

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 17th September 2025

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

**David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
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
Megan Eastwood, Head of Housing and Regeneration
Kimberly Haworth, Head of Financial Services
Natalie Atkinson, Programme Manager – Sport and Physical Activity**

Also present 3 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor A Barnes.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th August 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No written questions had been received.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

An update was provided from the 8th September Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting.

7. PILOT SCHEME – ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME ENFORCEMENT

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the 12-month pilot of a third-party company to provide on street environmental crime enforcement, and to delegate authority to procure and appoint a contractor should the pilot be successful.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- The team were thanked for their work on the pilot.
- Officers would direct to hotspots and monitor other issues so we can best address the issues of environmental crime.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the 12-month pilot of a third-party company to provide on street environmental crime enforcement.
2. Cabinet authorised the Head of Operations in consultation with the Lead Members to procure and appoint a contractor in the event that the pilot was successful and it was determined that this was the most appropriate way to deliver the service.

Reason for Decision:

Approving the trial of a third-party service provider would enable the council to significantly enhance its capacity to tackle environmental crime through a cost-neutral pilot scheme and would improve the cleanliness and safety of its public spaces whilst maintaining financial and operational oversight.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. ROSSENDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Health outlined the report which asked Cabinet to formally adopt the stage E update as the evidence base, and delegate authority to make minor amendments as necessary.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- Officers were thanked for their hard work on this piece of work.
- It was important for people to support these facilities.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet formally adopted the Stage E Update, of the Rossendale Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy as the borough-wide evidence base for the planning, protection, enhancement, and provision of outdoor sports pitches and associated facilities.
2. Cabinet delegated to the Director of Economic Development the ability to make minor amendments as necessary in consultation with the lead member for Communities, Housing and Health.

Reason for Decision:

Approval of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy as well as the underlying assessment report would ensure that the document could be used in the assessment of contributions arising from planning applications, as well as guide the priority of work to be undertaken (including maintenance), and identify where funding applications should be focused to enable the council to attract inward investment from organisations such as the Football Foundation.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

9. BACUP MARKET REVISED DESIGNS

The Lead Member for Economic Development outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the RIBA stage 3 revised designs and delegate authority to procure and appoint construction contractors and make minor amendments to the designs.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- All those who have contributed to the revised designs were thanked.

- The consultation process was underway. Drop-in sessions were planned and details were available on the website. This would help inform the plans ready for submission of planning.
- Consultation would be for circa 3 weeks then further consultation would take place as part of the planning process.
- Public comments were welcomed.
- The accessible parking within the scheme was welcomed.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the RIBA stage 3 design of the revised Temple Court, Bacup Market in order with the planning application.
2. Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Economic Development, Head of Legal Services in consultation with the lead member for Economic Development to procure and appoint the most advantageous construction contracts to deliver Temple Court Market.
3. Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Economic Development in conjunction with the Lead Member for Economic Development to make any minor amendments to the design.

Reason for Decision:

The Bacup Market Scheme would support the revitalisation of Bacup Town Centre, enhancing experiences for residents and visitors while increasing footfall and supporting local businesses. The works would preserve the town's market heritage, and complement wider regeneration efforts in the town centre, contributing to Bacup's long-term economic sustainability.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

10. WASTE TRANSFER STATION

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the appointment of Caulmert to conduct RIBA stage 4 in respect of the ongoing design for the proposed new waste transfer station, and delegate authority to carry out any legal agreements and minor amends as necessary.

The Chair provided clarification and context around the future of waste disposal, the options available and the potential impact on the council.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- This was an improvement to waste disposal in the borough.
- It would benefit council staff who were currently working in difficult conditions.
- The project was the financially responsible option.
- A change was needed for the processing of waste inside.
- Officers were thanked for the FAQs and the regular updates to the same.
- Officers were thanked for all their work on this project.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the appointment of Caulmert to conduct RIBA Stage 4 at a cost of £211,585 plus 5% framework charge plus the cost of any individual surveys and permits required from third parties in respect of the ongoing design for the proposed new waste transfer station (WTS).
2. Cabinet delegated to the Head of Environmental Services in conjunction with the

Monitoring Officer, Director of Resources, Lead Members for Resources and Environment and Corporate Services to carry out any legal agreements and minor amendments as necessary.

Reason for Decision:

To engage Caulmert to conduct RIBA Stage 4 as soon as possible at a cost of £211,585 plus 5% framework charge plus the cost of any individual surveys and permits required from third parties to minimise delay to the build program.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

11. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT QUARTER 1 2025/26

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to note and consider the council's performance during Quarter 1.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- Officers were thanked for all their work and to those who brought the report together.
- The update demonstrated the council's improvement journey. Residents could find this information on the website.
- It was clear that the amount of work the council conducted with others brought positive benefits to residents.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet noted and considered the council's performance during Quarter 1 2025/26 as detailed in the report and Appendix 1.

Reason for Decision:

Monitoring the council's performance would enable Cabinet to identify and consider any service actions, projects, performance measures or corporate risks requiring further action.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

12. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 1 2025/26

The Lead Member for Resources outlined the report which asked Cabinet to note the content of the Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring report.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- Officers were thanked for their work and input to the report.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet noted the content of the Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring report.

Reason for Decision:

To note the Quarter 1 monitoring report.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

The meeting concluded at 7.25pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE