

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 21st January 2009

**PRESENT: Councillor Swain (in the Chair)
Councillors Challinor, Essex, Gledhill, Graham, Smith and
P. Steen**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive
Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive
Linda Fisher, Executive Director – Business
Phil Seddon, Head of Finance
Heather Moore, Committee and Member Services Manager**

**ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Aldred, A. Barnes, Cheetham, Crawforth,
Dickinson, Driver, Eaton, Evans, Farrington, Haworth,
Lamb, May, Morris, Nuttall, C. Pilling, J. Pilling, Robertson,
Sandiford, Stansfield, Thorne, Unsworth
County Councillor Serridge
Approximately 160 members of the public
2 representatives from the press**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were required to be submitted.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 3rd December 2008 be agreed and 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

Members of the Committee were asked to consider whether they had an interest in any matters to be discussed at the meeting and the following interests were declared:

- Councillors Challinor and Haworth declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute Number 6 (Leisure) as they are Board Members on Rossendale Leisure Trust.

- Councillor Graham declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute Number 6 (Leisure) as her daughter was employed by Rossendale Leisure Trust.
- Councillors Cheetham, Dickinson, Essex, Robertson and Unsworth declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item on Asset Disposal as they are Board Members of the particular company.
- Councillor A. Barnes declared a personal interest in Minute Number 6 (Leisure) as she has a gym membership at Haslingden Life Style Centre.
- Councillor C. Pilling and J. Pilling declared a personal interest in Minute Number 6 (Leisure) as they are members of Parkwood Tennis Club.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Council asked the public if there were any questions not relating to the Leisure report and the following question was raised to which the Leader responded.

- A request for no significant decisions to be taken at the meeting.

N.B. Councillors Challinor and Graham vacated the meeting prior to the consideration of the following item of business. Councillor Haworth was not present during the Cabinet's consideration and vote on the following item.

6. LEISURE

The Leader of the Council informed the public that Councillor Gledhill, Portfolio Holder for Leisure would present information relating to the report and questions would be taken thereafter.

Councillor Gledhill gave a presentation on the options for Leisure as summarised below:-

- An outline of the key recommendations of the Leisure White Paper circulated in 2007.
- Financial performance of key leisure facilities
- Investment of £3M for a new pool at Haslingden
- A summary of options
- Key decision making points

A number of questions and statements were submitted as summarised below to which the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Leisure responded:-

- Whether the report detailed all financial information
- Confirmation that the options were in line with the White Paper
- Use of the swimming pools by various swimming clubs

- Concerns that 1 swimming pool would not be sufficient provision for all swimming clubs. Legal requirements for the provision of 1 pool per 30,000 population
- Staffing costs of Rossendale Leisure Trust
- Requests for a public inquiry
- Financial Forecasts of Rossendale Leisure Trust
- A request that the Council considers the effects of any decision on older people
- Running costs
- Why the Free Swimming Programme had not been introduced in the Borough
- Monthly repayments for the Haslingden Lifestyle Centre
- Public consultation
- Availability of the Equality Impact Assessment
- Requests to defer any decision pending consultation
- Why the Council had agreed to be guarantor for the loan for the Haslingden Lifestyle Centre
- Timescales for decision
- Requirement to provide swimming as part of Key Stage 2 education
- Concerns regarding travelling and the need for access to services closer to home
- Consultation with the Primary Care Trust (PCT) – had a health impact assessment been undertaken
- Change 4 Life Campaign
- Requests not to close any facilities until the new pool in Haslingden opens
- Timescales for when new pool would be in use

The Leader of the Council thanked all the public for the questions and statements that were put forward. He explained that any written submissions would receive a response before the Full Council Meeting on 26th February 2009.

In addition to the representations made at the meeting, Elected Members also considered and discussed the following:-

- Consultation with all Elected Members
- Member representation on the Board of Rossendale Leisure Trust
- Financial impact on the Council's overall budget
- The Council's corporate priorities
- Consultation with members of the public
- Increased operation costs and the request submitted by the Leisure Trust for grant funding of £720k.
- The need to ensure fit-for-purpose facilities
- The development of a new pool in Haslingden
- Concern about the closure of pools prior to a new pool being opened
- The success of the Leisure Trust in delivering the Adrenaline Gateway

Decision Made:

That all options be deferred for Full Council consideration and that consultation commences with immediate effect.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure that consultation takes place on all options detailed in the report together with any further options which may be submitted.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

7. DEFERRAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

The Leader of the Council proposed to defer the following items of business:-

C1 – Joint Standards Committee for Rossendale, Burnley and Pendle

D1 – Air Quality Policy and Strategy

E2 – Rossendale Locality Plan 2009/10

F1 – Update on Core Strategy Development Plan Document and Local Development Scheme

F2 – Update on Conservation and Heritage Work

I2 – Asset Disposal

Resolved:

That the items be deferred to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

N.B. In accordance with the Cabinet Procedure Rules it was resolved to continue the meeting after 9.30pm

8. LANCASHIRE LOCAL - ROSSENDALE

Councillor Essex, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources outlined proposed amendments to the Constitution of Lancashire Local Rossendale, following consultation undertaken by the County Council on expanding the remit of Lancashire Local.

The Portfolio Holder summarised the main additions and changes to the Constitution.

In considering the report, the following matters were discussed:

- Links to the Local Strategic Partnership and Lancashire Local
- Residents' Parking
- Booklet explaining public speaking
- Agenda setting to ensure relevant to Rossendale

Decision Made:

1. That Full Council be recommended to formally adopt the Constitution of Lancashire Local Rossendale as amended with immediate effect.
2. That clarification from the County Council be sought in relation to how the Local Strategic Partnership and Lancashire Local will agree matters to ensure that there is no duplication.

Reason for Decision:

Lancashire Local Rossendale provides an opportunity for joint working in relation to delivery of local government services.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

9. REVITALISING ROSSENDALE MARKETS

Councillor Graham, the Portfolio holder for Communities and Neighbourhoods outlined proposals to improve the efficiency of the day to day running of the markets with a view to making them a more sustainable asset.

The Portfolio Holder informed the Cabinet that a recent review had highlighted the need to refresh the Council's current practices and procedures.

In considering the report, the following matters were discussed:

- Representation of traders on the Markets Liaison Group
- The need to ensure that the Council does not have policies or practices which are considered anti-competitive
- The improved signage to Markets which has been introduced
- Publicity and promotion of the Markets to attract visitors
- Whether regular Street Markets could be introduced
- Whether a Farmers Market could be introduced in Bacup and Haslingden
- Consultation with Traders when reviewing charges
- Whether posters could be displayed on East Lancashire Railway to promote the Markets
- Days and times of opening on Markets
- How to attract specialist Markets

Decision Made:

1. That a marketing plan for the markets will be carried out over a period of 5/6 months with an options appraisal report on the findings presented to Cabinet in September 2009.

2. That clear policies and procedures are drafted and consulted on in relation to the management of markets including stall allocation for new traders, spreading out, competition and charity stalls. These policies and procedures will be put forward for Cabinet approval in March 2009.
3. The Head of Finance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, will provide proposals in line with the Council's budget process in February 2009 that outlines a phased introduction of charge increases, working towards the three markets reducing their dependence on Council Tax in the medium term.

Reason for Decision:

The Council must ensure that policies and procedures are in place to help run the markets efficiently.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

10. FINANCIAL MONITORING 2008/09

Councillor Essex, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources provided an update on the General Fund estimates, Capital Programme and Treasury Matters.

The Portfolio Holder reported that the General Fund revenue forecast was showing to be in line with the Council's net revenue budget, with a small under spend of approximately £100k. He informed the Cabinet that the current economic climate continued to be a challenge in the raising of capital receipts.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the Section 106 resources detailed in the report and he informed the Cabinet that Finance, Legal and Planning Officers had been working to review the processes and monitoring of Section 106 monies with a view to maximising value.

Decision Made:

That the report be noted.

Reason for Decision:

Effective and strong financial management ensures the effective management of the Council's resources which then enables the provision of value for money services.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

11. EXCLUSION OF 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 the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and information which is subject to any obligation of confidentiality as defined in Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

12. BALANCE SHEET REVIEW – NOVEMBER 2008

Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources provided the results a full Balance Sheet review undertaken in October/November 2008.

Decision Made:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

Reason for Decision:

Good practice recommends that the balance sheet should be kept under review throughout the year.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 10.00pm

CHAIR