

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Thursday 14th February 2013

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

**In Attendance: Mrs H Lockwood, Chief Executive
Mr S Sugarman, Director of Business (in part)
Mr P Seddon, Head of Finance and Property Services (in
part)
Mrs J Cook, Committee Officer**

**Also Present: Councillors Aldred, Cheetham, Farrington, Morris,
Robertson and Sandiford**

**2 members of the public
2 member of the press**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 All Cabinet members were present.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2012 be approved as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

3.1 There were no urgent items of business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 The Leader of the Council stated that public questions could only be asked at this point in the meeting.

5.2 Mr Leonard Entwistle thanked officers for their notification of the cancellation of the previous night's meeting. He raised three points regarding the 0% increase in council tax and raised concerns regarding the proposed increase by the Police Authority. Mr Entwistle asked whether the number of Councillors would be reviewed and whether the authority recorded a return in its investments for property. The Leader of the Council stated that it had been a tough decision to keep a 0% increase and that she could not comment on any proposed increases by the Police

Authority, however it was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner had stated that he was keen to maintain frontline policing. She clarified that a review of councillors could only be carried out by the Boundary Commission. The Head of Finance and Property Services clarified that the return on investments was reported monthly and that a % return on holding values was not reported, but that a business case was made for the return on property investments/income.

5.3 Mrs Freeman asked what the actual number of respondents was on the Budget Consultation. The Head of Finance and Property Services stated that the full consultation response would be published with the papers for Full Council the following week, however it was approximately 100.

6. 2013/14 CORPORATE PRIORITIES, BUDGET COUNCIL TAX AND THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

6.1 The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources introduced the report which detailed the proposed budget for 2013/14 and the re-focussed corporate priorities. He noted that the budget was diminishing in this area and listed other areas where the settlement from the Government appeared to have not diminished, and that the proper place for debate on this item was Full Council.

6.2 The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources stated that two additional recommendations would be added, being a small alteration to the pest control fees and charges and the Rawtenstall bus terminal departure charges.

6.3 The Leader of the Council thanked officers for their time and effort in putting the report together and expressed concerns about the settlement received from the Government and the current economic climate.

6.4 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-

- It was noted that many of the suggestions in the Government's '50 ways to save' information did not apply to Rossendale Borough Council.
- Concerns were expressed about the future abilities of district councils to carry out discretionary services.
- It was noted that funding was being sought from other sources such as the Bacup THI bid and the Sports Council.
- It was noted that many changes in benefits would come into place on 6th April 2013.
- It was noted that no changes had been made to discretionary rate relief for charities and that the council only received £253.40 from band D properties.
- It was noted that charities and groups within the borough achieved great things with their resources.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet recommends to Council the following corporate priorities:-
 - **Regenerating Rossendale:** This priority focuses on regeneration in its broadest sense, so it means supporting communities that get on well

- together, attracting investment, promoting Rossendale, as well as working as an enabler to promote the physical regeneration of Rossendale.
- **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.
 - **Clean Green Rossendale:** This priority focuses on clean streets and town centres and well managed open spaces, whilst recognising that the Council has to work with communities and as a partner to deliver this ambition.
2. That the Cabinet recommends to Council the additional costs for 2013/14 as noted in para' 5.3 of the committee report.
 3. That the Cabinet recommends to Council the additional savings for 2013/14 as noted in para' 5.4.
 4. That Cabinet recommends to Council the use of £386,000 from the Transitional Reserve for 2013/14.
 5. As a consequence of the above the Cabinet recommends to Council a net revenue budget for 2013/14 of £9,331,000.
 6. That the Cabinet recommend to Council a 0% increase in Council Tax and that the Band D equivalent for 2013/14 remains at £253.40.
 7. That the Head of Finance and Property Services be instructed to prepare the technical resolutions necessary to give effect to these proposals.
 8. That Cabinet recommends no changes to the current discretionary rate relief arrangements given to registered charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs.
 9. That Cabinet recommends to Council the changes to Fees and Charges as noted in Appendix 2.
 10. That Cabinet recommends to Council the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the revised Members' Allowances Scheme for 2013/14 (Appendix 3).
 11. That the weekday pest control fees be set at £30.00 and any further changes to pest control fees and charges required as part of contract negotiations be delegated to the Director of Customers and Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources.
 12. That the Rawtenstall Bus Terminal departure charges increase in line with inflation (2.6%) from 31p to 31.8p.

Reason for Decision

To enable the Council to deliver its budget.

Alternative Options Considered

None

7. CAPITAL RESOURCES 2013-2016 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/14

- 7.1 The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources introduced the report and noted that the capital programme would be carried out in line with the Stock Condition Survey and available resources from capital receipts.
- 7.2 Members were invited to comment on the report; no comments were made.

Resolved:

1. That Members consider the potential resources for 2013/14 and the medium term.
2. That Members approve the affordable capital programme for 2013/14 as set out in Appendix 1 of the committee report.
3. That Members consider additional capital programme requirements, especially the results of the recent Stock Condition Survey, in order to determine a priority list for further investment should additional resources materialise during 2013/14.
4. That members delegate the allocation of any additional resources up to £400k during 2012/14 to the Head of Finance and the Portfolio Holder, having regard to the Stock Condition Survey, the desired programme (as per Appendix 1 of the committee report) and Capital receipts available. Any additional allocations to be reported to Members via the Council's regular financial monitoring framework.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the correct resources are available.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (UPDATES FOR 2013/14)

- 8.1 The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources introduced the report and noted that there was a requirement to update the strategy and practices annually.
- 8.2 Members were invited to comment on the report; no comments were made.

Resolved:

That the Treasury Management Strategy and Statement of Treasury Management Practices are approved.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the documents meet the requirements of the current Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

Alternative Options Considered

None

9. RECOMMENDATION FROM BACUP NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM ON THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FROM THE SALE OF BACUP LEISURE HALL

- 9.1 The Portfolio Holder for Operational Services and Planning introduced the report and stated that this was a good opportunity for additional funding to be brought into the area, and would assist with the THI bid.
- 9.2 The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure outlined the Bacup THI bid and stated that close working and support from Lancashire County Council was required for this project.

- 9.3 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-
- It was noted that 'Owd Bacup Week' was taking place the following week and this would be a good opportunity for residents to provide feedback and consultation.
 - The THI bid was a fantastic opportunity that would improve perceptions of the town.
 - Discussion took place on satellite dishes within a conservation area.

Resolved:

That the £50,000 remaining from the sale of Bacup Leisure Hall be allocated towards the match funding for the Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative bid.

Reason for Decision

To support the Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative bid.

Alternative Options Considered

None

10. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO CHALLENGE POLICY

- 10.1 The Leader of the Council outlined the Policy which was a part of a suite of new community rights which had arisen out of the Localism Act. The Policy was an opportunity for local groups to express interest in taking over local services. The Policy was a framework under which to consider any such approaches.
- 10.2 Members were invited to comment on the report; no comments were made.

Resolved:

1. That the Community Right to Challenge Policy and supporting appendices be approved for implementation.
2. That the Director of Business be appointed as outlined at paragraph 5.7 of the report.
3. That all future minor amendments to the Policy be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council has an efficient and effective process in place to deal with expressions of interest under the Community Right to Challenge.

Alternative Options Considered

None

11. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER POLICY

- 11.1 The Leader of the Council introduced the report which was required to be adopted following the Localism Act. The Policy gave a framework under which the Council could consider requests to transfer assets to community groups to take on and run.

- 11.2 The Leader of the Council noted that this approach was already in place within Rossendale.
- 11.3 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-
- It was noted that this was ongoing in Rossendale already, and was an opportunity for social enterprises.
 - It was noted that the Council required a layer of resources to administer this policy.
 - Discussion took place on public conveniences and the Leader of the Council noted that all ideas would be considered.

Resolved:

1. That the Community Asset Transfer Policy and supporting appendices be approved for implementation.
2. That all future minor amendments to the policy be delegated to the Director of Business and the Head of Finance and Property Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder. This includes the designated authority to pursue associated actions in relation to completing the Community Asset Transfer process as appropriate.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council has an efficient and effective process in place to deal with expressions of interest for a community asset transfer.

Alternative Options Considered

None

12. FLYPOSTING POLICY

- 12.1 The Portfolio Holder for Customers Legal and Licensing introduced the report which was an update on the existing policy. It was noted that the Policy had been to Policy Overview and Scrutiny and that no changes had been recommended.
- 12.2 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-
- Reference was made to a letter in the press from a member of the public and that this issue was being addressed.

Resolved

1. That the Flyposting Policy be adopted.
2. That any future minor amendments and updates to the policy be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Reason for decision

To ensure that the Council has an up-to-date Flyposting Policy in place.

Alternative Options Considered

None

13. FINANCIAL MONITORING 2012/13

13.1 The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources introduced the report and noted that there was a favourable variance of 4% on the budget.

13.2 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-

- The Portfolio Holder for Customers, Legal and Licensing clarified that although court costs for non-collection had gone down, this was due to the fact that arrangements for payment were often being made prior to any court case.

Resolved

That the contents of the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

To continue robust monitoring of the council's finances.

Alternative Options Considered

None

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm and closed at 6.15pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE