

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:-

SPECIAL BUDGET POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 12th FEBRUARY, 2019

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

We noted all of the papers submitted and referred them for consideration by the Full Council. 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 approved the Prudential Indicators.

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

We noted the projected outturn position for the 2018/19 financial year and referred consideration of a grant of £1,208,020 to Pendle Leisure Trust for 2019/20 and a proposed Band D Council Tax for 2019/20 of £265.34 to Full Council.

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

The Committee noted the consultations on the Fair Funding Review and the Business Rate Retention Reforms. We granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the Council's response to both of these consultations. It was agreed that the final response to the consultations would be shared with Pendle's Member of Parliament seeking his support in lobbying Government to ensure that the Council's funding position from 2020/21 was maximised.

- **Empty Homes Premium Policy**

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

- **Volunteering Update**

The Committee noted the update provided and requested the Policy be re-launched. We also asked that the volunteering undertaken in our neighbourhoods be acknowledged and celebrated.

- **Regulation of Fireworks**

Following consideration of a report on the current regulation of the use, possession, storage, manufacture and sale of fireworks we referred the report to the Pendle Community Safety Partnership Steering Group for consideration.

- **17 Manchester Road, Nelson**

We refused a request to purchase the freehold of the above premises but approved the request to extend the lease with a premium subject to negotiations with the Chief Executive.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 19th MARCH, 2019

- **Planning Applications**

18/0731/HHO Full: Erection of a single storey rear extension at 6 Ethersall Road, Nelson and 19/0069/FUL Major: Full: Change of use from agricultural to a caravan park and siting of 36 holiday lodge caravans and 20 touring caravan pitches at Caravan Site, Lower Greenhill Farm, Kelbrook Road, Salterforth were both refused.

18/0898/HHO Full: Erection of two storey side and rear extension at 35 Clegg Street, Brierfield – we granted delegated authority to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager to approve the application subject to clarification that the provision of car parking and access would be permitted development.

We deferred planning application 18/0865/REM land East of Windermere Avenue, Colne for negotiations with the applicant/agent regarding design/materials of the properties within the Conservation Area and those running along the eastern boundary of the site.

- **Lomeshaye Industrial Estate Extension – Phase 1**

The Committee noted the confirmation of the Borough of Pendle (Lomeshaye Industrial Estate Extension, Phase 1) Compulsory Purchase Order 2018 and the process for the Council to vest the land. We also reaffirmed the decision by the Council's Executive on 15th March, 2018 to transfer the land to PEARL2 on a long leasehold at market value following completion of the infrastructure works. The Corporate Director was granted delegated authority to agree the terms of the Development Agreement between the Council and PEARL2. We also asked that discussions be held with Mr. Heap regarding his development ideas for the site.

- **Call In – Land at Bold Street, Colne**

We reaffirmed the Committee's decision on 22nd January, 2019.

- **Annual Treasury Strategy Statement 2019/20**

We recommended Council approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement which also incorporated the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy.

- **Recommended Write Offs**

We agreed to write off the sums of £12,311.40 in respect of Housing Benefit Overpayments, £33,866.36 in respect of Council Tax, £218,290.50 in respect of Business Rates and £1,079.56 in respect of Sundry Income.

- **The Borough of Pendle (Glen Cottage, Barnoldswick) Compulsory Purchase Order 2019**

We approved the Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire Glen Cottage, Barnoldswick

- **The Borough of Pendle (32 Rhoda Street, Nelson) Compulsory Purchase Order 2019**

We approved the Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire 32 Rhoda Street, Nelson.

- **Resources and Waste Strategy**

The Corporate Director was granted delegated authority, in consultation with the Group Leaders and the Council's representative on the Lancashire Waste Partnership, to provide responses to the consultation papers.

- **Lancashire County Council Service Challenge Savings Consultations**

We agreed the draft response to the Household Waste and Recycling Centres consultation and the Lancashire Wellbeing Service consultation. The Chief Executive was granted delegated authority to respond to the Health Improvement Service and the Home Improvement Service consultations, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

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

We noted the report and asked the Corporate Director to commence discussions with Colne, Trawden Forest and Nelson Councils on the transfer of the parks in their areas. We also agreed, in principle, to the transfer of pieces of land requested by Barnoldswick Town Council, with the

exception of the garage sites, and asked the Corporate Director to discuss this with them. We deferred a decision on the request to transfer the amenity area at Harrison Drive, Barnoldswick for more information.

- **Update on Local and Regional Transport Issues**

The Committee asked for a meeting to be convened with Lancashire County Council, North Yorkshire County Council and Craven District Council to discuss trans-Pennine road and rail connectivity issues. We also agreed that the County Council be requested to commission the development of Scheme of Business Cases for the Colne to Foulridge/A56 Bypass proposals in accordance with the new Major Road Network Investment Planning Guidance. We further asked that the Department of Transport be urged to move the second stage investigation ("Develop") into the viability of reinstating the Colne to Skipton railway line. A representative from Transport for the North is to be invited to meet with members of the Committee.

- **Barrowford Neighbourhood Plan**

We noted the Barrowford Neighbourhood Plan submission and agreed that formal written representations be submitted, in response to the Regulation 16 public consultation, setting out the Council's concerns about the Plan in its current form.

- **The Pendle Challenge**

We agreed a financial contribution of £20,000 (from the Gearing up for Growth funding stream) towards Positive Footprints Rising Aspirations Project subject to contributions from other partners.

- **Enforcement of Cemeteries Regulations**

Following our agreement to approve the enforcement action outlined in the report and the Committee reaffirming its support for staff in taking difficult and sensitive action regarding the enforcement of cemeteries regulations this item was subsequently called in.

- **Sutton Building, Netherfield Road, Nelson**

The Committee approved the relaxation of the covenant to allow any use, subject to receipt of planning consent, for the Sutton Building, Netherfield Road, Nelson. We granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive to determine the amount of premium payable or waive a premium if the proposed alternative use provided other benefits to the Council and the community or resulted in positive regeneration, new employment or other beneficial social outcome.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 28th MAY, 2019

- **Planning Application**

18/0865/REM Reserved Matters: Major: Erection of 82 dwelling houses and associated infrastructure (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) (planning application 13/14/0580P – Appeal APP/E2340/W/15/3131974) on land to the East of Windermere Avenue, Colne was approved.

- **Call In – Enforcement of Cemetery Regulations**

Was deferred for a further site visit.

- **Financial Strategy Update of the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2020/21 to 2022/23**

The Committee noted the uncertainty associated with the Council's core funding beyond 2019/20 and the timing and implications of the Spending Review, Fair Funding Review and the move to 75% local retention of business rates income. We noted the Financial Strategy for 2020/21 to 2022/23 and the strategy for the use of Balances and Reserves over the same period. We agreed that further work be undertaken to develop options to address the balance of the projected budget

deficit to 2022/23 with regular reports to the Committee. The Council's net expenditure was to be reduced by £1.251m as part of the 2020/21 budget process. We agreed to reconvene the Budget Working Group and requested the Council's dire financial forecast be brought to the attending of Andrew Stephenson MP and an all-party meeting be arranged with him to discuss this issue.

- **Strategic Review of Leisure Provision**

Following a strategic review of the delivery of leisure services we agreed to convene a Leisure Services Working Group to identify and evaluate options for the future delivery of leisure services in Pendle. The findings and recommendations from the Group would be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee.

- **Further Clough Head, Nelson – Housing Site**

We had been awarded a grant of £1,149,808 to provide infrastructure to the site and we agreed that the site be disposed of in phases to PEARL Together Ltd., under an Overarching Development Agreement with the Corporate Director granted delegated authority to agree the terms. The disposal would be under a negotiated procedure and the final value would be agreed by the Corporate Director.

- **Land and Property Asset Management and Investment**

We agreed the Land and Property Asset Management Strategy 2019/22 subject to the removal of land at Colne Lane/Bold Street, Colne. We also approved the Property Investment Strategy 2019/22 and asked for a report to be submitted to the August meeting on options for a Pocket Park on land at Colne Lane/Bold Street, Colne.

- **The Borough of Pendle (65-71 Elizabeth Street (Odd Numbers) Nelson) Compulsory Purchase Order 2019**

We agreed to compulsory purchase 65-71 Elizabeth Street, Nelson.

- **16 Lindred Road, Lomeshaye Industrial Estate, Nelson**

The Committee agreed to extend the lease by an additional 30 years and granted the Chief Executive delegated authority to determine the amount of the premium.

- **Open Space Audit**

We agreed to adopt the Open Space Audit 2019 as part of the evidence base for the Pendle Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Policies.

- **Request to Utilise Pendle Land for Telecommunications Infrastructure**

We agreed 5 sites in Nelson could be used for monopole telecommunications infrastructure and granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive to agree the lease or sale of land:

Adjacent to Seed Hill Track
Land off Southfield Street
Land off Marsden Hall Road
Land off Hollins Road
Land off Sagar Street

- **Housing Scrutiny Task Group**

The Committee referred the minutes of a meeting of the Housing Scrutiny Task Group held on 12th April, 2019 to Full Council in July.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 27th JUNE, 2019

- **Planning Application**

18/0821/RES Outline: Major: Erection of 14 dwelling houses with access road (access and scale only) on land opposite The Barn, Ben Lane, Barnoldswick was refused.

- **Strategic Plan 2018/20 – Refresh 2019/20**

We referred the Strategic Plan Refresh to Council for consideration.

- **Provisional Revenue Out-Turn 2018/19**

The Committee noted the out-turn position on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2018/19; approved proposals to re-phase the budget from 2018/19 to 2019/20 for the items exceeding £15,000; approved a New Homes Bonus Resilience Reserve of £0.502m; reversed the decision to increase cemetery fees with immediate effect; asked officers to review the expenditure on cemeteries, to bring compensating savings for the Council and submit the findings to the Budget Working Group for consideration; and agreed that the £50,000 from the underspend on the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2018/19 be allocated to the existing funds for the reflagging of Barnoldswick Town Square.

- **Capital Programme – Provisional Out-Turn 2018/19**

We noted the provisional out-turn position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2018/19 and approved proposals to carry forward budget slippage on the programme for 2018/19 to 2019/20.

- **Elliott House, Nelson**

We agreed to declare this property surplus to requirements and that the Chief Executive be granted delegated authority to agree terms for a lease or disposal, as appropriate.

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

Committee agreed that Barnoldswick, Brierfield, Earby and Nelson Town Councils take over Pendle's place in the Blackburn CCTV monitoring hub arrangement; and approved the transfer of ownership of the CCTV equipment and the allocation of the residual capital budget to the town councils (including Colne) subject to new service level agreements being agreed. We also agreed to the transfer of land at Harrison Street to Barnoldswick Town Council.

- **Land at Bailey Street, Earby**

We noted the objections received and reaffirmed the decision to sell the land for residential development.

- **High Street Heritage Action Zones**

We agreed to the development of a High Street Heritage Action Zone Application for Barnoldswick Town Centre and supported a further expression of interest which was to be submitted by Colne Business Improvement District for Colne. A maximum of up to £100,000 has been allocated to the Barnoldswick bid by way of a virement from the Brownfield Sites Fund only if a successful bid is approved. The Chief Executive has been granted delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to agree all other matters relating to the scheme including the management arrangements for it.

- **District Enforcement**

Members are to meet with District Enforcement and a report on the outcome of the meeting is to be submitted to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

- **Policy Themes – Annual Report**

We have asked that the option for Pendle Community Safety Partnership to join the Pennine Community Safety Partnership be explored further. We noted the proposal of a community asset transfer of Colne Youth Centre, Byron Road, Colne to Positive Action in the Community; approved the Annual Emissions Report for 2017/18 and agreed that a cross-party scrutiny group (3:3:2) be established to consider child poverty in Pendle.

- **National Review of Disabled Facilities Grants and Other Adaptations**

We noted the External Review Summary and agreed that Council would continue to lobby for an allocation formula that more accurately reflects the level of need in Pendle. An update will be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee in six months time.

- **Countryside Access Strategy 2019-2023 and Revised Public Rights of Way Enforcement Policy**

The Committee recommended the Strategy and Policy to Council for adoption.

- **Reducing Single Use Plastics in Lancashire**

We supported the move towards reducing single use plastics across Lancashire and agreed that the Council would work towards this end via the Lancashire Waste Partnership. We have asked Management Team to examine what actions the Council might realistically take to reduce single use plastics and a report would be submitted to a future meeting.

- **Proposed Withdrawal of Bus Service 280 Preston-Whalley-Clitheroe-Gisburn-Skipton**

The Committee agreed that the County Council be asked to seek funding from North Yorkshire County Council towards this service.

- **Together an Active Future Programme**

We noted progress to date and the Council's role in the next stage of implementation; we approved the Pendle Strategic Investment Framework and the proposed approach for developing Pendle's programme.

- **Former Hycrome Works/Green Works, Knotts Lane, Colne**

We have asked officers to investigate the Compulsory Purchase of the former Hycrome Works/Green Works, Knotts Lane, Colne along with a possible PEARL scheme and a report is to be submitted to a future meeting.

- **Former Blockbuster Video Store, Market Street, Colne**

We have asked officers to investigate the Compulsory Purchase of the former Blockbuster Video Store, Market Street, Colne and a report will be submitted to a future meeting.

- **35 Walton Street, Colne**

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager has been asked to arrange discussions with Together Housing and the owner/owner's representatives of 35 Walton Street, Colne with a view to the property being brought back into use as quickly as possible.

Councillor Mohammed Iqbal,
Leader,
Pendle Borough Council