

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD AT CITY HALL, BRADFORD
ON TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2014**

Commenced: 1605

Concluded: 1815

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Gibbons) and Councillors:

LABOUR

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

CONSERVATIVE

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

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

Fear	Middleton	J Sunderland	Wallace
Griffiths	Reid	R Sunderland	

**BRADFORD
INDEPENDENTS**

Ahmed
Collector
Karmani
F Khan
Shabbir

GREEN

Love
Warnes

INDEPENDENTS

Atkinson
Hawkesworth
Naylor

**QUEENSBURY
WARD
INDEPENDENTS**

L Cromie
P Cromie

The Lord Mayor in the Chair

45. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

The following declarations on matters under consideration were received:

Members Question Time – Question 6 (Minute 53)

Dermot Pearson, Assistant City Solicitor, made a declaration that the question related to himself and left the meeting during the question.

Hot Food Takeaways (Minute 59)

Councillor Ikram made a declaration on the basis of transparency that a member of her family owned a takeaway business.

ACTION: *Assistant City Solicitor*

46. **MINUTES**

Resolved –

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

47. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Baroness Eaton, Godward, Hawarun Hussain, Leeming, Mallinson, Morris and Robinson.

48. **LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CURRY CUISINE SUCCESSES

The Lord Mayor congratulated all involved in Bradford being crowned the Curry Capital of Britain for the fourth consecutive year. This annual competition involved twenty cities and regions from across the UK competing for the prestigious title. All participating cities must host fundraising events in support of The Curry Tree and Bradford's bid this year included a number of innovative activities including a series of poppadom challenges, an Asian Afternoon Tea and a healthy-style Asian cookbook created with the support of the NHS.

Bradford's outstanding cuisine was further recognised as the Aagrah Midpoint at Thornbury scooped the Best Restaurant in the North East prize at the British Curry Awards.

ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE FOR THE CITY

It was reported that the annual Carol Service for the City would be held on 22 December 2014 at Bradford Cathedral. The Lord Mayor indicated that everyone was welcome to attend this festive gathering.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Lord Mayor extended warm greetings of the season to all Members and Officers of the Council wishing everyone a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

49. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no restricted documents.

50. PETITIONS

The following request was received:

Save Queensbury Pool

Resolved –

That the petition be referred to the Executive.

ACTION: Assistant City Solicitor (referral to Committees)

51. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions were received on the location of the nearest Hackney Carriage rank to Ilkley Railway Station and on the requirement for Hackney Carriages to be wheelchair accessible.

The Leader of Council's responses were contained within **Document "J"**.

52. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Resolved –

- (1) That the appointment of Joyce Simpson as a voting Church of England co-opted member of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2014/2015 municipal year be confirmed.**
- (2) That Councillor Robinson be appointed to the Bradford South Area Committee in place of Councillor Walls.**
- (3) That Councillor Ahmed be appointed to the Bradford West Area Committee in place of Councillor Thirkill and Councillor Thirkill be a Labour Group alternate.**
- (4) That Councillor Morris be appointed to the Keighley Area Committee in place of Councillor Atkinson and Councillor Atkinson be an Independents Group alternate.**
- (5) That Councillor Hawarun Hussain be appointed to the Shipley Area Committee in place of Councillor Greenwood and Councillor Greenwood be a Labour Group alternate.**
- (6) That Councillor Miller replace Councillor Shaw as an alternate on the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

ACTION: Assistant City Solicitor

53. **MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

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

54. **RECOMMENDATION FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2013/14**

Previous reference: Governance and Audit Committee Minute 34 (2013/14)

This Council was required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2013/14. On 24 October 2014 the Governance and Audit Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance (**Governance and Audit Committee Document “R”**) showing the Council’s Treasury Management activities for the year ending 31 March 2014.

Resolved -

That the Annual Treasury Management Report 2013/14 be adopted.

ACTION: Director of Finance

55. **RECOMMENDATION FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW UP TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Previous reference: Governance and Audit Committee Minute 35 (2013/14)

On 24 October 2014 the Governance and Audit Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance (**Governance and Audit Committee Document “S”**) indicating that in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s (CIPFA) Code of Practice a mid-year review of Treasury Management had been undertaken.

Resolved-

That the changes to the Treasury Policy set out in section 3.4.2 of Governance and Audit Committee Document “S” be adopted.

ACTION: Director of Finance

Note: Under Standing Order 4.2 Members voted to combine the debates on the motion on the Devolution of Powers from Westminster and Whitehall and the motion on Devolution of Powers to West Yorkshire.

56. **DEVOLUTION OF POWERS FROM WESTMINSTER AND WHITEHALL**

A motion, as set out in the resolution below, was moved by Councillor Green and was carried.

Amendments moved by Councillor Hawkesworth and Councillor Griffiths were defeated.

Resolved-

This Council believes that decisions are best taken at as local a level as possible and we are pleased to see that following the Scottish Referendum and in the run up to the General Election all Parties are committing themselves to greater devolution in England.

This Council believes that the current centralised system we have in England is not only expensive but fails to deliver the best possible services for the people of the District.

We believe that the current discussions about the devolution to the Combined Authority need to be as wide ranging as possible and allow for further devolution of delivery of services to the lowest possible level of administration that is applicable and effective and to cover the widest range of service and fiscal devolution.

We believe that the Governance arrangements for devolved services should be a local matter as long as basic issues of accountability and probity can be satisfied.

ACTION: Interim Chief Executive

57. DEVOLUTION OF POWERS TO WEST YORKSHIRE

A motion was moved by Councillor Cooke.

An amendment to the motion, as set out in the resolution below, was moved by Councillor Green and was carried.

Resolved-

The Council notes that:

- (1) West Yorkshire and York Combined Authority Council Leaders have made it clear that they are willing to publish details of negotiations with national Government over further devolution.**
- (2) Representatives of national Government have made clear their desire for those details to remain confidential.**

ACTION: Interim Chief Executive

58. TOWNS AGAINST TAX DODGING

A motion, as set out in the resolution below, was moved by Councillor Swallow and was carried.

An amendment moved by Councillor Cooke was defeated.

Resolved-

This Council notes:

- (1) It has been estimated that the UK Treasury loses as much as £12 billion to tax dodging by multinational companies every year.**
- (2) While many ordinary people face falling household income and rising costs of living, some multinational companies are avoiding billions of pounds of tax from a tax system that fails to make them pay their fair share.**
- (3) Developing countries lose three times more to tax dodging than they receive in aid each year – enough to give a basic education to the 57 million children currently missing out.**
- (4) Local governments in the UK and developing countries alike would benefit from a fairer tax system where multinational companies pay their fair share, enabling authorities around the world to provide good quality public services.**
- (5) The UK has a particular responsibility to end tax dodging, as it is responsible for 1 in 5 of the world's tax havens in the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.**
- (6) The use of tax havens by UK companies is rife, with 98 of the FTSE 100 companies routinely using tax havens.**
- (7) Large multinational companies pay as little as 5% in corporate taxes globally, while smaller businesses pay up to 30%.**
- (8) That the G8 Summit hosted by the UK in June 2013 made some progress on the issue of tax dodging and that the changes that are needed that were highlighted at the summit need to be implemented.**

This Council believes that:

- (1) Its ability to provide quality local services would be significantly enhanced by the increased revenues from the government doing more to tackle tax dodging.**
- (2) All who benefit from public spending, including multinational companies should contribute their fair share.**
- (3) The UK must take a lead role in creating a fairer tax system and combating tax dodging.**
- (4) The UK government must listen to the strength of public feeling and act to end the injustice of tax dodging by large multinational companies.**

The Council resolves to;

- (1) Support the campaign for tax justice - "Towns Against Tax Dodging"**
- (2) Call on the Government to do more to prevent the tax avoidance by multinational companies that costs the UK up to £12 billion a year at a time when public services are under increasing financial pressure and that harms ordinary people around the world.**

ACTION: *Interim Chief Executive*

59. HOT FOOD TAKEAWAYS

A motion was moved by Councillor Fear and was defeated.

60. PROMOTING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH PLANNING

A motion, as set out in the resolution below, was moved by Councillor Sykes and was carried.

Resolved-

Council notes:

- (1) Criticisms from the public, from parish councils and from members about the way in which the planning system operates**
- (2) That the purpose of development control and management is to ensure planning decisions comply with the adopted development plan and that, so far as is possible, the expectations of that plan are met**
- (3) That many people are not fully aware of the constraints and limitations on planning and development control**

Council requests that the Strategic Director, Regeneration:

- (1) Develops a communications plan around the Local Plan process that seeks to inform the public about the planning process**
- (2) Ensures that pre-application and other development engagement is undertaken as transparently as commercial confidence permits**
- (3) Encourages developers, especially for significant and strategic proposals, to undertake more public consultation**
- (4) Continues to develop and improve online promotion of public engagement with planning including via social media**

ACTION: *Strategic Director, Regeneration and Culture/Assistant Director Communications*

61. ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council was asked in the report of the Assistant City Solicitor (**Document "K"**) to decide whether to approve the reason for the non-attendance at Council meetings for a period of 6 months by a councillor under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members voted under the provisions of Standing Order 9 that this item be withdrawn from the agenda.

ACTION: *Assistant City Solicitor*

Chair

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