

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 4th July 2018

Present: Councillor A Barnes (Chair)
Councillors Ashworth, Lamb, MacNae and Oakes

In Attendance: Mr S Sugarman, Chief Executive
Ms C Burns, Director of Economic Development
Mrs C Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer
Mrs C Law, HR Manager
Mr P Seddon, Head of Finance
Miss G Ashton, Committee and Member Services Officer

Also Present: Councillors Cheetham, Essex, Haworth, Roberts, Robertson,
Stansfield and Steen
1 member of the press
2 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Walmsley, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Mrs S Plum, Director of Communities.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 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 Councillor Essex asked for an update on the CCTV upgrade across Rossendale. The Portfolio Holder for Health, Housing, Communities and Customer Services advised this was now under her remit. The project was taking longer than anticipated due to technical difficulties but hoped the upgrade would be completed by September 2018.

5.2 Councillor Essex asked if consideration had been given to arranging a separate Council meeting in July for the confidential items. The Leader of the Council advised that a Special Council meeting was being considered for 18th July.

6. EQUALITY POLICY

- 6.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Services outlined the report and advised that the Policy was reviewed following the Equalities Task and Finish Group. The revisions would enable the Council to continue to meet its Legal obligations. Training would be rolled out to staff and Members and would be monitored by the Programme Board. The Council intended to co-ordinate a Citizens' Panel to consult local residents. This would be administered in-house.
- 6.2 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:
- The formation of a Citizens' Panel was welcome as these had worked well in the past.
- 6.3 Elected Members were invited to comment on the report:
- Concerns were expressed that the main reception desk at Futures Park was no longer staffed.
 - Could consideration be given to changing the automated message on the Council's main switchboard number.
 - When would the Policy be reviewed and would this be included in the recommendations.
 - Would case studies form part of the staff and Member training.
 - The formation of a Citizens' Panel was welcomed.
- 6.4 In response to questions asked, the Leader of the Council advised that it was no longer cost effective to staff the main reception desk and the One Stop Shop. The receptionist had been re-deployed in the One Stop Shop. The comment in relation to the automated telephone message was noted and would be taken forward if possible.
- 6.5 The Head of Finance advised that providing one main reception desk at Futures Park was being considered. The Capita contract was due to end in September 2019 and was being prepared to go out to tender.
- 6.6 The HR Manager advised that the Policy would be reviewed in 3 years' time, or if any changes in legislation occurred, and would be included in the recommendations. She confirmed that case studies would form part of the training and EIAs would also be covered.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approved the revised Equality Policy, along with the appendices.
2. That all future minor amendments to the Equality Policy be delegated to the HR Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision:

To enable the Council to continue to meet its Legal obligations.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

7. PROPOSED HASLINGDEN CONSERVATION AREA

- 7.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Services outlined the report which asked members to adopt the proposed Conservation Area Boundary and Appraisal for Haslingden as a material planning consideration. Funding could then be applied for. A number of public consultations had taken place and comments made.
- 7.2 Cabinet Members were invited to comment on the report:
- This was a good piece of work and the comments were broadly positive.
- 7.3 Elected Members were invited to comment on the report:
- Could the boundary be extended to include Sunnybank Street.
 - Work on conservation areas was welcomed.
 - The Civic Trust had commented that the booklet lacked a local touch and some of the references were dated.
- 7.4 In response to questions asked, the Leader of the Council advised that the comments in relation to extending the boundary would be considered. She expressed her thanks to the Planning Team for an excellent piece of work.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet adopted the proposed Conservation Area Boundary and Appraisal for Haslingden as a material planning consideration.

Reason for Decision:

To allow the Council to apply for available funding that was not currently available and ensure that an area of special architectural and historic nature was retained and positively managed going forward.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. FINANCIAL MONITORING OUT-TURN REPORT 2017/18

- 8.1 In the absence of the Portfolio Holder for Resources, the Leader of the Council outlined the main points from the report. The draft out-turn report showed an expected favourable variance of £270k. There was a £1.2m surplus in relation to Business Rates compared to the target of £800k. Localisation of 75% of Business Rates would be in place by 2020/21.

The Leader of the Council drew the meeting's attention to a typing error on item 5.11, paragraph 2 of the covering report (Sale of Rossendale Transport Ltd). The figure should read £3.64m rather than £3.36m.

The old Rosso depot had now been vacated and was on the market with Taylor Weaver. There was strong initial interest.

The cumulative cost to date of the Empty Homes Scheme was £4.9m.

The MTFS for 2017/18 showed a good out-turn but there was still a £1m funding gap. New income sources were needed and Cabinet and the Senior Management Team were looking at ways to bridge the funding gap.

8.2 There were no comments from Cabinet Members.

8.3 Elected Members were invited to comment on the report:

- Appreciation was expressed to the Section 151 Officer and his team for their hard work.
- Congratulations to Officers and the Cabinet for not having to use the Council's reserves and to the Leader of the Council for the full and fair report.
- Could updates be provided on the sale of the bus depot.
- Was there an update on the Bulky Waste service.

8.4 The Head of Finance advised that Transdev vacated the bus depot in April 2018. It was advertised for sale in May 2018 and has attracted interest from inside and outside the borough.

8.5 The Portfolio Holder for Operations advised that the Bulky Waste service contract was currently going out for tender.

Resolved:

1. That members noted the contents of the report.

Reason for Decision:

For the robust monitoring of the General Fund and MTFS and the control of risks.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.10pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE