

Meeting of: The Council

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 6.30pm or at the conclusion of Question Time and Public Engagement whichever is the later.

Venue: Council Chamber, The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup. OL13 0BB



The meeting will also be live streamed at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLsMDOP7AYxik5pNP0gTIA/streams>

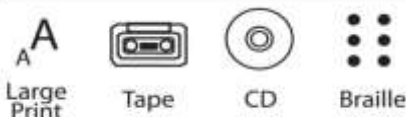
Supported by: Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422

Email: democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk

ITEM		Lead Member/Contact Officer
A.	BUSINESS MATTERS	
A1.	Apologies for Absence	
A2.	To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 17 th July 2024.	
A3.	Urgent Items of Business To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the Agenda on the grounds of urgency.	
A4.	Declarations of Interest <i>Members are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to seek advice on interest issues if necessary.</i> Members are requested to indicate at this stage, any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Code of Conduct, they must declare the nature of any personal interest and, if the interest is prejudicial, withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the item.	Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/ Monitoring Officer (01706) 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk
B.	Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service To receive any communications from the Mayor, the Leader, or the Head of the Paid Service that they may wish to lay before the Council.	The Mayor, Councillor Driver, The Leader, Councillor A.Barnes and Rob Huntington, Chief Executive 01706 252447 robhuntingdon@rossendalebc.gov.uk
C.	ORDINARY BUSINESS	
C1.	Rossendale LUF Regeneration Programme – Outline Execution Plan – Interim Report To consider the Rossendale LUF Regeneration Programme – Outline Execution Plan – Interim Report	Councillor A. Barnes/ David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development 01706 252429 davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk

The agenda and reports are also available for inspection on the Council's website <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/>. Other formats are available on request. Tel 01706 217777 or contact Rossendale Borough Council, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB

اردو বাংলা



D.	NOTICES OF MOTION	
D1.	Notice of Motion To consider a notice of motion submitted by Councillors S Barnes and Ashworth regarding swift bricks.	Councillor S Barnes Councillor Ashworth
D2.	Notice of Motion To consider a notice of motion submitted by Councillors S Smith and Woods regarding the Winter Fuel Payment.	Councillor S Smith Councillor Woods



Rob Huntington
Chief Executive

Date Published: 24th September 2024

Re-published: 30th September 2024

COUNCILLOR JUDITH DRIVER, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 17th July 2024

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Driver (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, Bauld, Belli,
Bleakley, Cheetham, Gill, Harrison, Holland, Kenyon, Lythgoe,
McInnes, Neal, Norton, Payne, Procter, Royds, S. Smith,
Walmsley and Woods.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Yasmin Ahmed, Principal Legal Officer / Deputy Monitoring Officer
Darren Kershaw, Mayor's Attendant
Phillip Veevers, Mayor's Attendant**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 1 press
1 public
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy
Andy Taylor, Head of Operations
Kimberly Haworth, Head of Finance**

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors S. Barnes, Eaton, Hancock, Harris, Hodgkiss, Looker, McMahon and M. Smith.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17th May 2024 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 A. Barnes and Councillor S. Smith were Town Board members (Item C2).

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

There were no communications from Head of Paid Service.

The Mayor thanked those who had attended and supported her recent event and helped raise funds for the Mayor's Charity. Their continued support was much appreciated.

The Leader of the Council provided the following updates:

- The Leader congratulated newly elected members of Parliament and looked forward to working with them.
- The Vitality festival, which was a partnership health and well-being event, took place at the Valley Academy on Saturday 13th July supporting our priority of healthy and proud communities.

- The first partnership workshop of Better Lives Rossendale had taken place with over 30 people attending. The project aimed to understand the support needed by our most financially vulnerable residents.
- Consultation had commenced on the second phase of improvements at Edgeside Park. For anyone wanting to have their say, this consultation would be open until Friday 19th July.
- The Housing Renewal Technical Officer, had been awarded the Student of the Year at Oldham Colleges Outstanding Learners Student Awards following the successful completion of her HNC in Construction and the Built Environment. The Council was proud to have her as part of the team.
- The Council continued to deliver its vision of creating a thriving local economy, having secured in excess of £50million in external funding over the last few years to support this work. Plans were well underway for regeneration in Bacup and Haslingden. The new masterplan for Rawtenstall had identified a pipeline of projects to support regeneration, including investment in Rawtenstall market, new public realm improvements and changes to the gyratory system on St Mary's Way. Another £20million had been secured as part of Central Government's Long Term Plan for Towns initiative, and establishing thriving town centres in the Valley was a priority for the Council.
- Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative and the Bacup High Streets Heritage Action Zone projects had all been completed, and National Lottery Heritage funding had been secured for the Big Lamp Project in Higher Deardengate, Haslingden.
- Other initiatives had brought in hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of funding such as Rossendale Works and Rossendale Employability and Skills Forum to help secure employment for local people and assist disadvantaged residents. A case study had been put together, which documented the challenges, support and aspirations of one of the participants in the Rossendale Works programme and would be circulated to all Councillors as an example of how the Council's support can help transform lives.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

6. Improvements to the 3G Pitch at the Adrenaline Centre

The Council considered the report on the Improvements to the 3G Pitch at the Adrenaline Centre.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Funding was much needed.
- Obesity rates in Rossendale were higher than average.
- Football Foundation funding application was to be submitted by the end of Dec and works would start in Feb 2025.
- There had been a meeting with Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT) to understand the damage done to the pitches by the circus. Repair works would be looked at to help the clubs and works were underway.
- The use of grass pitches were challenging as they were weather dependant.
- The work to be done in Rossendale around obesity and public health was welcomed.
- Thanks was given to Council officers for securing the much needed funding for improvements to the pitches.
- The circus had a bond to repair the pitches and works would be finished as planned.
- Going forward, the use of the pitches would be reviewed.

Resolved:

1. That Council agrees to the investment at the Adrenaline Centre, Haslingden for new 3G artificial grass, refurbishment of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) to a play zone and refurbishment of grass pitches, with investment from the Football

Foundation (circa £1.5 million), following the Football Foundation Framework at Appendix one of the report.

2. That Council approves acceptance of the Football Foundation grant and delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer to enter into the grant funding agreement.

Reason for Decision

To provide members with an overview of the strategic plan for investment into pitches in Rossendale from the Football Foundation and to provide authority to accept the grant funding from the Football Foundation.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

7. Long Term Plan for Towns Funding

The Council considered the Long Term Plan for Towns Funding report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- A detailed presentation would be shared with all members.
- Positive feedback had been received.
- Comments made in relation to environmental changes and the River Irwell would be looked into and fed back to the board.
- Tightening up enforcement was also required.
- Funds to spend on projects would need to be balanced in order to be taken on board everything raised.
- Thanks would be sent to the teams working on this.

Resolved:

1. Council to authorise acceptance of the £20m Long Term Plan for Towns funding for the core areas of Crawshawbooth, Rawtenstall and Waterfoot over a 10 year period subject to the submission of an appropriate investment plan.
2. Council to note the establishment of a Town Board, the appointment of the Chair and members to oversee the strategic investment plan and note the governance arrangements.
3. Council to Delegate Authority to Cabinet to approve the submission of the Vision and 3- year Investment plan to MHCLG and associated government departments.
4. Council to Delegate Authority to the Director of Economic Development in conjunction with the Lead Member for Economic Development, Head of Legal Services and S151 Officer to tender and appoint any consultants required to develop the Town Board's Long Term plan.
5. To Delegate Authority to Programme Board to monitor spend, oversee programme delivery and manage risks.
6. To approve the Rawtenstall Masterplan and Delegate Authority to the Director of Economic Development to monitor progress, delivery and make minor amendments to the masterplan.
7. Delegate Authority to Cabinet to develop a Waterfoot Masterplan which will be used as a key framework for action as part of the Long Term Plans for Towns investment.

Reason for Decision

Approving the recommendations of this report will contribute to a framework for economic development, community well-being, and infrastructure in Waterfoot, Crawshawbooth and Rawtenstall.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

8. Recommendation of the Appointments and Appeals Panel - appointment of the Director of Resources

The Council considered the appointment of the Director of Resources.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Gratitude and thanks was given to the previous Chief Finance Officer who would be written to and thanked on behalf of all members.

Resolved:

That Chris Warren be appointed to the post of Director of Resources, subject to HR policies, references and clearances being completed.

Reason for Decision

To appoint a Chief Officer to a vacant post.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

9. Recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 and Work Programme 2024/25

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

Resolved:

That Council approve the Annual Report 2023/24 and Work Programme 2024/25.

Reason for Decision

To inform of the work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2023/24 and outline of the work to be carried out during 2024/25.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

Councillor Neal provided an update on Whitworth pool and gave his thanks to everyone involved.

(The meeting commenced at 7:00pm and concluded at 7:58pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date

Subject:	Rossendale LUF Regeneration Programme – Outline Execution Plan – Interim Report	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Full Council	Date:	2 nd October 2024
Report of:	Programme Manager	Portfolio Holder:	Lead Member for Economic Development
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Contact Officer:	Sean O’Hagan	Telephone:	01706 252568
Email:	seanohagan@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

Recommendation

That Full Council notes the progress to date on the delivery of the projects within the Levelling Up/Capital Regeneration Programme.

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In June 2024 Rossendale Borough Council accepted a report, the Outline Execution Plan linked to the Levelling Up Capital Regeneration Project Funding. This report outlined how the programme would be designed, procured, managed, governed and monitored
- 1.2 The collective projects that make up the programme have been awarded £17.9m from the Capital Levelling Up Fund, £1.5m from Lancashire County Council and £1.8m from Rossendale Borough Council.
- 1.3 The projects include the redevelopment of Bacup Market, Rawtenstall Market reconfiguration, the gyratory, Rawtenstall connected and The Bridge.
- 1.4 This report seeks to update members of the progress of the initial outline execution plan, which was agreed in June 2024 and should be read in conjunction with that report.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This element of Capital Levelling Up Funding (CLUF) focuses on three investment themes: local transport projects that make a genuine difference to local areas; town centre and high street regeneration; and support for maintaining and expanding the UK’s world- leading portfolio of cultural and heritage assets. In Rossendale this supports:
 - a. **Transport investments** - improvements to the traffic flows around Rawtenstall Gyratory and increases the effectiveness of active travel in the area.
 - b. **Regeneration and town centre investment** - to improve the public realm of Rawtenstall and Bacup and the revitalise the two markets.
 - c. **Cultural investment** – creation of community space in a new Bacup market square and a performance venue in Rawtenstall market.

2.2 The Council's Valley Plan identifies a thriving economy as a priority, supported by the Council's Economic Development Strategy. This has five priority areas, including town centres as well as skills and employability. The council has also adopted the Bacup and Haslingden 2040 Visions and Masterplans that set out our 20-year priorities for those town centres together with the Rawtenstall Masterplan. Within the Valley Plan we clearly identify that we wish to support Bacup, Haslingden and Rawtenstall town centres as better places to provide their own unique offers and a destination for local shoppers and visitors".

2.3 Delivering this programme will:

- Introduce employment opportunities in Bacup and improve the physical environment and heritage buildings
- Further improve the leisure and retail offer in Rawtenstall Town Centre
- Strengthen our offer for visitors to raise the profile of the Borough's attractions
- Allow us to work with schools and businesses to match future business opportunities with the right skills provision so that local people can benefit from local job opportunities.

2.4 The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) indicates the Rossendale Borough Council and Lancashire County Council have until March 2026 to spend the CLUF funding.

3. ABOUT THE CAPITAL LUF PROJECTS

3.1 To support the Capital LUF bid submission, the projects were categorised under the following themes:

Project 1: Rossendale Town Centres

- Bacup Market redevelopment and Union St public realm
- Rawtenstall Market reconfiguration and associated public realm
- Rawtenstall Connected
- 'The Bridge' Skills and Employability Hub

Project 2: Rawtenstall Gyratory

- Introduction of safe cycle and pedestrian opportunities as part of and surrounding the gyratory
- Cut congestion and reduce carbon emissions, improving air quality and overall experience of transport users
- Unlocking the borough's future housing and employment growth as committed in years 1-15 in the adopted Rossendale Local Plan

4. TIMELINE UPDATE

4.1 Bacup Market Square Area and Union St- Temple Court

The scheme has evolved since the original capital regeneration submission, where the concept design included two buildings, one comprising of a food hall and the other, a bike hub and café.

The appointed design team, which also included specialist market consultants reviewed this option and presented several options to both cabinet and the Bacup 2040 board via an online workshop. The options were appraised and the consensus from these sessions indicated that a single building is a better fit to achieve the overall aim which is to provide transitional

day to evening, inclusive family friendly offer that resonates with local people, capturing growing professional catchment population.

The project budget is £8.34m.

Existing market traders have traded rent free from January 2024 until Market closure. They have been informed of progress at monthly trader meetings.

Progress

- June 2023 – Demolition planning application and relevant suppliers engaged
- July 2023 – Appointment of Architect through SBS framework, Frank Whittle Partnerships
- July 2023- Market curators appointed to develop a vision and plan for Bacup Market
- August 2023- Survey to general public and close of consultation report
- October 2023 – Conclusion of wider design team appointments (MEP, cost, civil structural, planning agent, heritage, ecologist etc)
- November 2023 – Tender exercise for contractor to demolish Barclays Bank
- December 2023 – Barclays demolition contractor appointed and traders informed
- February 2024- Main consultation commenced and drop in sessions
- March 2024– Demolition of Barclays Bank completed
- May 2024 – Cabinet approval of RIBA Stage 3 design
- May 2024- Planning application and statutory consultation
- August 2024 – Commencement of S278 discussions with LCC
- September 2024 – Design to be concluded following planning feedback

Upcoming

- October 2024 – Planning decision
- October 2024- Single tender advertised via procurement hub framework
- October 2024 – Launch day with interested operators
- December 2024- Main contractor award
- Jan/ February 2025 – Start on site
- February 2025 – Operator Tender developed
- April 2025 – Operator appointment
- March 26 – Completion & Handover

Issues

- Having to appoint a new Architect requiring a full redesign
- Procurement of the design team
- Statutory comments in the planning process – flood risk and coal require further detail

4.2 Rawtenstall Market

Rawtenstall Market has an overall budget of £4.2m to reconfigure the site.

The main aim of this project is to reinvigorate the existing, market creating a 5 day a week destination to draw people in, with enhanced public realm to connect people back into the town centre.

The concept designs have evolved since the bid submission to ensure that all opportunities with the market site are maximised, including the integration of the site with Bank Street.

Procurement Hub has been identified as the best Framework to use to procure the main contractor given that they allow local contractors to be co-opted onto the framework supporting our focus on delivering social value.

Market traders have been invited to workshops to provide input on the designs and have actively engaged in the process. In addition, transitional arrangements with traders are in progress. Traders have been presented with 3 options while the construction phase takes place, the preference being a location on the town square. The details of this are now being developed.

A new operating model is required for both the transitional arrangement and the finalised site and will be reported in the coming months.

Progress

- August 2023 Tender advertised for Architect
- November 2023 Day Architecture Appointed, via Intend procurement services.
- January 2024 conclusion of appointments for wider design team
- February 2024 Trader initial workshop and design session
- March 2024 – Stage 2 Concept design approved
- April 2024 – Public consultation and drop in session
- June 2024- Stage 3 approved by cabinet, planning application submission
- August 2024 – Presentation of transitional options to traders
- September 2024 – Finalised detail of transitional arrangement
- September 2024 – Costing exercise and finalised Stage 4 design

Upcoming

- October 2024 – Decision on Planning Application
- October 2024- Tender advertised via procurement hub
- December 2024 – Contractor Award
- February 2024 – Commence decanting of traders onto transitional area
- March 2024 – Commence on site
- March 2025 – Practical completion and handover

Issues

- Full redesign required due to changing procurement
- Statutory planning comments
- Objections to operational proposals

4.3 Rawtenstall Connected

The main aim of this project is to guide footfall and visitors from the southern end of Rawtenstall to the market through a continuous public realm scheme.

This project has a budget of £889k.

In Autumn 2023, works commenced in Rawtenstall on the development of an overall Rawtenstall Masterplan. This was developed in conjunction with Lancashire County Council and the content of the masterplan can be found in the July 2024 full council report [17th July 2024: Council | Rossendale Borough Council](#)

Rawtenstall Connected elements will be delivered as part of the programme for the gyratory.

4.4 The Bridge Skills to Employment

This project is about creating a central hub that stands out from traditional educational settings. The initial proposal for this hub was the former town hall, however this is currently not available and work has commenced to find an alternative, appropriate site.

Meanwhile, pressing demand from the digital sector has indicated that this project is closely aligned to that industry. The UK SPF project will pilot a number of related programmes, and further discussions are in place to establish the principles and the delivery method.

There is an amount of £516,462 allocated to this project. An update to Cabinet is scheduled in 2025.

4.5 Gyrotory

The bid submission included a design that included the potential option of a road from Haslingden Road to Bocholt Way to improve the capacity and shorten journey times on the gyratory. This option was explored in more detail along with others with the highways authority Lancashire County Council.

The revised scheme includes carriageway realignments and widening, public realm improvements, infilling of the subway, public realm improvements and traffic signal upgrades and co-ordination improvements.

This project has a total of circa £7.3m allocated to its delivery.

Progress

- July 2023 - LCC procured for the concept design
- March 2024 – Public consultation on concept design
- March 2024 – Initial agreement for LCC Highways to carry out design development phase, contractor procurement & Project Manage the whole works including the Rawtenstall Connected element.
- April 2024 – Procurement of external Project Manager and Cost Consultants
- July 2024 – amendment to LCC agreement
- September 2024 – S278 agreement to be finalised for North Gyrotory (this segment includes Tup Bridge, Asda Junction, Bacup Road Junction and Subway)

Upcoming

- October 2024 – S278 agreement for Southern Gyrotory finalised
- October 2024 – North Gyrotory works commence on site via LCC in-house contractor
- November 2024 – Procurement for contractor for South Gyrotory
- March 2025- Conclude North Gyrotory Works
- March 2025- Tender award for South Gyrotory and Rawtenstall Connected

Issues

- Full redesign required from bid submission
- Related project grant agreements and S278
- Land acquisitions
- Co-ordination with other town centre projects

5. GOVERNANCE and PROCUREMENT

Quarterly updates are provided to the Council's officer led Programme Board which monitors and evaluates the project progress.

Cabinet have approved the RIBA stages concluded thus far.

Bi-weekly officer groups take place to discuss updates, intricacies and interdependencies with the projects.

A Programme Manager oversees the day-to-day delivery of the projects.

Quarterly updates are provided to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

A Rawtenstall Co-ordination board has been established with Lancashire County Council to discuss interdependencies between projects.

All procurement has been agreed via delegated authority established in the June 2023 Council report. Procurement has been led by the Programme Manager with key support from the Head of Legal Services and Section 151 Officer. All contracts are updated on the Council's contract register.

6. COMMUNICATION, ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION PLAN

The programme is developed based on significant evidence gathering and feedback from the local community.

A variety of measures have been used to communicate key updates and good news stories to the public and stakeholders. These include:

Website updates	1-1 meetings with key stakeholders, fire / terrorism/ chamber/ Historic England/ Play Market Management / Transdev	Statutory Consultation – planning and TRO	Meetings and workshops with traders
Drop-in sessions for markets, gyratory, masterplan and Bank St designs	Press releases and stories	Features in Publications	Community Partnership meetings
Online surveys and questionnaires	Long Term Plan for Towns Board	Bacup 2040 Board workshop and meeting	Town Centre Regeneration Officers face to face discussions
Hoarding Covers	Cabinet and Council Briefing Sessions	Social media	Heritage Officers Group

Careful consideration is given to the gyratory and the interdependencies with Lancashire County Council's schemes for the Bus Service Priority Lane at Bacup Road and their application to Active Travel England to improve Bank Street and Kay Street.

The engagement and consultation has resulted in amendments to projects and will continue through the duration of the programme.

7 Risks

The main risks to the programme are:

7.1 Rawtenstall Gyrotory

Time scales – the programme requires a start on the junctions in October 2024 in order to allow a start on the main gyrotory in April 2025. The programme is being managed by Lancashire County Council to allow this to be achieved and is currently on track

Cost escalation - the cost envelope is being managed by Lancashire County Council and is subject to scrutiny by independent cost consultants to establish a scheme that can be delivered within the agreed budget. The costs are on track although it is expected that there will be cost pressures due to the uncertain nature of road building. To address this concern, risk and contingency budgets have been included by LCC

7.2 Rawtenstall Market

Planning - in order to progress with the procurement of the works we need to secure planning permission which will hopefully be achieved in October 2024

Time scales - required to start on site in spring 2025. In part this is reliant on the completion of the Tup Bridge Junction which is part of the gyrotory works to reduce construction congestion.

Cost escalation - pressure on the overall cost of the scheme is being monitored by cost consultants and appropriate value engineering is taking place to ensure that we have a scheme that is affordable

Long term market operations - need to secure a long term operator for the market. To achieve this we are holding an event with potential operators to present the offer and understand their particular requirements

7.3 Bacup Market

Planning - in order to progress with the procurement of the works we need to secure planning permission which will hopefully be achieved in November 2024. This will allow procurement to be secured by Christmas ready for a works start in the New Year. To mitigate any time delays we are exploring the option to procure a separate demolition package to clear the site ready for the construction works to commence.

Cost escalation - pressure on the overall cost of the scheme is being monitored by cost consultants. Once the requirements of the statutory consultees, as part of the planning process, are concluded a detailed cost schedule will be produced.

Long term market operations - need to secure a long term operator for the market. To achieve this we are holding an event with potential operators to present the offer and understand their particular requirements

8 FINANCE

Monitoring for LUF was conducted quarterly while spend was little to none. Moving forward, this process will be carried out monthly and transferred to the LUF working group for oversight and tracking of any overspend.

Bacup Market, a decision was made to provide a rent-free period to market traders starting from 1st January 2024. All traders with no outstanding balances were transitioned to these terms. Traders in arrears were asked to settle their debts before the 1st January 2024. Currently, all traders are operating rent-free until the market’s eventual closure.

Rawtenstall Market: The implications of the transitional market are currently unknown, as the plans are still being developed.

A grant funding agreement with Lancashire County Council (LCC) has secured £1.5 million from the Local Economic Recovery Grant (LERG) scheme.

9 LEGAL

Any necessary procurements will be carried out in accordance with the Council’s Constitution.

9 POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

Policy implications are included within the body of the report.

Consideration to equalities, appropriate consultation and community engagement will be undertaken throughout the programmes of works of the project and will be given consideration in a relevant and proportionate manner

10 REASON FOR DECISION

Successful completion of the programme will support Rossendale to have a Thriving Local Economy and in turn support our Economic Development Aspirations.

Appendices

June 2023 Full Council Report	28th June 2023: Council Rossendale Borough Council
July 2024 Full Council Report	17th July 2024: Council Rossendale Borough Council
Programme Risk Register	In office
Bacup Market Temple Court Design	Bacup Market redevelopment Bacup Projects Rossendale Borough Council
Rawtenstall Market Design	Rawtenstall Market Redevelopment Rawtenstall Projects Rossendale Borough Council
Rawtenstall Gyratory Design	Rawtenstall Gyratory Rawtenstall Projects Rossendale Borough Council

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

UNDER PARAGRAPH 11.1 OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The following Motion to be submitted to Full Council on the date indicated below:-

Request the mandatory conditioning of Swift Bricks into new developments in Rossendale

This Council notes:

Swifts are an iconic migratory species that grace our skies each summer with their thrilling acrobatic flight displays, they have nested alongside us for centuries, thus providing opportunities for people to engage with nearby nature, which is now well recognised to be of great value to our well-being.

Swifts and House Martins are “building-dependent” species, House Sparrows and Starlings partially so. However, as the new Biodiversity Net Gain Metric does not consider buildings as habitat, provision for them is not counted within the metric. It is, however, encouraged by the Design Codes thus these species require specific inclusion within Local Planning Policies.

A further challenge in that modern housing is designed to ensure properties lack any gaps or spaces, such as would be used as for breeding sites by urban bird species and bats too. When combined with the continued reduction of potential nest sites on existing buildings caused by refurbishment and repairs, this overall loss of breeding opportunities has resulted in a long-term dramatic decline of urban birds. Swifts, House Sparrows, House Martins and Starlings, all now red-listed, by the British Trust for Ornithology, indicating species of high conservation concern. Thus, without proactive policy we stand to lose many species, causing further deprivation of nature in urban areas.

It has been recognised that integrating nest bricks into the structure of the new buildings is a much-preferred solution over bird boxes; they are a permanent feature of the building, require zero maintenance, are aesthetically integrated within the design, less vulnerable to vandalism and have better thermal regulation with future climate change in mind.

Furthermore, analysis of breeding records from new housing estates built with integrated Swift bricks has shown that these spaces are readily used by both Swifts and other urban bird species, particularly House Sparrows; thus, Swift bricks are a universal nest brick for small bird species.

Best-practice guidance has recently been made available with the publication of British Standard BS42021:2022 Integral Nest Boxes – selection & installation for new developments

<https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/integral-nest-boxes-selection-and-installation-for-new-developments-specification-1/standard>

This Council resolves to:

1. Ensure the inclusion of swift bricks on in future developments via the ‘Residential Alterations Supplementary Planning Document,’ (SPD) which provides more detailed guidance on

residential building works. 2. Rossendale Borough Council will lobby housing associations who have stock in the borough to include Swift bricks in any future development and any re-roofing scheme that happen in the borough (especially if there is evidence of existing nests). 3. Pledge ongoing commitment to this scheme by accepting that best practice, in the form of British Standard 42021:2022, should be proposed and adopted within any new Local Plan that the council adopts going forward.	
Date of Council Meeting:-	2 nd October 2024
Notice submitted from	
Councillor S Barnes	Date: 18 th September 2024
Councillor D Ashworth	Date: 18 th September 2024
Notice received and validated by the S151 Officer: Chris Warren	
Comments: Should the motion be agreed the cost which is expected to be immaterial will need to be found within the existing budget envelope of each development.	Date: 23 rd September 2024
Notice received and validated by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yasmin Ahmed	
Comments: The Council needs to ensure the correct policies and procedures will be followed for the inclusion of Swift Bricks in any updated SPD or revised local plan if the motion is agreed.	Date: 18 th September 2024
Notice received on behalf of the Head of the Paid Service and entered in the book open to Public Inspection	
Received by: Rob Huntington	Date: 18 th September 2024

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

UNDER PARAGRAPH 11.1 OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The following Motion to be submitted to Full Council on the date indicated below:-

- The Government's recent decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to only pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits like Pension Credit may result in more than 11,000 of our residents in Rossendale, who badly need the money to stay warm this winter, not being eligible to receive the payment.
- Many of our residents do not claim Pension Credit despite being eligible, further exacerbating their financial hardship.

Council resolves to:

- Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible of Pension Credit which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need.
- Request that the Council Leader write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the Government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty.
- Write to all members offering them the opportunity to sign the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK themselves.
- Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in Rossendale are supported in claiming their entitlement.

Date of Council Meeting:-

2nd October 2024

Notice submitted from

Councillor S Smith

Date: 19th September 2024

Councillor A Woods

Date: 19th September 2024

Notice received and validated by the S151 Officer: Chris Warren

Comments:

There has been an announcement of an extension to the Household Support Fund until March 2025 which may allow some older people access to a source of funding which may help alleviate some of the winter heating pressures.

However, the administrative barriers similar to the pension credit arrangements are relevant.

Date: 23rd September 2024

To add to this the future of this funding stream beyond March 2025 is unclear.	
Notice received and validated by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yasmin Ahmed	
Comments: No additional legal comments.	Date: 23 rd September 2024
Notice received on behalf of the Head of the Paid Service and entered in the book open to Public Inspection	
Received by: Rob Huntington	Date: 19 th September 2024