

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2021

- **Planning Applications**

We refused the following two planning applications:

21/0564/FUL Full: Major: Erection of 67 dwelling houses with associated works, including car parking and landscaping at fields to the west of Foster Road, Barnoldswick; and

21/0154/FUL Full: Erection of two semi-detached bungalows and two semi-detached two storey dwellings, with associated parking and landscaping on land adjacent to 30 Dixon Street, Barrowford

- **Nelson Town Deal – Heads of Terms Offer**

We noted the signing of the Heads of Terms offer for a Town Deal for Nelson; the next phases work and associated timescales for bringing forward the deal and securing the release of funding; and the waiving of standing orders to appoint Hatch consultants to support the Town Deal Board and the Council through the next stage of the Town Deal process. We deferred the request to delegate powers to the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, pending the outcome of the Town Deal Board's deliberations.

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

The Committee agreed an advance payment of £40,000 to Colne BID Ltd., and agreed that the process for establishing potential BIDs in Nelson and Barnoldswick be resumed.

- **UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) and Afghan Relocation Scheme (Afghan LES)**

We agreed that the Council should participate in accepting refugee families under UKRS; and requested that the Leader and Interim Chief Executive liaise with other Lancashire Councils in a joint commitment to accept Afghan refugee families and press Government for additional funding. The Leader and Interim Chief Executive were also authorised to hold discussions with Calico and Together Housing and any similar bodies and in the light of the outcome of these discussions inform the County Council of the Council's commitment to support Afghan LES.

- **Matters Requiring Financial Approval**

The Committee agreed funding of £45k to Building Bridges in principle, subject to the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, being satisfied that the match funding was required.

- **Potential Housing Compulsory Purchase Order**

We accepted the principle of the compulsory purchase of a long term empty property in Nelson and agreed that the Head of Legal Services take the initial steps in connection with making a Compulsory Purchase Order under Section 17 of the Housing Act 1985 including the services of preliminary notices and preparation of a Statement of Case in connection with the proposed Order. Once the preliminary works have been completed a report would be submitted to this Committee seeking formal authority to proceed with the proposed Compulsory Purchase Order.

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021**

### **• Planning Applications**

We approved 21/0237/FUL Full: Change of use of land of existing car park and siting of a container to be used as a hot food take-away (Use Class Sui Generis) on land adjacent to Queens Mill, Bankhouse Road, Nelson and 21/0626/VAR Full: Variation of Condition: Vary condition 2 (plans) of planning permission 19/0801/FUL to substitute site layout, reposition housing plots and change materials on land off Harrison Drive, Colne.

We refused 21/0484/HHO Full: Erection of a single storey rear extension and 2.7m high close boarded fence to the north east boundary at 106 Regent Street, Nelson.

In relation to 21/0399/PIP Permission in Principle: Erection of up to 9 dwellings on land off Cob Lane and Old Stone Trough Lane, Kelbrook we agreed not to determine the application; but agreed that I write to the new Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the difficulties the Council was experiencing with regard to Permission in Principle applications.

### **• Investment in Leisure Facilities**

The Committee noted that Pendle Leisure Trust would be financing the undertaking of a further detailed study on the provision of leisure facilities in Pendle and the outcome of this study would be reported to a subsequent meeting of this Committee. We agreed an allocation of £136k (estimated total works of £121,000 plus fees) from the Pendle Leisure Trust reserve for investment in priority capital reports to leisure facilities which was listed in the report.

### **• Empty Homes Strategy 2021/2024**

We approved this Strategy.

### **• Transfer of Facilities and Services to Town and Parish Councils**

The Committee agreed the following list of potential transfers to Town and Parish Councils:

- Remaining parks (Sough, Heyhead, Marsden, Victoria, Walverden, Ball Grove (expected to take place shortly))
- Town centre sweeping (Nelson, Colne, Brierfield, Barnoldswick, Earby and Barrowford)
- Local car parks (Barnoldswick, Brierfield, Colne and Earby; not Nelson at this time due to the Town Deal considerations)
- Cemeteries (Colne, Nelson, Barrowford, Earby, Ghyll and Salterforth)
- Market (Colne)
- Municipal Hall (Colne)
- Sports pitches (Nelson, Colne, Barrowford, Brierfield, Barnoldswick and Trawden)
- Miscellaneous pieces of land

We also agreed that the Chairman of the Budget Working Group and the Interim Chief Executive be authorised to carry out further negotiations with the Town and Parish Councils on the above transfers.

### **• Telephony Upgrade**

We approved the upgrade of the Council's telephony system.

### **• Self-Build Plots at Mansfield Crescent, Brierfield**

We agreed to accept the highest bids received for each of the two self-build plots on this site.

- **UK Community Renewal Fund Project**

We approved the proposed Growth and Innovation Fund in Pendle, Burnley and Rossendale, as set out in the report; granted delegated authority to the Interim Chief Executive and the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager to accept the Grant Funding Agreement, subject to there being no unacceptable financial risks; we also granted delegated authority to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager to negotiate and enter into:

- (a) A service level agreement with Growth Lancashire to deliver the fund.
- (b) An agreement with Burnley Borough Council and Rossendale Borough Council to share any liabilities for under-performance or repayment of grant arising from the delivery of the project.
- (c) To sit on the Grants Panel and approve grants.

- **The Borough of Pendle (80-82 Leeds Road, Nelson Compulsory Purchase Order 2021**

The Committee agreed the Compulsory Purchase of the above property.

- **Nelson Town Deal**

We noted the views of the Town Deal Board on the allocation of funding between projects; agreed the maximum funding allocations for each projects, as set out in the report and now amended, and subject to business case approval. Delegated authority was granted to the Interim Chief Executive to sign and submit the project confirmation tables detailing the projects that would be taken forward to full business case.

Councillor N. Ahmed,  
Leader,  
Pendle Borough Council