

# **REPORT BY THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The attention of Members is drawn to the following items which have been discussed by the Policy and Resources Committee since the last ordinary meeting of the Council:-

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY, 2019**

- **West Craven Flood Defence and Resilience – Update**

We received an update on progress made with the ESIF funding bid, EA flood modelling and Natural Flood Management in Earby and Victoria Clough culvert repairs, which were being undertaken by the Environment Agency. An update on progress with the works being undertaken at the Ghyll Meadows culvert was also provided along with information on the flood resilience schemes which had received funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

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

The Committee noted the position on the responses to the request for 75% parks grounds maintenance contributions by Town and Parish Councils. We approved a virement of £55,320 from the capital allocation for works at Red Lane to enable the transfer of the Vivary Way MUGA to the preferred location in Alkincoats Park. Meetings are to be held with Town and Parish Councils during the summer to discuss the outstanding transfers of parks and related matters, along with items for the future programme. An update on the outcome of these meetings will be submitted to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

- **Holt House, Colne – Community Asset Transfer Request**

We granted authority for the Corporate Director to continue the negotiations with the Club for the transfer of the freehold to a Community Interest Company. We advised that the Club be invited to contact the Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager for pre-application planning advice; and a progress report will be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee in due course.

- **Matters Referred from Area Committees**

- (a) **Fireworks**

We deferred a decision pending submission of a report to a future meeting.

- (b) **1 Brook Street, Nelson**

The Committee agreed that 1 Brook Street, Nelson be declared surplus to requirements in order for the property to be sold.

- (c) **Land at Greenberfield Lane, Barnoldswick**

Following a request from the West Craven Committee we agreed that land at Greenberfield Lane, Barnoldswick not be disposed of but it be transferred to Barnoldswick Town Council under the Community Asset Scheme.

**(d) Land at Bold Street, Colne**

This item was the subject of a Call In Notice and was considered further at the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**SPECIAL BUDGET POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019**

- **Capital Programme and Strategy 2019/20 to 2021/22**

Following consideration of the report from the Chief Financial Officer the Committee noted the forecast outturn position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2018/18; the draft corporate Capital Strategy, including the flexible use of capital receipts strategy and this we referred to Council for consideration along with the proposed 2019/20 Capital Programme. We granted delegated authority to the Chief Financial Officer to determine the most appropriate method of financing the Capital Programme for 2019/20 to ensure the use of resources was optimised by the Council. We also noted the indicative programmes for 2020/21 and 2021/22 and we acknowledged that these would be subject to further review as part of the development of future years capital programmes. An updated Asset Management Plan would be developed, with a view to identifying surplus and under used assets for disposal and this would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee. The Prudential Indicators were approved.

- **General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/20**

As a Committee we noted the proposal to maintain the General Fund Minimum Working Balance of £1.0m along with the projected outturn position in the current financial year. We referred consideration of the grant to Pendle Leisure Trust of £1,208,020 in 2019/20 to Council along with the General Fund Budget Requirement for the same period. Consideration of the recommended Band D Council Tax for 2019/20 of £265.34 (an increase of £7.70 (2.99%) on the current level of council tax) was also referred to Council for consideration. Factors such as the forthcoming national Fair Funding Review of local government needs and resources and the implementation of 75% local business rates retention during the period were acknowledged. A report updating the Financial Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan for 2020/21 to 2022/23 would be submitted to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

- **Reforms to Local Government Finance System Response to Consultation**

The consultations on the Fair Funding Review and Business Rate Retention Reform were noted and we granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the Council's response to these consultations. We asked that the Council's final response be shared with Andrew Stephenson MP and his support be sought in lobbying Government to ensure that the Council's funding position from 2020/21 was maximised.

- **Business Rates – Discretionary Rate Relief**

The Committee noted the report.

- **Empty Homes Premium Policy**

We recommended Council approve the Council Tax Empty Property Premium Policy Guidelines.

- **Performance Indicators Update 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018**

The Committee noted the report.

- **Volunteering Update**

We noted the report and agreed that the Employee Volunteering and Skill Sharing Policy be re-launched.

- **Regulation of Fireworks**

We agreed that this report be referred to the Pendle Community Safety Partnership Steering Group for consideration.

- **17 Manchester Road, Nelson**

We agreed that the request to purchase the freehold for this property be refused but the request to extend the lease with a premium to be negotiated by the Chief Executive be approved.

Councillor Paul White,  
Leader,  
Pendle Borough Council