

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET EXECUTIVE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 7th FEBRUARY, 2018**

PRESENT –

Councillor M. Iqbal (Chairman – in the Chair)

Councillors

*E. Ansar
M. Arshad
D. Clegg
A. R. Greaves
K. Hartley*

*J. Henderson
A. Mahmood
M. Sakib
D. M. Whipp*

Also in attendance:

*Councillor Nadeem Ahmed
Councillor W. Blackburn
Councillor N. Butterworth
Councillor R. E. Carroll
Councillor S. Cockburn-Price
Councillor M. Goulthorp
Councillor B. Newman
Councillor K. Turner
Councillor P. White*

Officers in attendance:

<i>D. Langton</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>
<i>P. Mousdale</i>	<i>Corporate Director</i>
<i>V. Green</i>	<i>Financial Services Manager</i>
<i>P. Atkinson</i>	<i>Neighbourhood Services Manager</i>
<i>J. Watson</i>	<i>Head of Democratic Services</i>



117. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

118. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

119. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 14th December, 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

120. CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND STRATEGY 2018/21

The Financial Services Manager submitted a report on the proposed capital programme for 2018/19. The report also provided an overview of the Medium Term Capital Programme for the period 2018/21 and presented a draft corporate capital strategy including the flexible use of capital receipts.

In accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Investment in Local Authorities, the report also provided various prudential indicators for consideration and approval.

Reference was made to flood alleviation in Earby and the need to earmark £30,000 for this specific purpose. Members also felt that further consideration should be given to the proposed changes to the funding of Area Committee capital programme allocations. The suggestion was to remove the revenue funding and require all allocations to be of a capital nature.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the forecast outturn position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2017/18, as shown at Appendix A and detailed in the report, be noted.
- (2) That the draft corporate capital strategy, attached to the report at Appendix B, including the flexible use of capital receipts strategy be noted and referred to Council for consideration.
- (3) That the change of approach with regard to the funding of Area Committee capital programme allocations, as outlined in paragraph 20 of the report and the intention to report to each Area Committee to inform them of the implications of this for 2018/19 be noted.
- (4) That the proposed 2018/19 capital programme, as shown in Appendix C attached to the report, be noted and referred to Council for consideration.
- (5) That delegated authority be granted to the Financial Services Manager to determine the most appropriate method of financing the capital programme for 2018/19 to ensure the use of resources is optimised by the Council.
- (6) That the indicative programmes for 2019/20 and 2020/21, as shown in Appendix C attached to the report, be noted and it be acknowledged that these will be subject to further review as part of the development of future years capital programmes.
- (7) That the Prudential Indicators, as shown in Appendix D, be approved.

REASON

To approve the revised capital programme for 2017/18 and the capital programme for 2018/19 together with the flexible use of capital receipts strategy.

121. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2018/19

Management Team submitted a report which provided details of the Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) for 2018/19 and the implications this had on the Council. It was reported that

the recent announcement of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement did not impact on the content within the report.

The Executive were asked to consider the proposed General Fund Revenue budget and other related matters for 2018/19; make a recommendation to Council at its meeting on 22nd February, 2018 on the level of Council Tax to be set for the financial year 2018/19. The report also provided details of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2018/21 to highlight the significant budget deficit and the need to take further action to reduce expenditure to a sustainable level.

RESOLVED

- (1) The proposal to maintain the General Fund Minimum Working Balance of £1.0m be noted.
- (2) That details of the final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2018/19, received to date be noted.
- (3) That the projected outturn position in the current financial year be noted.
- (4) That in relation to Pendle Leisure Trust, subject to consideration of the residual saving proposals for 2018/19, a grant to the Trust of £1,276,200 for 2018/19 be noted and referred to Council for consideration.
- (5) That the General Fund Budget Requirement for 2018/19, as set out in Appendix I attached to the report, be noted and referred to Council for consideration.
- (6) That subject to consideration of the budget proposals as set out in the report and confirmation by Government of the council tax referendum thresholds for 2018/19 a recommended band D council tax for the year of £257.64 being an increase of £7.48 (2.99%) on the current level of council tax be noted and referred to Council for consideration.
- (7) That each service area be required to operate within its budget for 2018/19, once approved, and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control.
- (8) That in view of the estimate of residual savings required for subsequent years, as set out in the report, Management Team be requested to develop and bring forward an updated 3-year strategy comprising a package of savings options for consideration by the Budget Working Group early in the new financial year as part of the development of future years.
- (9) That a further report be brought back to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee updating the Financial Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019/22.
- (10) That the uncertainty attached to the current assumptions and financial modelling for 2020/21 be acknowledged in view of the forthcoming national Fair Funding Review of local government needs and resources combined with the implementation of 75% local business rates retention by this time.
- (11) That delegated authority be granted to the Financial Services Manager, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and the Leader of the Council to conclude and

submit the Council's response to the Fair Funding Review.

REASON

To comply with statutory requirements to determine a balanced budget and council tax for the forthcoming financial year.

122. PENDLE LEISURE CENTRE

(a) Notes of a consultation meeting

Notes of a meeting held on 18th December, 2018 to discuss the proposed redevelopment of Pendle Leisure Centre were submitted for information.

(b) Results of the Consultation

Details of the results of the public consultation undertaken by Pendle Leisure trust on its proposal to carry out redevelopment at Pendle Leisure Centre, including converting the sports hall to a soft play facility were submitted for information. This included the questionnaire itself, the percentage of responses to relevant questions and all the comments submitted by respondents. It was reported that 55.10% of respondents were in favour of the proposed redevelopment and 44.90% were against.

The Executive considered the results of the survey and discussed a number of issues.

RESOLVED

That the request from Pendle Leisure Trust for the Council to agree to secure and underwrite a loan of £500,000 from the Public Works Load Board for redevelopment of Pendle Leisure Centre not be agreed at this stage and that these proposals be considered along with all other proposals for that facility and others as part of the overall survey and review of leisure and sports facilities in Pendle.

REASON

To consider the redevelopment of Pendle Leisure Centre along with other sports facilities in the Borough.

123. DIGITAL STRATEGY

The Corporate Director submitted the Council's Digital Strategy for consideration. A key priority of the Plan was to change the way the Council delivered services so that they met changing customer demands in an efficient way and made the best use of its assets and technology, becoming Digital by Default.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Digital Strategy be approved and recommended to Council for adoption.

REASON

This is one of the Council's four strategic objectives.

124. INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report on the Government's White Paper entitled 'Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain Fit for the Future' and the implications for Pendle.

It was reported that the Strategy set out a long term plan to boost the productivity and earning power of people throughout the UK. It also set out how the Government would help businesses create better, higher paying jobs in every part of the UK with investment in the skills, industries and infrastructure of the future.

The Executive discussed the implications of the Strategy for Pendle and it was acknowledged that the implementation of these policies would almost exclusively be by national agencies, Combined Authorities or LEPs and there was little mention of local authorities. It was noted that the Council would need to work closely with the Lancashire LEP to ensure that Pendle's priorities were reflected in the development of local Industrial Strategies and to benefit from any funding opportunities that might arise.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Government's White Paper entitled 'Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain Fit for the Future' and the implications for Pendle be noted.
- (2) That further reports be submitted to the Executive as appropriate as the policies and programmes identified in the Strategy are developed further.

REASON

To keep Members informed of Government Strategy.

**125. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS UPDATE
1st APRIL – 31st DECEMBER, 2017**

The Chief Executive submitted a report on performance monitoring information on the key performance indicators delivered by and on behalf of the Council.

It was reported that performance was broadly in line with targets set and previous performance.

Of the four KPI's that were underperforming some improvements had been made so no further action was required at this time:

- Planning Applications and Appeals
- Waste and Recycling
- Complaints
- Sickness Absence

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

REASON

To inform the Executive of performance monitoring information relating to the Council's key performance indicators.

**126. COLNE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)
DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report on progress made with developing a BID for Colne, in particular the draft planned programme and timescales for implementation.

Since the last update a marketing plan had been implemented and this included the launch of a specific Colne BID website and associated social media pages (Facebook and Twitter). A newsletter had also been circulated to all Colne businesses. The newsletter highlighted the results of the Business Priorities Survey and invited businesses to attend an open consultation meeting on the draft Colne BID proposal.

The Executive considered the suggested timetable to progress the BID through to the ballot stage which was expected to be in June, 2018. The estimated start date for the BID was 1st October, 2018.

RESOLVED

- (1) That progress and the timetable for the implementation of a Colne Business Improvement District be noted.
- (2) That, subject to the Colne BID Steering Group finalising the proposal document, the final document be submitted to the Executive in March, 2018.
- (3) That it be agreed that the Colne BID be progressed and the responsibilities of the local authority and the Returning Officer during this process be noted.

REASONS

- (1) ***To allow the development of the proposed Colne BID to continue.***
- (2) ***To allow the Colne BID to develop in line with the recommended timescales.***

127. LAND AT CARR ROAD, NELSON

The Chief Executive submitted a report which sought approval to progress negotiations for the potential disposal of the site to Lancashire Constabulary (PCC) whilst continuing to seek an alternative location for the fair and circus.

It was reported that the Constabulary were exploring a potential opportunity to invest in this site to build a new briefing base which would ensure modern, fit for purpose premises were available to deliver policing in the Pendle area for the future.

The Executive were advised that any alternative use for the site would require planning permission and the Council would be required to advertise the disposal of open space and consider any objections which were made.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive be granted delegated authority to negotiate terms with Lancashire Constabulary (PCC).

REASON

To achieve a capital receipt and reduce all liabilities.

128. TENDERS

The Corporate Director submitted, for information, a report advising of tenders received and accepted.

129. CALL IN – DISPOSAL OF HOUSING SITES IN EARBY

This item was considered at the last Executive meeting on 14th December, 2017 but was subsequently called in. A note of the call in meeting was submitted for information.

RESOLVED

That the decision to declare land at Aspen Grove and Bailey Street, Earby surplus to requirements and disposed of be re-affirmed.

REASON

To dispose of site that could support the Council's growth objectives.

130. ESTABLISHMENT OF HOUSING JOINT VENTURE COMPANY

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report which sought agreement to the establishment of a new Joint Venture Company between Pendle Council, Barnfield Investment Properties and Harewood Housing Society Ltd., (part of the Together Housing Group). It was reported that the purpose of the Company was to increase housing supply for return on investment through the development of a mix of open market and affordable housing in Pendle.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the setting up of a new Joint Venture Company between Pendle Council, Barnfield Investment Properties and Harewood Housing Society Ltd., be agreed.
- (2) That the draft Heads of Terms, attached to the report at Appendix 1, setting out how the Joint Venture Company would operate, be agreed.

- (3) That delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director in consultation with the Deputy Leader to agree the final details of the Joint Venture and establish the Company.

REASONS

- (1) *To support the development of new open market and affordable housing in Pendle.*
- (2) *To provide a return on investment.*

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CALL-IN PROCEDURE THE ABOVE DECISION STANDS REFERRED BACK TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR RECONSIDERATION.

131. BRADLEY COMMUNITY LAND TRUST PROPOSAL FOR COUNCIL OWNED LAND OFF BEECH STREET, NELSON AND THE FORMER KINGDOM HALL SITE, NELSON

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report on proposals from the Bradley Community Land Trust (CLT) for two pieces of Council owned land in the Bradley ward.

Land at Beech Street, Nelson

Following a request made by the Executive at its meeting on 16th March, 2017 (minute number 140/2016/17) a feasibility study and a consultation on options for the site had been undertaken. As a result the Trust's preferred option was to develop four three bed semi-detached houses with gardens. It was reported that the scheme was marginally viable with the support of a grant from the Bradley Big Local Partnership.

A condition of the grant support was that the CLT owned the land. Therefore they had written to the Council with a formal request for the transfer of the ownership of the land.

Former Kingdom Hall Site, Scotland Road, Nelson

The CLT had expressed an interest in taking on and improving the former Kingdom Hall site and had requested that ownership of this site be transferred to them. The proposal was to redevelop the site to provide an attractive, landscaped gateway to both Bradley and Nelson. The Bradley Big Local Partnership had awarded the CLT funding towards the site security and maintenance in the short term as well as future development. No plans had been drawn up or provided to the Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposals for the site from the Bradley Community Land Trust (CLT) be noted.
- (2) That it be agreed that land off Beech Street, Nelson be declared surplus to requirements.
- (3) That the Council enter into a conditional contract of sale with the CLT for the site, with the conditions being the need to have planning permission for the scheme, the necessary road closure orders confirmed and evidenced that the CLT had access to the finance required to deliver the scheme (based upon more accurate costings of the scheme that was to be submitted for planning permission).

- (4) That the CLT come back to the Council regarding the former Kingdom Hall site once they had some more definitive proposals regarding its future use.

REASONS

- (1) ***To note the outcome of the feasibility work carried out by the CLT.***
- (2) ***To enable the site to be disposed of.***
- (3) ***To demonstrate a commitment to the transfer of the land to the CLT subject to certain conditions being met.***
- (4) ***To enable the Council to make an informed decision regarding the future of the Kingdom Hall site.***

132. SYRIAN RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report on the implementation of the Syrian Resettlement Programme (SRP).

Two cohorts of families had arrived in the Borough in 2016 and 2017. Whilst there had been challenges both cohorts had made good progress towards resettlement and greater independence.

It was reported that bids received for the Local Integration Fund had not adequately met the funding objectives but also had not provided value for money. As a result the needs of the families were being reassessed with a view to the funding being used to commission services that would help address any unmet needs.

RESOLVED

- (1) That developments in relation to the implementation of the Syrian Resettlement Programme be noted.
- (2) That a needs assessment with the refugee families be undertaken and that the remaining Local Integration funding be used to commission services to meet unmet needs once these had been established.

REASON

To update the Executive and to ensure funding was allocated to meet unmet needs.

133. PROPOSALS FOR THE CREATION OF A MAJOR ROAD NETWORK

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report on a new Department for Transport (DFT) consultation document.

The report made reference to a number of studies which had already been undertaken and the consultation from the DFT on proposals for the creation of a Major Route Network (MRN). This would form part of the Transport Investment Strategy which was published earlier this year. The consultation outlined the Government's proposals for this network and sought views on its principles, the definition of the network, investment planning and eligibility and investment assessment.

The Executive discussed the potential of improving the route from Colne to Skipton and the inclusion of this in the new network.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the indicative major road network be supported.
- (3) That the Department for Transport be urged to consider implementation of the Colne and A56 bypass schemes at the earliest opportunity.
- (4) That Lancashire County Council be requested to endorse recommendations (2) and (3) above and respond to the Department for Transport accordingly.
- (5) That the Chief Executive be authorised to formulate a detailed consultation response to the Department for Transport in conjunction with the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services.

REASONS

- (1) *To advise the Executive of this new consultation document and its purpose.*
- (2) *To suggest a consultation response.*

134. MATTERS REFERRED FROM AREA COMMITTEES

(a) Land at Churchill Way, Brierfield

At a meeting of the Brierfield and Reedley Committee on 9th January, 2018 it was resolved “that the Executive be recommended to declare the land adjacent to Perry’s Peugeot, Churchill Way, Lomeshaye, identified on the plan attached to the report, surplus to requirements.”

A copy of the report from the Chief Executive was submitted for consideration.

RESOLVED

That the land, identified on the plan attached to the report, adjacent to Perry’s Peugeot, Churchill Way, Lomeshaye Industrial Estate be declared surplus to requirements.

REASON

- (1) *In order that the land can be released.*
- (2) *In order that the land can be dedicated as a public highway.*

135.

FORWARD PLAN

The Executive's Work Programme and Forward Plan of key decisions for the four month period commencing 1st February, 2018 were submitted for information.

Chairman _____