

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 23rd October 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
Ms F Meechan, Director of Customers and Communities
Mr P Seddon, Head of Finance and Property Services
Miss M Hargreaves, Committee and Member Services
Officer**

**Also Present: Councillors Essex, Farrington, Morris, Pilling and D. Smith
2 members of the public
1 members 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 18th September 2013 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 No declarations of interest were made.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 Mr Leonard Entwistle asked three questions in relation to items on the agenda:

- In relation to the grants review and leisure.
- With regard to the CCTV code of practice.
- In relation to the estate management report, how does RBC dispose of assets and whether the disposals were all completed in the same method.

The Leader of the Council responded to Mr Entwistle stating that savings for leisure would not fall in the remit of the grants review and also clarified that there had recently been a £137,000 saving on the closure of Haslingden Pool.

The Leader of the Council confirmed she would respond in writing in relation to the question relating to CCTV signage.

In relation to the query regarding disposal of assets The Leader of the Council confirmed that the council had a standard approach to sale/leasing of assets.

6. GRANTS REVIEW (ROSSENDALE COUNCIL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM GRANTS)

- 6.1 The Leader of the Council outlined the report which was to update members on the outcome of consultation around the future of the Rossendale Council and Neighbourhood Forum Grants and to make recommendations for the future approach.
- 6.2 The Portfolio Holder noted that the focus on funding remained on the allocation of £60,000 for the provision of grants for services to facilitate financial inclusion in Rossendale such as CAB/ Domestic Violence. It was also noted that these services needed to remain to offer support to residents within Rossendale. It was noted the impact on those organisations who previously had received grants and the importance of signposting other grant opportunities.
- 6.3 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-
- By providing this support there would be potential to bring money into the borough
 - Investing money and saving resources
 - Organising of big lottery briefing sessions, getting organisations working together and sourcing other external funding
 - If the Council would have a body of staff to be able to guide/assist people

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet acknowledges and recognises the consultation and feedback received in relation to grant allocation highlighting potential negative and positive impacts.
2. That Cabinet requests Full Council to support the allocation of £6,000 per annum to LCC to contribute to the commissioning of Domestic Abuse support and prevention services in Rossendale.
3. That Cabinet requests Full Council supports the allocation of £60,000 for the provision of grants for services to facilitate financial inclusion in Rossendale and that this be reviewed annually as part of the annual budget setting process to reflect the serious financial pressures the Council is experiencing.
4. That Cabinet requests that Full Council agrees that the previous grant allocation process be adapted to support the allocation of target funding to support financial inclusion services.

5. That Cabinet recommends to Full Council the existing general grant pot of £115,650 concludes in March 2014 and that all recipients be contacted confirming that there will be no general grant allocation beyond that.
6. That Cabinet recommends to Full Council that a total of £20,000 be allocated to support the continuation of neighbourhood forum grants and that this be funded via Director's reserves and reviewed annually as part of the annual budget setting process.
7. All future minor amendments to the grants process to be delegated to the Director of Customers and Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

To enable to council to remain focused on identifying and delivering the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Alternative Options Considered

None

7. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID: ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 7.1 The Leader of the Council outlined the report which was to seek approval for the proposed policy and process to manage the Community Right to Bid: Assets of Community Value provision as set out in the Localism Act 2011. This sets policy sets out the proposed local arrangements for review and decision making of community right to bid, in line with the regulations.
- 7.2 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-
 - Directing interested bodies and giving advice/support to gain alternative funding

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet considers the content of this report, policy and guidance documents detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 and 3 in relation to the proposed Community Right to Bid process, and approve for implementation.
2. That to Cabinet delegate authority to officers to process the Community Right to Bid nominations, claims and appeals as detailed in the Community Right to Bid Policy.
3. That Cabinet agree the establishment of Consultation Working Group as detailed at Appendix 2, and to deal with Community Right to Bid nominations as well as act as a wider member consultation reference group.
4. That Cabinet agree that all future minor amendments to the policy and guidance to be delegated to the Director for Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

To enable to council to ensure it has an efficient and effective process in place.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. CCTV CODE OF PRACTICE

8.1 The Leader of the Council outlined the report which was to outline the Council's CCTV Code of Practice and the reason it has been developed and to request that Cabinet approve the Rossendale Borough Council CCTV Code of Practice for implementation.

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

- If confidence could be given that the CCTV would be working and it was being used for the purpose stated within the report
- If a the council had a maintenance contract for the cameras
- Police were satisfied with report

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approve the Rossendale Borough Council CCTV Code of Practice for implementation.
2. That all future minor amendments to the Code of Practice to be delegated to the Manager of the CCTV system in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

To accord with the Councils statutory requirements.

Alternative Options Considered

None

9. ESTATE MANAGEMENT

9.1 The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources outlined the report which was to update members on the demolition of the Town Hall Annex, approve and consider the temporary suspension of the Council's PLR scheme and approve the disposal of the Haslingden pool site.

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

- Suggestion of skate park on the site of the One Stop Shop - cost would be minimal
- Good overall recommendations
- Consultation for Haslingden residents for future use of pool site
- Money from Haslingden Pool be regenerated back into Haslingden
- Concerns of potential supermarket at Haslingden Pool site

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet noted the progress to date on the demolition of the Rawtenstall ex-Town Hall Annex.

2. That the Cabinet approve the temporary suspension of the Purchase, Lease, Rental (PLR) scheme.
3. That the Cabinet approve the recommendations of paragraph 5.3.6 regarding the disposal of the Haslingden pool site and potentially the adjoining garages.

Reason for Decision

To enable to council to remain focused on identifying and delivering the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Alternative Options Considered

None

10. FINANCIAL MONITORING 2013/14 QUARTER ONE

- 10.1 The Portfolio Holder for Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources introduced the report which provided members with an update on the final financial monitoring period of 2013/14 as at the end of September 2013. It was noted that a comment had been raised in relation to Section 106 monies not being spent. It was clarified that on page 32 of the financial report, £540,000 had been allocated for projects within Rossendale, and specific projects had been earmarked within the Haslingden area.
- 10.2 The Leader of the Council noted at point 5.2.4 of the report savings in relation to Leisure and the working relationship with Rossendale Leisure Trust
- 10.3 Members were invited to comment on the report and the following comments were made:-
 - Reserves increasing
 - £5,500 I.T costs - if these were recurring or one off costs- it was clarified these were one off costs

Resolved:

That the contents of the report are noted.

Reason for Decision

To continue robust monitoring of the council's finances.

Alternative Options Considered

None

11. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from consideration of the following items of business under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Part 1, Paragraphs 1 and 6.

12. **SALE OF LAND (BACUP)**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources introduced the report and asked for Member approval of the recommendations contained therein.

Resolved:

1. That the recommendations detailed in the report be approved.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council complies with its corporate priorities in regenerating Rossendale.

Alternative Options Considered

None

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.10pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE