

# 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 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016

- **Pendle Jobs and Growth Strategy Action Plan 2017/18**

The Executive were presented with the above Action Plan and noted progress made along with the actions identified for 2017/19.

- **Liberata – Extension to Contract and Related Matters**

We considered a report on the proposed extension of the current contract with Liberata UK Ltd., for a further 10 year period from February, 2020. A number of recommendations are before Council and can be found elsewhere on the agenda.

- **Strategic Monitoring Report to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016**

We noted progress made against the actions identified in the Strategic Plan.

- **Transfer of Services and Facilities**

The Executive were presented with information relating to the possible transfer of Earby Youth Hostel to Earby Town Council and a request for a meeting with the Heritage Trust for the North West with regards to the possible transfer of Pendle Heritage Centre to them. We agreed the proposed terms in relation to Earby Youth Hostel and that the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, be authorised to conclude negotiations. The Leader, Deputy Leader and the Corporate Director were given authority to meet with representatives of the North West Heritage Trust and Barrowford Parish Council in relation to Pendle Heritage Centre.

- **Matters Requiring Financial Approval**

We agreed that options be sought for the transfer of the Lomeshaye Marsh Field Centre to a local community group or organisation. We also agreed a supplementary revenue estimate of £35,000 to fund an overspend on the budget for planning applications and this is to be funded from the Budget Support Reserve for 2016/17.

- **Annual Audit Letter**

We accepted the Annual Audit Letter for 2015/16.

- **Appointment of External Auditor to the Council**

The Executive recommended that Council should opt in to the appointing person arrangements made by Public Sector Audit Appointments for the appointment of external auditors. This recommendation can be found elsewhere on the agenda.

- **Treasury Management 2016/17 Mid-Year Report**

The work on the Council's treasury activities for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 was noted.

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

We considered a report on the outcomes from the recent public consultation on possible changes to the Council's local scheme of council tax support. We noted that two of the changes proposed from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017 were dependent on confirmation of Government policy decisions. The

Executive have recommended that subject to the technical changes required to align the scheme with the administration of Housing Benefits this be agreed by Council. We also recommended the approval of the proposed scheme of Local Council Tax Support which would be implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017. A final recommendation is that the Financial Services Manager, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, be granted delegated authority to make any amendments to the Scheme resulting from the annual updating of the detailed regulations which underpin the primary legislation.

- **Business Rates Revaluation 2017**

We noted the implications of the 2017 Business Rates Revaluation.

- **Future of Pendle Women's Refuge and the Pendle Domestic Abuse Action Plan for 2016/19**

The Executive agreed that a tender process be undertaken on the future provision of the Pendle Women's Refuge and that following this process a report be submitted setting out the best option for the future delivery of the facility.

- **Brownfield Sites Fund**

We agreed that the Gearing Up for Growth Grants Panel should consider all applications for this funding and that £53,935 from the relevant Section 106 Agreements be added to this fund for commercial development on brownfield sites. We deferred consideration of this fund being used to bring forward employment sites as well as housing sites and a report on this can be found elsewhere on the agenda.

- **Colne Neighbourhood Area**

Following a public consultation exercise we agreed to designate the Town Council area of Colne as the Neighbourhood Area.

- **Pendle Local Plan – Part 2**

We endorsed the preparation of the evidence base and the proposed methodology for delivering the plan. We agreed a consultation exercise be carried out on the Site Assessment Methodology, the amended Green Belt Review and the further call for sites. A cross party Working Group is to be convened to take forward the development of the Plan.

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