

## **Decisions of the Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 25 March 2014**

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

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### **DECISIONS:**

#### **1. PETITIONS**

**Objection to proposal to discontinue free transport to new pupils attending faith schools**

**Resolved –**

**That the petition be referred to the Executive.**

***ACTION: City Solicitor (referral to Committees)***

#### **2. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

**Resolved –**

**(1) That Councillor Thirkill replace Councillor Akhtar on the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

**(2) That Councillor Abid Hussain replace Councillor Akhtar on the Keighley Area Committee and Councillor Akhtar be an alternate.**

**(3) That Councillor Lal replace Councillor Shabir Hussain and Councillor Sykes replace Councillor Binney on the Regulatory and Appeals Committee and Councillors Shabir Hussain and Binney be alternates.**

**(4) That Councillor Davies be appointed as a Conservative Group alternate on the Shipley Area Committee.**

***ACTION: City Solicitor***



**3. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE - 'A PLACE TO CALL HOME': HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY FOR THE BRADFORD DISTRICT 2014/19**

**Resolved-**

**That 'A Place to Call Home: Housing and Homelessness Strategy for Bradford District 2014 – 2019' be approved.**

***ACTION: Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture***

**4. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT**

**Resolved –**

**That the changes to the Treasury Policy as set out in Document "M" be adopted.**

***ACTION: Director of Finance***

**5. NARROWING THE GAP**

**Resolved -**

**The Council notes that:**

- **Since 2010 the Coalition Government has cut Bradford Council's funding by over £100m and that the Council faces having to make further cuts of £115m over the next three years.**
- **Councils in much wealthier places much lower levels of need have had their funding reduced at a far lower rate and that over the next two years the ten wealthiest unitary Local Authority Districts will experience an average increase in spending power of over 1% while Bradford's will reduce by 8% - if Bradford were given equivalent treatment it would be £45m better off than it will be by 2016.**
- **By 2016 Spending Power Per Household in Kingston on Thames, the 10<sup>th</sup> wealthiest District in the country, will exceed that of Bradford the 26<sup>th</sup> most deprived.**
- **Government cuts have included a £10m (31%) cut in funding for Children's Centres, a £2.9m cut in funding for the Council to support schools and the axing of the District's Building Schools for the Future programme of building and refurbishment.**
- **The Government has cut funding for education programmes by £1 billion to pay for overspends on its academies programme, scrapped Education Maintenance Allowance and increased tuition fees.**
- **Funding for 18 year olds in full time education is to be cut by 17.5%.**

**The Council welcomes the year on year increase in the Pupil Premium but regrets that this is not new money and the fact that its benefits risk being lost through cuts to education.**

The Council also welcomes funding to accelerate adoptions which will complement the additional investment it has already made in order to speed up the adoptions process.

The Council recognises the fact that even in the face of unprecedented and disproportionate Government cuts it has continued to make improving education and supporting vulnerable children and families a priority and has:

- Invested more in School Innovation and Improvement.
- Protected budgets for Adoptions, Child Protection, Leaving Care Services, School Achievement and the School Governors Service.
- Kept Children's Centres open
- Built two new special schools

The Council recognises the contributions made by the Schools Forum in supporting Children's Centres and its agreement for schools to fund school clothing allowances.

The Council resolves

- (1) To continue to lobby Government for a fairer deal for Bradford District and to ensure that Local Authorities are funded according to the needs of the people and communities that they serve.
- (2) To continue working with our partners in the schools, third and private sectors to deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people that current and future resources allow.

**ACTION:** *Chief Executive/Director of Finance/Strategic Director Children's Services*

## 6. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Resolved-

This Council notes:

- (1) The additional financial difficulties brought to some vulnerable disabled people as a result of the significant cuts in Government funding to assist people with paying Council Tax and that at a minimum a further £2M would be needed to ensure all eligible disabled people in the District are able to receive 100% assistance with their Council Tax.
- (2) That the process for appealing against decisions to cease payment of Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance can be lengthy, lasting up to 18 months in some cases.
- (3) That 80% of appeals against decisions to remove benefits payments are won but many appellants suffer considerable anxiety and stress during the intervening period and that this can be heightened by worry about having to pay Council Tax at a time when they effectively are without income.
- (4) That the Council's current policy where people are unable to pay Council Tax is to work with them on an individual basis and, where appropriate, to put

Council Tax collection activity on hold pending the outcome of their appeal.

The Council resolves to:

- (1) Call on the Government to make the additional funding required available within Bradford's Council Tax support grant to ensure that all eligible disabled people are able to receive 100% assistance with their Council Tax.
- (2) Confirm its policy of taking individual circumstances into account before proceeding with action against Council Tax payers and ensuring Council Staff are trained in obtaining the relevant information to assess a person's ability to pay and make affordable arrangements in line with their circumstances. This includes putting Council Tax Collection activity on hold for a reasonable period, pending the outcome of an appeal.
- (3) Ask the Director of Finance to ensure that the policy is communicated to all agencies working with affected client groups in order to encourage those people affected to contact the Council at the earliest possible opportunity.

**ACTION:** *Director of Finance*

#### **7. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2014/15**

Resolved-

That the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2014/15, as set out at Appendix 1 to Document "N", be approved.

**ACTION:** *Interim Head of Human Resources*

#### **8. JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE REVIEW**

Resolved-

- (1) Council reconfirms its support for the establishment of a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber) in relation to NHS England's new review on Congenital Heart Disease services.
- (2) That Council delegates relevant functions, as set out in Appendix 1 to Document "O", that shall be exercisable by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber), subject to the terms and conditions set out in the said terms of reference.
- (3) That Council asks the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to nominate a member from within its membership to sit on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber) in relation to the new review of Congenital Heart Disease services and, upon nomination, agrees to appoint such members to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber).

**ACTION:** *City Solicitor*

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