

## HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

### MEETING of the STRATEGY & REVIEW COMMITTEE held Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

#### MINUTES

**PRESENT** Councillors; Boden, Butterick, Fraser, Guilfoyle, Harvey & Hayes.

**Clerk:** Jason Boom - Town Clerk.

**340. Apologies for Absence and any substitutions.**

Cllr Needham with Cllr Boden substituting.

**341. Members' Interests relating to agenda items for this meeting.**

None were declared at this time.

**342. Matters arising from Minutes of Meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 not itemised on this Agenda.**

No matters were arising.

**343. DELEGATED POWERS & COUNCIL STRUCTURE**

The committee considered and discussed the proposed delegated powers and council structure as submitted by the Town Clerk.

The committee looked at the activities of each committee and the frequency in which they met and the work that each undertook.

The committee discussed the Cost of Living Crisis Committees activities acknowledging that when initially established it was a response to a rapidly evolving situation where flexibility was intrinsically required. The committee accepted that unfortunately this need could now be considered the new normal. Consequently the Strategy & Review Committee felt that the responsibilities could be undertaken by the Community Funding Committee, with flexibility written into the delegated powers of the Community Funding Committee to allow it to respond to urgent requests should they arise. Delegated powers should also reflect that requests for community funding that would be considered to be under the auspice of Cost of Living Crisis be considered distinct and not preclude a groups application for a more general request for financial support in the same financial year.

It was proposed by Cllr Butterick

Seconded by Cllr Hayes

**RESOLVED:** to recommend that the responsibilities of the Cost of Living Crisis Committee be reallocated to the Community Funding Committee from the start of the council year 2024/25 and that alterations be made to reflect the points above in the delegated powers of the committees and the operations of the Community Funding Committee.

The meeting discussed committee membership sizes.

It was proposed by Cllr Butterick

Seconded by Cllr Hayes

**RESOLVED:** to recommend that committees have a membership of seven councillors to share the workload and to ensure attendance and continuity at meetings. The meeting also recommended and endorsed the continued principle of the Strategy & Review Committees consisting of the Chairs of HRTC Committees and appointments made by full council.

344.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Provisional Tax Base Calculations – CMBC

It was proposed by Cllr Boden

Seconded by Cllr Hayes

**RESOLVED:** to note the information regarding the CMBC Provisional Tax Base Calculations and the subsequent confirmation of the adoption of these figures by Calderdale MBC. The calculations will be applied to the process for setting the HRTC Precept 2024/25.

345.

## **BUDGET SETTING 2024- 25**

The meeting carefully considered the proposals received from the committees of HRTC for inclusion in the Town Council budget for 2024/25. Discussions took place with respective committee chairs presenting budget requests. Consensus was achieved on clearly distinct issues at various points in the meeting and voted on collectively at the end of the meeting. The substantive points of the discussion and debate are summarised below:

- The Elections budget to be increased to £6,000 as a consequence of recent expenses and information received from Calderdale MBC Electoral Services.
- The Course & Training budget to reduce to £2,500 as a consequence of consistent underspend. The meeting felt the allocation would be adequate to deliver the needs of both staff and councillors.
- The Mayor's Allowance to remain at £4,710.
- The Website allocation be reduced to £1,500 as the agreed budget for a new website will deliver savings in the second half of 2024/25.
- The Climate Emergency & Environment budget be set at £33,275.
- The Community Funds and Cost of Living Committee merge their budgets in line with the recommendation to merge the committees outlined above and as a consequence be set at £95,000. Suggestion was made by the meeting that the Community Funding Committee should consider Youth Support a priority to support in the coming months.
- The Projects and Events Committee budget be set at £100,180.
- Given the Picture Houses forecasted positive trading position that the Connectivity Project be delivered and financed by the Picture House directly.
- That the Picture House, again given its forecasted positive trading position, contribute, in addition to the reallocated reserves, £31,000, already earmarked for phase one of the Screen Two, £27,500 to the costs identified in delivery of phase one. Thus leaving the Town Council to contribute £59,679, the balance.
- That in preparation for the delivery of phase two of the Screen Two project scheduled for 2025/26 that the Town Council allocate £128,013

towards said phase two. These funds will only be committed when a business case is agreed by the Town Council.

**Note:**

It was proposed by Cllr Hayes

Seconded by Cllr Butterick

**RESOLVED:** to suspend stating order 3) w) to allow the meeting to exceed 2 hours in duration.

- That £1,580 be allocated to the Youth Employment Support initiative.
- To recommend that no contingency be set for the financial year 2024/25, the Town Council Reserves be available should a need arise.
- To recommend that the Town Council reserves reflect two months of the usual allowance, in appropriate areas, that being £76,171.

The committee agreed that the adoption of a principle to raise the Town Council precept, the Mayor's Allowance and the budget of the community funding committee, as in the previous life of the Town Council should not be agreed at this point. The committee were in favour of this principle being reintroduced, after careful consideration, in future years.

It was proposed by Cllr Butterick

Seconded by Cllr Boden

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to recommend the points outlined previously to the Full Council of Hebden Royd Town Council for inclusion in the 2024/25 budget.

It was proposed by Cllr Butterick

Seconded by Cllr Boden

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to recommend that the precept for the Parish of Hebden Royd be set with a 11% increase, equating to a **9.65% rise per household**, given the increased tax base. Thus giving a requirement of £468,706 for 2024/25 which equates to an annual charge of £141.82 for a Band D property in Hebden Royd or for the most common Band A property in Hebden Royd £94.55, an increase of £8.32 per year or 69p per month.

The meeting finished at 9.45pm.

