

## **COUNCILLOR JUDITH DRIVER, MAYOR**

**MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE**

**DATE OF MEETING: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor Councillor Driver (in the Chair)  
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Bauld, Belli, Bleakley, Cheetham, Eaton, Gill, Hancock, Harris, Hodgkiss, Holland, Lythgoe, McInnes, McMahon, Neal, Norton, Procter, M. Smith and Walmsley.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service  
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer  
Phillip Veevers, Mayor's Attendant

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** 1 press  
2 public  
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Harrison, Kenyon, Looker, Payne, Royds, S. Smith and Woods.

### **2. Minutes**

#### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### **3. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

### **4. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **5. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service**

There were no communications from the Mayor or Head of Paid Service.

The Leader of the Council provided the following updates:

- The Council had received a further £26,000 from DEFRA for 2024/25 to help the Planning Team introduce and take forward mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain.
- The Council had successfully bid for £70,000 from MHCLG to help with the review of the Green Belt.
- The Council had been awarded £1.378m grant funding for the decarbonisation of Marl Pits. Marl Pits was our largest user of carbon so this was a great step forward in decarbonising the Council's assets. Thanks was given to all the officers involved in the application.
- The Physical Activity Strategy had been launched at Marl Pits.
- It had been the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the outbreak of war in Ukraine and over 120 people attended a commemoration event at Longholme Church.
- The Council had processed 1000 Household support fund applications from individuals in round 6.
- Work had started on the Wheeled sports area refurbishment at Edgeside Park.

- In relation to Local Government Reorganisation, an interim plan had been sent to government in time for the March deadline. The Council was committed to working together to take forward model options to government on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The Council would continue to work with group leaders in terms of our joint position on Local Government Reorganisation. Resident information would be made available soon to inform what Local Government Reorganisation means.

## **ORDINARY BUSINESS**

### **5. Making of the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (2021-2036) and approval of the Regulation 19 Decision Statement**

The Council considered the Making of the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (2021-2036) and approval of the Regulation 19 Decision Statement.

Thanks was given to the Edenfield Neighbourhood Forum and also to Forward Planning officers for all their work.

The impact of Local Government Reorganisation on the plan was also clarified.

#### **Resolved:**

1. To note the results of the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (the ENP) Referendum and the requirement of Rossendale Borough Council, as the Local Planning Authority, to formally make (adopt) this Neighbourhood Plan as part of the statutory Development Plan for the designated Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan Area.
2. To approve the Regulation 19 Decision Statement (attached) which sets out the Council's decision in terms of making (or adopting) the Neighbourhood Plan and the reasons for this decision.

#### **Reason for Decision**

The Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan, undertaken by the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum, has been consulted on and examined in line with the relevant Regulations. Following the examination, modifications were made to the NP for Edenfield, in line with those recommended by the Examiner, to ensure it meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements in order to proceed to Referendum. The Referendum took place on 20 February 2025 and received more than 95% of votes supporting the ENP to be used to help Rossendale Borough Council determine planning applications within the designated Neighbourhood Plan area. On making the Neighbourhood Plan, the Council must publish a Regulation 19 Decision Notice.

#### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

### **6. Urgent decisions**

Council noted the Special Urgency Decision taken 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 regarding the acceptance of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund for the decarbonisation of Marl Pits Leisure Centre and allocate the required council contribution from the Carbon Reduction Fund.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **7. Recommendation of the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Valley Plan 2025-29**

The Council considered the Valley Plan 2025-29 report.

Thanks was given to officers for all their efforts in achieving the level of response received.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The average wage needed amending on page 4.
- Plans for Henrietta Street would be redeveloped at some point.

**Resolved:**

Full Council discussed and agreed the Council's proposed Valley Plan 2025-29.

**Reason for Decision**

To review and agree the final version of the Valley Plan 2025-29. By approving the proposed Valley Plan, Full Council are agreeing the Council's priorities for the next four years to address any issues and opportunities to make Rossendale a better place to live, work, and invest.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

Councillor Neal moved thanks to Councillor Judith Driver as the Mayor during her term and this was seconded by Councillor Alyson Barnes.

**(The meeting commenced at 6.40pm and concluded at 7.02pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....