

To register a question for Public Question Time please email your question to democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk before 9am Monday 3rd October.

Meeting of: The Council

Wednesday 5th October 2022 at 6.30pm or at the conclusion of Question Time and Public Engagement whichever is the later.

Venue: Council Chamber, The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup. OL13 0BB



The meeting can also be observed on Zoom (please allow time for set up if accessing for the first time): <https://zoom.us/j/95728023249?pwd=T1c5M3ZjVzNrdFVGdzRuUnRoTXdYUT09>

Meeting ID: 957 2802 3249

Passcode: 479216

Please note that a waiting room will be in place for the Zoom meeting and public will be admitted to the meeting shortly before 6.30pm.

Supported by: Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422
Email: democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk

ITEM		Lead Member/Contact Officer
A.	BUSINESS MATTERS	
A1.	Apologies for Absence	
A2.	To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of 18 th August 2022.	
A3.	Urgent Items of Business To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the Agenda on the grounds of urgency.	
A4.	Declarations of Interest <i>Members are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to seek advice on interest issues if necessary.</i> Members are requested to indicate at this stage, any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Code of Conduct, they must declare the nature of any personal interest and, if the interest is prejudicial, withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the item.	Clare Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer 01706 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk
A5.	Election of councillors The Chief Executive as the Returning Officer will report on the persons duly elected as councillors for the Helmshore and Facit and Shawforth wards at the Council by-elections held on 29 th September 2022.	Neil Shaw, Chief Executive. Tel: (01706) 252447 Email: neilshaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk

The agenda and reports are also available for inspection on the Council's website <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/>. Other formats are available on request. Tel 01706 217777 or contact Rossendale Borough Council, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB

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B.	Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service To receive any communications from the Mayor, the Leader, or the Head of the Paid Service that they may wish to lay before the Council.	The Mayor, Councillor Cheetham, The Leader, Councillor A.Barnes and Neil Shaw, Chief Executive 01706 252447 neilshaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk
C.	ORDINARY BUSINESS	
C1.	Climate Change Strategy Update To consider the Climate Change Strategy Update	Councillor Lythgoe/ Adam Allen, Director of Communities 01706 252428 adamallen@rossendalebc.gov.uk
C2.	Introduction of charges for permits for kerbstones in cemeteries To consider the introduction of charges for permits for kerbstones in cemeteries	Councillor Lythgoe/ Adam Allen, Director of Communities 01706 252428 adamallen@rossendalebc.gov.uk
C3.	Rough Sleeping Initiative Funding 2022/25 To consider the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) Funding 2022/25 report	Councillor Hughes/ Mandy Lewis, Director of Economic Development 01706 252443 mandylewis@rossendalebc.gov.uk



Neil Shaw
Chief Executive

Date Published: 27th September 2022
Re-published: 4th October 2022

COUNCILLOR ANNE CHEETHAM, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 18th August 2022

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Cheetham (in the Chair)
Councillors Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Brennan (in part), James Eaton (in part), Foxcroft, Hughes, Johnson, Kenyon, Lythgoe, McMahon, MacNae, Neal, Oakes, Powell, Procter, Rigby, Smith, Steen, Thompson, Walmsley, Whitehead and Woods.

IN ATTENDANCE: Neil Shaw, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Yasmin Ahmed, Principal Legal Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager
Adam Allen, Director of Communities
Mandy Lewis, Director of Economic Development
Kimberley Haworth, Accountant
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 2 Members of the public
1 Press

By remote access (Zoom):
Councillor Morris
Karen Spencer, Head of Finance/ S151 Officer
2 public observers

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Adshead, Coogan, Janet Eaton, McInnes, Marriott, Morris, Pendlebury, Rooke, Serridge and Snowden.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

3. Whole-council Elections

The Council considered the Whole-council Elections report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The preferred option was to retain elections in thirds.

The Chief Executive clarified the consultation process, which was also detailed in section 4 of the report.

Councillors Neal, A.Barnes and Walmsley requested a named vote.

Members voted as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr Alyson Barnes	For
Cllr Samara Barnes	For
Cllr Brennan	For

Cllr Cheetham	Abstain
Cllr James Eaton	For
Cllr Foxcroft	Against
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Johnson	For
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr McMahon	For
Cllr MacNae	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Powell	Against
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Rigby	Against
Cllr Smith	For
Cllr Steen	Against
Cllr Thompson	Against
Cllr Walmsley	For
Cllr Whitehead	For
Cllr Woods	Against
For:	17
Against:	6
Abstentions:	1

Resolved:

The Council considered the response to the consultation on whole-council elections and determined to continue to use an electoral system which is by thirds.

Reason for Decision

To consider the responses received following the consultation and to retain the electoral cycle in thirds.

Alternative Options Considered

To move to whole-council elections in 2024 and amend the scheme for town council elections in Whitworth to the same day.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

4. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2022 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

5. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

6. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service

There were no communications from the Head of Paid Service.

The Leader paid tribute to the women's English football team and their remarkable success in winning the Euros. She also noted that it was even more special as Kiera Walsh, who was named player of the match in the final, went to Haslingden High and BRGS. The Leader also

updated members on various sport improvements including working closely with the Football Foundation and FA to provide two new artificial pitches and an upgrade to the pitch at Valley Academy; Rossendale was one of 5 boroughs in the UK that had been selected for an FA pitch improvement pilot to further improve grassed playing areas for local clubs and communities; the refurbished running track at Marl Pits would open this month; the Council was in discussion with the lawn tennis association to fully refurbish some of our tennis courts in parks, and recommendations would be brought in autumn from the feasibility work on the sports centres.

The Mayor also informed that there would be a bus renamed after Keira Walsh.

The Leader of the Council informed that Stubbylee and Moorlands Park had retained the Green Flag for the second year with the hard work of the open spaces staff, the Master Planning Group and a number of volunteers. She also informed that the Mayor had kindly dedicated a rose bush in memory of Sylvia Lancaster in the park.

One of the staff apprentices, Mia Starkey, had received a First Class Honours Degree in Business Management. This was an outstanding achievement and the Leader congratulated Mia on behalf of the Council. She also wanted to encourage other members of staff who were undertaking graduate apprenticeships and wished them well in their studies.

The Council had recently applied for and had been successful in applying to be accredited as a living wage employer. A living wage employer ensured that all employees aged 18 and over, including certain classes of contracted staff, were paid at least the living wage. The employer also agreed to increase the amount which it pays to employees by the same amount as any increase in the living wage within six months of the date of the official announcement. The Council had received a plaque in honour of the accreditation and was listed as a living wage employer on the Living Wage Foundation website. The Council was also able to use the Living Wage logo on documentation such as job advertisements.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

7. Levelling Up Fund Bid

The Council considered the Levelling Up Fund Bid report.

Councillor Foxcroft moved an amendment to recommendations 1.5 and 1.6 as follows:

- 1.5 To delegate authority to the council's Section 151 Officer working jointly with the Finance and Economic Development portfolio holders to agree the detail of any amendments to the project funding or grant acceptance. Should there be any changes to the funding the grant acceptance would be brought back to Council.
- 1.6 A delivery plan to be presented to full Council for approval if the bid is successful.

In response to the amendment it was confirmed that:

- There were tight timescales for the delivery of the programme and delivery needed to be in a timely manner.
- If the bid was accepted the delivery plan would be brought to Cabinet to keep members informed.
- If accepted the deadline for delivery was March 2025.

The Chief Executive confirmed that Haslingden had not been included Levelling Up Fund Bid, but it was included in the Shared Prosperity Fund Bid.

The Leader of the Council thanked the relevant officers for their hard work on the Levelling Up Fund Bid and Shared Prosperity Fund Bid.

N.B. Councillor Brennan left the meeting.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Members would be kept informed of the bid and delivery plan.
- There would be public consultation on the gyratory.
- Whitworth had not been included owing to the bid criteria, but the Council was supportive of Whitworth in other ways such as through the Town Council and leisure provision.

The amendment was withdrawn with the assurance that there would be a suitable level of scrutiny.

Resolved:

1. Council note the submission of a £17.9m application to the Government's Levelling Up Fund that will support the regeneration of: Rawtenstall and Bacup Market areas, Union Street Public Realm, Rawtenstall Connected Public Realm, the establishment of 'The Bridge' skills and employability centre and capacity enhancements to Rawtenstall gyratory.
2. Council provide authorisation to accept the grant, if the bid is successful, and enter into a grant funding agreement.
3. Council to authorise £1.8m of council funding from the strategic reserve to support the projects, if the bid is successful.
4. Council to authorise acceptance of Lancashire County Council funding of £1.5m to support the projects, if the bid is successful.
5. To delegate authority to the council's Section 151 Officer working jointly with the Finance and Economic Development portfolio holders to agree the detail of any amendments to the project funding or grant acceptance.
6. A delivery plan to be presented to Cabinet for approval if the bid is successful.

Reason for Decision

The Rossendale Levelling Up bid will, if successful, deliver transformational change to two of our town centres and Rawtenstall gyratory. This will support our economic development aspirations and is an excellent opportunity to lever in significant external funding to improve both the town centres and opportunities for local people.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

The Mayor reminder members of the overnight road closures commencing for 6 weeks on the Rawtenstall spur.

8. National Lottery Heritage Fund 'Big Lamp'

The Council considered the report on National Lottery Heritage Fund 'Big Lamp'.

N.B. Councillor Brennan returned to the meeting.

Resolved:

That members note the contents of the report.

Reason for Decision

To update members as to the progress made in relation to this project. The delivery of the Big Lamp project bid will deliver a transformational change to Haslingden town centre and in turn this will support our economic development aspirations.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

9. Renewal of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) – dog control

The Council considered the report on Renewal of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) – dog control.

Resolved:

That members agree to extend the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) relating to dog control for a period of 3 years.

Reason for Decision

To allow the continuation of effective enforcement of responsible dog ownership.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

10. Disposal of Land

The Council considered the Disposal of Land report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Highways issues were the responsibility of Lancashire County Council.
- Funding would be used for the benefit of the borough.
- Other issues raised would be considered as part of the planning process.

Councillors Foxcroft, Rigby and Steen requested a named vote.

Members voted as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr Alyson Barnes	For
Cllr Samara Barnes	For
Cllr Brennan	For
Cllr Cheetham	Against
Cllr James Eaton	For
Cllr Foxcroft	Against
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Johnson	For
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr McMahon	For
Cllr MacNae	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Powell	Abstain
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Rigby	Against
Cllr Smith	For
Cllr Steen	Against

Cllr Thompson	Against
Cllr Walmsley	For
Cllr Whitehead	For
Cllr Woods	Against
For:	17
Against:	6
Abstentions:	1

Resolved:

1. Council to authorise the disposal of land at Park Avenue, Haslingden.
2. Terms to be delegated to the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the portfolio holder.

Reason for Decision

Primarily the sale of the land maximises income for the Council. Of further significant benefit is that the land at Park Avenue is an allocated site within the Local Plan 2019 to 2036 under Policy H45 for up to 30 dwellings. The site has received a high level of interest through a formal tender process and, subject to planning, the sale of the land would facilitate the provision of much needed housing to assist the Council with its housing delivery position. It is recommended to delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development to allow for a timely completion and disposal at best value in line with the Constitution.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

11. Exclusion of Public and Press

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information relating to:

- the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
- information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings, under Part 1 Paragraph 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

N.B. Councillor Eaton left the meeting.

12. Special Urgency Decision Report

The Council considered and discussed the Special Urgency Decision report.

Resolved:

To agree the recommendations as detailed in the report.

Reason for Decision

To support the recommendations.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

13. Environmental Enforcement Contract

The Council considered and discussed the Environmental Enforcement Contract report.

Resolved:

To agree the recommendations as detailed in the report.

Reason for Decision

To support the recommendations.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.57pm and concluded at 9.04pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date

Subject:	Climate Change Strategy		Status:	For Publication	
Report to:	Council		Date:	5 October 2022	
Report of:	Public Protection Manager		Lead member:	Environment and Corporate Services	
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Forward Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Special Urgency	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes/No	Attached:	Yes/No	
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes/No	Attached:	Yes/No	
Contact Officer:	Phil Morton		Telephone:	01706 252442	
Email:	philmorton@rossendalebc.gov.uk				

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Council note the progress in year two of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.
- 1.2 That Council agree the priority actions for the coming year.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Council is requested to note the strong progress over the last year including;
 - Climate Change Officer appointed in October 2021
 - Partnership working developed to ensure effective delivery of priority actions
 - Establish Climate Change Network to increase community involvement
 - Significant progress being made to reduce the Council’s Carbon Footprint
 - 10% reduction in the Council’s carbon emissions since launch of action plan
 - Substantial further reductions anticipated in next year
 - Supported the development of a Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document, currently out for consultation
 - Continued development of further carbon reduction schemes including heating, lighting and improved insulation of council owned buildings
 - Conversion of all operational vehicles to Hydro Vegetable Oil
 - Conversion of Mayoral and pool cars to fully electric vehicles
 - Successful first Climate Change Conference held
 - Establishment of Business and Community Grants Scheme
 - Continued excellent progression of the Rossendale Forest project with over 8000 trees planted in first year
 - Two hundred volunteers signed up to support Rossendale Forest planting events

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In September 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency and committed to take action locally through a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

3.2 The strategy and action plan were agreed in July 2020 and work has progressed on a number of priority actions over the past 2 years.

4. DETAILS

4.1 The first two years of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan have seen progress in a number of areas.

4.2 Year 1 showed significant progress in the establishment of a Climate Emergency Network, the installation of a number of Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points, the completion of a carbon audit for all council owned buildings and the first plantings of the Rossendale Forest.

4.3 Detailed progress in all these areas was contained in the first annual report to Council in July 2021.

4.4 CURRENT COUNCIL CARBON EMISSIONS

4.5 Measuring our carbon footprint is vital to the success of the strategy and following on from the initial work done by One Carbon World to identify a baseline figure for all Council functions, further analysis of the Council's Co2 emissions was completed in August 2022.

4.6 This showed that our Co2 emissions fell from 2,054.20t Co2e in 2020 to 1,859.60t Co2e in 2021 – a 10% reduction in the Council's carbon footprint.

4.7 This can be attributed to a number of factors including, increased awareness of staff in reducing our carbon footprint, a move to purchasing electricity from renewable sources and a move away from diesel to Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil in our refuse vehicles.

4.8 These changes are expected to have a much greater impact during this coming year.

4.9 PROGRESS IN YEAR 2 OF THE STRATEGY

4.10 Priorities for year 2 were agreed as part of last year's annual, progress against each priority area is detailed below:

4.11 Initiate a programme of carbon reduction schemes across the council based on the One Carbon World audit:

- The Council's electricity supply has been converted onto renewable energy for our half-hourly contracts, (meaning that real time data is collected every 30 minutes and in use in our main council owned building). This is estimated to reduce CO2 by around 74% this year for these buildings (based on consumption from the previous year).
- These make up 54% of our total consumption of electricity, and the remaining 46% are non-half-hourly, which will be moved to a renewable energy contract when their contracts are due for renewal in October. Replacement of all light bulbs at Futures Park with LED bulbs is planned and will again see a saving in both carbon and energy costs.
- The biggest impact in our carbon reduction is the conversion of the whole of the operational fleet to Hydro Vegetable Oil (HVO) from conventional diesel. This was completed in February 2022 and the major impact will be seen over the coming year.

Forty-nine council owned vehicles are now powered by HVO and this should see a reduction in emissions of approximately 80%.

- To underpin and provide a framework to support the carbon reduction schemes, a sub strategy focusing on reducing carbon in council owned buildings has been produced.

4.12 Launching a business carbon reduction grant scheme in association with the Chamber of Commerce.

- This scheme was launched at special business breakfast as part of our Climate Change Conference in November 2021.
- The scheme offers fifty percent funding towards carbon reduction schemes up to a maximum of 5k.
- Three applications have been approved to date with a number still pending. The schemes approved have been a number of schemes including conversion to LED lighting and installation of solar panels.
- The grant scheme is currently under review to see how it can be made easier to access for businesses.
- It is expected that next year applications will increase as the programme becomes more established.

4.13 Launching a Community Carbon Reduction grant scheme –

- This scheme was also launched at the Climate Change Conference and it provides 100% funding towards carbon reduction schemes for community groups.
- Four community groups have benefited to date, funding schemes for replacement double glazing and infrared heating systems. Further applications are pending. This scheme is also being reviewed to seek improvements in its delivery.

4.14 Project under both the community and business grants scheme will lead to an estimated emissions reduction of circa 13t CO₂e (equivalent of taking 2.8 cars off the road for a year).

4.15 The total of grants paid to date is £29,537.25, with a number of further grant applications pending approval.

4.16 Review Council planning guidelines to promote sustainability

- A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) covering climate change has been produced and a draft version was published for consultation between 13th July and 24th August. . The document sets out the Council's expectations regarding future developments in minimising carbon emissions and sustainability.
- The Climate Change SPD covers four key principles, these are:
 - Reducing the dominance of fossil fuelled vehicles via encouraging sustainable and more active transport
 - Improving energy efficiency and promoting renewables in the Borough
 - Water interventions

- Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure
- Twenty one responses to the consultation were received from a mix of residents, developers and statutory consultees. Comments concerned a number of topics including wind turbines and deep peat extraction.
- The final SDP is expected to go to Cabinet for approval in December 2022 ensuring that carbon efficient designs are adopted by developers.

4.17 Work with local Housing Associations and private landlords –

- Work continues with residential social landlords, in particular Together Housing, to upgrade all their properties to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) A rating.
- Major changes to minimum energy standards for rented properties come into effect from 2025. This will shift from an E rating to a C rating as a minimum requirement and will be mandatory for all tenanted properties. This first changes in 2025 will apply to new tenancies, followed by all tenancies from 2028.
- To support this, we are working with private sector property owners across the borough to ensure their properties will meet the new requirements.
- This includes targeted training sessions covering a range of housing related issues and in particular the minimum energy standards and improving insulation.

4.18 Launch a major recycling initiative and a non-recyclable plastic reduction campaign.

4.19 In March 2022, Council agreed a Single Use Plastics Strategy for Rossendale. This strategy aims to make Rossendale a plastic free community by 2025. The actions relating to the Council have been completed and we are now engaging community members to progress community elements of the strategy.

4.20 Examples of the work undertaken by the Council, include:

- An audit of the Council’s use of Single Use Plastics has been completed and a number of recommendations have been adopted.
- A revised recycling system has been introduced across Futures Park, replacing personal waste bins with designated recycling bins
- This has led to a reduction in single use bin liners and an increase in the amount of waste being recycled.
- A review of procurement is ongoing to ensure, where possible the purchase of single use plastic products is avoided or reduced.
- This includes a reduction in the number of taxi licensing plates purchased by introducing a new re-dating system, meaning a single plate last up to 5 times longer than previously.
- A requirement for all events taking place on council owned land to have a no single use plastics policy is currently being implemented

The Council will be launching a broader waste recycling campaign across the Borough in October 2022. This will launch in parallel with a recycling pilot study.

4.21 Develop our cycling and walking initiatives.

- Designated walking routes have now been established across Rossendale. These are well signposted.
- As part of the longer term Leisure Facilities review, all centres will become outdoor gateways promoting cycling and walking across the borough. The Council has purchased electric bikes for use by staff.

4.22 Developing the Rossendale Valley Green Growth Corridor –

- Work on the growth corridor is likely to take place in future years and at that point we will connect with these projects to maximise their green potential.
- It has been possible to continue with work on the asset register and identify opportunities on council owned land for decarbonisation schemes. The most likely schemes to come to fruition will be solar schemes and small-scale wind power.

4.23 Rossendale Forest

4.24 The Rossendale Forest project aims to plant 16,000 trees over four years. Year 1 has been a major success with 8,270 trees being planted and the publicity campaign winning an award.

4.25 In summary:

- Throughout the Winter period 2021/22, the Council has completed a project with other Pennine Lancashire Authorities and Ribble Rivers Trust (RRT) under the Forestry Commission's Treescapes Fund. This resulted in the planting of 5,170 trees at 17 different council owned sites.
- A further 3100 trees have been planted on privately owned and RBC sites taking the total to approximately 8,270, towards an overall project total of 16,000 over a 4 year period.
- A combination of council staff and the community have carried out planting on council sites. In year 1 approximately 200 volunteers registered, with over 300 individual participations in events.
- Ribble Rivers Trust has delivered one planting session on council owned land at Loveclough Allotments. A further 1,300 trees were planted.
- A Rossendale Forest brand has been created and is widely used on social media posts and will be used on additional signs at planted areas.
- A campaign, highlighting the success of the Rossendale Forest project has won Viva PR the Public Relations and Communications Association "Dare Award" for best public sector campaign for the North West region.

4.26 PRIORITIES FOR YEAR 3

4.27 In the coming year, it will be essential to continue the strong work of the previous two years. This will include enhancing and expanding the grants schemes and introducing many schemes to reduce the Council's Carbon Footprint. It will also be essential to build the climate change network and engage community groups in the work to achieve maximum impact. This will include a mini-conference in mid-2023. In addition to the above, the new priorities for the coming year will include:

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4.28 Seeking funding for further installation of EV charge Points. The current charge points installed on council owned car parks are now proving popular and showing regular usage by motorists. We are bidding for funding from the government's On-Street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS), which funds 60% of a project. In partnership with private sector installers, this will provide charge points on residential car parks in areas where there is limited off road provision. The Climate Change SPD outlines that charging must be considered in new developments, and sets out the minimum expectation from the Council.

4.29 Development of Decarbonisation initiatives. A submission for funding through the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) is being developed. This funds renewable energy projects for fossil fuel systems that are coming to the end of their life and will significantly assist in the overall cost of installing carbon efficient heating and lighting systems in our buildings.

4.30 Solar Together. The Council, along with other Lancashire councils, have registered an interest to join 'Solar Together'. This is a group-buying solar scheme that offers councils a method to promote the uptake of renewable energy in their area, reducing the carbon emissions and energy costs of domestic properties. This scheme would allow all residents in Rossendale to participate in this scheme, which works by reverse auction, meaning the lowest bid wins and so encourages competitive pricing. A list of residents across Lancashire, initially focusing on the 'able-to-pay' markets, which includes 5,162 Rossendale Residents have been identified who will be contacted directly to gauge interest in the scheme.

4.31 Rossendale Forest. Council owned sites available for planting are scarce after using most in year one. The next phase is now focusing on facilitating and linking with private land owners to ensure planting and development of the forest continues. This is being done by;

- Linking potential landowners to Ribble Rivers Trust. If deemed a suitable site for their priorities, RRT will secure trees and plant the site up.
- Sign-posting landowners to sources of trees such as the Woodland Trust or Forestry commission. If trees are secured, RBC will then recruit volunteers from the database to assist with planting.
- Utilising specific funding streams to purchase trees for planting on private land, such as the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Community Grants.
- Proprietary work has already taken place and secured partnerships with 2 farms to plant 800 trees via OPCC funding.
- Eight sites identified and details shared with RRT to progress further discussions with landowners, with a potential for a further 9,000 trees planted.
- A private landowner has secured part funding from the Woodland Trust to plant a further 1,000 trees, facilitated by volunteers on the Council register.

4.32 Heat Decarbonisation

4.33 Work continues in developing a bid for the government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funding. This opened in mid-September 2022.

4.34 This funds renewable energy projects for fossil fuel systems that are coming to the end of their life.

4.35 The amount of funding would lead to significant savings, both in carbon and in monetary terms.

- 4.36 Quotes have been received for ground-sourced heat pumps for Futures Park, ranging between £397k and £1 million. Further investigations are continuing in relation to air-sourced heat pumps. It is hoped that substantial external match funding can contribute to this cost.
- 4.37 Investigations are continuing to explore installing a more energy efficient boiler in Bacup library, and replacing substandard glazing at Henrietta St. depot and the A, B and D centre in Bacup.

4.38 Decarbonising Rossendale

- 4.39 In partnership with Valley Heritage, energy consultants have been engaged to investigate the potential for local energy generation in the conservation area of Bacup, particularly in relation to solar power.
- 4.40 Conversations are ongoing around the possibility of setting up a heat network within the area. Valley Heritage have also commissioned a course aimed at 'Understanding Domestic Retrofit', alongside running energy drop-in sessions for residents.

4.41 THE CARBON REDUCTION FUND

4.42 The £1Million Carbon Reduction Fund was agreed by Council in 2021 and it is intended that this fund supports schemes over a period of the four years. In the past 12 months the fund has primarily been used to support Business and community grants, however work has progressed in other areas and provisional allocations made for works due to take place.

4.43 A summary of spend and commitments is provided below:

- Community grants totalling £18,415, a further 3 applications pending
- Business grants totalling £11,022, a further 3 applications pending.
- A lighting improvement scheme for council buildings has been tendered totalling £52k
- A provisional scheme for an energy efficient boiler at Bacup library has been developed. This will reduce carbon emissions and save the Council on its annual fuel bills. The provisional cost is 80k.

It is to be expected that spend of the fund will be lower in the first year as schemes are developed and grant schemes promoted. Currently £161k is expected to be spent from the first year's allocation. Many schemes are now progressing to delivery and the review of the grants schemes is intended to accelerate investment.

4.44 CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICER POST

4.45 It was agreed by Council in July 2021 that a Climate Change Officer should be appointed to provide leadership to the Council's carbon reduction work. This post was appointed to in September 2021 and funding is for two years. It is expected that the carbon reduction schemes being implemented through the Carbon Reduction Fund will result in ongoing financial savings for the Council. It is proposed that these savings be ring-fenced in order to fund the climate change officer role in the longer term. This will be assessed and a separate decision sought in relation to this.

5 RISK

A risk register has been developed for the strategy as part of the Council's programme management process and these risks are monitored regularly. A public commitment has been made by the Council to do what it can locally to tackle climate change. This report limits the risk of not delivering on that commitment by putting the resources in place to ensure delivery. This report identifies ways in which the risk of non-delivery can be mitigated

6 FINANCE

6.1 There are currently no additional financial implications arising from this update report.

6.2 Setting aside any future carbon reduction financial savings to fund the climate change officer post beyond the current two years, will have an adverse financial impact on the budget, however at this point in time it is not possible to quantify the level of savings that may be achieved.

7 LEGAL

There are no legal implications arising from this report. Each project will be subject to its own considerations on a case by case basis.

8 POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are currently no additional policy or equalities implications arising from this update report.

9 REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 In 2020, the Council made an ambitious commitment to play its part in reducing carbon emissions. The following two years have seen significant progress towards achieving this.

9.2 Continued development of the outlined priorities will allow us to move forward further and even faster to ensure we reach our net zero ambitions by 2030.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Climate Change Strategy	https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/16648/rossendale_council_climate_change_strategy
Annual report to Council 2021	Item D1: https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1249/council
Decarbonisation Strategy	Available Room 118
Climate Change SPD	https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/download/11615/climate_change_spd
Rossendale Forest PR pack	Available Room 118

Subject:	Introduction of charges for permits for kerbstones in cemeteries	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Full Council	Date:	5 th October 2022
Report of:	Director of Communities	Lead member:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes/No	Attached: Yes/No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes/No	Attached: Yes/No
Contact Officer:	David McChesney	Telephone:	01706 252584
Email:	davidmcchesney@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Council approve the introduction of a £595 permit charge for kerbstones on graves at all four council owned cemeteries.**
- 1.2 That Council approves amendment to the Council’s Rules and Regulations relating to Cemeteries and the Memorials on Graves Guidance document to reflect the introduction of the kerbstone permit, the wording of such amendments to be delegated the Director of Communities in consultation with the Lead Member.**

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Current regulations do not permit any kerbstones beyond 18 inches in front of the headstone to be installed.
- Bereaved families have had these installed without permission in the past.
- Neighbouring authorities do allow for kerbs but charge for a permit to do so. This ensures that the Council can authorise the quality of the installation and also remove those installations that are not permitted.
- The charging for the permit will ensure that the Council has high quality installations and will cover costs associated with authorisation and increased maintenance.
- It is proposed to introduce the permit scheme for all burials after 1st January 2023 and it will not apply retrospectively.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Current cemetery rules and regulations prevent the installation of kerbstones at graves in Rossendale. Many families have however installed kerbstones without permission and it has proven difficult to have them removed. It is considered better for residents to be given the opportunity to have a kerbstone but to cover the cost incurred by the Council as a result. This system has proven effective at neighbouring authorities.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1 There are currently an estimated 100 existing kerbs at Haslingden Cemetery, 60 at Whitworth, 50 at Bacup and 60 at Rawtenstall Cemetery. Each year, the Council’s Bereavement Officer receives approximately 30 requests for kerbstones on graves. The Council’s current regulations prevent the installation of kerbstones beyond 18 inches of the grave, although there is demand for kerbstones that surround the whole grave area.
- 4.2 The Council’s refusal can lead to families having them installed regardless and enforcing removal without the option to retain them can be perceived as insensitive. There is also an

issue regarding the quality of the installations which can be variable and affect the quality of the cemetery as a whole.

- 4.3 The introduction of a permit would give the Council an opportunity to ensure that the workmanship is of a required standard and provide a clearer procedure that gives families an option other than removal. To qualify for a permit, the memorial mason must adhere to standards set out by The National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM), and comply with current BS8415 guidelines. This dictates the method of installation, including foundations and how the kerbs and headstones are fixed to the foundation in order to ensure the structures are sturdy and ultimately safe.
- 4.4 In setting a charge for the permit, officers have examined the costs associated with managing the application process and the monitoring of the installation as well as the additional maintenance costs associated with working around kerbstones. Officers have also compared the proposed charge with other authorities. These are as follows:

Bury Council- £572

Bolton Council- £610

Pendle Council- £609

Hyndburn Council- £600

Blackburn with Darwen Council- £200

Burnley Council- £158

- 4.5 Taking all the relevant information into account, it is proposed that Rossendale Council introduces a charge of £595 for kerbstones installed by a qualified stonemason. Based on approximate requests received each year by the Bereavement Officer this could lead to additional income of £17,850 which will contribute towards the increased costs incurred by the Council.
- 4.6 It is proposed that the Rules and Regulations and Memorial on Graves Guidance shall be amended together with detailed procedures and clear public and stakeholder information be produced and agreed with the Lead Member for Operations and Corporate Services prior to the introduction of the new charge from January 1st 2023.

5. RISK

- 5.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- Failure to act will lead to further unauthorised kerbstones appearing in cemeteries resulting in further deterioration of the cemetery's appearance and posing health and safety risks.
 - Unauthorised kerbstones create resentment from families that have had official requests previously declined.

6. FINANCE

- 6.1 The proposed charge of £595 will cover the additional costs the Council incurs associated with working around the kerbstones, with any remaining surplus contributing towards the funding gap in the Councils Medium Term Financial Strategy.

7. LEGAL

- 7.1 Under The Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order a burial authority may do all such things as they consider necessary or desirable for the proper management, regulation and control of a cemetery and may grant on such terms and conditions as are reasonable the right to place

and maintain a memorial. It also has the right to remove unauthorised memorials and recover the costs of doing so.

- 7.2 If members are minded to approve the introduction of the charge, the cemetery rules, regulations and guidance relating to memorials will require amendment to reflect the Council's updated position.
- 7.3 Appropriate management and enforcement of the rules and regulations will reduce the risk of legal challenges and claims against the Council.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An initial equality assessment has been undertaken and it has been identified there are no disproportional impact and a full impact assessment is not required

9. REASON FOR DECISION

- 9.1 The introduction of a permit charge for kerbstones will help to ensure that families do have the option of having a kerbstone installation, but will ensure that it will be of high quality. The charge for the kerbstone permit will ensure that funding is in place to manage the scheme effectively, with any surplus contributing towards the funding gap in the Councils Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Subject:	Rough Sleeping Funding 2022/25	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	5 th October 2022
Report of:	Director of Economic Development	Lead member:	Housing and Customer Services
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	
Contact Officer:	Stephen Brown	Telephone:	01706 252591
Email:	stephenbrown@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

- 1. RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 1.1. That Council decide if it will accept Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities Rough Sleeping funding of £418,916 on behalf of Rossendale, Burnley and Pendle councils.
 - 1.2. That if the funding is accepted, Council approve the continued appointment of Calico Homes to deliver the outreach service required under the terms of the agreement following a waiver of the council’s contract procedure rules.
 - 1.3. To delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development to enter into a framework agreement and service level agreements with Burnley and Pendle councils and Calico Homes and to ensure the legal agreements (including indemnities) are completed before receipt and distribution of funding.

- 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
- Since 2018 authorities in East Lancashire have worked together to receive rough sleeping funding from Government and have commissioned Calico Homes to deliver this support on their behalf.
 - The funding and services provided assist the council in fulfilling its statutory duties in relation to tackling rough sleeping.
 - Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has previously led on the bid on behalf of the East Lancashire local authorities since 2018 but in 2022 have decided to bid separately for this funding.
 - In order to ensure the council continue to benefit from the rough sleeping funding Rossendale acting as lead authority submitted a successful joint bid with Burnley and Pendle councils to DLUHC to support those at risk of rough sleeping from the 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2025.
 - Calico Homes have provided the outreach services since 2018 on behalf of Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale councils and it is proposed that this arrangement continues as it operates effectively.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Rough Sleeping Initiative RSI is a project run by DLUHC and forms part of the Government's plan to try and end rough sleeping by 2024. Funding has been in place since 2018 to address this issue and has significantly helped the council discharge its statutory duty to tackle rough sleeping. Between the April 2021 and March 2022 the service has worked with 38 individuals within Rossendale. 20 of these were assisted into temporary accommodation and 13 have since been housed into permanent accommodation. There has been one individual from Rossendale who chose to return to the streets after they lost the temporary accommodation provided due to their behaviours.
- 3.2 The current funding expired in March 2022. Local authorities were invited to bid for continuation funding for initiatives that focus on reducing the number of rough sleepers as well as working with those that have an increased risk of rough sleeping due to experiencing multiple disadvantages such as domestic abuse, mental health, substance misuse, offending etc.
- 3.3 Since RSI funding has been in existence Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has led on the bid on behalf of all the East Lancashire local authorities. However for funding for 2022 – 2025 Blackburn with Darwen decided to bid separately as they have different pressures on their services with houses of multiple occupancy and a greater volume of rough sleepers. Blackburn with Darwen wanted to apply for additional resources to meet these pressures which would not be used by the other partner local authorities. The decision by Blackburn with Darwen was made on the 11th February 2022. The submission deadline for bids was the 25th February 2022. As a result of the tight deadlines involved there was not sufficient time to get prior approval for a bid submission and further time was required for discussions with DHLUC on a bid.

4. THE FUNDING BID

- 4.1 The special adviser from DLUHC met with the remaining East Lancashire councils to discuss the funding opportunity and to scope a potential bid for each local authority. Rossendale was advised that an individual bid would be highly unlikely to successful. It was felt that due to sharing similar demographics, similar services and issues that Rossendale, Burnley and Pendle would have better success in submitting a joint bid.
- 4.2 DLUHC's preference was that all existing services would continue operating from the 1st April 2022 whilst a decision on bids was made. If the bid was unsuccessful then these services would have ceased. As DLUHC recommended this approach the council continued with the existing services provided by Calico (which have proven effective).
- 4.3 If the council decided not to bid (or not to receive) this additional funding this support would have ceased in 2022. This would put additional pressures on the council's Housing Options Teams to respond, visit and support rough sleepers as well as supporting them whilst in temporary accommodation to ensure that they could sustain this accommodation and not return to the streets.
- 4.4 Calico were appointed in 2018 as the local authorities did not have the housing expertise and capacity to undertaken this role effectively internally. This position remains unchanged. The funding requested in the bid was to continue services already in place through the previous RSI funding awards in order to ensure that there are interventions and pathways in place to support this vulnerable group of people. The posts operated under the RSI funding have been provided by Calico through service level agreements with the councils since 2018. It is

proposed the three councils will have similar agreements with Calico for the period of this agreement.

- 4.5 When a local authority is alerted to a potential rough sleeper contact is made with the Rough Sleeping Navigators (commissioned through the service) to engage with the individual and make sure that their time on the streets is as limited as possible. The Navigators provide one-to-one support to the individual, they are the contact point who liaise with multiple services, make appropriate referrals to services to address unmet needs.
- 4.6 The number of visible rough sleepers in the borough is lower than it would have been without these proactive interventions. The time people are reported to be sleeping rough to when they are engaged and move into temporary or permanent accommodation is kept to a minimum. Between the April 2021 and March 2022 the interventions through the Navigators and Accommodation Support Officer worked with 38 individuals in Rossendale.
- 4.7 Due to the timeframe involved combined with the risk of missing the funding opportunity, the impact that would have on the council and also as this was continuation funding, a bid was submitted. The bid proposes that Rossendale Council act as the accountable body. If a longer lead in time for the bid had been possible the council's position (based on a recommendation from the council's Corporate Management Team) would not have been to propose to be the accountable body for the funding. The council must be aware of the potential risks of accepting funding on behalf of the other East Lancashire councils. Whilst this is outside the governance framework in terms of the Council acting as the accountable body for other organisations, the s151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer have since reviewed the risks and advise that the benefit to accepting the funding outweighs the likely risks. The council has, on other occasions, submitted bids at short notice, subject to member approval, to accept the funding being sought prior to acceptance of the award offer. The council has the option to refuse the funding at this stage. This will have adverse financial implications for the council if it decided to continue funding expenditure already incurred on the project and in continuing this support. The council would have to deliver the services in-house which would place extra pressure on the team due to a lack of expertise and resource.
- 4.8 Funding will be used to continue with the following services:

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total Funding
1x Accommodation Support Officer (Burnley)	£12,666	£38,000	£38,000	£88,666
1x Accommodation Support Officer (Rossendale)	£26,250	£35,000	£35,000	£96,250
2x Case Navigator	£70,000	£70,000	£70,000	£210,000
Personal Budgets	£10,000	£8,000	£6,000	£24,000
Total Grant Award	£118,916	£151,000	£149,000	£418,916

- 4.9 Funding will be received in six monthly instalments. Rossendale will then receive invoices from Burnley Borough Council and from Calico for their respective elements of the granted funding. As the lead, Rossendale will have the responsibility of providing the reporting and financial data. There is a potential for clawback, suspension or reduction in funding if delivery of the interventions are not on track. This risk will be mitigated through regular meetings with Burnley, Pendle and Calico and with the special advisers from DLUHC. The respective s151 Officers at Burnley and Pendle Borough councils will have to formally agree to the heads of terms the council have set out which in brief are as follows;

- Agree to abide by the terms of the funding and not do anything to put Rossendale Borough Council in breach of the same.
- Indemnify/hold harmless each other under the terms of the funding. Any clawback (if any) to be covered by the defaulting party.
- Agree to enter into a joint framework agreement and council specific SLAs for the delivery of the funded services with Calico.
- Agree to provide all necessary data/return info/claim information as reasonably requested by Rossendale Borough Council and in any event no later than 5 working days prior to submission deadlines etc.

4.10 As a result of the tight timeframe of bid submission and the lifting of the embargo on the notification of the success of the bid only having been lifted in the recent weeks, it has not been possible to undertake a full procurement exercise to appoint a suitable contractor to deliver the outreach services. The bid was further submitted as a continuation service with Calico providing the outreach services. The Director of Economic Development and the Chief Finance Officer agree that significant financial loss may be incurred if the letting of the contract is delayed. The council would not be in a position to fulfil the requirements of the grant funding and there would be a risk of the grant being withdrawn leaving the council having to part fund the work that Calico have been undertaking since April 2022. Council is therefore requested to agree an exemption to the Contract Procedure Rules to allow for a direct award to Calico Homes, subject to the signing of appropriate legal agreements to protect the council's interests.

5. RISK

The key risks relating to the funding, and how these would be mitigated, is as follows:

- 5.1. If the council were minded not to accept the grant funding agreement then the costs for the continuation of services to date would have to be met by the council. This could be mitigated by terminating the service provision.
- 5.2. Discontinuation of the service may lead to an increase in the number of people sleeping rough and would result in those already rough sleeping to receive only limited support. This would also negatively affect the council's performance on meeting its statutory homeless duties.
- 5.3. Acting as an accountable body on behalf of other local authorities carries risk of potential future clawback, suspension or reduction in funding if delivery of the interventions are not on track. The posts have been provided by Calico through service level agreements with the councils since 2018. It is proposed the three councils will have updated agreements with Calico for the period of this agreement as outlined in 4.9. Funding will also be received in tranches, reducing the overall financial risk. These measures will mitigate but not eliminate the potential risk.

6. FINANCE

- 6.1 The grant award is for £118,916 in 2022/23, £151,000 in 2023/24 and £149,000. Total £418,916.
- 6.2 The grant will be paid in tranches:-
 - Tranche 1 payment: Summer 2022
 - Tranche 2 payment: Autumn 2022
 - Tranche 3 payment: Spring 2023
 - Tranche 4 payment: Autumn 2023
 - Tranche 5 payment: Spring 2024
 - Tranche 6 payment: Autumn 2024

Tranche 1 will be paid upon acceptance of the grant, with subsequent tranches being released dependent on the mobilisation and delivery of services, satisfactory completion of DLUHC's monitoring processes and submission of a statement of expenditure,

6.3 Subject to the proposed exemption of the procurement rules, the councils will enter into a framework agreement with Calico and payments will be made direct to them via the individual SLAs. Payments will be made six monthly in arrears, subject to receipt of an invoice and provision of a statement of expenditure and monitoring information as required by DLUHC.

6.4 As accountable body the council has overall responsibility for delivery of the scheme and may be subject to clawback of grant if the terms and conditions of the grant are not adhered to. In order to mitigate this risk the council will enter into an SLA with Calico and obtain indemnities from Burnley and Pendle councils.

7. LEGAL

7.1 Council is required to confirm if it wishes to accept the grant funding due to the value of the same having taken into consideration the contents of this report.

7.2 Part 4 of the Constitution provides that where the head of service and Chief Finance Officer agree that significant financial loss may be incurred if the letting of a contract is delayed, the Contract Procedure Rules shall not apply. The direct appointment of Calico would therefore be compliant with the Constitution as a waiver to the procedure rules.

7.3 All necessary legal agreements will be agreed and completed with Burnley and Pendle councils and Calico to include indemnities from all parties to ensure compliance with the obligations and requirements of the funding allocation.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The additional support offered by funding has been used to support one of Rossendale's most vulnerable communities – rough sleepers. Although the total number of rough sleepers in Rossendale is relatively low, if Council decided not to accept the funding this is highly likely to have a detrimental impact on rough sleepers and those at risk of becoming a rough sleeper.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

This represents an opportunity to continue and build upon the work already delivered by the rough sleeping navigators to bring rough sleepers in from the streets, ensure that they do not return to the streets and those at greatest risk of becoming a rough sleeper do not sleep rough.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Rossendale Rough Sleeping Self-Assessment	 Rossendale Rough Sleeping Self-Assessr
RSI Bid Submission	 RSI4 2022-25 Bid Submission.pdf
Confirmation of Funding	 Rossendale Confirmation of Fundi