

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 28th November 2018

**Present: Councillor Lamb (Chair)
Councillors Ashworth, Oakes, Serridge and Walmsley**

**In Attendance: Ms C Burns, Director of Economic Development
Ms S Plum, Director of Communities
Ms C Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer
Mrs J Crawford, Finance Manager
Mr P Morton, Public Protection Manager
Miss G Ashton, Committee and Member Services Officer**

**Also Present: Councillors Haworth, Morris and Robertson
1 member of the press
2 members of the public**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Councillor A Barnes, Leader of the Council, Mr S Sugarman, Chief Executive and Mr P Seddon, Head of Finance.
- 1.2 It was noted that the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive were at Westminster presenting a strategic case for a rail structure in the borough.
- 1.3 Councillor Serridge had replaced Councillor MacNae as a Portfolio Holder and would cover Corporate Services, Legal Services and Human Resources.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- 3.1 There were no urgent items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 5.1 The Deputy Leader of the Council advised that no written questions had been submitted. Questions from members of the public were permitted at this point.
- 5.2 Hadn't there been a Homelessness Strategy in place since 2007.

5.3 In response to the question raised it was reported that the previous Homelessness Strategy ran from 2007 – 2012. There had been no update since 2012.

6. THE PREVENTION OF HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY AND REVIEW 2018-21

6.1 The Portfolio Holder for Health, Housing, Communities and Customer Service outlined the report which asked members to approve the new Prevention of Homelessness Strategy and Review 2018-21, along with the appendices and delegate future minor amendments to the Director of Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

6.2 There were no comments from Cabinet members.

6.3 Elected members were invited to comment on the report:

- A large number of residents had been rehoused in supported accommodation therefore the plan was working.
- The strategy did not include assistance for ex-service personnel.
- Was the outcome of the rough sleepers' survey known.
- How was the rough sleepers' survey conducted.

6.4 In response to the questions raised it was noted that:

- The strategy would provide assistance for ex-service personnel.
- There were no rough sleepers in the borough at the time of the survey.
- The rough sleepers' survey was completed in conjunction with churches and charities and a team did not travel around the borough.
- A telephone number was available for residents to report rough sleepers.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approved the new Prevention of Homelessness Strategy and Review 2018-21 and appendices.
2. That all future minor amendments to the Prevention of Homelessness Strategy and Review be delegated to the Director of Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision:

The new strategy identifies how the Council endeavours to increase the prevention of homelessness in Rossendale and fulfil its statutory duties under part VII of the Housing Act 1996 and amended by the Homelessness Act 2002, the Localism Act 2011 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

7.1 The Deputy Leader of the Council outlined the report which asked members to approve the adoption of the Economic Development Strategy for Rossendale 2018-2033.

- 7.2 Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:
- It was a good piece of work and the measurements in the report were useful. The report was welcomed.
 - Thanks to be passed on to the team.
- 7.3 Elected members were invited to comment on the report:
- Concerns were expressed about the perception of Haslingden as a place to visit and work.
 - Investment was needed in other parts of the valley.
- 7.4 In response to the comments raised it was noted that:
- The strategy recognised high employment in the borough and looked at investment opportunities for the whole borough.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet noted the content of the report and approved the adoption of the Economic Development Strategy for Rossendale 2018-2033.

Reason for Decision:

The Economic Development Strategy and associated action plan was fundamental to achieving Rossendale's sustainable economic growth and underpinned the delivery of the economic elements of the Council's Corporate Strategy.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. ROSSENDALE COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS 2019/20 AND 2020/21

- 8.1 The Portfolio Holder for Health, Housing, Communities and Customer Service outlined the report which asked members to support the allocation of up to £62,000 funding each year in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 for Rossendale Council Grants and Community Partnership Grants.
- 8.2 Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:
- Grants were important to bring funding into the borough.
 - Community Partnership Grants were benefitting the borough.
 - The work of the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Credit Unions made a difference to residents.
- 8.3 There were no comments from elected members.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet supports the allocation of up to £62,000 funding each year in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 for Rossendale Council Grants and Community Partnership Grants.
2. That Cabinet supports the commencement of a grants application process for the allocation of up to 3 years Rossendale Council Grants following the

- principles and criteria previously agreed – target funding to support financial inclusion services.
3. That as part of the grant monitoring process, recipients of Rossendale Council Grants attend the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to report on outcomes delivered through the grant.
 4. That all future minor amendments to the grants process to be delegated to the Director of Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision:

To review the amount of grant funding the Council provides to local community groups and organisations.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

9. UPDATE ON AIR QUALITY IN ROSSENDALE 2018

- 9.1 The Portfolio Holder for Operations outlined the report which detailed the ongoing work in relation to air quality in Rossendale.
- 9.2 Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:
 - Air quality on Manchester Road had improved.
 - The new bus station development would open up Bacup Road, Rawtenstall.
 - Air quality may worsen at the gyratory system in Rawtenstall.
 - The Public Protection Manager and his team were thanked for the report.
- 9.3 Elected members were invited to comment on the report:
 - The loss of the bus depot would have improved air quality.
 - Concerns were expressed about the air quality on Manchester Road to Rawtenstall during peak times.
 - How long did monitoring take place for.
 - Traffic around schools was an issue.
- 9.4 In response to comments raised it was noted that:
 - Monitoring was ongoing at a number of monitoring points.

Resolved:

1. That members noted the content of the report.

Reason for Decision:

For members to note the update of Air Quality in Rossendale 2018.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

10. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

- 10.1 The Portfolio Holder for Resources outlined the main points from the report which included a favourable variance of £117,000. Funding continued to be allocated to

residents for Disabled Facilities Grants. Savings had been made on staff costs due to gaps in recruitment. Two operational vehicles had been replaced which would reduce repairs and down time.

10.2 There were no comments from members.

10.3 Elected members were invited to comment on the report:

- What was the position with the old Town Hall.
- Were insurance costs lower on the new operational vehicles.

10.4 In response to comments raised it was noted that:

- Together Housing were hoping to move in to the building before the end of the year and were currently fitting it out.
- Vehicle insurance costs had not reduced on the new operational vehicles however maintenance costs would.

Resolved:

1. That members noted the contents of the report.

Reason for Decision:

For the robust monitoring of the General Fund and MTFS.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.15pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE