

**COUNCILLOR ANN KENYON, MAYOR**

**MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE**

**Date of Meeting: 12th December 2018**

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Kenyon (in the Chair)  
Councillors Aldred, Ashworth, A. Barnes, Bromley,  
James Eaton, Janet Eaton, Farrington, Haworth, Hughes,  
Johnson, Kempson, Lamb, Lythgoe, Marriott, Morris, Neal,  
Oakes, Procter, Roberts, Robertson, Serridge, Shipley,  
Stansfield, Steen and Walmsley.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Stuart Sugarman, Chief Executive  
Clare Birtwistle, Legal Services Manager (Monitoring Officer)  
Cath Burns, Director of Economic Development  
Sam Plum, Director of Communities  
Phil Seddon, Head of Finance  
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager  
John Illingworth, Mayor's Attendant**

**ALSO PRESENT: 4 members of the public  
Guy Darragh, Economic Development Manager  
Ian Birch, Centre for Economics and Business Research  
Anne Storah, Principal Planner, Forward Planning  
Phil Morton, Public Protection Manager**

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**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors L.Barnes, Cheetham, Essex, Fletcher, Gill, Kostyan, MacNae, Smallridge and Stevens.

**2. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**3. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**4. Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Councillor Steen declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 10 as a close relative worked for a betting company.
- Councillor Morris declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 13 and 14 as he was a Council representative on a relevant outside body.
- Councillor Marriott declared a pecuniary interest in minute 9 owing to a land/property interest and he left the room and did not vote on this item.

- Councillor A Barnes declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 14 as she was a Council representative on a relevant outside body.

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**N.B.** Councillor Hughes entered the meeting.

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## **5. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service**

The Leader of the Council informed that the Council's Rossendale Works project in partnership with Active Lancashire had been nominated for an award at the Lancashire Sports Awards 18. The event which took place in Blackpool had been attended by the Economic Development Manager and Councillor Hughes. The nomination was excellent news.

There had been a change to Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> November, this had been announced at the last Cabinet meeting. Councillor Serridge had replaced Councillor MacNae as a Cabinet member and there had been some slight changes to the portfolio areas. These would be updated on the website and circulated to members for information.

Following the notice of motion at the last Council meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be carrying out a review of the issue of holiday hunger. A task and finish group had been set up which would meet next week to scope the review. Work was already being carried out to gather evidence from a number of local partners to help get a better understanding of the issue. A scrutiny in a day format was being set up for early next year and members would be kept updated.

## **6. Roll of Honour**

The Mayor announced that the following had been awarded Roll of Honour and the Mayor had arranged to present their certificates:

- Mr Michael Farnworth had achieved 50 years as accompanist with the Rossendale Male Voice Choir in October.
- Rossendale Youth Council on their achievement of the Diana Award and The Legacy Award.
- Christine Moffatt and Janet King regarding their centenary commemoration work displaying poppies across the borough and raising funds for charity.

The Mayor noted that all awardees had made significant contributions in their local area and the people of Rossendale should be very proud of them.

## **CIVIC MATTERS**

### **7. Election of the Deputy Mayor (external engagements)**

Members were asked to consider Councillor Ashworth for the position of Deputy Mayor (external engagements) for the remainder of 2018/19.

#### **Resolved:**

That Councillor Barbara Ashworth be appointed to the position of Deputy Mayor (external engagements) for the remainder of 2018/19.

## **Reason for Decision**

To provide support at external engagements.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

None

## **ORDINARY BUSINESS**

### **8. Rossendale Rail Link**

The Council considered the Rossendale Rail Link report, which was introduced by the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Tourism. In introducing the report she noted that:

- It had been a long ambition to establish a rail link between Rawtenstall and Manchester.
- Economic Development had been working with Transport for the North (TfN) and Transport for Greater Manchester on this ambition, which highlighted strategies going forward.
- It was the right time for this piece of work which provided narrative around that ambition.
- This had been done with the help of the London based consultants Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).
- It was a fascinating piece of collaborative work.

The Leader of the Council welcomed Ian Birch, CEBR, to the meeting to present his findings to members.

The presentation on the Rossendale Rail Link noted the following:

- CEBR had been collaborating with people in the borough and neighbouring boroughs in undertaking their research.
- The findings had been taken to a parliamentary reception at Westminster.
- The renovated tile map at Manchester Victoria station showed the Lancashire and Yorkshire railway routes.
- There was a diverse network of railways with Bury at the centre.
- A lot of the network had been closed in the period after WW2.
- There had been a Bury line to Accrington, Rawtenstall line to Bacup, Whitworth and Rochdale via Facit.
- The outline map showed the current issues with holes in the network.
- There was a current Burnley to Todmorden and Manchester line.
- The metro link ran from Bury to Manchester.
- The Rawtenstall line ran through to Heywood where there was an existing connection and that was the study area.
- There was a need to look at the whole area concerned and not just Rossendale in addition to the hole in the network to be able to make a case.
- The wider area included a big population of 250,000.
- A previous study had been done but there was a need to look at the demand for a rail link as factors had changed in the last 10 years.
- In cities like Manchester employment was increasing, and it was declining or was flat in the towns and there was a greater need to get workers into the cities.

- People travelled further to get to work.
- The 2011 Census showed that there were 25,000 people in the working population.
- 14,000 people left Rossendale every day to access employment with 9,000 employed in Greater Manchester.
- There were 12,000 from Bury and 9,000 from Rochdale with commuters between Bury and Rochdale as well.
- There was serious congestion on the roads e.g. the A56/M66.
- A recent study put Accrington and Rossendale as the most congested places outside of the cities.
- There was congestion in Manchester also.
- Journey times by bus were unreliable which affected people here and in Manchester.
- Manchester was a growing area and needed a labour supply.
- Air quality was an issue which had only become apparent in recent years.
- North Central Manchester had the highest rate of emergency hospital admissions for asthma in England.
- Traffic and buses had contributed to this and there was a need to encourage cleaner transport.
- Commuting patterns had been looked at more generally, especially high peak around Manchester.
- If a railway was provided people would use it.
- Aim for 44% share of the rail market for a good rail link.
- East Lancashire Railway (ELR) was the main consideration.
- It was a successful heritage operation and important asset to the local economy as it brought people in to spend money locally.
- There would be spin off benefits, but it would have to be compatible with ELR.
- Wanting to help commuters but not by damaging the local area.
- There was an existing railway in operation with preserved rail alignment and tracks, which was a significant opportunity.
- They had developed 5 high level alternatives 2 of which were included in the presentation of what was thought to be good options.
- One was to put a shuttle service on the ELR to link to Bury Metro at a new interchange at Buckley Wells with the shuttle running at am/pm peak times.
- The preferred option was basing the link on a heavy rail route via Castleton. It would be similar to the shuttle between Rawtenstall and Bury but would continue Bury to Heywood and link to the national rail network at Castleton.
- There were also options which included more double track sections and more stations.
- There was an existing platform at Bury which could handle the new service in keeping with the ELR and it would bring people to Bury and benefit ELR.
- Bury residents would gain a rail service and it would link to the east rail corridor with Rochdale and West Yorkshire bringing tourism.
- There was a need to think about demand in Rossendale, Bury and Rochdale to gain investment and show that restoration would be compatible with ELR.
- It would be over to TfN once we had made the case for them to invest resources.
- It was good that Lancashire County Council (LCC) was on board and that Andy Burnham had also provided his support.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Welcome the report and thank all those involved including the Rossendale and Darwen MP for setting up the Westminster meeting.
- LCC were working with TfN.
- Also look at the possibility of transporting heavy goods on the rail link.
- Opening up business opportunities in the valley.
- Anything is good which takes the traffic off the roads.
- In some places in Rossendale the tracks were still buried under ground.
- Could buy houses back and reinstate tracks.
- Lobby the MP to reinstate the link to benefit residents.
- Good to see everyone in the Chamber supporting this.
- Pursuing this opportunity is down to the work that officers have done in getting Rossendale identified in Transport strategies.
- This was a starting point.
- There was a need to ensure TfN recognise this when going forward with their plans in 3 months' time.
- TfN should pay for the first stages and fund the business case.
- A stakeholder group would be the next stage.
- Ask members for their continued support with the rail link.

The Leader of the Council thanked Ian Birch for his presentation and CEBR colleagues for their work as well as the Economic Development Team for their work. Thanks were also given to Steven Young, LCC, who attended the Westminster meeting.

**Resolved:**

1. That members note the CEBR report and presentation.
2. That Rossendale Council adopt as a policy objective the development of a commuter rail link from Rawtenstall to Manchester that ensures the continued success of the heritage operation.
3. That Rossendale Council call upon:
  1. Transport for the North to include the Rawtenstall rail link in the forthcoming 2020-50 strategy and allocate sufficient funding for a Strategic Outline Business Case and its future implementation.
  2. Lancashire County Council to include the link in its emerging Lancashire Local Transport Plan 4.
  3. Lancashire Local Economic Partnership to include the plan in the emerging Lancashire Industrial Strategy.
4. To authorise officers time resources to a stakeholder lobby group consisting of local businesses and stakeholders along the route to campaign for the delivery of this project.

**Reason for Decision**

To support a Rawtenstall to Manchester rail link.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None

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**N.B.** Councillor Marriott left the meeting for the following item.

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**9. Update on Local Plan (Reg 19 version) Consultation and Approval of Revised Local Development Scheme (2018 to 2021)**

The Council considered the Local Plan update and revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) report, which was introduced by the Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Services.

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**N.B.** Councillor Barnes left the meeting.

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The Portfolio Holder informed that:

- This was the response to Regulation 19 following a 6 week consultation.
- 817 comments had been made by 556 people.
- It was noted that one representation on Regulation 19 had not been included and that the document would be updated and this would be included in the inspection.
- Over 500 responses via the web site related to housing.
- The timetable at the back of the report showed the expected adoption date as March 2020.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Took part in the working group.
- Thanks to the Forward Planning Team for an awful lot of work from such as small team and for visiting venues throughout Rossendale.

The Portfolio Holder also thanked officers for their hard work.

**Resolved:**

1. Members noted the responses received in respect of the consultation undertaken on the Local Plan Proposed Pre-Submission version.
2. Members approved the Local Development Scheme 2018 to 2021, to be effective from 13th December 2018.

**Reason for Decision**

To inform members of the responses received to the consultation undertaken on the Local Plan Proposed Pre-Submission version and seek approval for a revised LDS to cover the period 2018 to 2021, which would replace the current LDS 2016-2019.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None

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**N.B.** Councillor Barnes and Marriott returned to the meeting.

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**10. Review of Statement of Principles. Gambling Act 2005**

The Council considered the Gambling Statement of Principles.

**Resolved:**

That Council formally adopts the Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 for the period 31st January 2019 to 30th January 2022.

**Reason for Decision**

Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 requires the licensing authority to prepare and publish a three year licensing Statement of Principles.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None

**11. Urgent Decisions**

The Mayor reported that the Cabinet had not taken any urgent decisions since the last meeting.

**12. Exclusion of Public and Press**

**Resolved:**

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 (including the authority holding that information) under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**13. Residential Delivery Pipeline**

The Council considered and discussed the Residential Delivery Pipeline report.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations of the report be agreed.

**Reason for Decision**

To contribute towards meeting the Council's corporate priorities and support the future sustainability of the Council.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**14. Spinning Point Phase 2**

The Council considered and discussed the Spinning Point Phase 2 report.

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**N.B.** Councillors James Eaton, Janet Eaton and Stansfield left the meeting.

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**Resolved:**

That the recommendations of the report be agreed with the additional wording at 1.2.

**Reason for Decision**

To contribute to the delivery of the Vision for Rawtenstall and the Council's Corporate Strategy.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**(The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and concluded at 7.45pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....