

## **Resources Working Party**

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Held at Members' Lounge, Ryedale House, Malton  
on Tuesday 13 September 2011

### **Present**

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Councillors Acomb (in the Chair) Mrs Cowling, Knaggs, Mrs Knaggs and Legard

### **In Attendance**

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Paul Cresswell, Janet Waggott, Julian Rudd, Sue Shuttleworth and Clare Slater

### **Minutes**

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52      **Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs Goodrick

53      **Minutes of the last meeting of the Resources Working Party held on 15 March 2011**

The minute of the last meeting of the Resources Working Party held on 15 March 2011 were presented.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the last meeting of the Resources Working Party held on 15 March 2011 as submitted be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

54      **Urgent Business**

The Chairman reported that there were no items which he considered should be dealt with as a matter of urgency by virtue of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

55      **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

56      **Budget Strategy 2012/2013**

The Corporate Director (s151) presented a report (previously circulated) which formed the basis of the preparation and planning for the 2012/2013 Council Budget and was submitted for consideration by Working the Party prior to submission to the Policy & Resources Committee on 29 September 2011.

The report set out in detail the key influences on the finances of the Council for 2012/2013 which impacted on the budgetary position, including:

- Government grant
- Council Tax increase
- Income from Fees and Charges
- Issues arising from the current year
- Pay and price inflation
- Revenue effects of the capital Programme

A timetable for the budget process was included within the report.

The report was discussed in detail and it was

### **Resolved**

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 or for a zero increase if a 2.5% increase in Government Grant were to be received;
- (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.

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### **New Homes Bonus**

The Corporate Director (s151) submitted a report (previously circulated) giving details of the New Homes Bonus (NHB) Scheme and the funding which Ryedale District Council would receive in 2011/2012. Options for the use of this funding were also presented. The report was to be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee on 29 September 2011.

It was pointed out that this new source of funding for RDC was not ringfenced and, therefore, could be made available for investment in a number of different areas of spend. However, it had been made clear by Government that the purpose of NHB was to 'ensure that the economic benefits of growth are returned to the local authorities and communities where growth takes place.'

Details were given of consultations that had been undertaken with Parish and Town Councils, together with the New Homes Bonus proposed allocation to

parishes in 2011/2012, and of discussions had been held with the North York Moors National Park

The report was discussed in detail and the view was expressed that wider consultation should take place with local communities and that other options for allocating the funding be explored, such as a Community Investment fund and included in the report as options.

**Resolved**

That the report be received.

**58 Localisation of Council Tax Benefit Consultation**

The Corporate Director (s151) submitted a report (previously circulated) informing Members of the consultation 'Localising Support for Council Tax in England' and the implications for the Council. The report, which was to be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee on 29 September 2011, included a proposed timetable for implementation of the new scheme.

Particular attention was drawn to paragraph 8.8 of the report relating to the Council having to decide which vulnerable group they would support the least and, during discussion of the report, the view was expressed that any cuts should be applied equally across the board.

**Resolved**

That the Corporate Director (s151), in consultation with the Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee, submit a response to the Consultation of Localising Support for Council Tax in England.'

**59 Localisation of Business Rates**

The Corporate Director (s151) submitted for information a paper published by the Department for Communities and Local Government entitled "Local Government Resource Review: Proposals for Business Rates Retention".

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

**60 Capital Programme Progress Report**

The Corporate Director (s151) submitted the Capital Programme Progress Report 2011-15 which had been circulated with the agenda.

The report outlined details of the individual schemes and indicated by means of a 'progress bar' the progress achieved to date. The report also gave details

of the projected budget and spend/commitment to date, a narrative summarising the latest progress and details of the responsible Head of Service and Project Manager.

The Head of Economy & Housing explained in detail the current situation relating to the A64 Brambling Fields Junction Upgrade which was to be considered at a Special Meeting of the Council to be held on 7 October 2011.

During discussion of the report, it was requested that a legal opinion be sought on the terms of the Milton Rooms lease.

Particular attention was also drawn to the provision of a Mortgage Rescue Scheme and the role of the Council in providing affordable homes. The view was expressed that the Housing Association did not appear to be representing the needs of Ryedale residents and it was reported that the Commissioning Board were to investigate issues relating to Yorkshire Housing.

### **Resolved**

That the Capital Programme Progress Report 2011-15 be noted.

### 61 **EMIS Report**

The Corporate Director (s151) submitted a report (previously circulated) on the Executive Management Information System summary for the period ending 31 July 2011 and drew attention to the section relating to planning fees.

It was agreed that work be undertaken following Councillor Knaggs' request that consideration be given to presenting financial information to Members in a more intelligible way showing the direct cost of services

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

### 62 **Any other business that the Chairman decides is urgent.**

There being no urgent business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.30pm