

**MINUTES OF: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Present:** Councillor M.Smith (Chair)  
Councillors S. Barnes (sub), Coogan, Janet Eaton, Foxcroft, Marriott,  
Morris, Procter and Thompson (in part)

**In attendance:** David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development  
Adam Allen, Acting Chief Executive  
Ian Walker, Service Assurance Officer  
Cate Atwater, Rossendale Leisure Trust  
Phill Holden, Rossendale Leisure Trust  
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager

**Also Present:** Councillors Ashworth and Lythgoe  
1 member of the public

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**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Rook and McMahon (Councillor S. Barnes subbing) and it was noted that Councillor Thompson would be arriving late.

**2. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Foxcroft declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Rossendale Leisure Trust board member (minutes 9 and 11).

**4. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**5. Question Time**

There were no public questions.

**6. Chair's Update**

6.1 Following the last meeting, minor amendments suggested by the committee were made to the Re-use & Re-development of Employment Land SPD before it went out to consultation. The Acting Chief Executive also provided a breakdown of the 117 fixed penalty notices for environmental crime that was detailed in the Key Performance Indicators.

6.2 Following the January meeting, the three housing associations that attended provided their responses to the questions asked, including the additional questions. A copy of these were circulated to members of the committee for information.

## **ORDINARY BUSINESS**

### **7. Refresh of Housing Benefit Overpayment Policy**

- 7.1 The Service Assurance Officer, Ian Walker, informed members of the changes to the policy, which would also be going to Cabinet for approval in March.

#### **Resolved:**

The committee recommended Cabinet to agree the refreshed policy as detailed in the report.

### **8. The Forward Plan**

- 8.1 Members were updated on the Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for June.

#### **Resolved:**

The Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme items were noted.

### **9. Rossendale Leisure Trust Annual Report and Annual Update**

- 9.1 The Acting Chief executive introduced the item and summarised how the Council and Trust had been working closely over the last 3 years. Grant Thornton were doing a report to identify risk to the Council and Trust and the report would be brought to full Council once complete. The Head of Partnerships, Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT), Cate Atwater, and Head of Operations and Development, Phill Holden, provided members with an update on the work of the Trust over the last year and key challenges for 2023/24. A video of key achievements had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

- 9.2 Members requested that a report be brought for future annual updates and noted that the video was informative and very professional.

It was moved and seconded to exclude public and press from the remainder of this item and the remaining business owing to the disclosure of exempt information.

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**N.B.** Councillor Thompson entered the meeting.

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### **10. 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.

### **11. Rossendale Leisure Trust Annual Report and Annual Update (continued)**

- 11.1 Members continued to discuss the update from the Leisure Trust.

#### **Resolved:**

The committee noted the annual update and requested the Leisure Trust come back to provide a further update on the business plan progress in September.

### **12. Refresh of the Housing Benefit Write-Off Policy**

- 12.1 The Housing Benefit Write-Off Policy was considered and discussed.

**Resolved:**

The committee recommended Cabinet to agree the refreshed policy as detailed in the report.

**(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.25pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....