

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 25th AUGUST, 2016

- **Brierfield Mill Adjoining Sites**

We agreed that the Railway Tavern and Buildings/Structures on Orders Lands be demolished and Contract Procedure Rules were waived to enable the contract for clearance works of Council owned buildings on the Orders Lands to be awarded to PEARL (Brierfield Mill). The Executive also agreed to the transfer of the Council's freehold of the Orders Land to PEARL (Brierfield Mill) on completion of the CPO vesting process at a value to be agreed under delegated powers to the Corporate Director, taking into account an independent valuation report by Liberata and the financial appraisal of the scheme.

- **Gearing up for Growth Business Support Scheme**

The Executive noted the programme's achievements during the last financial year and agreed the proposed activity and respective budget allocations for the programme over the next three years 2016-2019.

- **Thematic Groups Annual Report**

We noted progress of the four SCS themes; agreed for a seminar to be arranged for Members on the Lancashire and South Cumbria Sustainability and Transformation Plan; and approved the District Council Public Health Offer.

- **Treasury Management Outturn 2015/16**

The Executive noted the Council's treasury management activities for 2015/16.

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

We agreed that a consultation exercise be undertaken on the potential technical changes to the local scheme of council tax support but the consultation should not include the options to reduce the maximum level of support for working age claimants. The consultation period would run from 2nd September to 31st October, 2016. Delegated authority was granted to the Financial Services Manager to finalise the consultation document in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Finance.

- **Review of Council Tax Discount (Formerly the 'Class C' Exemption)**

The Executive agreed that with effect from 1st April, 2017 the council tax discount on dwellings which were empty and substantially unfurnished be reinstated at 100% for a maximum of 4 weeks from the date the dwelling first became empty.

- **Acquisition of the ACE Centre**

We have recommended Council approve a supplementary capital estimate of £2.2m for the acquisition of the Council's interest in the ACE Centre. We also agreed that this amount be borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board to fund the acquisition.

- **Recommended Write Offs**

We agreed that the following amounts be written off as irrecoverable:

(a) £2,176.00 in respect of Sundry Debtors

- (b) £61,933.28 in respect of Housing Benefit Overpayments
- (c) £128, 829.72 in respect of Council Tax
- (d) £158,662.97 in respect of National Non-Domestic Rates

- **Enforcement Agents – Local Code of Practice**

The Local Code of Practice for Enforcement Agents was approved.

- **Syrian Resettlement Programme (SRP) and Asylum Dispersal**

We noted the developments in relation to the implementation of SRP and Asylum Dispersal in Pendle.

- **Land at Great House Farm, Red Lane, Colne**

The Executive agreed to the disposal of the above site and that it be declared surplus to requirements to Beck Developments Ltd. We also agreed to the disposal based on the Heads of Terms with the inclusion that no access to the development be allowed from The Meadows.

- **Housing Development – Clitheroe Road, Brierfield**

Approval was granted for a 'parent guarantee' to the Homes and Communities Agency in respect of the Builders Finance Fund credit facility of £1,510,050 for the housing development by PEARL2 at Clitheroe Road, Brierfield. This was subject to the completion of a 70% counter indemnity in the event that the guarantee was called upon.

- **Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)**

The PPS was approved as a 'live' working document for strategically guiding Pendle's playing pitch and ancillary facility development and improvement over the next 10 years. In doing this we also referred the Strategy to the Transfer of Services and Facilities to Town and Parish Councils Committee to provide important background to decisions it would need to make regarding the transfer of sport pitches to Town and Parish Councils. The Strategy has also been circulated to all Town and Parish Councils for information.

- **Taxi Licensing Policy and CSE/Safeguarding Training**

The Executive agreed to amalgamate all taxi licensing policies into a single document. All drivers would be required to undertake accredited training on child sexual exploitation and safeguarding as well as registering with the Disclosure and Data Barring Service.

- **Car Park off Railway Street, Nelson**

We refused the request from Nelson Committee to include an option to purchase in the proposed licence for the above site. We did, however, agree that the land should solely be used as a car park.

- **Former Corn Mill, Gisburn Road, Barrowford**

Barrowford and Western Parishes Committee had requested we issue a compulsory purchase order in respect of the above building. We felt that we needed more information and asked Management Team to investigate what action could be taken and to report back.

- **Land at Quaker Rise, Brierfield**

We agreed to declare surplus to requirements this land and that it be offered for sale on the open market.

- **Disposal of land at Halifax Road, Brierfield**

We agreed to declare surplus to requirements this land and that it be offered for sale on the open market.

- **Trawden Forest Neighbourhood Area**

The Executive agreed to designate the Parish area for Trawden Forest as the Neighbourhood Area.

EXECUTIVE 22nd SEPTEMBER, 2016

- **Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan**

We requested that the Action Plan be submitted to Council for information.

- **Transfer of Services**

We approved a number of recommendations from the Transfer of Services and Facilities to Town and Parish Councils Committee which included:

- ❖ The transfer of Hill Top Recreation Ground and Springfield Playing Pitch to Earby Town Council and Trawden Recreation Ground to Trawden Forest Parish Council.
- ❖ The tenants of the following garage sites are to be invited to purchase their sites at the current market value:
 - Back Bamford Street, Nelson
 - Barkerhouse Road, Nelson
 - Clayton Street, Colne
 - Lee Road, Nelson
 - Pickering Street, Brierfield
 - Union Street, Brierfield
- ❖ No further action will be taken on the disposal of other garage sites or their transfer to Town and Parish Councils at the moment.
- ❖ As regards miscellaneous pieces of land:
 - We agreed that the miscellaneous pieces of land in Nelson be further reviewed and any located next to a gable end or a house be marketed for sale with an appropriate condition regarding the use of the land.
 - All miscellaneous pieces of land in Barnoldswick are to be offered to Barnoldswick Town Council.
 - We agreed that all miscellaneous pieces of land in Earby be offered to Earby Town Council but also noted the concern regarding the open area at Selbourne Terrace.
 - Further discussions will be held with the appropriate body with a view to the Earby Youth Hostel maintaining its current use and discussions regarding other sites Earby Town Council put forward.
 - Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council are to be offered the open area fronting numbers 268-276 Colne Road, Sough.
 - Further discussions are to be held with Salterforth Parish Council regarding the land fronting 3-10 Moor View, Salterforth.
 - A meeting is to be arranged with Colne Town Council to discuss a number of miscellaneous pieces of land – land at Greenfield Farm, Greenfield Road; open area adjacent Byron Road junction, Keighley Road; land at junction of Langroyd Road and Skipton Road; open area off Windy Bank; adjacent car park on Collingwood Street, Greenfield Road; open area corner of Dewhurst Street and Knotts Lane; open area fronting numbers 1-4 Allison Grove; open area adjacent to the Bethel Chapel, Burnley Road; open area adjacent Hagg Street/Cross Helliwell Street and the open area at the corner of Cotton Tree Lane and Keighley Road.
 - Foulridge Parish Council are to be offered the open area at Town Top, corner of Noyona Road and Skipton Road, Foulridge.
 - Laneshaw Bridge Parish Council are to be offered the open area adjacent to Covey Bridge, Carriers Row, Laneshaw Bridge.

- Further discussions are to be held with Trawden Forest Parish Council regarding the miscellaneous pieces of land and also the Tram Tracks and land near to the bus turnaround.
- Views from Brierfield and Reedley Committee were noted.

• **Budget Savings 2017/18**

The following recommendation to Council was agreed:

	£
Transfer of Services – Income from Town and Parish Councils	50,000.00
Transfer of Services – Full Impact of transferring Colne Town Council	20,000.00
Staffing – Primarily Management of Vacant Posts	200,000.00
Liberata – Software Rationalisation (IDOX)	50,000.00
Rationalisation of Telephones/Related IT	10,000.00
Property – Reduction in Reactive Maintenance (greater planned maintenance)	30,000.00
Waste Management – Reduction in ‘Flyer’ Service	25,580.00
Waste Management – Vehicle Changes	25,000.00
Discover Pendle Visitor Centre	40,000.00
 Total	 450,580.00

The Executive decided to consider further a reduction in mechanical sweeping during the budget making process along with other saving proposals. We approved the transfer of Discover Pendle subject to Boundary Mill making a contribution towards the costs of operating the in store facility.

• **Local Government Finance Settlement and Related Matters**

We agreed to accept the Government’s offer of a four year funding settlement covering the period from 2016/17 to 2019/20 and we agreed to authorise officers to formally notify DCLG by the deadline of 5.00 p.m. on 14th October, 2016. We also agreed that the requirement for an Efficiency Plan be submitted to DCLG when taking up the four year offer and we granted delegated authority to the Strategic Director to submit this on behalf of the Council in consultation with both the Leader and the Executive Member for Finance. The intention to develop a capital receipts strategy as part of the next update of the Medium-Term Financial Plan to enable the council to benefit from the flexible use of capital receipts in the period 2016/17 to 2018/19 was endorsed. We agreed that the draft consultation response be submitted to the DCLG by the closing date of 26th September, 2016.

• **Income Review**

The Executive agreed a list of proposed changes to fees and charges and agreed that these be implemented from 1st October, 2016. We did however, ask for a comparison exercise with neighbouring Councils to be undertaken on charges for vaulted graves. We also asked for the junior football clubs to be consulted prior to the proposed introduction of a £7.50 charge for junior football pitches. After considering a proposed charge of £20 for the treatment of rats, mice and cockroaches in residential properties we recommended this be approved by Council.

We noted the possibility of Lancashire County Council taking the administration of residents parking permits which would bring an end to the current arrangement with Pendle Council and the implications this would have on the Council. The Executive approved a 1% increase in the hourly rate for Building Control chargeable activity. We also agreed that in the event of VAT being applied nationally to fees for local land charges that this be applied in addition to the Council’s tariff of charges for this service.

- **Whitefield House Sales**

We received an update on progress with the sale of properties in Whitefield and will receive another update in 6 months' time.

- **Public Spaces Protection Orders Programme 2016/17**

The Executive agreed that a public consultation exercise on the current options should start in October, 2016. Further reports with proposals for how the Public Spaces Protection Orders could be worded and enforced will be submitted to the Executive and Area Committees in December and January.

- **Sough Park – Carnegie Field (Fields in Trust Deed of Dedication)**

We agreed that Sough Park be put forward by the Council for Fields in Trust status in view of it being identified as a lost Carnegie Field.

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

The Executive recommended Council approve the licence fees for vehicles, drivers and operators and that these fees be implemented from 1st November, 2016. We also recommended that private hire operators and drivers licences be issued for a lesser period if there were exceptional reasons for doing so.

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