

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 1st July 2020

**Present: Councillor A Barnes (Chair)
Councillors Hughes, Lythgoe, Oakes, Serridge and Walmsley**

**In Attendance: Mr N Shaw, Chief Executive
Mrs C Burns, Director of Economic Development
Mr A Allen, Director of Communities
Ms C Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer
Ms K Spencer, Head of Finance
Mr P Morton, PPU Manager
Mr G Darragh, Economic Development Manager
Miss G Ashton, Committee and Member Services Officer
Mrs J Wood, Committee and Member Services Officer**

**Also Present: Councillors Haworth, Morris, Neal and Steen
4 members of public**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Walmsley confirmed in relation to report C2, Bacup Future High Streets Fund Bid, himself and his partner were residents and owners of a business in Bacup.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No written questions had been submitted.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The Portfolio Holder for Environment outlined the report which asked members to consider, approve and adopt the draft Strategy and Action Plan.

Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:

- Amendment to the report to include the following wording “That the Council are committed to implementing the action and consider the implications in terms of the Council’s medium term financial strategy planning”.
- Amendment to the Solar Panel case study in the report to include the correct figures.

In response to questions raised it was noted that:

- Clarification was given on concerns raised about consultation.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.
2. Additional wording to be added to the Strategy: "That the Council are committed to implementing the actions and to consider the implications of each action in terms of the Council's medium term financial strategy planning".

Reason for Decision:

Work to tackle Climate Change would continue to be a priority for all services of the Council and we would actively work with partners to tackle the threats of Climate Change. The adoption of a Climate Change Strategy would provide long term direction in reducing the impact of climate change across the borough and help achieve our carbon reduction targets.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

7. BACUP FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND BID

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Leisure outlined the report which asked members to approve the Bacup Future High Streets Fund bid, authorise up to £3.08m of capital funding to support the project if the bid was successful and delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development in conjunction with the Section 151 Officer to make any minor amendments to the project bid before submission in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:

- Not all derelict buildings were included in the plan.
- Improvement of the Town Centre.
- Further consultation needed if successful in the bid.

In response to questions raised it was noted that:

- Longer term plan to deal with all the derelict buildings.
- Consultation to take place with Planning if successful.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the Bacup Future High Streets Fund bid.
2. Cabinet authorised up to £3.08m of capital funding to support the project if the bid was successful.
3. Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Economic Development in conjunction with the Section 151 Officer to make any minor amendments to the project bid before submission in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision:

The project has the power to transform Bacup town centre for the next generation. The Bacup Market Square development aims to deliver a modern vibrant offer to visitors, businesses and residents. The new public realm proposals will enhance the town centres appeal and draw visitors from the car parks into the heart of the town. The heritage buildings chosen will be restored and given new modern uses.

If successful, this bid provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to bring significant investment into a town centre that has suffered from lack of investment for many generations.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. 2019/20 DRAFT OUT-TURN REPORT

The Portfolio Holder for Resources outlined the report which asked members to note the contents of the report and approve funding the adverse variance out-turn from the Transitional Reserve.

Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:

- Welcomed the new Section 151 Officer.
- Staff Vacancies.
- Thanked staff for the work they have completed on the report.
- Empty Homes.
- Council Tax arrears.

In response to questions raised it was noted that:

- Confirmation of two Senior Posts had been filled.
- A reduction had taken place from 375 in 2015 to just over 100 in 2020 in relation to Empty Homes.
- A softly worded letter would be sent to households in relation to Council tax. Residents struggling to pay due to the COVID-19 pandemic or the Post Office closures in Whitworth should contact the team to discuss their payments.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet noted the contents of the report.
2. Cabinet approved funding the adverse variance out-turn from the Transitional Reserve.

Reason for Decision:

Robust monitoring of the General Fund and MTFs is essential to control risks.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.06pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE