

Policy and Resources Committee

Held at Council Chamber, Ryedale House, Malton
on Thursday 3 April 2014

Present

Councillors Acomb (Vice-Chairman), Bailey, Mrs Cowling (Chairman), Mrs Goodrick, Ives, Legard, Maud, Mrs Shields (Substitute), Ward and Woodward

Substitutes: Councillor Mrs E Shields (for Councillor Mrs L M Burr MBE)

By Invitation of the Chairman: Councillor Mrs Keal, Councillor Andrews

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Observers: Councillors Richardson and Wainwright

In Attendance

Audrey Adnitt, Paul Cresswell, Jos Holmes, Peter Johnson, Julian Rudd, Janet Waggott and Howard Wallis

Minutes

66 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Councillor Mrs Burr.

67 **Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 6th & 13th February 2014**

Decision

That the minutes of the meetings of the Policy & Resources Committee meetings held on the 6th February 2014 and the 13th February 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

68 **Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Working Party held on the 19th March 2014**

Decision

That the minutes of the Resources Working Party held on the 19 March 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

69 **Urgent Business**

The Chairman reported that there were no items to be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency by virtue of Section 100B(94)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

70 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Acomb declared a personal, pecuniary and prejudicial interest in Item 12 (Milton Rooms Options Appraisal) as he was the Council's representative on the Milton Rooms Management Committee. Councillor Acomb advised that he had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to speak and vote at the meeting.

Councillor Legard declared a personal, non-pecuniary but not prejudicial interest in Item 10 (Local Enterprise Partnership Funding) as his family resided by the A64.

Councillor Cowling declared a personal, non-pecuniary but not prejudicial interest in Item 14 (Revenue Write Offs) as she was acquainted with one of the parties involved.

PART 'B' ITEMS - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

71 **Policy on Retail Relief for Business Rates**

Considered – Report of the Corporate Director (s151).

Recommendation to Council

That Council is recommended to approve:

(I) A Discretionary Business Rates Policy to award retail relief in accordance with Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) guidelines with the following additional provisions:

- (a) All ratepayers in England & Wales will be eligible for the reoccupation relief. However, any ratepayer that occupies 50 or more premises will not be eligible to receive the £1,000 retail relief;
- (b) Charity shops in receipt of 80% Mandatory Business Rates Relief shall not be granted discretionary relief.

(II) That Discretionary Retail Relief be awarded as follows:

- (a) Via delegated authority to Council Officers for 2014/15 and 2015/16 only;
- (b) That an application process is not a mandatory requirement, but that Officers reserve the right to request information in order to apply any award of relief.

72 **Ryedale Development Fund- Remaining Major Projects**

Considered – Report of the Head of Economy & Infrastructure

Recommendation to Council

That Council is recommended to approve funding from the RDF budget to each of the following initiatives:

- (i) £20,000 towards the progression of targeted A64 Improvements: and
- (ii) £3,000 towards the progression of the Malton to Pickering Cycle Route.

73 **Derwent Training Association Expansion**

Considered – Report of the Head of Economy and Infrastructure

Recommendations to Council

As follows:

- a. That Council is recommended to approve £30,000 investment in the DTA expansion project utilising funding from the New Homes Bonus Reserve.
- b. The Head of Paid Service is directed to work with local schools and businesses to raise awareness of apprenticeship opportunities available within Ryedale. This is then to be reported in the annual report to Council.

74 **Local Enterprise Partnership Funding**

Considered – Report of the Corporate Director (s151).

Recommendation to Council

That Council is recommended to approve a £20,250 contribution to the LEP towards the development of the Local Growth Team financed from the NHB Reserve.

75 **Exempt Information**

Resolved

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items 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 provided relates to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

76 **Milton Rooms Options Appraisal**

Considered – Report of the Head of Economy & Infrastructure

Decision

- (i) Members noted the progress made to date in respect of MRCT's review of governance, improved financial management, and production and adoption of a robust short-term business plan;
- (ii) That the financial proposal detailed in the paragraph 2.1 recommendation (ii) be approved.
- (iii) That, subject to Council approval of the Part B item below, Members approve the delegation to the Head of Economy and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee and subject to a period of 12 month consolidation and successful operation of the new MRCT, to award up to £25k of RDF Major Projects funding towards further development of proposals for the Milton Rooms complex.

Recommendation to Council

- (i) Council is recommended to support in principal the development of the Milton Rooms, accepting that the Council is almost certain to have to make a capital financial contribution and annual revenue contribution in the future.

77 **Leases of Orchard Fields & Lady Spring Wood**

Considered report of the Corporate Director

Decision

That Members agree to the leases in respect of Orchard Fields and Lady Spring Wood being handed back to the Fitzwilliam Estate.

78 Revenue Write Offs

Considered – report of the Senior Revenues Officer

Decision

It was agreed that the Business Rate and Council Tax debts over £5,000 tabled in the report for consideration be written off.

79 Sundry Debtor Write Offs

Considered – report of the Corporate Director (s151)

Decision

As follows:

- a. That Members approve to write off the Sundry Debts as detailed in the report.
- b. That Officers bring to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee the Council's current position on sundry debts for Commercial Premises over 3 months old and current procedures for the pursuance of sundry debts.

80 Minutes of the meeting of the Senior Management Contracts Working Party held on the 11 March 2014

Decision

That the minutes of the Senior Management Contracts Working Party held on the 11 March 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Recommendation to Council

- a. The s151 Officer role is removed from the Corporate Director role and the Chief Executive makes arrangements for the function to be delivered.
- b. The Corporate Director position is advertised at a salary of circa £70k and a Member Appointment Panel is established (to include the current membership of the senior contracts working party plus one member from the Liberal Party and one member from the Liberal Democrat Party) and authorised to recruit to that post.

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

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.10pm.