



EXECUTIVE

THE MEETING WAS A REMOTE MEETING HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS UNDER SECTION 78 OF THE CORONAVIRUS ACT 2020.

Monday, 26th October, 2020 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Councillors M Townsend, L Pate, A Anwar, S Graham, J Harbour and A Raja

OFFICERS

Mick Cartledge	– Chief Executive
Lukman Patel	– Chief Operating Officer
Howard Hamilton-Smith	– Head of Finance and Property
Kate Ingram	– Strategic Head of Economy and Growth
Chris Gay	– Governance Manager
Christine Wood	– Democracy Officer
Paul Barlow	– Stream

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Margaret Lishman

42. Apologies

There were no apologies.

43. Minutes of the last meeting

The Chair advised that the minutes of the previous remote meeting held on 20th October 2020 would be presented to the next meeting of the Executive on 8th December 2020.

44. Additional Items of Business

There were no additional items of business.

45. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

46. Exclusion of the Public

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting before discussion took place on items 8 and 9 of the agenda in view of the nature of the business to be transacted. If the public were present there would be a disclosure within the meaning of Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972.

Items 8 and 9 contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

47. Public Question Time

No questions had been received.

48. Economic Recovery & Growth Strategy

Purpose

The purpose of the report was for the Executive to consider and approve the Economic Recovery and Growth Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 as attached to the report and related budgets.

Reason for Decision

Burnley Borough Council has successfully pursued an ambitious economic growth strategy over the last decade, resulting in significant employment growth and investment. However, the recent COVID 19 pandemic is posing a serious threat to the economy locally and globally.

The Council and its partners need to respond to the immediate crisis whilst continuing to address some existing structural weaknesses in the economy and put in place the building blocks for more diverse, inclusive and resilient economic growth in the future.

A strategic approach will enable the Council and its partners to present a clear economic vision for the Borough to Government and Sub regional partnerships bodies such as the LEP. The strategy will be the building block for lobbying for resources and delivering the Government's levelling up agenda.

The establishment of the Economic Recovery Budget will enable the Council to work with partners to support businesses.

The Employment Partnership post will be key to the work of the Employment and Skills Partnership and in co-ordinating the work of the Youth Employment and Skills Hub ensuring the residents, particularly young people are supported to gain new skills and employment.

A Green Business Pilot/Demonstrator will assist businesses to adopt new green technologies and to diversify into low carbon supply chains.

In approving the recommendations as detailed, Councillor Asif Raja commented on the very good and comprehensive report and expressed thanks to Council officers and the previous

Executive for their contribution. Councillor Raja also stated that there was a need for a long-term strategy for recovery and growth affairs.

Councillor Mark Townsend also congratulated the previous administration on the strategy stating that this had been called for by the then opposition during the Summer period and was a comprehensive piece of work.

Decision

That the Executive:

- I. Recommends to Full Council that it approve, subject to further consultation with key stakeholders, the Economic Recovery and Growth Strategy set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- II. Approves the establishment of an Economic Recovery Board as set out in the Strategy and paragraphs 15-19 of the report; and
- III. Recommends to Full Council the approval of a first tranche increase of £350,000 to the Business Growth Fund to be funded through Business Rates Pool and delegates authority to the Strategic Head of Economy and Growth to agree with the Leader, the Executive Member for Resources and the Executive Member for Economy and Growth a detailed plan for the use of the fund; and
- IV. Approves the establishment of a full time Employment Partnership post to support the Employment and Skills Hub to be funded from the budget established in recommendation iii; and
- V. Recommends to Full Council to approve the use of £25,000 from the Climate Change Initiatives Budget to support a Green Business Demonstrator Project; and
- VI. That the Strategic Head of Economy and Growth be authorized by the Executive to make any minor changes, either typographical or as a result of stakeholder feedback prior to its publication.

49. Burnley College Loan

Purpose

To consider an application from Burnley College for a loan of £4m payable over a period of 15 years.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the loan agreement is financially viable and contains appropriate safeguards to protect the Council's interest in this matter.

The delivery of this project will have benefits to both the College and the wider district. The loan will generate additional income for the Council over the 15 years which makes this proposal both positive financially and for economic growth.

The implications for not providing the loan to the College would be to turn away over 800 16-18 year old students, stop plans to deliver a sport therapist degree and a strength and conditioning degree, reduce the number of elite athletes that study at Burnley college and limit the growth of the College's university, apprenticeship, and business training courses due to the knock on impact on the available capacity of the existing buildings.

To enable the College to continue to undertake work to support local businesses around upskilling and their requirements to aid the economic recovery and future developments.

To maintain the retention rates of 16-18 year old students and to achieve increasingly higher grades year on year.

That the College will look to employ local labour and apprentices in the construction of these buildings.

Decision

That the Executive:

- I. Authorise the Head of Finance and Property to agree the terms of the loan agreement in consultation with the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Member for Resources and Performance Management; and
- II. Authorise the Head of Legal and Democracy to complete all necessary Legal documentation for the loan agreement and any charge against the property; and
- III. Recommends to Full Council to approve the borrowing and budget set out in the financial implications section of the report. (This additional recommendation was introduced by The Head of Finance and Property and approved at the meeting).

50. Pioneer Place

Purpose

To seek approval for the revised development proposal at Curzon Street (Pioneer Place) and Manchester Road.

Reason for Decision

The Council and its development partner Maple Grove Developments has invested a considerable amount of time and resource into bringing the scheme to this stage, including securing the REEL cinema as an anchor occupier and securing £3m of funding from Lancashire County Council and £3.6m from the LEP for "shovel ready" schemes to be delivered by March 2022. The Council now needs to make a decision as to whether or not to proceed with the scheme.

As set out to Members previously the opportunity for a major Leisure based development in the Town Centre will bring new visitors to the town centre during the day and evening time, retail footfall, deliver new jobs and support the growth of the UCLAN campus. The development will diversify the town centre from a primarily retail lead offer and consolidate its leisure and evening economy offer. The development is a major strategic intervention in

Burnley`s Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan and has gained much support from the strategic partners and the Business Improvement District.

However, the scheme is not without its risks which were clearly set out in the report.

In approving the recommendations as detailed, the Executive referred to the financial contribution of Lancashire County Council and the LEP and expressed thanks to both.

Decision

That the Executive note that the Scrutiny Committee on 22nd October 2020 had recommended option A.

The Executive approved option A and in doing so discounted option B as it was considered that it would not deliver the strategic and economic case as set out in paragraphs 37 to 47 of the report.

Approve the proposal and financial business case set out in the report and:

- I. Recommend to Full Council to approve the funding of the development including the acceptance of grant funding from Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership as detailed in the Financial Implication Section of the report; and
- II. Recommend to Full Council that the revised capital programme is approved as set out in the Financial Implication Section of the report; and
- III. Delegate authority to the Strategic Head of Economy and Growth to negotiate and agree terms of variations to existing agreements and agree new agreements (as necessary) to give effect to this decision; and
- IV. Approve an additional £65,000 of "upfront" funding to meet the costs of a revised planning application with funding to be met from the Capital Programme Burnley Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan Budget; and
- V. Authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to complete all legal documents necessary to give effect to this decision (including appropriation of any land under section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972, to enable disposal pursuant to section 233 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990)