

## **COUNCILLOR MICHELLE SMITH, MAYOR**

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

**DATE OF MEETING: 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor Councillor M. Smith (in the Chair)  
Councillors Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Cheetham, Eaton, Hancock, Harris, Holland, Kenyon, Looker, Lythgoe, McInnes, McMahon, Neal, Norton (in part), Payne, Procter, S. Smith, Walmsley and Woods.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service  
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer  
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development  
Kwabena Osei Poku, Climate Change Programme Officer  
Phillip Veevers, Mayor's Attendant

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 1 press**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Adshead, Bauld, Belli, Bleakley, Driver, Gill, Harrison and Hodgkiss

**2. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS**

**4. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Project at Marl Pits Leisure Centre**

The Council considered the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Project at Marl Pits Leisure Centre report.

Thanks was given to the officers for their work and passion for such schemes.

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**N.B.** Councillor Norton entered the meeting.

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In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- It was important to do what we could for climate change both nationally and locally.
- Rossendale Valley Energy was crowd funding and trying to raise funds locally for solar panels.
- Marl Pits Leisure Centre was a council owned asset. The Council was investing in its property. There were no barriers and the centre was open to users in the Borough.
- The Carbon Reduction Fund was directing funds into Council assets.
- A Climate Change Emergency was declared in 2019 and anything to reduce the carbon footprint was welcomed.
- Some small businesses also benefited from the Carbon Reduction Fund.

**Resolved:**

1. To note the award of £1,379m in capital funding from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Phase 4 together with match funding of £300k from the

Carbon Reduction Fund as approved, to replace the current fossil fuel heating system with a low carbon alternative at Marl Pits Leisure Centre.

2. To approve the inclusion of the scheme in the Council's Capital Programme.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development, the Director of Resources and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Lead Members for Regeneration and Resources to procure and appoint consultancy and contractors to deliver the works.

### **Reason for Decision**

The successful completion of the decarbonisation project at Marl Pits will support the Council in achieving net zero emissions across its corporate assets by 2030. The measures are estimated to deliver annual carbon savings of approximately 194 tonnes of direct carbon emissions. The PSDS project aligns strongly with the Council's Corporate Plan and Core Strategy, particularly the priorities of addressing climate change and reducing carbon emissions. Implementing these energy efficiency measures and replacing fossil fuel-based boilers directly contributes to the Council's commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

As it was Volunteers Week, the Mayor gave thanks to the community's volunteers, highlighting their invaluable contributions to the borough, including their selfless efforts of dedicating their time, energy, and passion to support various community initiatives. Such endeavours strengthened neighbourhoods, fostered resilience, and cultivated a spirit of togetherness that defined Rossendale. The Mayor called upon residents to continue supporting one another, build stronger connections, and work towards making Rossendale an even better place to live and work, and care for one another. On behalf of the Council she extended a sincere thank you to the "quiet heroes" whose remarkable works uplifted the community.

**(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 6.55pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....