

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday, 21st October 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Neil Emmott (in the Chair); Councillors Iftikhar Ahmed, Daalat Ali, Rachel Massey, Meredith, O'Rourke, Susan Smith and Wardle.

OFFICERS: S. Rumbelow (Chief Executive), J. Searle (Director of Economy), N. Thornton (Director of Resources), S. Hubber (Director of Children's Services), K. Thompson (Interim Director of Public Health), J. Murphy (Chief Finance Officer), A. Ibrahim (Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Workforce/Monitoring Officer), D. Bowler (Assistant Director – Place), W. Poole (Economy Directorate), M. Brooke (Neighbourhoods Directorate) and P. Thompson (Resources Directorate).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public

54 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rowbotham.

55 MINUTES

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held 21st September 2021 be approved as a correct record, subject to an amendment to minute 51 (Towns Fund – Award of Grant and Update) in that 'the Cabinet agrees to accept the funding offer from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government' on the condition that the funds will not be for used for demolishing any residential properties.

56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

57 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Chair indicated that he had accepted a late item onto the Agenda: Upperbanks – Contract Modifications, to be considered as Agenda Item 8.

58 LOWER FALINGE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

The Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Economy and Communications/Director of Economy which summarised the outcome of a public consultation exercise on the draft Lower Falinge Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Council's response to these. The report recommended that the Cabinet adopts the amended SPD in response to the outcomes of the consultation. In considering the report, Members were advised that the report had previously been submitted to Rochdale North Township Committee, on 13th September 2021 and to the Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, on 28th September 2021 and the recommendations in the report had been supported by Members at these two meetings.

Alternatives considered:

If the SPD was not adopted it could undermine a co-ordinated place making strategy for Rochdale's Lower Falinge area - instead any proposed re-development would have to be dealt with through stand-alone planning applications. Proposals for investment and development would also have to be considered on a piecemeal basis. Rehousing residents within the local area, close to their existing home and the Town Centre, would become challenging, and housing market failure would not be addressed. There was a risk that the opportunity for a significant number of new homes to be built within this area, adjacent to the Town Centre, if the SPD was not delivered.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet notes the representations received in response to the consultation on the draft SPD and agree to the Council's amendments to these, as set out in the Schedule of Comments included within the Statement of Consultation.
2. That Cabinet formally adopts the Lower Falinge Supplementary Planning Document SPD.
3. That Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Head of Planning (subject to discussion with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Communications) to make typographical corrections and any other necessary non-material amendments to the Lower Falinge SPD prior to the formal publication of the SPD in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Reasons for the resolution:

The report's recommendations were presented to allow Cabinet to formally approve and adopt the Supplementary Planning Document under regulation 14 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which will be afforded weight as a material planning consideration.

Eligible for call-in: No – this matter has already been considered by the Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

59 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:

That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

Reason for the resolution

Should the press and public remain during debate on this item there may be a disclosure of information that is deemed to be exempt under Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

60 UPPERBANKS - CONTRACT MODIFICATION

The Cabinet considered a confidential report of the Cabinet Member for Economy and Communications/Director of Economy regarding Upperbanks (Rochdale Riverside Phase 2), Build Contract Modifications.

Alternatives considered:

Alternative options were detailed in the submitted report.

Resolved:

That the recommendation, detailed at paragraph 2.1 of the submitted report, be approved.

Reasons for the resolution:

To support the necessary appointment of a Development Manager.

Eligible for call-in:

No – this matter has been exempted from Call-in by the Chairs of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.