

# 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 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2021

- **Investment in Leisure Facilities**

We acknowledged that there was a need for a strategic review to be undertaken in order to be in a position to seek Sport England funding; agreed that Councillors be nominated to the review Project Group based on a membership of 3:1:1; we agreed the work required to Colne Municipal Hall on the proviso that if funding becomes available from the Levelling Up Fund or other source that be used instead of the Leisure Trust Reserve; and that further discussions be held with regards to the remaining works listed in the appendix attached to the report.

- **Recommended Write Offs**

The Committee agreed that the following sums be written off:

Housing Benefit Overpayments	£35,220.06
Council Tax	£224,354.09
Business Rates	£5,709.97

We also asked that further information be sought on the incentives used to recover unpaid debts.

- **Draft Local Assurance Framework – Nelson Town Deal**

We approved the draft Local Assurance Framework for Nelson Town Deal and noted the timetable for the development of business cases for the projects.

- **Town Fund 5% Capital Pre-Payment and Early Project Development Costs**

We noted the proposed early capital payment of 5% of Nelson's Heads of Terms offer to the Council as the accountable body and agreed the recommendation from the Nelson Town Deal Board that part of this pre-payment be used to fund early project development costs needed to support business case development.

- **Kelbrook and Sough Neighbourhood Plan**

The Committee noted the Regulation 14 public consultation for the Kelbrook and Sough Neighbourhood Plan and agreed the formal written representations in response to this, as set out in the appendix attached to the report.

- **Local Development Scheme**

It was agreed that the Local Development Scheme be updated in accordance with the timescales, as set out in the schedule attached to the report.

- **Business Improvement Districts for Barnoldswick and Nelson**

We agreed that the larger businesses outside of Barnoldswick town centre be contacted to seek their views on participating in a wider BID and a further report be brought back to the Committee on the findings. We also agreed that formal consideration of a BID for Nelson be developed and discussions be held with local businesses to establish a level of interest.

- **Additional Restrictions Grant**

The Committee agreed the themes of the spend of the remaining grant, as set out in the report. The final details of the scheme and administration of the grant was delegated to the Chief Executive to agree in consultation with Members based on a 3:1:1 split.

- **Department of Transport Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards and Policy Review**

It was agreed that the licensed trade and other interested parties be consulted on the draft Department of Transport Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards and Policy; and the results of the consultation will be reported back to this Committee.

- **Public Spaces Protection Orders: Alley Gates**

We agreed to extend the current Public Spaces Protection Orders allowing for alley gate schemes with a restricted area and single gate schemes with restricted access for a further three years from 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2021. During the life of the two Public Spaces Protection Orders, a full review of the use, condition and public support for the schemes will be carried out, in anticipation of the next extension in 2024.

- **Climate Emergency Working Group**

We approved the introduction of alternative fuels for the Council's fleet of vehicles along with the subsequent increases in costs for both fuel and infrastructure for a trial period of six months.

- **Trees at Klondyke**

The Committee agreed the removal of three Ash trees located adjacent to Earby Road, Salterforth subject to confirmation that the trees were on land owned by the Council. This decision was subsequently called in and reconsidered by the Committee at its November meeting.

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

- **Planning Applications**

We refused planning applications 21/0275/FUL Full: Erection of a porta-cabin and change of use to sandwich kiosk (Use Class E) and taxi booking office on car park adjacent to the ramp leading to the multi-storey car park on Netherfield Road, Nelson and 21/0571/REM Reserved Matters: Major: Erection of 10 dwellings (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) of outline planning permission 17/0691/OUT on land off Cob Lane and Old Stone Trough Lane, Kelbrook.

We also approved planning application 21/0567/FUL Full: Change of use of existing agricultural building and adjacent land for use as a farm school, car parking and associated works (retrospective) in field 9971 Greenhead Lane, Brierfield and deferred planning application 21/0769/OUT Outline: Major: Residential development (access only) on land to the west of White Leys Close, Earby for a site visit.

- **Draft Final Nelson Masterplan**

The Committee recommended Council to agree to adopt the Nelson Masterplan subject to:

- Investigations into the possible compulsory purchase of Pendle Rise;
- The removal of land at Halifax Road, Nelson as an "opportunity site" for housing within the Masterplan;
- More emphasis and a targeted approach with regards to diversity issues and on-line marketing with this being led by a Senior Executive Officer.
- To note the comments received from the Nelson Town Deal Board as set out in the report.

- **Pendle Local Plan Part 2**

In considering the response received following the consultation exercise on the Part 2 Local Plan our main concern was around the housing number and we recommended Council agree a housing number of 142 for the Pendle Local Plan Part 2.

- **Levelling Up Fund**

We noted the award of £6,531,565 from the Levelling Up Fund Round 1 for Colne Town Centre; allocated as match funding £553,156 from the Development Opportunities project in the Capital Programme and agreed that the Council act as the Accountable Body for the Round 1 programme. We also granted delegated authority to the s151 Officer to enter into the grant funding agreement for Colne Town Council; noted the Capacity Funding of £125,000 which had been secured to support the development of future bids; and agreed that the focus of the Round 2 bid should be around improving peoples life expectancy, health, improved educational attainment, improved wages and housing issues.

- **2022/2023 Budget Setting and Medium Term Financial Plan – Initial Efficiency/Savings Options and Income Review**

The Committee agreed the proposed fees and charges, as outlined in Appendix A attached to the report, with the exception of Item 22 – admin charge for replacement wheeled bins; Item 24 bulky household waste collections and Item 26 – cemeteries, save for the introduction of a 50% premium on all fees for non-residents in Pendle.

We also recommended Council approve the proposed charges relating to:

- ❖ Cemetery fees – 50% premium for non-residents;
- ❖ Increased garden waste charge based on an increase of £2 annually for both 2022/23 and 2023/24;
- ❖ Reduction in mechanical street sweeping;
- ❖ Reduction in manual street sweeping;
- ❖ Revised verge maintenance arrangements.

Council have also been recommended to support the proposal to support further critical transformation activity to the sum of £250k, utilising allocated reserves, subject to the submission of a further report providing information on the invest to save plan.

We also agreed that Andrew Stephenson MP and the Government be lobbied to highlight the need for additional resources coming into Pendle to provide the services residents need and deserve.

- **Corporate Peer Review**

The Committee agreed that the Council invites the Local Government Association to undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge in early 2022.

- **Updated Risk Management Strategy and Policy Statement**

The above Strategy and Policy Statement was endorsed and recommended to Council for adoption.

- **Strategic Monitoring Report 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**

We noted progress made on the actions identified in the Strategic Plan.

- **Nelson Town Deal – Pendle YES Hub Project**

Delegated authority was granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to consider the recommendations of the Town Deal Board and make the final decisions regarding Town Deal funding for the Pendle YES Hub project. Subject to the project being

approved at a local level, the Council will front fund and underwrite revenue activity up to a cost of £17,766 to enable the service to continue running in February and March, 2022. We also agreed that until the project has been agreed at a local level, the existing service provider will continue delivery for the first 6 months of the Town Deal funding whilst a re-procurement of the Service is undertaken.

- **Tree Planting on Ringstone Crescent, Nelson**

The planting of an orchard on Ringstone Crescent, Nelson was not approved.

- **Call In – Trees at Klondyke (Earby Road, Salterforth)**

The Committee agreed the removal of three Ash trees located adjacent to Earby Road, Salterforth and protected by Tree Preservation Order (TPO/NO1/2000).

- **2B Keighley Road, Colne**

We agreed that full and final offers be invited to be submitted within the next two weeks and the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, was granted delegated authority to agree the most appropriate use.

- **Adopting and Implementing the Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector (England) Regulations 2020**

The Regulations have been recommended to Council to adopt and implement in order to allow the Council to carry out its statutory function in relation to electrical safety standards in the private rented sector and that the Environmental Health Enforcement Policy be updated to incorporate the regulations; that the same process of issuing and determining levels of civil penalties for the offences in the regulations was agreed and adopted in line with the Civil Penalty Policy adopted by the Council on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2017; delegated authority was granted to the Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager all powers to issue, use and enforce the Regulations; and that the money received from civil penalties returns to the Environmental Health Residential revenue budget to fund further enforcement activity.

- **Land adjoining New Scotland Road, Nelson**

We agreed to declare this land surplus to requirements on a long leasehold rather than a freehold and the Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager has been authorised to negotiate terms of a long leasehold sale to the owner of the adjoining property.

- **Drainage on Stoneybank Road and Wentcliffe Drive, Earby**

A supplementary estimate of £20,000 has been agreed and will be met from the General Fund Revenue Budget to enable further investigative work and temporary solutions to be carried out in relation to drainage issues in the above areas. The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager has been asked to request LCC for formal approval for the excess surface water in this location to go into the highway drainage system. We also asked that Yorkshire Water and Together Housing be requested to contribute to the cost of the investigation works referred to in the report.

Councillor N. Ahmed,  
Leader,  
Pendle Borough Council