

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 6th August 2025

Present: Councillor A Barnes (Chair)
Councillors Harris, Lythgoe, McInnes 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
Megan Eastwood, Head of Housing and Regeneration

Also present Councillor Neal
1 member of the public
1 member of the press

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Barnes declared an interest in item D3/point 9 as she worked for Homewise. The Deputy Leader would take the chair for this item.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No written questions had been received.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee had not met since the last Cabinet meeting.

The overall Household Support Fund allocation 7 for Lancashire had reduced by over £2m compared with the previous year. The allocation methodology to districts had remained consistent with prior rounds.

7. MARKET OPERATOR

The lead member for Economic Development outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the approach for the procurement of a market operator and to approve delegations to the relevant officers and lead member.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- The flexibility to work with the operator on all three markets proved acceptable.

- All interested parties would be made aware of the options and the procurement procedure allowed for negotiation.

The following clarifications were provided to Councillor Neal:

- Rossendale Council held the Market Charter.
- The Council were looking to reuse some of the units on Bacup Market and using the space for broader use. It was important to get this piece of work right.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the approach for the procurement of an operator at Rawtenstall Market with the option of Haslingden and Bacup Markets.
2. Delegated authority to the Director of Economic Development in conjunction with the lead member for Economic Development, Head of Legal Services and Director of Resources, to:
 - Complete a tender exercise to select and procure an operator.
 - To agree the terms of the arrangement, including the model, lease length and option of inclusion for Bacup and Haslingden Markets.
3. Delegated authority to the Head of Legal Services to enter into any relevant agreements relating to the operator, including management and lease agreements.

Reason for Decision:

The markets are a long-standing asset to Rossendale and securing an operator continues to futureproof them as visitor destinations for many years to come.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. DESIGN AMENDS TO RAWTENSTALL SOUTH GYRATORY

The lead member for Economic Development outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the updated designs and delivery and delegate minor changes to the relevant director and lead member.

The following comments were made and clarifications:

- There was confidence around Lancashire County Council's modelling works and achieving the forecasted budget.
- Procurement would show the true cost of the project but there was confidence in the forecasts.
- Pressure on travelling into and out of the borough would be alleviated.
- Phasing of the lights on Bocholt Way would alleviate the pressures of traffic exiting Bury Road.
- It was thought that the large metal pole outside the Fire Station was for CCTV but confirmation would be provided.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the updated design and delivery of the South Gyratory Project as part of the Capital Regeneration Programme for Rawtenstall.
2. Delegated any minor changes to the Director of Economic Development in conjunction with the lead member for Economic Development.

Reason for Decision:

The South Gyratory scheme would improve journey times, traffic flow and supports the wider

Rawtenstall Masterplan. This decision allows for the amendments to the scheme as approved by Cabinet on the 8th January 2025.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

The Leader of the Council left the meeting

9. REVISED DELIVERY OF HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY SERVICES

The lead member for Communities, Housing, Health and Wellbeing outlined the report which asked Cabinet to accept all external funding and approve delegations to the relevant officers and lead member.

The following comments were made and clarifications provided:

- The timing and approach was questioned as the council approached Local Government Reorganisation.
- The council were advised of the changes in July; Lancashire County Council would review arrangement in 2026 in light of Local Government Reorganisation.
- It would allow the council to collect data on the service.

Councillor Neal was invited to comment on the report:

- Concerns on the timing and approach were also shared.
- The new arrangements may put pressure on a small group of officers.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet agreed to accept all relevant external funding from Lancashire County Council (LCC) to enable the council to deliver minor adaptations in Rossendale from 26th August 2025 (or later, subject to LCC) to 31st December 2026.
2. Delegated authority to the Head of Legal Services to enter into any relevant agreements, including the S101 Delegation with Lancashire County Council and any contractual arrangements.
3. Delegated authority to the Director of Economic Development in conjunction with the lead member for Communities, Housing, Health and Wellbeing, Head of Legal Services and Director of Resources, to procure and appoint a contractor to deliver home improvement and agency services in Rossendale and to agree the terms of this arrangement under the Procurement Act 2023 regulations.

Reason for Decision:

To note and accept the funding from Lancashire County Council and authorise officers to procure a contractor at the end of the current contract period.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

The Leader of the Council returned to the meeting

The meeting concluded at 7.08pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE