

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 18th September 2024

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

**Rob Huntington, Chief Executive
Chris Warren, Director of Resources, s151 Officer
Yasmin Ahmed, Principal Legal Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy
Andy Taylor, Head of Environmental Services
Mike Atherton, Head of Planning
Kimberley Haworth, Head of Financial Services**

**Also Present: Councillor Harris
2 members of the public**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McInnes declared an interest in item 12 (E2) as she was a member of the Friends of Whitaker Park which was a branch of Civic Pride Rossendale.

Councillor Walmsley declared an interest in item 14 (E4) as he was the Treasurer of Bacup Pride which incorporated Friends of Stubbylee Park.

Councillor Lythgoe declared an interest in item 9 (D3) as he was a member of the Rossendale Leisure Trust Board.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A summary response was provided in relation to a question on item 7. A written response would also be provided.

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

An update was provided from the 9th September 2024 Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting. The Chair was thanked for providing the update.

7. MASTERPLAN/PHASING & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY/DESIGN CODES FOR SITE ALLOCATION REFERENCE H66 OF THE ADOPTED ROSSENDALE LOCAL PLAN

The Lead Member for Planning, Licensing and Enforcement outlined the report which asked

for Cabinet approval subject to satisfactory consultation responses.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report and clarifications were provided:

- It was suggested that a Visioning Board be set up including developers, Council officers, members and residents to oversee Masterplan activity.
- Biodiversity net gain would be considered for these applications.
- The Council would continue to work with residents but plans needed to progress.
- Edenfield residents were thanked for feeding into the plan.
- The Planning process was separate to the Masterplan process. Any highways concerns would be considered by Lancashire County Council as each planning application arose.
- Members were mindful of the risks if a Masterplan was not in place.
- The Planning and Forward Planning Teams were thanked for their work on the scheme.

Resolved:

1. Masterplan, Phasing and Implementation Strategy and Design Codes approved subject to the receipt of satisfactory consultation responses.
2. Any future amendments to the Phasing and Implementation Strategy to be brought back to Cabinet for agreement.
3. Visioning Board to be established to support the future development of the scheme.

Reason for Decision:

To facilitate the delivery of the largest housing allocation within the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan, in accordance with development plan policies.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. APPROVAL OF UPDATED VALIDATION CHECKLIST DOCUMENT FOR USE WHEN VALIDATING APPLICATIONS

The Lead Member for Planning, Licensing and Enforcement outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the updated Validation Checklist document for immediate use.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- The Planning and Forward Planning Teams were thanked for their work on the process.

Resolved:

Cabinet approved the updated Validation Checklist document for immediate use.

Reason for Decision:

It was vital that the Council adopted a new up-to-date Validation Checklist to ensure that officers were able to require the full range of supporting documents to accompany applications.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

9. SWIMMING POOL SUPPORT FUND AND MARL PITS AIR HANDLING UNIT

The Leader of the Council outlined the report which asked Cabinet to note the award of Sport England's SPSF capital funding, and to approve spend in accordance with the grant application and agree the procurement route for the award of a contract for the installation of an air handling unit.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- This was good news and officers were thanked for securing funding.
- The improvement works would reduce energy costs, support the Leisure Trust and help the Council work towards its Climate Change strategy.
- Council to ensure there was no overspend.
- Works need to be completed by 31st March 2025 so swift progress was needed.

Resolved:

1. The award of Sport England's SPSF capital funding of £290,000 to support energy saving interventions at Marl Pits Leisure Centre was noted.
2. Spend was approved in accordance with the grant application and the procurement route agreed for the award of a contract for the installation of an air handling unit.

Reason for Decision:

Agreement to proceed with procurement requirements will help Marl Pits Leisure Centre reduce its carbon footprint, become more energy efficient and enable the Council to progress towards meeting its carbon reduction targets.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

10. IMPROVEMENTS TO VICTORIA PARK WHEELED SPORTS FACILITIES

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the improvements, approve the bid to FCC Community Action Fund and grant authority to officers to submit external funding bids relevant to the project.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- The project would bring health benefits and have a positive impact on communities.

Resolved:

1. The improvements to the wheeled sports facilities at Victoria Park were approved.
2. Cabinet noted and approved the bid to FCC Community Action Fund and grants authority to officers to submit external funding bids relevant to this project.
3. If successful, delegated the acceptance of the external funding to the Head of Environmental Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services.
4. If a bid was not successful, authority given to officers to deliver an alternative scheme and to appoint a contractor in line with the Council's Constitution, provided the revised design was of value and provided a greatly improved experience.

Reason for Decision:

The development of Victoria Park Play wheeled sports will mean that the Council is investing to ensure the continued delivery. Much needed refurbishments of the existing area will ensure it is safe and remains an asset to residents. In addition, provision of challenging and exciting equipment for wheeled sports enthusiasts will mean the park addresses a shortfall of first-class facilities in the west of the borough.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

11. VICTORIA PARK MASTERPLAN UPDATE

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which provided a progress update to Cabinet.

Cabinet were invited to comment on all four Masterplan Update reports:

- Great improvements had been seen in all four parks.
- Stubbylee Park Group and officers were thanked for developing the Masterplan which had been adopted by the other three parks.
- The model could be adopted in other parks and playgrounds.
- Whitaker Park had been given a garden by Tatton Flower show which wouldn't have happened without the Stubbylee Masterplan.
- All staff and voluntary organisations were thanked for their help.

Resolved:

Cabinet noted the update on progress made against the Victoria Park masterplan.

Reason for Decision:

To provide an update for Cabinet members.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

12. WHITAKER PARK MASTERPLAN UPDATE

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which provided a progress update to Cabinet.

Resolved:

Cabinet noted the update on progress made against the Whitaker Park Masterplan to date.

Reason for Decision:

To provide an update for Cabinet members.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

13. EDGESIDE PARK MASTERPLAN UPDATE

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which provided a progress update to Cabinet.

Resolved:

Cabinet noted the update on progress made against the Edgeside Park Masterplan to date.

Reason for Decision:

To provide an update for Cabinet members.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

14. STUBBYLEE PARK MASTERPLAN UPDATE

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which provided a progress update to Cabinet.

Resolved:

Cabinet noted the update on progress made against the Stubblee Park Masterplan to date.

Reason for Decision:

To provide an update for Cabinet members.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

15. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT Q1 2024/25

The Lead Member for Resources outlined the report which asked Cabinet to note the content of the Q1 Financial Monitoring Report.

Resolved:

Cabinet noted the content of the Q1 Financial Monitoring Report.

Reason for Decision:

To note the 2024/25 monitoring report.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

16. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT Q1 2024/25

The Lead member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to consider and note the Council’s performance during Quarter 1 of 2024/25 as detailed in the report and appendices.

Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:

- Cabinet understood the challenges faced by the Council.
- The infographics on key achievements were welcomed.
- Processing of Housing Benefit claims within 5 days was a huge credit to the team and was well above the national average.

Resolved:

Cabinet considered and noted the Council’s performance during Quarter 1 of 2024/25.

Reason for Decision:

Monitoring the Council’s performance would enable Cabinet to identify and consider any service actions, projects, performance measures or corporate risks requiring further action.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

17. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved:

That public and press be excluded from the following item of business under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 since the item involved the likely disclosure of exempt information under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

18. FUNDING CONTRIBUTION FOR WOODHILL VIADUCT

The Leader of the Council outlined the report and Cabinet members commented.

Resolved:

The recommendations of the report were agreed.

Reason for Decision:

To agree the recommendations of the report.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

The meeting concluded at 7.41pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE