

**MINUTES OF: THE CABINET**

**Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 3rd December 2008**

**PRESENT: Councillor Swain (in the Chair)  
Councillors Challinor, Essex, Graham, Smith and P. Steen**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive  
Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive  
Linda Fisher, Executive Director – Business  
Heather Moore, Committee and Member Services Manager  
Philip Mepham, Environmental Health Manager  
David Pearce, Senior Environmental Health Officer  
Sarah Blackwell, Trainee Solicitor**

**ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Aldred, A. Barnes, Cheetham, Farrington,  
Gledhill, Lamb, Nuttall, Robertson, Sandiford, Stansfield,  
Thorne and Wilson  
3 members of the public  
1 representative from the press**

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were required to be submitted.

**2. MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**3. URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS**

The Leader of the Council reported that there were no urgent items of business.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Members of the public raised questions and points to which the Leader of the Council responded:

- Lancashire Local Meetings
- Leisure Strategy – The Leader reported that Full Council would consider the full financial detail of options at a future meeting.

## **6. HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY 2008 - 2011**

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Neighbourhoods presented details of a proposed Health and Safety Enforcement Strategy.

The Portfolio Holder reported that the Strategy aimed to embed a culture of sensible but effective health and safety compliance. The Council was required to comply with a revised s18 Standard published by the Health and Safety Executive by 2011 and the Strategy described how the Council would contribute to protecting and improving health generally and reducing health inequalities.

In considering the report, the following matters were discussed:

- Consultation with organisations. It was recommended that Rossendale Transport should be included.
- Capacity to deliver the Strategy

### **Decision Made:**

That the Health and Safety Enforcement Strategy 2008-2011 be approved.

### **Reason for Decision:**

The Strategy will ensure that the Council complies with legislation and will help protect employees and the public from risks to health, safety and welfare.

### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

## **7. GRANTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Neighbourhoods provided an update on the delivery of Council grants to outside bodies.

The Leader of the Council referred to a representation from the Bureau Manager at the Citizens Advice Bureau regarding Legal Services Commission funding.

In considering the report the following matters were discussed:

- The inclusion of Lancashire Local Grants that have been awarded
- People Encouraging Enterprise in Rossendale (PEER)
- Feedback from organisations that have been awarded Neighbourhood Forum funding
- Whether an "Open Day" should be held to celebrate the work of third sector organisations and to communicate the availability of grants

### **Decisions Made:**

1. That subject to the Council's overall budget process, the Communities Team commence delivery of the actions detailed in Appendix 3.
2. That subject to the Council's budget setting process, the revised grants policy outlined in Appendix 4 be approved.
3. That from April 2009, all approved grants to third sector organisations, including Neighbourhood Forums grants, be administered by the Communities Team.
4. That grants awarded through Lancashire Local be included in the report to Council in March 2009 on the impact of Council grants 2008/09.

### **Reason for Decisions:**

Grants to third sector organisations account for a significant element of Council expenditure. The Council has a duty to ensure that it allocated funds in a responsible manner and that it has in place arrangements which allow for fair and equal treatment of all applicants.

### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

## **8. SMOKEFREE ROSSENDALE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2008 – 2011**

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Neighbourhoods presented the revised Smokefree Strategy for Rossendale, for the consideration of the Cabinet.

The Portfolio Holder reported that a Smokefree North West Summit was held in November and encouraged Local Authorities to further reduce smoking prevalence. The Strategy had been revised to include actions to eradicate tobacco related health inequalities as an urgent priority and to break the cycle of children and young people's addiction and exposure to tobacco.

In considering the report the following items were discussed:

- Working with schools to reduce the take up and prevalence of smoking amongst young people
- Litter problems associated with disposal of used cigarettes

### **Decision Made:**

That the revised Smokefree Rossendale Strategy be approved.

**Reason for Decision:**

The revised Strategy sets out actions on reducing tobacco use and reducing health inequalities.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

**9. PENNINE LANCASHIRE MULTI AREA AGREEMENT**

The Leader of the Council provided an update on the progress in developing a Multi Area Agreement (MAA) for Pennine Lancashire.

The Leader of the Council reported that a date for the formal sign off of the MAA had yet to be confirmed and he agreed to keep Members updated.

In considering the report, the following items were discussed:

- Governance and monitoring arrangements
- To hold a Member Development Session on the MAA
- Themes within the MAA
- Block allocation of grants
- The role of MPs in promoting the ambitions in the MAA

**Decision Made:**

That the report and the MAA for Pennine Lancashire be noted.

**Reason for Decision:**

The MAA for Pennine Lancashire provides a mechanism to strengthen delivery on the shared agenda for economic regeneration which is developing across the area.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

**10. LEISURE STRATEGY**

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Leisure provided an update on the current financial challenges in relation to leisure.

The Leader of the Council reported on a proposed change to the membership of the Cabinet which he would formally present to Full Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> December. He informed the meeting that Councillor Gledhill would assume the Portfolio for Leisure and Councillor Challinor would retain the Portfolio for Regeneration and he thanked Councillor Challinor for the work undertaken in his Portfolio.

In considering the report the following items were discussed:

- Managing the financial deficit
- Success of the Trust in achieving accreditation through the national QUEST accreditation scheme for Haslingden Sports Centre and multiple project lead including the adrenaline gateway development
- Potential funding opportunities being explored

**Decision Made:**

That a further report be presented to the Cabinet in January 2009 identifying proposals for managing the financial deficit and identifying options in relation to wet leisure provision.

**Reason for Decision:**

It is appropriate that options are brought forward to enable decisions to be considered as part of the Council's budget setting process.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

**11. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NEW MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources outlined proposals to adopt and implement the Information Commissioner's Model Publication Scheme to comply with obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Portfolio Holder reported that there was an upward trend in terms of requests made under the Freedom of Information Act.

**Decision Made:**

That Full Council be recommended to approve and adopt the Information Commissioner's model publication scheme and the Guide to Information detailing what information that the Council publishes in accordance with the Scheme.

**Reason for Decision:**

The Council must ensure that it adopts the new Model Publication Scheme by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 and publishes information in accordance with the Scheme.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

## **12. PRIDE IN ROSSENDALE UPDATE**

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services provided an update on the Pride in Rossendale initiative.

The Portfolio Holder reported that work had already commenced and further work was planned in 2009/2010. A Project Group comprising Members and Officers had been established to oversee the project, however as the project evolved the actions would be monitored via the Neighbourhood Forums. The Governance arrangements of the Working Group would be the subject of a separate report to Full Council.

In considering the report, the following items were discussed:

- Successful projects already completed
- Sustainability of the project
- Joint training programme of Officers and Police and Community Safety Officers (PCSOs)
- Grot Spot competition
- Knott Hill Playing Field
- Waterfoot Neighbourhood Office

### **Decision Made:**

That the programme as detailed in Section 6 of the report be approved and any further amendments be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services.

### **Reason for Decision:**

The project supports the successful delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Corporate Plan.

### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

## **13. HEALTH AND WELLBEING FUNDING UPDATE**

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Neighbourhoods provided an update on progress being made in relation to funds provided for the purpose of improving health and reducing health inequalities in Rossendale.

The Portfolio Holder reported that Rossendale had been identified as a Spearhead Authority for poor health and health inequalities and funding opportunities had occurred as a result of that status to enable extra work to be commissioned.

In considering the report the following items were discussed:

- Impact of funding
- Work already undertaken and work proposed to be undertaken
- Creating a more sustainable environment and healthier lifestyle
- Funding being targeted to specific groups

**Decision Made:**

That the progress being made in the use of the funding for health initiatives be noted.

**Reason for Decision:**

The funding aims to protect and improve health and enables people to take more responsibility for their own health and that of those for whom they provide care.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

**14. FINANCIAL MONITORING**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources provided an update on the General Fund estimates monitoring for 2008/09, the Capital Programme and Treasury matters.

The Portfolio Holder reported on challenges relating to the raising of capital receipts. He further reported that all projects for the 2008/09 capital property maintenance programme would be completed.

The Portfolio Holder reported on concessionary travel and based on the current information from Lancashire County Council a further cost above the current budget of c.£90k was forecast.

In considering the report the following items were discussed:

- Business rates
- High take-up of the Now Card
- Prompt payment of invoices to support businesses
- Waterfoot Neighbourhood Office

**Decision Made:**

That the report be noted.

**Reason for Decision:**

It is important to regularly monitor the Council's financial position to deal with potential emerging issues and opportunities.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

**15. CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2011 – PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources provided information on indicators not achieving targeted levels of performance together with progress on implementing the actions detailed in the Council's Corporate Plan.

The Portfolio Holder reported that 81% of performance indicators were on or above target for Quarter 2 and 8% were below target for the same period.

In respect of the Corporate Plan, 80% of actions were on track to be delivered.

The Chair of the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee provided an update on the Committee's work. She was pleased to report that last time Scrutiny had considered the performance information there had been no slippage in performance requiring any Cabinet Member and Head of Service to be called to the next meeting.

**Decision Made:**

That the levels of performance detailed in the report be noted.

**Reason for Decision:**

It is important to regularly monitor performance of the Council to ensure that it continues to improve and meet the targets.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

**The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 9.10pm**

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CHAIR