

COUNCILLOR ANNE CHEETHAM, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 22nd June 2022

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Cheetham (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes,
Brennan, Coogan, Foxcroft, Kenyon, Lythgoe, McMahon,
MacNae, Marriott, Morris, Neal, Oakes, Procter, Rigby, Rooke,
Serridge, Smith, Snowden, Thompson, Walmsley and Woods.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Neil Shaw, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Adam Allen, Director of Communities
Mandy Lewis, Director of Economic Development
Karen Spencer, Head of Finance/ S151 Officer
John Illingworth, Mayor's Attendant**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 2 public
By remote access (Zoom): 1 public observer.**

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors James Eaton, Janet Eaton, Haworth, Hughes, Johnson, McInnes, Pendlebury, Powell, Steen and Whitehead.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 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

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no communications from the Head of Paid Service.

The Mayor invited councillors to attend her Civic Sunday Service which was being held at 9.30am on Sunday 17th July at Edenfield Parish Church.

The Leader of the Council congratulated Viva PR for their success at the PRCA DARE Awards (North West) in recognition of the Rossendale Forest initiative. The Council's thanks goes to them for all their hard work.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

6. Annual Report 2021/22

The Council considered the Annual Report 2021/22.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Work was underway on the housing strategy.

- The report was a summary of the main achievements.
- It was an opportunity to celebrate the achievements made by the Council and staff.
- The Corporate Plan had started to bring in investment and would continue to do so.

The Leader of the Council thanked everyone who delivered the services.

Resolved:

That Full Council consider the achievements of the council in the last twelve months, summarised in the Annual Report 2021-22.

Reason for Decision

The Annual Report is one approach the council uses to publicly report its progress. The report is being considered by Full Council to enable members to discuss the council's progress over the last twelve months and to celebrate its achievements. A copy of the Annual Report will be published on the council's website to enable local people to understand what progress the council is making.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

7. Supported Accommodation for Homeless Families in Rossendale

The Council considered the report on Supported Accommodation for Homeless Families in Rossendale.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- It was positive action to meet the needs of local people to make sure they were housed within the borough.

Resolved:

1. To approve the purchase of two residential properties to use for supported accommodation for homeless families within Rossendale utilising Section 106 commuted sums.
2. To delegate the purchase of the two houses to the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the portfolio holder.

Reason for Decision

The council accepts the statutory duty to provide suitable supported accommodation for homeless households/families failing within one or more of the identified priority needs. In evaluating how best to meet this need the council concludes that the purchase of two properties utilising received s106 money provides officers with an appropriate means of meeting the need of this priority group. The council will have full control of managing the resource and potentially are able to manage a source of income to ensure needs are met.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. Food Law Service Plan 2022/23

The Council considered the Food Law Service Plan 2022/23.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Food inspections were now being focussed on, following the covid pandemic.

Resolved:

That the Food Service Plan 2022/2023 is approved.

Reason for Decision

The Food Law Service Plan 2022/23 will deliver the Council's obligation to comply with the FSA's Food Law Code of Practice.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

9. Household Support Fund – Second Round

The Council considered the Household Support Fund report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The support had been extended until next year.

Thanks was given to the officers and also the Portfolio Holder for their hard work.

Resolved:

Council approved:

1. The suggested allocations for the Household Support Fund.
2. Following on from LCC's directive that all councils make a payment of £90 to eligible pensioners, £9,400 of the Discretionary Energy Rebate scheme funding be used to allow this Council to make a payment of £55 to eligible families.
3. That all future minor amendments to the criteria and budget be delegated to the Head of Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

It is considered that given the constraints around identifying those most in need, the scheme outlined in the report provides the best balance of distributing funding rapidly to those in priority groups, whilst also ensuring that additional support is available for those most in need and in contact with food banks and the Citizens Advice.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

10. Constitution Review

The Council considered the Constitution Review.

Thanks was given to Legal for the final refresh.

Resolved:

Council adopt the proposed Constitution changes and amend the Constitution as necessary in relation to:

1. The proposed Finance Procedure Rules as outlined in Appendix 2.
2. The proposed minor changes to part 4 as outlined in Appendix 3.

Reason for Decision

The Council is required by law to implement a Constitution and it is in the interests of the Council to regularly review and update the document.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

11. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report and Work Programme

The Council considered the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report and Work Programme.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Progress in task and finish on suicide prevention
- Work had commenced on recommendation 8 of the Peer Review.

Thanks was given to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and also to former councillor Karl Kempson for his work on the committee as vice-chair. The Portfolio Holder offered to meet with any councillors who had ideas on improving scrutiny along with the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny.

Resolved:

Council approved the Annual Report 2021/22 and Work Programme 2022/23.

Reason for Decision

To be informed of the work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2021/22 and outline the work to be carried out during 2022/23.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

NOTICES OF MOTION

12. Notice of motion

Councillor Foxcroft moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Thompson:

Earlier this month Community Groups from across the Borough and Whitworth Town Council supported residents to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, marking the historic achievement of 70 years on the throne.

Council thanks all the groups who stepped in to ensure residents across the Valley could mark the occasion and requests the leaders of all political groups write a joint letter to the Queen thanking her for her 70 years of service to the residents of Rossendale, Lancashire, the UK and the Commonwealth.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The Communities Team had supported lots of organisations with grants and events across our borough.
- A letter had already been sent by Leader on behalf of the Council.

Resolved:

Leaders of all political groups write a joint letter to the Queen thanking her for her 70 years of service to the residents of Rossendale, Lancashire, the UK and the Commonwealth.

Reason for Decision

To support the motion.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.46pm and concluded at 8.05pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date