

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 16th June 2021

**Present: Councillor A Barnes (Chair)
Councillors Ashworth, Hughes Serridge (observed via Zoom) 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, Head of Legal (Monitoring Officer)
Ms K Spencer, Head of Finance (S151 Officer)
Mr G Darragh, Head of Regeneration
Miss G Ashton, Committee and Member Services Officer**

Also Present: Councillor Neal

**Observed via Zoom: Councillors Oakes and Haworth
Mr C Finn, Finance Manager
2 members of public**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lythgoe.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to item 7 of the minutes, Councillor Walmsley advised that he had a property in the Bacup High Street Heritage Action Zone but no disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to the Cultural Consortium.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No written questions had been submitted. Councillor Neal raised a question which was answered by Councillor Barnes.

6. HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME

The Portfolio Holder for Health & Leisure outlined the report which asked members to agree that the 2021/22 Holiday Activity and Food Programme be delivered by Rossendale Leisure Trust and a Memorandum of Understanding between Rossendale Council and Lancashire County Council be signed to facilitate this.

Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:

- The Council welcomed the initiative and gave thanks to Rossendale Leisure Trust for taking this work forward.

- The Council would continue working with food groups and clubs and gave thanks to them, for all their efforts particularly during the pandemic.
- The Leader to write to LCC and Government to make a case for extending the role of District Co-ordinator.
- Cllr Neal was acknowledged for raising the issue of holiday hunger initially with Council.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet agreed that the 2021/22 Holiday Activity and Food Programme be delivered by Rossendale Leisure Trust and a Memorandum of Understanding between Rossendale Council and Lancashire County Council be signed to facilitate this.
2. That a letter be written to make a case for extending the role of the District Co-ordinator.

Reason for Decision:

The delivery of the HAF programme will contribute to improved health and wellbeing outcomes for many young people in Rossendale. The Trust are well placed to deliver a successful programme given their experience. The Council do not have the necessary staff capacity or experience to deliver such a programme. It is recommended that Rossendale Leisure Trust deliver the programme on the Council's behalf and the Memorandum of Understanding signed to facilitate this.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

7. BACUP HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE – CULTURAL CONSORTIUM GRANT

The Portfolio Holder for Health & Leisure outlined the report, which asked members to note the successful award of £90,000 to the Bacup Cultural Consortium. To authorise the Monitoring Officer to sign the Grant Funding agreement and accept the £40,000 grant uplift for the Bacup HS HAZ.

Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:

- It was good news for Bacup and congratulations to all involved.
- It was clarified that the Council was the accountable body for the grant.

Resolved:

Cabinet members:

1. Noted the successful award of £90,000 to the Bacup Cultural Consortium.
2. Authorised the Monitoring Officer to sign the Grant Funding Agreement with Historic England and enter into a legal agreement with members of the Cultural Consortium CP2 payment certificate and for the Council to act as the Accountable Body for the grant between Historic England and The Horse & Bamboo Theatre (Chair of Bacup Cultural Consortium).
3. Authorised the Monitoring Officer to accept the £40,000 grant uplift for the Bacup HS HAZ for public realm professional fees to RIBA stage 3 and all statutory notices, all planning permissions are ready for delivery in year 3 subject to a further uplift and enter into a grant agreement with Historic England.

Reason for Decision:

To sign and submit all of the required documents for Historic England to begin the grant draw down process and Cultural Programme delivery. To accept the grant uplift of £40,000 for public realm professional fees.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT Q4 2020/21 (INCLUDING COVID GRANT FUND REPORT)

The Portfolio Holder for Resources outlined the report which asked members to note the contents of the draft out-turn report and approve the proposed movements to and from reserves as set out in Appendix 1.

Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:

- The Council stepped up whether it be for flooding or a pandemic and it was hoped this would be recognised.

Resolved:

Cabinet members:

1. Noted the contents of the draft out-turn report.
2. Approved the proposed movements to and from reserves as set out in Appendix 1.

Reason for Decision:

Robust monitoring of the General Fund and MTFs is essential to control risks expressed in section 4 of the report and the council continues to undertake this.

The 2020/21 budget originally estimated that reserves would be required to fund the gap between what the council spends and the income it receives to fund services. The Covid adjusted outturn position means the council will be able to reduce the contribution required from reserves. The council’s overall financial position has improved due to the adjusted outturn position. However, the impact of Covid is still not completely known and remains a risk.

Despite a continued cost reduction programme, the on-going challenge remains for the council to continue its savings agenda in order to help realise its medium term saving and targets. Members, collectively, continue to face difficult choices in order to balance expenditure with available resources over the medium term. The council must remain focused on delivering further efficiencies.

It is uncertain how much Government funding the council will receive from April 2022 onwards. Until the Government publish the results of the Fair Funding Review and the proposed new business rates scheme, also the long term impact of Covid is unknown there is a significant risk to the MTFs.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

- Note from the Leader that vaccines were available in Rossendale and urged members to publicise the vaccine roll out within the borough.

The meeting concluded at 7.00pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE