

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 13th May 2026

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

**Rob Huntington, Chief Executive
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal (Monitoring Officer)
Kimberly Haworth, Head of Financial Services (s151 Officer)
Andy Taylor, Head of Environmental Services**

The Leader announced changes to Cabinet membership.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Walmsley and M Smith.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2026 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

An update from the 30th March Overview & Scrutiny Committee was provided.

7. FUNDING PROPOSAL – DIGITAL HUB

The Lead Member for Economic Development outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve a grant of up to £60,000 to Plus24 Marketing Limited to create a digital hub and co-working space. In addition to delegate authority to the relevant Officers and Lead Members to agree Heads of Terms.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- There would also be provisions for filming.
- The hub would help residents make connections and tackle loneliness for those working from home.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved a grant of up to £60,000 to Plus24 Marketing Limited for modifications, equipment and a procured partner to convert the ground floor of the Old Milk Depot,

Rawtenstall into a digital hub and co-working space for the financial year 2026/27.

2. Cabinet delegated authority to the Head of Legal and Governance, S151 Officer and Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Lead Members for Economic Development and Resources to agree the Heads of Terms for the Grant Funding Agreement with Plus24.

Reason for Decision:

To create a digital hub so that residents could benefit from a programme of skills and events whilst businesses could share their knowledge and experience with each other. The project would provide a base for collaboration and creativity to take place.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. ADOPTION OF ALTERATIONS AND EXTENSIONS TO RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

The Lead Member for Planning outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the updated SPD for use in the determination of planning applications and to delegate minor amendments to the relevant Officer and Lead Member.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the updated Alterations and Extensions to Residential Properties Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for use in the determination of all planning applications for alterations and extensions to residential properties.
2. Minor amendments to the SPD including formatting changes were delegated to the Head of Planning and Lead Member.

Reason for Decision:

To adopt the revised Supplementary Planning document following public consultation.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

9. REACTIVE REPAIRS FRAMEWORK TENDER

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the commencement of a tender process for a period of up to four years. They were also asked to delegate authority to the relevant Officer and Lead Member to accept the most advantageous tender and enter into the Framework Agreement(s) following the procurement process.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the commencement of a tender process for a Reactive Repairs Framework, for a period of up to four years.
2. Cabinet delegated authority to the Head of People and Policy, in consultation with the Lead Member, to accept the most advantageous tenders and enter into the Framework Agreement(s) following completion of the procurement process.

Reason for Decision:

The Council's framework agreement was at the end of its current term so it was necessary to tender for a new 4-year framework agreement.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT QUARTER 3 2025/26

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to consider and note the Council's performance during Quarter 3 2025/26.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- Street sweeping vehicles had been purchased and the impact would be reflected in Quarter 1 reporting.
- The LCC action around refugee support would not have an impact on the work the Council was doing as the funding was from central government.
- It was noted that the report covered Quarter 3 2025/26 so matters and positions may have moved on since.
- The report needed a direction of travel.
- The Council's response to food waste collections had been a huge success.
- Crisis and Resilience Funding had now been approved and arrangements were being put in place.
- Some Key Performance Indicators (KPI) needed to be reviewed to ensure they were achievable and realistic.
- Challenges around Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) would impact on delivery particularly around workforce retention.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet considered and noted the Council's performance for Quarter 3 2025/26.

Reason for Decision:

To note the overview of the Council's performance against the Valley Plan 2025/29 – Our Place, Our Plan.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

11. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Leader outlined the reasons for dealing with the matter with the exclusion of public and press.

Resolved:

That public and press be excluded from the following item of business under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 since the item involved the likely disclosure of exempt information under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

12. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT FALLBARN AVENUE

The Lead Member for Resources outlined the report.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the recommendations in the report.

Reason for Decision:

To approve the sale of land at Fallbarn Avenue.

The meeting concluded at 7.10pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE