

## **PENNINES TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Tuesday, 12 June 2018**

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

**OFFICERS:** Sandra Bowness and Faye Davies (Children's Services), Donna Bowler and Tracey Knight (Neighbourhoods Directorate), Janet Butterworth (Economy Directorate) and Alison James (Resources Directorate)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Approximately 15 members of the public.

#### **APOLOGIES**

1 There were no apologies for absence.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2 Councillor Hartley declared a personal interest in the Agenda Item - Site for a Free School in Pennines/Rochdale Township.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

3 Decision:

That Councillor Paolucci be appointed to serve as the Vice Chair of Pennines Township Committee for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

#### **URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

4 There were no urgent items of business for the Committee to consider.

#### **ITEMS FOR EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

5 There were no additional confidential items of business for the Committee to consider other than the Agenda Item – Site for a Free School in Pennines/Rochdale Township.

#### **OPEN FORUM (6.15-6.45PM)**

6 The following matter was raised as part of the Open Forum:-

a) Wardle Football Club

The Township Committee received representations from representatives from Wardle Football Club about the possibility of siting a new free school on land used by the Club and which would potentially take away a well used community resource.

Members of the Committee thanked the Club for the work they undertook and agreed to take the views into account when the matter would be considered later on the private Agenda.

## **MINUTES**

7 Decision:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Pennines Township Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **PENNINES TOWNSHIP DELEGATED & FUNDING SUB-COMMITTEE**

8 Decision:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Pennines Township Delegated & Funding Sub Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **EASY HUBS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTOR SERVICE**

9 The Township Committee received a presentation from the Adult Care Service regarding 'Community Connectors' which was a new service created as part of the Locality Plan.

They were a team based in and around EASY Hubs in localities providing people with information, advice and signposting to appropriate organisations. They would support people in the Borough with issues affecting their health and wellbeing such as employment/training, money management, lifestyles (including mental health), preventative services (such as stopping smoking), community opportunities (volunteering) and housing.

They can also give advice to anyone over 18 years but also have links with the Early Help Team if the person is under 18 and can signpost them there.

Referrals can be from anyone – professional or the public and can be via one email, one telephone number or attending a drop in session within their community.

Decision:

That the presentation be noted and welcomed.

## **PENNINES TOWNSHIP DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS 2018/19**

10 The Township Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director (Legal, Governance and Workforce) which Township Committee to confirm its delegated decision making arrangements for the 2018/19 Municipal Year and appoint Members to agreed roles including the Chairs, Vice Chairs and substitute members; and the appointment to other Township Bodies and outside bodies.

Alternatives considered:

The Township Committee could choose not to appoint to sub-committees and undertake all delegated functions themselves, but that this may have a

detrimental impact on the ability to progress Township priorities or deal with urgent items of business.

Decision:

1. That the Sub-Committee structure of the Pennines Township Committee be confirmed comprising of the Pennines Delegated & Funding Sub-Committee, established in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved;
2. That all Members of the Pennines Township Committee be appointed to the Pennines Township Delegated & Funding Sub-Committee and with the Chair being Councillor Mir and the Vice Chair Councillor Paolucci;
3. That the Regeneration & Facilities Service Group and Highways & Environmental Management Service Group be retained and all Members be appointed to each;
4. The relevant Ward Councillors be appointed to the following Ward Area
5. Forum's:
  - a) Milnrow, Newhey and Firgrove Area Forum;
  - b) Littleborough and Wardle Community Meeting;
6. That Councillors Bamford, Davidson, Kelly and Stott be appointed to the Ellenroad Trust Limited;
7. That Councillor Hartley be appointed to the Moorend Trust Management Committee;
8. That Councillors Dearnley, Emsley, Hartley, Kelly, Paolucci, Stott, Mir Blundell and Bamford be appointed to the Pennines Township Planning Panel;
9. That Councillor Blundell be appointed as the Pennines Township Older Person's Champion;
10. That Councillor Davidson be appointed as the Pennines Township Highways Champion;

Reasons for the decision:

The recommendations were presented as the Council has established and appointed Township Committees to undertake certain executive and non-executive powers, as set out in the Responsibility for Council Functions in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution. In addition the Township's Sub-Committee exercises either delegated powers or acts on any matter detailed in the Committee's Terms of Reference on which it is essential to take a decision. Appointments to the Sub-Committee are made, as far as is possible, in accordance with the Township Committee's political balance. The proper appointment of Sub-Committees is required to permit the undertaking of delegated functions in accordance with statutory and procedural requirements, and appointments to Working Groups and Other Bodies are required to enable the Township Committee to undertake and to respond to the full range of issues relevant to the Township.

## **RELEASE OF SURPLUS LAND FOR DISPOSAL IN PENNINES TOWNSHIP**

11 The Township Committee considered a report of the Director of Economy that detailed a number of sites in Pennines Township that were being recommended for disposal. The sites were considered to be surplus to the Council's operational requirements. The sale of the sites would generate capital receipts for the Council and reduce its maintenance liabilities.

Alternatives considered:

The sites detailed in the Director of Economy's report could be retained in their existing uses. Retention of these sites would not secure capital receipts or beneficial development, nor would it reduce the Council's financial and/or environmental liabilities. Retaining these sites in their current use also carried the risk of liabilities such as fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and regular or ad hoc maintenance obligations.

Decision:

1. That the site at Woodheys Road be declared surplus to requirements and released for disposal;
2. That the Head of Legal Service be authorised to prepare the appropriate legal documents and execute such documents on behalf of the Council in respect of the disposal;
3. That the purchaser be required to pay the Council's legal and surveyor's costs.

Reasons for the decision:

The recommendations in the report were presented as the Director of Economy is charged with the continual review of the Council's land and property holdings to identify those that are viewed to be surplus to requirements and which could be sold.

## **PENNINES TOWNSHIP FUNDS REVIEW**

12 The Township Committee considered a report which presented a review of the Township revenue and capital expenditure during 2017/18 and provided options for the allocation of funds for 2018/19.

Members were also requested to consider the Pennines Township Funds terms and conditions and to agree delegation arrangements concerning funding decisions.

Alternatives Considered:

The Committee could decide whether or not to approve the allocation of funds to funding streams and adopt the terms and conditions.

Decision:

1. That the expenditure, commitments and balances for Pennines Township revenue and capital funds at financial year end 2017/18 be noted.

2. That the findings of the review of Township Funds 2017/18 and evaluations received to date for some of the projects funded be noted.
3. That the allocation of Pennines Township Funds to funding streams in 2018/19 be approved.
4. That the terms and conditions for Pennines Township revenue and capital funds for 2018/19, except Item 3d (which is to be deferred to a future meeting for consideration) be approved;
5. That the delegation arrangements for Pennines Township Funds 2018/19 as detailed in the report be approved;
6. The Committee agrees that any uncommitted/unspent funds be reallocated to a central revenue or capital funding stream as appropriate before the end of January 2019, to enable members to spend/commit all Pennines Township Funds during the 2018/19 financial year.

Reasons for the Decisions:

Management of the Pennines Township Fund is delegated to the Pennines Township Action and Resources Delegated Sub-Committee. Pennines Township Funds were allocated to projects that benefit the Township's community and environment, and which realised the Township's priorities.

### **PENNINE ADDITIONAL HIGHWAY INVESTMENT PROPOSED PROGRAMME**

13 The Township Committee considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods that sought approval of proposed carriageway and footway improvement schemes.

Alternatives considered:

The alternative to carrying out the programme would be to select schemes based on condition only. This approach would lead to a deterioration of the network overall and was poor asset management to treat only the worst roads in the area. Using an asset management approach will assist the Council in maintaining its current level three funding from the Department for Transport.

Decision:

1. That the proposed carriageway and footway improvement schemes for Pennines Township be approved.
2. Where events external to the Council require rapid response or agreement in principle, the committee authorise the Head of Highways to vary the programme in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Chair of Pennines Township Committee.

Reason for decision:

To maximise the improvement to the network by carrying out the most efficient and cost effective works to the carriageways and footways.

Eligible for Call-in: Yes

## **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

14 The Township Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director (Legal, Governance and Workforce) that consulted Members on the review of Polling Districts and Polling places within the Township. The consultation period was due to run from 2<sup>nd</sup> July – 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018. A report on this matter was planned to be submitted to the Council meeting scheduled to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

Alternatives considered:

The report was brought to the Township Committee as part of a statutory consultation, therefore no alternatives were considered.

Decision:

That the proposed Polling Districts and Polling places within the Township be supported.

Reason for decision:

The existing arrangements within the Township were considered to be satisfactory for the functions of administering elections.

## **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

15 Decision:

That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following two items of business, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

Reason for Decision:

Should the press and public remain during debate on these two items there may be a disclosure of information that is deemed to be exempt under Parts 1 and 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **SITE FOR A FREE SCHOOL IN PENNINES/ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP**

16 The Township Committee considered the report of the Director of Children's Services which provided details of two sites put forward for a Free School proposal to be submitted by the Altus Education Partnership to the Department for Education for a Free School to be opened in the Pennines Township in 2022.

Alternatives considered:

An alternative route of opening a new Free school is under the Free School Presumption route. In this process the Council would be required to fund the building of a new school and then invite academy trusts to bid to run the school.

Decision:

That the Pennines Township agrees to support the submission by the Altus Education Partnership to the Department for Education to open a free school in Pennines Township in 2022 and that the preferred site be Littleborough.

Reason for the decision:

The Cabinet report dated 24/10/2017 entitled “The Need for Extra Year 7 School Places 2017-2027” detailed the predicted need for extra capacity in Year 7 secondary school places and asked Cabinet to note that two new schools would be needed to open in the borough; one in 2020 in Heywood/Middleton and the second in the Rochdale/Pennines area in 2022.