

Scrutiny Review of Assets - [link to final report](#) considered by Council 8.10.16

Recommendations - As agreed by Council

The Council policy on the management of property assets is as follows:

Vision:

To optimise the use of the Councils property assets in supporting the delivery of the Councils priorities and delivering best value and value for money for the residents of Ryedale

Policy:

To achieve best value from each property asset by:

- Occupying an asset for the efficient delivery of Council services or
- Renting to another to generate revenue income for the Council or
- Disposing of any asset which achieves neither of the above and which could generate a receipt for the Council

Principles:

- To optimise the use of operational assets
- That fewer operational buildings is lowest

A new asset management strategy is being developed by officers to enable the delivery of this policy.

The Chief Executive reassured Members that officers would not dispose of any major assets without coming back to Council if the policy was adopted.

<p>cost and lowest risk to service delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To manage the councils estate to achieve the best social, economic and environmental benefit for the communities of Ryedale • To dispose of underutilised assets • To acquire assets that would support the finances of the Council and delivery of the Council priorities • That the proceeds of the sale of any of the assets be used to support the delivery of the Council's priorities. • For disposal of any Council owned asset used for car parking, decisions should be made in the context of a car parking policy. 	
<p>Scrutiny Review of Fuel Poverty in Ryedale - Link to final report</p>	
<p>Recommendations – To Council</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Council should in future refer to fuel poverty as affordable warmth. Fuel poverty is the problem to be addressed and affordable warmth is the outcome to be achieved. 2. That the Council should continue to report on both of the fuel poverty indicators for Ryedale when reporting on the delivery of the Councils Business Plan 3. That the Council should continue to prioritise increasing wage levels in Ryedale by creating the conditions for economic success 4. To continue to challenge the assumptions 	<p>These recommendation have been discussed at Resources Working Party and a business case was requested for the stock condition survey. A report was considered by P and R on the 31 March 2016 with recommendations may then made to Council. It was resolved that Recommendations 1-5 were agreed and also that, in relation to the recommendation 5, the cost of commissioning a stock control survey be kept to a minimum whilst upholding statutory obligations.</p> <p>The White Rose Home Improvement Agency has led to the development of the Well Being Service, Handyman Service, the delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) and the amalgamation of the Choices for Energy Service. Funding from Public Health has supported improvements to homes to reduce fuel poverty. Through Warm & Well in North Yorkshire we have developed the Cold Snaps Warm Homes project involving the thermal imaging of 3 villages in Ryedale. An updated stock condition survey will be</p>

<p>made about those most likely to be affected by fuel poverty and continue to lobby for support for solutions which work in rural communities, and for all vulnerable households including young families, and anyone who is socially isolated.</p> <p>5. To agree the funding for a stock condition survey for all property in Ryedale to provide the data to support the development and targeting of future initiatives to improve affordable warmth throughout the district.</p>	<p>completed in 2016/17.</p>
<p>To Planning Committee:</p> <p>1. That the Council should be seeking new development to be built to the highest current codes for design and construction, lowering energy demand, encouraging occupants to reduce their energy use and supporting the use of renewable and/or low carbon sources.</p> <p>2. To train members of the planning committee in the application of the energy hierarchy to new development and existing buildings.</p>	<p>Energy efficiency is an ongoing consideration by members of the committee for decisions they make and in any decisions delegated to officers.</p> <p>This is incorporated into the mandatory training for members of the planning committee and also as part of member briefings on the Ldf policy framework.</p>
<p>To Management Team:</p>	
<p>1. That officers should pursue the routes for accessing the Energy Performance Certificate data, and analysis of the policy</p>	<p>Management team have discussed the recommendations and recommendation one will be resolved following the decision on the stock condition survey, as analysis the EPC data will form part of the work undertaken.</p>

<p>implications of the insight provided.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To develop a concise set of questions, along the line of 'every contact counts', to help front line staff to identify those who are living in a cold home. Identify key staff and timing for a pilot and link to North Yorkshire Winter Health Strategy and ensure action is taken to help any household to achieve affordable warmth. 3. To gather any self-reported data on the location and incidence of fuel poverty through contact made with front line staff. 4. That officers should explore the feasibility of warm healthy homes type project in partnership with public health and stronger communities, to reduce social isolation and help to connect people - 'Warm communities' and 'winter champions'. 5. Make sure we communicate the key facts about keeping warm affordably at the right time of year to our residents, annually. 	<p>Management Team will develop a response to recommendations 2 and 3 as part of the service redesign being undertaken as part of the Towards 2020 programme as this has a focus on designing services to meet customer needs.</p> <p>The fourth recommendation will be addressed following the stock condition work , if this is agreed by Council, as it is being recommended that the health ipact Assessment work is included in the survey of stock condition. This will then inform any future programmes to address the health impact of cold homes and social isolation.</p> <p>See response to 4 above.</p>
<p>Scrutiny Review of Members Involvement in Outside Bodies and as Member Champions - Link to final report</p>	
<p>Recommendations – Meeting of Council 6th March 2014</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the following outside bodies be removed from the list: Supporting People NY Joint Committee (agreed at Annual Council on 16 May 2013), Endowment Governors Charity called Malton School, LG Yorkshire & Humber Elected Members Cohesion Group (agreed at Annual Council on 16 May 2013), Rural Action Yorkshire 	<p>The list of outside bodies was updated in preparation for Annual Council in May 2014. The outside bodies to be removed have been notified. The website was updated at the end of the 2013/14 municipal year.</p>

(formerly YRCC);	
2. That substitute representatives be appointed for outside bodies, where their governance arrangements permit,	Implementation completed at Council on 4 September 2014
3. That a précis from Member representatives on outside bodies be published on the website following each meeting	Implementation completed 4 September 2014
4. That appointments to outside bodies be for four year terms, from 2015 onwards to coincide with the District elections, subject to an annual review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to address any issues with attendance or publication of précis;	This action was implemented in May 2015 at the meeting of Annual Council.
5. That nominations of representatives to outside bodies should be made by Council based on their skills and expertise, in addition to attendance records, and that Members be asked to provide an oral statement of this upon nomination.	The implementation of this recommendation was completed at Council on 4 September 2014. Skills and expertise should now form the basis for nominations going forward.
6. That the Independent Remuneration Panel be requested to review allowances payable to representatives on outside bodies, where a payment is currently made;	This matter has been considered by the Independent Remuneration Panel and recommendations included in their report.
7 That all Members note that any representative on an outside body cannot be involved in any financial or regulatory decision taken by the Council that relates to that body.	This resolution reinforces the requirements set out in the Members' Code of Conduct, in the Council's Constitution. No further action is required.
Scrutiny Review of the Role the Council Should play in Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector	
Link to final report	
Recommendations – O&S 4th October 2012	
Key Recommendation The contribution of the Voluntary and Community Sector is highly valued in Ryedale. The Council should help to sustain	All recommendations have been considered by the committee to whom they were addressed. Budget provision for community grants was removed as part of the budget making process for 2013/14 by Council. It was then resolved at the meeting of the

<p>the Voluntary and Community Sector by providing financial and officer support.</p>	<p>Commissioning Board on 6.6.13 to establish a new Community Grants Budget.</p> <p>The Community Grants Working Party makes recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee and has a budget of £45,000 for 2015/16.</p>
<p>Recommendations to Commissioning Board</p>	
<p>1. The Council should undertake a review of how it core funds organisations with a view to commissioning/contracts ensuring continuity for organisations and giving notice of any changes in line with the North Yorkshire Compact. This allows organisations to employ people and plan for the future.</p>	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this giving the following reason: The Council core funds a very limited number of organisations and this review would reflect the approach agreed at Commissioning Board held on 24 January 2013 to core funding of the Ryedale CAB. Reviews now completed for CAB, RVA and Ryecat to establish the commissioning relationship. Each of these grants is now awarded with a service level agreement in place.</p> <p>A review is being undertaken of the funding relationship with CAB following recent additional funding awarded at Council. CAVCA has been invited to attend the June meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>
<p>2. Core funding should be for a longer time with more notice of change (ie 4 months minimum), linked to commissioning/procurement processes</p>	<p>Commissioning Board accepted as this is in line with the principles within the North Yorkshire compact.</p>
<p>3. Investigate how the Council could help support Ryedale Voluntary Action to encourage volunteering in the Ryedale area.</p>	<p>Commissioning Board accepted as this is consistent with the decision of the CIF Panel to support RVA volunteering services.</p>
<p>Recommendations to Policy & Resources Committee</p>	
<p>4. Grant schemes should be streamlined making it easier for organisations to access and, all decisions should be made by one panel i.e. the CIF panel.</p>	<p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation subject to the deletion of “the CIF Panel” and the addition of “the Commissioning Board and to be confirmed by Full Council”</p>
<p>Recommendations to Commissioning Board and Policy & Resources Committee</p>	
<p>5. Development officers are essential in helping</p>	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation, recognising that</p>

<p>to develop projects within the voluntary and community sector and this role is highly valued by the sector. The Council should continue to provide development officers and continue to support their provision within the voluntary sector.</p>	<p>development workers are intrinsic to the delivery of Commissioning Board activities, subject to any wider consideration regarding the Council's budget</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation with the following reason: Taking account of the additional information presented regarding expenditure on development workers, the Policy and Resources Committee recognises the benefits and financial leverage achieved through these roles.</p>
<p>6. The Council should make it clear what its funding priorities are and what outcomes it is trying to achieve.</p>	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation as this approach is consistent with good practice in budgeting and grant making.</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation</p>
<p>7. The Council should ensure that it is clear with all contracts and grants what it expects and monitor/evaluate/performance manage the outcomes accordingly ensuring Value for Money in the investment made.</p>	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation as this approach is consistent with good practice in budgeting and grant making. Members welcomed the introduction of additional monitoring of outcomes, subject to available resources.</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation</p>
<p>8. Maintain a small grants element in all grant programmes.</p>	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation, recognising that small scale grants are intrinsic to the delivery of Commissioning Board activities, subject to any wider consideration regarding the Council's budget</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation</p>
<p>9. The Council should take every opportunity to co-ordinate funding and evaluation processes with other funding bodies, for example, lists of projects supported and case studies illustrating the impact of the funding awarded should be published on the</p>	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation as this approach is consistent with good practice in budgeting and grant making. It was noted that the extent of such activities would be subject to resources available.</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation</p>

Council website.	
10. The Council should use every opportunity to promote and champion Ryedale and all that it has to offer. It should also support, celebrate and recognise the value and contribution of the voluntary and community sector.	Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation as this reflects current practice at the authority and is a key role of an elected member. Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation
11. When considering future budget decisions, the Council must recognise that the funding available to the VCS to meet the needs of communities in Ryedale is reducing. The Council has a role in championing the needs of Ryedale with other funders.	Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation and it was noted that Members considered that the Council already does this at every opportunity. Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation
Recommendations to Management Team	
12. The Council should ensure that any changes to the services it provides are clearly communicated to all those affected. This includes maintaining lists of key contacts for all services on the Council's website.	Management team accepted this recommendation with work ongoing to improve the information available on the Councils website.
13. Investigate better use of the Council's website for communicating and advertising events on behalf of the voluntary and community sector.	Management team accepted this recommendation and the Head of Economy and Infrastructure is investigating future options for improvement with their team.
14. Undertake joint member and officer training regarding funding schemes, priorities and processes for those members and officers	Management team accepted this recommendation and training will be arranged for any funding schemes offered by the Council in future

directly involved with grant making.	
15. Investigate the possibility of supporting VCS organisations with specialist skills available within the Council.	Management team accepted this recommendation. Support for organisations is currently being explored.
16. Review to be undertaken to define the members roles as champions and board members of voluntary and community organisations.	Management team accepted this recommendation and this was included in the terms of reference for the scrutiny review into members involvement with outside bodies.
Scrutiny Review of Post Offices 2010-11 Link to final report	
Recommendations - O&S 15th December 2011	
1. That the Committee responds to the Department of Business, Innovation & Skills' consultation document on the mutualisation of the Post Office.	Response to the consultation sent by the Committee in December 2011.
2. Officers continue to work on options for front office for local government with Post Office Ltd.	Council agreed to the bar coding of all council bills to enable more options for payment of bills including council tax for more residents. HCS to met with representative of PO ltd to discuss the latest position with regard to the network transformation programme and receive an update on the position in Ryedale 1.12.14. Council Tax bills issued by the Council are now bar coded to enable payment at any post office. The Council presence in market towns is kept under review. The collection rate for Council Tax has been maintained following the bar coding of bills.
3. Accept any opportunity presented by Post Office Ltd to work in partnership.	Officers continue to work in partnership with PO Ltd. Ryedale has been included in a joint Post Office LGA strategic engagement and the report of this can be found here: http://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/sites/default/files/Political_Stakeholder_Pathfinder.PDF
4. Undertake further research on the mobile/hosted and home service.	Survey undertaken in May 2012 with Cllr Janet Sanderson. Results show that although the majority of people would have preferred to see the local branch still open

	– the mobile service, however, was an acceptable alternative.
5. Provide feedback to the Post Office regarding their website and how it could be improved for rural areas.	Meeting held with Post Office Ltd and copy of Review document discussed.