

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 15th DECEMBER, 2022
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

Councillor N. Ahmed (Chairman – in the Chair)

Councillors

*Z. Ali
D. Cockburn-Price
S. Cockburn-Price
M. Goulthorp*

*M. Hanif
A. Mahmood
A. Sutcliffe
D. Whipp*

Officers in attendance:

<i>Rose Rouse</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>
<i>Richard Gibson</i>	<i>Director of Resources</i>
<i>Howard Culshaw</i>	<i>Head of Legal Services</i>
<i>Jane Watson</i>	<i>Head of Democratic Services</i>

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83. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

84. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

85. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 24th November, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

86. TRAFALGAR HOUSE, NELSON

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report on the outcome of the option appraisal report for Trafalgar House.

A long list of potential uses for the building was drawn up and considered including residential (apartments, town houses, senior living, mixed use) leisure (food and beverage, hotel, sports/gym, arts/community, open square/mini park) and commercial (offices, retail, workshops/warehouse, self-storage, car parking, EV charging etc.).

Different interventions to the building fabric were also looked at, including retention (restoration, remodelling and extension) demolition (full and partial) and redevelopment.

The list was appraised against a range of criteria which resulted in a shortlist of four potential options:

Option 1: Town House refurbishment

Funding required to make the scheme viable: £2.9m

Option 2: Town House refurbishment and new build

Funding required to make the scheme viable: 2.86m

Option 3: An electric vehicle charging hub

Funding required to make the scheme viable: not quantified due to the site not being viable due to locational factors

Option 4: Retain front building and develop car park to the rear

Funding required to make the scheme viable: £2.13m

Following option appraisal work it was reported that the fourth option had been developed which would retain and refurbish the front portion of the building facing onto Market Street for retail/commercial use with clearance of the building behind and the creation of a car park with EV charging provision.

It was noted that Trafalgar House was a priority building in the Revitalised Nelson project within the Nelson Town Deal.

RESOLVED

That further design and development work be progressed on Option 4 – to retain the front of the building and to develop a car park to the rear.

REASON

To progress the preferred option for the future of Trafalgar House, subject to more detailed design/feasibility work being undertaken and to secure funding for it.

87. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND AND ENERGY REBATE UPDTE

The Director of Resources submitted a report which provided an update on the Household Support Fund Schemes and the Energy Rebate Scheme.

Since the initial Household Support Fund had been announced there had been a further two tranches of funding which had been released, both via the County Council to support district wide initiatives and both with slightly different targets. Details of each Fund was set out in the report.

It was noted that in its Autumn Statement the Government had announced the continued support for the Household Support Fund in to 2023/24. In England this totalled £842m and would run from 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024.

It was reported that the Energy Rebate Scheme which had been announced by the Government in February, 2022 until 30th September, 2022 had been extended to end simultaneously with discretionary scheme on 30th November, 2022. As at 31st October, 2022 the Discretionary Scheme had paid out £223,854 will all unspent funds returned to Government in line with the guidance.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the scope of the Council's Household Support Fund Schemes 1, 2 and 3, as set out in the report, be noted.
- (2) That as part of the Post Office Voucher scheme in the third tranche an award of £65 be allocated to all Band A to H properties in receipt of Council Tax Support.
- (3) That the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be granted delegated authority to agree a local Pendle scheme for the financial year 2023/24.
- (4) That the outcome of the Energy Rebate Scheme, as set out in the report, be noted.

REASON

To give sufficient flexibility to allow all funds to be spent in accordance with the Guidance.

88. UPDATE ON THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023/27

The Director of Resources submitted a report which provided an update on the engagement so far to begin to identify priorities for the Corporate Plan 2023/27.

An in-depth and inclusive engagement approach had been taken to identify priorities for the Council's Corporate Plan 2023/27. This consultation and engagement had involved elected members, staff, the local community, local businesses and partners. It also ran alongside the budget consultation' ensuring it complemented the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and enabled the priorities of the Council to be resourced accordingly.

There was a lengthy discussion on the key findings within the This is Pendle 2022 survey and some suggestions were put forward of other areas such as infant mortality, life expectancy and housing stock to consider including in the Plan. There was also mention of capturing the needs of local businesses and links with Nelson and Colne College.

It was also commented on that there had been a poor response to the survey with engagement from only 422 people.

It was acknowledged that the report and survey provided feedback on what had been going on. Other data sources would be consulted to ensure the Plan was balanced.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

REASON

To acknowledge progress made so far and to note the intention to adopt a new Corporate Plan in February, 2023.

89. TENDERS

The Director of Resources submitted, for information, a report on tenders which had been received and accepted since the last meeting.

90. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the next item of business when it was likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings or the business to be transacted, that there is exempt information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

91. LOMESHAYE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Committee discussed a number of issues relating to the progression of the development of Lomeshaye Industrial Estate.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive and Director of Resources meet with Tim Webber from Barnfield Construction to discuss a number of issues and the outcome of this meeting be reported to the members of this Committee.

REASON

To keep the Committee informed of progress.

Chairman _____