

# **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 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2020**

- **Planning Applications**

We approved the following planning applications:

19/0763/HHO Full: Erection of a single storey rear extension (retrospective) at 2 St. Paul's Road, Nelson

19/0810/FUL Full: Major: Erection of light industrial and warehouse units (Use Classes B1 and B8) (3,640 sq. m.) access, parking and associated works at site of former Parkfield Mills, Railway Street, Nelson

We deferred the following application for further discussions regarding design issues:

19/0740/REM Reserved Matters: Major: Erection of 98 dwelling houses (phases 1-3) with open space provision, estate roads, landscaping and emergency access road with access from Marsden Hall Road (appearance, layout, landscaping and scale) of outline planning permission

17/0427/OUT on land at Further Clough Head, Bamford Street, Nelson

We granted delegated authority to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager to approve the following application:

19/0801/FUL Full: Erection of 79 houses and associated external works on land off Harrison Drive, Colne

## **SPECIAL BUDGET POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020**

- **Planning Applications**

19/0740/REM Reserved Matters: Major: Erection of 98 dwelling houses (phases 1-3) with open space provision, estate roads, landscaping and emergency access road with access from Marsden Hall Road (appearance, layout, landscaping and scale) of outline planning permission – we granted delegated authority to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager to approve the application; and asked that Group Leaders and Ward Councillors be consulted on the materials to be used (referred to in condition 3 of the planning permission).

17/0427/OUT on land at Further Clough Head, Bamford Street, Nelson – we granted delegated authority to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager to approve the application.

19/0620/FUL Full: Major: Erection of 12 semi-detached dwellings and associated hardstanding and landscaping on land to the west of the playing fields, Bailey Street, Earby – deferred for a site visit.

- **Capital Programme 2020/23**

The Committee recommended Council:

- note the forecast outturn position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2019/20;
- consider the Capital Programme for 2020/21;

- grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive, as the Council's Chief Finance Officer, to determine the most appropriate method of financing the Capital Programme for 2020/21 to ensure the use of resources was optimised by the Council;
- note the indicative programmes for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and acknowledge that these would be subject to further review as part of the development of future years Capital Programme;
- consider the Prudential Indicators.

- **General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21**

The Committee recommended Council:

- note the proposal to maintain the General Fund Minimum Working Balance at £1.0m;
- note the projected outturn position in the current financial year;
- take into consideration the residual saving proposals for 2020/21 and consider allocating a grant of £1,442,360 to Pendle Leisure Trust for 2020/21;
- consider the General Fund Budget Requirement for 2020/21;
- take into consideration the budget proposals, a recommended Band D Council tax for 2020/21 of £270.62, being an increase of £5.28 (1.99%) on the current level of council tax;
- each service area be required to operate within its budget for 2019/20 once approved and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control;
- in view of the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review, the Fair Funding Review and changes to the Business Rates Retentions system the uncertainty attached to the current assumptions and financial modelling to 2022/23 be acknowledged;
- a further report updating the Financial Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan for 2020/21 to 2022/23 be submitted to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

- **Localisation of Support for Council Tax Scheme for 2020/21**

We recommended Council approve the Council Tax Support Scheme for implementation from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020.

- **Matters Requiring Financial Approval**

In response to a request for financial support from Burnley Football Club in the Community towards the cost of providing Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioners in Pendle's High Schools we allocated £20,000 to the project over a 2-year period. We also asked Burnley Football Club in the Community to approach the County Council for the remaining £20,000.

- **District Enforcement**

The Committee agreed the appointment of District Enforcement for a further 12 months, subject to variation of the agreement to include the proposals set out in the report. A further report will be submitted to this Committee in December, 2020.

- **Barnoldswick Business Improvement District (BID)**

We decided not to pursue the Barnoldswick BID based on the town centre and asked for further feasibility work to be undertaken to consider if a whole town BID was feasible.

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2020**

- **Planning Applications**

19/0892/FUL Full: Change of use of ground floor from residential (Use Class C3) to mixed use residential and barbers shop (Use Classes C3 and A1) and insertion of shop front and shutters at 148 Railway Street, Nelson was approved.

19/0767/OUT Outline: Major: Demolition of existing farm buildings and erection of up to 55,750 sq. m. of commercial development, comprising B1a/b, B1c, B2, B8 and A1 (Food)/A3/A5 Uses (access only off Barrowford Road with all other matters reserved) at Wheatley Laithe Farm, Barrowford was approved subject to completion of a Section 106 agreement.

- **Matters Requiring Financial Approval**

The Committee granted a loan of £525,000 to the Peter Birtwistle Trust to enable them to acquire the development of the former Health Centre in Colne. The Corporate Director was granted delegated authority to negotiate and agree the terms of the loan, including any collateral necessary to underwrite the repayment of the loan.

- **Lomeshaye Extension – Phase 1 – Purchase of Additional Land**

We agreed the acquisition of land outside of the Lomeshaye Industrial Estate Extension Phase 1 CPO boundary and granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive to agree the land value.

- **Lomeshaye Extension Phase 1 – ESIF Bid – Proposed Dedication of Footpaths to Bridleway**

Delegated authority was granted to the Head of Legal Services to allow the Council to enter into an agreement with all freehold properties on the proposed bridleway route.

- **Land at Greefiend Road, Colne**

We considered a report to vary the restrictions on the use of areas of open space on land at Greenfield Road, Colne (Area A and Area B). We agreed the request to vary the terms agreed in the 2001 transfer in relation to Area B. Subject to this we agreed to accept a premium of £305k for the variation to the terms agreed in the 2001 transfer for both Areas A and B.

- **Land at Harrison Drive, Colne**

The Committee agreed to the disposal of land at Harrison Drive, Colne to Together Housing for the development of affordable housing by PEARL Together. The Corporate Director has been authorised to approve the negotiated terms for the disposal of the site.

- **Internal Audit Service**

We agreed that the Council's Internal Audit function be outsourced and that the Chief Executive be authorised to take the necessary action, in compliance with relevant procurement regulations, to complete this during 2020/21.

- **Recommended Write-Offs**

We agreed to write-off the following: £14,328.35 in respect of Housing Benefit overpayments; £128,435.52 in respect of Council Tax; £107,827.70 in respect of Business Rates and £6,951.58 in respect of Sundry Debtors.

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2020**

- **Planning Applications**

The Committee approved the following planning applications:

19/0952/REM Reserved Matters: Major: Erection of 243 dwelling houses (Use Class C3) (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) with associated open space and infrastructure on land at Trough Laithe, Barrowford Road, Barrowford

19/0901/FUL Full: Major: Erection of 114 dwelling units (15 apartments and 99 houses) with associated estate roads (new primary vehicular and pedestrian access off Priory Chase) and

ancillary associated infrastructure at the site of the former James Nelson Sports Club, Wickworth Street, Nelson

20/0243/FUL Full: Construction of two three bedroom detached dwellings and one pair of semi-detached dwellings (re-submission) on the garage site Back Gisburn Road, Blacko

The Committee refused the following planning applications:

19/0885/OUT Outline: Major: Erection of three storey building for 18 studio apartments (Use Class C3) with access only and all other matters reserved at the former Spiritualist Church, Vernon Street, Nelson

20/0454/HHO Full: Erection of dormer windows to front and rear roof slopes (re-submission) at 179 Chapel House Road, Nelson

20/0119/PIP Permission in Principle: Erection of up to four dwellings on land to the east of Osborne Terrace, Newchurch-In-Pendle

20/0064/FUL Full: Major: Erection of 26 holiday lodges with associated reception building, facilities building, parking, landscaping and new vehicular access from High Lane (re-submission) on land to the west of the former Whitemoor Pumping Station, High Lane, Salterforth

- **Strategic Plan 2020-23**

We recommended Council approve the Strategic Plan for 2020/23.

- **Financial Strategy – Update on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2020-2024**

In considering this update we noted the outlook for Government funding for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24, in particular the delay to local government funding reforms; noted the estimated outturn position for 2019/20; agreed to the creation of a Covid-19 Support Reserve to provide resource cover for the estimated net financial impact of Covid-19 on the Council and the potential impact of this on the Council's medium term financial position should the Council receive no further financial support from the Government; we agreed to continue to lobby the government to fully reimburse the Council for the net financial impact of Covid-19; noted the proposed Financial Strategy for 2021/24 and agreed the retention of the cross-party Budget Working Group.

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 23<sup>rd</sup> JULY, 2020**

- **Planning Application**

20/0198/FUL Full: Re-siting of a temporary single storey agricultural workers dwelling at Cowfield Farm, Burnley Road, Trawden was refused.

- **Capital Programme – Provisional Outturn 2019/20**

We noted the provisional outturn position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2019/20 and agreed to carry forward budget slippage on the programme from 2019/20 to 2020/21. We also noted the accounting treatment applied in 2019/20 in respect of the loan to Pendle Leisure Trust for the former high ropes course and the budget position and the proposed use of residual funding in support of the Council's financial contribution to the Brierfield Mill (Northlight) project was endorsed.

- **Provisional Revenue Outturn 2019/20**

The Committee noted the outturn position on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2019/20 and acknowledged that the position was provisional pending completion of the audit of the accounts for the year. We approved proposals for budget slippage from 2019/20 to 2020/21 for items

exceeding £15,000. We also allocated an additional revenue resource of £35,000 to support the re-opening of town centres, funded from the Budget Strategy Reserve in 2020/21. This funding has been distributed via the Area Committee's on the same basis as the ERDF town centre funding previously agreed.

- **Lomeshaye Industrial Estate Extension**

In considering a report on the funding position with regards to the Lomeshaye Industrial Estate extension we granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive to:

Enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership for Growth Deal grant of £1.5m for Phase 1; enter into a revised Grant Funding Agreement with the County Council for £1.5m for Phase 1 which would include a provision for clawback of land receipt; and that the £1.5m of capital funding currently allocated to Phase 1 in the capital programme for other economic development priorities, which was to be agreed by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and the County Council, be retained.

- **Nelson Town Deal – Boundary Extension**

We agreed to submit a revised Nelson Town Deal boundary to the Cities and Local Growth Unit at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for approval. We also agreed that any proposals on land at Whitewalls Industrial Estate be submitted to the Colne and District Committee and Colne BID for consideration before the planning stage, to help protect the viability of Colne Town Centre and that any planning applications for this site within Colne be submitted to Colne and District Committee for consideration.

- **Swan Place, Colne – Surrender of Lease**

We considered a request from the long leaseholder of the above apartments to surrender their lease back to the Council. We agreed to this request subject to agreement of terms and conditions and granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive to agree these.

- **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Policy**

The Committee approved the amended Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Policy and the new Social Media Policy.

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2020**

- **Planning Applications**

20/0035/REM Reserved Matters: Major: Erection of 129 dwellings and associated roads, infrastructure and parking (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) of outline planning permission 13/16/0054P on site of the former Barnsay Shed, Long Ing Lane, Barnoldswick was deferred to allow comments to be received from the Earby and Salterforth Internal Drainage Board.

20/0259/FUL Full: Conversion of barn into two holiday lets and siting of five holiday cabins (re-submission) at Stone Fold Farm, Stump Hall Road, Higham was refused.

- **Strategic Monitoring Report to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020**

We received a report which provided performance monitoring information on the Council's services and financial plans up to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020. We noted all progress made and asked that the appreciation of Councillors be conveyed to staff at all levels, working from home and in the Council's buildings and that they be thanked for their efforts in continuing to deliver critical and other services where possible and providing additional support throughout this difficult period. We

also asked that volunteer groups be thanked for their collaborative work supporting people in the local community.

- **Pearl Development Programme**

The Committee noted the ongoing and planned development activity for the PEARL companies.

- **Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Alcohol Control**

We agreed to a single Alcohol Control PSPO which a schedule and maps of the areas included (with an improved map for Earby) subject to public consultation on the Council's website and made for a period of three years and that the necessary legal steps, including the provision of signage, be taken to implement the PSPO.

- **Policy Themes – Annual report**

We noted progress made on the thematic areas and challenges to delivery; that the Healthy Weight Advocates be reviewed and Members encouraged to get involved in the Health Places, Healthy Future programme; that a cross-party scrutiny group be established to consider poverty in Pendle in 2020/21.

- **Council's Approach towards the Prevent Duty**

The Committee approved the Council's Prevent Action Plan for 2020/22 and appointed Councillor D. M. Whipp to be proactively involved in Prevent policy-setting, delivery and communications.

- **Community Engagement Framework**

The Committee were asked to send any comments on the draft Community Engagement Framework to the temporary Localities and Policy Manager and a revised draft is to be brought back to a future meeting.

- **Hate Crime Guidance for Employees**

We approved the guidance.

- **Deterioration of Pendle's Highways**

It was agreed that I draft, agreed by and sent on behalf of all three parties, to the Portfolio Holder for Highways at County Council seeking a meeting to discuss the possibility of this Council being given responsibility for road and pavement repairs with an appropriate funding allocation.

- **Land at Vernon Street, Nelson**

We asked the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager to report back on this site at the next meeting.

- **Waterside Play Areas, Colne**

Committee agreed to transfer the land to Colne Town Council and they be asked for their views on the future use of the land at the bottom of Exchange Street, Colne.

- **Land adjoining 8 Briercliffe Avenue, Colne**

We agreed to declare this land surplus to requirements in order for a sale to be negotiated.

Councillor M. Iqbal,  
Leader,  
Pendle Borough Council