

**MINUTES OF: THE CABINET**

**Date of Meeting: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Present: Councillor A Barnes (in the Chair)  
Councillors Jackson, Lamb, MacNae, Marriott and  
Serridge**

**In Attendance: Mrs H Lockwood, Chief Executive  
Mr P Seddon, Head of Finance and Property Services  
Ms S Roxborough, Head of Legal and Democratic  
Services  
Mr S Stray, Planning Manager  
Mrs J Cook, Committee Officer**

**Also Present: Councillors Cheetham, Crawforth, Essex, Gill, Graham,  
Kenyon, McInnes, Nuttall, Oakes, Pilling and Robertson**

**5 members of the public  
1 member of the press**

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence, all Cabinet Members were present.

The Leader of the Council noted that Councillor Wilkinson was no longer a member of the Cabinet.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 be approved as a correct record.

**3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

There were no urgent items of business.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Leader of the Council stated that two members of the public had given advance notice of their intention to speak and that these questions would be taken first.

Mrs Edith Freeman asked a question regarding Haslingden Swimming Pool in respect of the Financial Monitoring Report 211/12 – earmarked reserves. Mrs

Freeman noted that previous surveys of the pool had indicated that 6-monthly monitoring of the condition of the pool and the roof was required and asked for assurance that the Council would be commissioning an 'in depth' condition report as recommended by the 2008 and 2011 surveys and requested timescales. In addition, Mrs Freeman enquired whether a formal inspection plan, incorporating the 6 monthly checks mentioned in the reports, had been created, when would the checks be implemented and would they be carried out by appropriately qualified personnel? Concerns were also raised as to whether the inspections of the pool had identified purely cosmetic works.

The Leader of the Council replied that on 13<sup>th</sup> October, the Chief Executive and officers from the Council's Property Services Team had met with the Rossendale Leisure Trust's General Manager and Pool Manager on site, to inspect the pool. Immediate repairs as identified by the latest report had previously been implemented. The site inspection had identified the following key areas for refurbishment:

- Pool side: painting, plastering, door frames and lighting
- Cleaning and painting main public entrance
- Sauna changing room chairs

It was clarified that the Council are currently waiting for cost estimates on this work and these are expected to be received early next week. The Leader stated that she had re-read the two reports and could not see any reference to a further "in-depth" condition report, as the two reports by their nature were in-depth. The Council would, however, be implementing an ongoing inspection regime as recommended in the latest report. It was noted that the checks of the pool would be carried out by a team consisting of Leisure Trust and Council Officers, along with a representative from 'Spring' who had carried out the inspections. The Leader confirmed that she was happy with the level of inspections carried out so far.

Mrs Vivienne Smith asked a question regarding Haslingden Pool and asked for assurances that should there be a major failure of equipment such as the tank or a leak in the tank, would this be repaired, replaced or would the pool be closed?

The Leader of the Council responded that should the plant equipment fail then costings would be obtained and that a decision would be taken should this scenario arise. It was confirmed that there was funding available in the capital programme that may be used for scenarios such as this.

Mrs Kathy Fishwick asked a question regarding Rossendale Museum. At a meeting of the Museums Advisory Committee it had been confirmed that the Council had cut 15% of its funding to the Museum and that Lancashire County Council had put forward a proposal to close the Museum in the winter months. Mrs Fishwick enquired which budget the funding came out of, what it contributed towards in the museum and who had made the decision.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that a 15% reduction had been agreed, however it was thought that this would come from 'back office' savings, and nothing

that would affect the front-line services. The Leader of the Council agreed to clarify this matter with Lancashire County Council and undertook to keep the Museum's Advisory Group updated.

## **6. CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS, BOUNDARY REVIEWS AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS PLANS**

6.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration introduced the report and noted that this was the next batch of Conservation Area Appraisals for approval, consisting of Fallbarn, Irwell Vale, Chatterton/Strongstry and Cloughfold.

6.2 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following points were raised:-

- The positive aspects of regeneration, such as bringing neglected allotments back into use through projects such as Incredible Edible. It was noted that this could be considered.
- Concerns were raised regarding a major landowner in Lumb and it was requested that Lumb be included in future Conservation Area Appraisals. Concerns were also raised regarding flooding in Strongstry. The Planning Manager stated that there was fixed funding for the Conservation project from English Heritage, however Lumb and areas such as Haslingden could be considered.

### **Resolved:**

1. That the Conservation Area Character Appraisals for the Conservation Areas of Fallbarn, Irwell Vale, Chatterton/Strongstry and Cloughfold, be adopted as material considerations for development control purposes with effect from 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011.
2. That authorisation be given for the recommended actions within the related Management Proposals Plans to be developed, and where necessary, brought back to Council for specific approval for their incremental implementation as resources allow, including the re-designation of Conservation Area boundaries where these are recommended within these documents.
3. That the consultation comments of Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee are taken into consideration.
4. That all future minor amendments to the Appraisals and Management Proposals Plans are delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

### **Reason for Decision**

To ensure that each designated conservation area has an up-to-date appraisals, that its boundaries are regularly reviewed and that the statutory duty to prepare Management Proposals is complied with.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None

## **7. FINANCIAL MONITORING 2011/12**

- 7.1 The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources introduced the report and noted that the general fund was on-target with a favourable variance of £100k.
- 7.2 The Portfolio Holder also discussed Item 8 – Performance Report Q1 at this point in the meeting and stated that the finances of the Council were affected by the general economic position. This, in turn, had had an affect on the Council’s ability to meet some of its targets, particularly income from the Business Centre and Planning income.
- 7.3 The Portfolio Holder noted the effects of inflation and the high demand for wages. It was noted that the Council needed to remain aware of this matter.
- 7.3 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-
- Concerns were raised regarding savings made on staffing and the additional pressures that this may have on remaining staff.
  - It was noted that a VAT overpayment of £777k had been reclaimed. This was in respect of leisure coaching and the money received would be considered against the Council’s priorities.
  - Concerns were raised that the renovation of Clare House was delayed and resulting in homeless young people being housed in temporary accommodation at a cost to the Council. It was noted that the Council had not been notified of any delays and the December completion date was still on track. The Leader of the Council undertook to keep Councillor Essex updated on this matter.
  - A status update was requested with regard to the Vocational Training Centre at Stubbylee. It was noted that some heritage issues were being resolved with full occupancy expected for the September 2012 intake of students. Regular meetings were being held by the Portfolio Holder and separate meetings by the Chief Executive with the College and the Council’s Planning Team to ensure completion of the project.

### **Resolved:**

1. That the report is noted.

### **Reason for Decision**

To ensure the continued management of the Council’s finances.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None

## **8. INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 1 (APRIL TO JUNE 2011)**

- 8.1 The Leader of the Council noted that the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources had outlined this report at Item 7.

8.2 Members were invited to comment on the report; no comments were made.

**Resolved:**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Cabinet continues to monitor performance of those indicators that are under-achieving targeted levels of performance and may wish to request further information upon this from the relevant Head of Service.

**Reason for Decision**

To continue to monitor Council performance against its targets.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None

**9. BRIBERY ACT 2010**

9.1 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services introduced the report which informed Members of the Bribery Act which had come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 and introduced the Anti-Bribery Policy. The Act had defined 4 offences of Bribery; bribery of another person, accepting a bribe, bribing a foreign official and failure of a commercial organisation to prevent bribery. The Policy had been based upon the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting Model (CIPFA). It was noted that the Act only dealt with bribery and not other forms of corruption and/or white collar crime.

9.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services noted that the Policy would sit alongside the current safeguards and good governance in place, such as the Standards Committee, Risk Management Policies and Procedures, Registers of Gifts, Hospitality and Entertainment, etc. The Policy had been presented to the Management Team in July 2011 and had been taken to the JCC Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011. Consultation had been carried out with Council officers.

9.3 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services noted that a training session had been carried out for Officers in October 2011. A session for Members would be held in February 2012.

9.2 Members were invited to comment on the report; however no comments were made.

**Resolved:**

1. That the Anti-Bribery Policy and Procedure be approved.
2. That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be asked to review the existing policies and procedures and amend as necessary, in consultation with the Director of Business, to comply with the new legislation.
3. That all future minor amendments to the Policy are delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

**Reason for Decision**

To ensure that the Council has up-to-date provisions in place in line with the Bribery Act 2010.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None

**The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.10pm**

\_\_\_\_\_ CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_ DATE