

MINUTES OF: THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 26th April 2006

**PRESENT: Councillor Ruddick (in the Chair)
Councillors Challinor, Driver, Farquharson, Graham and Ormerod**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive
George Graham, Executive Director of Resources
Linda Fisher, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Heather Moore, Committee Services Manager**

**ALSO PRESENT: Councillors A. Barnes, D. Barnes, L. Barnes, Crosta,
Entwistle, Hancock, Sandiford, H. Steen and P.Steen
2 Representatives from the Press
2 members of the public**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items of business.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

4. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

5. HEADS OF TERMS, VALLEY CENTRE

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration presented the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which outlined the progress made in agreeing in detail the Heads of Terms in relation to the redevelopment of the Valley Centre.

The meeting discussed a number of issues in detail as outlined below.

- Legal implications
- Financial considerations
- Scheme content and design
- Risk management

Decisions Made:

1. That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to sign the Heads of Terms as outlined in the report.
2. That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to negotiate and complete the Development Agreement on the basis of the principles outlined within the Heads of Terms Agreement.
3. That those issues subject to negotiation be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

Reason for Decisions:

The redevelopment of the Town Centre is a Corporate Priority and the signing of the Heads of Terms Agreement marks an important step towards its achievement.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In response to an enquiry about the introduction of manual street sweepers in the Borough the Leader of the Council confirmed that this initiative was being introduced in order to positively impact on the environment throughout the Borough.

7. UPDATE ON THE VALLEY CENTRE

The Leader of the Council reported that the redevelopment of the Valley Centre was an important element of regeneration for Rawtenstall. He informed the meeting that the project was one of the Council's corporate priorities and by signing the Heads of Terms Agreement the Council was closer to achieving that priority.

The Leader of the Council reported on a number of proposals to engage local people. A unit within the Valley Centre would be opened to give people the opportunity to view the plans and to provide feedback. Further, a competition would be organised to name the development.

In response to an enquiry from Connexions in respect of consultation, the Chief Executive agreed to meet separately to take this forward.

In response to an enquiry regarding Post Office provision within the town centre, the Leader of the Council reported that the Council did not have direct control of the matter as this was a commercial company.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.45pm)