

Decisions of the meeting of the CABINET held
at 9.30am on Tuesday 27 November 2012 at
the Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton

Present

Councillor N W Huxtable (In the Chair)

Councillor R Kirk
B Phillips
M S Robson

Councillor T Swales
P R Wilkinson

Also in Attendance

Councillor P Bardon
K Billings
D M Blades
Mrs C S Cookman
K Hardisty
N Knapton

Councillor J Noone
Mrs C Patmore
M J Prest
M Rigby
Mrs I Sanderson

CA.38

**FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2013/14 TO 2022/23 AND BUDGET PLANNING
FRAMEWORK FOR 2013/14**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report proposed a Financial Strategy for the 2013/14 to 2022/23 taking into consideration the unprecedented funding arrangements facing the Council and the Budget Planning Framework for the 2013/14 Revenue Budget and the Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To ensure there is a long term financial planning mechanism for the Council.

THE DECISION:

That:-

- (1) the Financial Strategy 2013/14 to 2022/23 and Budget Planning Framework 2013/14 attached at Annex A of the report be approved; and
- (2) the Pay Policy Statement attached at Annex B of the report be approved.

CA.39

WELFARE REFORM – IMPACT ON REVENUES AND BENEFITS (FROM APRIL 2013)

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report advised Members of the current situation regarding the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Local Scheme replacing National Scheme from April 2013) and provided feedback on results of the consultation exercise (attached at Appendices 1a-1d of the report).

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To take account of changes to the Welfare Reform from 1 April 2013.

THE DECISION:

That Council be recommended to:-

- (1) adopt the proposed scheme as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report; and
- (2) fund the cost of the scheme as detailed in paragraph 6.1 of the report from the One-Off Fund.

CA.40

ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE AND COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

The Localism Act 2011 introduced the “Community Right to Bid” for Assets of Community Value. This report set out the implications for the District Council.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To take account of the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

THE DECISION:

That Council be recommended to delegate all Assets of Community Value functions to the Director of Customer Services.

The meeting closed at 10.30am

Leader of the Council

AGENDA ITEM NO:

**(CA.41 to CA.51)
Decisions taken under Cabinet
authority to take effect on 10 December 2012)**

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CA.41 **MINUTES**

THE DECISION:

That the decisions of the meeting held on 16 October 2012 (CA.31 – CA.37),
previously circulated, be signed as a correct record.

CA.42 **POLICY REVIEW – LEISURE CENTRES**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report presented the final report from Scrutiny Committee 1 on the Policy
Review on Leisure Centres for consideration.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To take account of the findings of Scrutiny Committee 1.

THE DECISION:

That:-

- (1) operational running costs of the Council managed Leisure Centres be driven
down by reducing expenditure, and increasing income, to a point which
creates an overall profit;

- (2) the facilities that Hambleton has be consolidated and improved rather than expanded further;
- (3) the "Sweating our Assets" Action Plan be implemented with particular emphasis on improving ICT:
- (4) new facilities and services for the communities in Thirsk/Sowerby and North Northallerton be delivered by establishing new not for profit management organisations to sustain them;
- (5) the above recommendations be reviewed each year with a fundamental review in 5 years' time and in light of the Council's overall financial position consideration be given to the need to pursue more radical options such as:-
 - Conversion of poorer performing facilities (or cost centres);
 - Closure of poorer performing facilities (or cost centres);
 - Change of management method;
 - Community Asset Transfer of facilities.

CA.43

POLICY REVIEW – WORKSPACE PREMISES

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report presented the final report from Scrutiny Committee 2 on the Policy Review on Workspace Premises for consideration.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To take account of the findings of Scrutiny Committee 2.

THE DECISION:

That:-

- (1) Workspace Premises should be reviewed annually in order to ensure value for money and rent arrears be reviewed regularly and the history be reported to Cabinet;
- (2) the Capital Programme should make provision for repairs and maintenance of Workspace Premises;
- (3) Budgets should incorporate all capital replacement costs;
- (4) signage for Workspace Premises requires enhancement in order to raise awareness of the location;

- (5) the locality and approach to Workspace Premises requires improvement and additional landscaping specifically at Evolution;
- (6) car parking provision at Workspace Premises requires consideration;
- (7) the website homepage should include advertising of available Workspace and be more innovative in order to promote the workspace effectively;
- (8) the website should provide links to other businesses;
- (9) no action should be taken at this time in relation to the Civic Centre but this should be kept under review;
- (10) the current endeavours of officers be endorsed and their efforts and hard work be supported.

CA.44

TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE – INTERIM REPORT

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report provided an update on the performance of the internal fund management team for the first half of the financial year. All fund management was carried out in-house. Annex A of the report contained details of performance and Annex B provided a schedule of investments.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To comply with the Treasury Management Code of Practice and the Council's Constitution.

THE DECISION:

That the investment performance of the in-house team to date be noted.

CA.45

GRANTS FOR COMMUNITIES

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report sought approval in principle to develop a scheme to encourage the development of empowered and engaged communities in line with the Big Society agenda, through the provision of grants to local communities in Hambleton. This would be facilitated through the provision of £100,000 as a one-off revenue fund for the scheme financed through the One-Off Fund.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To provide a grants scheme for community projects.

THE DECISION:

That Cabinet supports the principle of:-

- (1) the development of the grants scheme; and
- (2) the commitment of £100,000 from the One-Off Fund.

CA.46

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FUNDING

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report noted the Government grant funding received by the Council and considered whether some of this money should be made available to Parish Councils to support the preparation of their Neighbourhood Plans.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To provide support to parishes for Neighbourhood Plans.

THE DECISION:

That:-

- (1) £3k be allocated from the One-Off Fund to Huby and Appleton Wiske Parish Councils to support their Neighbourhood Plan preparation; and
- (2) £7k be allocated from the One-Off Fund to each plan to cover its costs.

CA.47

ARTICLE 4 DIRECTIONS – SOLAR PANELS

Thirsk, Sowerby and Stokesley Wards

The subject of the decision:

A report to Cabinet on 12 September 2012 recommended the making of four Article 4(1) Directions to remove permitted development rights for the provision of solar panels. The new Directions were in addition to the existing Article 4 Directions within Thirsk & Sowerby, East Thirsk, Sowerby and Stokesley and did not alter the boundaries. This report sought consideration of the representations made and to confirm the Directions, enabling them to come into force on 27 November 2012.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To comply with the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 as amended in 2008, 2010 and 2011.

THE DECISION:

That:-

- (1) the four Article 4(1) Directions – Thirsk & Sowerby, East Thirsk, Sowerby and Stokesley be confirmed to remove permitted development rights for the provision of solar PV or solar thermal equipment on domestic properties;
- (2) the occupiers and owners of dwellinghouses in the area covered by the Direction be notified in accordance with the regulations;
- (3) and a full photographic survey be undertaken in order to gain an accurate record at time of notice for enforcement purposes.

CA.48

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION PLANS – HELPERBY AND BRAFFERTON AND GREAT AYTON

Helperby and Great Ayton Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report sought endorsement of the Public Open Space, Sport and Recreation Action Plans for Helperby and Brafferton and Great Ayton.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To comply with the Council's legal responsibility to ensure funding is used in a way consistent with the individual S106 Agreements.

THE DECISION:

That the Public Open Space, Sport and Recreation Action Plans in Annex B of the report be endorsed.

CA.49

FORWARD PLAN

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report informed Cabinet of the Forward Plan of Key Decisions to be made by the Council either by Cabinet or an Officer Delegation. The plan would be updated as further items arose or other amendments became necessary.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To comply with the Council's constitution.

THE DECISION:

That the Forward Plan be noted.

CA.50

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

THE DECISION:

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item of business at minute no CA.51 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as the Cabinet was satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

CA.51

PROCUREMENT METHOD FOR INCOME MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report requested that Cabinet waive the procurement rules to allow the procurement of the replacement income management system to be made via a mini competition based on quotations, rather than on full tender procurement exercise.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To enable the procurement exercise to take place.

THE DECISION:

That the Procurement Rules be waived to allow the procurement of the replacement income management system to be made via a mini competition.

The meeting closed at 10.30am

Leader of the Council