

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 25th JULY, 2019

- **19/0259/FUL Full: Change of use of dog breeding kennels to a mixed use of dog breeding and dog sales (retrospective) at Douglas Hall Kennels, Spenbrook Road, Newchurch-In-Pendle**

This application was refused on highway safety issues.

- **Treasury Management – Outturn Report 2018/19**

We noted the Council's treasury management activities for 2018/19.

- **Matters Requiring Financial Assistance**

We approved a loan of £365,000 to the Peter Birtwistle Trust to enable them to acquire the development of the former Colne Health Centre and delegated authority was granted to the Corporate Director to negotiate and agree the terms of the loan including any collateral necessary to underwrite the repayment of the loan.

- **Pendle Women's Refuge – Outcome of Tender Process and Domestic Abuse Services Consultation**

Following a tendering process the County Council had decided to choose Lancashire Refuge Service as the provider for women's refuges in Lancashire. We agreed the draft response to the Domestic Abuse Services consultation and asked for an update following discussions with Lancashire Refuge Service regarding how this service would be taken forward.

- **Empty Homes Strategy and Action Plan**

We approved the Strategy and Action Plan for 2019/2022 and we asked the area committees to play their part in dealing with long term vacant properties in their areas. We also expressed our thanks to officers, particularly the Empty Homes Officer, for their hard work and commitment in bringing the number of empty homes back into use.

- **Charging for Support and Advice to Food Businesses**

We recommended Council agree to the Housing, Health and Engineering Service to be able to charge for bespoke Food Safety advice for new and existing food businesses and that the fee of £60 per hour, plus VAT be charged from 1st October, 2019.

- **PEARL Joint Venture Companies Development Activity**

We noted the ongoing and planned development activity; approved the acquisition of the gasholder site adjoining Brierfield Mill (subject to a back-to-back agreement being in place with PEARL (Brierfield Mill) Ltd., to transfer the site and any development obligations). The Corporate Director has been granted delegated authority to agree the terms of the acquisition and subsequent transfer.

- **Pendle Community Safety Strategy 2019/2022**

We noted the report and supported the Council's contribution to the delivery of the Strategy, particularly in regard to the three priorities and related actions.

- **Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) for Barnoldswick and Nelson**

The Committee agreed to initial investigations and feasibility work being undertaken in Barnoldswick and Nelson to establish whether a BID should be developed; we noted the overall approximate development cost and agreed to allocate £9,000 for the feasibility stage in both Barnoldswick and Nelson (starting with Barnoldswick followed by Nelson after the current master planning process has been completed in Spring 2020).

- **Pendle Business Awards**

A maximum of £20,000 was agreed to fund the delivery of next year's Pendle Business Awards and that the Awards be outsourced to a suitable delivery partner for 2020.

- **Building a Safer Future: Proposals for Reform of the Building Safety Regulatory System**

We noted the proposed changes set out in the report and delegated authority to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager, in consultation with Members of the Committee, to submit the final response.

- **Corn Mill, Higherford**

We asked for a report to be submitted to a future meeting on the possible CPO of the Corn Mill, Higherford, but in the meantime, a meeting is to be arranged with the owner of the property to discuss potential improvements for sale.

- **Land adjacent to Great House Farm, Red Lane, Colne**

We agreed to declare the land adjacent to this property surplus to requirements and subject to satisfactory negotiations with the adjoining owner, the Chief Executive was granted delegated authority for its disposal

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 22nd AUGUST, 2019

- **Planning Applications**

We refused planning application 19/0025/FUL which was for the erection of 17 dwelling houses and new access on land at the junction with Greenberfield Lane/Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick. The planning application 19/0468/HHO which was for the retention of a single storey rear extension with a balcony at 42 Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick was approved.

- **Strategic Monitoring Report**

The Committee noted progress made on the actions identified in the Plan for the first quarter of 2019/20.

- **Marsden Park Golf Course, Nelson**

We asked officers to explore options for the future sustainability of the Golf Course and for Group Leaders to be consulted on the options. A report will be submitted to a future meeting regarding the outcome of the work.

- **Property Investment Strategy – The Property Investment Fund**

We have recommended that Council approve the Property Investment Strategy; that a Property Investment Fund be established with an initial allocation of £10m (£5m for 2019/20 and £5m for 2020/21); approve a supplementary capital scheme for 2020/21 of £5m which would be funded by way of an equivalent amount of borrowing, such borrowing to be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer, used in accordance with the Property Investment Strategy and taken in compliance with the Council's annually agreed Treasury Management Strategy; approve the revised Capital Strategy 2019/22 and the updated Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20.

- **Review of Reserves as at 31st March, 2019**

The Committee agreed with the transfer between specific reserves in 2019/20 of £0.502m to the approved New Homes Bonus Volatility Reserve and recommended this to Council for approval.

- **Housing Delivery Test – Housing Action Plan**

We approved the draft Housing Action Plan.

- **Former Blockbuster Store, 45 Market Street, Colne**

We have asked for a report to be submitted to a future meeting regarding the compulsory purchase of this property.

- **Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)**

The Committee renewed the current PSPO relating to dog control in Pendle for a further three years and added the following new sites to it:

- ❖ Children's play areas at Higham, Barley and Salterforth
- ❖ The War Memorial and the Memorial Gardens at Barnoldswick
- ❖ Extend the area covered at Colne Cemetery to include the public burial area

We also included in the PSPO a provision to make it an offence to refuse to give a name and address.

- **Review of Litter and Dog Waste Bins**

A request to introduce a bin numbering system and emptying schedules online to enable visitors and residents to report litter bin related issues was supported by the Committee along with a 'take your litter home campaign.'

- **Together an Active Future – Update**

We noted progress to date on the Together an Active Future programme and approved the Council's approach to this programme prior to the September 2019 Sport England submission.

- **Tenders**

We noted the exemptions granted from the Contract Procedure Rules for Lomeshaye Phase 1 extension and the new housing development at Further Clough Head, Nelson. We asked that one member from each political group be appointed to sit on a Steering Group for the Nelson Master planning process.

- **Disposal of land at Queen Street, Nelson**

We declared this land surplus to requirements and asked the Chief Executive to invite offers of interest to use the land in parts or the whole for car parking for adjacent businesses. We granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive to consider all offers and agree terms with interested parties.

Councillor Mohammed Iqbal,
Leader,
Pendle Borough Council