

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 28th OCTOBER, 2020
VIA TEAMS**

Councillor M. Iqbal (Chairman – in the Chair)

Councillors

*N. Ahmed
M. Ammer (Substitute)
M. Aslam (Substitute)
D. Clegg
S. Cockburn-Price
T. Cooney*

*M. Goulthrop
Y. Iqbal
A. Mahmood
B. Newman
J. Nixon
D. Whipp*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Musawar Arshad and J. Henderson.)

Also in attendance:

T. Whipp

Officers in attendance:

<i>Dean Langton</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>
<i>Philip Mousdale</i>	<i>Corporate Director</i>
<i>Neil Watson</i>	<i>Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager</i>
<i>Joanne Eccles</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>



The following person attended the meeting and spoke on the item indicated:

<i>Mike O'Brien</i>	<i>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 the site of the former Barnsay Shed, Long Ing Lane, Barnoldswick</i>	<i>Minute No. 47(a)</i>
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44. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the declaration of interests.

45. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

46. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th September, 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (a) 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 the site of the former Barnsay Shed, Long Ing Lane, Barnoldswick for Seddon Homes Ltd.**

At a meeting of this Committee on 20th August, 2020 this application was deferred pending submission of comments from the Earby and Salterforth Internal Drainage Board. These comments had now been received.

RESOLVED

That planning permission be **refused** for the following reason -

1. The applicant has failed to demonstrate that the development would not result in an unacceptable risk of flooding off-site contrary to Policy ENV7 of the Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy and Section 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

- (b) 20/0289/HHO Full: Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension at 159 Reedley Road, Reedley for Mr. & Mrs. Hussain**

At a meeting of the Brierfield and Reedley Committee on 9th September, 2020 the decision to grant planning permission was referred as a recommendation to this Committee as this decision would represent a significant departure from policy.

RESOLVED

That planning permission be **refused** for the following reason -

1. The proposed extension, by virtue of its 9.7m depth, would appear unduly dominant to neighbours and would result in unacceptable losses of light and significantly overbearing effects on the occupants of No.1 Reedfield to the south west of the site. The development therefore fails to comply with Policy ENV2 of the Pendle Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (2011 - 2030) and the Design Principles Supplementary Planning Document.

48. STRATEGIC MONITORING REPORT TO 30th SEPTEMBER, 2020

The Chief Executive submitted the Council's Strategic Monitoring Report up to 30th September, 2020.

The report brought together performance information on the Council's services and financial plans and performance. It reported on the impact the Covid-19 pandemic had had on Council services since March, 2020. The Council had invoked its Emergency Planning and Business Continuity arrangements in response to this outbreak and the Strategic Crisis Management Team had been established.

The report also provided information in relation to the Council's strategic objectives and performance monitoring. The Chief Executive answered a number of questions arising from the report.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the progress be noted.
- (2) That the Chief Executive seek clarification on how the current review of Network Rail's route improvements pipeline would affect the project to reinstate the Skipton to Colne railway line.

REASON

- (1) ***To inform Committee of performance monitoring information relating to the Council's services and financial plans.***
- (2) ***To try to move progress with this project for improved connectivity.***

49. BUDGET STRATEGY 2021/22 OUTLINE SAVINGS PROPOSALS

The Chief Executive submitted a report which provided an initial summary of savings to inform a discussion on the Council's Budget Strategy for 2021/22. The report provided information on the emerging proposals for balancing the Council's budget for this period.

The Council had received £1.1834m from the Government to help the Council respond to the Covid 19 pandemic. A fourth tranche of £673k funding was expected shortly. The Government would now do a 1 year spending review on 25th November.

It was noted that following the agreement with Government for Lancashire to move into Tier 3 of the Local Covid Alert Levels, the Government had given an assurance that any authority in this tier would not be put in a position where they were unable to balance the budget in the current financial year. However, it was still felt that the Council should continue to look at potential savings.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Budget Strategy for the period to 2021/24, as set out in the report, be noted.
- (2) That the work being undertaken on the development of the savings proposals, as set out in the report, be noted.
- (3) That the Budget Working Group be requested to develop a set of proposals that could be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting in December, 2020.

REASON

To continue with the implementation of the Council's Financial Strategy and to deal with the Council's forecast medium term budget deficit.

**50. INCOME REVIEW
(2021/22 BUDGET SETTING AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN)**

The Chief Executive submitted a report which reviewed fees and charges in advance of the 2021/22 budget process in line with the Fees and Charges Policy but equally in response to the significant financial pressures faced by the Council.

The Committee were presented with a list of proposed changes to fees and charges at Appendix A of the report. Further information on the proposal to increase cemetery fees was at Appendix B, to reinstate the fees for bulky household waste collection at Appendix C and introduce a charge for the delivery of replacement waste containers at Appendix D. The introduction of new charges were proposed for the following:

- Licence fee for Garages and Caravan Plots for new tenancy agreements;
- Licence fee for Clayton Street Industrial Estates new tenancy agreements.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposed changes to fees and charges as outlined in Appendix A of the report be agreed, with the exception of the proposed increase in cemetery fees, bulky household waste fees and the admin charge for the replacement of wheeled bins; and in the case of planning pre-application advice fees that a 5% increase be applied for developers, but that there be no increase for householders.
- (2) That Council be recommended to approve the proposed new licence fees for new tenancy agreements in relation to garages/caravan plots and Clayton Street industrial estate.

REASON

To implement the Council's Financial Strategy, specifically in support of the Charging theme established as a strategy to contribute to balancing the budget within the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

51. PC REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive submitted a report on proposals to refresh the PCs. The last refresh took place in 2013/14 and ideally it should be done every 3-5 years. An important influence had been the Council's change in the way it operated due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the homeworking arrangements which had been extended for the foreseeable future.

The strategic aim was to move to more mobile and agile ways of working which would provide more flexibility for employees to be productive working from home and/or the office. The proposal was to replace the desktop PCs with laptops (including related equipment such as docking stations etc.) for all staff where appropriate along with mobile, hand held devices where roles dictated.

It was proposed that the estimated cost of £103,140 would be met from the ICT Reserve, which at 31st March 2020 stood at £222,000.

RESOLVED

That the proposed PC Refresh, as set out in the report, be approved.

REASONS

- (1) ***To update the existing IT estate, to provide staff with the appropriate IT equipment, to enable continued service delivery along with efficient, effective and productive working practices.***

- (2) ***To maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of staff during the Coronavirus pandemic by enhancing home working arrangements.***
- (3) ***To strengthen the Council's business continuity arrangements.***
- (4) ***To enable the transition to more mobile/agile working arrangements where appropriate.***

**52. BID DEVELOPMENT: LANCASHIRE 2025
UK CITY OF CULTURE REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

The Chief Executive submitted a report following receipt of a request for funding towards the cost of developing a Lancashire-wide bid to become UK City of culture in 2025.

The vision for Lancashire's bid was set out in Appendix A of the report. The initial application to the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport was proposed for April, 2021. The Phase 1 plans were summarised in the Project Synopsis at Appendix B. The overall cost was estimated at £2,950,000 over two financial years. In this first phase 85% of income was required from Public Sector sources with 15% coming from Private Sector, Trusts and Foundations. The request to Pendle (and most other District Councils in Lancashire) was for a funding contribution of £50,000. The Phase 2 plans for Lancashire (April 2022-March 2026) were broadly costed at £22m.

RESOLVED

That the request for funding towards the cost of developing a Lancashire-wide bid for the UK City of Culture be refused.

REASON

That in view of budgetary constraints, now was not the right time to be contributing to this bid.

**53. LOMESHAYE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE EXTENSION PHASE 1
DISPOSAL OF LAND**

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report which sought approval to dispose of part of the site of the Lomeshaye Industrial Estate Extension Phase 1 under a negotiated procedure.

The former owner of part of this site had continued to express an interest in acquiring some of the site to develop an industrial unit. Outline plans had been drawn up that showed that this building could be accommodated on the remaining developable area with additional land within the Phase 1 area being required for car parking and vehicle turning areas. A plan attached to the report identified the extent of the land to be disposed of, along with an indicative layout of the development, which would be subject to planning permission.

The report referred to the LEP conditions of the funding agreement and the requirements for starting and completing the work.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the area of land shown edged black on the plan attached to the report at Appendix 1 be disposed of to Mr. Peter Heap with the value of the site to be agreed through a negotiated procedure.
- (2) That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to agree the final value of the land.
- (3) That the disposal of the land be subject to the signing of a Development Agreement to ensure that the requirements of funders were complied with.
- (4) That if the land value and Heads of Terms of a Development Agreement were not agreed by 30th November, 2020 and legal agreements were not in place by 31st January, 2021 the land be sold to PEARL2, as previously agreed.

REASON

To ensure early development of the site in line with the requirements of funders.

54. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE – WHITE PAPER

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report which summarised proposed planning reform set out in the White Paper 'Planning for the Future' along with a draft response to the consultation.

The White Paper proposed significant changes to local plans in terms of their preparation, role and content. The reforms placed digital technology and design at the heart of the planning process, securing faster and more predictable decision making with reduced complexity for decision making. The reforms would alter development management and there were proposals to scrap Section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Reference was made to the proposed Chief Officer of Design post being a very important one and the desire for the current Conservation Officer's post to be a full-time rather than part-time post.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the draft representation from the Council in response to the Government's Planning for the Future White Paper, attached to the report at Appendix 1, be agreed and submitted.

REASON

To represent the interests of the Council by responding to consultations regarding proposed national planning reforms.

55. LAND AND PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report which provided an update on progress with delivery of the Land and Property Asset Management Strategy.

As at 1st April, 2019 the Council's asset base comprised of 782 property assets with a value of £51.5m. Since then 11 sites that had been declared surplus had been sold with a total receipt of £985,316 (set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report). A further 18 assets had been transferred to Town and Parish Councils with a combined asset value of £355,331 (set out in Appendix 2).

It was acknowledged that due to a number of factors progress of disposal and redevelopment had often been slow. Appendix 3 set out progress on disposing of the remaining assets which had been declared surplus to requirements when the Strategy was approved, along with some new additional sites. It was recommended that four sites be removed from the disposals programme to allow for more accurate asset valuations to be undertaken based on their existing use rather than a potential sales value.

RESOLVED

- (1) That progress made with the delivery of the Land and Property Asset Management Strategy 2019/22 be noted.
- (2) That the following sites be removed from the disposal programme:
 - Berkeley Street/Canal, Brierfield
 - Quaker Rise, Brierfield
 - Tyseley Grove, Earby
 - Adj., 26 Poplar Street, Nelson
- (3) That a report be submitted to a future meeting proposing further sites to be declared surplus.

REASON

To ensure the efficient and effective use of the Council's Land and Property Assets.

56. LAND AT NETHERFIELD ROAD, NELSON

The Chief Executive submitted a report following receipt of a request from the tenant of the land at Netherfield Road, Nelson edged black on the plan attached to the report for a clause to be included within the existing lease allowing him the first option to purchase the land in the event of it being declared surplus to requirements.

RESOLVED

That the request for the inclusion of a clause in the lease allowing the current tenant first option to buy the land (based on the market value at the time) in the event of it being declared surplus to requirements be granted.

REASON

In the event that the land is not needed by the Council, and the decision taken to sell the land, that the tenant be given first choice in view of his long tenancy and established business.

**57. DOMESTIC ABUSE BILL CONSULTATION
AND PENDLE DOMESTIC ABUSE ACTION PLAN 2020-2023**

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the recently launched Domestic Abuse Bill consultation. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government was introducing a new duty on local authorities in England to provide support for victims and their children in domestic abuse safe accommodation. Subject to the successful passage of the Bill, the new duty would commence in April, 2021.

A draft response to the consultation was included in the report. Also included in the report was a new refreshed Pendle Domestic Abuse Action Plan for 2020-2023 for information.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposed response to the Government's consultation on the Domestic Abuse Bill, as set out in the report, be agreed.
- (2) That the revised Pendle Domestic Abuse Action Plan for 2020-2023 be noted.

REASONS

- (1) ***To enable the Council to respond to the Government's consultation.***
- (2) ***The Action Plan builds on work undertaken within the 2016/2019 Action Plan and sets out a programme of actions for the period 2020-2023.***

58. TENDERS

The Corporate Director submitted a report on tenders on exemptions from the requirements of the Contract Procedure Rules.

RESOLVED

That the exemptions granted from Contract Procedure Rules for services provision (GWE) Further Clough Head, Nelson and Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Emergency Assistance Grant Scheme be noted.

REASON

To comply with the Contract Procedure Rules.

59. MATTERS REFERRED FROM AREA COMMITTEES

(a) Land at Bowland View, Brierfield

At a meeting of the Brierfield and Reedley Committee on 6th October, 2020 it was RESOLVED:

- (1) *That the Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to declare land at Bowland View, Brierfield shown edged black on the plan attached to the report, surplus to requirements and the Chief Executive be authorised to negotiate terms of a sale to the developer of the adjoining land.*
- (2) *That a request be made for any capital receipt achieved for the land to be earmarked for spend in Brierfield and Reedley.*

RESOLVED

- (1) That the land at Bowland View, Brierfield shown edged black on the plan attached to the report, be declared surplus to requirements and the Chief Executive be authorised to negotiate terms of a sale to the developer of the adjoining land.
- (2) That the request for the capital receipt achieved for the land to be earmarked for spend in Brierfield and Reedley be refused.

REASON

- (1) ***The sale would allow for development to be carried out, achieve a capital receipt and end all maintenance and other liabilities relating to ownership of the land for the Council.***
- (2) ***That all capital receipts were better going into the general fund for the greater good of Pendle.***

Chairman _____