

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 23rd January 2008

**PRESENT: Councillor Swain (in the Chair)
Councillors Challinor, Driver and Essex**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive
Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive
George Graham, Executive Director of Resources
Liz Murphy, Head of People and Organisational Development
Carole Todd, Head of Street Scene and Neighbourhood
Services
Bill Lawley, Interim Legal and Democratic Services Manager
Heather Moore, Committee and Member Services Manager
Lucy Kershaw, Traffic and Parking Manager
Danny Dobson, Senior Enforcement Officer
Jason Foster, Street Scene Manager**

**ALSO PRESENT: Councillors A. Barnes, Cheetham, Eaton, L. Barnes,
Dickinson, Lamb, Sandiford, Robertson, Ruddick, Aldred,
Farrington, Nuttall, Pilling Hewlett
County Councillor Serridge
12 members of the public
2 Representatives from the Press**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Graham and Tickner.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12th December 2007 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

The Leader of the Council reported that there were no urgent items of business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In response to a question about investment to deliver the Play and Open Spaces Strategies, the Leader of the Council reported that financial information would be presented by the Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale and the Head of Street Scene and Neighbourhood Services later in the meeting.

In response to a question about pay and display parking, the Leader of the Council clarified that this was not an option being considered by the Council.

In response to a question about disposal of assets, the Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council indicated that each asset was considered on its own individual merits and the Council's priorities.

A concern was raised that the report relating to the proposed extension of disc parking only provided an overview of the position and did not go into enough detail. The Traffic and Parking Manager confirmed that the report followed on from the previous work undertaken by the Parking Task and Finish Group in relation to looking at extending disc parking throughout the borough and was not intended to address borough wide parking issues

A request was made for a long term plan for parking in Bacup. The Leader of the Council confirmed that a longer term plan would be developed for the whole of the Borough.

A request was made to defer extending disc parking in Bacup whilst the road works were complete.

A question was raised about the report on the Valley Centre and in response the Leader of the Council highlighted that the item was confidential in nature. He informed the meeting that a planning application would be considered by the Development Control Committee on 6th February 2008.

6. EXTENSION OF DISC CONTROLLED PARKING

Councillor Challinor, Portfolio Holder for Regenerating and Promoting Rossendale presented the report of the Head of Regeneration which provided details of the objections received in respect of the draft Traffic Regulation Order to extend disc controlled parking on some car parks within the Borough.

Various Councillors outlined concerns about extending disc parking to car parks in Bacup in light of the major road works which were currently ongoing and indicated that a long term plan was required for the area. Members also indicated potential difficulties in Rawtenstall during the development phase of the Valley Centre.

In light of this discussion and having considered the representations made the Cabinet resolved as follows:

Decisions Made:

1. That no changes be made to the following car parks:

Bacup – Bacup Baths, Bank Street, Rochdale Road
Rawtenstall – Ormerod Street

2. That the land ownership issues on Hall Street and Market Street Car Parks in Whitworth be investigated and should the land be in Council ownership the Traffic Regulation Order to implement 2 hour maximum stay parking be made.

3. That the Traffic Regulation Order to implement 2 hour maximum stay parking on the following car parks as indicated on the plans attached to the report be made:

Crawshawbooth – Adelaide Street, Water Street
Haslingden – Coal Hey Street, Hindle Street, New Street

Reason for Decisions:

The introduction of disc parking on the car parks in Crawshawbooth and Haslingden will ensure turnover of parking spaces making them available to shoppers and visitors. The decision not to proceed with disc parking on the car parks in Bacup and Rawtenstall are prudent in light of works in the areas.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The option to introduce disc parking on the following car parks was rejected:

Bacup – Bacup Baths, Bank Street, Rochdale Road
Rawtenstall – Ormerod Street

**7. AN ORGANISATION THAT FOCUSES RESOURCES ON PRIORITIES:
ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

Councillor Swain, the Leader of the Council presented the report of the Chief Executive which outlined the rationale for a review of the organisational structure of the Council to ensure that staffing capacity and resources were maximised for the delivery of the Council's priorities and to seek Cabinet's endorsement of the process.

The Chief Executive reported that she would look at the range of options available and a further report would be submitted to Cabinet setting out proposals for the way forward.

Decision Made:

That the Chief Executive be authorised to begin a process of consultation with staff and members on changes to the organisation to address the issues listed in paragraph 4.5.

Reason for Decision:

It is necessary to sharpen the focus of the Council's resources on the priority areas identified by elected members to ensure that the organisation remains effective in delivering improved results within the resources available.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

8. STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2008 TO 2011

Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council, presented the report of the Executive Director of Regulatory Services which set out the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the requirement on Licensing Authorities to review the Licensing Policy every three years.

Councillor Essex outlined the changes to the Statement of Licensing Policy for the consideration of the Cabinet. He reported that an important outcome was to safeguard children and young people and the Licensing Unit worked closely with the Police and Lancashire County Council's Trading Standards in respect of the sale of alcohol. He indicated that if the public had concerns regarding the sale of alcohol they could contact the Licensing Unit for investigation.

Decision Made:

That the Policy be referred to Full Council for consideration.

Reason for Decision:

The Licensing Act provides that during each three year period, a Licensing Authority must keep its Policy under review.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

9. CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS IN LANCASHIRE

Councillor Essex, Member Champion for Children and Young People presented the report of the Head of People and Organisational Development which provided information on the new Children's Trust arrangements.

Councillor Essex reported that the Children's Trust was a new way of working and brought partners closer together to ensure a coordinated and planned approach to delivery of services for children and young people at a local level.

The arrangements were welcomed by Members and a request was made for a briefing session for all members on the detail of the arrangements and how members can get involved.

Decision Made:

1. That the Statement of Commitment be agreed and any subsequent changes be delegated to the Head of People and Organisational Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council.
2. That the representation to the Trust be the Head of People and Organisational Development and the Member Champion for Children and Young People.
3. That the arrangements in relation to the new Children's Trust arrangements be noted.

Reason for Decision:

The benefits of the Children's Trust arrangements will create closer working and communications between people and organisations that work directly with children and young people together with opportunities for co-ordinated planning and delivery of services.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

10. UPDATE ON OPEN SPACES AND PLAY STRATEGIES

Councillor Driver, Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale, presented the report of the Head of Street Scene and Neighbourhoods which provided an update on progress in respect of the Open Space and Play Strategies together with an outline of the proposed forward programme for play improvements based on the information detailed in the playground assessment report.

Councillor Driver provided an update of the work which had been undertaken in the first year's action plan and she indicated that most work was complete and the majority of targets had been achieved.

Councillor Driver thanked the community groups that had helped to secure funding for the works and she highlighted that working in partnership meant that significant investment had been secured for projects.

The Head of Street Scene and Neighbourhoods gave a presentation which summarised the completed projects together with a detailed breakdown of the financial information of the projects. She highlighted that the improvements contributed to the Pride in Rossendale and outlined proposed projects to be undertaken within the next twelve months.

Members welcomed the update and the work that had been undertaken so far.

Officers responded to a range of detailed questions concerning specific sites.

Decision Made:

1. That the progress made in relation to delivering the Open Spaces and Play Strategies be noted.
2. That the outcome of the recent playground assessment be noted and the replacement works proposed be supported.
3. That in accordance with the Open Spaces Strategy the closure of Hays Street Playground and its subsequent re-landscaping be approved.

Reason for Decision:

A great deal of work has been undertaken in relation to improving play and open space within the Borough. Whilst some funding has been secure, a significant amount of work and finance is still required.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

11. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council, presented the report of the Head of Finance which provided an update on the General Fund estimates for 2007/08, the Capital Programme and Treasury matters.

Decision Made:

That the report be noted.

Reason for Decision:

Strong financial management ensures the effective management of the Council's resources which enables the provision of value for money services.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Decision Made and Reason for Decision:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve disclosure of exempt information relating to both an individual and to the financial or business affairs of any particular person as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

13. SELECTION OF A NEW PREFERRED DEVELOPER FOR THE VALLEY CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT IN RAWTENSTALL

The Portfolio Holder for Regenerating and Promoting Rossendale presented the report of the Head of Regeneration on the selection of a new preferred developer for the Valley Centre redevelopment in Rawtenstall.

Decision Made:

That the recommendations as set out in the report be agreed.

Reason for Decision:

The decision contributes to the following of the Council's priorities:

- Delivering Regeneration across the Borough
- Delivering Quality Services to Customers
- Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit
- Well Managed Council

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

14. COMPLAINT BY BACUP AND STACKSTEADS TENANT MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION UNDER THE STOCK TRANSFER AGREEMENT

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive in respect of a complaint by Bacup and Stacksteads Tenant Management Organisation under the Stock Transfer Agreement.

Decision Made:

That the recommendations as set out in the report be agreed.

Reason for Decision:

The decision contributes to the Council's priority of Delivering Regeneration across the Borough.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.57pm