

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 23rd JULY, 2015**

PRESENT –

Councillor M. Iqbal (Chairman – in the Chair)

Councillors

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

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

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. R. Greaves and I. Tweedie).

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>Jane Watson</i>	<i>Senior Committee Administrator</i>



37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

38. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Gary Bird referred to the demise of the Audit Commission and asked what arrangements the Council had in place in relation to audit matters. He also asked why the Council had agreed to appoint independent persons onto the Audit Committee.

The Strategic Director explained that Councils were now required to be more open and transparent with data and to make this information more accessible to the public. Information available to the public was published on the Council's website under a section called "open data". Other functions from the Audit Commission had also been passed on to other organisations. It was noted however, that the Council was still subject to an external audit exercise.

In relation to the appointment of independent persons onto the Audit Committee it was explained that this had been agreed with a view to encouraging more challenge and scrutiny of the accounts and was also a move towards an independent chair but in a non-voting capacity.

39. MINUTES

In relation to minute number 35, Re-Test Fee for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, it was explained that the Chairman of the Hackney Carriage Association had been informed that this item would be discussed at the July meeting. It was agreed that this decision not be implemented and that it be reconsidered at the August meeting to allow the Hackney Carriage Association the opportunity to speak on this item.

RESOLVED

That subject to the amendment above, the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 25th June, 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

40. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW 2015/2018

The Strategic Director submitted the Strategic Plan Review for 2015/2018. The purpose of the Plan was to set out the actions that had been identified for the Borough for the next three years and also provide direction to the services that the Council delivered.

The Plan contained the strategic objections for the Council which were set out in the report. These were underpinned by ten headline actions and key projects which had been developed to enable the Council to deliver the priorities identified for Pendle whilst continuing to acknowledge and address the importance of ensuring that the Council was in a position to deliver these priorities.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council be recommended to approve the Strategic Plan for 2015-2018.

REASON

To ensure that the Council retains focus on its priorities and delivers good value and accessible services.

41. STRATEGIC MONITORING REPORT

The Financial Services Manager submitted the Strategic Monitoring report to 30th June, 2015 for consideration. The purpose of the Strategic Monitoring Statement was to provide information on progress made with the actions in the current Strategic Plan along with monitoring information on the Council's revenue and capital budgets. The Executive also consider Risk Management and Human Resources information, together with a basket of 25 key performance indicators.

RESOLVED

That progress made on actions identified in the Strategic Plan (Appendix A attached to the report) be noted.

REASON

To inform the Executive of performance monitoring information relating to the council's services and financial plans.

42. TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RACE 2015

Minutes of a meeting of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race Working Group held on 7th July, 2015 were submitted for information.

43. GEARING UP FOR GROWTH

Minutes of a meeting of the Gearing Up For Growth Grants Panel held on 15th July, 2015 were submitted for information.

44. ANNUAL EMISSIONS REPORT

The Strategic Director submitted for consideration the Council's annual emissions report. Performance was encouraging and showed overall year on year reductions. However, it was noted that this should be considered within the wider context of an ever declining workforce and continued rationalisation of the Council's building stock and transport fleet.

RESOLVED

That the report be approved and published on the Councils website.

REASON

To enable publication of the Annual Emissions Report, as required by government.

45. BUSINESS RATES POOLING

The Financial Services Manager submitted a report which sought approval in principle for the Council to participate in a business rates 'pool' for 2016/17, subject to the final design of the scheme and the designation by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) of a pool for participating authorities in Lancashire.

It was explained that business rates were a key source of funding for local authorities and currently the Council retained a share of the business rates income it collected locally based on prescribed proportions (40%). Reference was also made to the levy the Council paid to the Government. Members of a business rate pool would combine their funding calculations and as such would produce a lower percentage levy calculation. It was estimated that if a Lancashire pool was formed this would produce a negative levy rate and therefore no levy would be payable.

There were however, risks. As part of the pool, the Council would no longer be eligible for a safety net payment. Based on discussions it was expected that each Council would be required to forgo the right to any safety net protection and have to fund their own shortfall.

It was assumed that the County Council, together with a number of district councils would be included in the pool. Detailed arrangements and governance were expected to be worked up in

the near future but it would be necessary to appoint a 'lead' authority to administer the pool. The Council were required to confirm its position on membership of the pool by 30th September in time for the assumed DCLG deadline of 31st October, 2015.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposal to develop a business rates 'pool' for participating authorities in Lancashire, be endorsed and the benefits and risks of the Council's participation, as outlined in the report, be noted.
- (2) That the Council's participation in a 'pool' for 2016/17 financial year be approved pending completion of the required framework and governance arrangements relating to a Lancashire based scheme and designation by the DCLG.
- (3) That delegated authority be granted to the Financial Services Manager, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Devolution, to conclude the necessary due diligence and confirm the Council's final intention on whether or not to participate in a business rates pool by 30th September, 2015.

REASON

To inform the Executive of a proposal to develop a Lancashire based business rates 'pool' for 2016/17 and seek authority to conclude the necessary arrangements for the Council's participation subject to final confirmation on the 'pool' arrangements and acceptance by DCLG.

46.

TENDERS

The Democratic and Legal Manager submitted, for information, a report on tenders which had been received for works and which had been accepted.

Details of bids to purchase 23-25 Market Square, Nelson and 19-21 Carr Road, Nelson were circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the tenders which have been received and accepted be noted.
- (2) That in relation to 23-25 Market Square, Nelson best and final offers be invited from both parties subject to a requirement that the tenderer be required to sign a contract and pay a 10% deposit within 7 days.
- (3) That in relation to 19-21 Carr Road, Nelson the highest offer of £91,500 be accepted and the offerors be requested to sign a contract and pay a 10% deposit within 7 days.

REASON

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

47. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS AND DOGS

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report on proposals and options for the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in relation to the control of dogs.

The proposal for 2015/16 was to convert the current Borough-wide dog fouling order and the orders in the cemeteries to PSPOs and to make PSPOs banning dogs from play areas (31) and MUGAS (15) located outside parks. It was suggested that other play, park and sports facility's be considered during 2016/17 and 2017/18.

It was acknowledged that Area Committees would have a vital role in the consideration, development and public consultation in relation to this work. The Executive would be required to maintain an overview of the programme in relation to costs, commitment of staffing resources, adequacy of enforcement, consistency of approach etc.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the plan and timetable, as set out in the report, be agreed.
- (2) That a report detailing cost implications for the erection of signs etc., be submitted to a future meeting and that regular reports be submitted to the Executive to enable it to monitor progress.
- (3) That a report be sent to the Area Committees in relation to the conversion of the Borough-wide dog fouling orders to PSPOs and to consider making PSPOs banning dogs from play areas and MUGAs outside parks to the September round of meetings.

REASON

To enable the Council and its partners to respond to concerns regarding dogs in public places including enforcement action.

48. MATTERS REFERRED FROM AREA COMMITTEES

(a) Derelict Property on Corner of Regent Street/Derby Street, Nelson

At a meeting of Nelson Committee on 6th July, 2015 it was reported that the above property had been boarded up and empty for over 20 years. It was an eyesore and he asked that the Committee request that the Executive agree to compulsory purchase the property and market it for sale.

It was resolved "that the Executive be requested to compulsory purchase the property and market it for sale on the open market."

It was reported that investigations were ongoing and a report would be submitted to a future meeting.

(b) Land at Wood Street/Lenches Road, Colne

At a meeting of the Colne and District Committee on 9th July it was resolved “that the Executive be recommended to agree that a voluntary application by this Council as landowner be made to Lancashire County Council to register the land shown hatched black on the plan attached to the report, as a town or village green.”

The report considered by the Colne and District Committee was submitted for information.

RESOLVED

That it be agreed that a voluntary application by this Council as landowner be made to Lancashire County Council to register the land shown hatched black on the plan attached to the report as a town or village green.

REASON

So that the land ca continue to be used for recreational purposes by the residents of Wood Street, Colne and others.

49. THEMATIC GROUPS ANNUAL REPORT

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted, for information, a report on progress with the Sustainable Communities Strategy Thematic Groups for the period June 2014 to July 2015.

50. 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 _____