

# Public Document Pack

## Resources Working Party

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Held at Ryedale House, Malton  
on Wednesday 13 January 2010

### Present

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

### In Attendance

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T Anderson, Mrs L Carter, P Cresswell, G Housden, Mrs M Jackson, P Long,  
Ms J Pattison, Miss L Sandall, Mrs C Slater and Miss J Waggott

### Minutes

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#### 27      **Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs Burr.

#### 28      **Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Working Party held on 18 November 2009 were submitted.

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the last meeting of the Working Party held on 18 November 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 29      **Urgent Business**

The Chairman reported that there were no items of urgent business.

#### 30      **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 31      **Capital Programme**

The Corporate Director (s151) submitted a report, which presented the following:

- A revised financial profile for the capital programme
- An update status report on schemes within the programme

- A proposed revised format to the Council's capital programme for consideration.

Annex A to the report set out the financial monitoring schedule for the Council's capital programme up to the 30 November 2009.

The report outlined the forecast spend for the year against the original budget and detailed the significant expected spend, which it was now anticipated would not take place.

Annex B provided a new report on the capital programme, which had been generated through the Council's performance management software, Covalent. The report indicated progress against project completion together with an indicator of the project life cycle stage and a narrative of the latest position. Members' comments on the new report were welcome and it was reported that further information on individual projects was available on request.

Annex C to the report provided a revised structure to the capital programme. Good financial management principles were that only projects with costed, evaluated delivery plans should be included within a capital programme. The inclusion of schemes that could be considered aspirational fully committed the Council's capital resources, which in turn produced difficulty in considering new schemes without considering borrowing or removing other schemes. Given the Council's medium term financial projections borrowing was not advised unless it was on the basis of invest to save, i.e. where deliverable revenue savings were achievable in excess of financing costs.

The revised programme, therefore, identified the following schemes as 'Capital Investment Plan - Potential Schemes' and placed them outside the programme:

- Pickering Flood Defence Scheme - work was ongoing with the Environment Agency to produce a firm costed proposal
- Provision for an Economic Development Scheme - £550k of the original £1300k allocation had remained in the programme as the identified need to finance land purchase in line with current Yorkshire Forward policy
- Regeneration schemes Pickering/Kirkbymoorside - originally planned at £250k each, no plans were currently in place for this spend.
- Plastics Recycling Rollout - there were significant additional revenue costs to any further expansion of this recycling area.

The uncommitted capital funds were separately identified, currently £2,522k. This figure was subject to change as it was based on the profile of the capital programme, anticipated interest receipts over the whole life of the programme and could change should the Authority receive additional capital receipts.

Once schemes either on the potential schemes list or new schemes were brought forward, Members could then consider them against the available capital funds plus other potential schemes, which may be forthcoming in the future. Members' views were sought on the revision as proposed in Annex C.

The Corporate Director (s151) reported that the Capital Programme was to be revised and presented to Members as part of the Financial Strategy to both Policy & Resources Committee on the 4 February 2010 and Full Council on 22 February 2010.

Working Party Members then considered the report in detail and sought clarification on the current position with regard to various schemes within the capital programme. Members were of the opinion that the capital programme should be kept as simple as possible and that only projects with expenditure that was under the Council's control, or with a reasonable probability of coming to fruition, should be programmed. Members were of the opinion that the Milton Rooms scheme should be transferred to the Capital Investment Plan - Potential Schemes category.

#### **Resolved**

- (a) That the current profile and spend on the Capital Programme be noted
- (b) That the format and content of the status report be endorsed
- (c) That the proposed revisions to the Capital Programme be endorsed and incorporated in the financial strategy for consideration by Policy & Resources Committee and Council in setting the Council's budget.

### **32 EMIS**

Members considered a report, which presented for information the Executive Management Information System summary for the period ending 30 November 2009.

#### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

### **33 Budget 2010/11**

The Corporate Director (s151) gave a presentation on the 2010/2011 Budget. The format of the presentation was similar to that which was to be given at the Member Briefing on the 20 January 2010.

The purpose of the presentation was to outline the Council's financial position, the pressures on the budget and the efficiency and savings proposals.

The Council had a budget of £8.28m for 2010/2011, based on a 0% increase in Council Tax, and a government grant of £4.520m. Further assumptions were general inflation at 0%, pay inflation of 1% and an increase in fees and charges of 4%. In addition, the Corporate Director (s151) reported on the unavoidable growth pressures for 2010/2011, the budget assumptions for 2011/2012, savings proposals, income generation and investment in priorities.

A low-key approach had been adopted in respect of Council Tax consultation for 2010/2011 with more consultation planned for the 2011/2012 budget process.

The next steps were to finalise the proposals. The Financial Strategy was to be presented to Policy & Resources at the special budget meeting on 4 February 2010 and Full Council on 22 February 2010.

The Corporate Director reported for information on the likely council tax increases to be set by the other North Yorkshire Authorities, it was anticipated that increases would be in the region of 1.5% to 3%. Members were reminded that each 1% increase in Ryedale's council tax generated £37,500. The Chief Executive reported that, as requested by Members, officers had delivered a budget based on a 0% increase. However, in the event that the Authority chose to increase council tax in line with the other North Yorkshire Authorities, balancing the 2011/2012 budget could be more manageable.

**The meeting closed at 4.30 pm.**