

REPORT BY THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE

The attention of Members is drawn to the following items which have been discussed by the Executive since the last ordinary meeting of the Council:-

EXECUTIVE 8th DECEMBER, 2016

- **Lancashire and South Cumbria Sustainability and Transformation Plan**

We noted the above Plan and acknowledged that change would be happening across Lancashire and Pennine Lancashire in the way health and social care services were planned and delivered.

- **Transfer of Parks and Recreation Grounds to Town and Parish Councils**

The Executive agreed, in principle, to the transfer of Barrowford Memorial Park, Letcliffe Park, Victory Park and Valley Gardens to Barrowford Parish Council and Barnoldswick Town Council. We delegated authority to the Corporate Director, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Communities, Parks, Recreation and Devolution Portfolio Holder to negotiate the terms of the transfers and supporting financial arrangements and levels of service. We also agreed, in principle, to the transfer of the freehold of Pendle Heritage Centre to Barrowford Parish Council subject to satisfactory agreement being reached between the Parish Council and the North West Heritage Trust on a renegotiation of the terms of the current lease. Further meetings regarding the reduction in the grounds maintenance budget were also to be held in the first week in January.

- **Removal of Recycling Sites**

Although we agreed the removal of all public bring-sites in the Borough this decision was called in.

- **Recommended Write-Offs**

We agreed to write-off sums of £4,764.26 in respect of Sundry Debtors, £56,563.65 in respect of overpayment of Housing Benefit Overpayment, £68,796.29 in respect of Council Tax and £48,321.98 in respect of National Non Domestic Rate.

- **Developing the Medium Term Capital programme 2017/2020**

The Executive considered the Medium Term Capital Programme for 2017/2020 and in doing so noted the projected position for 2016/17. We approved a virement in the sum of £35,000 within the capital programme for the current financial year; a loan in 2016/17 to Pendle Leisure Trust, estimated at £1.1m to finalise the loan and related terms; we recommended Council approve a supplementary estimate of £1.1m in 2016/17 to cover the loan advance to Pendle Leisure Trust; we noted that capital expenditure bids for 2017/18 exceeded projected capital resources by £0.7m and were, therefore, unaffordable in the context of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan; we noted that the Capital Programme 2017/18 would be considered further by the Executive in February 2017.

- **General Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18**

We requested that, in view of the seriousness of the Council's forecast financial position, the report be shared with all Councillors so that they were fully aware of the position. We also noted the key points arising from the Autumn Statement 2016 and the potential implications for local government. Delegated Authority was also granted to the Financial Services Manager, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, to prepare and submit the Council's response to the consultation

on the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2017/18. The Revised Budget for 2016/17 was also noted.

The draft Base Budget for 2017/18, the forecast Medium Term Financial Plan and the assumptions underpinning both, were noted. We also noted Management Team's initial proposals to achieve a balanced budget for 2017/18 and agreed a review of the draft Base Budget for 2017/18 be undertaken to identify any other areas where further savings proposals should be brought forward for consideration as part of the budget process. The outlined savings proposals for 2018/19 and 2019/20 were noted and we requested that the Budget Working Group be maintained as currently constituted (2:2:2). We noted the financial planning assumption of a Band D council tax increase of £5 (+2.04%) for 2017/18 pending confirmation of the council tax referendum principles as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2017/18. The timetable for the remainder of the budget process was noted and we recommended Council agree that the programmed grounds maintenance budget for the parks DSO be reduced by £90,000, equivalent to a 25% reduction. We also asked that this reduction be sent to the Town and Parish Councils for information.

- **Council Tax Base 2017/18**

The Executive agreed, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the council tax base for the year 2017/18 of 23,348.3.

- **Tenders**

We accepted the highest offer of £50,000 for the sale of land at Cooper Street, Nelson, subject to satisfactory assurances from the purchaser on the start date for development of the site.

- **Syrian Resettlement Programme and Asylum Seeker Dispersal in Pendle**

As well as noting the implementation of the Syrian Resettlement Programme and Asylum Seeker Dispersal in Pendle we requested Council take a further 10 families under this Programme for 2017/18 subject to being able to secure the necessary properties. We also asked for letters to be sent to the Home Office, Serco and the Local Government Association regarding the need for local councils to know the properties being used and the names of the occupants to ensure they were given the opportunity to access additional support. The Executive congratulated Wayne Forrest, Housing Needs Manager, on the work he had done to ensure the first 10 families under this Programme had been successfully resettled in Pendle.

- **Bankhouse Road, Nelson**

We asked for a soft market testing exercise to be carried out on the Bankhouse Road redevelopment site in Nelson.

- **Housing Zone – Bid for Capital Funding**

The Executive noted the Council's successful bid for Housing Zone status and the submission of bid for capacity funding be approved.

- **Land off Carr Road, Nelson**

Although we agreed to declare this land surplus to requirements and the land be sold/leased for an alternative use this decision was called in.

- **Former Regent's Cinema Site off Leeds Road, Nelson**

The Executive agreed that this site be declared surplus to requirements and marketed for sale.

- **Goitside Car Park, New Scotland Road, Nelson (and adjoining land)**

This site was also declared surplus to requirements. We agreed a sum of £50,000 for the Car Park Agreement and that the Council enters into a 250 year lease with an interested supermarket

for use of the site for a car park (subject to planning consent) at the £100,000 premium offered and that the Strategic Director be granted delegated powers to agree all other terms of the transaction.

SPECIAL BUDGET EXECUTIVE 8th FEBRUARY, 2017

- **Capital Programme and Strategy 2017-2020 and General Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18**

The Executive agreed a number of recommendations to Council which Members considered at the Special Council Budget meeting on 23rd February, 2017.

- **Public Spaces Protection Order – Sports Ground**

We asked for this to be referred back to Area Committees for further consideration. Also Earby Town Council and Trawden Forest Parish Council were invited to hold appropriate meetings with users of Earby Recreation Ground and Trawden Recreation Ground to discuss further the proposed PSPOs in their facilities.

- **Tenders**

The exemption granted from Contract Procedure Rules for Lomeshaye Industrial Estate Site investigation was noted.

- **Brownfield Sites Fund**

We approved the use of this Fund to bring forward employment sites, as well as housing sites, with the level of funding being decided on a case by case basis. As well as noting progress we approved 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.”

- **Funding for Supported Housing**

We agreed that the responses to the consultation be forwarded on as the Council’s response to the proposals by Government.

- **Former Colne Health Centre Consultation Findings and Next Steps**

After considering the findings of the consultation we agreed that these responses be passed to PEARL for consideration prior to planning permission being sought for the redevelopment. We also agreed to grant delegated authority to the Corporate Director to transfer the site/building to PEARL based on the independently assessed value of the vacant site.

- **Bradley Big Local**

We continue to support the work on the Bradley Big Local and have asked for regular progress reports to be submitted to both Nelson Committee and the Executive.

- **Land rear of Albion Street, Earby**

The Executive agreed to declare this land surplus to requirements in order for a sale to be negotiated to the tenant of the land.

- **Unauthorised Advertisements**

We have requested the Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager to produce a policy on the removal of unauthorised signs within the Borough.

- **Hubbs House Farm, Colne**

We acknowledged that tipping on this site had been ongoing for some time and had spread to other areas in the Borough. Officers have been asked to investigate the fly tipping issue in the Borough and in particular in the Delves Lane Area and to use appropriate legislation to ensure the areas are cleaned up.

**Councillor Mohammed Iqbal,
Leader, Pendle Borough Council.**