

Resources Working Party

held at Ryedale House, Malton
on Wednesday 5 November 2008

Present

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

Substitute: Councillor Mrs Keal (for Councillor Aslett)

In attendance

T Anderson, Mrs L Carter, P Cresswell, Mrs M Jackson, D Summers and Miss J Waggott

Minutes

RWP.98 **Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Aslett.

RWP.99 **Minutes**

The minutes of a meeting of the Working Party held on 26 August 2008 were submitted (previously circulated).

Resolved

That the minutes of a meeting of the Resources Working Party held on 26 August 2008 as submitted be endorsed.

RWP.100 **Urgent Business**

The Chairman reported that there were no items that he 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.

RWP.101 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

RWP.102 **Capital Programme 2008-2012**

The Corporate Director (s151) submitted for information a report (previously circulated), which outlined the Capital Programme 2008-2012.

Councillor Keal sought clarification regarding the current position with regard to the Commercial Street, Norton improvement scheme. The Head of Economy & Housing reported that following investigation he would report back to Councillor Keal.

Councillor Keal referred to the Dry Sports Centre Scheme at Malton School and sought clarification regarding public access arrangements. The Corporate Director reported that the scheme was to be procured through design and build however a full tendering process was to be undertaken in the first instance. The issue of community use had been raised with the school and their next working party meeting was to deal solely with this aspect.

In addition, it was reported that the Corporate Director (s151) was to work with the School regarding the use of site by the Scout Group, which were currently based at the Scout Hut at Smithson Court. It was suggested that this would be community use of the site and potentially an additional benefit arising as a result of the Council's grant.

Councillor Legard reported that it was understood that the School was exploring the possibility of the future inclusion of a fitness suite, which would assist in the reduction of costs.

Councillor Mrs Keal referred to the Castle Gardens scheme and reported that the existing budget allocation would not be sufficient to cover the total cost of the works. The Corporate Director (s151) reported that the scheme was currently in the pre-tender stage, however it was noted that the cost of the scheme could increase.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

RWP.103 Capital Bids

The Corporate Director (s151) submitted a report (previously circulated) the purpose of which was to consider the bids received for inclusion in the capital programme.

A report on the review of Council reserves had been presented to the last meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee. The report had identified that a maximum of £2.5m of capital resources were available for consideration without necessitating the need for the Council to borrow money. Borrowing could be undertaken in line with the Prudential Code based on affordability.

Annex A to the report detailed the bids received together with their scores. All bids had been scored in accordance with the Council's approved methodology, including an additional element based on deliverability. This element represented the ease of delivery of the scheme taking into account issues such as stakeholder, legal, planning, site access etc.

Most of the bids were self explanatory, however the report included further information on the following schemes:

- Property - Condition Survey Programme of Works
- ICT Provision
- Exception Sites Land Purchase Fund
- Mortgage Relief Scheme
- Helmsley Sports
- Public Realm Improvements and Malton Town Centre Strategy (excl Milton Rooms)

With reference to the Public Realm Improvements Scheme the Head of Economy & Housing reported that the Council had recently received notification that Yorkshire Forward had approved the Business Plan for a range of Malton Town Centre improvements and designs. The Council was being offered a grant of £138,000 towards the total scheme costs of £350,000. The remaining funding of £212,000 to be provided by the Council (£185,000) and North Yorkshire County Council and other third parties (£27,000). The Head of Economy & Housing reported that the proposal was to undertake some small-scale physical improvements in Malton town centre and develop some detailed designs to public realm. This reflected the wider aim of improving the quality of the town centre but was based on measures that were not dependent on agreeing the Malton Town Centre Strategy.

The Head of Economy & Housing reported that the grant must be spent by the end of March 2009 it was therefore suggested that, subject to the Working Party's approval, a report be submitted to the meeting of Council on 6 November 2008 seeking approval of the Council's contribution of £185,000 towards the scheme in order to enable the work to progress as soon as possible. Members endorsed this course of action.

The total net cost of the bids amounted to some £6.290m. Available capital funding had been identified of £2.5m. The Corporate Director (s151) reported that if Members wanted to go beyond this spending limit it would become necessary to borrow or make changes to existing schemes within the programme. Members were reminded that Councils were permitted to borrow under the Prudential Code on the basis of affordability. Given the need to make efficiency savings of over £500k in the next financial year and over £250k in future years, any commitment to borrow would require additional savings to be made within current service provision. It was considered that it would not be affordable for the Council to incur unfunded borrowing with the current medium term financial strategy with its savings and efficiencies requirement.

Councillor Knaggs referred to the bids listed in the report, which totalled some £6.290m and proposed a package of measures, which sought to reduce the total cost of the bids to £2.5m.

Councillor Knaggs referred to the schemes currently being pursued in Malton, Helmsley and Norton and suggested that the Council should make provision for a regeneration scheme in each of the market towns, to this end it was suggested that a sum of £500k be included i.e. £250k each for Pickering and Kirkbymoorside.

Councillor Knaggs reported that the A64 improvement scheme (£2.5m) could only be funded by eliminating other major schemes or by borrowing. It was therefore suggested that the bid be removed from the list.

It was further suggested that the replacement of pay and display machines and the replacement of refuse bins were not urgent, and in view of their low points scores, it was proposed that these schemes be placed on the reserve list of capital projects.

With reference to the Mortgage Relief Scheme it was suggested that this scheme be removed and referred to the Community Services & Licensing Committee for further consideration.

With reference to the existing Capital Programme, Councillor Knaggs was of the opinion that the Council did not have the capacity to undertake two economic development schemes in the next four years. It was suggested that the Council should pursue either the Pickering Business Scheme or the Malton Business Scheme, resulting in a further reduction of £1.3m.

The effect of the proposed measures reduced the total net cost from £6.290m to £2.526m as detailed below:

Scheme	Net Cost (£000)
Private Sector Grants	0
Milton Rooms	520
Regeneration Schemes Pickering/Kirkbymoorside	500
Malton Town Centre Physical Improvement Works	185
ICT Strategy Provision	980
Helmsley Sports	500
Exception Sites land purchase fund	100
Market Improvements	25
Ryedale Folk Museum	250
Property Condition Survey (programme)	500
Derwent Pool Remodel Reception	71
Public Conveniences Refurbishment	120
Plastics Recycling – Roll out	75
Delete 1 economic development scheme from existing programme	(1,300)
TOTAL	2,526

Councillor Mrs Cowling seconded the proposed measures, which upon being put to the vote were supported by the Working Party.

Resolved

That the report be received and that, subject to the above amendments, the bids outlined therein be recommended to the Policy & Resources Committee, and subsequently Full Council, for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

RWP.104 Asset Management Property Condition Surveys

The Property Manager submitted a report (previously circulated) in connection with progress on the production of fully costed property condition surveys.

The Council's Asset Management Plan contained high-level condition information, however this needed to be informed by detailed condition surveys for each property. The detailed surveys had not been progressed in a timely way, in the main due to available resources being diverted towards reactive repairs and planned capital works.

The target for maintenance work was to have 70% proactive repairs and 30% reactive repairs, with the Condition Survey informing the proactive area along with the longer-term budgetary process.

The Property Manager reported that condition surveys had been completed for the public conveniences, Ropery House and the car parks. Disability Discrimination Act surveys had been carried out at a number of sites. The annual capital bids under the asset management heading were informed by detailed surveys etc.

Work had been ongoing on the production of detailed condition surveys where required and it was anticipated that these would be available by January 2009. A table detailing the current position was appended to the report for information.

Resolved

That the report be received.

RWP.105 Date of Next Meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Working Party was scheduled to take place on 18 December 2008 at 3.30 pm.