

Decisions of the Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 22 October 2013

**These decisions are published for information in
advance of the publication of the Minutes**

DECISIONS:

1. PETITIONS

Off-Street Parking in Wibsey

Resolved –

That the petition be referred to the Bradford South Area Committee for consideration.

Save Bingley Pool

Resolved –

That the petition be referred to the Executive for consideration as part of the ongoing development of its sports facilities investment plan.

Stop the Saltaire Turbine

Resolved –

That the petition be referred to the Shipley Area Committee for consideration.

ACTION: City Solicitor (reference to Committees)

2. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Resolved –



- (1) That Councillor Hassan Khan be appointed to the Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Ross-Shaw.
- (2) That Councillor Abid Hussain replace Councillor Vanda Greenwood as an alternate on the Regulatory and Appeals Committee.
- (3) That Councillor Heseltine replace Councillor Pennington as an alternate on the Regulatory and Appeals Committee.
- (4) That Councillor Davies replace Councillor Townend as an alternate on the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (5) That Councillor Walls replace Councillor Davies as an alternate on the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (6) That Councillor Townend replace Councillor Walls as an alternate on the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (7) That the appointment of Isobel Scarborough (who represents the Bradford District Older People's Partnership), Mike Young (former Statutory Mental Health Services Manager), Tim Pickles and Susan Crowe (who both represent the Strategic Disability Partnership) as non voting co-opted Members on the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2013/14 Municipal Year be confirmed.

ACTION: *City Solicitor*

3. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE – MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2014/16 – 2016/17

Resolved –

That the updated and revised Medium Term Financial Strategy at Appendix 1 to Executive Document “N” be approved.

ACTION: *Director of Finance*

4. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – LIVING WAGE

Resolved -

That the Council recognises the benefits that the Living Wage would bring to its lowest paid employees and employees of Council contractors.

However the Council notes that introduction of the Living Wage would cost an additional £4 million and that this would create a significant extra financial pressure at a time when, having seen cuts to its funding of over £100 million in the last three years, the Council faces a forecast shortfall of more than £100 million more over the next three years.

The Council will however, continue to work locally with the trade unions to examine

how it could introduce the Living Wage on a phased basis over a period of time.

The Council calls on national political parties that support the Living Wage to commit to ensuring that Local Government is funded to an appropriate level to be able to pay it.

ACTION: *City Solicitor/Assistant Director Human Resources*

5. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE REGENERATION AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CALLED IN DECISION – SPORTS FACILITIES INVESTMENT PLAN

Resolved-

That the decision be released for implementation.

ACTION: *Strategic Director Environment and Sport*

6. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE STAFFING COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Resolved-

- (1) That Council confirms that they are in agreement with the proposal to appoint to the position of Strategic Director, Children's Services on the salary package as detailed in paragraph 2.6 of this Report and in accordance with the Council's Pay Policy Statement.**
- (2) That Council resolves that an Appointments Panel be given delegated responsibility to appoint to the position of Strategic Director, Children's Services and that the Panel comprise three Elected Members (two Labour and one Conservative) with the membership to be on the nomination of the Leader of Council and Leader of the Conservative Group (and shall include at least one Member of Executive).**
- (3) That Council resolves that an Appointments Panel be given delegated responsibility to appoint to the position of Director of Human Resources and that the Panel comprise three Elected Members (two Labour and one Conservative) with the membership to be on the nomination of the Leader of Council and Leader of the Conservative Group (and shall include at least one Member of Executive).**
- (4) That the Chief Executive be authorised to commence the recruitment process for the post of Strategic Director Children's Services in consultation with the Leader of Council.**

ACTION: *Chief Executive/Assistant Director Human Resources*

7. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL – LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STRATEGY 2013/14

Resolved-

That the summary of the ‘Looked After Children Strategy 2013-14’ be accepted by all Members in their role as corporate parents.

ACTION: Strategic Director Children’s Services

8. PROTECTING COMMUNITY PUBS

Resolved-

Bradford Council recognizes the possibility of submitting the following proposal to the Government under the Sustainable Communities Act:

“That the Secretary of State help protect community pubs in England by ensuring that planning permission and community consultation are required before community pubs are allowed to be converted to betting shops, supermarkets and pay-day loan stores or other uses, or are allowed to be demolished.”

Bradford Council notes that if this power was acquired it would allow Bradford Council to determine if pubs should be demolished or converted into other uses and could save many valued community pubs.

While recognising the importance of community pubs the Council acknowledges that it would require evidence that a specific pub were commercially viable on an ongoing basis before determining to retain the building and/or to refuse conversion to other uses.

Subject to that qualification, Bradford Council resolves to submit the proposal to the Government under the Sustainable Communities Act.

ACTION: Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture

9. HEALTH CARE FUNDING

Resolved-

This Council notes that:

- **Bradford District suffers some of the highest levels of deprivation in the country**
- **The District has a growing population including rapidly increasing numbers of older people.**
- **There are wide health inequalities within the District.**
- **Analysis carried out by the Health and Social Care Information Centre ranks Bradford City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) as the CCG with the highest rate of premature deaths of any CCG in the country.**

- **Research by Public Health England shows that Bradford District ranks 122nd of 150 local authority areas in terms of premature deaths.**

The Council is therefore deeply concerned at NHS proposals to redistribute health funding from the North to other parts of the country.

Those proposals would see Bradford CCGs lose £12.6 million, West Yorkshire £210 million and the North £721.5 million while far more affluent parts of the country would see a net increase in funding. For example, Wokingham which, according to Public Health England, has the lowest level of premature deaths of any local authority would see funding to its local CCG increase by over £12 million – broadly equivalent to that lost by Bradford CCGs.

The Council believes that these proposals are hugely unfair, short-sighted and damaging to the District’s ability to tackle health inequalities and could potentially lead to an increase in the number of premature deaths.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Instruct the Chief Executive to write on its behalf to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Health and to NHS England setting out its opposition to the proposals, making a clear case for Bradford’s health care funding to be, as an absolute minimum, retained at its current levels and making clear its belief that any funding formula should take need properly into account and ensure that resources are targeted at places with the highest levels of need.**
- (2) Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the District’s MPs informing them of the Council’s position and asking them to raise the matter in Parliament.**
- (3) Liaise with other West Yorkshire and regional local authorities and with local CCGs in order to work together to oppose these proposals and raise public awareness of their potential impact.**
- (4) Re-affirm its commitment to tackling health inequalities in Bradford District.**
- (5) Request that the Health and Well Being Board considers the implications of these proposals as a matter of urgency.**

ACTION: Chief Executive/Director of Public Health

10. REWIRING PUBLIC SERVICES

Resolved-

This Council, notes:

- **that England is now widely recognised to be the country with the most centralised system of government in Europe;**
- **that devolution has brought decisions about tax and spending, and the quality of public services, closer to voters in Scotland and Wales, while English voters have not gained comparably greater influence over decision-making that affects their taxes and services; and**

The Council considers

- that the likely scale of change in how public services are funded and provided makes it democratically unsustainable for those changes to be decided within the existing over-centralised model;
- that services need to be reformed and integrated across local agencies to enable them to prevent problems rather than picking up the pieces;
- that voters should be given back a meaningful say on a wider range of tax and spending decisions, through place-based budgetary arrangements, the abolition of the discredited Barnett formula and the reinstatement of fair financial distribution agreed among English councils, the re-creation of a municipal bond market, and the certainty of multi-year funding settlements for the life of a Parliament;
- that central government should enable that local decision-making by joining up and reducing in size Whitehall departments in order to facilitate local place-based budgets, by reducing Ministers' powers to intervene in local decisions, and replacing bureaucratic tick-box inspection regimes with local service users champions;
- that such a new more mature settlement between central and local government should be put beyond future revision by giving formal constitutional protection to local democracy.

The Council therefore resolves:

- (1) to support the Local Government Association's *Rewiring Public Services* campaign, which embodies these objectives and promotes improved local democracy through increasing Bradford District's voters' influence over services, tax and spending.
- (2) to ask the District's Members of Parliament to join Bradford District Councillors in support of the *Rewiring Public Services* campaign.
- (3) To make the Council's position clear to the Secretary of State.

ACTION: *Chief Executive*

11. FRACKING

Resolved-

The Council notes:

- (1) The potential of hydraulic fracturing technologies in securing energy supplies for future generations.
- (2) Concerns over the environmental impact of these technologies
- (3) The contribution that such sources of energy may make to reducing fuel poverty in Bradford

Council recommends that officers prepare:

- (1) A briefing for Councillors covering the planning, environmental and community impacts of the technology**
- (2) An assessment of the likelihood of hydraulic fracturing methods being used to extract gas or oil in the Bradford District**

ACTION: Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture/Strategic Director Environment and Sport

12. FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX

Resolved-

This Council notes that:

- (1) unemployment across Bradford is currently approximately 6% of the workforce, nearly twice the national average, as a result of the economic crisis;**
- (2) Bradford Council has been hit by huge and disproportionate cuts to its central grant since 2010;**
- (3) extending the current Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) on shares to other asset classes such as bonds and derivatives could raise £20bn of additional revenue in the UK a year;**
- (4) at least 11 European nations including France, Germany, Italy and Spain are moving ahead with FTTs on shares, bonds and derivatives estimated to raise £30bn a year.**

This Council believes that:

- (1) revenues from the FTT could help repair the damage caused by cuts in public services since 2010;**
- (2) local government deserves to receive a significant proportion of FTT revenues, making an important contribution to both capital and revenue expenditure such as reversing cuts to council tax benefits;**
- (3) whilst an FTT would have a negligible effect on jobs in the City of London, investing FTT revenues in a smart and progressive way would see a significant increase in employment levels in other sectors.**

This Council therefore:

- (1) urges the UK government to extend the current FTT on shares to other asset classes, such as bonds and derivatives;**
- (2) requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Chancellor and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government stating this council's support for extending FTTs;**

- (3) requests that the Chief Executive also writes to all Bradford MPs outlining the Council's position.

ACTION: *Chief Executive/Director of Finance*

13. LOW CARBON HOMES FOR THE CANAL ROAD CORRIDOR

Resolved-

This Council agrees that low carbon homes are an essential part of our efforts to deal with climate change and fuel poverty, and will continue to support the aims of achieving sustainable development standards for new housing constructed as part of the Canal Road Corridor scheme through the application of existing policy provisions, the inclusion of effective provisions in the emerging Local Plan and Shipley Canal Road Corridor AAP and through working closely in the future with Partners, Developers and House Builders.

ACTION: *Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture*

14. PROSCRIPTION OF THE EDL

Resolved-

This Council notes:

- (1) That the EDL is a racist, violent and Islamophobic organisation whose parades and demonstrations are designed to provoke, malign and incite hatred.
- (2) The concern distress and fear caused in particular, but not exclusively, to Bradford's Muslim communities and the financial expense and losses incurred by Tax payers and businesses when these demonstrations take place.
- (3) That the police in Bradford played a magnificent role in policing the EDL and keeping the City safe. The robust and sensitive manner in which our police handled the EDL is commendable and should be promoted as good practice nationally.
- (4) That the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner has written to the Home Secretary calling for a review of the legislation.

The Council applauds the dignified and united response of the City and its communities to the threat posed by the EDL. The Council recognises the hard work and commitment demonstrated by Bradfordians in ensuring a positive outcome.

The Council believes that whilst freedom of expression and the right to demonstrate are precious and important these rights come with responsibilities and must distinguish between a peaceful protest and one that invokes racially and religiously motivated violence.

It is intolerable that Bradford and its citizens should live under the ongoing threat of

further EDL provocations that cause dismay and cost the City millions of pounds. Bradford should not be held to ransom by these violent thugs and the ongoing national debate must address this issue.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary, Theresa May, supporting calls for an urgent review of the law covering this area to allow Councils and the Police the power to ban violent and racist demonstrations.
- (2) To further ask the Secretary of State to review the classification of the EDL.
- (3) To continue to monitor far-right (extremist) activity across the district.
- (4) To continue to work with our partners to ensure a stronger, safer and more resilient district.

ACTION: *Chief Executive/Strategic Director Environment and Sport*

15. PROTECTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Resolved-

This Council confirms its belief in the right of women to choose, of their own free will, what they wish to wear.

NO ACTION

16. BEREAVEMENT SERVICE

Resolved-

This Council commits to providing a one stop shop service for residents suffering bereavement, whereby any changes to care needs, the council tax single occupier reduction and all other services required can be accessed and organised in a single contact.

ACTION: *Chief Executive/ All Strategic Directors*

17. ODOUR CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

Resolved-

Council notes the efforts of Council Officers and Members in responding to public concerns about offensive odours relating to animal by-products.

Council recognises that the powers currently available to Local Authorities to deal with odour complaints are limited and slow. Improving this situation through a tightening of regulations around odour and odour control would be welcomed by the Council and the public.

Council asks the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State and to local MPs urging:

- (1) The tightening of regulations around odour and odour control
- (2) Transfer responsibility for permitting and enforcement actions for A2 animal by product premises, currently under local authority responsibility, to A1 premises, regulated by the Environment Agency.

ACTION: *Chief Executive/Strategic Director Environment and Sport*

18. FLAGSTONES THEFTS REGULATIONS

Resolved-

This Council requires the Chief Executive write to the Crime Prevention Minister requesting that regulations be introduced, placing similar legal requirements upon traders in flagstones and other valuable stone, to the regulations which have been introduced to govern the activities of metal traders. The Council specifically wishes to see a requirement for all people selling second hand stone providing identification to the purchaser.

ACTION: *Chief Executive*

19. INADEQUATE RAILWAY STATION PARKING PROVISION

Resolved-

This Council welcomes the £2 million that was allocated for enhanced station parking in the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Implementation Plan 1 (2011-14) and notes the additional parking provided at Crossflatts are part of this programme.

The Council notes that allocations in respect of station parking for the Implementation Plan 2 (2014-2017) are still being finalised.

The Council further welcomes the £32m identified in the West Yorkshire Transport Fund and notes that this is to be delivered in 3 phases and that Menston and Steeton & Silsden are included in Phase 2 (2015-16) and Ben Rhydding and Shipley in Phase 3 (2016-18).

ACTION: *Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture*

20. DATE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 2014

Resolved-

That the Annual Meeting of Council be held at 1030 on Tuesday 10 June 2014.

ACTION: *City Solicitor*

FROM: Suzan Hemingway
City Solicitor
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Committee Secretariat Contact: Adrian Tumber – 01274 432435
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