

COUNCILLOR ANNE CHEETHAM, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 20th December 2022

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Cheetham (in the Chair)
Councillors Ashworth, A. Barnes, Coogan, James Eaton, Janet Eaton, Foxcroft, Hughes, Johnson, Kenyon (part), Lythgoe, McInnes, McMahan, MacNae, Marriott, Morris, Neal, Oakes, Powell, Rigby, Rooke, Serridge, M. Smith, S. Smith Snowden, Steen, Thompson, Walmsley and Woods.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Adam Allen, Director of Communities
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Karen Spencer, Chief Finance Officer / S151 Officer
David Moore, Interim Director of Economic Development
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 1 press
4 public
By remote access (Zoom): 1 public observer from 7.47pm**

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Adshead, S.Barnes, Hodgkiss, Pendlebury and Procter.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2022 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

4. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Councillors Foxcroft and Lythgoe were Rossendale Leisure Trust Board Members
- Councillor Cheetham was a Governor of Haslingden High School
- Councillor McInnes was a member of Rossendale Harriers and Civic Pride and Whitaker Park Friends

5. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service

There were no communications from the Mayor.

The Head of Paid Service was not in attendance but passed on his thanks to all 36 members of the council and all the council's officers for their support and help during his three years with the council. It was a privilege to hold the role and he wished the council all the success in the future with its new management team.

Thanks was put on record for Neil Shaw for his work as Chief Executive. He had arrived at a difficult time and the Council wished him every success in his new position.

In response to social media posts, the Leader of the Council clarified that the gritting of footpaths was not a borough responsibility and it was Lancashire County Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

6. Appointment of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service

The Council considered the recommendation of the Appointments and Appeals Panel regarding the appointment of the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service, and a recommendation regarding interim arrangements.

Thanks to Clare Law, Head of People and Policy, for her efforts in the process and all who have been involved.

Resolved:

To appoint Rob Huntington to the post of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service subject to HR policies, references and clearances being completed, and that in the interim it is agreed that Adam Allen will assume the role of Acting Chief Executive undertaking the duties of the Head of Paid Service.

Reason for Decision

To appoint a Chief Officer to a vacant post.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

7. Appointment of Director of Economic Development

The Council considered the recommendation of the Appointments and Appeals Panel regarding the appointment of the Director of Economic Development.

Thanks was again given to Clare Law for all the activity around the appointments.

Resolved:

To appoint David Smurthwaite to the post of Director of Economic Development subject to HR policies, references and clearances being completed.

Reason for Decision

To appoint a Chief Officer to a vacant post.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

8. Lancashire 2050 Framework

N.B. Councillor Rooke left the meeting.

The Council considered the Lancashire 2050 Framework report.

N.B. Councillor Rooke returned to the meeting.

Resolved:

That Full Council:

1. Endorse the outline Lancashire 2050 strategic framework (Appendix 1) as the strategic framework that will guide further development of shared detailed priorities and actions.

2. Agree that the Leader of the Council continues to work with Lancashire Leaders in line with the principles already agreed by Full Council on 31 January 2022 including that the Leader will make representations to that forum any matters arising from Full Council's consideration of this report.
3. Note that any additional proposals will require further approval by Full Council at the appropriate time.

Reason for Decision

Approval of this report will represent the continuing commitment of Rossendale Council to ensure that there continue to be opportunities to contribute to and influence Lancashire 2050, including identifying specific schemes and activities.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

9. Our Place, Our Facilities, Our Plan – our vision for leisure facilities in Rossendale (Leisure Facilities)

The Council considered the Leisure Facilities report.

Adam Allen and Ken Masser were thanked for their hard work and it was agreed that feedback would be provided to members regarding what the feedback was from the Lawn Tennis Association as to why Edgeside park was not successful.

N.B. Councillor Kenyon left the meeting.

Resolved:

1. That Council agree the vision for leisure facilities in Rossendale, including initial proposals for the council's leisure assets.
2. That further work is undertaken to finalise designs and secure potential funding partner(s).

Reason for Decision

The report sets out an ambitious vision for our future leisure and wellbeing offer. Part of the programme has funding identified. However, by agreeing a vision it will be possible to better secure potential funding partners.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

10. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

The Council considered the UK Shared Prosperity Fund report.

It was agreed to provide members with an update on the split of funding by years for the UKSPF.

Resolved:

1. Council authorise acceptance of £2,663,864 from the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund as detailed in 6.1 below, being the allocation for Rossendale.
2. Council agrees to provide a capital contribute of £200k towards the improvement of the Haslingden market project.
3. To delegate authority to the council's Section 151 Officer working jointly with the Finance lead member to agree the detail of any small amendment or reprofiling to the project funding or grant acceptance.

4. To delegate authority to the council's Director of Economic Development to manage the implementation of the Investment Plan in conjunction with the lead member for Regeneration.

Reason for Decision

The UKSPF Investment Plan, if successful, will deliver a range of revenue and capital projects which will help support improvement in our town centres, improve quality of leisure facilities and support local businesses. This will support our economic development and community aspirations. The report seeks approval for acceptance of the SPF funding.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

NOTICES OF MOTION

11. Notice of motion

Councillor Scott Smith moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Hughes:

Rossendale BC notes that World AIDS Day on the 1st December is an opportunity to show support and solidarity for people living with HIV. Furthermore, we remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS and we honour them by breaking down the stigma of living with HIV. We fully support World AIDS Day and supports the objectives of the national HIV Action Plan, which are:

1. *Ensuring effective co-ordination of prevention, treatment and care*
2. *Reducing levels of undiagnosed HIV and transmission in the UK*
3. *Effective monitoring of HIV resources and improved accountability. We commit that moving forwards we will fly the "red ribbon" flag on 1st December each year on World AIDS Day and during the week after we will promote the sale of Red Ribbons at public points controlled by Council*

Rossendale BC further notes that:

1. *Thanks to advances in clinical treatment, people living with HIV can live long, healthy, fulfilling lives.*
2. *People living with HIV have their rights protected under the Equality Act 2010.*
3. *RBC recognises a number of voluntary organisations including the National AIDS Trust, Renaissance UK, George House Trust and Terence Higgins Trust and commends them for their work in helping people living with HIV and their families.*

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- There was a need for education on sexual health generally.

Resolved:

The Council fully supports World AIDS Day and supports the objectives of the national HIV Action Plan, which are:

1. Ensuring effective co-ordination of prevention, treatment and care.
2. Reducing levels of undiagnosed HIV and transmission in the UK.
3. Effective monitoring of HIV resources and improved accountability. We commit that moving forwards we will fly the "red ribbon" flag on 1st December each year on World AIDS Day and during the week after we will promote the sale of Red Ribbons at public points controlled by Council.

Reason for Decision

To support the motion.

12. Exclusion of Public and Press

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items 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.

13. Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT) Update

The Council considered and discussed the RLT update.

Resolved:

To agree the recommendations as detailed in the report with an additional recommendation.

Reason for Decision

To support the original recommendations with one additional recommendation.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.58pm and concluded at 8.47pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date