

Policy and Resources Committee

Held at Council Chamber, Ryedale House, Malton
on Thursday 29 July 2021

Present

Councillors Joy Andrews, Paul Andrews (Substitute), Arnold, Clark (Chairman), Delaney, Docwra, Duncan, Frank, Graham and Di Keal (Vice-Chairman)

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Observers: Councillor Oxley

In Attendance

Stacey Burlet, Simon Copley, Anton Hodge, Emma Lawer, Marie Lomax, Phillip Spurr, Ellen Walker, Margaret Wallace and Louise Wood

Minutes

24 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Burr, Councillor P Andrews substituting.

25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

26 Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2021

Decision

That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 29 June 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to a minor amendment to the wording of minute 15 – Chair's Announcements, to read "Cllr Duncan raised an email that had been issued to Group Leaders".

Voting record

8 For
2 Abstentions

27 Chair's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Chair.

28 Policy and Resources Committee Forward Plan

The Policy and Resources Committee Forward Plan was received, and Officers were asked to confirm that items for the meeting on 23 September 2021 were on track.

It was noted that the Employment Related Policies had now come off the Forward Plan for 23 September 2021.

29 Government Consultations

The North Yorkshire County Council consultation on the Minerals and Waste Plan was considered.

It was noted that an extension to the consultation deadline had been requested by Officers. A vote was then taken on the following two options for proceeding in the event that an extension was not granted:

- i) That an additional meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee be held to agree a response prior to the close of the consultation;
- ii) All Members of Council be asked to send comments to the Head of Planning to agree a response in consultation with the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Voting record

1 Option i)
9 Option ii)

Decision

Policy and Resources Committee's preferred approach is for North Yorkshire County Council to grant an extension to the consultation on the Joint Waste and Minerals Plan. If this is not forthcoming, all Members of Council be asked to send comments to the Head of Planning to agree a response in consultation with the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Voting record

Unanimous

The HR Business Partner advised the Committee regarding the MHCLG consultation on special severance payments.

Decision

Policy and Resources Committee delegates authority to the relevant Service Lead in consultation with the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee to respond to Government Consultations after the widest possible consultation with Members.

Voting record

6 For
4 Against

30 Recommendations from the Grants Working Party Meeting held on 7 July 2021

Resolved

To exclude the press and public from the meeting for discussion of the following item 8 (Recommendations from the Grants Working Party Meeting held on 7 July 2021) as provided by paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The public interest test has been considered and, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption is considered to outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.

Voting record

5 For

5 Against

Chair's casting vote – For

Decision

That the recommendations of the Grants Working Party held on 7 July 2021 be approved.

Voting record

Unanimous

31 Minutes of the Flood Management Working Party meeting held on 8 July 2021

The minutes of the Flood Management Working Party meeting held on 8 July 2021 were received.

32 Minutes of the Livestock Market Working Party meeting held on 15 July 2021

The minutes of the Livestock Market Working Party meeting held on 15 July 2021 were received.

33 Urgent Business

A request was received to consider the following item of urgent business:

The Council resolves to instruct solicitors who are experts in dealing with applications for judicial review, to obtain a legal opinion from leading London counsel in regard to a possible legal challenge of the decision to restructure local government in North Yorkshire.

Following consultation with Members of the Committee, the Chair did not consider that this item of business 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.

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

34 Changes to the Independent Group's Working Party Appointments

Decision

- i) To appoint Councillor P Andrews as the substitute on the Livestock Market Working Party;
- ii) To appoint Councillor Thackray as the substitute on the Local Plan Working Party, in replacement of Councillor Burr.

Voting record

Unanimous

35 Milton Rooms Grant Update and Business Case

Considered – report of the Programme Director for Economic Development, Business and Partnerships

The Chief Finance Officer (s.151) confirmed that the funding proposed is not considered to be a subsidy for the purposes of subsidy control.

Decision

- i) The proposed changes to the original works approved by Council in February 2021 are approved.
- ii) The business case for the budgeted £307,000 is accepted and the funds are approved for release.

Voting record

Unanimous

36 Additional Capacity Funding Requests

Considered – report of the Programme Director for Economic Development, Business and Partnerships

Councillor Duncan moved and Councillor Docwra seconded the following amendment:

That the decision be deferred to the meeting on 23 September 2021, to be considered in the context of the wider capacity report.

Resolved

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

Voting record

4 For

5 Against

1 Abstention

Decision

Committee notes that additional budgets will be used in 2021/22 to support the three posts outlined in the report, and that a further report will be brought to cover funding for future years, as part of the Financial Strategy.

NB – The proposed Project Management post for the Livestock Market is dependent on the decision to proceed.

Voting record

5 For

5 Against

Chair's casting vote – For

Recorded vote

For

Councillors J Andrews, P Andrews, Clark, Frank and Keal

Against

Councillors Arnold, Delaney, Docwra, Duncan and Graham

37 Treasury Management Annual Report 2020-2021

Considered – report of the Chief Finance Officer (s.151)

Decision

That Committee

- i) Notes the annual treasury management report for 2020-21; and
- ii) Approves the actual 2020-21 prudential and treasury indicators in the report.

Voting record

Unanimous

PART 'B' ITEMS - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

38 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring - Q1 2021/22

Considered – report of the Chief Finance Officer (s.151)

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council:

- i) Notes the contents of the contents of the report – including as updated verbally at the Committee meeting
- ii) Notes the impact on reserves of current spending plans and that it is likely that reserves will be fully spent by March 24 unless further savings are made. This assumes that the Council will continue in its current form until at least that point. If Local Government Review happened before then, there will be additional costs arising from that which all councils will be expected to contribute to.

Voting record

Unanimous

39 HR Policy Revision - Local Government Pension Scheme Employer Discretions, Family Leave Policy and Probation Policy

Considered – report of the Head of Human Resources

Recommendation

It is recommended to Council that the revised policies are agreed for implementation.

Voting record

Unanimous

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:00pm.