

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 29th March 2006

**PRESENT: Councillor Ruddick (in the Chair)
Councillors Challinor, Driver, Farquharson, Graham and Ormerod**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Carolyn Wilkins, Acting Chief Executive
George Graham, Executive Director of Resources
Linda Fisher, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Heather Moore, Executive Office Manager
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Stephen Jackson, Housing Market Renewal Manager
Lorna Rouke, Housing Standards Officer**

**ALSO PRESENT: Councillors A. Barnes, D. Barnes, L. Barnes, Entwistle,
Lamb, Robertson, Sandiford and Starkey
2 Representatives from the Press
1 member of the public**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 22nd February 2006 and the special meeting of the Cabinet held on 23rd February 2006 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN RESPECT OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Further to Minute Number 15 of the last meeting of the Cabinet, the Chair referred to an article which was subsequently published in the local media in respect of items of business which were taken with the exclusion of the public and press. He informed the meeting that a Member had chosen to approach the press directly and he expressed disappointment in respect of how the matter had been dealt with.

The Chair reminded the meeting that he personally challenged reports which excluded the public and the press and so far as reasonably practicable items would be taken in public to ensure openness and transparency.

4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items of business.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were put to the meeting under this item.

7. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk Management presented the report of the Head of Financial Services which outlined General Fund estimates for 2005/06 together with progress on capital spend and disposals and the Housing Revenue Account.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk Management informed the meeting of some positive news whereby the Council would be debt free on 30th March 2006 as a result of the stock transfer.

It was reported that an offer had been accepted in respect of Cemetery Lodge, Rawtenstall as opposed to Rawtenstall Cemetery which was referred to in the report.

Decision Made:

That the contents of the report be endorsed.

Reason for Decision:

Monitoring is required to ensure that the Council's budgetary targets are achieved.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

8. PROGRESS ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the Acting Chief Executive which outlined the findings of the Audit Commission's Progress Assessment Report on the Council.

The Leader of the Council informed the meeting that the Audit Commission's report was positive and the overall conclusion was that the Council was progressing well with much improved political and officer leadership. He outlined the key findings of the report and highlighted that it reflected the hard work, energy and commitment of Councillors, staff and partners.

The Chair of the Policy Development Overview and Scrutiny reported that members of that Committee had considered the report and recommended its approval to the Cabinet. Further, the Committee noted the additional work which was required to be developed as part of the Council's ongoing commitment to improvement.

Decisions Made:

1. That the Progress Assessment Report be accepted.
2. That work take place during 2006-09 on the following issues, with further reports brought to Elected Members as appropriate:
 - Community Engagement
 - Community Leadership
 - Skills development for Councillors and Officers to support Rossendale's skills capacity building model
 - Asset Management and Capital Investment
 - Continued work on embedding the customer service ethos and performance management

Reason for Decisions:

The Progress Assessment Report is part of the ongoing development of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System and enables the Council and citizens to understand the rate of progress within the organisation and how far it still has to travel to achieve excellence.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

9. ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the Executive Director of Resources which outlined the District Auditor's Annual Audit and Inspection Letter.

The Executive Director of Resources informed the meeting that the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter summarised the work undertaken in terms of both audit and inspection by the Audit Commission during the 2004/05 audit year (work carried out during the 2005/06 financial year).

He reported that the Audit Commission regarded the Council as progressing well and the Council's Use of Resources Assessment had scored a 2 (on a scale of 0-4) which was termed adequate performance; however there were a significant number of elements of higher performance.

Decisions Made:

1. That the contents of the District Auditor's Annual Audit and Inspection Letter and the fact that it has been published and made available to all Councillors be noted.
2. That the Audit and Performance Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to invite the District Auditor to be present at their next available meeting in order to facilitate a discussion on the report.
3. That the Audit and Performance Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to produce a report for the Full Council following this meeting allowing the Council to debate the issues raised by the District Auditor.

Reason for Decisions:

The Council is required to both publish and fully consider the District Auditor's report and the decision made satisfies these requirements.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

10. RAWTENSTALL TOWN CENTRE AREA ACTION PREFERRED OPTION REPORT

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration presented the report of the Acting Chief Executive which outlined the Preferred Options Report of the Rawtenstall Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP), a copy of which was submitted with the report for the consideration of the Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration informed the meeting that the Preferred Options Report had been revised following the consultation exercise during August to October 2005. She outlined the principle changes to the Report and highlighted that an additional Sustainability Appraisal and period of full public participation would be required.

The Chair of the Policy Development Overview and Scrutiny reported that members of that Committee had considered the report and were recommending its approval to the Cabinet. Further, the Committee had resolved that a special meeting be arranged for all elected members and that the Cabinet Member for Regeneration be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to contribute to the discussion on the report.

Decision Made:

That the Preferred Options Report be endorsed in order that it be published for consultation from 7th April 2006 for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Reason for Decisions:

Due to the significance of the revisions and the Council's commitment to open and transparent plan making, the amended Preferred Options Report is required to be published for consultation to inform the Area Action Plan.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

11. CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS REPORT

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration presented the report of the Acting Chief Executive which outlined the Issues and Options Report stage of the development of the Core Strategy, a copy of which was submitted with the report.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration reported that the Preferred Options Report had been revised following representations received during the consultation held between November 2005 to early January 2006.

The Chair of the Policy Development Overview and Scrutiny reported that members of that Committee had considered the report and were recommending its approval to the Cabinet. Further, the Committee had resolved that a special meeting be arranged for all elected members and that the Cabinet Member for Regeneration be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to contribute to the discussion on the report.

Decision Made:

That the Issues and Options Report be endorsed in order that it be published for consultation from 7th April 2006 for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Reason for Decision:

The consultation on the Issues and Options Report will inform the development of the Core Strategy.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

12. URBAN POTENTIAL STUDY

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration presented the report of the Acting Chief Executive which outlined the Urban Potential Study, a copy of which was submitted with the report.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration reported that the Urban Potential Study set out a new policy direction for the delivery of housing and the document would inform the development of the Local Development Framework.

The Chair of the Policy Development Overview and Scrutiny reported that members of that Committee had considered the report and were recommending its approval to the Cabinet. Further, the Committee had resolved that a special meeting be arranged for all elected members and that the Cabinet Member for Regeneration be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to contribute to the discussion on the report.

Decision Made:

That the Urban Potential Study be approved for publication as part of the Local Development Framework evidence base.

Reason for Decision:

The Urban Potential Study is a key element of research to form the evidence base for the Local Development Framework.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

13. DELIVERY OF REGENERATION IN ROSSENDALE

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration presented the report of the Acting Chief Executive which outlined the findings of the “Taking Regeneration Forward” Workshop together with recommendations on how the Council should lead, facilitate and support the process of regenerating the Borough.

The Cabinet considered the issues and priorities articulated by partners who attended the Workshop. It was proposed that a Programme Management and Delivery Team be established which would be staffed by way of a secondment of Borough and County Council officers. The Economy Theme Group of the Local Strategic Partnership would facilitate the Programme Board.

Decisions Made:

1. That the broad principles set out in the report which will guide, govern and deliver regeneration throughout Rossendale be agreed.
2. That officers be instructed to work in conjunction with partners to develop the approach, to secure the resources necessary to underpin the approach including the establishment of support mechanisms.

Reason for Decisions:

The approach will secure a broad range of economic development and regeneration based skills and capacities to ensure that regeneration across the Borough is delivered innovatively.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

14. HEALTH IN ROSSENDALE

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the Acting Chief Executive which updated the Cabinet on progress made following the special Council Meeting held on 19 January 2006 where the future of health provision was debated.

The Acting Chief Executive reported that Rossendale Community Network had hosted working group meetings focused on working in partnership to identify Rossendale's future requirements for health provision. She highlighted the opportunity to integrate the review of leisure provision across the Borough with the call for a community hospital for Rossendale to develop an innovative approach to the future health and wellbeing of local people.

The Cabinet considered the Council's formal response to the current health consultations as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Chair of the Policy Development Overview and Scrutiny reported that members of that Committee had debated the current health service reviews and she fed back on the comments of the meeting for the consideration of the Cabinet.

Decisions Made:

1. That the Strategy Health Authority be requested to ensure that responsibility is assigned for the borough of Rossendale to ensure co-ordination of consideration of the impact of all current health service reviews.
2. To endorse the proposal for the future health provision for Rossendale as set out in Section Appendix 1 of the report as the Council's formal response to the current health consultations and its ambitions.
3. To work jointly with health care commissioners and providers, Rossendale Leisure Trust, Rossendale LSP and Community Network to integrate the borough-wide review to leisure into the development of the way forward to ensure a comprehensive solution which addresses the future health and wellbeing needs for the people of Rossendale.

Reason for Decisions:

The multiple health reviews will result in inadequate provision for the health needs of local people therefore the Council in its community leadership role needs to ensure co-ordination of consideration of the impact of all current health service reviews.

Alternative options Considered and Rejected:

None.

15. 2006/07 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk Management presented the report of the Head of Financial Service which outlined the capital expenditure estimates and resources for 2006/07 together with capital expenditure and resources for the medium term 2007/08 and 2008/09.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk Management outlined the individual capital projects recommended for approval and the funding sources. He informed the meeting that the programme focused on key risk issues which had been identified through the business planning and service review process.

Decision Made:

That Full Council be recommended to approve additional Capital programme for 2006/07 as detailed below:

Detail	£000's
Refuse Collection Vehicle Lease Buy out	277
Playgrounds (5 year programme pa)	50
Cemeteries (5 year programme pa)	30
Building Capital Programme (5 year programme pa)	200
Museum (4 year programme pa)	15
Upgrade Borough Car Parks (5 year programme pa)	30
Private Sector Housing Renewal (<i>in addition £685k funded from Housing Capital Allocation</i>)	177
Total	779

Reason for Decision:

To ensure capital resources are maximised and used effectively to improve services to the citizens of the Borough.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

16. PRIVATE RENTED HOUSING SECTOR ISSUES

The Cabinet considered the report of the Acting Chief Executive which set out the implications for the Council in respect of Parts 1 to 4 of the Housing Act 2004 relating to the private rented housing sector.

The Acting Chief Executive reported that the legislation was expected to come into force on 6 April 2006.

Decisions Made:

That the following be noted in respect of the Housing Act 2004:

Part 1 – the introduction of the Housing Health and Safety System under the Housing Act 2004.

Part 2 – the introduction of mandatory licensing under the Housing Act 2004 and approve a fee of £500 per property for up to ten units of accommodation and £50 per additional let.

Part 3 – the introduction of discretionary selective licensing and the research proposals in this report.

Part 4 – the additional control provisions available to the Council in relation to empty properties and failing landlords of rented property.

Reason for Decisions:

The Housing Act 2004 makes significant changes to the regulation of residential property and the way that the Council is required to regulate standards in the private rented sector.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

17. HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL PROGRAMME 2006-2008

The Cabinet considered the report of the Acting Chief Executive which provided an update on the current and proposed 2 year Housing Market Renewal (HMR) Programme for the Bacup, Stacksteads and Britannia Housing Market Renewal Area.

It was reported that the East Lancashire Pathfinder, Elevate, had submitted a bid for further Housing Market Renewal resources to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister which included approximately £4million for Rossendale's HMR Programme.

Elected members expressed their support for the proposed programme and conveyed their thanks to the officers involved.

Decision Made:

That the proposed programme be approved.

Reasons for Decision:

The proposal enables the continuation of the current renewal programme which is based on refurbishment and retention. It also seeks to maintain and develop Neighbourhood Management and deliver environmental improvements.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

18. ELEVATE JOINT PROCUREMENT PROCESS FOR GROUP REPAIR AND FACELIFTING WORKS FOR THE PERIOD 2006-2010

The Cabinet considered the report of the Acting Chief Executive which outlined the principles, protocols and benefits of implementing the Elevate Joint Procurement Process for group repair and facelifiting works for the period 2006-2010.

The report outlined the co-ordinated approach of Elevate and the five East Lancashire Authorities in respect of the procurement of both labour and materials for the Private Sector Housing Group Repair and Facelifiting work as part of the Housing Market Renewal Programme.

Decisions Made:

1. That the appointment of Craig Hambling as partnering contractor for Housing Market Renewal funded group repair and facelifiting works for the period 2006-2010 be approved.
2. That the Contract Procedure Rules (under paragraph 19.1[v]) be waived due to the nature of the partnering contract as outlined in the report.

Reason for Decisions:

The co-ordinated approach substantially reduces the costs of the tender process to the five authorities and the programme of spend can be delivered more efficiently ensuring better value for money and improvements for Rossendale.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

19. GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR BODIES 2006/07

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services presented the report of the Head of Community and Partnerships which outlined proposals for grants allocations to voluntary sector organisations.

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services reported that the total amount applied for from voluntary sector organisations was £406,823 against the available sum of £260,844. She informed the meeting that an advisory panel comprising six elected members and a representative from Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Services had assessed the applications and their recommendations were outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Cabinet requested the complete schedule of grants which had been allocated under delegated authority.

Decision Made:

That the grant allocations recommended by the grants advisory panel as set out in Appendix 1 of the report totalling £260,844 be approved.

Reason for Decision:

The grants to the voluntary sector organisations will benefit residents in Rossendale.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

20. PURCHASE OF INTRANET AND COMMUNITY PORTAL SOFTWARE

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services presented the joint report of the Head of Customer Services and E-Government and the Head of Community and Partnerships which outlined details of the purchase of software required for the implementation of a Rossendale Borough Council Community Portal and Intranet.

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services informed the meeting that the Council currently used Jadu as its management system for the website therefore the purchase of the Intranet and Community Portal software would be an extension of the existing software. The capital costs of purchasing the software was contained within the existing Implementing Electronic Government budget.

Decisions Made:

1. That the implementation of a Rossendale Borough Council Community Portal and Intranet site be supported.
2. That it be noted that Standing Orders have been waived for the purchase of the Jadu software because the contact is an extension of an existing product.

Reason for Decisions:

The implementation of both the Intranet and Community Portal will support the achievement and delivery of improvements to customer services.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

21. WRITE OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE DEBTS

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk Management presented the joint report of the Head of Financial Services and Head of Customer Services and E-Government which requested authority to write off bad debts which were deemed irrecoverable.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk Management informed the meeting that schedules of the debts to be written off had been separately provided to members of the Cabinet to ensure that the report could be considered in public.

He further reported that full provision was maintained against those debts and the new financial systems being introduced included a specific debt recovery module which would improve the Council's ability and effectiveness in recovering debts.

Decisions Made:

1. That the write off of the non-delegated General Fund bad debts amounting to £60,502.73 be approved.
2. That the write off of the non-delegated Housing miscellaneous bad debts amounting to £11,484.01 be approved.
3. That the write off of £68,256.75. in relation to National Non Domestic Rates representing 0.6% of the debt be approved.
4. That the write off of £92,678.21 in relation to court costs owed by former tenants be approved.

Reasons for Decisions:

It is prudent practice to clear any debts from the ledgers. The data transferred to the new financial system will be as current as possible.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

22. DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services presented the report of the Head of Customer Services and E-Government which outlined proposals to approve Discretionary National Non Domestic Rate (NNDR) Relief to various charities together information on the new Government guidance in relation to Community Amateur Sports Clubs.

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services reported that the Council's budget for 2005/06 for discretionary NNDR relief was £48,340 and the total incurred to date under delegated authority was £27,871.86.

Decisions Made:

1. That the Discretionary National Non Domestic Rate Relief as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report totalling £10,752.42 be approved.
2. That notice be given to eligible Community Amateur Sports Clubs that Discretionary Rate Relief will cease with effect from 31 March 2007.

Reason for Decisions:

The Council operates a standard framework based on recommendations from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for the assessment of Discretionary Rate Relief to ensure that relief is allocated appropriately in accordance with legislation.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

23. SOUTHERN PENNINES RURAL REGENERATION COMPANY LIMITED

The Cabinet considered the report of the Acting Chief Executive which outlined proposals for the Council to be a member of the South Pennines Rural Regeneration Company.

The Acting Chief Executive reported that during 2005 there was agreement by the local authorities comprising the Standing Conference of Southern Pennine Authorities to form the Southern Pennine Rural Regeneration Company Limited. She informed the Cabinet that the Council had agreed in principle to being a member of the Company however formal approval was required.

Decision Made:

That Rossendale Borough Council formally agrees to become a member of the Southern Pennines Rural Regeneration Company Limited.

Reason for Decision:

The Company supports the delivery of the objectives of the Heritage Strategy for the Southern Pennines.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

24. 2006/07 TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STATEMENT

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk Management presented the report of the Head of Financial Services which outlined the Treasury Management Strategy for 2006/07 together with the Annual Investment Statement.

Decision Made:

That Full Council be recommended to approve the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Statement for 2006/07.

Reason for Decision:

The Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Statement sets out the Council's policies for managing its investments based on the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

25. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S PROPERTY MANAGEMENT FUNCTION

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk Management presented the report of the Executive Director of Resources which outlined proposals for changes in the organisation of the Council's Property Management functions.

The Executive Director of Resources reported that the Council was required to demonstrate significant improvements in its performance to external review agencies, particularly in respect of asset management.

Decisions Made:

1. That the merger of the Facilities Management and Estates Teams within the Legal and Democratic Services Unit be approved.
2. That staff and representative bodies be consulted on the restructuring of services on the lines set out in paragraph 3.7 and appendix 3, with any subsequent changes agreed by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the portfolio holder for Finance and Risk Management.

3. That the designation of the Executive Director of Resources as the Corporate Property Officer be agreed.
4. That the portfolio holder for Finance and Risk Management be the lead member for this area.
5. That the Improvement Plan at Appendix 4 be approved, and that annual progress reports be submitted to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee alongside updates on the Asset Management Plan.
6. That the intention to carry out an option appraisal with regard to the longer term options for service delivery following the stabilisation of the service be noted.

Reason for Decisions:

Property and Asset Management are highlighted as clear risk area for the Council by external review agencies and action needs to be taken to address these risks.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

26. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK AND STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The Cabinet Member for Member Development presented the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which outlined proposals for the adoption of a Corporate Governance Framework and Statement of Internal Control.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services outlined the key elements of the framework for Corporate Governance together with the Statement of Internal Control, for the consideration of the Cabinet.

She further reported on proposals for the establishment of an Accounts Committee which was likely to meet twice a year, once for initial approval of the accounts and once to receive the District Auditor's report and issues arising from the Accounts. The Audit and Performance Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee as the Council's Audit Committee would continue to monitor the way in which the Council responds to such reports.

Decisions Made:

1. That the Corporate Governance Framework and Statement of Internal Control attached to the report be agreed.

2. That an Accounts Committee be established to approve the annual accounts and report of the Council and to approve the Council's Statement of accounts in accordance with regulation B (2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996 and that Full Council be recommended to amend the Constitution accordingly.
3. That it be agreed that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be responsible for ensuring the corporate governance database is kept up to date and that the Head of Customer Services and E Government be responsible for maintaining the source documents and processes including the names of nominated link officers and review dates to ensure that the CIPFA /SOLACE framework provides an up to date position statement as to the Council's compliance with corporate governance.

Reason for Decisions:

The Council is required to maintain levels of internal control.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

27. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Cabinet Member for Member Development presented the report of the Head and Legal and Democratic Services which outlined the additional powers for the Council under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and the Gambling Act 2005 together with proposals for amendments to the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation.

Decisions Made:

That Full Council be recommended to:

1. Amend the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation to officers contained within the Council's Constitution to include additional powers granted under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005/Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 as detailed in Appendix A.
2. Amend the Scheme of Delegation to introduce the powers contained within the Gambling Act 2005 as outlined at Appendix A.
3. Amend the confidentiality rules in light of the introduced by the Local Government (Access to Information) Variation Order 2006 as outlined within this report as outlined at Appendix B.

4. Amend the Constitution at paragraph 10 to add a procedure to provide for “Questions by members to the Leader “any such question asked by members at Full Council will be addressed to the Leader and answered by the Leader or in his absence the Deputy Leader or such other Cabinet member elected by them to answer the question submitted. Only questions should be submitted at this stage and statements should not be made by those asking the question.
5. Amend the Constitution at paragraph 10 to add a procedure to provide for “Questions to members of the Cabinet “any such question shall by in writing the member having given 3 clear working days notice to the Democratic Services Manager . The question to be answered by the Cabinet.
6. Agree that the agenda of all Full Council meetings will hear public questions before member questions on notice.
7. Amend the Constitution at paragraph 9.8 to provide that the Leader of the Council will determine which Cabinet member or officer will answer a particular question.
8. Amend Article 7 of the Constitution “Overview and Scrutiny Committee” to insert the words “act as an Audit Committee”. The terms of reference for the Audit Committee will be:

To oversee all arrangements for both the internal and external audit of the Council’s accounts and financial records.

To consider and make recommendations to Cabinet on the accounts and to consider the following:

The annual audit report and the management letter of the external auditor.
Any other statutory report of the external auditor.

Any internal audit report that may be referred by the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (as Monitoring Officer)

To approve the annual accounts and report of this Council (with delegated power).Power to approve the Council’s statement of accounts pursuant to regulation B(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996.The Leader /Deputy Leader /Portfolio Holder for Finance and Risk Management /Leader of the Opposition /Deputy Leader of the Opposition will constitute the Committee.

Reason for Decisions:

The Council seeks to continually improve and the amendments will allow the Council to enforce new legislation.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.30pm)