

**MINUTES OF: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Present:** Councillors Barnes (Chair), Ashworth, M Smith (sub), Harrison, Hodgkiss (sub), Royds (sub) and Co-opted member Heaton

**In attendance:** Inspector Plummer, Lancashire Constabulary  
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development  
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy  
Kwabena Poku, Climate Change Programme Officer  
Anne Stora, Principal Planner – Forward Planning  
Jacob Landers, Senior Planning Officer – Forward Planning  
Hannah Callan, Executive and Democratic Services Officer

**Also Present:** Councillor Barnes and Councillor Lythgoe

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**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Neal (Councillor Royds subbing), Councillor Belli (Councillor M Smith subbing), Councillor Scott Smith (Councillor Hodgkiss subbing) and Councillor McMahon (no sub).

**2. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 be approved as a correct record.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**5. Question Time**

There were no public questions.

**6. Chair's Update**

In relation to a question asked at a previous meeting, details of progress against the savings plan were circulated to the committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> December as requested.

A briefing note was circulated prior to the meeting to keep members informed of the work of Citizens Advice Rossendale. Members were asked to note the update.

**ORDINARY BUSINESS**

**7. Annual Update from Lancashire Constabulary**

7.1 Chief Inspector Ogdin and Inspector Plummer provided the committee with an annual update which included the HMIC Report, Crime and ASB Data for Rossendale, Violence Against Women and Girls Update, Councillor Relationships, Rural Crime Update, Dangerous Dogs and Road Safety Concerns.

7.2 In response to members questions the following clarification was given:

- Issues around the 101 service have now improved and there has been an increase in online reporting.
- Online report tool is advertised online; including the Police website and social media and also through neighbourhood police interventions and face to face surgeries.
- The Police are to share details with members and the issues in relation to the difficulties of using the online tool to be fed back to the relevant team.
- When operations are withdrawn it affects areas differently, some spike and some stay the same. They are no plans to remove Op Centurion in Bacup and will be reviewed in March 2025.
- Hate Crimes figures are recorded by the Police. There was no increase in hate crime after the incidents in the summer.
- There are no targets set for the reduction of crime.
- In the last 12 months there have been 3 reports via Street Safe that have been made by the same person with the same issue. There are no identified hot spots in Rossendale.
- The location of a university may have an impact on the statistics for violence against women.
- Figures for dangerous dogs' incidents were not per 1,000 of the population.

**Resolved:**

The committee noted the annual update.

The Chair thanked Chief Inspector Ogdin and Inspector Plummer for attending. Formal thanks were given for all the hard work that the Police do throughout the year within the borough.

**8. Climate Change Strategy Update**

8.1 Members considered the Climate Change Strategy Update, which would be going to Council in March.

8.2 In response to members questions the following clarification was given:

- Until we have the relevant data we cannot say whether we are on target for Net Zero.
- EV charging point data will be made available to members by the end of the Q1.
- Plans are in place for the use of outstanding Carbon Reduction Funds.
- Different options are being explored to decarbonise Council-owned heavy-duty vehicles, including waste collection trucks. Smaller petrol and diesel vehicles in the fleet will be replaced with electric vehicles.
- The building selection for the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) project was based on the following:
  - All buildings (including the AB&D) were owned by the Council
  - All buildings had gas heating
  - All buildings had high levels of gas consumption
- A new government would not change any of the objections. The new Labour government's Net Zero plans will help the Council to achieve it's Net Zero objectives.
- Scout Moor 2, when completed, would decarbonise electricity in the Borough by generating renewable electricity to power over 90% of houses in Rossendale. This would significantly contribute to the Council's wider aspiration of creating a Net Zero Carbon Valley by working with households and businesses. Scout Moor 2 was not currently mentioned because the project had not been formally confirmed. We would update the document with information about Scout Moor 2 subject to planning approval.

- The main report provided the annual update on the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. Net Zero Rossendale was the name of the revised action plan in relation to point 4.31.

**Resolved:**

The committee noted the report and recommended Council to approve the revised Climate Change Action Plan.

**9. Adoption of Local List of Non-Designated Heritage Assets**

9.1 Members considered the Adoption of local list of non-designated heritage assets report.

9.2 In response to members questions the following clarification was given:

- Since the panel meetings held by Growth Lancashire three additional assets were added to the list:
  - o NDHA\_155 - The Back Road & spring-fed well
  - o NDHA\_203 – Stone Boundary Marker between Rossendale & Rochdale
  - o NDHA\_204 – 56 & 58 Stubbins Street

Given the large number of sites already identified, and the previous consultation undertaken by Growth Lancashire, requesting buildings to be nominated, we are not intending this consultation to add any additional sites. An update to the Local List will be undertaken in due course. In the meantime, any Non-Designated Heritage Assets identified through the planning application process will be recoded and added to the Local List as appropriate.

Following the Panel meetings and further consideration of the assets it was decided not to include the following sites on the Local List:

- o Ab Top Quarry Tramway Network
- o New Barn Farm & Barn off Hollin Lane
- o St James-the-Less Presbytery
- o Hey Bottom Farmstead & Rubbing Mill, Back Cowm
- o Meadows Mill, Bacup
- o Back-to-back houses, Forest St & Ashworth St
- o The Kimberley Club
- o Eden Wood Mill
- As well as Growth Lancashire, the following sit on the panel:
  - o Rossendale Civic Trust
  - o Planning Manager and planners from Rossendale BC
  - o Officers from RBC’s Economic Development team
  - o Rossendale BC members, including the Design and Heritage champion and Planning’s Portfolio Holder
  - o Planning Officer from Lancashire County Council’s Historic Environment Record team (archaeology)
- The areas do not follow ward boundaries. The list is longer for areas such as Rawtenstall as it is a denser area with more heritage assets. Whereas areas such a Crawshawbooth are more rural and therefore the list is smaller.
- Minor amendments to be also delegated to Ward Councillors along with Head of Planning and the Lead Member prior to consultation.
- Targeted consultations will take place with all owners on the local list. A justified reason would need to be given if they wanted their property to be removed from the list.

- Several assets were not included for reasons such as; too large, quality of the assets with little historic relevance left due to the age of the property and also lack of information.
- There are no enforcement powers in relation to the list.

**10. Infrastructure Funding Statement**

10.1 Members considered the Infrastructure Funding Statement and the Brownfield Land Register.

**Resolved:**

The committee noted the contents of the Infrastructure Funding Statement 2023/24 and the Brownfield Land Register 2024.

**11. Performance Management Report (Q2)**

11.1 Members considered the Performance Management Report (Q2).

11.2 In response to questions asked by members the following clarifications were given:

- Comments have been received back from the Flood Authority that is requires a review of the design in terms of raising the land which subsequently, there will be a need to review disabled access to the building. A review of the scheme will be carried out and all statutory consultees will need to agree.
- Discussions took place with Bacup market traders in relation to who would want to continue to trade at the future market and one trader expressed an interest. Therefore, as a way of compensation traders were given a year’s free rent as a gesture of good will. In relation to Rawtenstall market, the majority of traders wish to continue to trade at the future market so it is important to sustain the market and get as many of the traders back on site as soon as possible.
- The two relocation grant applications were not granted as they were in relation to the purchasing of new machinery which could be used anywhere and not linked to staying within the Bacup area.
- There has been a reduction in grass cutting at the cemeteries due to staffing and weather conditions. Some areas are also left to grow for wildlife reasons.

**Resolved:**

The committee noted the Council’s performance as detailed in the report.

**12. Forward Plan**

12.1 Members were updated on the Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. Members were encouraged to submit their questions in advance in relation to items on the next agenda and suggest services to attend future meetings in relation to the performance report which would be distributed when it had been published for Cabinet.

**Resolved:**

The Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme items were noted.

**(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8:23pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....