

## **COUNCILLOR ANDREW WALMSLEY, MAYOR**

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

**DATE OF MEETING: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Walmsley (in the Chair)  
Councillors Adshead, B. Ashworth, D. Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Cheetham, Driver, Eaton, Foxcroft, Gill, Hughes, Kenyon, Looker, McInnes, McMahon, MacNae, Marriott, Morris, Neal, Oakes, Powell, Rigby, Rooke, M. Smith, S. Smith, Snowden, Thompson and Whitehead.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service  
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer  
Karen Spencer, Chief Finance Officer/ S151 Officer  
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development  
Phil Morton, Public Protection Manager  
Jac Jordan, Communications  
Darren Kershaw, Mayor's Attendant  
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 1 press  
124 public  
Sam Sandford, Rossendale Leisure Trust**

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Coogan, Hodgkiss, Johnson, Norton, Procter and Woods.

### **2. Minutes**

#### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and Extraordinary Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 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:

- Councillor Scott Smith- was a member of the board of Active Lancashire.
- Councillors Foxcroft and Lythgoe were members of the board of the Rossendale Leisure Trust.

### **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 informed that Lancashire was moving forward on the Devolution deal, but it was not the deal that the group of authorities had agreed about 12 months ago, which included one vote per authority and included all fifteen authorities. This deal looked to include Lancashire County Council (LCC), Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Councils. The authorities had endeavoured to get across to LCC the desire to remain part of the Lancashire Leaders partnership working group and had asked LCC to find meaningful way

to involve the districts in the deal going forward. The Leader would keep members informed of further developments.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **6. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report and Work Programme**

The Council considered the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2022/23 and Work Programme 2023/24.

#### **Resolved:**

That Council approve the Annual Report 2022/23 and Work Programme 2023/24.

#### **Reason for Decision**

To inform of the work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2022/23 and outline of the work to be carried out during 2023/24.

#### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **ORDINARY BUSINESS**

### **7. Building Capital Repairs Contract 2023/24**

The Council considered the Building Capital Repairs Contract 2023/24 report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The work would be carried to a proper standard.
- The detail of the works to Whitworth Chapel would be in the tender.

#### **Resolved:**

1. Full Council approves the list of works on the 2023/24 Capital Building Repairs Contract and authorise officers to go out to tender.
2. Full Council delegates the appointment of the contractor to the Head of People and Policy in consultation with the Lead Member.

#### **Reason for Decision**

To approve the level of works and tender process for the 2023/24 contract to maintain council owned assets ensuring that the same do not suffer from deterioration with health and safety implications and increased repair cost when finally addressed.

#### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

### **8. Food Law Service Plan 2023/24**

The Council considered the Food Law Service Plan 2023/24 report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Complaints had been around the quality of food and not the service.

Thanks was given to staff for all their work throughout the year.

#### **Resolved:**

That the Food Service Plan 2023/2024 is approved.

#### **Reason for Decision**

The Food Law Service Plan 2023/24 will deliver the Council's obligation to comply with the FSA's Food Law Code of Practice.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **9. Housing Strategy**

The Lead Member moved the Housing Strategy with the following amendment to recommendation 1.3 which was seconded by the Leader of the Council:

*To launch the strategy at a planned event in July 2023, which will include a round table event with key partners to begin a discussion on how to take the strategy forwards.*

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Funders were reviewing the terms and conditions on how we can use the Disabled Facilities Grant funding.
- Officers were underway with a policy review.
- The Council was committed to its Armed Forces Covenant.

### **Resolved:**

1. To consider and approve the 2023-2027 Housing Strategy and accompanying Action Plan.
2. To delegate authority to the Head of Housing and Regeneration to develop the following pieces of work identified in the Action Plan:
  - Homelessness and Rough sleeping strategy
  - Housing Need and Demand Survey
  - Overhaul of the Disabled Facilities Grant policy
  - Tenancy Strategy
  - Home improvement agency
  - Establish a Partnership forum
  - Establish delivery plans for Council owned land to bring forward for housing
  - Increase supported accommodation in the Borough
  - External funding business cases
  - Supported accommodation in Rossendale
3. To launch the strategy at a planned event in July 2023, which will include a round table event with key partners to begin a discussion on how to take the strategy forwards.
4. To delegate all future minor amendments to the Head of Housing and Regeneration in conjunction with the Lead Member for Housing.

### **Reason for Decision**

This strategy will deliver 4 years of action to understand the housing sector in Rossendale, creating the evidence to significantly improve and increase our impact on the sector.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **10. Rossendale Works Employability and Skills Project Extension**

The Council considered the Rossendale Works Employability and Skills Project Extension report.

### **Resolved:**

1. To extend the More Positive Together 1.4 Project delivered in Partnership with Active Lancashire until March 2025 funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
2. To deliver a further programme of People and Skills support for Rossendale Works until March 2025 funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
3. To delegate authorisation to the Monitoring Officer on Rossendale Council's behalf, to enter into a Service Level Agreement until March 2025 with Active Lancashire to

deliver our new People and Skills programme relating to the UK Shared Prosperity Funding awarded in December 2022.

4. To establish a “Bridge to Employment” for Employability and Skills at Futures Park, Bacup on a temporary basis while the detail through the Levelling Up Fund is developed.
5. To delegate any minor amendments to the Director of Economic Development alongside the Section 151 Officer and the Lead Member.

### **Reason for Decision**

The principals of this decision align with the Council’s core values and is identified as a key growth theme in the Council’s Economic Development Strategy. This package of support will be an important mechanism to reduce Rossendale’s levels of unemployment, increasing our skills and supporting our local businesses recruitment needs.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **11. Rossendale LUF Regeneration Programme – Outline Execution Plan**

The Council considered the Rossendale LUF Regeneration Programme – Outline Execution Plan.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- This was now a Capital Regeneration Project and the Memorandum of Understanding had been received this week.
- Members would to be informed of progress throughout.
- It would be a catalyst to bring other prominent properties back in to use in the valley.
- The Council was talking to the market traders.
- Time frames would be tight and inflationary cost pressures would also need to be addressed.

### **Resolved:**

1. To note the content of the successful bid for £17.95m from the Government’s Capital Levelling Up Fund, this being:
  - Regeneration of Rawtenstall and Bacup market areas,
  - Improvements to public realm on Union Street, Bacup and from Rawtenstall to the top of Bank Street
  - Establishment of ‘The Bridge’ Skills and Employability Centre
  - Capacity enhancements to Rawtenstall gyratory.
2. To note the contents of the draft Memorandum of Understanding.
3. To delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development and Lead Member for Economic Development the following:
  - The procurement and appointment of all design consultants for the programme. These include architects (including highways), Civil and Structural, Mechanical, Electrical and plumbing together with Quantity Surveying, External Project Management and Clerk of Works.
  - The procurement and appointment of any other consultant required to support the delivery of the programme.
  - To proceed with all planning applications and statutory authorisations required to deliver the project, including authorising the demolition of the former Barclays Bank building on Market St, Bacup
  - To authorise Lancashire County Council to complete concept designs for the gyratory.
  - The procurement for the construction works related to the programme and appoint the contractors accordingly, under the JCT Design and Build.

- The invitation to tender for pre-let arrangements for the new cycle hub and café facility in Bacup
  - To agree a Market Trader transition plan for Bacup and Rawtenstall whilst the works take place.
  - Any application and acceptance for additional external funding to support the objectives of the Capital Levelling Up Fund Programme.
  - Seek and act on opportunities for the “Bridge” Skills and Employability Centre.
4. Delegate Authority to Chief Finance Officer and the Lead Member for Resources to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with LCC for their £1.5m contribution to the Capital Levelling Up Fund Programme.
  5. To Delegate Authority to Cabinet to:
    - Agree any changes to the Programme
    - Establish a Rossendale Regeneration Board of stakeholders to support engagement activity and delivery
    - Approve concept designs for each aspect of the programme.
    - Approve the consultation, engagement and communication plan
    - Agree the Exit Strategy for the Programme.
  6. Delegate Authority to Rossendale Council's Programme Board to:
    - Monitor Spend
    - Oversee Programme Delivery
    - Manage Risks

### **Reason for Decision**

The Delivery of the Capital Levelling Up Fund will support Rossendale to have a Thriving Local Economy and in turn support our Economic Development Aspirations.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **12. Investment at Fairview Recreation Ground**

The Council considered the Investment at Fairview Recreation Ground report.

### **Resolved:**

1. That Council approves the project and consultation exercise with the public for Fairview Recreation Ground.
2. That Council approves the addition to the Capital Programme of the fully funded project in 2023/24.
3. That Council delegates application for and approval of any grant funding necessary to facilitate the development to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Lead Member and s151 Officer.
4. That Council delegates approval of any tender and subsequent award of contract to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Lead Member.

### **Reason for Decision**

The sum paid to the Council is ring-fenced for improvements to the public open space at Fairview Recreation Ground, and must be spent by November 2026. Therefore it is important that the process is started in 2023 in order to deliver the improvements. The consultation with users of the site will guide the Council in how the S106 allocation is spent and whether there is an opportunity for additional funding from external sources.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

### **13. Urgent Decisions**

Council noted the Special Urgency Decision taken 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 relating to the Household Support Fund as detailed on the public notice.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **14. Notice of motion**

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

*This Council acknowledges the need to raise awareness and increase the understanding of Birth Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder during Birth Trauma Awareness Week from the 16<sup>th</sup> July - 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023.*

*This council resolves to take steps to promote education and awareness of Birth Trauma during the Awareness Week across the Borough including the Council's staff network.*

*This Council thanks the Birth Trauma Association and others organising the Awareness Week across the UK and their work supporting families that have experienced trauma.*

An amendment was moved by Councillor McInnes and seconded by Councillor McMahon to add an additional recommendation as follows:

*This Council resolves to write to the Health Secretary to request that further support is made available through the NHS for new mothers who are suffering with Birth Trauma and PTSD.*

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Members were thankful to Councillor Thompson for bringing this to their attention.
- Councillor Thompson was happy for the information to be shared as widely as possible.

Members voted on the amendment becoming the substantive motion, which was carried.

#### **Resolved:**

1. This Council acknowledges the need to raise awareness and increase the understanding of Birth Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder during Birth Trauma Awareness Week from the 16<sup>th</sup> July - 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023.
2. This council resolves to take steps to promote education and awareness of Birth Trauma during the Awareness Week across the Borough including the Council's staff network.
3. This Council thanks the Birth Trauma Association and others organising the Awareness Week across the UK and their work supporting families that have experienced trauma.
4. This Council resolves to write to the Health Secretary to request that further support is made available through the NHS for new mothers who are suffering with Birth Trauma and PTSD.

#### **Reason for Decision**

To support the amended motion.

#### **Alternative Options Considered**

Original motion.

**15. Exclusion of Public and Press**

**Resolved:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item 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 Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**16. Rossendale Leisure Trust Review – Implementation/Action Plan**

The Council considered the Rossendale Leisure Trust Review – Implementation/Action Plan.

Discussion took place on the item and clarification was provided where requested.

**Resolved:**

To approve the report recommendations.

**Reason for Decision**

To support the recommendations.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**17. Mid Year Budget Review**

The Council considered the Mid Year Budget Review report.

Discussion took place on the item and clarification was provided where requested.

An amendment was moved and seconded, but was not carried.

**Resolved:**

To approve the report recommendations.

**Reason for Decision**

To support the recommendations.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**(The meeting commenced at 7.58pm and concluded at 9.53pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....