

**MINUTES OF: THE EXECUTIVE**

**Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

**PRESENT: Councillor Ruddick (in the Chair)  
Councillors Challinor, Driver and Ormerod**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Owen Williams, Chief Executive  
Carolyn Wilkins, Deputy Chief Executive  
George Graham, Executive Director of Resources  
Mark Weston, Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Phil Seddon, Head of Financial Services  
Carole Todd, Head of Street Scene and Liveability  
Sarah Dunn, Economic Regeneration Manager  
Elaine Newsome, Administrative Assistant**

**ALSO PRESENT: Councillors A Barnes, Entwistle, Graham, Lamb,  
Pilling, Robertson, Sandiford and Starkey  
1 representative from the Press**

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**1. BUSINESS MATTERS**

**1.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Farquharson and P Steen.

**1.2. MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2005 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**1.3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

**1.4 CHAIRS WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed Carolyn Wilkins, Deputy Chief Executive and Sarah Dunn, Economic Regeneration Manager to the authority.

**2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**2.1** Councillor Robertson asked a question in respect of new recycling initiatives following the end of the Waste Not Want Not programme. The Head of Street

Scene and Liveability advised that the performance results of the programme were expected in November and that several plans for the extension of the current recycling provision were to be implemented. Members were further advised that a review of household ability to accommodate waste receptacles was to be undertaken, in order that the Council could identify need and make provisions for alternative options to residents.

- 2.2** Councillor Barnes asked if there was a possibility of regular forum between senior officers and elected members which would provide the opportunity to develop awareness on issues such as community cohesion and leadership. The Chair advised that he would address the issues raised by Councillor Barnes and that a forum would be developed.

### **3. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

#### **3.1 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Financial Services in respect of the General Fund estimates for 2005/06 and progress on the capital spend, disposals and Housing Revenue Account.

The Head of Financial Services reported on aspects of the General Fund which were ahead of predicted targets, and those areas where additional spending would be required. The Executive was further advised of unallocated funds which could provide the financial source for additional programmes.

#### **Resolved:**

1. That the Financial Monitoring Report be noted.
2. That the Executive recommends to Council that the £18, 000 required for repairs to Bacup Leisure Hall be approved and funded from those funds identified as currently unallocated.

### **4. STRATEGIC MATTERS**

#### **4.1 DRAFT REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

The Economic Regeneration Manager submitted the proposed response of the Council to the Draft Regional Economic Strategy. The Executive was advised of the statutory requirement for the North West Regional Development Agency to review the strategy on a three yearly basis and were informed of the nature and content of the strategy document and its potential economic impact on Rossendale.

#### **Resolved:**

1. That the content of the Draft Regional Economic Strategy be noted.

2. That the comments of the Council be submitted to the North West Regional Development Agency via the Rossendale Partnership and the Lancashire Economic Partnership.
3. That the Economic Regeneration Manager be requested to devise and implement a workshop for Members on the Strategy and potential impact on Rossendale.

## **4.2 WORKING TOWARDS A SMOKE FREE ROSSENDALE**

The Head of Street Scene and Liveability submitted a report on the promotion of tobacco free working environments. The Executive was advised that the Council could utilise its position within the community to lead an initiative which sought the eradication of tobacco pollution and the associated effects on the health of communities.

The Head of Street Scene and Liveability further advised of the Government “Consultation on the Smokefree Elements of the Health Improvement and Protection Bill” and the response which had been prepared by the Council, and an outline Strategy which summarized proposals to further consult within communities and promote a smoke free environment within the Borough.

Members debated the potential enforcement and human rights issues arising from the implementation of any policy.

### **Resolved:**

1. That the Executive recommends to Council that the outline strategy for the purpose of encouraging the extension of smokefree environments in places of work be approved.
2. That the response to the Government’s consultation be endorsed by the Executive.
3. That a public consultation exercise be mounted to determine the level of public support for the extension of smokefree environments in places of work.

## **5. OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

### **5.1 CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO THE REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT SYSTEM**

The Executive considered the report of the Executive Director of Resources in respect of the Governments proposals for changes to the Revenue Support Grant system. He advised the meeting of the Government consultation

“Changes in the Local Government Grant System” and provided Members with a copy of the draft response to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Resolved:**

That the Executive note the proposals for change to the Revenue Support Grant System and endorse the response to the ODPM consultation.

**5.2 FORWARD PLAN**

The Executive considered a copy of the Forward Plan which detailed those items which were likely to be the subject of a key decision in the next 4 months period.

**Resolved:**

That the Forward Plan as circulated be agreed and published thereon.

**(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.55pm)**