

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 11th DECEMBER, 2014**

PRESENT –

Councillor A. R. Greaves (Vice - Chairman - In the Chair)

Councillors

*Councillor Nadeem Ahmed
Councillor D. Clegg
Councillor J. Purcell
Councillor J. K. Starkie*

*Councillor G. Waugh
Councillor D. M. Whipp
Councillor P. White*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Cooney and T. Cooney).

Officers in attendance:

*Stephen Barnes
Philip Mousdale
Dean Langton
Vince Green
Jane Watson*

*Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Head of Central and Regeneration Services
Accountancy Services Manager
Senior Committee Administrator*



95. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

96. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

97. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 20th November, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

98. COMBINED AUTHORITY FOR LANCASHIRE

The Chief Executive submitted a report on proposals to improve the governance arrangements in Lancashire to improve economic development and transport by way of a Combined Authority for Lancashire.

Following the outcome of the referendum in Scotland the devolution of powers from the Government had become a debate and Lancashire Leaders had received a presentation on political governance at their meeting on 3rd November, 2014.

The report outlined the potential implications of a Combined Authority for Lancashire and reference was made to the Lancashire LEP at which the Council had no direct representative. The Council had, however been actively involved in the development of the East Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan (and particularly the Bunley/Pendle Growth Corridor).

It was reported that the majority of funding received by Lancashire so far would be invested in Central Lancashire. This had the potential to accelerate growth in those areas to the detriment of others.

It was felt that the creation of a Combined Authority would provide the opportunity for the Council to be directly involved in or influence the development of economic and regeneration strategies that were more balanced across Lancashire.

Discussions about the creation of a Combined Authority and its specific role in Lancashire were at an early stage.

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Leader, in consultation with the Deputy Leader, to negotiate the terms on which the Council might participate in a model of political governance for Lancashire (such as a Combined Authority) to improve economic development and transport.
- (2) That a further report on the proposals put forward during discussions and on the outcome of those negotiations be submitted to the Executive and Council for consideration and approval.

REASON

To allow the Council to participate in discussions on the development governance models for economic development functions.

99. TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RACE – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

It was reported that further to the decision at the last meeting to host with Ribble Valley a stage of the Tour of Britain, planning of the event was required as soon as possible and the following governance arrangements were proposed.

A Member/Officer Working Group be formed to take the project forward with appropriate core officer support from Economic Development and Tourism, Engineering, Communications and Finance. Issues to be covered would include the race itself and the route; traffic controls; crowd management; communications with local residents, businesses, organisations and Town and Parish Councils; other events to be held around the same time; promotion; marketing and sponsorship. The Working Group would need to meet regularly through to March and then again in the new Municipal year from May. Some meetings would be joint with Ribble Valley and most would need to be daytime.

Regular updates on progress would be made to the Executive which would be able to take formal decisions. Timescales would occasionally dictate the need for quick decisions and therefore a general authorisation to the Leader would be helpful.

RESOLVED

- (1) That a Member/Officer Working Group be formed to take the project forward.
- (2) That the Membership of the Working Group consists of 2 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 Labour (with substitutes allowed) and that it be chaired by the Executive Member for Enterprise, Growth and Promotion.
- (3) That regular update reports be submitted to the Executive.
- (4) That the Chairman of the Group, in consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Leader, be authorised to approve any expedient and reasonable action necessary to ensure the progress of the project.

REASON

To ensure the smooth running of the event.

100. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2015/16

The Head of Central and Regeneration Services submitted a report on the Council Tax Base for 2015/16 (inclusive of the tax base for each part of the area to which parish precepts related).

RESOLVED

- (1) That, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base)(England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by the Borough of Pendle as its council tax base for the year 2015/16 shall be 22,617.3 be agreed and that the tax base for Parish areas shall be as shown as follows:

Parish Area	Tax Base At 95.8% Collection
Barley	110.6
Barnoldswick	2,713.8
Barrowford	1,871.5
Blacko	254.0
Bracewell & Brogden	97.3
Brierfield	2,013.3
Colne	4,423.8
Earby	1,139.4
Foulridge	495.2
Goldshaw Booth	97.5
Higham	308.3

Kelbrook & Sough	303.0
Laneshaw Bridge	270.4
Nelson	6,246.2
Old Laund Booth	541.6
Reedley Hallows	605.8
Roughlee	132.2
Salterforth	213.3
Trawden Forest	780.1
Total	22,617.3

- (2) That the proposal to include the removal of two locally determined council tax discounts within the package of saving options to be presented with the overall Budget in the February cycle of meetings be noted.

REASON

To agree the Council's Tax Base for 2015/16.

101. GRANTS TO PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

The Head of Central and Regeneration Services submitted a report on proposals to phase out the payment of grants to Town and Parish Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council be recommended to approve the proposed revenue grant allocations for individual Town and Parish Councils for 2015/16 (as shown at Appendix A attached to the report) and that it be noted that it is the Council's intention that grants will not be payable from 2016/17 onwards.

REASON

To agree the award of grants to Town and Parish Councils for 2015/16 onwards.

102. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16

The Head of Central and Regeneration Services submitted a report on the Council's position with the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2015/16 (which was subject to announcement from the Government). Approval of the Revised Budget for 2014/15 was sought and the draft Base Budget for 2015/16 was also submitted for initial consideration. A budget strategy (including savings proposals) was also presented as part of an approach to achieve a balanced budget in 2015/16, along with proposals for 2015/18.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Head of Central and Regeneration Services be granted delegated authority, in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources, to prepare and submit a response to the consultation on the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2015/16 on behalf of the Council.
- (2) That the Revised Budget for 2014/15 be approved.

- (3) That in relation to Local Council Tax Support Council be recommended to:
- (i) continue with the current Scheme and that it remains unchanged for 2015/16 (subject to uprating of allowances etc., in line with the Consumer Price Index as at September 2014 and for technical changes due to the introduction of Universal Credit); and
 - (ii) the Scheme be reviewed during 2015/16 with a view to bringing forward proposals to amend the Scheme with effect from 2016/17 (as part of the Savings strategy set out in the report).
- (4) The draft Base Budget for 2015/16, the forecast Medium Term Financial Plan and the assumptions underpinning both be noted.
- (5) That as part of the development of the Executive's Budget Strategy for 2015/16:
- (i) Management Team's initial proposals to achieve a balanced budget for 2015/16 be noted and, in doing so the savings proposals shown at Appendix F attached to the report be reviewed with a view to making recommendations to the Council for implementation.
 - (ii) Note that part of the budget process will be to carry out a review of the draft Base Budget for 2015/16 to identify any other areas where further savings proposals should be brought forward for consideration.
- (6) The indicative savings proposal for 2016/17 and 2017/18 be noted and requests that further work on these options be undertaken and the outcome of that work be considered by the Executive in the development of subsequent years budgets.
- (7) That the proposed Council Tax increase of 1.99% for 2015/16 (which at this stage was subject to details of the funding arrangements for any Council Tax Freeze grant as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement 2015/16) be noted.
- (8) That the outline timetable for the remainder of the budget process, as set out in the report, be noted.

REASON

To continue with the implementation of the Council's Financial Strategy and to inform the development of the Council's budget for 2015/16.

103. DEVELOPING THE MEDIUM TERM CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/18

The Head of Central and Regeneration Services submitted a report on the proposed Capital Programme for 2015/18. The Executive were also asked to consider the prospects for future capital investment.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the projected position on the Capital Programme for 2014/15, as shown at Appendix

A attached to the report, be noted.

- (2) That a virement in the sum of £350,000 within the capital programme for the current financial year for the purposes outlined in paragraph 9 in the report be approved.
- (3) That it be noted that capital expenditure bids for 2015/16 exceeded projected capital resources by £1.1m and were, therefore, not affordable in the context of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

REASON

To consider the development of the Council's Capital Programme for 2015/16.

104. TENDERS

The Democratic and Legal Manager submitted a report on sealed bids which had been received for various areas of land which had been declared surplus to the Council's requirements and to accept the highest offers in each case.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the sealed bids received for the following areas of land be noted:
 - (a) Proposed Car Parking Land – former site of 49-57 Bankhouse Road, Nelson (adjacent Maria's Cash and Carry)
 - (b) Land at Rakeshouse Road, Nelson
 - (c) Miscellaneous small site in Nelson, Barrowford and Brierfield
 - Land adj. 3 Stanley Street, Brierfield
 - Land adj. 16 Garnett Street, Barrowford
 - Land adj. 7 Cannon Street, Nelson
 - Land adj. 156 Chapel Street, Nelson
 - Land adj. 80 Every Street, Nelson
 - Land adj. 161 Manor Street, Nelson
 - Land adj. 26 Poplar Street, Nelson
 - Land adj. 16 Raven Street, Nelson
 - Land adj. 19 Raven Street, Nelson
 - Land adj. 24 Stafford Street, Nelson
- (2) That the highest offers, as set out in the report, be accepted.

To agree acceptance of sealed bids in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules.

105. LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY AGREEMENT 2014-2016

A report from the Localities and Policy Team was submitted updating the Executive on the above Agreement and the implications for Pendle Community Safety Partnership.

RESOLVED

That the report and impact on the Pendle Community Safety Partnership be noted.

REASON

To enable the Council and its partners to continue to deliver locally on district, area and county priorities and strategic approaches.

106. 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 that there was growing public concern regarding the activities on site.

107. HUBBS HOUSE FARM, COLNE

It was reported that there was growing concerns regarding the activities carried out at the above site. Over the past twelve months Notices had been served regarding unlawful occupation of caravans in an agricultural building and for the removal of rubble on a remote part of the land.

Investigations were ongoing in relation to a number of fires on the premises and concerns had been expressed that waste materials from various sources were being burnt on site. This had resulted in the emission of large amounts of dark smoke polluting the atmosphere.

The County Council and the Environment Agency had also been dealing with the unlawful dumping of material for over a year. The County Council had again recently been contacted about taking enforcement action to stop the disposal of waste on the site and to remove the deposited material.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council, Jo Turton and the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, Dr. Paul Leinster regarding the various activities being undertaken at Hubbs House Farm, Colne and asking them to expedite the enforcement action to stop the unlawful activities taking place.
- (2) That a note on the activities taking place at Hubbs House Farm, Colne be sent to other interested agencies who may be able to assist in stopping the unlawful activities taking place on the site.
- (3) That the Deputy Chief Executive be asked to investigate the possibility of serving an Injunction on the owner of the site regarding unlawful activities.
- (4) That an update be submitted to every meeting of the Colne and District Committee until the site has been tidied and unlawful activities have ceased.

REASON

To monitor the site and to rectify the situation as a matter of urgency.

Chairman _____