

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 5th June 2024

**Present: Councillor A Barnes (Chair)
Councillors Lythgoe, McInnes, M Smith and Walmsley**

**Rob Huntington, Chief Executive
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal (Monitoring Officer)
Karen Spencer, Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer)
Jane Riley, Facilities & Safety Manager
Susan Chadwick, PPU Manager
Kimberly Haworth, Head of Finance**

**Also present: Councillor Neal
1 member of the public**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 13th March and 22nd May 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McInnes declared that she was a member of the Friends of Whitaker Park.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

6. UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There had been no meetings since Cabinet last met.

7. FIXED PENALTY NOTICE FEES

The Lead Member for Planning, Licensing and Enforcement outlined the report which asked Cabinet to agree and adopt the revised Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) fines to address the Government change to increase the upper limits of FPNs for fly-tipping, littering and failure in householder duty of care.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- Fly tipping was an issue and hopefully this would be a deterrent.
- Proper enforcement would result in less fly tipping.
- It was difficult to collect the fines.
- Fines should be proportionate to the damage and the cost of dealing with the issues.

- Thanks was given to the officers.

Members were invited to comment on the report:

- It was not just relevant for individuals but also companies in Whitworth.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet agreed to adopt the revised Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) fines to address the Government change to increase the upper limits of FPNs for fly-tipping, littering and failure in householder duty of care.

Reason for Decision:

Fly-tipping was an environmental hazard which could destroy habitats and could be poisonous to humans and wildlife. Measures to reduce fly-tipping and other environmental crimes would have a positive ecological impact on the environment. The FPN fine levels were intended to discourage the anti-social behaviour that blights our Borough and undermines the broader community enjoyment of the environment. The FPN fine levels were a response to the Government's call for stronger action to tackle environmental offences.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. WHITAKER PARK PLAY

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report, which asked Cabinet to approve the improvements to the play facilities and add the project to the Capital Programme.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- Thanks to all involved in the project including officers and external community groups.
- The Council was working with local communities to bring in funding to improve facilities.
- Community groups had an excellent relationship with the Council.
- It was pleasing to see that consultation responses were being addressed and taken on board.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the improvements to play facilities at Whitaker Park and agreed to add the project to the Capital Programme.
2. Authority was given to officers to obtain external funding for the works.
3. If successful, acceptance of the external funding be delegated to the Head of Operations in consultation with the Lead Member.
4. Cabinet approved the tendering of the works and delegated acceptance of the successful tender to the Head of Operations in consultation with the Lead Member.

Reason for Decision:

The development of Whitaker Park Play facilities will mean the Council is investing to ensure the park's destination site status. Much needed refurbishments of the existing area will ensure it is safe and remains an asset to residents, while provision of challenging and exciting equipment for youths will mean the parks fills a much needed gap in Rossendale's play provision.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

9. CAPITAL CONTRACT 2024/25

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the list of works on the 2024/25 Capital Building Repairs Contract and authorise officers to go out to tender.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- Recognition was given for the work involved and it was right to take it out to tender.
- There were challenges around escalation of cost in the market place.
- Thanks was given to the officers involved.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the list of works on the 2024/25 Capital Building Repairs Contract and authorised officers to go out to tender.

Reason for Decision:

To approve the level of works and tender process for the 2024/25 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.

10. PURCHASE OF FOOD WASTE REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLE

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the purchase 4 Terberg Orus 6 Food Waste Collection vehicles at a cost of £408,000 to meet the demands of the service.

Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:

- It was good to see external funding and officers' timely approach to purchasing the vehicles.
- There would be a positive environmental impact.
- There were concerns around cost of when we come to deal with the collection of food waste generally.
- Technology was not yet in place relating to electric vehicles (EV), so this remains an environmental challenge
- Thanks was given to the officers.

Members were invited to comment on the report:

- Future potential use of hydrogen as fuel.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the purchase 4 Terberg Orus 6 Food Waste Collection vehicles at a cost of £408,000 to meet the demands of the service.

Reason for Decision:

Food Waste Collections were scheduled to begin in April 2026 and approving the purchase of the required vehicles now would ensure the Council was ready for the mandatory go live date.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

The meeting concluded at 18.59pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE