MINUTES OF: **THE CABINET**

Date of Meeting: **Wednesday 14th March 2018**

Present: **Councillor Lamb (Chair)**
Councillors Ashworth, MacNae, Oakes and Walmsley

In Attendance: **Mr S Sugarman, Chief Executive**
Mrs S Plum, Director of Communities
Ms C Burns, Director of Economic Development
Mrs C Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer
Mrs N Hopkins, Planning Manager
Miss G Ashton, Committee and Member Services Officer

Also Present: **Councillors Haworth, Robertson, Serridge and Stansfield**
1 member of the press
2 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies were received from Councillor A Barnes, Leader of the Council.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved:
That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

3.1 There were no urgent items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 There were no public questions.

6. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID POLICY AND GUIDANCE REVIEW

6.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Services outlined the report. Minor amendments had been made to the Policy and Guidance document including changes to post titles, contacts, some re-wording and re-formatting. Sample forms had been removed and flowcharts updated. It was proposed that the Monitoring Officer would make decisions on nominations to speed up the process.

6.2 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:

- The amendments were supported.

- It was agreed that the Monitoring Officer should make the decision on nominations as there was no flexibility with the criteria anyway.

6.3 There were no comments from other Elected Members.

Resolved:

1. That the amendments to policy and guidance for the Community right to Bid process was agreed which related to:
    - Minor amendments including re-wording, post titles, contacts and formatting.
    - Removal of the sample forms and updates to the flowcharts.
    - Process amendments including future nomination decisions.
2. That all future minor amendments to the policy and guidance be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

To ensure the Council had an efficient and effective process in place to deal with nominations and associated processes under Community Right to Bid introduced by the Localism Act 2011. The revised policy and guidance would be the Council's formal approach to this process.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

7. NEIGHBOUROOD FORUMS – CHANGES FROM APRIL 2018

7.1 The Portfolio Holder for Health and Housing outlined the report which informed of the re-launch of Neighbourhood Forums as 'Community Partnerships' from June 2018. The focus would move from the neighbourhood plan to health and the wider community. The partnerships would be more community led but would be supported by Rossendale Borough Council Communities Team. £15,000 was to be allocated from the Living Well Living Better budget to supplement the Neighbourhood Forum grants for one year.

7.2 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:

- It was positive that additional monies were available for communities.
- Strengthening forums was welcomed. It was an important part of community engagement.
- Investing in communities and supporting projects enabled communities to be proactive.
- Partnerships could request funding for projects under £1,000.
- Re-naming the forums was welcomed.
- Training regarding finances and how they would work was needed.

7.3 In response to questions asked, the meeting were advised that any unspent monies would be carried over and that the money would be split pro rata between the four partnerships.

Resolved:

1. That changes to Neighbourhood Forum arrangements and Neighbourhood Forum Grants were approved from April 2018.
2. That £15,000 be allocated from the Living Well Living Better budget to supplement the Neighbourhood Forum grants for one year.
3. That all future minor amendments to the Neighbourhood Forums be delegated to the Director of Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

Neighbourhood Forums continued to play an important role as a mechanism for the Council to engage with local groups and residents and for residents to influence service delivery. In the current economic climate, working effectively with local communities and empowering them to take ownership of local issues and solutions was key. The proposed changes would enable the Neighbourhood Forums to refocus as Community Partnerships, identifying and addressing local issues. The additional funding would provide a boost to the Forums, supporting them to do things for themselves, whilst providing a legacy from the Living Well Living Better project and embedding its aims.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE – UPDATE REPORT MARCH 2018

8.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure outlined the main points from the report. A lot of work was taking place on Economic Development and a strategy had been drafted. An event was to take place at Whitworth Civic Hall to draw business investment into the Valley. Work was also taking place with employers to encourage unemployed residents into work. Rossendale was being promoted to businesses and visitors and work was taking place with East Lancashire Railway.

Phase 1 of Spinning Point was moving forward. The Bus Station and the Town Hall would be completed this year. It was noted that Phase 1 of Spinning Point had won an award at the North West RTPI awards ceremony. The team had been working hard on achieving good developments for the area and were robust with planning applications.

Phase 2 of Spinning Point was in the planning stage and following some changes was now being supported by Historic England.

Work was currently being undertaken on asset management and it was hoped all the units on Kay Street would soon be let.

8.2 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:

- Was the value amount on page 5 of the report correct.
- Being proactive with Economic Development was to be encouraged taking into account the Council's reducing budget.

- A proactive approach was needed to generate income from the Council's assets.
- Phase 2 of Spinning Point was good for regeneration.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the £0 figure was correct. A good deal had been achieved.

8.3 In response to questions/comments raised, the Portfolio Holder advised that Rawtenstall Chamber of Commerce now recognised that business usage and interest was needed before Stage 2 of Spinning Point could commence. There were issues around car parking and traffic management but this could not be agreed until usage and footfall was agreed. Regular dialogue was taking place with the Chamber.

It was noted that the Council in Cheshire had taken over development of the shopping precinct from a developer and had progressed down a speculative development route which would not be the case with Spinning Point. Rossendale Council would ensure sufficient pre-let agreements were in place before the development was built.

Resolved:

1. That members noted the contents of the report.

Reason for Decision

For members to note progress made on a selection of Economic Development Directorate projects.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

9. EXPLORE THE POTENTIAL OF THE COMPULSARY PURCHASE OF WATERSIDE MILL, BACUP

9.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Services outlined the report which sought authorisation for the Planning Manager to commence the process of the compulsory purchase of Waterside Mill, Bacup. Redevelopment of this long term vacant site would be of benefit to the area. At this stage authorisation was sought to explore the potential of a CPO and in the event a CPO was justified a full report would be taken to Full Council due to the extent of the costs involved.

9.2 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:

- This was a positive step which would contribute to the regeneration of Bacup.
- Any plans to redevelop the Mill were supported.
- Heritage organisations wanted to keep the Mill but not provide funding.
- Bacup Business Association would welcome the plans.

9.3 There were no comments from other Elected Members.

Resolved:

1. That the Planning Manager be authorised to commence the process of the compulsory purchase (CPO) under Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act of Waterside Mill, Bacup to secure the redevelopment of this long term vacant site for social, economic & environmental benefits to the area.
2. That the Planning Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and the Commercial Asset Manager be authorised to agree terms for the acquisition of the property in this report by agreement as an alternative to compulsory purchase in accordance with the terms of delegation.

Reason for Decision

The building had been vacant and in a state of disrepair for over 20 years and it was considered that without intervention by the Council through acquisition by agreement or CPO the building would remain vacant, continue to deteriorate, attract anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and arson, all of which cause fear in local residents, resulting in declining neighbourhoods. This would also have a negative impact of the Conservation Area and the work being undertaken on the THI project.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

10. PLR REVIEW

10.1 The Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services outlined the report which aimed to help residents with the purchase, lease or rent of small parcels of Council owned land. The revised scheme would make the process easier for residents, help with the Council's cost recovery and reduce speculative applications. Applications approved by the Commercial Asset Manager would be forwarded to the Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer, Portfolio Holders and Ward Councillors as a formal consultation.

10.2 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:

- The revised Purchase Lease Rental Scheme was good.

10.3 There were no comments from other Elected Members.

Resolved:

1. That members recommended the adoption of the revised Purchase Lease Rental Scheme which implemented the recommendations stemming from the work undertaken by the task and finish group.
2. That members approved the revised scale fees in Annex B, to be effective from 1st April 2018.
3. That the Commercial Asset Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and the S151 officer be authorised to approve any minor changes to the scheme including the annual revision of fees.

Reason for Decision
Changes to the existing PLR scheme were necessary to protect the Council's longer term interests in property assets and reduce the number of speculative applications currently being dealt with.

The changes suggested would not only allow the Council to better cover the costs which it incurred in relation to the scheme while continuing to raise resources through reactive disposals where appropriate. They would provide a framework for the Council to measure successes as well as allowing the Council to deliver a better service for individuals looking to purchase land.

Alternative Options Considered:
None.

11. UPGRADING CCTV ACROSS ROSSENDALE

11.1 The Portfolio Holder for Operations outlined the report as historically this had come under her remit. Liaison had taken place with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Council's Locality Manager to ensure the right equipment was installed in the most appropriate places. In future this would come under the remit of the Portfolio Holder for Health & Housing.

11.2 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:

- Installation of upgraded CCTV equipment was good news and would be welcomed by businesses.
- Residents, shoppers and businesses needed to feel safe.
- The Portfolio Holder for Operations instigated the initiative following a request at a Neighbourhood Forum meeting.
- When public bodies had money they could work together.
- It had taken some time to get to this stage but Rossendale would have a good CCTV system.

11.3 There were no comments from other Elected Members.

Resolved:

1. That the receipt of the grant of £52,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for upgrading CCTV in Rossendale was approved.
2. That the provision of match funding of £52,000 from Rossendale Borough Council's employment and transport reserves for upgrading CCTV in Rossendale was approved.
3. Tender for the contract to upgrade CCTV across Rossendale was approved.

Reason for Decision
The CCTV across Rossendale was of poor quality which hindered the police and failed to provide reassurance to residents. The funding from the PCC with match from Rossendale Council would enable the CCTV across the borough to be upgraded to modern, networked equipment which linked to the CCTV hub at

Blackburn through which the cameras would be monitored live and high quality footage made readily available to the Police. Tendering for the contract to upgrade the CCTV in line with the Council's constitution would ensure value for money. Upgraded CCTV would reassure residents and businesses and will help the Police to gather evidence and address and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

Alternative Options Considered:
None.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.05pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE