

COUNCILLOR BARBARA ASHWORTH, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 24th June 2020

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Ashworth (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Aldred, A. Barnes, Brennan, Bromley, Cheetham, James Eaton, Janet Eaton, Essex, Fletcher, Gill, Haslam-Jones, Haworth, Hughes, Johnson, Kostyan, Lythgoe, MacNae, Marriott, Morris, Neal, Oakes, Powell, Procter, Serridge, Steen and Walmsley.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Cath Burns, Director of Economic Development
Clare Birtwistle, Legal Services Manager (Monitoring Officer)
Karen Spencer, Head of Finance S151 Officer
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager
Jenni Cook, Committee and Member Services Officer**

ALSO PRESENT: 5 members of the public

A short silence was held as a mark of respect for former councillor and Honorary Alderman William Challinor.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors L.Barnes, Farrington, Kenyon, Roberts, Stansfield and Stevens.

2. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Steen declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 4 by virtue that he and his wife were governors at Bacup Nursery.

Councillor Marriott declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 4 by virtue that he was a governor at Staghills Nursery School.

4. Futures Park Plot 1 Development

The Council considered the Futures Park Plot 1 Development report, which was introduced by Councillor Alyson Barnes, Leader of the Council.

Discussion took place on the item and officers provided clarification where requested as follows:

- Bright Futures were a social enterprise.
- Use of a site that had been empty for years.
- Childcare to be provided was 7am-6pm, 52 weeks per year.

- LEP growth deal and funding were clarified.
- Highways concerns were being addressed and contact had been made with stakeholders of other nurseries.
- General funding of nursery schools was noted.

Exclusion of Public and Press

It was moved and seconded to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the discussion as it involved the disclosure of exempt information.

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Members continued to discuss the item and officers provided clarification where requested.

Resolved:

1. Members agree to the Council developing out Plot 1 to provide a bespoke nursery school along with any necessary road/pedestrian infrastructure improvements within the Futures Park village on condition that the re-profiled submission to Growth Deal is approved.
2. Members agree an addition to the Capital Programme of £1.624m to develop Plot 1, funded by LEP grant of £0.719m and £0.905m of Council borrowing.
3. All future amendments to the scheme to be delegated to the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.
4. Members approve the use of the existing cross party Project Development Group as a means to receive updates on the implementation of this project.

Reason for Decision

To support a business expansion to provide quality nursery provision in one of the most deprived parts of the borough, and create an additional 30 jobs locally. It will generate a modest revenue income to support the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.40pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date