

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 17th MARCH, 2016

- **Borough of Pendle (Clitheroe Road/Glen Way, Brierfield) Compulsory Purchase Order 2016 and Borough of Pendle (Glen Way, Brierfield) Compulsory Purchase Order 2016**
We agreed to compulsory purchase the above two sites and authorised officers to take all necessary steps to prepare the documentation required.
- **Brierfield and Reedley Regeneration Strategy: A 10 Year Vision**
The Executive recommended Council endorse and approve the draft text for the Brierfield and Reedley: A 10 Year Vision document and the Housing, Health and Economic Development Management was authorised to agree the illustrated version of the Strategy and the Summary.
- **Matters Requiring Financial Approval**
We agreed to guarantee funding of £1,510,050 for the Builders Finance Fund loan on the Clitheroe Road scheme.
- **Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2016/17**
The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, MINIMU Revenue Policy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2016/17 were recommended to Council for approval.
- **Tenders**
The award of contracts for the reinstatement of the Wavelengths Spa facility was noted and we accepted the offers received for a number of miscellaneous small sites.
- **Lancashire County Council Consultation: Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help Service Transformation Proposals**
Subject to the inclusion of relevant points raised by the Member Working Group on 26th February, 2016, the consultation response was approved. We also asked that the Member Working Group set up to consider the County Council's budget proposals consider further opportunities to complement the County's approach to neighbourhood planning.
- **Proposed Selective Licensing for the Waterside Area**
In consultation with the Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager we granted delegated authority to the Executive Member for Housing to agree the extent of the Selective Licensing Area and to agree on a name. Following this we agreed that a formal consultation exercise be undertaken with residents, landlords and other parties regarding the designation of the proposed Selective Licensing area. Following this a further report would be submitted to us seeking formal approval to the designation of this Selective Licensing status under the Housing Act 2004.
- **Public Space Protection Orders Programme 2016/18**
We agreed to the commencement of a consultation exercise with regards to the above programme and asked for regular reports to be submitted to the Executive to monitor progress.

- **Lancashire County Council East Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan: Update and East-West Transport Connectivity Developments**

A member-level meeting between Pendle Borough Council, Craven District Council, Lancashire County Council and North Yorkshire County Council was asked for to principally consider Trans-Pennine connectivity issues.

- **Pendle's Cycling Legacy Strategy 2016-2021**

Subject to the inclusion of reference to the cycling manufactures in the Borough, we approved Pendle's Cycling Legacy Strategy for 2016-2021.

- **Statement of Community Involvement**

The Executive approved the amended Statement of Community Involvement.

- **Technical Consultation on Implementation of Planning Changes**

We agreed the Council's response to the above consultation.

- **Age Limit of Licensed Vehicles**

Following consideration of a report on the age limit of licensed vehicles we agreed that vehicles should not be more than seven years old when first licensed and no more than eleven years old on renewal or if manufactured or adapted to allow for wheelchair accessibility no more than seven years old when first licensed and no more than twelve years on renewal. We also asked the Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager to submit a report to the Taxi and Other Licensing Committee on a scheme that would publicise good taxi operators but also highlight the poor taxi operators regarding maintenance and safety of their vehicles.

This decision was however called in and was considered further at the May meeting.

- **Matters Referred from Area Committees**

- (a) **Allotments**

We agreed to transfer the non-statutory allotments listed in the report to Colne Town Council.

EXECUTIVE 26th MAY, 2016

- **Performance Indicators Update 1st April, 2015 – 31st March, 2016**

We noted the report and asked the Strategic Director to approach the County Council with a request that the Pendle Making Space for Water Meeting be reconvened as a matter of urgency.

- **Matters Referred from Area Committees**

The Executive agreed to:

- write-off the outstanding debt of £8,493.81 due from ITHAAD in relation to Unity Hall, Nelson;
- transfer the fund of £4,910 to the Friends for works at Earby Youth Hostel;
- transfer the Council's freehold of the Brierfield Mill site to PEARL, subject to agreement from the Homes and Communities Agency. This was on the basis of the redevelopment obligations currently placed on PEARL being retained;
- transfer the freehold to PEARL (Brierfield Mill) Ltd., at nil value;
- to dispose of land at Briercliffe Avenue, Colne to Cawder Construction subject to a back-to-back agreement being in place with Housing Pendle;
- Authorise the Strategic Director to approve the negotiated terms for the disposal of land at Briercliffe Avenue, Colne;

- approve a payment of £200,00 to PEARL (Brierfield Mill) Ltd., and this is to be funded from the approved Capital Programme for 2016/17;
- to note the remediation works required at the Clitheroe Road, Brierfield site and agreed that the cost of these works be met from the sale proceeds arising from the disposal of the site;
- waive the Contract Procedure Rules to enable the contract for remediation works to be awarded to Barnfield Construction.

- **Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Budget Strategy for 2017-2020**

We noted the prospects for Government funding in the period 2017/18 to 2019/20 and the Government's offer of a four year funding settlement and the deadline for applications of 14th October, 2016. We also noted the reforms to the system of Business Rates Retention and the programme of work now underway to prepare for the new system by 2019/2020 as well as the Financial Strategy for 2017/20 and the Medium Term Capital Programme.

The Budget Working Group has also been asked to develop charging and savings proposals to reduce the Council's net expenditure by £1.5m which would be considered during the development of the budget for 2017/18. We also asked the Group to identify further charging and savings options to deal with the balance of the budget deficit to 2019/20.

- **Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16**

This was approved.

- **Review of Local Scheme of Council Tax Support**

We approved the review of the current local scheme of council tax support and asked that the review considers issues of scheme affordability as well as technical changes required to align the scheme with changes to the Housing Benefit framework.

- **Transfer of Colne Town Hall**

The Executive agreed the terms outlined for the transfer of Colne Town Hall to Colne Town Council and asked the Corporate Director, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to agree any detailed issues. We asked for a further report on the possible transfer of the first floor accommodation and the adjacent shops at 2 and 4 Albert Road, Colne.

- **Matters Required from Area Committees**

- (a) **Land at Richard Street, Brierfield**

We agreed that the land not be purchased.

- (b) **Knotts Lane Pond Area, Colne**

It was agreed that the Democratic and Legal Manager be authorised to enter an agreement with Lancashire County Council under Section 25 of the Highways Act 1980 to dedicate the footpath referred to in the report and marked as a public right of way.

- **Call In Notice – Age Limit of Licensed Vehicles**

Following reconsideration of this item we agreed that vehicles should not be more than seven years old when first licensed and no more than eleven years old on renewal or if manufactured or adapted to allow for wheelchair accessibility no more than seven years old when first licensed and no more than twelve years on renewal. We also asked the Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager to submit a report to the Taxi Licensing and Other Licensing Committee as requested at the previous meeting in March, 2016.

EXECUTIVE 30th JUNE, 2016

- **Former Colne Health Centre and Colne Corner Surgery**

Funding of £35,000 (to be adjusted up or down dependant on presence of asbestos) was agreed to demolish the existing Colne Health Centre building. It was agreed that the Corner Surgery should be marketed for sale and a public consultation exercise should be undertaken on the future use of the former Colne Health Centre site once PEARL have drawn up options for the site.

- **Transfer of Colne Town Hall – first floor accommodation and 2 and 4 Albert Road, Colne**

We agreed to include the first floor accommodation and the adjacent shops 2 and 4 Albert Road, Colne in the transfer of Colne Town Hall to Colne Town Council.

- **Provisional Revenue Outturn 2015/16**

The outturn on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2015/16 was noted and the proposals for budget slippage from 2015/16 to 2016/17 for those items exceeding £10,000 were approved. We also approved an additional contribution in 2015/16 to the Business Rates Volatility Reserve of £600,000 to support the development of the Council's budget for 2017/18. The £40,000 withheld in 2015/16 pending progress on the implementation of service/asset transfers has now been returned to the Area Committees. West Craven Committee has been asked to consider allocating its share of this money towards the re-introduction of the last (M1) bus service to and from Barnoldswick. An additional item was considered which resulted in the Executive approving a grant of £3,500 each to both ITHAAD and PEEF as a contribution towards the cost of advice services and we agreed that this grant should be met from the Council's Budget Strategy Reserve.

- **Capital Programme Outturn 2015/16**

We noted the provisional outturn position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2015/16 and approved proposals set out in the report to carry forward budget slippage in the programme from 2015/16 to 2016/17.

- **Review of Revenue Reserves at 31st March, 2016**

We noted the outcome of the review of revenue reserves as at 31st March, 2016. We also agreed the transfer in 2016/17 of £1.75m from specific reserves to the Budget Strategy Reserve, as set out in the report, and recommended Council approve this.

- **Empty Homes Plan and Empty Homes Loans Update**

The Executive noted the work already completed towards achieving the targets in the Empty Homes Plan along with progress with the Empty Homes Loans and agreed that the Empty Homes Action Plan for 2016/17 be adopted.

- **Brownfield Sites**

We agreed the procedure for accessing funding from the Council's Brownfield Sites fund, subject to a slight amendment and noted progress made in developing a Brownfield Sites Register for Pendle.

- **Disposal Sites for Housing**

We noted progress made so far on sites that have been agreed for disposal and asked for Brierfield and Reedley Committee to be consulted on the possible disposal of the site on Halifax Road in Brierfield.

- **Pendle Women's Refuge**

The Executive agreed for a 'soft market test' to be undertaken with selected partners to ascertain whether there is a feasible option for an external provider to manage the Refuge. We also asked

for work to be undertaken to ascertain feasibility of providing an expanded service, which would enjoy greater benefit from economy of scale. An update report will be submitted to the Executive in October, 2016.

- **Public Spaces Protection Orders Programme 2016/2018**

The Executive agreed that an informal consultation with partners on the current options and the proposal of further options should start in July, 2016 and that this includes a report to each of the Council's Area Committees to consider and recommend options for public consultation. A further report would be submitted to the Executive in September, 2016.

- **Matters Referred from Area Committees**

- (a) **Transdev – Last Bus Service to Barnoldswick**

We asked for a meeting with Transdev to discuss timetabling issues be convened as soon as possible.

- (b) **Land at Ravenscroft Way, Barnoldswick**

We agreed to declare this land surplus to requirements and for it to be marketed for sale for an alternative use, subject to planning consent.

- (c) **Railway Street Area of Brierfield – Empty Homes Update**

We were asked to consider compulsory purchasing numbers 6, 8, 10 and 12 Cambridge Street, Brierfield but we decided not to support this request at this time due to financial constraints and the lack of available capital resources.

- **Licence Fees for Vehicles, Drivers and Operators**

We agreed the fee structure as submitted and that a consultation exercise on the proposed fee structure be undertaken with the results to be referred to Council for approval.

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