

# 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 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2017

- **Colne Business Improvement District – Update**

Following consideration of the Colne BID feasibility study we agreed that it should proceed to the next stage. The composition of the BID steering group, the process for appointing members to the Group was detailed in the report. We also agreed a supplementary revenue estimate of up to £28,000 to enable the BID to proceed. Contract Procedure Rules were waived so as to retain Kolek Consulting to undertake the planning and consultation stage for the BID.

- **Transfer of Services and Facilities to Town and Parish Councils**

We agreed to declare the following pieces of land surplus to requirements and to be transferred to Trawden Forest Parish Council for a nominal sum of £1 each – this was subject to a covenant prohibiting their disposal for a non-community use within 10 years:

- ❖ Land at Bannister Close/Holme Crescent;
- ❖ The whole length of the Tram Tracks from Church Street to Lane House;
- ❖ Land at Lane House to the rear of the bus turnaround;
- ❖ Two pieces of land adjacent to the Old Post Office, Cottontree;
- ❖ Land at Skipton Road at the side of the Victorian toilet.

Subject to further negotiations with Primesite, we agreed repairs be carried out to the Primesite shelters indicated in the report and that the cost be met from the Community Projects Fund. We asked that the relevant town and parish councils be requested to take on the future responsibility for these shelters. We also asked for a report to be submitted to a future meeting on the feasibility of transferring cemeteries. It was agreed that Colne Town Council be informed that the Council was willing to enter into discussions with it about the transfer of the Municipal Hall and Colne Market early in the next financial year, on the assumption that the transfers of the Town Hall and Primet Community Centre will have been completed in the near future.

- **Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2017/18**

We recommended Council approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2017/18.

- **Capital Strategy 2017/20**

The Corporate Capital Strategy for 2017/20 was also recommended to Council for approval.

- **Land at Vivary Way, Colne (Former Urban Altitude Site)**

We agreed to defer this item to enable meetings to be held with Colne Football Club and other interested groups/individuals regarding the future use of this site.

- **Land at Carr Road, Nelson**

The Executive agreed to declare this land surplus to requirements in order for it to be sold, leased or rented for an alternative use. The Strategic Director was also authorised to apply for planning

permission for commercial use of the land and if this was granted the land be marketed for sale, lease or rent.

- **Proposed Colne Selective Licensing Area**

We agreed not to introduce selective licensing in Colne.

- **Whitefield House Sales**

We noted progress on sales to private buyers. We agreed to sell any unsold properties to Calico (subject to agreement of the Calico Board on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2017) and granted delegated authority to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, to agree the final sales prices. We noted that there was a requirement to pay 41.7% of the overall net proceeds of the Whitefield refurbishment scheme to the Homes and Communities Agency.

- **Bankhouse Road Site, Nelson**

The Executive agreed, in principle, to the disposal of part of the Bankhouse Road site to the emerging Bradley Community Land Trust subject to a viable proposal being submitted to the Council for consideration. A report on the the proposal is to be submitted to a future meeting.

- **The Good Neighbours Project – Advancing the Work of Cohesion in Pendle**

We agreed match funding of £30,000 for the project spread over 4 years, subject to the Big Lottery Bid being successful. To support this an initial supplementary revenue estimate of £7,500 was agreed in the current financial year, funded from the External Funding Receipts Reserve. Contributions in later years would be built in to subsequent revenue budgets funded by contributions from the above reserve.

- **Response to the White Paper: Fixing our Broken Housing Market**

The response to the White Paper put forward by officers was agreed.

- **Planning Application Fees – The Government’s Offer**

The Executive endorsed the decision to accept the offer as conditionally notified to the Department of Communities and Local Government by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017. Subject to this and the implementation of the higher fees from July, 2017 we agreed that this additional income be invested in the Council’s Planning Policy Team. We also approved the required budget adjustments in 2017/18 based on the higher fees and the intention to monitor the impact as part of the Council’s strategic monitoring framework was noted.

- **Former Taxi Rank, Sagar Street, Nelson**

We agreed to declare this taxi rank surplus to requirements and for it to be sold for an alternative use, subject to planning permission.

- **Greenfield Road, Colne**

Subject to Colne and District Committee agreeing to allocate £1,425 from its Capital Programme 2017/18 we agreed an allocation of the same amount to assist with the reinstatement of road humps past numbers 90-100 Greenfield Road (leading up to Whitewalls Drive) and for the installation of plastic road humps on Greenfield Road, Colne (subject to consultation with residents regarding their location).

- **Land adjacent to Pendleside, Lomeshaye**

We also agreed to declare this land surplus to requirements and for it to be leased to the adjoining occupier for a term of 125 years. The loss of open space was to be advertised to facilitate the grant of the lease.

## **EXECUTIVE 25<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2017**

- **East-West Connectivity Study**

We asked for a meeting with the County Council and Lancashire Enterprise Partnership to discuss both the road and rail options and in particular how the Colne Congestion Relief proposals could be developed.

- **Transfer of Services and Facilities to Town and Parish Councils**

Updates on the position regarding various parks were noted and we asked for meetings to be arranged, as necessary, with individual parish and town councils as soon as possible. We agreed for a period of 12 months the redirection from Nelson Committee's capital allocation of £4,149 for repair, maintenance and cleaning of the Nelson bus shelters in 2017/18. We asked for discussions to be held with Colne Town Council about the transfer of the Municipal Hall and Colne Market.

- **Public Realm Agreement**

We agreed that the County Council be asked to reinstate the payment to Pendle to its 2013/14 level from the approved additional funding.

- **Litter Strategy for England**

We noted the Strategy and that regular updates would be submitted to the Executive on the Government's progress with it. We broadly welcomed the proposals in the consultation document and agreed a response be submitted in consultation with the Executive Member for Environmental Services.

- **Matters Requiring Financial Approval**

The Executive agreed an allocation of £10,000 from earmarked reserves for Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS for 2017/18.

- **Financial Strategy – Update of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/21**

We noted the Financial Strategy for 2018/21, along with the strategy for the use of balances and reserves over the same period. We also noted the prospects for Government funding in the period 2018/19 to 2020/21 and in particular the increased uncertainty regarding the timing and implications of the move to 100% local retention of business rates. We endorsed the intention to commission external support to help develop the Council's submission to the Government's Fair Funding review with the costs to be met from within existing budgets. We also asked for the Budget Working Group to be retained and identified a programme of work.

- **Land at Vivary Way, Colne**

The Executive granted delegated authority to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to enter into and conclude further negotiations with Boundary Mill, Lloyds BMW and the proposers of the Wheel Park and the 3G football pitch schemes with a view to all the proposals being accommodated either on the Land at Vivary Way, Colne or elsewhere in the Borough.

- **Tenders**

We accepted the highest offer of £10,500 for land at Algar Street, Nelson. The highest offer of £155,000 for land at Hartley's Terrace, Colne was also accepted, subject to the purchaser obtaining full planning permission within 6 months of completing the purchase and building the properties to a habitable standard within 18 months of being granted planning permission. We noted that exemptions from the Contract Procedure Rules had been granted for the Council's telephony arrangements and domestic abuse services.

- **Land at Bamford Street, Nelson**

We accepted the highest offers received for plots 1, 2 and 5, subject to the bidders providing the further evidence requested within 4 weeks of the date of this meeting; and that plots 3 and 4 be re-marketed.

- **Tackling Rogue Landlords**

The Executive noted the new civil penalties which had been introduced under the Housing and Planning Act 2016. We agreed to appoint an additional Environmental Health Officer for a 2 year period along with a supplementary estimate of £39,000 for 2017/18 which was to be funded by additional income from civil penalties. A report on the proposed new policy is to be submitted to a future meeting.

- **Review of Council-Owned Car Parks within the Borough**

We noted the current provision and costs for parks within the Borough and noted recommendations set out in the report regarding the future provision of each car park. We have instructed Liberata Property Services to investigate the car parks which have been recommended for disposal, transfer or lease. We asked for further reports to be submitted to the relevant Area Committees on business/resident permits (including a suggested charging scheme) on a number of car parks; introduction of short-stay disc parking on Wellhouse Road car park, Barnoldswick; change from short-stay to long-stay at the Palace car park in Nelson; and the proposed increase from £30 to £50 from February 2018 for residents only permits on Cuba Street car park, Nelson.

- **Visitor Economy Plan for Pendle 2017/18**

We noted progress and achievements of the Visitor Economy Plan for Pendle in 2016/17 and approved the new Plan for 2017/18.

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

In response to a request from the proposed lessee we agreed that a clause be included in the lease allowing him the first option to purchase if the site was declared surplus to the Council's requirements in the future.

- **39/41 Market Street, Nelson**

We agreed to extend the lease of this property by an additional 70 years.

## **EXECUTIVE 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE, 2017**

- **Lomeshaye Industrial Estate Extension**

The Executive noted that allocations of £1.5m from Lancashire County Council, £4m from Lancashire's Local Growth Fund had been made along with a bid for £570k ESIF funding to support the extension of this industrial estate. A planning application for Phase 1 of the site was to be submitted and it was agreed that the necessary land to deliver this phase be acquired at an independently assessed value and that the Strategic Director be granted delegated authority to do this. It was also agreed that the Council manage the contracts to provide infrastructure and environmental enhancements. Council have also been recommended to approve a supplementary capital estimate of £1.9m to be funded from capital receipts to act as match funding.

- **Pendle Business Awards**

We agreed to outsource the Pendle Business Awards to a suitable delivery partner; that the 2018 Awards be funded to a maximum of £30,000 and the Gearing up for Growth Grants Panel authorised to agree the allocation of this fund. The supplementary revenue estimate of £30,000 in 2017/18 is to be funded from an earmarked reserve set aside to support the Vision Board. We requested that the Pendle Business Awards continue to be held within Pendle.

- **Waste Collection, Recycling and Street Cleansing**

We have asked for a further report to be submitted to us as soon as possible on the review of the service intended to achieve £300,000 savings per annum and that the County Council be urged to provide the Council, as soon as possible, full information on recycling credits, the possibility of co-mingling and transportation and disposal arrangements to enable the review to be completed. We agreed that other Lancashire districts be informed of this and their support be sought.

- **Recommended Write Offs**

We agreed to write off as irrecoverable £5,326.65 in respect of Sundry Debtors, £46,551.67 in respect of overpayment of Housing Benefit Overpayment, £105,639.48 in respect of Council Tax and £54,228.20 in respect of National Non Domestic Rate.

- **Provisional Revenue Outturn 2016/17**

The outturn on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2016/17 was noted. The proposals for budget slippage from 2016/17 to 2017/18 for items exceeding £10,000 were approved.

- **Capital Programme – Provisional Outturn 2016/17**

The provisional outturn position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2016/17 was noted and proposals to carry forward budget slippage on the programme from 2016/17 to 2017/18 were approved.

- **Capital Strategy – Update on the Medium Term Capital Programme 2018/21**

We noted the indicative Medium Term Capital Programme for 2018/21 and endorsed the proposals for use of capital receipts over the medium term period. We asked for a further report to be submitted to a future meeting on these matters in line with the timescales for the Council's process for the 2018/19 budget. The report is to include details of the scope for further asset disposals to help generate capital receipts.

- **Supporting Small Businesses and other Rate Relief Schemes – Update**

The Scheme was noted and a report on the details of a local scheme of relief is to be submitted to the next meeting.

- **Land at Leeds Road, Nelson and Brierfield Mill Regeneration**

We granted delegated authority to the Strategic Director to agree terms for the disposal of the Council's leasehold interest in land at Leeds Road, Nelson to Clitheroe Road Car Sales at market value. The proposal is to be offered on condition that the buyer completes the transaction within 6 weeks from the date of this meeting, submitting a planning application for development of the site within 3 months from the date of the disposal and making satisfactory progress on the development of the site.

- **Land at Algar Street, Nelson**

The Executive agreed to offer this land to AGE UK for use as a community garden and that they be given 2 months to secure funding for the project; and should funding not be secured then the land be declared surplus to requirements and advertised for sale.

- **Earby Flood Resilience Scheme – ESIF Bid Update**

The Executive expressed their concern at the process being required by the DCLG regarding the allocation of this resilience fund. We have asked for an urgent meeting with representatives from the Environment Agency to discuss their failure to start work on Victoria Clough and to stress upon them the need to start this work as soon as possible.

- **Local Plan (Part 2) – Site Allocations and Development Policies**

We noted the report and referred it to the Local Plan (Part 2) Working Group for consideration before it comes back to us in August, 2017.

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