

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 20th AUGUST, 2015**

PRESENT –

Councillor M. Iqbal (Chairman – in the Chair)

Councillors

*Councillor Nadeem Ahmed
Councillor D. Clegg
Councillor A. R. Greaves
Councillor M. Hanif
Councillor J. M. P. Henderson*

*Councillor M. Sakib
Councillor I. Tweedie
Councillor D. Whalley
Councillor D. M. Whipp*

Also in attendance:

*Councillor W. Blackburn
Councillor J. K. Starkie*

Officers in attendance:

<i>Dean Langton</i>	<i>Strategic Director</i>
<i>Philip Mousdale</i>	<i>Corporate Director</i>
<i>Vince Green</i>	<i>Financial Services Manager</i>
<i>Sarah Waterworth</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>



51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

The following person declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the items indicated –

Councillor M. Sakib	Tenders	Minute No. 62
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52. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

53. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 23rd July, 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54. LANCASHIRE FAIRNESS COMMISSION

In March 2014 the County Council established an Independent Fairness Commission “to improve an independent perspective on inequality in Lancashire and to make recommendations to increase fairness.” The report was presented at a meeting of Lancashire Leaders where they agreed that Councils be asked to consider it, comment on and report back on any actions they were going to take in response to it. Not all recommendations were directed towards local governments or district councils in particular.

The Corporate Director submitted a report where comments had been inserted against those recommendations which appeared relevant to the Council’s activities or its sphere of influence.

Members were asked to endorse the comments and consider whether they wish to make further comments of any other recommendations.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be circulated to all Councillors for further comments.
- (2) That the report and any comments be referred to the meeting of the Council on 24th September 2015.

REASON

To ensure all councillors have the opportunity to make comments and recommendations.

55. TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RACE 2015

Minutes of a meeting of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race Working Group held on the 14th August, 2015 were submitted for information.

It was reported that a briefing sheet for Councillor’s had been produced covering some facts about the race, information on the road closures, buses, parking etc. Information letters were also being delivered to residents.

**56. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL RECYCLING FACILITIES IN PENDLE
– PROPOSED MOBILE SERVICE**

The Environmental Services Manager submitted a report which sought members support to further investigate Lancashire County Council’s offer to provide a mobile recycling service in Pendle following the closure of Colne’s Household Waste Recycling Centre in March 2012.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Lancashire County Councils offer to provide a mobile recycling service in Pendle be agreed in principal.
- (2) That further investigation into the provision of a mobile recycling service in Pendle be supported.

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- (3) That the report be submitted to the area committees and that they be requested to identify a suitable location in their area for the service to stop.

REASON

To progress the aims of the Lancashire Waste Strategy and increase recycling in Pendle.

57. MATTERS REQUIRING FINANCIAL APPROVAL

The Financial Service Manager submitted a report on issues requiring consideration by the Executive under the Council's Financial and Contract Procedure Rules.

Sale of Holmefield House – Request to waive repayment of interest

In June 2011 the Executive approved the sale of Holmefield House to the Parish Council. Draft terms of sale were reported at that time with delegated authority granted to the Head of Central Services to conclude negotiations with the Parish Council which resulted in a discounted sale price, payable by 4 annual instalments, deferred for 2 years with interest payable on the reducing balance outstanding.

The Parish Council had paid all sums invoiced to-date under the above arrangement. Interest had not yet been charged for the financial year 2015/16. In July 2015 the Council received a letter from the Parish Council requesting that the payment of interest be waived. The Parish Council was not asking for the main repayment to be waived, only the interest. It considered this justified for a number of reasons including the transfer of assets to other local councils.

RESOLVED

That the request from Barrowford Parish Council regarding the waiver of interest payments due on the sale of Holmefield House be agreed.

REASON

To seek approval on a specific matter that has financial implications for the Council.

58. RECOMMENDED WRITE-OFFS

The Revenues Manager, Liberata submitted a report on recommended write-offs relating to Council Tax, National Non Domestic Rates and Overpayments of Housing Benefits.

RESOLVED

That the sums of £126,191.01 in respect of Housing Benefit Overpayments, £96,530.40 in respect of Council Tax and £98,208.08 in respect of National Non Domestic Rates be written off as irrecoverable.

REASON

The prudential and considered writing off of bad debts is an essential requirement for the efficient management of the debt recovery functions.

59. BUDGET WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget Working Group held on 30th July, 2015 were submitted for information.

60. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972

In accordance with the provisions of Section 100 (B)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, the Chairman agreed that the following item should be considered as a matter of urgency, the ground being the Council's perilous financial position.

61. THE COUNCILS FINANCIAL POSITION

It was reported that past experience had shown the importance of meetings between the political and managerial leadership of the Council as a whole and the Local Member of Parliament to discuss the needs of Pendle and matters of mutual interest. An invitation was issued to the MP by the Leader of the Council after the 2015 Annual Council meeting in which the MP indicated his unwillingness to attend such a meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Strategic Director be requested to write to the MP asking him to reconsider his position and that he be invited to attend a meeting in the near future, with the Leaders of each of the three party groups on the Council together with the Strategic Director and the Corporate Director to discuss ways in which the and the Council can work together on matters including:-

- 1) the Council's perilous financial position;
- 2) pressures on the Council to give planning permission for housing on large greenfield sites;
- 3) proposals for a "combined authority" in Lancashire;
- 4) progress with the economic regeneration scheme at Brierfield Mill together with any other matters each party group would like to discuss;
- 5) the findings of Lancashire Fairness Commission.

REASON

In the interest of all residents of Pendle.

(Councillor M. Sakib declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the following item and withdrew from the meeting).

62. TENDERS

The Democratic and Legal Manager submitted for information a report on tenders received and accepted.

63. DISPOSAL OF SITES FOR HOUSING

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report which gave an update on progress with housing sites that the Executive had agreed to dispose of.

RESOLVED

- (1) That progress so far on sites that had been agreed for disposal be noted.
- (2) That further reports be submitted to the Executive providing details of progress with the disposals and further sites for disposal be suggested.

REASON

- (1) *To keep members informed of progress.*
- (2) *To dispose of sites that are no longer required.*

63. PENDLE HOMELESSNESS TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION POLICY

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted for consideration Pendle's Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2015.

It was reported that there had been recent developments in Homelessness caselaw and in order to meet the guidance issued a Policy had been developed in relation to procurement and allocation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council be recommended to adopt Pendle's Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy.

REASON

To meet guidance issued at the Supreme Court in April 2015.

64. CCTV

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report which outlined options available for the future running of CCTV in Pendle.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Councils objective be to provide and manage a cohesive, effective and cost efficient CCTV system for Pendle with financial support from the town councils of Barnoldswick, Earby, Colne, Nelson and Brierfield, with a target start date of 1st April 2016.
- (2) That the following be agreed in principle subject to further investigation and the agreement of the Town and Parish Councils;
 - (a) that the existing fibre optic system be replaced by a digital radio Ethernet system;
 - (b) that the Council move to the proposed new East Lancashire monitoring hub at Blackburn.
 - (c) that the help points be phased out as they become obsolete.

- (3) That reports on progress be submitted to the Transfer of Services and Facilities to Town and Parish Councils Committee and that the committee be authorised to hold negotiations with the town councils regarding their financial support and related matters.

REASON

To maintain the most effective and cost efficient CCTV system across Pendle.

65. EAST LANCASHIRE TRANSPORT MASTERPLAN

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report regarding the latest position regarding the various elements of the Masterplan.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

REASON

To ensure that Pendle's aspirations are met as far as possible regarding the East Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan.

66. RE-TEST FEE FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report following receipt of an objection to the introduction of a re-test fee for taxi and hackney carriages.

RESOLVED

That a re-test fee of £10 be introduced on 1st September 2015.

REASON

To encourage the trade to pre-check their vehicles before a taxi test.

67. FORWARD PLAN

The Executive's Work Programme and Forward Plan of key decisions for the four month period commencing 1st August, 2015 were submitted for information.

Chairman _____