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Meeting of: Pennines Township Committee
Date: Wednesday, 16th September, 2020
Time: 6.00 pm.
Venue: Via Zoom / YouTube

This agenda gives notice of items to be considered in private as required by Regulations 5 (4) and (5) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1	Apologies To receive any apologies for absence.	
2	Minutes To consider the minutes of the meeting of the Pennines Township Committee meeting held on 22 July 2020.	3 - 4
3	Declarations of Interest Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary, personal or personal and prejudicial interests they may have and the nature of those interests relating to items on this agenda and/or indicate if S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.	
4	Items for Exclusion of Public and Press To determine any items on the agenda, if any, where the public are to be excluded from the meeting.	
5	Urgent Items of Business To determine whether there are any additional items of business which, by reason of special circumstances, the Chair decides should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.	

6 Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider that the press and public be excluded from the remaining part of the meeting pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that discussions may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the provisions of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

7 Section 106 - Pennines Play Provision

5 - 8

To consider the attached report from the Director of Neighbourhoods

Pennines Township Committee Members

Councillor Irene Davidson
Councillor Janet Emsley
Councillor Aftab Hussain
Councillor Rina Paolucci
Councillor John Blundell
Councillor John Taylor

Councillor Ashley Dearnley
Councillor John Hartley
Councillor Andy Kelly
Councillor Amna Mir
Councillor David Bamford
Councillor Tom Besford

Agenda Item 2

PENNINES TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 22nd July 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Mir (Chair); Councillors Davidson, Dearnley, Emsley, Hartley, Kelly, Paolucci, Blundell, Bamford, Taylor and Besford

OFFICERS: V. White and P. Harris (Neighbourhoods Directorate) and A. James (Resources Directorate)

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Aftab Hussain

APOLOGIES

39 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hussain.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

40 There were no declarations of interest.

URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

41 There were no urgent items of business.

MINUTES - PENNINES TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

42 The Minutes of the meeting of the Pennines Township Committee held on 17th June 2020 were considered.

Members noted that in relation to the changes that had been proposed for the carry forward of revenue funds at that time that they had requested further details about the reasons for the changes and also about the new arrangements that had subsequently been proposed for the carry forward of revenue funds and that this should have been included in the Minutes of the last meeting.

Resolved

1. That subject to the inclusion of the additional details as outlined above, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Pennines Township Committee held on 17th June 2020 be approved as a correct record.

PRESENTATION - PLAY STRATEGY

43 The Committee received a presentation relating to the Play Strategy that was currently in development. The Strategy would be a 10 year strategy and was needed to:

- To move management methods from reacting to circumstances to a planned and progressive method;
- To enable Councillors inform the actions of Officers;
- For new s106 legal processes at the Planning Application stage;
- Everyone pulling together to achieve the shared aims.

The Committee was given an outline of some initial proposals for the Township and the next steps in the process would be:

- Consultation with Townships to agree Township specific action plans within the wider strategy;

- Township agree actions on any decisions around existing over and under provision and cross Ward boundary decisions;
- Adopting the strategy via report to Cabinet;
- Ongoing review process with Township / Ward Members so the action plan for the Township is kept up to date.

Members of the Committee made a number of comments and observations relating to the draft play strategy proposals which included:-

- Planning status of the areas was an issue;
- Public feedback should be included within the proposals;
- Ongoing maintenance costs of play areas once installed was an issue;
- Only Council and RBH owned play areas had so far been included in the strategy proposals;
- Further consultation would be undertaken with Ward Councillors to include any specific sites within Wards that needed to be considered as part of the strategy.

Resolved:

1. That the presentation be noted.

WARDLE AND SMALLBRIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB

44 The Committee considered the report of the Director of Neighbourhoods which presented recommended options and sought funding for the completion of playing pitches at Wardle and Smallbridge Football Club.

Alternatives considered:

Three alternative options for the project were outlined within the submitted report.

In considering the report and the options presented, the Committee, although fully supportive of the valuable community scheme being completed, had some concerns that the budget had been exceeded and that the Township was now being requested to allocate further funds to complete the project. It was agreed that Cabinet be requested to consider whether there were any funds available corporately towards completing the scheme and if not, that the Township would underwrite the full costs of Option1 which totalled £18,000.

Resolved:

1. That due to the ongoing issues with the budget and project for completing the Wardle and Smallbridge Football Club pitches, that the Cabinet be requested to consider contributing funds to complete the project with the Township agreeing to underwrite the total cost of the completing the project of £18,000 from Township Capital Funds should the Cabinet be not able to provide any assistance.

Reasons for the decision:

To ensure the sufficient funding is made available for the additional requirement to meet Planning recommendations and to complete the scheme.

Agenda Item 7

Report to Pennines Township Committee



Date of Meeting	16 September 2020
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Planning, Development & Housing, Cabinet Member for Environment
Report Author	Nick Barton
Public/Private Document	Public

Section 106 - Pennines Play Provision

Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to allocate funds currently held from Section 106 Open Space contributions in Littleborough Lakeside to contribute to improvements to play facilities at Hare Hill Park and Stansfield Estate.

Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee Members approve the allocation of £27,007 from Section 106 Open Space contributions to improvements to play facilities at Hare Hill Park.
- 2.2 It is recommended that Committee Members approve the allocation of £105,000 from Section 106 Open Space contributions to provide a new toddler and junior play facility at Barnes Meadow to service the Stansfield Estate.

Reason for Recommendation

- 3.1 Pennines Township Members have previously requested that all Section 106 Open Space funded schemes be approved by Members by way of a report to an appropriate committee. A similar process of reporting exists in all other Townships.
- 3.2 Costed schemes have been prepared by the Council's Environmental Management Service and are supported by Ward Councillors.
- 3.3 The schemes are within the parameters of the Section 106 agreements and the Council's 'Provision of Recreational Open Space in New Housing' Supplementary Planning Document.

Key Points for Consideration

- 4.1 Rochdale Council's Supplementary Planning Document 'Provision of Recreational Open Space in New Housing', states that contributions may be used towards the provision (including 20 years maintenance) and / or improvement of open space within 5 years of receipt. In the case of informal open space, such as play areas, provision should be within 20 minutes walking distance of the development generating the contribution, the proposed projects meet this criteria.

Hare Hill Play Area

- 4.2 Hare Hill Park is a popular park with a range of facilities. The park benefits from having two play areas catering for different age ranges and a skateboard facility. Most equipment in the toddler play area is in good order and provides high quality play value.
- 4.3 Some equipment is now coming to the end of its life span. Some of the equipment is also outdated and needs to be replaced to ensure it remains interesting and challenging for children. There is an opportunity to improve access and inclusion for children and families with disabilities.
- 4.4 The project proposes to remove the poor quality roundabout and replace with a new inclusive roundabout, which will enable children with disabilities to play alongside children with no disabilities. Replace end of lifespan fire engine play with a new fire engine as this offers multiple play elements for children and feedback shows that the fire engine theme is popular with children. An additional new play element will be installed, such as a trampoline, however the exact equipment will be determined by discussion with ward members and play area users.
- 4.5 The cost of the works is £27,000, including £5,600 a 20 years maintenance fee for inspecting and maintaining the additional playground equipment.

Stansfield Play Area

- 4.6 Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH) are to close their play area on Stansfield Estate. The draft Play Strategy for the Borough recommends a replacement toddler and junior play area on the estate, which will be built on Rochdale Borough Council land to ensure its long term status.
- 4.7 The project proposes the provision of a new play area serving ages 2-11 on land at Barnes Meadow, next to the existing football kick about area opposite 45-51 Barnes Meadow, but stepped back from the road to mitigate impact on residents facing. Residents will be consulted on whether they would like tree planting between their houses and the proposed play area location. A connecting tarmac path would take people from the pavement to the play area. No play equipment for older children will be included, again to mitigate any impact on residents.

- 4.8 RBH are to contribute to the new play area, however the bulk of the cost will have to be met from Council resources, including 20 year maintenance costs, the estimated cost of the works including maintenance is £100,000-£110,000.

Alternatives Considered

- 4.9 The Council is required to spend Section 106 contributions in accordance with legal agreements and local and national planning policy. Not bringing forward projects to spend Section 106 contributions in accordance with these agreements and policies risk the loss of investment in local facilities, and the refunding of monies held from Section 106 contributions where there is a time limited period for spend.
- 4.10 Proposals put forward in this report have been the subject of consultation with Ward Members and reflect their priorities. The use of resources has been considered to maximise the funding available.

Costs and Budget Summary

- 5.1 Section 106 contributions are monitored and managed to ensure that they are received and spent in accordance with policy and financial regulations.
- 5.2 The Council's Environmental Management Service will manage the implementation of these projects in accordance with established project management methodology and are able to meet the full cost of the project from identified budgets.
- 5.3 The identified funding of £132,007 is made up of Section 106 Open Space contributions from development in Littleborough Lakeside at Hare Hill Road (£22,857), Madens Square (£3,735), Todmorden Road (£415) and Stansfield Mill (£105,000).

Risk and Policy Implications

- 6.1 As identified within the report, contributions from Section 106 agreements must be spent within the parameters of each of those legally binding documents. Where money is not spent within the appropriate parameters, then this risks legal challenge, which would present significant financial and reputational as well as legal risk to the Council.
- 6.2 The proposals outlined in this report are compliant with the Council's policies on the provision of local open space Section 106 contributions.

Consultation

7.1 The projects contained within this report have been developed in consultation with Ward Members.

Background Papers	Place of Inspection
8.1 Provision of Recreational Open Space in New Housing Supplementary Planning Document.	Planning and Development, Floor 3, Number One Riverside or online at: http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/pdf/2017-02-21-recreational-open-space-spd-updated-v2.pdf
For Further Information Contact:	Nick Barton, Tel: 01706924847, nick.barton@rochdale.gov.uk