

# Public Document Pack

## HEYWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MEETING

Monday, 8 October 2018

**PRESENT:** Councillor Peter Rush (Chair); Councillors Beswick, Dutton, Susan Emmott, Malcolm, O'Rourke, Robinson and Wardle

**OFFICERS:** John Rooney – Assistant Director information, Customers and Communities, Stuart Hay –Township and Engagement Officer, John Addison Senior Governance and Committee Officer.

#### 65 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr McCarthy.

#### 66 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 67 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

#### 68 ITEMS FOR EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no private items of business.

#### 69 OPEN FORUM

##### Traffic Calming – Middleton Road

A Member of the Public, Mr Ogden, raised a concern about speeding in Heywood, in particular on Middleton road, where a child had recently been knocked over. He requested that the Township look into traffic calming measures on that road.

The Township expressed their own concern at speeding in Heywood especially on Middleton road. It was noted that the Committee had in the past looked to have traffic lights installed on this road, and that the Council's Highways department had stated that there were limited options for the road, as it was categorised as a main road. It was agreed that this matter would be raised with the Highways department again to find a solution, the Committee hope to see as a minimum for the area to become a traffic enforcement area.

##### Boundary Review

A Member of the public submitted a written question raising concerns about the proposed boundary changes and the loss of the Heywood parliamentary ward. Requesting the Township do all it can to fight it.

It was agreed by the Committee that as this part of the open forum, covered parts of Agenda item 9 – Proposed Boundary Changes, this item would be covered in full under the open forum item.

All Members agreed and felt strongly that the loss of Heywood name as a constituency was unacceptable, with Members noting that Rochdale Council had passed a motions objecting to the removal. The Committee also urged anyone with a concern to write to the Heywood MP outlining their concerns.

The following matters were raised as part of the Open Forum:-

**70 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

**71 HEYWOOD TOWNSHIP DELEGATED SUB COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Heywood Township Delegated Sub Committee be approved, subject to the inclusion of the word “refused” to the application referenced HP/08/18.

**72 PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES**

See Minute 69.

**73 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

The Township Committee was advised that a statutory review of Polling Districts and Polling Places had concluded, since the last meeting of the Township, on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 required, that local authority Electoral Registration Officers to review their areas polling districts and places every five years. A final report on the recommendations arising from the review was to be considered by the Council at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 for approval. The Township Committee received a report of the Assistant Director (Legal, Governance and Workforce) which outlined the results from the consultation exercise and which noted suggested recommendations in respect of West Heywood, North Heywood and Hopwood Hall Wards.

**RESOLVED**

That the Heywood Township Committee considered the proposed changes to polling districts and polling places within the Township arising from the review and not its findings.

#### **74 EASY HUBS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTOR SERVICE**

It was reported that the Township Committee received a presentation from the Adult Care Service regarding 'Community Connectors' which was a new service created as part of the Locality Plan.

They were a team based in and around EASY Hubs in localities providing people with information, advice and signposting to appropriate organisations. They would support people in the Borough with issues affecting their health and wellbeing such as employment/training, money management, lifestyles (including mental health), preventative services (such as stopping smoking), community opportunities (volunteering) and housing.

They could also give advice to anyone over 18 years but also had links with the Early Help Team if the person was under 18 and could signpost them there. Referrals could be from anyone – professional or the public and can be via one email, one telephone number or attending a drop in session within their community.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the presentation be noted and welcomed.

#### **75 OUR ROCHDALE THE ONLINE DIRECTORY OF SERVICES**

The Township Committee received a presentation from Mr. M. Hicks (HMR CCG) regarding 'Our Rochdale' an online directory of health and social care services, that are provided by the NHS in the Borough and by the Children's and Adults Directorates of Rochdale Borough Council. The service was designed to give help and advice, if needed, to the website's visitors and was proving to be very popular with several thousand visits to the website each month.

At the conclusion of the presentation the presenter was asked questions by Members present and he was thanked for an interesting and informative presentation.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the presentation be noted and welcomed.

#### **76 YOUTH SERVICES IN HEYWOOD**

The Committee welcomed a number of representatives from Rochdale Borough Council's Youth Service to the meeting to provide a presentation to Members on their recent activities in Heywood and the Borough.

Members enthusiastically thank the representative's for their individual presentations and congratulated them on the work and activities they had been undertaking.

**RESOLVED:**

That the work of the Rochdale Borough Council's Youth Service and representatives be thanked for their presentation.

**77 ALLOCATIONS PLAN**

The Township Committee received a presentation for the Director of Economy regarding the Borough's Draft Allocations Plan. The Allocations Plan contained the sites to deliver the scale of growth set out in the Borough's Core Strategy that was adopted in 2016. The Allocations Plan also designated areas for particular types of development, such as employment and areas where development could be restricted, recreational open spaces for example. It was noted that the Allocations Plan therefore formed part of the Local Plan for Rochdale, together with the Core Strategy and the Greater Manchester Minerals Plan.

The key issues covered in the presentation were: housing, employment, retail centres across the Borough's green belt and green infrastructures along with transport.

It was noted that the proposals, set out in the Allocations Plan, were currently subject to a public consultation exercise that commenced on 10th September 2018 and would conclude on 5th November 2018 and which included a number of public 'drop-in' sessions. It was reported that following the close of the consultation exercise all comments received would be considered in the production of the finalised version of the Plan that was due to be published for consultation in the summer of 2019. Members of the Committee commented on various proposals within the Heywood Township area.

**Resolved:**

That the presentation be noted.

**78 CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW BY THE TOWNSHIPS REVIEW STEERING GROUP**

The Township Committee received a report of the Assistant Director (Information, Customers and Communities) which advised Members that in January 2018, the four Township Committee Chairs and a cross-party group of Elected Members had formed a working group to look at how the Council engaged with local communities, and on the workings of the Townships.

The group was facilitated by Sir Steve Houghton, Leader of Barnsley Council, and Officers from the Local Government Association. Its purpose was to consider the following in the context of cooperative values – self-help, self

responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity, and behaviours playing a key part in the future role of the Townships.

The report of the Township Review Members Panel contained a number of recommendations for consideration - which were attached at Appendix 1 to the Committee's report. The views of the Township Committee's membership were sought as part of the consultation exercise, noting that any changes to the Township Committee governance structure would be subject to approval by full Council.

The report detailed six specific recommendations:

- a. Members to have a broader role in having oversight of issues such as Health and Social Care and other issues at a township level, and should play a stronger role in developing more resilient communities.
- b. Continued recognition of different needs and priorities throughout the Borough, across townships and at a neighbourhood level.
- c. Members to have a role in encouraging co-creation within communities
- d. A re-structure of the Rochdale Township (the establishment of two Township Committees to cover the current nine Rochdale Township Wards)
- e. Consideration to be given to developing greater core capacity of Township staffing levels
- f. Creation of Ward Alliances

The Committee considered the report and its recommendations in detail. The Committee felt that there was insufficient information in the report at the current time to support the establishment of Ward Alliances and in this regard the Committee felt that they needed more information and time to form a view on this matter. Members also expressed some reluctance to replace the current system, whereby each of the Township's Wards had a dedicated Area Forum, with a Ward Alliance.

The Assistant Director (Information, Customers and Communities), informed the Committee that a report would be presented to the Informal Cabinet, following which a new report would be submitted to the Township Committees, which would be co-presented by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Neighbourhoods, Community and Culture Portfolio

## **RESOLVED**

That consideration of the report be deferred to the Committee's next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Neighbourhoods, Community and Culture Portfolio be invited to the meeting to discuss the proposals with Members of the Committee.