

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 14th May 2025

**Present: Councillor A Barnes (Chair)
Councillors Harris, Lythgoe and Walmsley**

**Rob Huntington, Chief Executive
Chris Warren, Director of Resources, s151 Officer
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal, Monitoring Officer
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy
Andy Taylor, Head of Environmental Services
Susan Chadwick, Public Protection Manager**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted for Councillor McInnes

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lythgoe declared that he was a Board member on Rossendale Leisure Trust.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No written questions had been received.

6. UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

An update was provided from the 31st March Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Thanks was expressed to the Committee.

7. DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPO)

The Lead Member for Environment & Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to vary and extend the Dog Control PSPO for a further 3 years and determine whether they wished to retain the existing maximum number of dogs that can be exercised at any one time or reduce this number.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- The officers were thanked for their work on this PSPO.
- The Industry recommendation that a maximum of 4 dogs be walked by one person seemed reasonable.
- Members of the public do regularly query the number of dogs a dog walker can take, so the Council must give due consideration to external advice.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet varied and extended the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for a further 3-year period subject to paragraph 1.2 under Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
2. Cabinet agreed to reduce the number of dogs to be walked by one person to 4.

Reason for Decision:

In light of the continued support received in the recent consultation, it was recommended that Cabinet approve the variation of the Order and its extension for a period of 3 years. This would allow the continuation of effective enforcement of responsible dog ownership.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. ACCEPT AND DEPLOY THE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD (HAF) PROGRAMME FUNDING

The Lead Member for Resources outlined the report which asked Cabinet to accept the grant for the Summer and Christmas HAF Programme and approve the commissioning of Rossendale Leisure Trust to support the programme.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- It would encourage families to support the activities.
- Promotion of the programme to be discussed with Rossendale Leisure Trust to ensure it reaches a wide audience.
- Promotion has been fed through schools.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet accepted the grant of £195,430 for the Summer and Christmas Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme
2. Cabinet approved the Director of Resources in Consultation with the Lead member for Resources to commission Rossendale Leisure Trust under existing arrangements to enable them to support the children in the borough who are in receipt of free school meals.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure there is no break to the Holiday Activity and Food programme and to minimise the possibility of disadvantaged children missing out on meals and activities in the school holidays.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

9. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY 2025-2029

The Lead member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to consider and comment on the Council's refreshed Communications Strategy and Annual Action Plan.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- Officers were thanked for their work.
- It was great to see the numerous platforms being utilised for communication.
- The Council's best practice was being recognised by others.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet considered and provided comments on the Council's refreshed Communications Strategy 2025-2029
2. Cabinet considered and provided comments on the Communications Strategy annual Action Plan update 2024-2025.

Reason for Decision:

A clear and defined Communications Strategy will support the Council in communicating to its stakeholders. Improving the Council's communications and engagement will support the delivery of the Valley Plan 2025-2029 – Our Place, Our Plan.

The meeting concluded at 6.49pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE