

# 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 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2017

- **Lomeshaye Industrial Estate Phase 1 Extension**

We agreed that the necessary land to deliver the Phase 1 extension to the Lomeshaye Industrial Estate, acquired through negotiation, be based on compensation as if a Compulsory Purchase Order was in place; and authority was granted for initial steps to be taken to prepare a CPO for this phase.

- **Gearing up for Growth**

The Executive noted the Programme's achievements during the last financial year; approved the proposed activity and respective budget allocations for the Programme in 2017/18; we noted the intention to consider the introduction of a loan scheme to replace both Start-Up and Growth Grants and to explore the scope to fund Gearing up for Growth activity from capital resources. A further report is to be submitted to the Executive at a subsequent meeting providing an update on the Programme.

- **The Pendle Challenge**

Following consideration of a report on the Pendle Challenge we agreed a financial contribution towards the Children's University model.

- **Treasury Management Outturn 2016/17**

We considered a report on performance of the Council's Treasury Management function for the 2016/17 financial year.

- **Review of Revenue Reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017**

The Executive endorsed the proposal to transfer £235k in 2017/18 from specific reserves to the Budget Strategy Reserve with a recommendation to Council for approval. We also noted the alternatives, which were outlined in the report, for funding expenditure currently met from the Gearing up for Growth Reserve.

- **Supporting Pendle Businesses – Business Rates Relief (Local Discretionary Scheme)**

We endorsed the principles of the draft local scheme of discretionary rate relief; granted delegated authority to the Financial Services Manager, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance to conclude and implement the scheme in the current financial year.

- **Updated Risk Management Policy and Strategy**

The Executive endorsed the revised Risk Management Policy and Strategy and recommended it to Council for approval.

- **Disposal of Sites for Housing**

We noted progress on sites that had been agreed for disposal; agreed the establishment of a Developer Panel for the disposal and development of smaller housing sites but asked for a further report to be submitted to a future meeting on the proposed process and criteria for selection; agreed to delete the Byron Road site in Colne from the list and asked for Colne and District Committee to be consulted on the possible disposal of land on Leach Street, Colne and the

Harrison Drive Recreation Ground in Colne. With regards sites in West Craven we asked for a meeting between the Area Committee and Earby Town Council to consider the possible disposal of Aspen Grove, Bailey Street and Red Lion Street, Earby and to discuss future housing/commercial sites in Earby.

- **Brownfield Sites Fund**

Progress regarding the Pendle Brownfield Sites Fund and the launch of the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund was noted.

- **The Housing and Planning Act 2016 Civil Penalties**

The Executive have recommended Council approve the Policy and Matrix for the use of Civil Penalties and its inclusion into the Environmental Health Enforcement Policy. We granted delegated authority to the Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager to

- (a) issue, use and enforce civil penalties as detailed in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any regulations made there under;
- (b) to issue, use and enforce rent repayment orders as detailed in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any regulations made there under.

We also agreed that the money received from civil penalties returns to the housing revenue budget to fund further enforcement activity.

- **Prevent Duty Update**

The Prevent Compliance Action Plan was approved and we agreed that work be progressed on the outstanding items.

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

We noted progress made on the preparation of the Plan along with the representations and site nominations; including those received after the official close of the public consultation. We accepted the officer responses and recommendations as set out in the schedule of comments (Appendices 1-3).

- **Kelbrook and Sough Neighbourhood Area**

The Executive agreed the designation of the parish of Kelbrook and Sough as a Neighbourhood Area.

- **Land at Knotts Pond, Colne**

We deferred consideration of a request to offer land at Knotts Pond to residents pending further information regarding the value of the land and options for the sale of the land at minimal cost to the residents.

- **Alley Gating**

We considered a bid of £2,085 from Colne and District Committee for alley gating maintenance (repairs and paintwork) but asked that they fund the works from their own resources.

- **Resurfacing Cemetery Road Car Park, Earby**

A request for funding from West Craven Committee towards resurfacing costs to Cemetery Road car park was referred back to the Committee for them to fund from their own resources.

- **Malt Kiln Car Park, Barrowford – request by the Heritage Trust for the North West to Charge for Parking**

The request to vary the lease to allow the Heritage Trust for the North West to charge for parking was agreed.

## **EXECUTIVE 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2017**

- **Proposed PEARL2 and Together Housing Joint Venture**

The Executive agreed the principles of a proposed Joint Venture between PEARL2 and Together Housing Group and asked for a report to be submitted to a future meeting setting out the proposed Heads of Terms of the Joint Venture.

- **IT Strategy 2017-2019**

The Executive approved the Strategy.

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

We agreed to recommend Option 3 – fortnightly residual refuse collection with four weekly recyclable waste collection as the preferred option. We also asked for a consultation exercise to be undertaken on the proposed savings options identified in the report and the results of this exercise are to be reported to Council. The Leader has also written to the Leader of Lancashire County Council requesting reconsideration of the withdrawal of the Cost Sharing Agreement.

- **Matters Requiring Financial Approval**

We agreed a grant contribution of £5,000 for SELRAP in support of the development of the business case for the Colne to Skipton line subject to confirmation of funding contributions from other stakeholders. A car salary sacrifice scheme was also approved for all staff as designed by Tusker utilising the framework agreement developed by North Yorkshire County Council. The Executive then noted Peter Birtwistle Trust's intention to enter into a mortgage to help fund the cost of housing development at Carry Lane, Colne and the implications for the Council as the Custodian Trustee to the charity.

- **Income Review 2017**

The proposed changes to fees and charges, as outlined in Appendices A and B attached to the report were approved. We also noted the possibility of Lancashire County Council taking the administration of resident parking permits back in-house during 2018 ending the current arrangements and the implications for this Council. Appendix B referred to the proposed increase in cemetery fees – this decision was subsequently called in and is to be considered again by the Executive in October.

- **Budget Savings 2018/19**

We have recommended Council approve savings proposals in relation to Grounds Maintenance. We also agreed that the proposed savings for charging of bulky household waste and the administrative charge for replacement wheeled bins be included in the public consultation exercise for Waste Services. The savings proposals re: staffing – primarily management of vacant posts/voluntary redundancy: review of telephony provision and property – reduction in reactive maintenance (greater planned maintenance) were approved but we deferred consideration of the proposed savings in relation to the reduction in mechanical sweeping to a future meeting.

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

The Executive endorsed the appointment of Grant Thornton as the appointed auditor to the Council from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2018. The Financial Services Manager was also authorised to inform the

Public Sector Audit Appointments that the Council was satisfied with the proposed auditor appointment.

- **32 Every Street, Brierfield**

We declared this property surplus to requirements and agreed it be sold on the open market by informal tender.

- **Tenders and Other Contract Related Matters**

A two year extension with Zurich Municipal was approved for the provision of insurance services to the Council from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2018.

- **Syrian Resettlement Programme and Local Integration Fund**

We noted developments in relation to the implementation of the Syrian Resettlement Programme. The process for the administration of the Local Integration Fund for future funding awards was agreed and we asked that future applications for this Fund be submitted to future meetings of the Executive for consideration. We also thanked Wayne Forrest for his outstanding work and commitment he had shown in helping to resettle the Syrian families.

Councillor Mohammed Iqbal,  
Leader, Pendle Borough Council.