planning & Housing**

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Background Papers:

None

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PLANNING FEES AND CHARGES - RISK MATRIX - ANNEX A

Issue/Risk	Consequences if allowed to happen	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation	Mitigated Likelihood	Mitigated Impact
That the proposed charges could be counter productive as demand falls in excess of fee income	Failure to achieve budget targets will require additional savings to be identified	3	C	Demand and competition factors are reviewed in setting charges and where evidence shows that a negative impact could occur alternatives are recommended to members	2	B

Score	Likelihood	Score	Impact
1	Very Low	A	Low
2	Not Likely	B	Minor
3	Likely	C	Medium
4	Very Likely	D	Major
5	Almost Certain	E	Disaster

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Local Land Charge Fees

Fees for Official Land Charge Certificate 1 April 2013

Outside the National Park	£
LLC1 – Official Search in the Register	22.00
Standard Search (Residential)(Forms LLC1 & Con29(R) received manually by DX/Post/Hand	82.70
Standard Search (Residential)(Forms LLC1 & Con29(R) received electronically via the National Land Information Service (NLIS) hub	76.30
Con29(R) (Residential) Enquiries received manually by DX/Post/Hand	60.70
Con29(R) (Residential) Enquiries received electronically via the National Land Information Service (NLIS) hub	54.30
Standard Search (Non Residential)(Forms LLC1 & Con29(R) received manually by DX/Post/Hand	132.70
Standard Search (Non Residential)(Forms LLC1 & Con29(R) received electronically via the National Land Information Service (NLIS) hub	126.30
Con29(R) (Non Residential) Enquiries received manually by DX/Post/Hand	110.70
Con29(R) (Non Residential) Enquiries received electronically via the National Land Information Service (NLIS) hub	104.30
Con 29(O) “Optional” Enquiries (per enquiry)	17.00
Each additional parcel	15.00
Inside the National Park	
LLC1 – Official Search in the Register	22.00
Standard Search (Residential)(Forms LLC1 & Con29(R) received manually by DX/Post/Hand	98.00
Standard Search (Residential)(Forms LLC1 & Con29(R) received electronically via the National Land Information Service (NLIS) hub	91.60
Con29(R) (Residential)Enquiries received manually by DX/Post/Hand	76.00
Con29(R) (Residential)Enquiries received electronically via the National Land Information Service (NLIS) hub	69.60
Standard Search (Non Residential)(Forms LLC1 & Con29(R) received manually by DX/Post/Hand	148.00
Standard Search (Non Residential)(Forms LLC1 & Con29(R) received electronically via the National Land Information Service (NLIS) hub	141.60
Con29(R) (Non Residential)Enquiries received manually by DX/Post/Hand	126.00
Con29(R) (Non Residential)Enquiries received electronically via the National Land Information Service (NLIS) hub	119.60
Con 29(O) “Optional” Enquiries (per enquiry)	17.00
Each additional parcel	15.00
Any other additional enquiry (excluding highways)	17.00
Any other additional enquiry (including National Park planning)	17.00
Cancellation of a search	35.70
Supplying copy searches	15.00
Supplying copy agreements	15.00
Supplying copy planning decisions (per decision)	5.00



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DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

DISCRETIONARY CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2013

Development Enquiry Forms

Fee Charged	£25
-------------	-----

Pre-Application Advice

Fees Charges

- | | | |
|------|---|----------------|
| 1. | Householder request requiring: | £50 (inc VAT) |
| | • history, investigation and opinion | |
| 2. | Householder request as above, but also requesting site inspection | £70 (inc VAT) |
| 3. | Additional Fee Categories | |
| i) | <u>Category 1</u> | |
| | Written Advice only | £120 (inc VAT) |
| | Written Advice and 1 meeting | £240 (inc VAT) |
| ii) | <u>Category 2</u> | |
| | Written Advice only | £240 (inc VAT) |
| | Written Advice and up to 3 meetings | £480 (inc VAT) |
| iii) | <u>Category 3</u> | |
| | Written Advice only | £480 (inc VAT) |
| | Written Advice and up to 3 meetings | £960 (inc VAT) |

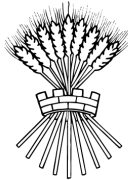
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**STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING CHARGES
FROM APRIL 2013**

Large development which include a new road name

	2012/13	2013/14
Will be for ten properties	£180.00	£500.00
Additional Property	£30.00	£35.00
Small development new property name	£70.00	£75.00
Re-naming of a property	£30.00	£35.00

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PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	6 DECEMBER 2012
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE JULIAN RUDD
TITLE OF REPORT:	COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks to re-allocate economic development responsibilities from the Commissioning Board to the Policy and Resources Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members recommend to Council that economic development duties transfer from the Commissioning Board to the Policy and Resources Committee and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Economic development activities are a central strategic role of the Council. There is an extremely close relationship between the Council's LDF / Local Plan / planning policies (which are the remit of the Policy and Resources Committee) and the support that can be provided through economic development activities. There is also a close alignment between many economic interventions and the capital and resource decisions that are the remit of the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 3.2 In view of the above factors, and taking account of the inter-relationship between the activities of the Council's Policy and Resources Committee and those of the Ryedale Business Forum and the York and North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Economic Partnership, it is considered appropriate that economic development duties are transferred to that Committee.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 There are no significant risks in considering this re-allocation of responsibilities. Policies and proposals will still be subject to the same level of rigorous analysis and,

when required Council will still act as the final decision maker.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 'To create the conditions for economic success' is one of the Council's corporate aims and is a major policy and investment focus for the Authority.
- 5.2 Consultation has been undertaken with the Chairmen of both the Commissioning Board and the Policy and Resources Committee regarding this reallocation of economic development responsibilities and both are understood to be supportive of the approach set out below. This potential change has also been supported at the Resources Working Party.

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 The Constitution sets out how any changes to its content should be taken forward:

'Approval. The Council is responsible for approving any alterations to the Constitution after consideration of a proposal from the Head of Paid Service or by way of Members proposing a motion on notice in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 after consulting with the Head of Paid Service. Such changes can reflect decisions of the Council, for example to alter the alternative arrangements or Standing Orders, decisions of Committees, for example to alter delegations to Officers, or from changes to national legislation. In order to keep the Constitution up to date as a central reference point for the rules by which the Authority operates, the Council has delegated power to the Head of the Paid Service to amend the Constitution as required to reflect decisions of the Council, of Committee or legislative changes.

Any other amendments will continue to require the express resolution of Council. Where those changes involve the change to or from a Mayoral form of Executive, the change can only be made with the consent of the Mayor and the endorsement of a local referendum.'

- 6.2 For the reasons set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 above it is considered that economic development duties at the District Council should transfer from the Commissioning Board to the Policy and Resources Committee. In accordance with the process set out above the required amendments to the Council's constitution to reflect this change of responsibilities is a matter that can only be agreed by Council.
- 6.3 The allocation of responsibilities for committees is detailed in the Council constitution. In order to confirm the reallocation of economic development there are minor changes required. These are detailed at Annex A.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no significant financial, legal or other implications that would result from this reallocation of Committee duties.

Julian Rudd
Head of Economy and Infrastructure

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Background Papers:
Council Constitution

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION:

PART 2 - RE-WORD PARAGRAPH 7.1 OF ARTICLE 7 (PAGE 21) TO READ:

'The Policy and Resources Committee and Commissioning Board

The Council will appoint a Policy and Resources Committee responsible for policy, including Planning Policy, *and economic development* and budget formulation and a Commissioning Board to deal with Community *and Tourism* related issues and the Environment. The functions attributed to those Committees are set out in Part 3 of this Constitution entitled "Responsibility for Functions.'

CHANGE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMISSIONING BOARD (PART 3 'RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS' PAGES 51-53:

TERMS OF REFERENCE: COMMISSIONING BOARD

MEMBERSHIP:

The Commissioning Board is comprised of 11 Members of the Council.

FUNCTIONS:

To discharge all the following functions and duties conferred on the Council:-

A. Strategic Commissioning

- § *Facilitate the development and adoption of a Commissioning strategy and model;*
- § *Develop sustainable procurement policies;*
- § *Oversee the commissioning cycle;*
- § *Provide the necessary corporate challenge for existing services and existing delivery vehicles;*
- § *To support the Council in its move to a mixed economy for service delivery by providing the means to explore new approaches to contracting, procurement, grant allocations and collaboration;*
- § *To give political guidance on proposals arising from the appraisal of options for service delivery;*

- § ***The governance of major commissioned projects and contracts;***
- § ***To provide Member approvals for resource allocation and budgeted spend in line with the Council's schemes of delegation and financial standing orders;***
- § ***To monitor the performance of commissioned services and contracts against agreed community outcomes.***

B. Housing, ~~Economy~~ & Community

Community Safety

- § ***Community Safety***
- § ***Anti-Social Behaviour***
- § ***Local Child Curfews under Section 14 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998***
- § ***CCTV***
- § ***Prolific and Priority Offenders***

Cultural and Tourism Services

- § ***Arts, Heritage and Voluntary & Community Services***

Economic Development

- § ~~***Economic Development***~~
- § ~~***Business Support and advice***~~
- § ~~***Private Sector investment***~~
- § ***Tourism promotion & Tourist Information Centres***

Housing Services

- § ***Housing Strategy***
- § ***Private Sector Renewal***
- § ***Housing Investment Programme***
- § ***Housing Options – including Homelessness***
- § ***Ryecare Services***
- § ***Affordable Housing***
- § ***Enabling role with Registered Social Landlords***

C. Environment

Health & Environmental Services

- § ***Climate Change (Agenda 21)***
- § ***Sustainable development***
- § ***Environmental standards***
- § ***Public Health***
- § ***Environmental Health including abatement of nuisances, food and drink, pollution control, health and safety in work places, pest control, community health***
- § ***Sport and Active Recreation***
- § ***Sports facilities and leisure centres***
- § ***Dog Warden Service and Animal Welfare***
- § ***Contaminated Land***
- § ***Local Air Quality Management***
- § ***Pollution Prevention and Control - Environmental Permits***
- § ***Private Water Supplies***
- § ***Smoke free premises and vehicles***

Streetscene

- § **Car Parking**
- § **Waste Collection & Recycling**
- § **Public Conveniences**
- § **Clean Neighbourhoods**
- § **Fleet Management**
- § **Provision and management of Council retail markets**
- § **Public Open Spaces and recreation grounds including: parks; picnic areas; woodlands; nature reserves; amenity areas and play areas**

D. Customer Services

- § **Reception, Area Office and Front of House services**
- § **Customer Standards**

E. Other Functions

Any function delegated to an Officer which in the opinion of the Officer should be determined by the Community Services Committee.

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS:

All those matters referred to in Section 1.2 are delegated to the officers specified, subject to the limitations specified.

The area of responsibility of the Head of Economy & ~~Housing~~ Infrastructure includes the functions and responsibilities of the Commissioning Board relating to Community Safety and; Cultural and Tourism Services; ~~Economic Development and~~. The Head of Planning and Housing is responsible for the functions and responsibilities of the Board relating to Housing Services.

The area of responsibility of the Head of ~~Resources~~ Corporate Services includes the functions and responsibilities of the Commissioning Board relating to Customer Services.

The area of responsibility of the Head of Environmental Services includes the functions and responsibilities of the Commissioning Board relating to Health & Environment and Streetscene.

Environmental Health Officers - As authorised in accordance with their individual qualifications and experience to exercise the powers of Inspectors contained in Section 19 of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985, Part II of the Food Safety Act 1990, Sections 108 and 109 of the Environment Act 1995 and Part 1 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

Health Officers –

(a) That all Consultants in Public Health Medicine either properly appointed or working in locum capacity to the North Yorkshire Health Protection Agency or its successor organisations be appointed as Proper Officer for the purposes of:

- § **The Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 and regulations made there under;**

- § *The National Assistance Act 1948 and National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951 and any enactments amending or replacing the aforementioned legislation;*
 - § *In relation to any reference to the Medical Officer of Health, or District Officer of Health or a District or Borough in any enactment passed before or during the 1971/72 Session of Parliament in any instrument made before 26 October 1972, power to sign and issue such notices the signature and issue of which is not otherwise provided for.*
- (b) *That the Proper Officer be given delegated authority to act on behalf of the Council in making any necessary application in accordance with Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 as amended.*
- (c) *That the Council Solicitor be given delegated power to take all necessary legal action on behalf of the Proper Officer in the exercise of his functions.*

CHANGE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (PART 3 'RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS' PAGE 54:

TERMS OF REFERENCE: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP:

The Policy & Resources Committee is comprised of 10 Members of the Council.

FUNCTIONS:

To discharge all the following functions and duties conferred on the Council:-

1. *All functions not listed in Section 1.1 above which are not otherwise the responsibility of the Council in particular:-*
 - (a) *To provide overall leadership and direction of the Council;*
 - (b) *To ensure that the Council has strategies and policies in place which support the work of the Council and to fulfil statutory obligations;*
 - (c) *To ensure co-ordination of the policies and activities of the Council;*
 - (d) *To ensure effective performance of the Council in relation to stated policies and activities;*
 - (e) *To lead the search for Best Value in all that the Council does;*
 - (f) *To make recommendations to the Council on all strategic financing matters, including the setting of the Council Tax;*

- (g) To ensure that the best interests of the Council are protected in its work;**
- (h) All matters to do with the implementation of strategies and policies not within the Terms of Reference of other Committees.**
- (i) All matters to do with Economic Development, including**
- Economic Development**
 - Business Support and advice**
 - Private Sector investment**

- 2. Any function delegated to an Officer which in the opinion of the Officer should be determined by the Policy and Resources Committee.**

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS:

All those matters referred to in Section 1.2 are delegated to the officers specified, subject to the limitations specified.



PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	6 DECEMBER 2012
REPORT OF THE:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR (s151) PAUL CRESSWELL
TITLE OF REPORT:	LOCALISATION OF COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT 2013/2014 SCHEME
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the final scheme following consultation with both the major preceptors and public.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That members recommend to Council
- (i) a Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2013/2014 which replicates the existing Council Tax Benefit scheme and accepts the Government's transitional funding, with the following changes:
 - (a) Maximum Eligible Council Tax Support of 91.5%; and
 - (b) Removal of the Second Adult Rebate;
 - (ii) to commit to remove the 10% second homes discount and make changes to exemptions as part of the 2013/2014 budget strategy of at least £153k to mitigate the Government cut in Council Tax funding, the detail of which being determined as part of the budget setting process; and
 - (iii) to authorise the Corporate Director in consultation with the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee to undertake the necessary consultation work to design a scheme for 2014/2015, in light of the experience in 2013/2014, to be presented to Policy and Resources Committee in December 2014.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council must approve a scheme of its choice for 2013/2014 or the default scheme will apply. The default scheme simply replicates the existing Council Tax Benefit Scheme and therefore does not provide any savings to offset the 10% reduction in funding being provided as the responsibility for costs passes from Government to precepting bodies.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 The major risk to the Council of the proposal is in the possibility of legal challenge to the scheme. The Council has ensured that the new scheme is fully compliant with the requirements and that the consultation has been properly undertaken.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Council will need to approve a Local Scheme for CTS.

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 At Council on the 12 July 2012 members considered a recommendation and report from the Policy and Resources Committee proposing the parameters for consultation with the Major Precepting Authorities. At that meeting members resolved:

That the report be received and that Council approve:

- (i) The preparation of a scheme for 2013/2014 Council Tax Support for consultation with the major precepting authorities which incorporates:
 - 1. Maximum Eligible Council Tax Support of 80%
 - 2. Removal of the Second Adult Rebate
 - 3. A maximum Band D property restriction for all working age claims
 - 4. An assumption that all preceptors contribute proportionately to any additional collection costs
 - 5. An assumption that all preceptors contribute proportionately to the establishment of a Council Tax Support Hardship fund.
 - (ii) That any shortfall in funding to meet the total cut in Government funding, having implemented the above, is met through reductions in Council Tax discounts as part of the 2013/2014 budget strategy process;
 - (iii) That a further report and scheme for public consultation is presented to Council on the 6 September 2012 taking into account the comments of the major preceptors.
- 6.2 These proposals were in response to the abolition of Council Tax Benefit and billing Authorities having to establish their own schemes for Local Council Tax Support. The funding provided to Local Authorities nationally taking on this cost has been cut by over 10%. Within the new schemes pensioner claimants are protected and will not see any changes to their benefit calculation.
- 6.3 Council on the 6 September 2012 resolved:
- That Council approve a six week public consultation on a scheme for 2013/2014 Council Tax Support which incorporates:
- (i) Maximum Eligible Council Tax Support of 80%;
 - (ii) Removal of the Second Adult Rebate; and
 - (iii) A maximum Band D property restriction for all working age claims.
- 6.4 The public consultation took place between 17 September and the 29 October 2012.
- 6.5 On the 15 October 2012 the Government Announced additional transitional funding of £100m 'for one year to support Local Authorities in developing well-designed council tax support schemes and maintain positive incentives to work'.
- 6.6 The grant is payable in March 2013 to those authorities who fulfil the following criteria:

- Those who would be entitled to 100% support under current council tax benefit arrangements pay between zero and no more than 8.5% of their net council tax liability;
- The taper rate does not increase above 25%; and
- There is no sharp reduction in support for those entering work.

6.7 Clearly the grant offer coming late into the process, with Authorities working off the statement of intent, awaiting the formal passing of the legislation has complicated the issue significantly. The late announcement may also preclude further meaningful consultation.

6.8 The grant is worth the following should Ryedale meet the criteria outlined above, as is recommended:

Major Preceptor	2013/2014 Transition Grant
Ryedale District Council	10,966
North Yorkshire County Council	55,276
North Yorkshire Police Authority	10,692
North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue	3,246
Total	80,180

6.9 The Council proposed to use new flexibilities and freedoms on the levels of Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions in order to bridge the gap in funding (10% of the total cost of Working Age and Pensioner Claimants). The following can be considered:

- Reduction/Removal of the 10% second homes discount (annual value for all preceptors c£115k)
- Reduction/Removal of the Class A (Structural Repairs) exemption, currently 100% for 12 months (annual value for all preceptors c£58k)
- Reduction/Removal of the Class C (Empty and Unfurnished) exemption, currently 100% for 6 months (annual value for all preceptors c£513k)
- Removal/Reduction of the Class L (Mortgagees in possession) exemption, currently 100%, open ended (annual value for all preceptors c£9k)
- Increasing the Charge to Long term Empty properties (those empty over 2 years) to up to 150%. Implementing this is thought unlikely to generate any additional funding.

6.10 The cut in funding reduces the Council Tax Base, reducing the discounts and exemptions above has the effect of increasing the Council tax base and the Council also receives a direct grant in 2013/2014, the consultation earlier this year indicated a grant figure for RDC of £346k.

6.11 Work on the draft 2013/2014 Council Tax base has been undertaken to enable all major preceptors to prepare their budgets. In line with the Council resolution in July changes to discounts and exemptions of net less than £268k must be made to cover the loss to RDC of taking on the responsibility. Whilst members will have views on which of the discounts and exemptions should change, the final decision will be considered as part of the budget.

6.12 Clearly the decision to go further than the recommendation in terms of changes to discounts and exemptions could be undertaken, which could eliminate the need to pass on any cut to benefits claimants. The following table sets out the position:

	Current Recommendation	No Benefit Cuts
Maximum Liability	91.5%	100%
Required Changes to Discounts and Exemptions	£268k	£505k
Total discounts and Exemptions	£695k	£695k

There would be no increased administration costs if no benefits cuts are made. Likely admin costs plus new burdens funding are both uncertain at present.

- 6.13 The issues for Parish Councils are complicated and the Government on the 26 November 2012 decided on which of two options for dealing with the impact on the Council Tax base and associated impact on parish precepts. Their choice, not that favoured by the majority of billing authorities, is that Authorities must produce an individual tax base for each district after adjusting for the cost of the scheme and changes to discounts and exemptions. The District Council then receives an additional grant, estimated in the consultation at £61k, which it may distribute to the parishes. Clearly this very recent announcement is the subject of ongoing work and further detail may be available at the Committee and Full Council. The final confirmation of the level of this grant is expected as part of the local government finance settlement now expected on the 19 December 2012, only 10 weeks before the Council sets the Council tax, including the parish precepts.
- 6.14 Significant work across the District Council has been undertaken on this project:
- The scheme production has been undertaken jointly with consultancy support.
 - Detailed Equalities impact assessment has been undertaken jointly with consultancy support.
 - Council Tax Base Estimation has been undertaken with consultancy support.
 - Major Preceptor Consultation has been undertaken jointly.
 - Detailed discussions with the Software supplier, Northgate, have taken place with all of the districts currently using the same software.
- 6.15 The Council has undertaken public consultation contacting key stakeholders as well as directly contacting all working age Council Tax Benefit claimants (current and in the previous 12 months) and through the Council's website. The results of the consultation are attached at Annex A. The key messages of that consultation are:
- Of the 433 responses, 77% were from existing claimants.
 - Just over half (54%) thought everyone of working age should pay something towards their council tax, with 10% charge being supported by 64% of respondents.
 - There was majority support for those in more expensive properties to receive less support.
 - There was majority support for the removal of second adult rebate.
 - There was not support for reducing the savings allowance for claimants.
 - There are a number of open ended 'comments' questions and the responses are available should members want to view them.
- 6.16 Clearly public consultation started before, and was substantially complete, when the unexpected transition grant proposals were announced. In designing a scheme to attract the transition grant the Council is reducing the amount payable by claimants, but still retaining some level of payment which was supported in the consultation.
- 6.17 Whilst there is support for the original Council proposals of a Council Tax banding restriction (originally band D, that is all claims from householders above band D are

assessed as if they were in a band D property), it is not possible to introduce this and still be eligible for the transition grant.

- 6.18 The proposals within this report set a scheme for 2013/2014 only. Authorities are permitted to revise their scheme no more frequently than annually. A scheme for 2014/2015 will be considered during next year in light of experience at the council and nationally.
- 6.19 Members will see that the Council requested financial support from the major preceptor arising from additional collection costs and establishment of a hardship fund. Whilst the revised proposals will potentially reduce these costs, the Council is continuing to negotiate with the major preceptors for a proportionate contribution. It is also likely that additional new burdens funding will be included in the Local Government Grant Settlement, now expected 'late December'. These issues will be considered further when this information is known.
- 6.20 The set up grant of £84k, plus additional financial support from the major preceptors should enable the 2013/2014 scheme implementation including software updates to be accommodated without requiring further funding from Council resources.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

a) Financial

The figures within the report are subject to a number of assumptions. Any risk around the cost of the scheme is shared proportionally between the major preceptors through the collection fund. If the scheme costs more than predicted the collection fund may be into deficit and this would need resolving in the 2014/2015 budget. The recommendations deliver a scheme for RDC which fully mitigates the expected reduction in funding from the Localisation of Council Tax Support, further announcements will be made as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement in December. The freedom and flexibilities over certain Council Tax discounts and exemptions may provide the Council with the opportunity for further income generation.

b) Legal

The scheme will be a detailed legal document of the Council and it may be open to legal challenge.

c) Other

There are significant equality issues around the protection of vulnerable which have been taken into account as part of the scheme design. A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed.

Paul Cresswell
Corporate Director (s151)

Author: Paul Cresswell, Corporate Director (s151)
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Background Papers:

Consultation Paper "Localising support for council tax in England"
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/19510253.pdf>

Statement of Intent:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localisingsupportcounciltax>

The funding consultation:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/counciltax/counciltaxsupport/>

The Transition Grant Scheme:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localtransitionalgrant>



Council Tax Benefit Consultation

Council Tax Benefit is changing and we want your views

Council Tax Benefit (CTB) currently helps people on a low income pay their Council Tax. From April 2013 CTB will be abolished. It will be replaced by a new Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS). The Government have said that local Councils will be responsible for designing and implementing their own schemes to provide help to people on a low income pay their Council Tax.

Pensioners will not be affected by these changes. People who have reached the age for State Pension Credit will have their support assessed under a national scheme.

Under the current CTB scheme, the Council receives funding from the Government to cover the cost of the scheme. This will not be the case for LCTSS, as the Government will give the Council a fixed grant. This will be at least 10% less than what we currently pay out in CTB and means we will have less money to run our LCTSS.

We have to make some very difficult decisions. Because pensioners are protected, the level of support we will be able to give to our working-age customers under a LCTSS may have to be less than we currently give them under CTB.

We are proposing the following scheme:

Regardless of their financial circumstances, every working-age claimant should pay the first 20% of their Council Tax liability. This means people who currently get full CTB will have to pay something towards their Council Tax from 1st April 2013.

People living in properties whose Council Tax band is E, F, G or H will have their Local Council Tax Support restricted to the maximum amount payable for a band D property.

Under the existing scheme, Second Adult Rebate can be granted to single people who have a high income if they share their home with someone on a low income (not their partner). We are proposing to stop this.

In the proposed scheme all existing CTB claims will automatically be reassessed under the new LCTSS from 1st April 2013.

1. Do you think that everyone of working age should pay something towards their Council Tax?

232 Yes

201 No

2. Pensioners are not affected by these changes.

What do you think that everyone else should pay as a minimum, towards their Council Tax?

277 10%

70 20%

17 30%

9 more than 30%

3. Should people who receive Council Tax Benefit, who are living in more expensive properties, receive less Council Tax Support?

222 Yes

206 No

4. Should people who receive help to pay their Council Tax Benefit be given extra help, for a limited period (such as 3 months), when they start work?

360 Yes

76 No

At the moment, some people can get help to pay for Council Tax. The amount they receive depends on how much money they have coming in. If they have more money coming in than the minimum the law says they need to live on, it means for every extra £1 they have in income, they pay 20p per week towards their Council Tax.

This could change so that people pay more than 20p for every extra £1 they have in income.

5. Is this fair?

144 Yes

288 No

6. If you answered yes, how much more for every extra £1 in income, do you think people should be asked to pay towards their Council Tax?

99 25p

32 30p

12 35p

Council Tax Benefit is assessed on the needs of the person making the claim, their partner and their dependent children. Any other adults within the household are expected to contribute towards the Council Tax, depending on their income. This could change so that these additional adults are expected to contribute more.

7. Is this fair?

260 Yes

173 No

At the moment, if you can afford to pay your Council Tax but live with someone on a low income, who is not your partner, you may be able to get help with your Council Tax. This is called second adult rebate. The Council is proposing to stop this rebate.

8. Do you agree that the rebate should be stopped?

230 Yes

209 No

Currently people with savings of more than £16,000 don't qualify for Council Tax Benefit.

9. Should people with savings of less than £16,000 be expected to use these savings to pay their Council Tax?

144 Yes

297 No

If yes, what is the maximum amount of savings you should be able to hold and still qualify for Council Tax Support?

10. You shouldn't have to pay if your savings are less than:

28 £12,000

47 £8,000

43 £4,000

26 £0

11. Should the Council protect the most vulnerable people from paying more Council Tax?

395 Yes

41 No

12. If you answered yes, which vulnerable groups of people do you think should be protected under the scheme? e.g. those in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

373

13. Have you got any comments that you wish to make about these changes?

193

The following information is being collected to find out whether there are any needs which we are not meeting. You do not have to complete the questions if you do not want to but we would be pleased to receive responses to any of the questions.

Do you currently receive Council Tax Benefit?

306 Yes

91 No

Date of birth:

348

Postcode:

344

Gender:

133 Male

265 Female

Partnership Status:

248 Single

115 Married

18 Civil Partnership

Do you have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial long term adverse effect on your ability to carry out day to day activities?

115 Yes

262 No

Please state the nature of your disability:

121

Religion of Belief:

2 Buddhist

0 Jewish

124 No religion

197 Christian

0 Muslim

0 Hindu

0 Sikh

Other (please state)

37

Sexual Orientation:

11 Bisexual

287 Heterosexual

3 Gay

1 Lesbian

Ethnic Group:

White

376 British

3 Eastern European

2 Irish

Any other White background (please state):

13

Dual Heritage (tick all that apply)

Black Caribbean

Asian

29 White

Black African

Chinese

Any other Mixed background (please state):

0

Asian or Asian British

Indian

Pakistani

0 Bangladeshi

Any other Asian background (please state):

1

Black or Black British

Caribbean

African

Any other Black background (please state):

0

Chinese or other ethnic group

Chinese

South East Asian

Any other (please state)

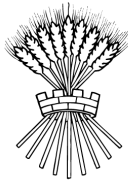
0

Please provide any other information about yourself that you may want to tell us (e.g. carer, single parent):

145

Thank you for taking the time to complete this Equalities Monitoring Form. Any information provided here will be kept confidential and will only be used for statistical monitoring and to help us improve services, for everyone. The specific information gathered from this form will not be passed on to any other organisation.

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PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	6 DECEMBER 2012
REPORT OF THE:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR (s151) PAUL CRESSWELL
TITLE OF REPORT:	PICKERING FLOOD STORAGE PROPOSALS
WARDS AFFECTED:	PICKERING EAST, PICKERING WEST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report updates members on the proposed flood storage measures and capital scheme to reduce the incidence and impact of flooding to Pickering and seeks approval for the Council to release the previously approved £950K for a Pickering Flood Storage Scheme to fund the new scheme outlined in the report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council is recommended to approve support for a funding contribution for the revised 'Pickering Flood Defence' scheme utilising the £950k designated in the Council's capital programme

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 There is confidence within the EA that the proposed scheme is deliverable, it offers the required 1:25 year standard of protection to Pickering, is in-line with the requirements of the Reservoir Act, having been assessed by an appointed 'Panel Engineer'.
- 3.2 The scheme has now reached a sufficient level of detail such that a robust estimate of the work that would be required to take the project to construction and an estimate of the construction costs themselves has been made.
- 3.3 The scheme has strong public and Pickering Town Council support. Though it will not offer protection against a major flood event it still considerably reduces the levels of flood risk previously experienced by the town.
- 3.4 Although costs have yet to be agreed, discussions concerning the routine maintenance of the scheme have led to an agreement that Pickering Town Council will work with the EA to deliver grounds maintenance locally.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 Uncertainty remains regarding both the extent of the funding gap and the potential to reduce the costs. However lack of certainty over funding by the Council could in itself stifle funding opportunities from coming forward.
- 4.2 The scheme will only protect to a 1:25 year standard. This means that it would not withstand an extreme 2007 type level flood. As such management of public expectations regarding what the scheme will actually deliver is critical.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 **Council Aim 2:** To create the right conditions for economic success in Ryedale:
- To have economic structure and supporting infrastructure in place;
 - Opportunity for people; increasing wage and skill levels.

Council Aim 3: To have a high quality, clean and sustainable environment.

- Reducing CO₂ emissions from Council operations.
- Adaptation to Climate Change
- Improve the quality of our local environment

Transform Ryedale District Council

- Building our capacity to deliver through collaboration and working in Partnership.

- 5.2 Consultation undertaken by the EA includes the following:

North York Moors Railway: A close working relationship between the EA and NYMR has been formed. The NYMR's positive approach has been critical to the successful development of the scheme to its current position. Agreements have been made around the realignment of the reservoir embankment closer to their tracks and over the standard of protection required for the tracks that run alongside the proposed reservoir (1:100yr) and in principal to the other areas of the design that impact on their structures, including embankment, tracks, crossings, etc. It has been agreed to continue to work closely with representatives of the NYMR as detailed design of the elements that interact with the railway are completed, this is specifically requested in relation to the erosion protection structure that will be integral to the tracks at the northern abutment of the reservoir spillway.

Duchy of Lancaster: A dialogue with the Duchy's agent, Smith Gore, has been ongoing over the period since May, covering operational requirements and primarily access and license agreements concerning the ground investigation. A formal proposal has yet to be made but having explained the proposed scheme to Smith Gore, initial contacts between the Duchy and their agent have been positive with the thoughts of the agent being that as the scale of the new proposals are less than those put forward previously that the Duchy would be agreeable to the revised scheme.

Planning Authority: Correspondence with NYCC and NYMNPAs has confirmed that the revised scheme should be dealt with as a full planning application and not as an amendment to the previous planning consent. They have also confirmed the need for re-screening the scope for any environmental assessment and added a number of requirements to be included in a future application.

As described in para 6.11 below, in order to maximise the benefits from the flood

storage area, small scale flood defences are required around the Hungate bridge area in addition to the planned storage reservoir. It is expected that these proposals will form a separate planning application to the council, although discussions with planners are ongoing and a final decision as to the preferred approach is yet to be made.

Pickering Town Council: Discussions have taken place with Pickering Town Council to explore the scope for them to contribute towards this aspect of maintenances. Though yet to be finalised the Town Council are very much in support of the realisation of a scheme and would look to work with the EA to facilitate the future maintenance of a scheme should it be delivered. Discussions with Pickering Town Council concerning the routine maintenance of the scheme have led to an agreement that the Council will work with the EA to deliver grounds maintenance locally, although the costs of this have yet to be agreed. The EA would retain responsibility for all requirements of the Reservoir Act and any large structural work/repairs

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

Background

6.1 On the 24 June 2010 this Committee considered proposals for bunded storage of flood water above Pickering. At Council on the 19 July 2010 members approved:

- (i) support for Pickering flood storage proposals for two bunds and a cross bund incorporating a 15 m³/s culvert in the Pickering Beck catchment area; and
- (ii) a maximum contribution of £800,000, to be included in the Councils Capital Programme for 2010/2011.

6.2 Subsequent to this at Council on the 10 March 2011 members approved:

- (i) a contribution of £950k, towards the Pickering Flood Storage Scheme as approved by Council on 19 July 2010 which represents an increase of £150k; and
- (ii) the increase be financed from a reduction in the Helmsley Sports capital provision.

6.3 The funding profile of the scheme at that time was as follows:

- Ryedale District Council - £950k
- Local Levy - £150k
- Environment Agency - £50k

6.4 As the scheme developed further, the requirements of the Reservoirs Act 1975, through an independent appointed Reservoir Engineer had to be considered. The Environment Agency had assessed the scheme as low risk under the Reservoirs Act, however the engineer, considering the impact in particular on Newbridge of failure of the bunds, and classed it as a Category A Reservoir (high risk), which would require a much higher design standard.

6.5 This assessment added c£2m to the overall costs, which made it unaffordable and unable to progress.

6.6 Subsequent to this a further £150k was secured from Defra to investigate the feasibility of smaller storage bunds on Pickering Beck. This considered a series of

small bunds (<10,000m³), below ground storage, channel restrictions, timber dams or other 'soft' measures. A members briefing took place on the 26 January 2012. This scheme had significant issues to be resolved including Landowner issues, SSSI and planning requirements, as well as the financial issues.

6.7 ARUP have been employed as consultants by the Environment Agency, using part of this funding, to evaluate the mini bunds option, plus a large single reservoir to provide 1 in 25 year protection for Pickering. Their findings indicate that:

- The small bunds were likely to be classed as 'reservoirs in cascade' under proposed revisions to the Reservoir Act (1975) linked to the Floods and Water Management Act (2010). This meant that construction of 'small' bunds would not remove the necessary engineering and associated costs of meeting the required safety standards as had been hoped and likely to cost above the current estimated finance available (assuming £950k from RDC). However, by utilising positive developments from the early stages of their investigations, a revised design has been proposed for a single large flood storage reservoir.

Revised scheme – Large Single Reservoir Proposals

6.8 Following discussions with North Yorkshire Moors Railway and based on updated LIDAR data (survey of the catchment area), a large single reservoir option is now thought possible which will deliver the required protection and provide protection against 1 in 25 year events as a minimum.

Ground Investigation survey

6.9 A comprehensive ground investigation has been undertaken to look at the variability and permeability of the local geology, the North York Moors Railway (NYMR) embankment and any seepage paths that may be present around the proposed reservoir embankment. The investigation also sought to establish the availability of locally sourced materials, the depth of bedrock and any sub-artesian water pressure.

The ground investigation has clarified the underground conditions of the site, allowing for necessary elements such as seepage cut-offs and settlement allowances to be incorporated into the design.

Hydrological and hydraulic modelling

6.10 A comprehensive review of the hydrological and hydraulic modelling for the proposed scheme location and through Pickering itself has been completed. The aim of this work was to confirm the threshold flow for the onset of flooding in Pickering and to relate this back, through the assessment of design flows, hydrographs and the significance of additional inflows, to the allowable design pass-forward flow for the proposed reservoir.

6.11 It was established that by building small localised defences around the Hungate Bridge area and increasing pass forward flows from the reservoir to 14.5m³/s the required storage volume was limited to 76,000m³. This combination reduced the required storage to within that available at the reservoir site, whilst maintaining a 1 in 25 year standard of protection for Pickering and spillway length, height and slope along with that of the associated reservoir embankment have been set.

Engineering design

6.12 The engineering design of the proposed reservoir has been subject to detailed development, including refinement of the embankment alignment, hydraulic control, seepage cut-off, erosion protection and drainage requirements, informed by the ground investigation and hydraulic modelling mentioned above and consultation with key stakeholders including the North York Moors Railway. All of the design work has

been completed under the supervision of an appointed 'Construction Engineer', as required by the Reservoir Act 1975.

- 6.13 Environment impacts have been very much at the forefront of the process, with archaeological risks, tree loss and wider impacts shaping the alignment of the embankment, construction materials, proposed construction methods and programme timings. The scheme has no detrimental effect on the nearby North Yorkshire Moors Railway or impact on the SSSI upstream of the site, in addition less formal flood retention measures could be constructed upstream of the reservoir to increase the standard of protection.
- 6.14 There is confidence the proposed scheme offers the required 1:25 year standard of protection to Pickering, is in-line with the requirements of the Reservoir Act and has been assessed by an appointed 'Panel Engineer'. Following all of the development work outlined above, the scheme has now reached a sufficient level of detail such that a robust estimate of the outstanding work that would be required to take the project to construction and an estimate of the construction costs themselves can be made.

Estimated Costs

- 6.15 Estimated costs could be as high as £2.56m, however, there are opportunities to reduce this figure. These include:
- Value engineering the design during the detailed design stage
 - Utilising the EA's internal workforce to undertake the higher risk earth works element of the scheme construction.
 - Negotiation regarding the estimated sum for compensation for the landowner.
 - Potential for a major reduction in costs through negotiating a significantly reduced cost source of material for the construction of the embankment.

Taken together these areas of saving could reduce the capital cost of the scheme to between £1.8 and £2.0m. Expected capital contributions from partners equate to £1.5m following additional contributions from North Yorkshire County Council (£300K) and the Local Levy (£100K). The Partnership believes that, with a confirmed commitment from the council and NYCC, it is in a strong position to seek further funding sources to bridge the potential remaining gap and negotiations to this end are continuing.

Maintenance Costs

- 6.16 Over the 50 year life of the scheme the estimated maintenance costs will be approximately £14,000 per year on average. The maintenance regime will have two broad components.
- Firstly aspects that relate to meeting the ongoing requirements of the Reservoirs Act, such as inspections and periodic repairs to the structure. It is proposed for the EA to take on the responsibility of these aspects, with an estimated average annual cost £7,000
 - Secondly the routine maintenance of the scheme. This would include activities such as maintaining the channel vegetation upstream of the scheme, cutting the grass on the embankment and controlling vermin such as moles and rabbits. These activities are also estimated to cost approximately £7,000 per year.
- 6.17 Discussions with Pickering Town Council concerning the routine maintenance of the scheme have led to an agreement that the Council will work with the EA to deliver grounds maintenance locally, although the financial aspects of this have yet to be agreed. In addition to any large structural work the EA would retain responsibility for all requirements of the Reservoir Act.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial
Funding has been previously agreed and is available within the capital programme
- b) Legal
There are no new legal issues arising from this report.
- c) Other
There are no significant other implications arising out of this report.

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Background Papers:

None.

Background Papers are available for inspection at:

n/a