

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 19th SEPTEMBER, 2019

- **Planning Applications**

We granted planning application 19/0284/FUL Full: Erection of store to side of building (Use Class A1) (68 sq. m.) (part retrospective) at 60 Leeds Road, Nelson and requested that that the cladding to the building be completed within three months. With regards to the enforcement action we agreed to discontinue this subject to there being no financial implications on the Council.

- **Update on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/23 and Budget Savings Options 2020/21**

We noted the outcome of the 2019 Spending Review along with the updated Medium Term Financial Plan which showed a forecast budget deficit for the period to 2022/23 of £4.0m. We recommended the budget savings proposals for 2020/21 to Council for consideration.

- **Income Review (2020/21 Budget Setting and Medium Term Financial Plan)**

We approved the proposed changes to fees and charges presented to use with the exception of the proposed increase for cemetery charges. We referred the proposed increase in cemetery charges to the Budget Working Group for further information and comparisons with other local authorities. We asked for further work to be undertaken to maximise the income for trade waste. We recommended to Council to agree to the introduction of charges for missed pest control appointments and subject to some further information the hire of Council meeting rooms.

- **Community Investment Fund**

We agreed that the deadline for the allocation of the outstanding Community Investment Fund be no later than the November round of Area Committees and any un-allocated funds are to be referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 21st November, 2019.

- **Barrowford Neighbourhood Development Plan Examiners Report and Referendum**

The Committee accepted the Independent Examiner's recommended modifications to the Barrowford Neighbourhood Development Plan. We accepted that the Plan was compatible with the EU obligations and human rights legislation. The Plan would now proceed to referendum.

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

The transfer of the 15 Nelson bus shelters on the Burnley to Colne mainline to the County Council was agreed. We authorised the Corporate Director to agree the terms of the transfer and any related matters to enable the scheme to proceed. We did ask, however, that the County Council be asked to include transferring the bus shelters along the Quality Bus Route which continued through Earby and Barnoldswick.

- **Compulsory Purchase of Long Term Empty Properties**

We have asked officers to begin to prepare the necessary documentation for the compulsory purchase of the following properties:-

24 Ruskin Avenue, Colne
47 North Street, Colne
24 Norfolk Street, Nelson

We will receive reports to agree the compulsory purchase of these properties at future meetings of the Committee.

- **Housing Renewal Policy – Means Testing of Disabled Facilities Grants**

We recommended Council agree to the revised Policy which removed the requirement for means testing of Disabled Facilities Grants below £10,000.

- **Peter Birtwistle Trust**

The request to transfer the Peter Birtwistle Trust properties to a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation was agreed by the Committee.

- **Parks Improvement Programme**

The Committee agreed the proposed improvements to the projects at Marsden Park, Nelson, Ball Grove, Colne and Letcliffe Park, Barnoldswick.

- **Pendle Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024 and Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2019**

Both Policies were approved.

- **Pendle Sculpture Trail**

We approved the recommendation from West Craven Committee that new sculptures be placed at Letcliffe Park, Barnoldswick.

- **Disposal of Land at End Street, Colne**

We agreed to declare this land surplus to requirements and authorised the Chief Executive to negotiate and agree terms for the sale of the land for residential development by private treaty with the purchasers of the Council's land opposite.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 24th OCTOBER, 2019

- **Local Government Finance Settlement 2020/21 Technical Consultation**

The draft response to the Technical Consultation for the 2020/21 Settlement was approved.

- **Recommended Write-Offs**

We agreed to write off the following sums of debt as irrecoverable:

Housing Benefit Overpayments £44,152.53

Council Tax £139,683.67

Business Rates £107,303.96

Sundry Income £1,044.79

- **Matters Requiring Financial Approval**

The Committee approved a supplementary estimate of £5,000 from the Budget Support Reserve towards the costs of the installation of the High Ropes facility at Whitehough Outdoor Education Centre. We also suggested that the Football Club approach the County Council for additional financial support towards the cost of this installation and agreed that we would support them with this request.

- **Compulsory Purchase of the Former Blockbuster Store, 45 Market Street, Colne**

The Chief Executive has been asked to establish the financial implications for pursuing a Compulsory Purchase Order for this property and to report this back to the Committee. We also asked for a scheme for the potential redevelopment of this site be developed and that discussions

be undertaken with the owners to ascertain if it could be purchased by negotiation. Again the outcome of these discussion will be reported back to the Committee.

- **Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019-2024**

We agreed to adopt the Plan and granted delegated authority to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager to agree any amendments to the Plan prior to its publication.

- **Pennine Lancashire Healthy Weight Programmes – Healthy Weight Declaration**

The principles and local commitments of the Healthy Weight Declaration were endorsed; both myself and the Chief Executive have signed the declaration; the Healthy Place, Healthy Future District Plan was approved and we agreed to ask for nominations from the Area Committees to represent the Council...

- **Pendle ICT Strategy (Refresh) 2019-20**

The Committee noted and supported the refreshed Strategy.

- **Tenders**

We noted the tenders which had been received and accepted and noted an exemption granted from the Contract Procedure Rules for Lomeshaye Phase 1 Extension – River Modelling and Design Options for Riverbank Reinstatement.

- **West Craven Flood Defence and Resilience**

The Committee agreed that the Environment Agency be reminded of the need to ensure that the completion of the schemes for the flood wall on New Cut (Albert Street/Boot Street) and the Victoria Clough Flood Storage area in Earby Comply with the timescales for securing the ESIF funding. We also asked for letters to be sent to the Environment Agency, the Chairman of the Yorkshire Flood and Coastal Committee and Pendle's MP Andrew Stephenson to ask for assistance in obtaining the £3.3m gap funding required for the Birley Playing Field Flood Storage Area Scheme.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 21st NOVEMBER, 2019

- **Planning Application**

19/0613/HHO Full: Demolition of existing kitchen and stores and erection of replacement single-storey rear extension at 25 Sefton Street, Brierfield - this application was refused by the Committee as recommended by officers but had been referred to Policy and Resources by the Brierfield and Reedley Committee with a recommendation that it be approved.

- **Strategic Monitoring Report 1st April to 30th September, 2019**

We noted progress and actions identified in the Strategic Plan for this period.

- **District Enforcement**

The Committee agreed that formal notice be given to District Enforcement to terminate the agreement in February, 2020 but that Group Leaders and relevant officers meet with them before the notice takes effect to try to renegotiate the agreement with a view to focusing more on the Council's requirements. We have asked for a report on the outcome of these discussions to be submitted to either the January or February, 2020 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee so that a final decision on whether to terminate the contract can be taken.

- **Nelson Town Deal, Masterplan and Future High Streets Fund**

We noted the progress made with the Nelson Town Centre masterplan and the Future High Streets Fund. The Contract Procedure Rules had been waived to allow the extension of the contract with Cushman and Wakefield to allow for a wider masterplan to be developed and to provide additional support in the development of the Future High Streets Fund bid. We also granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive to agree the scope of the additional work and the contract sums. A further report on the Towns Fund with proposals for a governance structure to support progress towards agreeing a Town Deal will be submitted to a future meeting.

- **Disabled Facilities Grants**

We have asked that staff be congratulated for the work they have undertaken to help reduce the number of outstanding referrals over the past 6 months and noted the current position. We've also recommended Council approve a £25,000 discretionary grant from within the existing DFG fund for 2020/21 to provide additional funding for mandatory grants over £30,000.

- **10 Regent Street, Whitewalls Industrial Estate, Colne**

The Committee refused the request to purchase the freehold of this site but agreed to extend the lease by an additional 32 years and that the Chief Executive be authorised to negotiate and agree terms for the lease extension.

- **Elliott House, Nelson**

We accepted the bid of £224,00 from the Lightbeam Academy for this building. The Chief Executive has been granted delegated authority to agree the detail within the terms and conditions of sale with regards to the Council continuing to use part of the building at nil charge for storage and the Claw Back provision.

Councillor M. Iqbal,
Leader,
Pendle Borough Council