

# **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 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021**

- **Planning Applications**

We approved planning application 20/0797/HHO Full: Single storey rear extension at 45 Manor Street, Nelson and refused both planning application 20/0641/FUL Full: Retain gym to ground floor and change of use of first and second floor to 10 apartments at Powerhouse Gymnasium, Burnley Road, Brierfield and planning application 20/0493/FUL Full: Erection of two three-bed dwellings and associated garages, parking and garden on land to the north of Oakfield, Skipton Old Road, Colne.

- **Future of the New Homes Bonus – Response to Consultation**

We approved the officer's response to the consultation on the New Homes Bonus Scheme.

- **Recommended Write-Offs**

The Committee agreed to write off the sums of £59,556.22 in respect of Housing Benefit Overpayments, £439,753.51 in respect of Council Tax, £75,176.84 in respect of Business Rates and £1,287 in respect of Sundry Income.

- **National Planning Reforms: Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and Design Codes**

We agreed that officers submit a response to the consultation on behalf of the Council.

- **Economic Strategy and COVID Recovery Plan**

The commissioning and production of an Economic Recovery and Development Strategy was approved. The waiving of Contract Procedure Rule 18.7 to retain the services of Hatch Urban Solutions to support the delivery of the Economic Recovery and Development Strategy was endorsed.

- **Draft Nelson Masterplan**

The Committee agreed the draft Nelson Masterplan subject to the removal of Gib Hill, Nelson and subject to a wider stakeholder/community consultation. We agreed that discussions be held with Colne Town Council, Nelson Town Council and any other interested community group to transfer the land at Gib Hill, Nelson as a community asset transfer and looked after in perpetuity.

- **Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Lancashire 2021/2027**

Subject to the addition of the following:

Local Risks and Challenges – add “address the backlog and regular maintenance of culverts and highway drainage systems.”

Actions – add “highlight the necessity to retain upstream wetland areas to holdback excessive rainfall.

we agreed the report and the responses. Further reports would be presented to the Committee as required following the Strategy being agreed and made publicly available.

- **21 Manchester Road, Nelson**

A request for a new lease and to purchase the freehold of this property was refused.

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 27<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2021**

- **Planning Applications**

We approved planning application 20/0083/FUL Full: Change of use of ground floor from residential dwelling (use Class C3) to a shop (Use Class E) and insertion of a shop front (re-submission) at 55 Newport Street, Nelson and deferred planning application 20/0732/FUL Full: Change of use from public toilets (sui generis) to non-residential institution (Use Class D1) and erection of first floor extension above at the Public Conveniences, Colne Road Brierfield to allow for further discussions with the agent/applicant.

- **Appeal Against Refusal of Planning Permission 20/0198/FUL – Cowfield Farm, Trawden**

We authorised the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager to indicate to the Planning Inspectorate that the Council no longer supported refusal of this application and that it would not object to a three year temporary consent being granted.

- **Performance Indicators Update 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021**

The Committee acknowledged the work of the Council in achieving the performance levels set out in the report and asked for the Committee's appreciation to be conveyed to all members of staff across all levels.

- **Land at Townhouse Road, Nelson**

We noted the objections from local residents and agreed that the land not be sold as a garden for the adjoining property.

- **Innovation Centre, Brook Street/Netherfield Road, Nelson**

The Committee agreed to accept the request for a surrender of the lease from the existing occupier of the property on the proviso that the existing lease was not surrendered until the property had been re-let and a new lease signed; the Chief Executive was authorised to agree terms as required for the surrender; the property was to be advertised To Let and the two parties who had already expressed an interest in the property to be invited to submit offers; and the Chief Executive was authorised to accept an offer and negotiate terms.

- **Earby Food Alleviation Works – New Cut Wall and Waterproofing of Victoria Mill Wall**

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager has been authorised to design, tender and implement the construction of the New Cut flood wall and the waterproofing of Victoria Mill Wall. We asked for officers to continue discussions with the mill owner in relation to future liability. We also asked that the Environment Agency be requested to undertake urgent consideration of the condition of the Victoria Clough culvert, with a view to removing service crossings that reduce its capacity.

- **Resources and Waste Strategy**

The Committee granted delegated authority to the Environmental Services Manager to provide responses to each consultation that directly impacted on Pendle as a Waste Collection Authority following consultation with the Council's Leader. Further updates would be reported to the Committee as appropriate.

- **Validation Requirements for Planning Applications**

We agreed to adopt the document.

- **Welcome Back Fund (Re-opening High Streets) and Task Force**

Delegated authority was granted to the Chief Executive and the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager to submit the draft Welcome Back Fund action plan. As the Fund had a single action plan produced, Area Committees would agree to the content relating to the towns in their areas. We agreed the allocations set out in Table 1 in the report. It was agreed that Barnoldswick be the town of choice for High Street Task Force assistance.

- **Pendle Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

We noted the report and approach to supporting the co-ordination and delivery of the programme.

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2021**

- **Planning Applications**

We refused planning application 20/0753/HHO Full: Erection of side and rear two storey extensions at 181 Regent Street, Nelson and planning application 21/0043/FUL Full: Change of use from a shop (Use Class E) to hot food takeaway (sui generis) erection of single storey rear extension and alterations to access for the flat above at 237 Leeds Road, Nelson. Planning application 21/0012/FUL Full: Major: Erection of 15 dwelling houses and new access on land at the junction with Greenberfield Lane/Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick was deferred for further negotiations with the developers regarding the formation of a pavement at the junction of Greenberfield Lane/Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick.

- **Update of Financial Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan for 2022/23 to 2024/25**

The outlook for Government funding in the period 2022/23 to 2024/25 and in particular the delay to local government funding reforms was noted as was the estimated outturn position for 2020/21 by the Committee. A further report on the estimated outturn position would be submitted to the Committee in July, 2021. The proposed Financial Strategy for 2022/25 (and the supporting Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/25) and the strategy for use of Balances and Reserves over the same period were noted.

The Committee acknowledged the success of the service/asset transfer programme to Town and Parish Councils and agreed that any further areas of service and/or assets for transfer be identified. Officers have been asked to initiate discussion on this matter with the relevant Town and Parish Councils.

We agreed to retain the cross-party Budget Working Group and noted that a separate report on the Medium Term Capital programme would be presented to the Committee in July, 2021.

- **Land and Property Asset Management**

We agreed that the land at Aspen Grove, Earby, the green open space on Bailey Street, Earby and land at Halifax Road, Nelson be removed from the list of surplus assets and no longer form part of the Land and Property Asset Management Strategy.

- **Disabled Facilities Grants**

The Committee noted the report and agreed to set up a budget of £50,000 for Discretionary Disabled Facilities Grants for 2021/22 from the Better Care Funding for this year.

- **Masterplans for Colne, Barnoldswick and Earby**

We agreed the commissioning of masterplans for Colne town centre, Barnoldswick and Earby. We also agreed that three Members from the Colne and District Committee sit on the steering group to oversee the Colne masterplanning process; and three Members from West Craven Committee sit on the steering group to oversee the Barnoldswick/Earby masterplanning process.

- **Regeneration Staffing**

The Committee agreed the appointment of two additional permanent posts of Regeneration Manager and Programme Monitoring Officer subject to approval of the Nelson Town Investment Plan.

- **Potential Cemetery Sites**

We agreed that Nelson cemetery allotments be considered along with other sites (listed in the minutes) as potential cemetery sites and that a further detailed report be submitted to the Committee in 6 months' time including phases, timescales and estimated costs of preparation. We agreed that the annually renewed rental agreement at Ghyll and Barrowford be retained enabling additional space to be recovered as required; that future development of lower field in Colne Cemetery be agreed to enable additional space to be created as required and that investigations be made into the possible use of Earby allotments for future burial usage.

- **2B Keighley Road, Colne**

The Committee agreed to declare this property surplus to requirements and marketed for sale for redevelopment.

- **Land at Netherfield Road, Nelson**

We authorised the chief Executive to negotiate an extension of the lease to a longer term with the tenant of this land.

- **Land adjoining 26 Poplar Street, Nelson**

We deferred this item and the possibility of transferring this land to Nelson Town Council be investigated and a report on the outcome to be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

- **Land adjoining 44 Brunswick Street, Nelson**

We decided not to declare this land surplus to requirements and asked that it be cleared and maintained as an open space.

- **Access track off Greenberfield Lane to the North of Victory Park, Barnoldswick**

We agreed that, with effect from the current financial year, the rental income paid by United Utilities to use the access track off Greenberfield Lane be transferred to Barnoldswick Town Council to pay for essential repairs to the track.

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 25<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2021**

- **Planning Applications**

The Committee agreed the following planning applications:

20/0732/FUL Full: Change of use from public toilets (sui generis) to non-residential institution (Use Class D1) and erection of first floor extension above at the public conveniences, 21 Colne Road, Brierfield and 21/0021;FUL Full: Major: Erection of 15 dwelling houses and new access on land at the junction with Greenberfield Lane, Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick.

- **Provisional Revenue Outturn 2020/21**

We noted the outturn on the Council's Revenue Budgets for 2020/21; and approved the proposals for budget slippage over £15,000 from 2020/21 to 221/22. The Committee also agreed that for 2021/22 a budget of £125,000 be allocated for small grants consisting £50,000 for High Street bids and Gearing Up For Growth grants; £25,000 for youth group bids and £50,000 for bids from grassroots sports clubs.

- **Capital Programme – Provisional Outturn 2020/21**

We noted the provisional outturn position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2020/21 and approved the proposals for slippage in the programme from 2020/21 to 221/22.

- **Treasury Management Outturn 2020/21**

The Committee noted the outturn position on the Council's Treasury Management activities for 2020/21.

- **Draft Annual Governance Statement**

We noted the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 and agreed that it be submitted to the Accounts and Audit Committee for approval.

- **Strategic Plan 2020/23 – Annual Refresh 2021/22**

We recommended Council approve the Strategic Plan 2020/23 – Annual Refresh 2021/22.

- **Economic Recovery and Development Strategy**

We endorsed and adopted the Economic Recovery and Growth Strategy and asked that a further report be brought back to Committee regarding the staffing levels that would be needed to deliver the programme.

- **Climate Emergency Declaration Update**

Progress on the Climate Emergency Action Plan was noted and we requested a meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group be arranged as soon as possible. We also agreed that £50,000 of the Climate Emergency budget programme be used to support capital improvement works; £25,000 be used to fund a part-time Climate Emergency Delivery Officer, initially for 12 months, to lead on Climate Emergency Declaration planning and implementation; and the remaining £25,000 be allocated as a Small Grant Scheme to support grass roots interventions.

- **Land at Oakland Street, Nelson**

We asked for further discussion with St. Philip's C.E. Primary School about their proposed building project and that a further report be brought back to Committee in due course.

- **Tenders**

As well as noting the tenders which had been received and accepted we also noted the exemption granted from Contract Procedures Rules for the Lancashire Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2021. We agreed that the contract for the Lomeshaye Industrial Estate Extension Phase 3 Construction of Road Access be awarded to O'Callaghan Limited, subject to the necessary due diligence process being carried out.

Councillor N. Ahmed,  
Leader,  
Pendle Borough Council