

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 22nd October 2025

**Present: Councillor A Barnes (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
Andy Taylor, Head of Environmental Services
Natalie Atkinson, Programme Manager – Sport and Physical Activity**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Walmsley.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 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

There were no written or verbal questions.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair had no updates to provide.

7. NET ZERO TERRACE STREETS: FROM DEMONSTRATOR TO SCALE – INNOVATE UK GRANT FUNDING

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the Council becoming the Leader Partner in project delivery, accept grant funding and approve delegations to Officers and the Lead Member.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- It was an interesting project which helped understand how the council tackles scaling up.
- Understanding the key skills required in the works has been a useful part of the pilot.
- Low resident involvement was identified as a risk but community advocates would be deployed. Showcasing the success stories and lessons learnt would encourage involvement.
- Education would be key to demonstrate what options are available.
- Working with partner organisations would give them the skills to take these schemes forward.

Resolved:

Cabinet:

1. Approved Rossendale Borough Council becoming the Lead Partner in the delivery of the Net Zero Terrace Streets: From Demonstrator to Scale project.
2. Approved the acceptance of £149,867 in grant funding from Innovate UK to deliver the project.
3. Delegated authority to the Director of Economic Development, the Director of Resources and the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services, to make any necessary amendments to the Grant Offer Letter and accept it on behalf of the Council.
4. Delegated authority to the Director of Economic Development, the Director of Resources and the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services, to enter into legal agreements with delivery partners to establish the terms of participation and related matters between Rossendale Borough Council and project partners.

Reason for Decision:

Accepting this funding would:

- Secure nearly £150,000 of external investment at no cost to the Council.
- Deliver direct benefits for Rossendale, including preparing for a potential up to 200-home cluster retrofit, developing local housing archetypes, and integrating outputs into the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Warm Homes planning.
- Strengthen the Council's relationship with Rossendale Valley Energy as a trusted local delivery partner and provide governance, finance and digital tools that can be applied across the borough in future.
- Maintain Rossendale's national profile as a leader in addressing the challenge of terraced housing through the Net Zero Terrace Streets programme.
- Ensure that the borough retains influence and leaves a strong legacy in the field of net zero and housing decarbonisation as Local Government Reorganisation takes place.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. TOGETHER AN ACTIVE FUTURE PROJECT

The Lead Member for Communities, Housing, Health and Wellbeing outlined the report which asked Cabinet to accept grant funding, approve the current delivery model and approve delegations to Officers and Lead Members.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- The impact to date had been impressive and it was hoped this would grow as we move through Local Government Reorganisation.
- There was a need to ensure our communities deliver sustainable programmes that are embedded within the Borough.
- The Heath Plan and Physical Activity and Sport strategy had been invaluable.
- Officers involved in the work on this project were thanked.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet agreed to accept funding from Sport England that is hosted by Blackburn with Darwen Council for the Deepening phase of the Together an Active Future (TaAF) programme, subject to the grant funding agreement.

2. Approved the continuation of the current delivery model delivered via Rossendale Leisure Trust.
3. Delegated authority to the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Lead members for Resources and Communities, Housing, Health and Wellbeing to agree future amendments to the Deepening phase scope and resource allocation.
4. Delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to sign all necessary grant funding and legal agreements.

Reason for Decision:

The Deepening phase of TaAF presents an opportunity to consolidate the successes of earlier phases while embedding place-based systems change. The report recommends proceeding with the proposed funding model and delivery arrangement.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

The meeting concluded at 6.52pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE