

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL BUDGET EXECUTIVE
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 8th FEBRUARY, 2017**

PRESENT –

Councillor M. Iqbal (Chairman – in the chair)

Councillors

*E. Ansar
D. Clegg
A. R. Greaves
K. Hartley*

*J. Henderson
A. Mahmood
M. Sakib
D. M. Whipp*

Also in attendance:

*Councillor W. Blackburn
Councillor K. Turner
Councillor P. White*

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>Jane Watson</i>	<i>Head of Democratic Services</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nawaz Ahmed).

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The following person attended the meeting and spoke on the item indicated:

<i>Katie John</i>	<i>Public Spaces Protection Order – Sports Grounds</i>	<i>Minute No. 117</i>
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111. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

112. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

113. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 8th December, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

114. CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND STRATEGY 2017-2020

Management Team submitted the proposed Capital Programme for 2017/18 for consideration. The report also provided details of the Medium Term Capital Programme for the period 2017-2020.

In accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Investment in Local Authorities, the report also provided various prudential indicators for consideration and approval.

It was reported that the draft Corporate Capital Strategy would now be presented to the Executive at the March meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the forecast outturn position on the Council's capital programme for 2016/17, as shown at Appendix A and detailed in the report, be noted.
- (2) That the proposed 2017/18 Capital Programme, as shown in Appendix C attached to the report, be noted and referred to Council for consideration.
- (3) That delegated authority be granted to the Financial Services Manager to determine the most appropriate method of financing the Capital Programme for 2017/18 to ensure the use of resources is optimised by the Council.
- (4) That the indicative programmes for 2018/19 and 2019/20, as shown in Appendix C attached to the report, be noted and it be acknowledged that these will be subject to review as part of the development of future years capital programmes.
- (5) That the Prudential Indicators shown in Appendix D attached to the report be approved.
- (6) That Area Committees be advised that when considering their capital allocations they seek to maximise external resources, to have regard to the Council's key objectives and to only use the funding allocated for capital purposes.

REASON

To approve the revised Capital Programme for 2016/17 and the Capital Programme for 2017/18 together with the flexible use of capital receipts strategy.

115. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2017/18

Management Team submitted a report which provided details of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2017/18 and the implications this had on the Council.

The Executive were asked to consider the proposed General Fund Revenue budget and other related matters for 2017/18; make recommendations to Council on the level of Council Tax to be set for the 2017/18 financial year; and to acknowledge the need to reduce expenditure to a sustainable level bearing in mind the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2017/20.

It was reported that the final Local Government Financial Settlement for 2017/18 had not yet been received but it was envisaged this information would be available before the Council meeting on 23rd February, 2017.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposal to maintain the General Fund Minimum Working Balance at £1.0m be noted.
- (2) That the details of the Local Government Financial Settlement for 2016/17 received to date, be noted.
- (3) That the projected outturn position in the current financial year be noted.
- (4) That in relation to Pendle Leisure Trust, subject to consideration of the residual saving proposal for 2017/18, a grant to the Trust of £1,426,200 in 2017/18 be approved.
- (5) That the General Fund Budget Requirement for 2017/18 be noted and referred to Council for consideration.
- (6) That subject to confirmation by the Government of the council tax referendum thresholds for 2017/18 a Band D council tax for the year of £250.16, being an increase of £5 (2.04%) on the level of council tax in 2016/17 be noted and referred to Council for consideration.
- (7) That each Service be required to operate within its budget for 2017/18, once approved, and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control.
- (8) That the consultation feedback from clubs in respect of introducing pitch fees for junior football pitches be noted and the new charges be implemented from 1st April, 2017.
- (9) That the proposals for recharging the costs of elections to local town and parish councils be endorsed.
- (10) That delegated authority be granted to the Financial Services Manager, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Finance, to determine the Council's preferred option for payment of employer contributions to the Lancashire Pension Fund over the period 2017/18 to 2019/20.
- (11) In view of the estimate of residual savings required for subsequent years, as set out in the report, Management Team be requested to develop and bring forward an updated 3-year strategy comprising a package of savings options for consideration by the Budget Working Group early in the new financial year as part of the development of future year's budgets.
- (12) That, linked to (11) above a further report be submitted to a future Executive meeting updating the financial Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan for 2018/21.

REASON

To comply with statutory requirements to determine a balanced budget and council tax for the forthcoming financial year.

116.

**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS UPDATE
1st APRIL TO 31st DECEMBER, 2016**

The Strategic Director submitted a report on performance monitoring information relating to the key performance indicators delivered by and on behalf of the Council.

They key issues continued to relate to performance with planning applications and appeals, homelessness, recycling, complaints and sickness absence. A synopsis of the reasons for the underperformance and what was being done to improve this for each area was included in the report.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

REASON

To inform the Executive of performance monitoring information relating to the Council's key performance indicators.

117.

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER – SPORTS GROUNDS

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report on proposals and options for Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) in relation to sports grounds. The implementation of this Order would affect:

- Bullholme (including the Barrowford Cricket Club)
- Swinden Cycle Hub and Bullholme Bike Trail
- Holt House (including Colne Football Club and Colne and Nelson Rugby Club)
- John Bradley
- Earby Recreation Ground
- Trawden Recreation Ground
- Springfield
- Hodge House
- Edge End
- Emmott Lane Playing Fields
- Reedley Sports Ground

A consultation exercise had been undertaken which included detailed correspondence with partners and groups that used the sports grounds, a press release and an on-line survey. The results were detailed in the report

The intention of the proposals was to strike a balance between and needs of all groups of users of the sports grounds. The proposal was to ban dogs from Earby Recreation Ground (unless in the designated dog exercise area) and Swinden Cycle Hub and Bullhome Bike Trail. With regards all other areas referred to above the intention was to allow no more than two dogs per person and for dogs to be kept on a lead (maximum length of 2m) at all times.

It was acknowledged that the balance of use varied with each sports ground. It was also felt that more detail of the consultation responses should have been presented in the report.

Reference was made to the transfer of the facilities in Earby and Trawden to the relevant Town and Parish Council. With this in mind it was suggested that Earby Town Council and Trawden Forest Parish Council meet with the various users of these facilities to establish their feelings for the proposed PSPOs.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the report be referred back to Area Committees for further consideration.
- (3) That Earby Town Council and Trawden Forest Parish Council be invited to hold appropriate meetings with users of Earby Recreation Ground and Trawden Recreation Ground to discuss further the proposed PSPOs on their facilities.

REASON

To enable the Council and its partners to respond to concerns regarding behaviour that is detrimental to the quality of life in public spaces in Pendle including enforcement action.

118. REMOVAL OF RECYCLING SITES

At the Executive meeting on 8th December, 2016 the Environmental Services Manager submitted a report proposing the removal of all public recycling sites from the Borough. This was agreed by the Executive but subsequently was called in.

A meeting with relevant Councillors and officers was held on 20th January, 2017 to discuss the matter further. A note of the meeting was submitted for information.

RESOLVED

That the decision to remove all public bring-sites be re-affirmed.

REASON

- (1) ***The removal of the sites would reduce the level of fly tipping within prominent locations of the Borough and would assist Environmental Services in achieving the £25,580.00 saving agreed at the Executive meeting held on 22nd September, 2016.***
- (2) ***The removal of the sites would also reduce the burden brought by the additional charge of £4,504.00 per annum being introduced by Palm Recycling.***

119. TENDERS

The Corporate Director submitted, for information, a report on tenders which had been received and accepted along with exemptions from the requirements of the Contract Procedure Rules.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the tenders which have been received and accepted be noted.

- (2) That the exemption granted from Contract Procedure Rules for Lomeshaye Industrial Estate Site Investigation be noted.

REASON

To agree acceptance of tenders/offers in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules.

120. BROWNFIELD SITES FUND

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report proposing that the Brownfield Sites fund be used to bring forward sites for employment use as well as housing.

It was suggested that to help meet the objective of the Council's Jobs and Growth Strategy of bringing forward suitable employment sites, this Fund should also be used to bring forward new employment floor space. It was proposed that each site would be looked at on a case by case basis and funding would only be provided for sites which were not viable, or marginally viable, without it.

No further progress had been made with progressing the applications for the eight site owners who had expressed an interest in submitting an application prior to the November 2016 Executive meeting. Updates had been sought and follow-up letters had been sent to the sixteen site owners who hadn't responded to the initial letter.

As a result an additional it was suggested that an additional criterion be added:

"Work on the redevelopment of the site should not have been started (with the exception of site clearance) prior to a decision regarding the funding application being made by the Grants Panel."

RESOLVED

- (1) That the use of the Brownfield Sites Fund to bring forward employment sites, as well as housing sites, with the level of funding being decided on a case by case basis be approved.
- (2) That progress with applications to the fund be noted.
- (3) That a new criterion stating that for a site to be eligible for assistance "work on the redevelopment of the site should not have been started (with the exception of site clearance) prior to a decision regarding the funding application being made by the Grants Panel" be approved.

REASONS

- (1) ***To enable the Brownfield Sites Fund to be used to support the Council's economic development objectives.***
- (2) ***To keep the Executive updated with progress.***
- (3) ***To provide clarity to future applicants.***

121. FUNDING FOR SUPPORTED HOUSING

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report which sought permission to submit proposed responses to consultation questions set in relation to proposals by Government about the future system for supported housing.

A proposed response was provided at Appendix 2 attached to the report.

RESOLVED

That the responses to the consultation be agreed and be forwarded on as the Council's response to the proposals by Government.

REASON

In response to the consultation.

**122. FORMER COLNE HEALTH CENTRE
CONSULTATION FINDINGS AND NEXT STEPS**

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report on the results of a public consultation exercise undertaken on the future development plans for the former Colne Health Centre site and also to outline the next steps in taking forward the redevelopment of the site.

Overall public responses were positive towards the concept of introducing retail/business units on the ground floor and residential on the upper two floors.

The Executive were advised that it was proposed the former Colne Health Centre building be transferred to PEARL for development. The Colne Corner Surgery element of the site had been offered to the market for disposal as it could not readily be included in any redevelopment. This site was now under offer.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the results of the public consultation be noted.
- (2) That the consultation responses be passed to PEARL for consideration prior to planning permission being sought for the redevelopment.
- (3) That the site/building be transferred to PEARL based on the independently assessed value of the vacant site to be agreed under delegated powers to the Corporate Director.

REASONS

- (1) *To make the Executive aware of public opinion on the proposed redevelopment plans.*
- (2) *To ensure that public opinion is considered in the final proposals for the site.*
- (3) *To allow the development of the former Colne Health Centre site to progress.*

123.

BRADLEY BIG LOCAL

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report on progress with the Bradley Big Local. A report had been submitted to the Executive in November 2014 and this report focused on progress since that date.

RESOLVED

- (1) That work on the Bradley Big Local continues to receive support from the Executive.
- (2) That further progress reports be submitted to Nelson Committee and the Executive on a regular basis.

REASON

To enable the Council to continue to act as the Locally Trusted Organisation for Bradley Big Local.

124.

MATTERS REFERRED FROM AREA COMMITTEES

(a) Land rear of Albion Street, Earby

At a meeting of the West Craven Committee on 10th January, 2017 it was resolved “that the Executive be recommended to declare the Council owned land at Albion Street, Earby surplus to requirements in order for a sale to be negotiated with the tenant of the land.”

A copy of the report considered at that meeting was submitted for information.

RESOLVED

That the land at the rear of Albion Street, Earby, shown edged black on the plan attached to the report, be declared surplus to requirements in order for a sale to be negotiated to the tenant of the land.

REASON

To achieve a capital receipt and end all liabilities.

(b) Unauthorised Advertisements

At a meeting of the Colne and District Committee on 7th December, 2016 it was resolved “that the Executive be recommended to introduce a policy on the removal of unauthorised signs within the Borough based on the suggested approach detailed in the report at paragraph 13.”

The proposal was to write to any party who unlawfully displayed an advert and give them a time period to remove it. Any adverts causing a highway danger would be required to be removed immediately. This would allow a short period of time for adverts to be displayed for community events whilst forcing commercial adverts to be removed by the party displaying them. They would be dealt with equally in terms of the timescale but would then be prosecuted were the advert to re-appear.

A copy of the report considered at the meeting was submitted for information.

RESOLVED

That the Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager be requested to produce a policy on the removal of unauthorised signs within the Borough, based on the suggested approach set out in paragraph 13 of the report.

REASON

To ensure that advertisements that affect the visual amenity and highway safety of Colne are removed to remedy the injury.

(c) Hubbs House Farm, Colne

At a meeting of the Colne and District Committee on 12th January, 2017 it was resolved “that the Executive be recommended to agree that this matter be pursued corporately and that a meeting be convened with all agencies involved to establish a way forward to stop the unlawful activity continuing at Hubbs House Farm, Colne as a matter of urgency.”

A multi-agency meeting was held on 6th February, 2017 and an update on the current position was presented. A further meeting would be held in six months’ time.

Reference was made to tipping on other sites in the Borough and in particular in the Delves Lane area. It was suggested that Section 215 Notices or other relevant legislation be used to ensure these areas were cleaned up.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the update on Hubbs House Farm, Colne be noted.
- (2) That officers be asked to investigate the fly tipping issues in the Borough and in particular in the Delves Lane area and use the appropriate legislation to ensure the areas were cleaned up.

REASON

To ensure the fly tipping is removed and the relevant legislation used.

125. OVERVIEW AND SCUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

The Scrutiny Management Team was seeking suggestions for topics for scrutiny for the next municipal year. The Executive were invited to submit suggestions for the new programme which would be considered in March 2017.

Members were asked to contact Lynne Rowland in Committee Services with any suggestions.

126.

FORWARD PLAN

The Executive's Work Programme and Forward Plan of key decisions for the four month period commencing 1st February, 2017 were submitted for information.

Chairman _____