

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 19th October 2016

**Present: Councillor A Barnes (in the Chair)
Councillors Ashworth, Lamb, Marriott and Oakes**

**In Attendance: Mr S Sugarman, Chief Executive
Ms S Davies, Director for Business
Ms C Birtwistle, Legal Services Manager
Mr P Seddon, Head of Finance and Property Services
Mr D Pierce, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Miss G Ashton, Committee & Member Services Officer**

**Also Present: Councillors Cheetham, Essex, Haworth
Miss B Murray, Rossendale Free Press
3 members of the public**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

3.1 There were no urgent items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 Councillor Barnes declared an interest in item 7 as she sat on meetings with Whittaker Park Museum, East Lancashire Railway Board and Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI). Councillors Ashworth, Lamb and Oakes were also on the Bacup THI Board.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 Referring to item 5.2 of the Regeneration Projects Report, Mr John Atherton asked if the scheme would include new housing. The Leader advised that it would primarily be an employment site with possible leisure use, but would not be used for housing.

5.2 From the last meeting, Councillor Essex said he had not received a response regarding the amount of re-cycling refused at the depot. The Director for Business advised that some data was available but she was waiting for further information to be provided.

5.3 Councillor Haworth asked why hard copies of the Cabinet papers hadn't been made available to all Councillors. The Leader said she would look into the matter.

6. AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

6.1 The Portfolio Holder for Customer Services and Health introduced the report which sought endorsement of the action plan for addressing the exceedances in our air quality management areas.

6.2 Members were invited to comment on the report:

- Following a question raised, the meeting were advised that there were air quality issues in the two areas highlighted in the report. An Action Plan was needed to manage those areas. It was envisaged that the Town Centre redevelopment would help reduce the readings in these areas.
- It was asked why these two areas were a problem. The Council's Principal Environmental Health Officer advised this was due to traffic habits and a build-up of traffic.
- A number of alternative options were included on the Action Plan. This was because all options had to be explored even if not used.
- School travel plans could be investigated to encourage walking or cycling to school.

The Leader expressed her thanks for the preparation of the report.

Resolved:

1. That the Air Quality Management Action Plan be endorsed.

Reason for Decision

The action plan was a statutory requirement following the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

7. REGENERATION PROJECTS QUARTER 2 REPORT

7.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration & Leisure introduced the report which updated members on important key developments for Rossendale.

7.2 Members were invited to comment on the report:

- The Leader advised that a new member of staff was taking Bacup THI forward.
- Good progress was being made with Spinning Point. The outline programme would be available in the next few weeks and would be shared with businesses and residents as soon as possible. Phase 1 of the Spinning Point development would deliver a fixed price scheme, aligned to the funding approved by full Council on 6th July with Barnfield taking the risk on delivering the project within the available funding.

- The money which had been made available to Haslingden Task Force had made a difference to the area.
- Following a question regarding access to Affordable Warmth monies, individuals should be referred to St Vincent's Association or any officer working in that service area. The Leader agreed to advise all members that the money was available and who referrals should be made to.
- Concerns were expressed about the use of the road leading to New Hall Hey. This was a residential area and workmen were using it as a cut through with large vehicles. Lancashire County Council would need to address the issue of signage and weight restrictions on the road but the Leader would ask the Planning Department to approach the contractors.
- The bus service to New Hall Hey was inadequate and there was a problem with the temporary bus stop.
- A question was asked about how the Tourism figures calculated. A nationally standardised model was used and a proportional slice was used for the area based on footfall.

The Leader thanked all Officers involved in the regeneration projects.

Resolved:

1. That members noted the report.
2. Leader to pass information onto members regarding Affordable Warmth monies.
3. Leader to speak to the Planning Department regarding the contactors using a residential road for large site vehicles.

Reason for Decision

To note the contents of the update report.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. Q2 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2016/17

- 8.1 The Portfolio Holder for Resources & Performance outlined the report which updated members on Quarter 2 of the Financial Monitoring Report for 2016/17 as at the end of September 2016.
- 8.2 Members were invited to comment on the report:
 - Had the Government Grants Unapplied monies been used? It was noted this was the only area increased by Government. Monies had been used for disabled facilities. Next year other options would be considered.
 - Discussion took place regarding the Empty Homes Scheme. Councillor Essex expressed concerns about overspend. The Leader advised that monies had been reserved for the Scheme which would cover any costs. At the end of December the properties would transfer to Calico.
 - Discussion took place regarding the funding to Whittaker Park Museum. The meeting were advised that the Council was working with the organisation to reduce contributions. It was noted that consideration should be given to the number of artefacts housed for the Council.

- Concerns were expressed about the budget and the Council's finances in general.
- What was the strategy for improving markets? This was an ongoing issue and was hoped could play a part in the regeneration.
- It was noted that the Dog Warden Service was under review.

Resolved:

1. That the report was noted.

Reason for Decision

To ensure robust monitoring of the Council's finances.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.40pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE