

REPORT FROM: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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TRANSFER OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To seek approval of the next phase of the initiative and to seek authority to undertake negotiations with individual town and parish councils.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the list at paragraph 2 below be confirmed.
- (2) That the chairman of the Budget Working Group and Interim Chief Executive be authorised to carry out negotiations on their transfer.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To take forward the Council's initiative of transferring facilities and services to town and parish councils.

ISSUE

1. The Transfer of Facilities and Services to Town and Parish Councils initiative commenced in 2014. Under it, the following have been transferred:
 - Festive decorations (all in the Borough)
 - Bus shelters (all except those in Nelson and Primesite shelters)
 - Roadside seats (all in the Borough)
 - Public conveniences (Barley, Newchurch, Barnoldswick, Barrowford, Earby, Lanesshaw Bridge)
 - Community Centres (Trawden, Brierfield, Barnoldswick Civic Hall, Colne (Primet), Nelson (Unity Hall))
 - Town halls (Colne, Brierfield)

- Play areas and multi-use games areas (all except those in parks and those in Brierfield)
- Miscellaneous pieces of land (usually amenity space)
- Town centre CCTV (Nelson, Colne, Brierfield, Barnoldswick and Earby)
- Parks (Letcliffe, Victory, Valley Gardens, Alkincoates, Barrowford including Pendle Heritage Centre)
- Sports pitches (Earby)
- Youth hostel (Earby)
- Bus turnarounds (Barley, Trawden)
- Contributions for enhanced rights of way (countryside access) service

(NB in the case of most parks and play areas, financial contributions are made by parish and town councils towards the cost of grounds maintenance and inspection irrespective of whether ownership has been transferred).

2. The Budget Working Group convened a meeting with representatives of town and parish councils on 1st September to give serious consideration to the following which need to be included in the next phase:
 - Remaining parks (Sough, Heyhead, Marsden, Victoria, Walverden, Ball Grove (expected to take place shortly))
 - Town centre sweeping (Nelson, Colne, Brierfield, Barnoldswick, Earby, Barrowford)
 - Local car parks (Barnoldswick, Brierfield, Colne and Earby; not Nelson at this time due to Town Deal considerations)
 - Cemeteries (Colne, Nelson, Barrowford, Earby, Ghyll, Salterforth)
 - Market (Colne)
 - Municipal Hall (Colne)
 - Sports pitches (Nelson, Colne, Barrowford, Brierfield, Barnoldswick, Trawden)
 - Miscellaneous pieces of land
3. Further suggestions and ideas from parishes were invited and will be reported to the Budget Working Group and this Committee as necessary.
4. The town and parish councils' representatives were advised that other arrangements can be considered as well as outright transfer e.g. a financial contribution in return for a greater say in the operation of the service; the Borough or the parish acting as an agent for the other etc.
5. They were also advised that further meetings and/or negotiations with individual councils will take place and that Pendle would provide full information on the running costs and other implications of taking on further facilities and services, including considering the need for any capital expenditure pre-transfer or in the future.
6. At this stage the Committee is asked to confirm the list at paragraph 2 and to authorise the chairman of the Budget Working Group and Interim Chief Executive to carry out negotiations on their transfer.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The Council has a longstanding policy of transferring facilities and services to town and parish councils. The intentions behind the policy are to ensure local ownership and control in the event of reorganisation of local government and to reduce the Council's running costs.

Financial: As and when further transfers are agreed the financial implications will be reported to this Committee.

Legal: Legal agreements will be put in place to formalise transfers.

Risk Management: None arising from this report.

Health and Safety: None arising from this report.

Sustainability: None arising from this report.

Community Safety: None arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising from this report.

APPENDICES

None

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None