

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 17th JULY 2024**

PRESENT –

Councillor A. Mahmud (- in the Chair)

Councillors

*Z. Ali
D. Lord
Y. Tennant
D. Whipp
T. Whipp*

Also in attendance:

*Councillor N. Ahmed
Councillor K. McGladdery
Councillor M. Stone*

Officers in attendance

<i>Rose Rouse</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>
<i>Phillip Spurr</i>	<i>Director of Place</i>
<i>Damon Lawrenson</i>	<i>Director of Resources (Interim)</i>
<i>Howard Culshaw</i>	<i>Head of Legal and Democratic Services</i>
<i>Iftikhar Bokhari</i>	<i>Head of Economic Growth</i>
<i>Sarah Astin-Wood</i>	<i>Head of Policy and Commissioning</i>
<i>Jane Watson</i>	<i>Democratic Services Manager</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Hanif).

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23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

24. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

25. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

26. LONG-TERM PLAN FOR TOWNS INVESTMENT

The Head of Economic Growth submitted a report which provided an update on progress made on the delivery preparations for the Governments Long-Term Plan for Towns funding £19.5m of which had been allocated to Nelson. The report also included the priorities for funding which had emerged during the investment planning process, in conjunction with the Long-Term Plan Board.

Lauren Ensby from Ekosgen, the consultants who had been appointed to develop the plan attended the meeting and gave a presentation on how the Plan was coming along and the priorities for funding which had been identified in it.

Of the £19.5m allocated (73% capital and 27% revenue) would be released over a 7-year period and the Council would have the flexibility to spend this over a 10 year period. The Fund was focused on three intervention areas:

- Safety and Security
- High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration
- Transport and Connectivity

A comprehensive consultation exercise had been undertaken with the public and one-to-one stakeholder interviews and a vision for Nelson had been developed. A draft Plan had been completed and would be considered by the Long-Term Plan Board on 19th July. Any amendments to the Plan would need to be finalised before the deadline submission date to Government of 1st August 2024.

During discussion some suggestions were made about specific projects. It was explained that there wasn't a need to specify projects at this stage. There would be an opportunity for this further along the process.

RESOLVED

That progress made on the delivery preparations for the Long-Term Plan for Towns funding, which had been allocated to Nelson, be noted.

REASON

To inform the Executive of progress with the Plan.

27. STRATEGIC LEISURE REVIEW – UPDATE

Adam Pearson from PS Research attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the results of the recent consultation on the leisure review.

Over 2,300 responses had been received within the four weeks the consultation was live. Close to 46% of respondents were from the BB18 postcode area and 89% of respondents used Pendle Leisure swimming facilities. It was reported that respondents were most likely to only use one centre regularly; nine out of ten of all respondents used the swimming facilities and location/convenience of a centre was important to people.

When asked for their views moving to one centre or doing nothing were the least favourable options for most people. Overall, 30% of respondents felt it was a very good or quite a good idea

to refurbish the three facilities but close certain areas in each with 67% not agreeing. With regards to a two-centre model, refurbishing one and one new centre, overall, 35% felt it was a very or quite good idea with 60% not agreeing. If two centres were to be refurbished overall 45% felt it was a very or quite good idea with 50% not agreeing.

During discussion of the results a previous resolution of the Executive to find out what role Town and Parish Council's could take on was mentioned along with a suggestion that leisure service be brought back within the Council.

The Director of Place also submitted a report which provided details of the background for the consultation along with next steps. This included the work being progressed to develop plans to spend the £1.7m of Town Deal funding allocated to Pendle Wavelengths. Plans were underway to spend the c£342,000 of Swimming Pool Support funding also allocated to Wavelengths, while a Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund bid to support energy efficiency measures was in preparation for submission to a future meeting.

The Executive were reminded of the need to consider the councils overspend and existing pressures on the Capital Programme and the impact any further pressures would have on the ability to borrow more money. It had already been identified in a report from Max Associates that there was over provision of leisure facilities per capita within the borough.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Adam Pearson from PS Research be thanked for his presentation.
- (2) That the report and results of the consultation be noted.
- (3) That discussions be held with Town and Parish Councils to explore the role they could make to continue to provide the leisure facilities.
- (4) That a comprehensive report be submitted to the Executive meeting on 19th September 2024 setting out the implications of bringing leisure services back in house and to include a full appreciation of how this would work, what it would entail along with savings.

REASON

To determine a clear way forward for leisure provision which was both financially and environmentally sustainable and which was a key issue for the council.

28. LOMESHAYE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE EXTENSION

The Head of Economic Growth submitted a report which provided an update on progress and the current financial position with the extension to the Lomeshaye Industrial Estate.

The report provided an update on progress with the extension to the estate. Additional funding was required for expenditure still to be incurred and this was set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report. £140,287 was required to enable the scheme to be completed.

Phase 1 was now complete, and Phase 2 of the scheme was estimated to be complete by December 2024.

RESOLVED

That an additional commitment of £140,287 be financed from the capital programme towards the completion of the scheme be agreed.

REASON

To ensure that the scheme delivers the intended outcomes without incurring time delays due to budget constraints.

29.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

The Head of Policy and Commissioning submitted, for information, a report on the current position with regards to the Council's role in family support and safeguarding children and adults.

30.

PRODUCTIVITY PLAN

The Director of Resources submitted a report on the requirement for councils to produce a Productivity Plan. This was announced at the last Local Government Finance Settlement.

The aim of the Plan was to help Government understand what was working well across the country, what common themes were emerging, what gaps there were, and what more needed to be done to unlock future opportunities. It was not the intention to impose excessive burdens on local government, and so DLUHC had not issued a formal template or detailed list of criteria to meet. However, they had provided four key statements to address when developing the Plan. These were set out in the report.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the following amendments, the Council's Productivity Plan 2024/25, attached to the report as Appendix 2, be endorsed:

- In the third paragraph of the introduction reference to 'Council Shops' be replaced with 'administrative buildings'.
- The first bullet point under 'Other barriers include' to be replaced with reference to the two tier nature of our area and the cost shunting the County Council was placing on places like Pendle giving the example of the Waste Transfer Arrangements.

REASON

To enable the Council to fulfil the mandatory requirement to produce and publish a Productivity Plan for Pendle.

31.

ITEMS REFERRED FROM AREA COMMITTEES

(a) Higham Village Hall

At a meeting of the Barrowford and Western Parishes Committee held on 5th June 2024 it was resolved "that the Executive be recommended to agree a supplementary estimate of £10,000 to Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council towards replacement of the roof at Higham Village Hall."

It was suggested that officers assist the Parish Council in finding alternative funding streams for them to bid into which would provide the funding required for the roof repairs to the village hall.

RESOLVED

That the Head of Policy and Commissioning be requested to assist Higham and West Close Booth Parish Council to submit a bid for alternative funding for the repairs needed to the roof of the village hall.

REASON

To enable the works to be completed.

32. FORWARD PLAN

The Executive's draft Work Programme and Forward Plan of key decisions for the three-month period commencing 1st July 2024 was submitted for information.

33. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

In accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the Leader agreed that the following items should be considered as a matter of urgency, the grounds being that decisions were required before the next meeting of the Executive.

34. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Members agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during the following two items of business in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended, in relation to exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**35. ROOF REFURBISHMENT, PENDLE LEISURE CENTRE, COLNE
AWARD OF CONTRACT**

The Director of Resources submitted a report seeking the agreement on the award of contract for roof refurbishment works at Pendle Leisure Centre, Crown Way, Colne.

RESOLVED

That the contract for roof refurbishment at Pendle Leisure Centre, Crown Way, Colne be awarded to Complete Roofing Systems Ltd.

REASON

The company submitted the lowest tender and met the required criteria.

36. EXEMPTIONS FROM CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

The Assistant Director, Operational Services submitted a report seeking an agreement on a request for an exemption to Contract Procedure Rules (CPR 5).

RESOLVED

- (1) That an exemption to Contract Procedure Rules (CPR 5) be agreed for the development of a Waste Transfer Station at the Fleet Street Depot, Nelson.
- (2) That the contract be awarded to Wardell Armstrong.

REASON

The formal tendering process would delay development of the site.

Chair _____