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Resources Working Party

Held at Members' Lounge, Ryedale House, Malton
on Tuesday 14 September 2010

Present

Councillors Wainwright (Chairman), Clark (as substitute for Woodward), Mrs Cowling, Mrs Hodgson, Keal, and Knaggs

In Attendance

Simon Copley, Paul Cresswell, Julian Rudd and Janet Waggott

Minutes

10 **Apologies for absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

11 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 June 2010**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Resources Working Party held on 8 June 2010 were presented.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Resources Working Party held on 8 June 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

12 **Urgent Business**

There was one item which the Chairman considered should be dealt with at the meeting as a matter of urgency by virtue of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972:

- An exempt report advising Members of the opportunity to repurchase some property.

13 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

14 **Budget Strategy**

Members received a report which formed the basis of preparation and planning for the 2011/2012 Council budget.

In relation to the revenue effects of the capital programme, Members noted that North Yorkshire County Council would be giving formal consideration to the Vivis Lane junction realignment scheme on 27 September and requested that the Forward Planning Team clarify the impact that the postponement or cancellation of this project might have on nearby development schemes.

Some Members expressed a preference for proposals being brought forward for a 0% increase in Council Tax, with an option for 2.5%, whilst others agreed with the recommendation as drafted in the report. It was noted that this could be considered further at Policy & Resources Committee.

It was requested that a list of the fees and charges be attached as an annex prior to the report being considered at Council.

Resolved

That the report be accepted and the following recommendations go forward to the Policy & Resources Committee:

That Council be recommended to approve the following parameters for the preparation of the 2011/2012 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; and
- (iii) Efficiencies to be maximised and identified together with any potential cuts required to services once the draft grant settlement is announced in November/December. These proposals will be considered by the Resources Working Party.

15 Special Expenses

Members received a report which considered the charging of Special Expenses to the Parishes formally part of Pickering Rural District Council.

The Corporate Director (s151) was asked to report back to Members on the procedure for allocation of additional street lights and also on whether parishes could opt into the Special Expenses.

Resolved

That Council be recommended to approve the removal of Parishes from the Special Expenses where no street lighting provision presently exists from the 1 April 2011.

16 **EMIS**

Members received a report from the Executive Management Information System (EMIS).

The Corporate Director (s151) reported that income from the disposal of trade waste would be £30k down at the end of the year and that this would get progressively worse over subsequent years. It was proposed to sell off the trade waste service and obtain a capital receipt, with the four employees being redeployed at the depot. Craven and possibly Scarborough District Councils were interested in pursuing this as a joint venture. Some Members questioned whether this proposal was the best option in terms of protecting the environment and further details were requested in subsequent reports on this issue as to why the income level was getting progressively worse.

Resolved

That the report from the Executive Management Information System (EMIS) be noted.

17 **Capital Programme Progress Report**

Members received a report on progress with the capital programme.

In relation to the A64 Brambling Fields Junction Upgrade, approval was sought for an increased contribution of £420k per authority. Members suggested that a business plan was required for this scheme, setting out the maximum contribution the authority would make, the amount of developer contributions needed to recover this and the timescale in which this recovery could be achieved.

Members also suggested that a list of speculative schemes be appended to the capital programme to pick up those projects which might be facing difficulties now that Yorkshire Forward funding was no longer available.

Resolved

- (i) That the Capital Programme Progress Report be noted;
- (ii) That the Policy & Resources Committee be requested to approve an increased contribution of £420k per authority to the A64 Brambling Fields Junction Upgrade and consider the production of a business plan for this scheme.

18 **Capital Programme Financial Schedule**

Members received the capital programme financial schedule.

Resolved

That the capital programme financial schedule be noted.

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

Exempt Information

Resolved

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item of urgent business as provided by paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The public interest test has been considered and, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption is considered to outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.

Members received a report (tabled at the meeting) which advised them of the opportunity to repurchase some property.

Resolved

That action should be taken to repurchase the property as set out in the report.

The meeting closed at 4.55pm.