

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 2nd September 2009

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

**In Attendance: Mrs H Lockwood, Chief Executive
Mr S Sugarman, Executive Director - Business
Mrs C Sharples, Committee and Member Services Officer
Mr S Stray, Planning Unit Manager
Mrs J Crawford, Finance Manager**

**Also Present: Councillors Aldred, Cheetham, Crawforth, Dickinson,
Farrington, Lamb, Morris, C.Pilling, J.Pilling, Sandiford,
Stansfield and Thorne.**

2 members of the public and 1 press

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Essex and Councillor Smith.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 22nd July 2009 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

There were no declarations of interest.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public raised questions and points to which the Leader of the Council responded. The issues raised are summarised below:

- Costs of test marketing Rossendale Transport
- Costs of the feasibility study for Henrietta Street
- Retaining the VAT rebate
- Waste transfer exercise
- Organisational review

- Community involvement

6. WASTE AND MINERALS SITE ALLOCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (DPD)

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration outlined details of the report which updated Members on the timescale and work being undertaken by Lancashire County Council, being the Waste Disposal Authority for Rossendale, in relation to the Minerals and Waste Site Allocation. The Development Plan Document would set out where future minerals and waste development in Rossendale may or may not take place in the future.

Members discussed the report in detail and the following comments were made:

- Current recycling centres and accessibility
- Ensuring licenses are up to date
- Discussions with Lancashire County Council
- Retaining quarries as tourist attractions
- The issue of Waste Transfer Stations for all boroughs
- Sites identified by owners after consultation

Decision Made:

1. That Cabinet note the timescales and ongoing work being undertaken by Lancashire County Council in relation to the Waste and Minerals site allocation development plan.
2. That comments in relation to the retention of the two existing recycling sites and the retention of some quarry sites for tourism purposes be fed back to Lancashire County Council as part of the consultation process.

Reason for Decision:

The Lancashire County Council's Minerals and Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) has important land use and sustainable waste management implications for Rossendale. Failure to identify suitable sites or to provide feedback on such sites may result in negative or lost opportunities.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

7. ORGANISATIONAL REVISION

The Chief Executive clarified why this item was not being taken as a confidential item following a query from Councillor Aldred.

The Leader of the Council outlined the report which contained a proposal to revise the Executive Management Team as follows:

- The posts of Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Resources be disestablished with immediate effect.
- The post of Director of Customers and Communities (Grade 14, scale point 60-65) be established.
- The post of Executive Director of Business be re-designated to Director of Business.

Members discussed the report and the following comments were made:

- Advertising the post of Director of Customers and Communities
- IT being a specialised area
- Deputising responsibilities
- Savings being made

Decision Made:

- 1) That the immediate implementation of the structure as set out in Appendix A of the Committee Report be approved.
- 2) That the posts of Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Resources be disestablished with immediate effect.
- 3) That the post of Director of Customers and Communities (Grade 14, scale point 60-65) be established.
- 4) That the post of Executive Director of Business be re-designated to Director of Business.

Reason for Decision:

To deliver an Executive Management Team structure that is fit for purpose in terms of delivering the Council’s Corporate Priorities and the Corporate Plan.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

8. CORE STRATEGY

The Leader of the Council informed that the Core Strategy report would be deferred to a future meeting.

Decisions Made:

- 1) That the report be deferred to a future meeting.

Reason for Decision:

To obtain advice/information from Government Office North West.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

9. DRAFT FOOD AND HEALTH STRATEGY

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Neighbourhoods outlined the report which detailed the requirement to implement a comprehensive consultation exercise for the development of a Food and Health Strategy for Rossendale and to note the Rossendale Food Forum Action Plan. The report also sought approval of the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2009/10.

Members discussed the report and the following comments were made:

- Scores on the doors
- Training and advice
- Was this a shared function with other Authorities?
- Increase in premises in relation to staffing ratio and inspections
- Work of the Dentistry Task and Finish Group

Decision Made:

- 1) That a consultation process be undertaken to develop a comprehensive and prioritised Food and Health Strategy for Rossendale by March 2010.
- 2) That the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2009/10 be approved.
- 3) That the Rossendale Food Forum Action Plan 2009/10 be noted.

Reason for Decision:

A Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2009/10 has been produced in accordance with the requirements of the Food Standards Agency and the Food Law Code of Practice.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

10. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2009/10: MONTH 4 – END JULY 2009

The Finance Manager presented the report which updated members on the General Fund budget monitoring for 2009/10, the Capital Programme and Treasury Matters.

Members discussed the report and the following issues were raised:

- Pension deficits

- Reserves and use for leisure and review
- Long-term investment
- The use of consultants
- Elements of the pool income

Decision Made:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That Members allocate funds into a separate Leisure Reserve pending the outcome of the current 2009 Leisure Review and that repayments in relation to VAT treatment of 2 incidences of coaching income include compound interest, rather than the standard simple interest calculation.
- 3) That the cost of halting the test marking of Rossendale Transport Limited be met from the change management reserve.

Reason for Decision:

To facilitate the continued management of the Council's finances.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

11. RAWTENSTALL TO MANCHESTER COMMUTER LINK

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration updated Members on proposals to upgrade the East Lancashire Railway for commuter use.

Members discussed the report and the following comments were made:

- Promoting business opportunity
- Reducing traffic
- Costs
- Economic benefits
- Promoting the facility
- Cost benefit ratios

Decision Made:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) The Cabinet confirmed the Rawtenstall to Manchester commuter link is a strategic priority for the Council and requested the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to facilitate meetings with Network Rail, Lancashire County Council and partner Greater Manchester Authorities in order to progress the business case.

Reason for Decision:

The re-opening of a link to the national rail network would increase the profile and accessibility of the Borough for both residents and visitors.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Finance Manager outlined the report which sought the approval of Members for the updated Asset Management Plan (AMP).

Members discussed the report and the following issues were raised:

- Covering maintenance backlogs
- Garage sites and identifying land
- Bus shelters
- Planweb
- Signage for the Bacup toilet scheme
- Toilets closed in Rawtenstall and Healey Dell

In response to a question from an elected member the Leader of the Council agreed to find out the legal position on whether the Council had to close toilet facilities at the request of the police.

Decision Made:

- 1) That the updated Asset Management Plan be approved.

Reason for Decision:

Failure to keep the Asset Management Plan up to date may prejudice the delivery of corporate priorities and their outcomes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

13. FLOODS AND WATER ACTION PLAN

The Portfolio Holder for the Environment outlined the report which confirmed work being undertaken to support the mitigation of the effect of floods on Rossendale's business and communities, and on adapting to any flooding events that do take place. The report was based on the Government's response to the Pitt Review of the summer 2007 floods.

The Leader of the Council informed members that another report would be available when the update was completed.

Decision Made:

- 1) That the progress being made to actively implement the findings of the Pitt Review within Rossendale be noted.

Reason for Decision:

Failure of Rossendale Borough Council to co-operate with the lead authorities (being the Environment Agency and Lancashire County Council), and to share appropriate information could jeopardise effective flood prevention and risk management.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.50pm

CHAIR