

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 11th September 2019

**Present: Councillor Barnes (Chair)
Councillors Hughes, Lythgoe, Oakes and Walmsley**

**In Attendance: Mr S Sugarman, Chief Executive
Ms C Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer
Mr P Seddon, Head of Finance
Mr G Darragh, Economic Development & Property Services
Manager
Miss G Ashton, Committee and Member Services Officer**

**Also Present: Councillors Cheetham, Essex, Haworth and Morris
2 members of the public**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Serridge.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2019 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 Walmsley advised that he owned a commercial property in Bacup town centre.

4.2 The Leader of the Council attended RTB Partnership Board meetings on an ad hoc basis.

4.3 Councillor Oakes was a member of the RTB Partnership Board.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 No written questions had been submitted.

5.2 Following a question from a member of the public in relation to item C2, the Leader of the Council advised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee did not review all items brought before Cabinet. They scrutinised policies and decision making. Item C2 was an update report which would not be reviewed by them.

6. COUNCIL TAX, NON-DOMESTIC RATE & HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENT WRITE-OFFS

6.1 The Portfolio Holder for Resources outlined the report which asked members to approve the write-off of £32,258.51 in respect of irrecoverable Non-Domestic Rate debt (NNDR) and £11,181.51 in respect of irrecoverable Council Tax debt.

6.2 In response to a question raised it was noted that:

- Every effort had been made to recover the monies owed. The team continued to pursue debts even after monies had been written off.

Resolved:

1. Members approved the write-off of £32,258.51 in respect of irrecoverable Non-Domestic Rate debt (NNDR).
2. Members approved the write-off of £11,181.51 in respect of irrecoverable Council Tax debt.

Reason for Decision:

The write-offs were within the provisions available and recommendation to write-off was made within the grounds of prudence before the financial year end.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

7. REGENERATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2019

7.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development introduced the report. The Economic Development & Property Services Manager outlined the report which updated members on the delivery of the Economic Development Strategy for Rossendale. The Leader of the Council gave a brief update in relation to Spinning Point.

7.2 In response to a question raised it was noted that:

- A Future High Street funding bid had been submitted for Haslingden town centre but was unsuccessful.

7.3 The Economic Development and Finance teams were thanked for their work in preparing and submitting bids for funding to progress plans for the borough.

Resolved:

1. Members noted the contents of the report.

Reason for Decision:

For members to note the significant progress on the delivery of the adopted Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan for Rossendale.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2019/20 Q1

- 8.1 The Portfolio Holder for Resources outlined the report which asked members to note the quarter 1 2019/20 budget progress compared to the original budget set in February 2019 and asked members to approve the application of surplus monies into the Transitional Reserve. A typing error at point 5.1 was noted; this had since been rectified.
- 8.2 Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:
- There were issues around the allocation of Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) monies due to the lack of Occupational Therapists at Lancashire County Council.
- 8.3 In response to questions raised it was noted that:
- DFG monies were not specifically for young people.
 - The council were unable to contribute to training for Occupational Therapists.

Resolved:

1. That members noted the contents of the report.
2. That members approved the application of surplus monies into the Transitional Reserve.

Reason for Decision:

For the robust monitoring of the General Fund and MTFS and to control risks.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.10pm.

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE