

EXECUTIVE

TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2009

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 17 November 2009. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in a decision, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group no later than 4pm on the second working day after this meeting – that is, Thursday 19 November 2009.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Fiona Young (tel extn 1027).

5. LORD MAYORALTY 2010/11

RESOLVED: That the Liberal Democrat group be invited to nominate the Lord Mayor for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

REASON: In accordance with the agreed procedure, to provide continuity for future selection and to ensure that the Council has the necessary leadership to undertake its civic functions.

6. 'QUALITY AND ACCESS FOR ALL YOUNG CHILDREN' - ALLOCATION OF EARLY YEARS CAPITAL GRANT

RESOLVED: That the four applications received from early years and childcare providers for amounts of £50k or more from the authority's allocation of the 'Quality and Access for all Young Children' capital grant, as set out in Table 1, paragraph 11 of the report, be approved in principle.

REASON: To enable the further development of early years provision in York, in accordance with government guidelines, and to manage the fund within the available budgets.

7. ECONOMIC MASTERPLAN AND YORK RENAISSANCE TEAM

RESOLVED: (i) That the proposal set out in the report be endorsed and that approval be given for:

- a) The preparation of an economic masterplan for the City, to be funded by Yorkshire Forward and completed by May 2010;
- b) The creation of a York Renaissance Team consisting of six officers on three-year fixed

term contract, employed by City of York Council and funded by Yorkshire Forward and English Heritage;

- c) The establishment of a York Renaissance Academy to enhance staff skills in 'place-making', to be funded by Yorkshire Forward.

REASON: To provide greater certainty for future investment in the City.

(ii) That updates be requested on how the economic masterplan will improve the sustainability objectives of the Council and the Local Strategic Partnership in developing York as an example of a low carbon economy, and the stimulation of local jobs and training during future developments in the City.

REASON: To keep the Executive informed on the benefits that the economic masterplan is expected to bring to the City.

8. INTRODUCTION OF A QUALITY CONTRACT FOR BUS SERVICE PROVISION IN YORK

RESOLVED: (i) That the contents of the report be noted, and in particular the fact that no government guidance has yet been issued on the introduction of a Quality Contract Scheme.

(ii) That it is recognised that the costs outlined in the report are well beyond the resources available to the Council unless central government were to underwrite them.

(iii) That, nevertheless, it is accepted that a Quality Contract Scheme might offer some advantages to passengers, particularly if focused on a corridor (or corridors) which are poorly served by public transport.

(iv) That Officers therefore be requested, once guidance from central government becomes available, to further develop a trial scheme based on a corridor approach and to report their findings to a future meeting.

REASON: In order to respond appropriately to the Council motion, in the light of the current economic climate and the lack of resources and guidance currently available for the introduction of a Quality Contract Scheme.

9. SECOND PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITOR FOR 2009/10

RESOLVED: (i) That the performance issues identified in the report be noted.

REASON: So that corrective action on these performance issues can be taken by Members and directorates.

(ii) That the financial issues identified in the report be noted, in particular:

- a) The significant pressures arising due to the economic recession and social care costs that are still evident across the Council;
- b) The work already undertaken within directorates to contain financial pressures;
- c) That work continues to identify and implement options to meet the 1.5% savings targets required to contain spending within budget by the end of the financial year;
- d) The longer term need for growth in some budgets, which will require compensating efficiencies and

REASON: So that the Council's expenditure can be contained within budget.

(iii) That Officers be requested to ensure that future monitor reports include background information sections on service demand levels and the trends which are influencing significant items of budget performance, and that key performance information is tabulated to allow for comparison with past trends and future targets, along with relevant information on national trends and comparison with other local authorities, where appropriate.

REASON: To ensure that this key information, showing how volume increases are driving higher costs, is provided in a transparent way.

10. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITOR 2

[See also under Part B minutes]

RESOLVED: (i) That the 2009/10 revised budget of £67.379m, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report and Table 2, be noted.

(ii) That the slippage of £733k from 2009/10 to 2010/11 be noted.

REASON: To enable the effective management and monitoring of the Council's capital programme.

(iii) That the use of £140k from the contingency fund for slipway repairs at Lendal Boatyard (as detailed in Annex B) and £32k for the Fishergate Hostel be approved.

REASON: To enable this essential work to take place, and in accordance with the Council's contractual obligations in respect of the slipway.

(iv) That the re-stated capital programme for 2009/10-2313/14, as outlined in paragraph 33, Table 12, and detailed in Annex A, be noted.

REASON: To enable the effective management and monitoring of the Council's capital programme.

(v) That the Chief Executive be asked to review with the Council's Corporate Management Team how records can be kept of the following items for inclusion in future capital reports:

- a) Photographic records of the current state of building / completed buildings with, where appropriate, comparison photographs of the building being replaced;
- b) A record of the sustainability features that have been achieved through the construction;
- c) The economic impact on local employment and training.

REASON: To enable the Council to celebrate the success of delivering new buildings and services to the residents of the City, by means of the capital programme.

11. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITOR 2 REPORT

RESOLVED: That:

- the performance of the treasury management activity
 - the general fund venture fund repayment holiday to assist in corporate budget savings and
 - the projected overspend of £529k on the treasury management budget
- be noted.

REASON: To ensure the continued performance of the Council's Treasury Management function.

12. DRAFT REVISED CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

RECOMMENDED: (i) That Council approve the revised draft Contract Procedure Rules at Annex A to the report, subject to the inclusion of the following table setting out delegation and recording arrangements for the award of contracts:

Delegation Thresholds

Decision	Approval	Delegated Powers	Thresholds	Record
To award a contract based on VFM	Officer	To approve contracts ≤ £5k or delegated limit in scheme of financial delegation whichever is the lower.	> £0 and ≤ £5K	CR
To award a contract based upon written quotation > £5K and ≤ £139K or EU threshold whichever is the lower based upon lowest cost or MEAT.	Officer	To approve contracts ≤ £139k or EU Threshold up to delegated limit in scheme of financial delegation whichever is the lower.	> £5K and ≤ £139K or EU Threshold	CR
To award a contract based upon tender ≥139K or EU threshold and < £500K based on lowest cost or MEAT.	Officer	To approve contracts ≥ £139k or EU Threshold and < £500K up to delegated limit in scheme of financial delegation whichever is the lower.	≥ £139k or EU Threshold and < £500K	CR
To award a contract based upon tender ≥ £500K and classed as 'Routine'	CFO/MO	Contract Procedure Rules	≥ £500K and classed as 'Routine'	CR/DL
To award a contract based upon tender ≥ £500K and not classed as 'Routine'	Executive	Constitution Key Decision limit	≥ £500K and not classed as 'Routine'	CP

To award a contract > £5K and ≤ £139K or EU threshold not on lowest cost or MEAT	Local Chief Officer	Contract Procedure Rules		WR
To award a contract > £139K or EU threshold not on lowest cost or MEAT	CFO	Contract Procedure Rules		DL
Exceptional circumstances above Key Decision limit non-routine	CFO/MO	Contract Procedure Rules		DL

KEY

- CR - Contract Register
- DL - Officer Decision Log
- CP - Committee Paper
- WR - Waiver Register
- Officer - Officers with delegated powers to approve expenditure
- CRO - Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) Director of Resources
- MO - Monitoring Officer

REASON: To ensure that the revised CPRs are appropriate in maintaining the integrity of the Council's procurement arrangement and to provide clarity and transparency to the process for the awarding of contracts.

(ii) That Council approve the delegation of routine procurements (defined in Annex B to the report) to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, as set out in paragraphs 6-8 of the report.

REASON: To ensure that the Council can continue to deliver business as usual and that only non-routine procurements are referred to the Executive for approval.

13. CORPORATE DEBT POLICY

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the draft Corporate Debt Policy at Annex A to the report, subject to the following amendments:

- a) Removal of disconnection of water supply as a result of not paying the bill, as this is no longer classed as a priority debt;
- b) Amendment of the debt write-off list to reflect that the category of 'Deceased and Bankrupt' only applies where there are no assets;
- c) Amendment of the wording at paragraph 45(b) of the draft policy in relation to debt recovery officers attending a customer's home, to ensure that it sounds supportive rather than threatening, to reflect the intention of the paragraph.

REASON: To ensure a consistent, 'firm but fair' approach to debt collection, whilst enabling the Council to maximise collection performance, in line with its Income Policy.

14. CAPITAL PROGRAMME - MONITOR TWO

[See also under Part A Minutes]

RECOMMENDED: (i) That Council approve the net adjustments of £0.345m in 2009/10, £3.233m in 2010/11 and £3.550m in 2012/13, as set out on a scheme by scheme basis in the report and in Annex A, be approved.

(ii) That Council approve £3.050m of prudential borrowing, supported by the £250k revenue budget established in 2009/10.

REASON: To enable the effective management of the Council's capital programme.