

## COUNCILLOR ANNE CHEETHAM, MAYOR

**MINUTES OF:** THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

**DATE OF MEETING:** 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**PRESENT:** The Mayor Councillor Cheetham (in the Chair)  
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Coogan, James Eaton, Janet Eaton, Foxcroft, Hodgkiss, Hughes, Johnson, Kenyon, Lythgoe, McInnes, McMahon, MacNae, Marriott, Neal, Oakes Pendlebury, Powell, Procter, Rigby, Rooke, Serridge, M. Smith, S. Smith Snowden, Steen, Thompson, Walmsley, Whitehead 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  
Karen Spencer, Chief Finance Officer  
Mandy Lewis, Director of Economic Development  
John Illingworth, Mayor's Attendant

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** 1 press  
8 public

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The Mayor presented three certificates of appreciation on behalf of the Council as follows:

- Civic Pride in recognition of their achievements in the Royal Horticultural Society's 2022 Britain in Bloom Awards.
- Bacup Pride in recognition of their achievements in the Royal Horticultural Society's 2022 Britain in Bloom Awards.
- Brent Peters in recognition of his work within the sport of football, especially in achieving 25 years at Bacup Borough Football Club.

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### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Brennan, MacNae and Morris.

### 2. Minutes

#### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 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

In relation to minutes 7 and 8 the following declarations were made:

- Councillors McInnes and McMahon declared an interest as volunteers of Positive Start.
- Councillor Johnson declared an interest as a volunteer of Raft.
- Councillor Procter declared an interest as a trustee at Citizens Advice.

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

There were no communications from the Mayor or Head of Paid Service.

The Leader of the Council provided the following updates:

Active Lancashire had won an award for its successful delivery of two East Lancashire employment programmes, one of which was Rossendale Works. Rossendale Works was a partnership between Active Lancashire, Rossendale Council and the Department for Work and Pensions that provided tailored employment support. She noted that it was great to see Rossendale Works receiving the recognition it deserved in not only helping people in the borough into work, but also in engaging local businesses to continue to employ locally.

The Whitaker Museum was congratulated on becoming a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO). This very prestigious status was only awarded to those cultural venues which the Arts Council consider to be of national significance, both in the work that they produce and also the quality of the facility itself. It would secure significant ongoing annual funding from the Arts Council for future development and would strengthen the partnership with the Arts Council for future projects. She noted that it was a testament to the hard work of all the staff at the museum and in the Council that there was a beautifully refurbished museum here in Rossendale that was nationally recognised.

The fifteen local authorities in Lancashire have been working together in 2022 to develop a long-term plan for Lancashire, called Lancashire 2050. It was an excellent opportunity for all the councils in Lancashire to work together to agree a set of priorities and projects which would really benefit residents. For the first time it would set out for residents and the Government what we would like to achieve together. On 28 February, the Council would consider the strategic framework for Lancashire 2050. The Leaders of each of the fifteen councils had led the development of the framework which had enabled Rossendale to influence and shape the framework. Details of Lancashire 2050 would also be announced on Lancashire Day – 27 November – at a launch event at the House of Commons.

## **ORDINARY BUSINESS**

### **6. Local Council Tax Support Scheme**

The Council considered the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

#### **Resolved:**

That Full Council approve the Rossendale Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 as set out in the report.

#### **Reason for Decision**

Councils are required to set a Council Tax Support scheme annually, before the 11th March on the charge year, in this case 2023/24. No conclusive case for significant amendment to the scheme has been identified at this time.

#### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

### **7. Household Support Fund – Third Round**

The Council considered the Household Support Fund – Third Round report.

#### **Resolved:**

Council approve:

1. The suggested allocations and process for the Household Support Fund.
2. 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.

**8. 'Ease the Squeeze' support package**

The Council considered the 'Ease the Squeeze' support package.

**Resolved:**

That Council consider and approve the package of support proposed to address the current cost of living pressures for Rossendale residents.

**Reason for Decision**

The package of measures is aimed to help some of Rossendale's most vulnerable residents. It supports the wider strategic aim of the council to have 'healthy and proud communities'. Agreement to these measures is likely to reduce the exposure of vulnerable residents to health risks if they reduce their residential heating.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**9. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Update**

The Council considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy update.

**Resolved:**

Members noted and considered the contents of the report.

**Reason for Decision**

The Council must identify and deliver further efficiencies/savings and generate additional income in order to achieve balanced budgets over the short to medium term in order to ensure long-term sustainability for the Council.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**10. Public Meeting Schedule**

The Council considered the Public Meeting Schedule for 2023/24.

**Resolved:**

That Council agree the Public Meeting Schedule containing dates of public meetings for 2023/2024 as detailed at Appendix A.

**Reason for Decision**

To agree a committee schedule in order to ensure that the Council can effectively conduct its business.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**(The meeting commenced at 7.04pm and concluded at 8.05pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....