

## Minutes of Policy & Finance Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 10 June 2014, starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor S Hirst (Chairman)

Councillors:

J Alcock	K Horkin
R Elms	A Knox
J Hill	G Mirfin
T Hill	J Rogerson
B Hilton	D T Smith
K Hind	R J Thompson
S Hore	

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Director of Community Services and Head of Regeneration and Housing.

### 80 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor A Yearling.

### 81 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 82 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 83 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 84 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the appointment of:

1. the Budget Working Group for 2014/15 as follows:

Councillors S Hirst, S Hore, R Elms, T Hill, A Knox, J Rogerson, R Thompson; and

2. the Economic Development Working Group which will consist of the following Councillors:

Councillors S Hore, R Elms, K Horkin, G Mirfin, J Rogerson, R Swarbrick, A Yearling.

85 LOCAL TAXATION WRITE-OFFS

The Director of Resources sought Committee's approval to write off a National Non-Domestic Rate debt.

This was one case where the company had been dissolved and therefore the Council needed to write-off an NNDR debt.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree to write-off £1,689.52 of NNDR debt where it had not been possible to collect the amount due.

86 RIBBLE VALLEY COMMUNITY STRATEGY – UPDATE

The Head of Regeneration and Housing referred to his report which gave Committee an update on the development of a Community Strategy for the Ribble Valley and a delivery of partnership priorities.

The report contained a preliminary review of the major issues for Ribble Valley which had evolved from the Sustainable Community Strategy 2007/2013.

Amongst the issues included in the discussion document for the draft Community Strategy 2014/19 were as follows:

- Housing.
- Facilities.
- Education and the Economy.
- Health and specifically older people.
- Community safety.
- Local democracy.
- Environment.

RESOLVED: That Committee endorse the wider consultation and engagement to inform preparation of a strategy and relevant action plans.

87 CAPITAL OUTTURN 2013/14

Committee considered the report of the Director of Resources which sought Member approval for the slippage of capital schemes from the 2013/14 financial year to 2014/15 and to review the final outturn of the capital programme for 2013/14 for this Committee.

She reported that there were two schemes with identified slippage into 2014/15 for this Committee:

- Economic development initiatives £100,000
- Public sector network compliance £ 16,430

The Director of Resources then went on to explain the reason in particular for the slippage on the public sector network compliance which was mainly around staffing issues in the IT Section which would hopefully be resolved in the near

future. Work would then proceed to implement the scheme. She highlighted this may take several months depending on progress with recruitment.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the slippage of £116,430 from 2013/14 into 2014/15.

#### 88 RIBBLE VALLEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – UPDATE

Committee considered a report updating Members on recent activities of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership including budgets, priorities and wider working with neighbouring districts. The Community Development Officer included within his report the following issues:

- Community Safety Partnership budget - £20,000 for 2014/15
- CAN and CANSAFE operations.
- World Cup campaigns including domestic violence awareness raising and drink driving.
- Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act – Community Trigger.
- Working with agencies on early action initiatives.

Councillors then raised a number of concerns including ambulance response times the possibility of employing a part-time Quality of Life Officer to deal with antisocial behaviour, the current position with Longridge CCTV and the marshalling of fetes and parades. The Chief Executive clarified the guidance given by the Police in relation to event marshalling.

Members were also broadly supportive of the work and continuance of the Community Safety Partnership as a local delivery agent.

RESOLVED: That

1. the report be noted;
2. we continue to support and endorse the continuance of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership and to support officers in future discussions with other Lancashire Community Safety Partnerships, Lancashire County Council and the Police in relation to future mergers or takeovers against the best interests of this partnership and the residents of the Ribble Valley;
3. the question of ambulance response times be referred to the Ribble Valley Health and Wellbeing Partnership; and

#### 89 CLITHEROE CONTINENTAL MARKET

Members considered a report on the recent Clitheroe Continental Market which had taken place from the 17, 18 and 19 April 2014.

The report outlined that the market had proved to be a success with approximately 5,000 members of the public passing through on each day of Friday and Saturday. The majority of the Clitheroe Market Traders had supported the event and opened for an extra day on Good Friday with almost all

reporting that they had achieved increased sales over the weekend. The marketing company were confident that after a successful first event a subsequent Continental Market would attract more traders and should have no problem creating a larger market. The company were keen to host another market and had initially suggested dates of Friday, 27, Saturday, 28 and Sunday, 29 September 2014.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### 90 REVENUES AND BENEFITS GENERAL REPORT

The Director of Resources informed Committee of the Council's position in the following areas:

1. NNDR.
2. Council Tax.
3. Sundry Debtors.
4. Housing Benefits and Council Tax performance.
5. Housing Benefits and Council Tax support fraud.
6. Housing Benefits overpayments.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### 91 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Committee received an update report which gave details of economic development and regeneration activities and issues. The report covered the following areas:

- Economic Development overview.
- Economic Development working group.
- Lancashire Economic Development.
- Business support.
- Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).
- Service centres and business groups.
- Other activities and products.

Members then discussed the report in some detail.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### 92 OVERALL CAPITAL OUTTURN 2013/14

Committee were provided with details of the Capital Programme outturn for all Committees for the year ending 31 March 2014. Members were reminded that at revised estimate time £57,020 had been moved from 2013/14 to 2014/15 as it was considered very unlikely that three schemes would be completed before the end of this financial year. Details of these schemes are listed below:

- Disabled facilities grants - £10,000.

- Landlord/Tenant grants - £20,000.
- Repossession prevention fund - £27,020.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

93 MEALS ON WHEELS/LUNCHEON CLUBS

Members considered an update report on the provision of meals on wheels service and other luncheon clubs in the Ribble Valley. The report pointed out that there had been an on-going review of the provision of the meals on wheels service and luncheon clubs in the Ribble Valley which had previously been reported to Committee in March 2014. Whilst substantial progress had been made in identifying the extent of the current position, and the opportunities set up to provide a new drop in/luncheon club using the local volunteer network.

RVS were continuing to provide the current meals on wheels service with the existing service users until the end of June 2014. This had enabled RVS and the Lancashire County Council to work with the existing recipients to find suitable alternative provision which meets their needs, and Members would be kept informed as further information was received from LCC.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted at this stage.

94 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2014/15

Committee were informed of the outside bodies that come under the remit of Policy and Finance Committee and their membership which were as follows:

- Armed Forces Champion – Councillor Jim White.
- Clitheroe Royal Grammar School – Councillors Ian Brown, Stella Brunskill and Stuart Hirst.
- Citizens Advice Bureau – Councillors Lois Rimmer, Mary Robinson and Noel Walsh.
- Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Council for Voluntary Services – Councillor Richard Newmark.
- LGA Consultative Committee – Councillor Stuart Hirst and Alan Knox.
- LGA Rural Commission – Councillors Michael Ranson and Rupert Swarbrick.
- Police and Crime Panel – Councillor Stuart Hirst.
- Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership – Councillor Kevin Horkin.
- Ribble Valley Community Transport – Councillor Ian Sayers.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

95 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the next items of business being exempt information under categories 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

96 LOCAL TAXATION WRITE-OFFS

The Director of Resources sought Committee's approval to write off a National Non Domestic Rate debt relating to an individual. This was one case where a debtor had been declared bankrupt and therefore the Council needed to write off that NNDR debt.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the writing-off of £5,280.52 NNDR debt where it had not been possible to collect the amount due.

97 DEVELOPMENT SITES

The Head of Regeneration and Housing gave an update on various development sites across the borough including the site at Barrow Brook. In particular Members were given an update on the potential development of the Clitheroe Market Site. Following preliminary discussions with Barnfield Construction Ltd Members discussed the information provided by the developer in some detail.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. continue to monitor the position at Barrow Brook;
2. endorse the need to retain a market within any redevelopment of the market site and that the Chief Executive be asked to take the necessary steps to publish a marketing and development brief for the site and invite expressions of interest for prospective partners to work with the Council to deliver the regeneration of the market site; and
3. agree to delegate to a working group comprising the Leader, Deputy Leader, Chair of Planning and Development Committee and the Leader of the Opposition authority to agree the marketing and development brief for the regeneration of the Council's market site and having considered submitted expressions of interest make recommendations to this Committee on a potential development partner.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Jane Pearson (01200 425111).