

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SPECIAL BUDGET POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022  
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

*Councillor N. Ahmed (Chairman – in the Chair)*

**Councillors**

*D. Cockburn-Price  
S. Cockburn-Price  
M. Goulthorp  
M. Hanif*

*K. Howarth  
M. Iqbal  
Y. Iqbal (Substitute)  
D. Whipp*

**Also in attendance:**

*Councillor M. Aslam*

**Officers in attendance:**

<i>Rose Rouse</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>
<i>Philip Mousdale</i>	<i>Corporate Director</i>
<i>Richard Gibson</i>	<i>Chief Finance Officer</i>
<i>Neil Watson</i>	<i>Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager</i>
<i>Jane Watson</i>	<i>Head of Democratic Services</i>

**Corporate Peer Challenge Team in attendance:**

<i>Councillor Chris Hossack</i>	<i>Leader of Brentwood Borough Council</i>
<i>Councillor Sam Corcoran</i>	<i>Leader of Cheshire East Council</i>
<i>Joanne Wagstaff</i>	<i>Chief Executive, Three Rivers District Council</i>
<i>Nick Khan</i>	<i>Strategic Director, East Suffolk District Council</i>
<i>Michelle Sacks</i>	<i>Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Growth, Boston and part of the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership</i>
<i>Bushra Jamil</i>	<i>Local Government Association</i>
<i>Cindy Lowthian</i>	<i>Peer Challenge Manager</i>

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*The following person attended the meeting and spoke on the items indicated:*

<i>Mr. Hussain</i>	<i>21/0768/HHO Full: Retrospective application for the erection of a close boarded fence to the North elevation (max. 2.4 m in height) erection of close boarded fence to Eastern and Southern boundaries (max. 2.5 m in height) and two sets of entrance gates to the Western elevation at 251 Hibson Road, Nelson</i>	<i>Minute No. 129(a)</i>
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**126. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

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

**127. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**128. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**129. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- (a) 21/0768/HHO Full: Retrospective application for the erection of a close boarded fence to the North elevation (max 2.4 m in height) erection of close boarded fence to Eastern and Southern boundaries (max. 2.5 m in height) and two sets of entrance gates to the Western elevation at 251 Hibson Road, Nelson**

At a meeting of the Nelson, Brierfield and Reedley Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 the decision to refuse planning permission was referred as a recommendation to this Committee as this decision was contrary to policy and would represent a significant departure from policy.

**RESOLVED**

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

The proposed fence exceeds the 2m height normally acceptable between neighbouring gardens due to the retaining wall which is not sympathetic to the landscape. The wall with the fence above measures 3m from the rear boundary wall at number 253 and 249, making it overbearing in appearance and poor design, contrary to Pendle Borough Council Policy ENV2 and Design Principles SPD.

**130. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report on the proposed General Fund Revenue budget and other related matters for 2022/23 to enable the Committee to make a recommendation to Council at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 on the level of Council Tax to be set for the financial year 2022/23.

The report set out the current budget position for 2022/23 and highlighted the existing gap in funding which would require the use of £0.975m of general fund balances. This was after a proposed increase in 1.99% in Council Tax for 2022/23.

The report also highlighted the proposed saving in the Pendle Leisure Trust Management Fee for the same period and highlighted the proposed transformation programme which, it was hoped, would allow the Council to close this gap over the next three year forecast cycle.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That this report be referred to the Special Budget Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 for consideration.
- (2) That Council be **RECOMMENDED** to:
  - (a) subject to consideration of the saving proposals for 2022/23 agree to use Council Reserves to pay off the outstanding debt owed by Pendle Leisure Trust (PLT) to release the revenue saving back to the Council by reducing the PLT Management Fee.;
  - (b) approve introducing a Band D Council Tax for 2022/23 of £281.50, being an increase of £5.49 (1.99%) on the current level of Council Tax.
  - (c) require each Service to operate within its budget for 2022/23 once approved and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control.

**REASON**

***To comply with statutory requirements to determine a balanced budget and council tax for the forthcoming financial year.***

**131. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report seeking approval to the proposed Capital Programme for 2022/23. Various prudential indicators were also provided in accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Investment in Local Authorities.

It was noted that due to changes in key personnel within the Finance Team limited work had been done during the financial year to develop the capital programme since it was agreed by this Committee in February, 2021. Therefore, the Committee were made aware that further work was required to validate and firm up proposals for 2022/23 and future years.

Some concerns were expressed at the proposed review and removal of slippage equivalent to a full year budget from the existing capital programme. However, it was explained that this would not be implemented if the scheme was funded from ring fenced grant or if there was a good reason to move the spend on to a future year(s). It was proposed that in future the programme would look over multiple years to allow schemes to be planned out over the medium term.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That this report be referred to the Special Budget Council meeting scheduled on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 for consideration.
- (2) That Council be **RECOMMENDED** to:
  - (a) note the forecast outturn position on the Council's capital programme for 2021/2022 as shown in Appendix A and detailed in the report;

- (b) consider the proposed capital programme for 2022/23 as shown in Appendix B attached to the report.
- (c) grant delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer, to determine the most appropriate method of financing the capital programme for 2022/23 to ensure the use of resources was optimised by the Council;
- (d) to note the Prudential Indicators as shown in Appendix C attached to the report.

## **REASON**

***To seek approval to the revised capital programme for 2021/22 and the capital programme for 2022/23.***

### **132. COVID OMICRON GRANT AND ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT SCHEME**

The Chief Executive submitted, for information, a report which set out the Council's scheme for distributing funds allocated under the Omicron Hospitality, Leisure and Accommodation (HLA) Grant Scheme and the Omicron Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Scheme (Pendle Borough Council Round 6).

The Government published details of this schemes to help businesses most affected by the Omicron variant on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2022. This consisted of a package of £635 million for targeted grants for hospitality and leisure businesses in England and a further £102 million top-up for the Additional Restrictions Grant.

Final guidance of this scheme was issued on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 and in order to allow the scheme to be launched on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 the Chief Executive agreed the scheme under the Protocol for the Exercise of Urgent Powers in the Constitution.

## **RESOLVED**

That the details of the Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme (Pendle Borough Council Round 6) be noted as agreed under the Exercise of Urgent Powers.

## **REASON**

***To allow the Council to distribute funds to residents in accordance with the guidance and by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 it was necessary to agree and launch a scheme without first approving via Committee.***

### **133. TENDERS**

The Corporate Director submitted, for information, a report on tenders which had been received and accepted.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_