

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 21st JULY 2021 at 7.15 p.m.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am to inform you that a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee will be held on Wednesday, 21st July 2021 at 7.15 p.m. in attendance at the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6QF

Yours faithfully,

**Dan Austin
Town Clerk**

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

2. MEMBERS' DISPENSATION

To consider written requests for dispensations from members who have declared interests under Disclosable or Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Section 33 of the 2011 Localism Act.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To notify of any items that appear in the agenda in which you may have an interest, including those that have previously been recorded in the Members Register of Interests.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members of the public are permitted to make representations, ask questions, and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Questions will not be received by the Council which are in furtherance of a person's individual circumstances, or which are about a matter where there is a right of appeal to the courts, a tribunal or government minister. A question will not be received by the Council where the issue it concerns has been the subject of a decision of the Council in the last six months.

5. MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 9th June 2021 for information. (Previously Circulated)

6. NOTES OF ASSET MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

... To receive the notes and recommendations of the meeting of the Asset Management Working Group held on the 30th June 2021.

7. PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE

... To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub - Committee held on the 6th July 2021 for information.

8. REVIEW SUB COMMITTEE

... To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Review Sub - Committee held on the 7th July 2021 for information.

9. AUDIT, RISK AND G.D.P.R SUB COMMITTEE

... To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Audit, Risk and G.D.P.R Sub - Committee held on the 14th July 2021 for information.

10. ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEETS

... To receive the account control sheets for the period 4th June 2021 – 5th July 2021 (previously circulated) and 14th July 2021, and the General Bank Account for June.

11. GRANTS AND DONATION REQUESTS

... To receive the attached report from the Town Clerk.

12. COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

... To consider the attached report from the Town Clerk.

13. 2021/22 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET POSITION TO THE 30TH JUNE 2021

... To consider the attached report from the Finance Manager.

14. 2021/22 to 2025/26 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

... To consider the attached report from the Finance Manager.

15. DRAFT MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING POLICY

... To consider the attached report from Management Team.

16. DRAFT WORKPLACE DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY

... To consider the attached report from Management Team.

17. DRAFT HOMEWORKING POLICY

... To consider the attached report from Management Team.

18. POLICIES REPORT

... To consider the attached report from Management Team.

19. HR SLA REVIEW REPORT

... To consider the attached report from Management Team.

20. FOOTPATH REPAIR WORKS

... To consider the attached report from the Works and Environment Manager.

21. NOTICE OF MOTION

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John D. Clare and seconded by Councillor John Clark:

During the May local election campaign, a LibDem leaflet referred to what it called "Aycliffe's Council Tax scandal", reporting that "residents in Aycliffe pay up to £400 more in Council Tax than other places in County Durham". It promised to "cut Council Tax and end 'double taxation'". The voters' response at the ballot box made it clear that this was what residents wanted to see.

Indeed, before the elections, Cllr Michael Stead had challenged a number of what he saw as wasteful practices and had proposed a savings-seeking working group which would exhibit "a passion for every penny".

Politicians are often accused of 'not listening', and it is believed that this is an issue on which the Council needs to listen to residents' clearly expressed wishes.

Therefore it is proposed:

- (1) that this Council sets up a Special Working Group charged to propose new money-saving opportunities relating to the Council's existing services, which can result in a reduction in Council Tax;*
- (2) that this Special Working Group be called the 'Passion-For-Every-Penny Working Group';*
- (3) that Cllr Stead be asked to chair the Working Group, with the authority to appoint to it members whom he feels will understand and further its aims;*
- (4) that the Working Group meet no more than monthly with reasonable access to officer time and advice;*
- (5) that the Working Group be required to report its interim findings to the 20th October Policy & Resources Committee, with a view to conducting a public consultation, after which formal proposals could be made to the 19th January 2022 Policy & Resources Committee.*

22. PLANNING CONSULTANT

With reference to the resolution at the Environment Committee on 2nd June that the Council appoints a planning consultant to assist and represent the Town Council in regard to the planning application for the high temperature thermal treatment facility adjacent to Hitachi, and the subsequent presentation from ELG Planning at the Environment Committee on 14th July, Members are asked to agree, in principle, to:-

- Seek a quote from Engage ELG Planning to prepare evidence and a written report on the Council's objections to the planning application and to represent the Council at the Planning Meeting; and
- Agree to the use of monies from the Consultancy Budget and, if necessary the Contingency Sum Budget to meet the costs of this consultancy support, subject to monitoring and control of the costs by officers.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Councillors: Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, Barbara A. Clare, John Clare, John Clark, Neil Collinson, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Mrs. Sandra Haigh, David Hardaker, Phillip Hawkins, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, Andrea Miller, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, and Michael Stead.