

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 19th DECEMBER 2024

- **Internal Audit Service**

We agreed to a one-year extension of the Internal Audit Service contract to Mersey Internal Audit Agency to 31st May 2025.

- **Earby Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 3 – Flood Storage Area at Wentcliffe Brook**

We recommended Council to agree that the Environment Agency grant funding of £200,000 be used for flood modelling, scheme design and business case development, and subject to the scheme being deliverable, the Council adopt the new asset and be responsible for all future revenue costs associated with inspections and maintenance.

- **20 Scotland Road, Nelson**

This property was declared surplus to requirements for a sale at its current market value to be negotiated with the tenant, Building Bridges. The Director of Place was also granted delegated authority to negotiate terms of the sale with a restrictive covenant that the property be occupied by a charity delivery services for the benefit of the community.

- **Land at Elizabeth Street, Nelson**

We agreed to declare this land surplus to requirements in order for it to be sold. The Director of Place was granted delegated authority to negotiate terms of a freehold or long leasehold sale on the open market.

- **Land at Vivary Way, Colne**

We agreed not to declare this land surplus to requirements and refused the request to purchase it. We felt that a digital advertising board at this location would create a noise nuisance and be distracting to motorists as well as being an unsightly addition to the gateway into Colne.

- **Leisure Trust Review**

The Pendle Leisure Trust Facility Options Appraisal report was noted as were the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. We asked that investigations be carried out to identify external funding sources which might be available to address some of the improvements referred to in the Options Appraisal report. We also asked for a comprehensive consultation exercise to be undertaken with representatives from the Town and Parish Councils, users of the three facilities in West Craven, Colne and Nelson. A report would also be submitted to a future meeting.

SPECIAL BUDGET EXECUTIVE 15th FEBRUARY 2024

- **Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 – Quarter 3**

We noted the Quarter 3 position.

- **Medium Term Financial Forecast (2024/25 to 2026/27) with Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2024/25 Onwards**

The Executive noted the Medium-Term Forecast position for 2024/25 to 2026/27 and the savings required over the period of the forecast with the gravest of concern regarding the financial cliff edge posed by new food waste collections and Lancashire County Council's requirements for a new waste transfer station.

We noted the General Fund Budget Requirement for 2024/25; the Capital Programme for 2024/25; and the proposed Fees and Charges for 2024/25 and agreed that they be considered further at the Special Budget Council meeting on 26th February 2024 including the proposed increase in Band D Council Tax for 2024/25, being an increase of £8.67 (2.99%).

We requested that each Service be required to operate within its budget for 2024/25 once approved, and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control. Delegated authority was granted to the Director of Resources to determine the most appropriate method of financing the capital programme for 2024/25 to ensure the use of resources was optimised by the Council.

Finally, we agreed that Lancashire County Council be informed of the grave financial situation faced by Pendle Council and other East Lancashire Authorities as a consequence of them cancelling the current waste transfer arrangements at Regent Street, Colne and call for a member level meeting at the highest level in order to get the County Council to stop cost shunting onto Pendle and other East Lancashire Authorities.

- **Performance Update Report 1st April to 31st December 2024**

We noted the report.

Councillor A. Mahmood,
Leader,
Pendle Borough Council