

ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday, 25 May 2011

PRESENT: Councillors Farooq Ahmed, Daalat Ali, Sultan Ali, Zulfiqar Ali, Bailey, Bethell, Cecile Biant, Surinder Biant, Clayton, Colclough, Peter Davison, Duckworth, James Gartside, Metcalfe, Mulgrew, Neilson, Hilary Rodgers, Sharif, Sullivan, Todd, Wazir and Zaman.

OFFICERS:

J Hodgkinson (Rochdale Township Manager), P Maynard (Regeneration and Housing Service), M Robinson (Planning and Regulation Service), S Granville (Performance and Transformation Service) and P Thompson (Legal and Democratic Service).

Also in Attendance:

Inspector Khan (Greater Manchester Police), T Wood (Impact Partnership), P Kilkenny (Link4Life), P Rattigan (Rochdale Development Agency), Doctor J Rossini (Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT) and approximately 50 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Karen Burke, Flynn, Jane Gartside, Hobhouse and Hornby.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2011/2012

1 **DECIDED - That Councillor Sultan Ali be appointed Chair of Rochdale Township Committee for the duration 2011/2012 Municipal Year.**

(Councillor Sultan Ali in the Chair)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2 In accordance with the Code of Conduct for Councillors and Co-opted members Councillor Duckworth declared a personal interest in agenda item number 19 (Removal of Proposed Metrolink Stop at Wet Rake Gardens and Future of Drake Street).

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE UPDATE

3 Inspector Khan updated the Township Committee on activities and initiatives that were currently being pursued and prioritised by Greater Manchester Police in their Rochdale Township Division. The Township Committee was informed that the Police's current priority tasks included tackling burglary, antisocial behaviour, vehicle crime – especially theft from vehicles – and drug dealing.

Inspector Khan stated that statistical evidence showed that overall crime figures in the Rochdale Township were falling, by 32% in the Rochdale North area and 10% in Rochdale South. The Committee was informed that the only area of criminal activity showing an increase was robbery.

Members of the Township Committee asked questions of Inspector Khan regarding crime and police initiatives in the Rochdale Township area. Members of the Committee welcomed the fact that the overall of crime in Rochdale was reducing, however concern was expressed at a recent spate in the theft of gully lids and metal

grids and asked if there was anything the Police could do to counter this. A Member of the Township Committee asked if the Police could provide statistical data which broke down burglaries in Rochdale Township on a ward by ward basis.

DECIDED – That the Greater Manchester Police’s update be noted and welcomed.

OPEN FORUM

4 The following matters were raised during the Open Forum session:-

(a) **Pedestrian Crossing – Shawclough Road**

The Township received a question from Mrs Acton, on behalf of the Healey Ward Forum, which informed Members that residents of the Healey Ward Forum had requested a pedestrian crossing be installed on Shawclough Way near to its junction with Bentley Street because of safety concerns for the young, old and infirm. The Director of Highways undertook to instruct Road Safety Officers from his Service to investigate this matter and he undertook to provide a written response to Mrs Acton and to Healey Ward Councillors.

(b) **Waste Treatment Plant at Mandale Park**

The Township received a question from Mr Dan Hall, on behalf of the Brimrod and Sudden Tenants Association, who commented on what was in his opinion an inadequate consultation exercise on the proposal to build a waste treatment plant at Mandale Park, Rochdale. A reply from the Service Director of Planning and Regulation Services stated that there was no plan to construct a waste treatment plant on Mandale Park. The Greater Manchester Waste Plan which was to be considered in June 2011 at a public enquiry had suggested that over the next fifteen years certain types of facilities could be allowed to be located in the Sparth area of Rochdale, but no specific sites were allocated for any development. Members of the Township discussed this matter in some detail and Councillors contributing to the debate concurred with the views expressed by Mr Hall insofar as they considered the consultation exercise to be flawed. Councillor Duckworth read out a prepared statement which bemoaned the perceived lack of consultation and reiterated the opposition of residents and Ward Councillors to the development of a waste treatment plant at Mandale Park, Rochdale.

DECIDED – That the Township Committee support Councillor Duckworth’s statement.

(c) **Rochdale, Rochdale, Rochdale**

The Township Committee was addressed by Michelle Matthews on behalf of an organisation known as “Rochdale, Rochdale, Rochdale” which was a new business venture aimed at promoting charitable events across Rochdale Township to promote businesses in Rochdale and the wider Rochdale Metropolitan area. Rochdale, Rochdale, Rochdale was looking to hold its first event during the 2011 Feel Good Festival.

PUBLIC HEALTH WHITE PAPER 2010 - PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH (HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE PCT)

5 Doctor Jane Rossini, Director of Public Health from Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Primary Care Trust gave a presentation (RT.20/11) on the Public Health White Paper 2010.

The vision of the White Paper was a commitment protecting the population from:-

- Serious health threats;
- Helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives;
- Improving the health of the poorest and most deprived;
- Life course opportunities to improve health

The White Paper advocated a new approach of focusing on addressing the root causes and wider factors leading to poor health and well-being; recognition of personal choice in lifestyle and behaviours but that choices are often affected by things beyond an individuals control; “ladder of intervention” – using the least intrusive methods of promoting positive lifestyle changes and working up; public health responsibility deal – working collaboratively with businesses to create a health promoting environment.

One of the key changes for the Council was that Local Authority’s would become strategic leaders for health and wellbeing with specific duties to improve the public health of their residents. Local Authority’s would be required to establish statutory health and wellbeing boards and lead on joint health and wellbeing strategies.

There would be ring-fenced budgets for public health, a new health premium and public health outcomes framework and Local Authority’s would be responsible for commissioning activity to improve the health of the local population. Examples of proposed activity to be funded from the new public health budget and commissioned by the Local Authority including Sexual Health Services, School Vaccination Programmes, Mental Health Promotion, Local Programmes to address Physical Inactivity, Drug and Alcohol Misuse Services – Prevention and Treatment, Tobacco Control and Local Initiatives on Workplace Health.

The progression of the White Paper would be through the Development Programme for Local Leaders, meaning Councillors and GP Consortia lead through the establishment of a Local Health and Wellbeing Board, thereby authorising local consultation and agreement on a structure with the Local Authority’s Chief Executive and Executive Leadership Team.

Members of the Township Committee and Members of the general public in attendance at the meeting asked questions of Doctor Rossini who was thanked for an informative and interesting presentation.

DECIDED – That Doctor Rossini be thanked for her informative presentation to the Township Committee.

MINUTES

6 **DECIDED – That the minutes of the meeting of Rochdale Township Committee held 9th March 2011 be approved as a correct record.**

OPEN FORUM SESSION - 9TH MARCH 2011

7 **DECIDED – That the proceedings of the Open Forum Session of the Township Committee held on 9th March 2011 be noted.**

ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

8 **DECIDED – That the minutes of the meetings of Rochdale Township Planning Sub-Committee held on 15th February, 15th March and 12th April 2011 be noted.**

ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP ACTION AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

9 **DECIDED – That the minutes of the meeting of Rochdale Township Action and Resources Committee (Delegated Sub-Committee), held 29th March 2011 be noted.**

ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENTS 2011/2012

10 The Township Committee considered a report of the Service Director of Legal and Democratic Services (RT.21 /11) that invited the appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Township Committee, the appointment of Members to serve on the Township Sub-Committees, including Chairs and Vice Chairs, appointments to the Township Working Groups and Other Bodies for 2011/2012.

Eligible
for
Call-in

No

The report was presented as the appointment of Sub-Committees is required to enable the undertaking of delegated functions. The Constitution of the Council requires that Township Committees appoint Chairs and Vice-Chairs of their appropriate Sub-Committees. Rochdale Township has established a number of Working Groups to which the consideration of appointments is required and there are also a number of further Bodies to which the Township Committee appoints or is invited to appoint.

Alternatives and risks considered: No alternatives have been considered. The proper appointment of Sub-Committees is required to permit the undertaking of delegated functions in accordance with statutory and procedural requirements, and appointments to Working Groups and other bodies is required to enable the Committee to undertake and respond to the full range of issues relevant to the Township.

DECIDED – That (1) Councillor Shah Wazir be appointed Vice-Chair of the Rochdale Township Committee for the duration of the 2011/2012 Municipal Year;

(2) the following appointments be made to the Township Sub-Committees:-

(a) Rochdale Township Action and Resources Committee (Delegated Sub-Committee) – Councillor Surinder Biant (Chair), Councillor Sultan Ali (Vice-Chair), Councillors Daalat Ali, Todd, Mulgrew, Hilary Rodgers, Sharif, Jane Gartside and Metcalfe.

Substitute Members – Councillors Farooq Ahmed, Mohammed Zaman, Clayton, Bailey, Duckworth and Neilson.

(b) Rochdale Township Planning Sub-Committee – Councillor Shah Wazir (Chair), Councillor Neilson (Vice-Chair), Councillors Karen Burke, Bethell, Todd, Mohammed Zaman, Zulfiqar Ali, Bailey and James Gartside.

Substitute Members – Councillors Farooq Ahmed, Cecile Biant, Mulgrew, Sharif and Sullivan.

(3) Councillor Mulgrew on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group and Councillor Flynn, on behalf of the Conservative Group, be appointed as lead opposition spokespersons to the Rochdale Township Committee;

(4) the following appointments be made to the Township Working Groups;

(a) Central Conservation Areas Sub-Group – Councillors Sultan Ali, Farooq Ahmed and Hobhouse.

(b) TBA Working Group – Councillors Metcalfe, Sharif, Hobhouse, Surinder Biant and Neilson.

(c) The participation and appointment of relevant Ward Councillors to the various Bodies within the Ward/Area Forum process be noted and confirmed;

(5) the following appointments be made to other Bodies, indicated below;

(a) Community Safety – Township Tactical Group – Councillor Colclough.

(b) Clean and Green Champion – Councillor Hobhouse.

(c) Older Persons Champion – No appointment be made to this position.

(d) Supporting People Elected Member Consultation Group – No appointment to be made to this Body.

(e) Visit Rochdale Group – Councillors Mulgrew and Shah Wazir.

(f) Play Strategy Group – Councillors Farooq Ahmed and Neilson.

ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - SUB-COMMITTEE AND DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS 2011/2012

11 The Service Director of Legal and Democratic Service (RT.22/11) sought confirmation of the Rochdale Township Sub-Committee structure and arrangements for 2011/2012.

Eligible
for
Call-in

No

The recommendations were presented to enable the Committee to confirm its delegated decision making arrangements during the 2011/2012 Municipal Year.

Alternatives and risks considered: The Township Committee could choose not to formally delegate business to the Action and Resources Committee. If the Township Committee wishes to continue delegating business on an ad-hoc basis, this would not represent an efficient use of resources and would delay decision making. Township Committee needs to agree delegation arrangements to ensure that decisions are made in accordance with relevant statutory and procedural requirements.

DECIDED –That (1) the Sub-Committee structure of the Rochdale Township Committee, comprising the Rochdale Township Action and Resources Committee (Delegated Sub-Committee) and the Rochdale Township Planning Sub-Committee be confirmed;

(2) the terms of reference of the Rochdale Township and Action Resources Committee (delegated Sub-Committee) be noted;

(3) the delegation arrangements to the Rochdale Township Planning Sub-Committee as contained within the Development Control Scheme, be noted.

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY VACANCIES

12 The Township Committee considered a report of the Service Director of Schools (RT.23 /11) that sought appointments to a number of School Governing Body vacancies, at schools ion Rochdale Township.

Eligible
for
Call-in

No

The recommendations contained within the report were presented as the Township Committee acts in accordance with the agreed procedures in appointing Local Authority representatives to serve on School Governing Bodies.

DECIDED – That (1) Councillor Hornby be appointed to the Governing Body of Castleton Primary School;
(2) Councillor Farooq Ahmed be appointed to the Governing Body of Greenbank School;
(3) Councillor Sultan Ali and Mrs M Gartside be appointed to the Governing Body of Howard Street Nursery School;
(4) Councillor Sullivan be appointed to the Governing Body of Matthew Moss High School;
(5) Councillor Cecile Biant and Miss N Zaman be appointed to the Governing Body of Oulder Hill Community School and Language College;
(6) Councillor Cecile Biant be appointed to the Governing Body of Redwood Secondary School;
(7) Mr M Gartside be appointed to the Governing Body of South Street Nursery School;
(8) Mrs Margaret Taylor be appointed to one of the two vacancies at St Mary’s Primary School, Balderstone and the second vacancy be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Rochdale Township Committee on 6th July 2011.

PUBLIC REALM HANDBOOK

13 The Township Committee was consulted (RT.24/11) on the Public Realm Handbook which has been prepared by the Service Director of Planning and Regulation Services. The submitted report outlined the draft Public Realm Handbook document approval for which was to be sought at a future meeting of the Cabinet.

Eligible
for
Call-in

No

The recommendations contained in the report were presented as approval of the document was delegated through the Cabinet, however Rochdale Township Committee was being asked to support the publication which would mean that it could then be used to inform decisions on specifications for projects and planning applications affecting the design and management of public areas in Rochdale Town Centre.

DECIDED – That Rochdale Township Committee notes the Public Realm Handbook and supports its approval by the Cabinet.

Eligible
for
Call-in

SECTION 106 PLANNING AGREEMENTS (DEVELOPERS CONTRIBUTIONS)

14 The Service Director of Planning and Regulation Services submitted a report (RT.25/11) that sets out work undertaken to identify the scale of income held by the Council from Section 106 Planning Agreements, or other planning obligations, in connection with planning permissions. The report also detailed procedures for closer scrutiny of the collection, monitoring and spending of monies received from planning permissions, including the pooling of Section 106 resources with other funding. The report also suggested arrangements for greater engagement with the Township Committees over the future allocation and spending of monies.

No

DECIDED – That (1) the report be noted;

(2) the Service Director of Planning and Regulation Services be requested to submit regular update reports on this matter to the Rochdale Township Action and Resources Committee (delegated Sub-Committee), at least every 6 months.

ROCHDALE TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS, FUTURE TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS

15 The Director of Highways and Engineering Services (RT.26/11) submitted a report which informed the Township Committee about future traffic movements on completion of the current Rochdale Town Centre Developments.

Eligible
for
Call-in

The report was presented as at the last meeting of the Township Committee, on 9th March 2011, Members had requested further information on South Parade and an indication of the highway arrangements after all the town centre works were complete.

No

DECIDED – That the report be noted.

ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP IN BLOOM

16 The Township Manager (RT.27/11) submitted a report updating the Townsh Committee on the progress made on Rochdale Township's 2011 entry into the Nort West in Bloom Competition.

Eligible
for
Call-in

No

DECIDED – That the report be noted.

ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP FUNDS REVIEW 2010/2011

17 The Township Manager submitted a report (RT.28 11) that updated Members on the Revenue and Capital Expenditure during 2010/2011 from the Rochdale Township Fund.

Eligible
for
Call-in

No

DECIDED – That the report be noted.

PARKING AT DEEN HOUSE, STATION ROAD, ROCHDALE

18 The Township Committee considered a report of the Director of Highways and Engineering Services (RT.29/11) that informed Members about the potential option for parking at Deen House, after the Metrolink construction has finished. The Director of Highways reminded Members that this matter had been considered at the meeting of the Rochdale Township Action and Resources Committee on 1st February 2011 where Members had requested that Officers from the Highways Service, investigate the possibility of providing on-street parking for users of Deen House, Station Road, Rochdale.

Eligible
for
Call-in

No

Alternatives considered: The Director of Highways informed the Township Committee that providing one car parking space next to Deen House, though it would be a costly exercise to provide just one space however.

The Township Committee was advised that if the Committee agreed to proceed with the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders then the Highways Department would carry out the required consultation thereon.

The Township Committee was addressed by Doctor Sadiq and Ms Dearden, users of Deen House who requested that the Township Committee investigate the feasibility of creasing parking spaces at Deen House, Station Road.

In considering the report a member suggested that the Director of Highways approach Transport for Greater Manchester about this matter, that is establishing a privileged parking scheme for commercial use adjacent to a Metrolink line. It was also suggested that any funding in association with the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order, as proposed in the submitted report, estimated by the Director of Highways to be £4,500, to be allocated from the Priority Investment Fund – Rochdale Town Centre Projects, which had been approved by the Cabinet on 22nd March 2010.

DECIDED – That (1) the Director of Highways be authorised to approach Transport for Greater Manchester to ascertain if it is feasible to establish a privileged parking scheme, for non-domestic use at Deen House, Station Road, Rochdale;

(2) that the Director of Highways consider the contents of minute number 221 taken from the proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 22nd March 2010 whereby the Cabinet considered and approved a Priority Investment Fund – Rochdale Town Centre Projects (report reference CAB.59/10 refers).

REMOVAL OF PROPOSED METROLINK STOP AT WET RAKE GARDENS AND FUTURE OF DRAKE STREET

19 The Township considered a report of the Chief Executive of Rochdale Development Agency (RT.30/11), advising Members of proposals not to include a Drake Street/Maclure Road stop in the Metrolink expansion. Following consideration of the sighting of stops on the route of Metrolink 3a and 3b for reasons of cost and location the proposed Drake Street/Maclure Road stop was not included in the final design details approved by Members. The utility assessment of all of the stops by the Transport for Greater Manchester Authority had indicated that the Drake Street position had the least benefits in terms of its catchment area.

Eligible
for
Call-in

Yes

Members had expressed concerns about the future of Drake Street and the need to support local traders.

The Township Committee was informed that a public meeting on this matter had been held on 24th May 2011 and the overwhelming view of people in attendance at that meeting was to oppose the removal of the Metrolink stop at Drake Street/Maclure Road.

DECIDED – That (1) the Township Committee notes the submitted report;

(2) the Township Committee supports the recommendation made by the Rochdale Township Action and Resources Committee at its meeting on 29th March 2011 (minute number 83 refers), whereby the Cabinet was requested to consider the matter of the omission of the Drake Street/Maclure Road stop for the Metrolink expansion plans and to make representations to the Transport for Greater Manchester Authority for the re-inclusion of the Drake Street/Maclure Road stop;

(3) the Chief Executive of Rochdale Development Agency be authorised to submit this report (RT.30/11) to the meeting of the Cabinet on 6th June 2011 subject to minor grammatical alterations.

PRESENTATION - SPOTLIGHT ON FALINGE LTD - FALINGE COMMUNITY HUB
20 The Committee received a presentation from Ms Tracie Powers on behalf of "Spotlight on Falinge Limited" and other users of Falinge Community Hub, based at Whitehall Street, Rochdale.

Eligible
for
Call-in

No

The presentation contained an update on the achievements of the hub, details of the merger between NESTAC and the Spotlight on Falinge Group. The Township Committee was informed that NESTAC stood for the New Step for an African Community which was a charitable organisation was established in 2003 in the Borough of Rochdale, focusing on community lead projects promoting mainly strong cultural awareness, client's wellbeing, cultural training and activities, while protecting the rights of people from the black and minority ethnic community especially African refugees and asylum seekers. Spotlight on Falinge was set up as a "Friends of" group in 2006 by Officers of Rochdale MBC to work alongside staff in the Environmental Management Service in Falinge Park. Spotlight partnered with Rochdale MBC on a Heritage Lottery Fund bid in 2008 providing assistance with the Development Plan for the submission.

The presentation concluded with a proposal to the Council. The hub were applying for funding and it was reported that £18,000 was required to enable the hub to continue in its current format. The £18,000 was to cover one years rent. The proposal put forward to the Township Committee included space within the hub to facilitate the merger of NESTAC and the Spotlight Groups, which would leave room for another group or service to move in possibly aiding the current budget cuts. Secondly as a community lead group NECTAC/Spotlight have access to free work based learning in a wide variety of areas including the potential to save the Council money. Thirdly the skills within the core group of the Falinge hub would enable free outreach services in the following areas to be delivered in other community centres; namely employment, social and community enterprise, health fitness and wellbeing.

The Township Committee considered the presentation in detail, asking question of presenters and thanking the participants for an interesting and informative presentation. The Township Committee noted that representatives of Rochdale Boroughwide Housing and Link4Life were in attendance at the meeting who both lent there support to the activities at Falinge hub.

DECIDED – That consideration of this matter be referred to the Rochdale Township Action and Resources Committee, as part of the overall review of the Townships funding for community centres in Rochdale.