

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 1st August 2007

**PRESENT: Councillor Ruddick (in the Chair)
Councillors Challinor, Essex and Graham**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive
Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive
Phil Seddon, Head of Financial Services
Bill Lawley, Interim Legal and Democratic Services Manager
Heather Moore, Committee and Member Services Manager**

**ALSO PRESENT: Councillors A. Barnes, Lamb and Sandiford
2 Members of the Public
2 Representatives from the Press**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Driver and Tickner.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th July 2007 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items to report.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Whitham, representing the Royal British Legion in Haslingden submitted several questions relating to Greenfield Memorial Gardens and the annual Remembrance Ceremony.

In response, Councillor Ruddick reported that the Council and the Mayoralty fully supported Remembrance Sunday and many Elected Members attended the services in their Wards.

Councillor A. Barnes indicated that Remembrance Sunday was part of the Council's Civic Responsibility and she stated that other areas in the Borough may have similar issues to Haslingden.

Councillor Ruddick indicated that he would arrange a meeting with Mr Whitham, together with the Head of Street Scene and Liveability and the Property Services Manager, to take the matter forward.

6. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Portfolio Holder for Regenerating and Promoting Rossendale presented the report of the Head of Planning, Legal and Democratic Services which outlined the Statement of Community Involvement.

The Portfolio Holder reported that the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) formed part of the Rossendale Local Development Framework (LDF) and set out the Council's commitment for involving the local communities in both the preparation of planning documents and the process of consideration of planning applications for proposed developments.

The Portfolio Holder informed the Cabinet that the SCI was submitted to the Secretary of State on 27th July 2006 for examination and a report was received by the Council on 30th April 2007 outlining a number of binding changes to be made.

Decision Made:

That Full Council be recommended to approve the Statement of Community Involvement as amended in accordance with the Planning Inspector's binding report and that it be adopted and published thereafter.

Reason for Decision:

The recommendations of the Inspector are binding and must be carried out in order that the Statement of Community Involvement can be taken forward.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

7. CONSULTATION ON AMBITION LANCASHIRE

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing presented the report of the Head of Community and Partnerships which outlined the proposed refresh of Ambition Lancashire, Lancashire's Community Strategy.

The Portfolio Holder reported that the Council had been invited to comment on Ambition Lancashire and she referred to the Member Development Session held on 26th July 2007 which considered the Strategy.

Members discussed how Lancashire's Community Strategy would link with Rossendale's Community Strategy and it was noted that the update of Rossendale's Community Strategy was running in parallel with Lancashire.

Decision Made:

That the Head of Community and Partnerships after consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing be given delegated authority to provide a response to the consultation based on the comments made at Cabinet and at the Member Development Session held on 26th July 2007.

Reason for Decision:

As part of Members' Community Leadership role it is important that the Council influences the Ambition Lancashire Strategy to ensure that Rossendale's views are considered at a county wide and sub regional level.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

8. COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CPA)

Councillor Ruddick, Leader of the Council presented the report of the Chief Executive which outlined the main findings of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) carried out by the Audit Commission in April 2007.

Councillor Ruddick informed the Cabinet that the Council had been categorised as "good" and that it had made significant improvements in all aspects of its operation since the original CPA inspection report was published in January 2004.

The Cabinet considered the full CPA report and Councillor Ruddick highlighted the key messages within the report.

The Chief Executive highlighted that the report referred to some areas for improvement and these would be incorporated into the Council's existing plans and work programmes to ensure continued progress and improvement.

Members extended their thanks to all Elected Members, Officers and Partner Organisations for their contribution in achieving the "good" rating.

Decision Made:

That the report be noted.

Reason for Decision:

The CPA marks an important milestone in the improvement journey of the Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

9. FINANCIAL MONITORING

The Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council presented the report of the Head of Financial Services which provided an update on the General Fund estimates for 2007/08, the Capital Programme and Treasury matters.

The Portfolio Holder reported that there was work to do in respect of capital receipts and he highlighted that a receipt from Greenvale Homes for £1,676,000 was due by the end of the year.

The Portfolio Holder informed Members that in respect of employment costs the 2007/08 figures had yet to be finalised.

The Portfolio Holder further reported on concessionary fares and he highlighted the potential pressure on the budget. He informed Members that the full impact on the budget was yet to be confirmed and definitive figures on usage would be available when Smart Cards were introduced in October. He highlighted that a report would be considered by the Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives to consider a collective approach.

Decision Made:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the further use of the Change Management Reserve as set out below be agreed:

Human Resources restructuring costs - £37k
Job Evaluation Pay Modelling - £15k

Reason for Decision:

To assist the Council in supporting its corporate priorities and to ensure the effective management of the Council's resources to enable the provision of value for money services.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Decision Made and Reason for Decision:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve disclosure of exempt information relating to both an individual and to the financial or business affairs of any particular person as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

11. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE: SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Head of Financial Services, the Interim Legal and Democratic Services Manager and the Committee and Member Services Manager left the meeting during consideration of this item.

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the Chief Executive which outlined proposed changes to the organisational structure of the Senior Management Team of the Council.

Decision Made:

That the recommendations as set out in the report be agreed

That Full Council be recommended to approve the proposals in relation to the Posts of Executive Director of Regulatory Services and the Head of Finance.

Reason for Decision:

The proposed changes will support the delivery of the Council's priorities.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

12. STREET SCENE OPERATIONS REORGANISATION

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the Head of Street Scene and Liveability which detailed the organisational structure of particular teams within Street Scene and Liveability and the proposed establishment of two posts.

Decision Made:

That the recommendations as set out in the report be agreed.

Reason for Decision:

The proposed structure is within the existing budgetary arrangements.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.45pm