

REPORT BY THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE

The attention of Members is drawn to the following items which have been discussed by the Executive since the last ordinary meeting of the Council:-

EXECUTIVE 25th MAY, 2023

- **Local Plan**

We noted the report and timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan and agreed that it go out for public consultation. We also agreed that the following documents and any previously prepared evidence base and supporting documents be made available for public consultation:

The Pendle Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment, the Pendle Retail and Leisure Capacity Study and the Pendle Local Plan: Sustainability Appraisal Non-Technical Summary.

- **Colne Neighbourhood Development Plan – Examiner’s Report and Referendum**

We accepted the Independent Examiner’s recommended modifications to the Plan and agreed that the Plan, as modified, met the Basic Conditions and was compatible with EU obligations and human rights legislation. A referendum for the Colne Neighbourhood Development Plan was now scheduled for 20th July.

- **Technical Consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy**

We noted the consultation response from the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services and requested additional content be included in relation to question 3 on setting the distinction between integral and levy-funded infrastructure on sustainable and accessible transport, not just highways infrastructure.

- **Colne Levelling Up Projects**

The Executive agreed that the Council act as the Accountable Body for the LUF funded Little Theatre and Hippodrome Theatre schemes in Colne. The Director of Place was granted delegated authority to appoint suitable Project Management and other professional services, funded by LUF, to manage the capital works projects at the Little Theatre and Hippodrome Theatre schemes. He was also granted delegated authority to appoint preferred contractors for the execution of construction works packages at the Little Theatre and Hippodrome Theatre schemes (contractors identified from Council-compliant procurement processes already carried out by both theatres). We noted that works were to commence imminently at the Municipal Theatre in Colne and requested that a Working Group be established to urgently consider the proposals for the remodelling of Colne Market Hall, consisting of two Executive Members, two representatives from Colne Town Council, two representatives from Colne and District Committee and two market traders and that a report be submitted back to the Executive. We also requested that the Peter Birtwistle Trust be approached to see if their involvement and investment could bring further benefits to the Colne Market Hall scheme.

- **Colne Business Improvement District Development Update**

The Executive agreed that the Council continue to support the efforts of the Colne Business Improvement District (BID) as they sought re-election for a second term; also, that the Council supports the BID ballot on Thursday 29th June, 2023; and should the ballot agree to the BID continuing, the date of issue of Levy bills to businesses and their collection be brought forward.

- **Holiday Activities and Food Programme Update**

We noted the 2022/23 update and proposed delivery approach for 2023/24 and granted delegated authority to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, to make final decisions regarding the development of the 2023/24 Pendle Holiday Activities and Food Programme.

- **Land at Ravenscroft Way, Barnoldswick**

We accepted the highest offer of £35,000 for the purchase of the freehold of the above site, subject to the purchaser obtaining planning permission for the proposed use of a single commercial unit and the retention of the Public Right of Way running from Roundell Road to Ravenscroft Way.

Should the purchase not proceed the Chief Executive was authorised to accept any other offers received to purchase the long leasehold of the land up to an amount to which they have delegated authority to agree.

- **Land at Netherfield Road, Nelson**

We agreed that the above land be declared surplus to requirements and delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place to start the negotiations with the tenant and that respective parties bear their own costs.

- **Land at Greenfield Road, Colne**

We agreed that an easement be granted to allow an adjoining owner to construct an underground drain at Greenfield Road, Colne and that the Chief Executive be authorised to agree the amount of premium.

- **Representatives on Outside Bodies**

The following nominations were agreed:

Councillors D. Lord, Z. Ali and a Councillor from the Conservative Group be appointed to the Pendle Community Safety Partnership; and Councillor N. Ashraf and a Councillor from each of the other two political groups be appointed to the Pendle Leisure Trust Board.

EXECUTIVE 22nd JUNE, 2023

- **Nelson Town Deal – Re-Profile of the Business Resilience and Growth Project**

We agreed the intervention rates for the re-profiling of the Nelson Town Deal Business Resilience and Growth project; that the grant availability be amended to three years rather than four and the revised projects and outcomes as set out in the appendix. We agreed that the take-up of bids and the buffer zone be reviewed on an annual basis.

- **Colne Market Hall Scheme**

We requested the submission of a revised planning application for the remodelling and refurbishment of Colne Market Hall, with the addition of new residential units to the first floor, use of a glazed wall between Market Hall/front area and an amended layout; an assessment of the viability of the plans for the front of the build, in the vicinity of the proposed food hall; that the Raise Partnership be asked to look at the resources available in temporary accommodation and consult with the market traders to identify a suitable date for relocation, map their needs and match their requirements with what was available and that an outline project programme be completed by 19th July.

It was also agreed that an assessment be undertaken of the tenure/management options for the first floor residential units; that a proposal for Council funding to support trader relocation be prepared and presented to the Executive for consideration in due course and that the Colne Market Hall Working Group continue to meet to monitor the development, design and implementation of the scheme.

- **ICT Strategy**

We agreed the upgrade to the Council's infrastructure network at a cost of £150,000 and noted the wider ICT Strategy.

- **Corporate Peer Challenge – Final Action Plan Report**

The findings of the action plan were noted; that in the short term the Council goes out to tender for a third party to live stream meetings of the Council, the Executive and Development Management Committee; that the Director of Resources looks at the options for installing an in-house fixed camera solution in the Council Chamber, ideally one that could also be used in the Wilson Room, which could be operated by staff and options to improve the audio system in the Council Chamber with the installation of microphones and to report back in due course.

- **Residential Mobile Homes – Fit and Proper Person Policy**

We agreed the above Policy with the introduction of a fee of £298 for the assessment of Fit and Proper Person applications for relevant residential mobile home sites.

- **Cemetery Sites, Provision for Burial Sites and Crematorium Proposal**

We agreed to suspend the pre purchase of burial plots until the additional space within Colne, Barnoldswick, Barrowford and Earby cemeteries was developed, and the new cemetery opened in Nelson. We asked that the use of the Council owned land linked to the Ghyll Cemetery site in Barnoldswick for burials be investigated. We also asked officers to approach Earby Town Council to seek comments and support for the investigation into the use of part of the transferred land linked to the Earby Cemetery site for burials and the use of land adjacent to the Cemetery and land adjacent to the allotments, also be investigated.

- **Earby Flood Alleviation Scheme**

Progress on flood alleviation measures in Earby were noted; the business case and works required to progress Phase 3 was approved; the works would proceed initially with the appointment of consultants using some of the £200,000 funding from the Environment Agency for the scheme, with a further report submitted to a future meeting of the Executive. We also agreed that the timber boundary fence erected at Goodall Close following the Phase 2 works on New Cut, which had been damaged and vandalised, be replaced with hooped railings to match those on the opposite side of the beck.

- **Further Clough Head, Nelson**

We noted the disposal price and the potential for the transfer of a reduced site area to PEARL Together and the Director of Resources be granted delegated authority to agree a delayed capital receipt for the site.

- **District Enforcement**

We noted the report and agreed that an update would be provided to a future meeting on completion of the internal review of enforcement activities, should a decision be required.

Councillor A. Mahmood,
Leader,
Pendle Borough Council