

# North Yorkshire Council

## Executive

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd January 2024 commencing at 11.00 am.

Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. plus Councillors Gareth Dadd, Derek Bastiman, Simon Myers, Janet Sanderson, David Chance, Greg White and Annabel Wilkinson.

In attendance: Councillors Caroline Dickinson, Paul Haslam, Eric Broadbent, Liz Colling, Bryn Griffiths, George Jabbour, Rich Maw, Andrew Murday and Yvonne Peacock.

Officers present: Karl Battersby, Stuart Carlton, Gary Fielding, Richard Flinton, Barry Khan, Nic Harne, Richard Webb, Melanie Carr, Daniel Harry, Steve Wilson, John Burroughs, Andrew Dixon, Carl Doolan, Amanda Newbold, Andrew Rowe, Louise Wallace, Sherri Williamson and Jane Lurcuck.

Other Attendees: Dr Gill Kelly and Mrs Anne Seex

Apologies: Councillor Keane Duncan

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**Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

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### **373 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Keane Duncan. In addition it was noted that Councillor Michael Harrison was attending the meeting remotely and therefore would not be able to participate in the vote on recommendations.

### **374 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 January 2024**

#### **Resolved –**

That the public Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2024, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **375 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Michael Harrison declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in regard to Agenda item 5 - Revenue Budget 2024/25 & Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Report as an employee of an organisation named in the Treasury Management report. He confirmed the Standards Committee had given a dispensation for this, enabling him to participate in, and vote at the meeting.

Councillor Gareth Dadd declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in regard to Agenda item 6 – Second Homes Council Tax Premium, as the owner of a small number of holiday lets. He confirmed the Standards Committee had given a dispensation for this, enabling him to participate in, and vote at the meeting.

Councillor Greg White also declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in regard to Agenda item 6 – Second Homes Council Tax Premium, as his family owned a second home in Scarborough.

## 376 Public Participation

A public question was received from Mrs Anne Seex in relation to Agenda item 13 – Allocations Scheme for Social Housing as follows:

*“The Council and 3 Registered Social Landlords operate the Choice Based Lettings Partnership, and a number of other Registered Social Landlords are ‘encouraged’ to make lettings through the scheme.*

*Section 166 A (1) of the Housing Act 1996 requires that “Every local housing authority in England must have a scheme (their “allocation scheme”) for determining priorities, and as to the procedure to be followed, in allocating housing accommodation. For this purpose ‘procedure’ includes all aspects of the allocation process, including the persons or descriptions of persons by whom decisions are taken.”*

*There are at least 21 points in the Allocations Policy before the Executive today at which it fails to comply with that requirement. I list them below. They include very important decisions such as eligibility to go onto the Housing Register (2.2); whether a homeowner will be allowed onto the housing register (2.4), what ‘banding’ will be applied to an application (4.3); whether an applicant will be removed from the Register for not bidding; how applicants are ranked in priority order and whether a tie break will apply (5.4).*

*There appears to be only 4 points at which descriptions of decision makers are given and these are extremely vague e.g. ‘senior housing officer’, ‘allocations staff’. It is not even clear which organisation those staff are in.*

*Will the Executive ensure that the information required by law is incorporated into the Allocations Policy? Paragraphs 2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 3.3, 3.6, 3.8.1, 3.9,3.10, 3.13, 3.14, 3.15, 3.18, 5.1, 5.4, 6.3, and Appendices 2 and 4.”*

Councillor Simon Myers thanked Mrs Seex for her contribution and confirmed her comments had been taken on board and that the Scheme had been amended accordingly. He noted that her particular concern regarding the persons making decisions when applying the policy, had been addressed in line with how other Council’s had dealt with it i.e. through the insertion of the following paragraphs:

*‘The terms “Senior Manager” and “Senior Housing Manager” and any other job titles are used in this policy for ease of reference only. The exact titles of the officers within the Council and our partner landlords will vary and may be subject to change from time to time. The Council and our partners will have designated officers responsible for the operation of the North Yorkshire Home Choice Scheme and Allocation Policy and details of these officers are available on request.*

*Furthermore, and unless it is specifically expressed, any decisions taken in the application of this policy will be made by such members of staff from the Council and our partners and will be subject to review by the applicant.’*

Councillor Myers also acknowledged the detailed and helpful comments provided by Mrs Seex through the consultation exercise and confirmed a number of the suggestions for rewording had since been added to a revised version of the policy thereby providing greater clarity on some specific points of the policy for any applicant. He agreed to provide Mrs Seex with a copy of the updated Policy.

As a final comment, Mrs Seex suggested that for applicants the decisions being taken were life changing and therefore they had a right to know who the decision maker was. Councillor Carl Les thanked Mrs Seex for her contribution to the meeting.

### **377 Revenue Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy**

Considered – The joint report of the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director - Strategic Resources setting out the financial issues and risks for the new North Yorkshire Council and asking the Executive to make recommendations to the County Council regarding the Revenue Budget for 2024/25, the Council Tax for 2024/25 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2025/26 to 2026/27.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd introduced the report and thanked the Corporate Director for Resources and his team for their work on the budget, and for the production of the detailed report and the set of options detailed therein. He acknowledged the financial and operational challenges facing the Council and noted the intention to deliver a sustainable Plan that would deliver the administration's moral case for the advancement of services that would protect and support the most vulnerable. Finally he also confirmed the Government's local government financial settlement had not yet been finalised and released and therefore the report had been produced with that in mind allowing for a £7.5m variance.

Gary Fielding, Corporate Director for Strategic Resources thanked officers for their work on the savings plan and other components of the Budget, and made the following key points:

- Last year the Council approved an in year deficit of £30m in order to buy time and deliver a plan that would start to enjoy the benefits of unitarisation, to get a sustainable budget position.
- The budget under consideration delivered that in the short term but in the longer term that was questionable given the financial pressures across the country and the number of councils facing Section 114 notices.
- There were significant pressures in the system and there was still more work to be done
- There were a number of areas under significant spending pressure e.g. SEND, Adult Social Care, Children's Placements, and the supply change in general.
- There were gross savings proposals of £23.7m in 2024/25 rising to £46.2m by 2026/27
- £36m of savings had been generated through Local Government Reorganisation to date and some harder to deliver savings proposals had been identified for the next 12/24/36 months
- There were two proposed investments – a one-off investment of £5m to aid the delivery of the new Local Plan, and an additional £1m for the Local Assistance Fund in recognition of ongoing cost of living pressures
- A proposed increase in Council Tax in 2024/25 of 4.99% - the second year of Council Tax Harmonisation

He went on to draw specific attention to Equality implications shown at section 7 of the Revenue report and to his Section 25 statement set out a paragraph 8.11 of the Revenue report.

Councillor Carl Les reiterated the thanks to the Director of Resources and the Management Board and was pleased to note the Section 25 statement.

Councillor Bryn Griffiths noted the proposed 50% saving from the Locality Budget as detailed in Appendix B of the Revenue report suggesting it would have a marked adverse effect on local communities and their support groups etc. He asked that the Executive reconsider this proposal and suggested this could be accommodated through use of some of the £7.5 variance. In response it was confirmed this issue could be debated alongside the rest of the proposed budget when it was considered by full Council in February 2024.

Councillor Eric Broadbent raised the issue of homelessness and temporary

accommodation and questioned whether this was being given its due consideration. In response Councillor Simon Myers confirmed the Council's commitment to housing the homeless and would invest in its own temporary accommodation in due course. He also acknowledged the lack of a dedicated homeless shelter in Scarborough which needed to be addressed.

Nic Harne - Corporate Director for Community Development, confirmed that the Council would also be looking to maximise its use of national homelessness grants and reduce the use of expensive bed and breakfast temporary accommodation and instead optimise the use of home-based accommodation.

Councillor Rich Maw raised the issue of additional early years funding and questioned what provisions were in place if the budget allocation did not go far enough and did NYC nurseries have the necessary funding to respond to the changes in rates for 2-year olds.

Stuart Carlton – Corporate Director for Children & Young People's Services confirmed that all early years providers had been consulted on the coming changes. He confirmed all funding received as part of the early years block was passed on to providers. It was also confirmed that a Members Seminar would be held in the future to ensure Members were kept fully informed on the coming changes etc.

Barry Khan again drew attention to Section 7 of the report and the Council's duties under section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 and Appendix 1 – a high level equality impact assessment, both of which the Executive was asked to note when considering the report recommendations.

In summing up, Councillor Gareth Dadd acknowledged that if the sustainable Plan was not in place the council would be in danger of heading in to Section 114 territory which would leave the Council without the ability to make choices. He confirmed the focus would remain on the vulnerable and addressing the cost of living challenges. This would still require the use of reserves of £6.5m this year, rising to £82m by the end of the 3-year plan. Finally he noted that LGR had delivered 78% of the savings from the last year and better co-ordination of frontline services.

He went on to introduce the Capital Plan and Treasury Management sections of the report.

In regard to the Capital plan he confirmed there would be no capital spend pursued unless already pre-planned, and all ongoing projects were being carefully managed to reduce any associated inflationary risks

Gary Fielding - Director of Resources confirmed the planned capital spend in 2024/25 would be £274.8m, and £528.2m in total over the four years, a sizeable investment plan. He also noted capital pressures in two areas – spending pressures on ongoing schemes and the sizeable number of one-off investments required e.g. homelessness, regeneration schemes, EPH modernisation etc

In regard to Treasury Management Gary Fielding reassured members the council's strategy was one of safety first. He also noted the Council's reducing external debt.

Finally, Members considered the Housing Revenue Account report, introduced by Councillor Simon Myers. He drew attention to the benefits of bringing three relatively small stockholding authorities together but noted the difficulties that had arisen due to the HRAs all being run differently with different policies in place etc. He acknowledged the work of officers and the external consultants over the last year to bring them all together into one and to identify a different approach for NYC, one of delivering housing for residents as opposed to the previous emphasis of the Districts/Boroughs which had been to pay off debt resulting in a gradual reduction in social housing stock through right to buy, with only a reactive maintenance approach.

It was noted NYC would in the future take a much more pro-active approach to maintenance and upgrades, and the following was also confirmed:

- The plan to deliver 500 additional council homes over the next 5 years and to seek additional government funding for social housing wherever possible.
- A rent increase of 7.7% in order to keep a healthy HRA and deliver the improvements set out in the Business Plan.
- A rent increase on shared ownership of 2%
- A £2m revenue investment to improve performance on repairs and maintenance compliance issues and stock condition information
- A £588m investment in social housing stock over a 30-year period, equivalent to around £14.5m a year
- The HRA would be a ring-fenced and appropriate risk management applied to ensure the delivery of the Business Plan

Members were pleased to note the Council's long term planned investment in social housing, only made possible because of LGR.

The Leader thanked everyone for their work on the budget, and it was

**Resolved – That:**

- i) The delegation arrangements referred to in Section 11 of the Revenue Budget & MTFS report that authorise the Corporate Directors to implement the Budget proposals contained in this report for their respective service areas and for the Chief Executive in those areas where there are cross-Council proposals, be noted and agreed.
- ii) Due regard be given to the Public Sector Equality Duty (identified in Section 7 and Appendix I) in approving the Budget proposals contained in the Revenue Budget & MTFS report.
- iii) That in regard to the Revenue Budget & MTFS report, the following be recommended to full Council:
  - a) The Section 25 assurance statement provided by the Corporate Director, Resources regarding the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the reserves (paragraph 8.12) and the risk assessment of the MTFS detailed in Section 9 be noted;
  - b) An increase in Council Tax of 4.99% (basic 2.99% and Adult Social Care 2%) resulting in a Band D charge (including special expenses) of £1,847.62 – an increase of £87.80 (paragraph 4.3.8 and Appendix D);
  - c) A Council Tax requirement for 2024/25 of £454,532,423.44 be approved, in accordance with Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by Section 74 of The Localism Act 2011).
  - d) A Net Revenue Budget for 2024/25, after use of reserves, of £678,589k (Appendix G) be approved
  - e) In the event that the level of overall external funding (including from the final Local Government Settlement) results in a variance of less than £7.5m in 2024/25 then the difference be addressed by a transfer to / from the Strategic Capacity Unallocated Reserve in line with paragraph 4.2.3 with such changes being made to Appendix E as appropriate.
  - f) The Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service be authorised, in consultation with the Corporate Director, Resources and the Executive Members for Schools and Finance, to take the final decision on the allocation of the Schools Budget including High Needs, Early Years and the Central Schools

Services Block (paragraph 3.1.17).

- g) The Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2025/26 to 2026/27, and its caveats, as laid out in Section 3.0 and Appendix G be approved in line with the proposed council tax option.
  - h) The Corporate Director – Environment be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for Highways & Transportation and Open for Business, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where considered appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix B (ENV 1 to 14).
  - i) The Corporate Director – Community Development be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for Planning for Growth and Culture, Arts and Housing, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where considered appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix B (CD 1 to 11).
  - j) The Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for HAS, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix B (HAS 1 to 7).
  - k) The Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Services be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for CYPS, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix B (CYPS 1 to 14).
  - l) The Corporate Director – Resources be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for Finance & Resources and Corporate Services, to carry out all the necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix B (RD 1 to 7).
  - m) The Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for Central Services, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix B (CS 1-12 and LGR1).
  - n) Any outcomes requiring changes following Recommendations h), i), j), k) and l) above be brought back to the Executive to consider and, where changes are recommended to the existing major policy framework, then such matters to be considered by full Council.
  - o) £5,000k be provided for development of the Local Plan and the Corporate Director, Community Development be authorised, in consultation with the Corporate Director, Resources and the Executive Members for Planning and Finance, to approve spending from this sum to progress the Local Plan as set out in paragraphs 4.8.2 to 4.8.3.
  - p) The proposed policy target for the minimum level of the General Working Balance be £29m, in line with Appendix F.
- iv) The Executive also agreed to recommend the following to full Council:
- a) Approval of the refreshed Capital Plan
  - b) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement as shown at Annex 1 of the Treasury Management & Capital Strategy Report, consisting of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy (Section 1), Capital Prudential Indicators (Section 2), Borrowing Strategy (Section 3) and Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25 (Section 4), including in particular;
    - i. an authorised limit for external debt of £660.9m in 2024/25;
    - ii. an operational boundary for external debt of £633.3m in 2024/25;

- iii. the Prudential and Treasury Indicators based on the Council's current and indicative spending plans for 2024/25 to 2026/27;
  - iv. a limit of £60m of the total cash sums available for investment (both in house and externally managed) to be invested in Non-Specified Investments over 365 days;
  - v. a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy for debt repayment to be charged to Revenue in 2024/25;
  - vi. the Corporate Director – Resources to report to the Council if and when necessary during the year on any changes to this Strategy arising from the use of operational leasing, PFI or other innovative methods of funding not previously approved by the Council;
- c) The Capital Strategy as shown at Annex 2 of the Treasury Management & Capital Strategy Report;
  - d) That the Audit Committee be invited to review Annex 1 and 2 and submit any proposals to the Executive for consideration at the earliest opportunity
  - e) The HRA budget for 2024/25 as set out in paragraph 6.3, being a net surplus of £1.307m which will be transferred to the HRA working balance;
  - f) The HRA Medium term financial plan for 2025/26 and 2026/27 and the 30-year HRA Business Plan, as set out in paragraph 6.3 and Appendix D respectively;
  - g) An increase of 7.7% to social, affordable and hostel rents from 1 April 2024
  - h) An increase of 2% to shared ownership rents from 1 April 2024

### 378 Second Homes Council Tax Premium

Considered – A report of the Corporate Director, Resources confirming the Council's policy on the levying of empty homes and second homes council tax premiums.

Councillor Gareth Dadd introduced the report and noted the substantial number of second homes across the county. He confirmed that other local Authorities were following on the Council's lead. He also drew attention to the number of long term empty properties and the additional income that could be generated through implementation of the proposals.

Councillor Yvonne Peacock welcomed the proposal recognising the significant number of second homes throughout the Dales and in response to her query around Government's exemptions, it was noted those exemptions had yet to be confirmed.

Other Councillors also welcomed the proposals. In particular, Councillor Simon Myers hoped it would help to ease the pressure on housing waiting lists. He also expressed interest in the government's awaited changes to planning regulations recognising they too would benefit the county's current position.

Councillor Eric Broadbent confirmed he had met with a number of second home owners who were unhappy with the proposals and expressed concern it may lead to an increase in Airbnbs.

Councillor Gareth Dadd reassured members that where similar proposals had been implemented in other areas of high density, it had only led to a 10% reduction in the number of second homes. He also confirmed the income yield would be used to provide housing.

**Resolved** – That the following be recommended to full Council for approval:

- (a) The application of the current premium of 100% for all dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (empty dwellings) from a period of one year with effect from 1st April 2024;

- (b) The application of a premium of 100% for all dwellings which are unoccupied but substantially furnished (second homes) with effect from 1st April 2025; and
- (c) The Section 151 Officer be given delegated powers to implement the policy in line with the Council's requirements and any guidance given by the Secretary of State or regulation

### **379 Council Plan 2024- 2028**

Considered – A report of Assistant Chief Executive- Local Engagement seeking the Executive's agreement to submit the Council Plan 2024-2028 to the Council for adoption.

Councillor David Chance introduced the report confirming the Plan was a key component of the Council's Policy framework. He drew specific attention to the missing figures on page 252 of the published agenda and confirmed the report should have read '*the Council will save between 42m - £67m in the next few years*'.

Councillor Bryn Griffiths suggested that it would be helpful if the Plan listed a number of high level smart targets up front, and in response it was confirmed such targets would be set as part of the strategies and policies agreed by the Council to deliver the Plan.

Executive members voted in favour of the recommendations, and it was

**Resolved** – That the following be recommended to full Council for approval at its meeting on 21 February 2024:

- i) The draft Council Plan as shown at Appendix A of the report
- ii) The Chief Executive be authorised to make any necessary changes to the text, including reflecting decisions made by the Council on the budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy, and updated performance data and key performance indicators.

### **380 Director of Public Health Annual Report**

Considered – A report of the Director of Public Health introducing the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2022-2023: 'In Our Words: a Child's Life in North Yorkshire'

Councillor Michael Harrison introduced the report confirming it was the Council's duty to annually publish an independent report written by the Director of Public Health.

Louise Wallace, Director of Public Health introduced the report which provided an update on the recommendations arising from the previous annual report and focussed on addressing the impact of the pandemic on children and young people across North Yorkshire.

She also drew attention to the two key themes that emerged from the initial work to develop the report i.e. the rapid onset of digitisation, and mental health and wellbeing, and the recommendations arising from the DPHAR 2021-22, 'Learning from COVID-19'. She went on to note her thanks to all those who had contributed to the report and highlighted the concerns, issues and opportunities it had identified.

Executive members acknowledged the work of the Public Health team and thanked the Director of Public Health and Dr Gill Kelly for an excellent and easy to read report.

Cllr Janet Sanderson specific drew attention to the list of acknowledgments within the report recognising the team effort required to pull in such a broad representation through the ongoing partnership work across the county. She also noted some of the disparities



between the statistics across specific areas of the County which she suggested required further consideration.

**Resolved** – That the following be noted:

- i) The content of the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022-2023.
- ii) The recommendations made within the report and how they related to the whole local authority.

### **381 Admission Arrangements 2025/2026**

Considered – A report of the Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service seeking the Executive’s views on the response to the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools for the school year 2025/26 and seeking a recommendation to the Council for determination.

Councillor Annabel Wilkinson introduced the report and drew attention to the consultation responses and the issues around catchment areas in particular to the proposed changes to address the anomalies in the school catchment area for Thirsk School and Sixth Form College, as detailed in the report at paragraph 3.3.

Councillor Greg White suggested similar anomalies existed in other places across the county and queried whether the same principle was to be applied to all of them. In response Andrew Dixon – Strategic Planning Manager confirmed they could also be considered it brought to the attention of officers.

Executive members voted in favour of the recommendations, and it was

**Resolved** – That the proposed Admission Arrangements for 2025/2026 be recommended to full Council for approval on 21 February 2024, to include:

- i. the proposed co-ordinated admission arrangements (appendix 1)
- ii. the proposed co-ordinated in year admission arrangements (appendix 1a)
- iii. the proposed admission policy for community and voluntary controlled schools (appendix 2)
- iv. the proposed admission policy for nursery schools, schools with nursery classes and pre-reception classes (appendix 3)
- v. the proposed published admission numbers (PAN’s) for community and voluntary controlled schools as shown in appendices 6 (Primary) and 7 (Secondary)
- vi. Proposed changes to school catchment area – Thirsk School and Sixth Form College (appendix 8)

### **382 Fountains Earth, Lofthouse, Church of England Endowed VC Primary School – School Closure Proposal**

Considered – A report by the Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service detailing the outcomes of the public consultation carried out by the Council on the proposal to close Fountains Earth, Lofthouse CE Endowed Primary School and asking the Executive to authorise the publication of proposals and statutory notices, and to schedule taking a final decision on the proposal on 19 March 2024.

Councillor Annabel Wilkinson introduced the report and provided an overview of the background to the proposal to close the school. She also drew attention to the public consultation that had taken place and the responses received, as detailed in Appendix 7 of the report, and the proposed change to the catchment area of St Cuthbert’s CE Primary

School, Pateley Bridge to serve the area currently served by Fountains Earth Primary School.

Councillor Andrew Murday suggested the closure of the school was in part due to the rural decline i.e. the lack of employment opportunities for rural communities and affordable housing for young families etc. He also suggested there had been a complete loss of trust between the school's governing body, teachers and the local community which had resulted in there being no pupils left within 12 months of the school receiving a good Ofsted report.

Executive members agreed these were fundamental issues affecting rural communities across the county which needed addressing through the Local Development Plan.

Having taken account of all the information provided, the Executive reluctantly agreed the reasons for the proposal to close the school as laid out in the report, were correct and that closure of the school would be in the best interest of the future education of pupils in the area.

With that in mind, they voted unanimously in favour of the recommendations, and it was

**Resolved** – That:

- i) Statutory proposals and notices be published on 1 February 2024 proposing to cease to maintain Fountains Earth, Lofthouse CE Endowed Primary School with effect from 31 March 2024.
- ii) The proposals include that from 1 April 2024 the parishes of Stonebeck Up, Stonebeck Down, Fountains Earth, Bewerley, High and Low Bishopdale (the current catchment area of Fountains Earth Primary School) will become part of the catchment area for St Cuthbert's CE Primary School, Pateley Bridge.
- iii) A final decision on these proposals be scheduled for the Executive meeting on 19 March 2024.

### **383 Proposed Selective Licensing scheme in Scarborough**

Considered – A report of the Corporate Director Community Development presenting the findings of the public consultation on the proposal to designate a scheme for the Selective Licensing of privately rented properties within parts of the Castle, Falsgrave and Stepney and Northstead divisions of Scarborough, and recommending the designation of the scheme based on those findings.

Councillor Simon Myers introduced the report which detailed a number of proposed changes to the existing policy for Selective Licensing arising from the consultation undertaken, and the proposed licence fees. He also noted the motivating factors for bringing in such a Scheme i.e. poor property conditions, and high levels of deprivation, ASB, crime and migration, and the proposal to explore the options for the development of a wider Neighbourhood Renewal approach to complement the Selective Licensing scheme, and the study, which has been commissioned to assess the private rented sector across North Yorkshire and inform the Council's future approach and actions to improve the sector.

John Burroughs Housing Strategy & Development Officer drew to the consultation feedback detailed in Appendix A of the report and confirmed the Scheme would be cost neutral to the Local Authority, affordable to landlords and would have minimal impact of tenants. He also noted there would be a range of discounts available for landlords to utilise.

Councillor Rich Maw expressed concern those discounts would be arbitrary, but it was

confirmed, there was the potential for landlords to benefit from a number of discounts, where applicable.

Councillor Derek Bastiman suggested the proposed Scheme would improve living standards for tenants and deter a certain element of landlord, and Councillor Eric Broadbent welcomed the extension of the Scheme, recognising it would benefit private tenants in his division.

Executive members welcomed the proposed Scheme, and it was

**Resolved** – That:

- i. The feedback from the public consultation exercise on the Selective Licensing of private rented accommodation be noted.
- ii. A Council led scheme for the Selective Licensing of Private Rented Accommodation in the area defined as ‘Scarborough Town’ be introduced - to incorporate parts of the Castle, Falsgrave and Stepney and Northstead divisions as shown on the map in Appendix C of the report.
- iii. Officers prepare and publish a Public Notice of Designation under sections 80 and 83 of the Housing Act 2004.
- iv. The proposed fee structure, recommended discounts and exemptions as set out at paragraph 11.4 of the report be approved.
- v. The policy for the Selective Licensing of Private Rented Accommodation be approved, and the amendments highlighted within the report be undertaken.
- vi. Officers explore the potential for a wider neighbourhood renewal focus to complement the scheme, which would consider the involvement of other key Council service areas

#### **384 Approval of criteria and fee for entry on to the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding register**

Considered – A report of the Corporate Director of Community Development seeking approval of a proposed criteria and fee for inclusion on Part 1 of the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Register for North Yorkshire.

Councillor Simon Myers introduced the report and confirmed the Authority was developing its own Register in line with what the previous Districts and Boroughs had in place.

Members noted the report, and it was

**Resolved** – That a new Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Register for North Yorkshire be introduced with local connection eligibility criteria and an administration fee.

#### **385 Allocations Scheme for the Provision of Social Housing**

Considered – A report of the Corporate Director Community Development presenting a draft North Yorkshire Housing Allocations Policy for the Executive consideration along with the results of the public consultation on the draft policy undertaken between 4<sup>th</sup> September and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Councillor Simon Myers introduced the report and drew attention to some revisions to the recommendations within the published report. He noted the revised recommendations had been circulated prior to the meeting for members consideration. He went on to summarise the background to the current position across the County and the proposal to bring all areas under one Allocations Policy.

The Executive noted the report, the proposed Allocations Policy, consultation responses and the Equality Impact Assessment, and the comments made by Mrs Anne Seex earlier in the meeting.

In line with the revised recommendations it was

**Resolved** – That the following be recommended to full Council on 21 February 2024 for approval:

- a) The Allocations Policy - to become effective from no later than 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025;
- b) Contingency funding totalling £10,000 from the HRA working balance for additional staffing and the communications budget;
- c) The Assistant Director for Housing Authority be delegated to make minor amendments to the Allocations Policy as needed by changes to regulation or legislation.

### **386 Forward Plan**

Considered –

The Forward Plan for the period 15 January 2024 to 31 January 2025 was presented.

**Resolved** - That the Forward Plan be noted.

### **387 Date of Next Meeting - 6 February 2024**

The meeting concluded at 1.02 pm.