

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 8th March 2017

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

**In Attendance: Mr S Sugarman, Chief Executive
Ms S Plum, Director for Communities
Mr P Seddon, Head of Finance and Property Services
Ms J Griffin, Committee and Member Services Officer**

**Also Present: Councillors Cheetham, Eaton, Haworth, Robertson, Serridge
and Farrington.
1 press
1 member 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 Wednesday 15th February 2017 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 Minute 6 Items 5.2 Haslingden Task Force as she is the Chair of that Group and 5.3 The Whitaker.

4.2 Councillor Lamb declared an interest in Minute 6 Items 5.4 Stubbylee Park and 5.6 The Bacup THI.

4.3 Councillor Oakes declared an interest in Minute 6 Item 5.4 Stubbylee Park and 5.5 Waterfoot Centre.

4.4 Councillor Ashworth declared an interest in Minute 6 Item 5.6 The Bacup THI.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 Mr Atherton had submitted his question in writing prior to the meeting. Mr Atherton asked a question regarding Section 5.20 of the Regeneration and growth report. He

asked if the Council would expand on the statement made in the report with further details of what is going to happen to the buildings, and what were the plans for regenerating the empty buildings?

Councillor Barnes stated discussions had begun with the land owners to establish their plans for the site and to discuss potential re-uses/ways forward to ensure that these buildings did not detract from the positive work being done as part of the THI. This was not without its challenges, including multiple absent land owners. However, work had begun to seek resolutions to the issues which the sites raised.

Councillor Oakes added the THI were awaiting further funds from the Lottery and hopefully this would help with the progress of the sites.

Mr Atherton asked a further question in relation to the conservation of the buildings and whether any of these were listed?

It was confirmed that the buildings were not listed and the Council would be working closely with the THI.

No further questions from the public.

6. REGENERATION AND GROWTH PROGRESS REPORT Q3

6.1 Councillor Barnes stated that the report was to keep members on track with how items were progressing and keeping them informed.

6.2 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:

- An update was given on 5.5 Waterfoot Centre and that bids were ready to go in relation to the Lantern Parade.
- An update was given on 5.4 Stubblelee Park, confirming the opening of the pump track as a success with over 150 people attending on the day.
- A job fair was to take place on Friday 10th March with information available for apprenticeships within the THI project.
- Further discussion took place in relation to 5.13 Affordable Warmth Scheme, confirming funds available, and to contact St Vincent's for further advice and help.
- An update was given on 5.7 Brownfield Register and confirmation there were 20 sites listed so far and the list would be added to.

6.3 Other Elected Members were invited to comment on the report:

- 5.4 Stubblelee Park, when would the work commence on the dell and the duck pond and would any of the costs be incurred by the tax payer?
- 5.3 The Whitaker and the lack of art exhibitions and exhibitions from local talent. Who is monitoring and looking after the Museum?

In response to these questions, Councillor Barnes confirmed there is no indication that costs will be incurred by the tax payer.

Councillor Oakes stated information regarding the start of the work on the dell is currently on the Rossendale Borough Council website and the information has gone out to tender.

Councillor Barnes confirmed Paul Walker was in constant contact with the team at The Whitaker and they were waiting for Lotto funding to be able to concentrate on an Arts Centre.

Resolved:

1. That the report was noted.

Reason for Decision

To ensure all members are kept up to date.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.00pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE