

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Thursday 6th July 2017

**Present: Councillor A Barnes (Chair)
Councillors Ashworth, Lamb, MacNae, Oakes and Walmsley**

**In Attendance: Mr S Sugarman, Chief Executive
Mrs C Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer
Mr P Seddon, Head of Finance and Property Services
Mrs N Hopkins, Planning Manager
Miss G Ashton, Committee and Member Services Officer**

**Also Present: Councillors Cheetham, Essex, Haworth, Hughes, Kempson,
Lythgoe, Procter, Serridge and Farrington
1 press
6 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 Wednesday 8th March 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 The Leader of the Council advised that in future the job descriptions for Portfolio and Shadow Portfolio Holders would be approved by Council and would be included in the Constitution. She outlined the current Portfolio and Shadow Portfolio Holders and their areas of responsibility. All job descriptions would be available on the website.

4.2 Councillor Oakes declared an interest in the Waterfoot Centre and Rosso.

4.3 Councillor MacNae declared an interest in Bacup THI, Rosso, Together Housing and Barnfield.

4.4 Councillors Ashworth and Walmsley declared an interest in Bacup THI and Rosso.

4.5 Councillor Lamb declared an interest in Bacup THI.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 5.1 Councillor Essex asked if the Portfolio Holder and Shadow Portfolio Holder job descriptions could be circulated to Councillors. The Leader of the Council agreed.
- 5.2 Councillor Essex asked if Cabinet members had received a copy of the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2016/17 and would actions be proposed. The Leader of the Council advised that this report was available to Cabinet members via the agenda pack as was the case with all committee paperwork. The Leader suggested that it be discussed by the Performance Working Group for them to propose actions.

No further questions from the public.

6. FINANCIAL MONITORING OUT-TURN REPORT

- 6.1 The Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services provided an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 6.2 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:
- Investment led projects were needed to balance the accounts.
 - A decision was needed on the Scout Moor Windfarm.

The Leader of the Council advised that a decision on the Windfarm would be received the following day.

- 6.3 Other Elected Members were invited to comment on the report:
- There was a large amount of money available for Disabled Facilities Grants. It was suggested this be classed as a material project so that it could be reviewed by the Project Board.
 - Business rates and council tax collection had reduced.
 - Had the increase in capital programmes been publicised.
 - Would the Empty Homes Scheme be finalised this financial year and could a full breakdown of the costs associated with AAW be provided.
 - In relation to the monitoring of Section 106 money received, was someone making sure the monies were allocated.
 - Would further funding be received from the Government in relation to renewable energy.

In response to these questions, The Leader of the Council agreed to consider the Disabled Facilities Grant as a material project. In relation to the Empty Homes Scheme it was hoped that the accounts would be closed in September. Full details of the costs associated would be made available in due course.

In relation to Section 106 money received and the monitoring of this funding, the Leader of the Council would ask for a report to be prepared for the next Cabinet meeting.

Resolved:

1. That the report was noted.

Reason for Decision

To ensure all members are kept up to date.

7. CORPORATE STRATEGY 2017 – 2017

7.1 The Leader of the Council outlined the report which was to recommend that Council approve the Council's Corporate Strategy 2017 – 2021 and delegate future minor amendments to the strategy and framework to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

7.2 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:

- The strategy was simple, clear and easy to understand.
- Monitoring needed to be robust and measured.

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

- Thanks were expressed to the Chief Executive and officers for their work on the strategy.
- Opposition councillors had been invited to a workshop with officers and Cabinet members but this had been cancelled. Could they be involved in future reviews.
- How were the community involved in the strategy.
- How the strategy would be measured.
- More important voluntary organisations should be included in the strategy.

The Leader of the Council agreed to provide the data from the community consultation. She suggested that the Corporate Strategy be discussed by the Performance Working Group where any successes could be measured. This would then involve cross party members.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet recommends Council approve the Council's Corporate Strategy 2017 – 2021.
2. That all future amendments to the strategy and framework be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder(s).

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council's Corporate Strategy 2017 – 2021 is approved and updated.

8. PRE-APPLICATION ADVICE CHARGING SCHEME AND POST APPLICATION SERVICE

8.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Services outlined the report which sought to introduce the updated and revised Pre Application Advice Charging Scheme and Post Application Service, to recommend Council adopts the proposed revised fee structure and delegates future minor amendments to the Planning Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

8.2 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:

- Introducing a 'fast track' condition discharge procedure was a positive move.

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

- Residents in conservation areas needed to be dealt with sympathetically when discussing charges.
- Was a Business Plan drawn up and what was the cost to tax payers.

The Leader of the Council advised that flood grants had helped residents fund planning applications in the past. Rules had to be adhered to but would be carried out sympathetically.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet recommends Council approves the updated and revised Pre Application Advice Charging Scheme and Post Application Service as set out within Section 5 of the report.
2. That Cabinet recommends Council adopts the revised fee structure proposed in the report.
3. That all future minor amendments to the policy to be delegated to the Planning Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the updated and revised Pre Application Advice Charging Scheme and Post Application Service and revised fee structure be adopted by Council.

9. SPINNING POINT DEVELOPMENT

9.1 The Leader of the Council outlined the report which was to note progress on the delivery of the Spinning Point development and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to finalise the Project Specific Agreement needed to deliver phase 2, together with subsequent amendments to the Joint Venture Agreement and the Local Growth Fund conditions to release funding, as set out in section 5.8 and to provide an update in due course.

9.2 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:

- It was crucial to get the best range of businesses to build on the existing town centre.

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

- Were Greater Manchester Transport considering using the new bus station.
- The A56/M66 corridor was an important development area but a problem for residents.
- Did the recommendations include financial delegations.
- Costs for the new plans was not included in the report.

The Leader of the Council advised that the Council and other organisations were meeting to discuss the issues affecting congestion on the A56/M66. In relation to financial delegations, it was confirmed that this was not included in the recommendations. Member briefings would take place in due course to provide further details on the project.

Resolved:

1. That the report was noted.
2. That delegated authority was granted to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to finalise the Project Specific Agreement ('PSA') to be put in place to deliver phase 2, together with any subsequent amendments to the Joint Venture Agreement and the Local Growth Fund conditions to release funding, as set out in section 5.8.

Reason for Decision

To ensure all members are kept up to date.

10. REGENERATION PROGRESS REPORT Q4

- 10.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Leisure and Tourism asked the committee to note the Regeneration Progress Report Q4. He outlined a number of key issues from the report.
- 10.2 The Leader of the Council agreed that development of Brownfield sites should be encouraged and suggested writing to the MP. She advised that discussions had taken place with Lancashire regarding the future of Lee Quarry.
- 10.3 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:
- A lot of work had been undertaken in Stubblelee and Moorlands Park.
 - The grant for the Waterfoot Centre was unsuccessful but monies were available and tenders were being sought.
 - Funding was available for arts and cultural activities but there was no one available to submit the bids.
 - Who was the shadow member for regeneration.
 - How much external funding had been received.
- 10.4 Other Elected Members were invited to comment on the report:
- How to progress a decision on Lee Quarry with Lancashire County Council.
 - A balance was needed between the countryside and proposed new projects.
 - Economic growth had to be balanced as more affordable homes were needed.
 - Schools and small groups could now visit the Whitaker museum.
 - It was suggested installing a 'Borough of Rossendale' signpost.

The Leader of the Council advised that a decision on Lee Quarry had been put on hold due to the elections and a decision was now awaited from the Leader of Lancashire County Council.

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 8.15pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE