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Policy and Resources Committee

Held at Council Chamber, Ryedale House, Malton
on Thursday 18 June 2015

Present

Councillors Paul Andrews, Steve Arnold (Vice-Chairman), Clark, Cowling (Chairman), Farnell (Substitute), Ives, Keal, Oxley and Raper

In Attendance

Gary Housden, Nicki Lishman, Phil Long, Kim Robertshaw, Clare Slater and Janet Waggott
Councillors, Goodrick, Hope and Wainwright

Minutes

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor V Arnold, Councillor Farnell substituted.

2 Minutes

Decision
That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 2 April 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Councillor Clark advised Members of the Committee that he had raised a query regarding Minute 50 of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 5 February 2015 and this remained unresolved.

Following investigation it was found that;

There was a general discussion regarding moving to exempt for discussion of the item regarding Pickering Tourist Information Centre. The reasons for exempt were discussed openly. The Chairman recognised that, if necessary, the recording could be edited/wiped.

This did not occur as the Committee decision to move to exempt was not agreed and the item was discussed in public.

3 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

5 **Appointments of Working Parties**

Members were appointed to the following Working Parties/Sub-Committees as follows:

Senior Management Contracts Working Party

The Leader of the Council, Vice Chairman of Policy and Resources and the Staff Champion be appointed in the interim but that the Council Solicitor would bring a report to a future meeting of the Committee, giving consideration to appointing a Member of the opposition to this Working Party.

Voting record

For – 8

Against – 1

Abstentions - 0

Resources Working Party

Conservatives – Councillors S Arnold, V Arnold, Cowling, Ives, Jainu-Deen and Raper, substitutes Councillors Farnell, Frank and Hope.

Liberals – Councillor Clark, substitute Councillor Thornton

Liberal Democrats – Councillor Keal

Independents – Councillor Maud

New Independents – Councillor P Andrews, substitute Councillor Burr

Voting record

Unanimous

Sub Committee – Appeals Panel

That Councillors Farnell, Keal and Oxley be appointed in the interim, pending officers bringing a report back to Policy and Resources Committee, following consultation with Unison regarding revision of the disciplinary policy. The report is to consider the Head of Paid Service or a nominated Senior Management representative being the final stage of the appeals process, in all cases, except where the Head of Paid Service or nominated representative have previously been involved in a case.

Voting record

For – 6

Against – 3

Abstention – 0

Constitution Working Party

Chairman of Council, Group Leaders and Councillor Ives

Voting record

Unanimous

6 **Delivering the Council's Priorities**

Considered – Report of the Chief Executive

Decision

- i. That the progress made by the Council in delivering its priorities in 2014/15 and the challenges to be faced in 2015/16 be noted.
- ii. That the Aims and Strategic Objectives of the Council Business Plan for 2015/20 be agreed.

Voting record

For - 7

Against - 2

Abstentions - 0

7 Exempt information

Decision

That under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for part of this item as there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person.

8 Banking Arrangements

Considered – Report of the Finance Manager (s151)

Decision

- i. That the report be received.
- ii. That a new 5 year contract for the Council's banking services with Lloyds Bank PLC be agreed.

Voting record

Unanimous

9 Overpayments write offs

Considered – Report of the Head of Corporate Services

Decision

That the writing off of the Housing Benefit overpayment as detailed in the report be approved.

Voting record

Unanimous

PART 'B' ITEMS - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

10 Council Tax Discretionary Relief Policy

Considered – Report of the Finance Manager (s151)

Recommendation to Council

- i. That approval be given to introduce the attached Council Tax Discretionary Relief Policy attached at Appendix A of the report, incorporating powers to grant relief under section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- ii. That delegated authority be given to the Finance Manager to determine such applications for Council Tax Discretionary Relief where they relate to cases of exceptional hardship.
- iii. That application of Council Tax Discretionary Relief to a class of case be determined by the Policy and Resources Committee, the application of the relief is then delegated to the Finance Manager as under (ii)

Voting record
Unanimous

11 NDR Transitional Relief

Considered – Report of the Finance Manager (s151)

Recommendation to Council

That the policy to award discretionary rate “Transitional Relief”, attached at Appendix A of the report, be approved.

Voting record
Unanimous

12 Draft York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Strategy 2015 - 2021

Considered – Report of the Head of Planning and Housing

Recommendations to Council

That the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Strategy for 2015/21 be approved.

Voting record
For – 6
Against – 1
Abstention - 1

13 Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan

Considered – Report of the Head of Planning and Housing

Recommendation to Council

That the draft 2015/2020 Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan be approved.

Voting record

Unanimous

Members asked that their thanks be passed to officers for their work on the Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan.

14 **Exempt Information**

Decision

That under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for part of this item as there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs.

15 **Land at Wentworth Street, Malton**

Considered – Report of the Chief Executive

Decision

Deferred pending receipt of the decision of the Leeds High Court on the application for judicial review.

16 **Funding for Citizen's Advice Bureau**

Considered – Report of the Chief Executive

Recommendation to Council

That the additional provision of up to £35k to the CAB be delayed until the CAB have presented their business case and forward plan beyond 2015/16 to Members of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Voting record

For – 7

Against – 2

Abstentions - 0

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

There being no items of urgent business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

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