

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD AT CITY HALL, BRADFORD
ON TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2014**

Commenced: 1600

Concluded: 1830

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Khadim Hussain) and Councillors:

LABOUR

Azam	Greenwood	Johnson	Ruding
Berry	Hinchcliffe	Khaliq	M Slater
Billheimer	Abid Hussain	H Khan	V Slater
Dodds	Amir Hussain	I Khan	L Smith
Dredge	Arshad Hussain	S Khan	Smithies
Engel	Imran Hussain	Lal	Swallow
Farley	Shabir Hussain	Lee	Thirkill
Ferriby	Ikram	Malik	A Thornton
Godward	Jabar	Pullen	Warburton
Green	Javed	Ross-Shaw	

CONSERVATIVE

Binney	Heseltine	Pennington	D Smith
Brown	L'Amie	Poulsen	Sykes
Cooke	Mallinson	Shah	Townend
Davies	McCabe	Shaw	Walls
Ellis	Miller	B M Smith	Whiteley
Gibbons			

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

Griffiths	Middleton	G Reid	Wallace
Leeming	C Reid	Sunderland	

**BRADFORD
INDEPENDENTS**

Ahmed
Collector
Karmani
F Khan
Shabbir

GREEN

Hawarun Hussain
Love
Warnes

INDEPENDENTS

Greaves
Hawkesworth
Naylor

**QUEENSBURY
WARD
INDEPENDENTS**

L Cromie
P Cromie

PEACE

Imdad Hussain

INDEPENDENT

Robinson

The Lord Mayor in the Chair

109. RECORDING OF COUNCIL

In accordance with paragraph 8.1, Part 3B, of the Council's Constitution photography and sound recording of this meeting could only take place with the permission of the majority of the Elected Members in attendance at the meeting. Following a show of hands the photography and sound recording was allowed.

110. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The following declarations on the basis of transparency in matters under consideration were received:

Petition – Objection to proposal to discontinue free transport to new pupils attending faith schools (Minute 115)

Councillor Engel made a declaration that her children attended a Catholic school but were not in receipt of a bus pass and left the meeting during the item; Councillor Greenwood declared that she is the Chair of Governors at a Catholic school and is Chair of the Education Appeals Panel; Councillor Lee declared that she is a practising Catholic and is a governor at a Catholic school; and Councillor Malik who declared that his children attend a faith school.

'A Place to Call Home': Housing and Homelessness Strategy for the Bradford District 2014/19 (Minute 117)

The following Members declared that they were a private sector landlord or had a relative who is: Councillors Azam, L Cromie, P Cromie, Farley, Hawkesworth, Hawarun Hussain, Imran Hussain, I Khan, Lal, Miller, D Smith and Smithies. Councillor Smithies declared she was a member of the Incommunities Housing Association Board, Councillor Middleton as an independent member of the NEST Local Management Trust Committee, Councillor Sunderland as a director of Inspired Neighbourhoods CIC and Councillor B M Smith as an independent member of the Incommunities Foundation Board.

Treasury Management Policy Statement (Minute 117)

The following Members declared that they were members of the Co-op: Councillors Berry, Billheimer, Dodds, Engel, Godward, Hinchcliffe, Imran Hussain, Imran Khan, Lee, Smithies and Swallow.

Council Tax Support for Disabled People (Minute 120)

Councillor Miller made a declaration that he is a disabled person and he left the meeting during that item. Councillor Thirkill declared that she has a close relative who claims Disability Living Allowance.

The declarations were made on the basis of transparency and with the exception of Councillor Engel's declaration on the home to school transport to faith schools petition and Councillor Miller's declaration on the motion Council Tax Support for Disabled People Members remained in the meeting during consideration and voting on those items.

ACTION: City Solicitor

111. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2014 be signed as a correct record.

112. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Akthar, Baroness Eaton, Gray, Shafiq, G Thornton and Wainwright.

113. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**CITY OF SANCTUARY – STATUS RENEWAL**

The Lord Mayor was pleased to report that Bradford's recognition as a 'City of Sanctuary' had been fully endorsed following a formal review by the national City of Sanctuary trustees. During the adjournment in this meeting the Lord Mayor invited Members to attend the presentation of the certificate by Tiffy Allen, National Co-ordinator of City of Sanctuary, in the Banqueting Hall which would also be attended by members of the City of Sanctuary Bradford group including Will Sutcliffe, Chair of City of Sanctuary Bradford. The certificate would go on permanent display in City Hall.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

A new food bank organised by The Lions Club in partnership with the Save The Mothers Trust charity was setting up a food bank in the Bradford 7 area which the Lord Mayor was formally opening on 27 March 2014. Food Bank collection points had been set up outside the Council Chamber and Members were requested to be generous and it was known that all contributions will be gratefully accepted and speedily distributed

GIFT TO THE CITY

During this meeting's short adjournment the Lord Mayor indicated that he would announce details of his gift to the City given as a memento of his Year in Civic office.

DEATH OF MR ALBERT JOYNER

It was reported with sadness that the District's oldest veteran, 102 year old Albert Joyner, formerly of the Royal Marines, died last week. The Lord Mayor would be attending Albert's funeral service on 28 March 2014 at Riddlesden United Reformed Church.

ELECTIONS

As this was the last ordinary meeting of the Council for this municipal year, the Lord Mayor asked that Council place on record its thanks and appreciation for the contribution to the life of the District and the wellbeing of its citizens made by those Members who were standing down from the Council at the forthcoming elections. Their departure would bring with it the loss of a wealth of experience and knowledge which would not be easy to replace. In particular, the Lord Mayor drew attention to the courage and determination shown by Councillor Valerie Binney in having continued to undertake her work as a councillor despite her health. In response Councillor Binney thanked officers and members for their support and indicated that it had been a pleasure to serve the people of the Thornton and Allerton ward.

The Lord Mayor also wished 'Good Luck' at the Polls to those Councillors who were seeking re-election on the 22nd of May 2014.

114. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no restricted documents.

115. PETITIONS

The following request was received:

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)*

116. 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*

117. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

Council Document “P” detailed the written questions and answers from Members to the Leader of Council and Portfolio Holders.

118. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE - ‘A PLACE TO CALL HOME’: HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY FOR THE BRADFORD DISTRICT 2014/19

At the meeting of the Executive on 11 March 2014 the Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture submitted **Executive Document “BO”** outlining the development of a refreshed Housing and Homelessness Strategy for the district. The strategy set out the vision, priorities and approach for meeting the housing needs of the residents of the district, and for tackling and preventing homelessness. The refreshed strategy had been drafted as a

high-level framework document to influence the Council and partners' policies and delivery programmes.

Resolved-

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

ACTION: Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture

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

At the meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee on 7 March 2014 the Director of Finance submitted Governance and Audit Committee Document "AJ" containing the Treasury Strategy for the three financial years commencing 2013/14 and the Annual Investment Strategy. The Committee amended the policy and referred the document to Council for adoption (**Document "Q"**).

Resolved –

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

ACTION: Director of Finance

120. 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 10th wealthiest District in the country, will exceed that of Bradford the 26th 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

121. 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*

122. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2014/15

The Localism Act 2011 introduced a requirement for Local Authorities to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year. The Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15 must be approved by full Council before publication and was attached to Document "N".

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*

123. JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE REVIEW

The report of the City Solicitor (**Document "O"**) seeks approval from Council for the proposal that this authority supports and participates in a joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber) in relation to the new 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*

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of Council.

minutes\ccl25Mar

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER