

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 12th June 2013

**Present: Councillor A Barnes (in the Chair)
Councillors Jackson, Lamb, MacNae, Marriott and
Serridge**

**In Attendance: Mrs H Lockwood, Chief Executive
Mr S Sugarman, Director of Business
Ms F Meechan, Director of Customers and Communities
Mr P Seddon, Head of Finance and Property Services
Mrs J Cook, Committee Officer**

**Also Present: Councillors Aldred, Cheetham, Creaser, Evans, Farrington,
McInnes, Milling, Oakes, Pilling, Sandiford and D. Smith**

**6 members of the public
2 member of the press**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 All Cabinet members were present.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2013 be approved as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

3.1 There were no urgent items of business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 Councillor Marriott declared an interest in Item 9, in that a relative was a member of the Friends of the Museum.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 A member of the public raised issues regarding Mytholme House and asked for clarification regarding permanent protection of the play area, car park and bus turning circle from development. The matter was discussed, the planning process was outlined and it was agreed that an additional recommendation would be added when the item was discussed on the agenda.

5.2 A member of the public raised issues regarding Mytholme house, in particular paragraphs 5.3, 5.4 and 5.8 of the committee report. The Leader of the Council and

the Chief Executive outlined the work carried out to date and stated that the priority was to remove the blight of Mytholme House with a deliverable solution.

6. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY – ACHIEVAL OF BUDGET REDUCTIONS**

- 6.1 The Leader of the Council outlined the report which updated Members on the progress made to date in achieving the £1.5m required saving over the next 2-3 years. The report noted the consultation carried out and requested approval of continuation of the consultation. In addition the report requested approval of the new shared Building Control structure.
- 6.2 The Leader of the Council noted that savings were being made via back office functions, which were not anticipated to affect front line services and the efficiencies made so far were outlined. It was noted that in the longer term the number of Councillors would be looked at, and that the possibility of sharing other services would be looked at, if and when appropriate.
- 6.3 Members attention was drawn to Appendix 2 which outlined proposed reviews of the Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing Service and Appendix 3 which outlined proposed reviews of the Grants provision.
- 6.4 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-
- It was clarified that the £250k of funding referred to in Appendix 3 was transitional funding to develop an integrated partnership network over the next 2 years.
 - Concerns were raised regarding the Whitworth Town Centre Caretaker post being grant-funded and it was agreed that this matter would be looked into.
 - Assurances were given regarding the Council's ability to present balanced budgets.
 - It was noted that consideration would only be given to shared services where savings to Rossendale would be made.
 - Concerns were raised regarding the 'Clean Green Rossendale' corporate priority in relation to Appendix 2.

Resolved:

1. That the progress made to date be noted and the continuation of consultation as identified in Section 6 of the committee report be approved.
2. That the new shared Building Control structure be noted and approved.

Reason for Decision

To enable to council to remain focused on identifying and delivering Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Alternative Options Considered

None

7. VALLEY OF STONE GREENWAY

- 7.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure outlined the report which sought Cabinet support for the development of a 'Valley of Stone Greenway', which would be a continuous route based on the old railway. This would provide a safe route to enable safe cycling, pedestrian and equestrian passage from Rochdale to Rawtenstall.
- 7.2 The Portfolio Holder noted that there had been a large amount of volunteer support behind the project and that the Council would identify key constraints to be addressed along the route, with the objective of creating a 'digger ready' project, as and when funding became available. It was noted that support from Lancashire County Council had provided excellent support.
- 7.3 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-
- It was noted that the project was exciting and could bring people into the Valley.
 - Timescales were discussed and it was noted that this would not be a quick project, however some areas would be able to be completed relatively quickly due to work already carried out.
 - Land swaps were being discussed with local businesses along the route.
 - The need for safe cycling routes within the Valley was noted.
 - The project was noted as a good example of how small amounts of money could be utilised for big projects.

Resolved:

1. That the development of a strategy to create a 'Valley of Stone Greenway' tourist attraction and sustainable transport corridor and confirm that the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure will act as the council's 'Cycling Champion'.
2. That all future minor amendments to the strategy be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.
3. That all future reports confirming the financial/land resource requirements for the various elements of the strategy be brought to a further meeting.

Reason for Decision

To provide a high quality cycling, walking and equestrian route through Rossendale.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. BACUP TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE BID – STAGE 2 BID

- 8.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure outlined the report which updated Members on the development of the Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative Bid. It was noted that the bid was now in draft form and had been broadly approved by the THI Board.

8.2 The Portfolio Holder stated that the bid would be submitted in August 2013 and the decision would be made in December 2013. It was noted that excellent support had been received from local businesses, the community and Lancashire County Council.

8.3 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-

- It was noted that more community support was needed and all members of the public, councillors and press present were urged to send their support into the Council.
- It was noted that the £95k identified within the report had been received from S106 money from Morrisons.

Resolved:

1. That Council are recommended to approve the Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative Bid.
2. That Council are recommended to delegate all future minor amendments to the bid to the Head of Health, Housing and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

To pursue a significant opportunity to bring investment into the area.

Alternative Options Considered

None

9. ROSSENDALE MUSEUM, WHITAKER PARK

9.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure outlined the report which updated members on the progress to date made on the management and operation of Rossendale Museum. It was noted that good feedback had been received so far on the exhibitions and events which had been held.

9.2 It was noted that a vast amount of work had been done by officers and the Friends of the Museum to enable the continuation of the operation, and it was agreed that the Council would formally write to the Friends of the Museum to thank them for their hard work.

9.3 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-

- It was noted that some of the exhibitors were known across the world and that this could bring more tourism into Rossendale.
- The expertise of the Lancashire County Council Arts Development Team was noted.
- It was clarified that there had been an inventory carried out by Rossendale Borough Council and Lancashire County Council and that discussions were on-going regarding artefacts on loan and those which had been donated.
- It was clarified that at present, the insurance was being covered by Rossendale Borough Council.

Resolved:

1. That the contents of the report are noted.
2. That delegated authority is granted to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure to finalise the details of a lease for the premises.
3. That all future minor amendments to the strategy and programme be delegated to the Head of Health, Housing and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

To develop a sustainable future for the Museum.

Alternative Options Considered

None

10. MYTHOLME HOUSE, WATERFOOT - UPDATE

- 10.1 The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Environmental Health outlined the report and noted that much of the discussion had occurred at public question time. The report summarised the actions and consultation undertaken to date and the Portfolio Holder noted the involvement of Waterfoot Forward.
- 10.2 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-
 - It was noted as a good example of the Council working together with Community Groups to remove the blight of Mytholme House.
 - The need for 1-bedroomed apartments was noted.
 - It was noted that there was no public green space in Waterfoot.
 - The Portfolio Holder noted that an active community group was a major asset in Waterfoot.

Resolved:

1. That the contents of the report are noted.
2. That all future minor amendments to the strategy and programme be delegated to the Head of Health, Housing and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.
3. That the Cabinet confirms that the car park and play area will not form part of a wider redevelopment option. It was agreed that the turning circle should continue to be used as such.

Reason for Decision

To reach a deliverable solution for the project, taking into account the concerns of the community.

Alternative Options Considered

None

11. REPORT OF THE WELFARE REFORM TASK AND FINISH GROUP

- 11.1 The Portfolio Holder for Customers, Legal and Licensing outlined the report which detailed the recommendations of the cross-party Overview and Scrutiny Welfare Reforms Task and Finish Group.
- 11.2 The Portfolio Holder noted that the report was excellent and that the Cabinet should accept all 9 recommendations made, undertake some work to address the recommendations and then formally respond to Overview and Scrutiny.
- 11.3 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-
- Discussion took place on the implications of the welfare reforms.
 - It was noted that there was a shortage of 1-bedroomed properties in Rossendale.
 - It was noted that priority should be given to recommendation number 1, to promote the use of reputable lenders.

Resolved

1. That the recommendations be noted.
2. That a written response to the recommendations is provided within two months of considering the reports, indicating what action is proposed.

Reason for Decision

To formally respond to the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny as set out in the Council's Constitution and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

12. FINANCIAL MONITORING 2012/13

- 12.1 The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources introduced the report which provided members with an update on the final financial monitoring period of 2012/13. It was noted that there was a favourable general fund variance of £525k and that the Council was confident of meeting its budgetary requirements. It was noted that efficiencies were being delivered and that work with neighbouring authorities was being considered where appropriate.
- 12.2 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-
- The importance of earned income was noted.
 - Further savings were discussed.
 - Clarification was given regarding the shared recycling income with Lancashire County Council as outlined on page 11 of the appendix to the report.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report are noted.

Reason for Decision

To continue robust monitoring of the council's finances.

Alternative Options Considered

None

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE