

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD AT CITY HALL, BRADFORD
ON TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2015**

Commenced: 1600

Concluded: 1850

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Gibbons) and Councillors:

LABOUR

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

CONSERVATIVE

Brown	L'Amie	Poulsen	Townend
Cooke	Mallinson	B M Smith	Walls
Davies	Miller	D Smith	Whiteley
Heseltine	Pennington	Sykes	

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

Fear	Leeming	Reid	R Sunderland
Griffiths	Middleton	J Sunderland	Wallace

**BRADFORD
INDEPENDENTS**

Ahmed
Collector
Karmani
F Khan
Shabbir

GREEN

Hawarun Hussain
Love

INDEPENDENTS

Atkinson
Hawkesworth
Naylor

**QUEENSBURY
INDEPENDENTS**

L Cromie
P Cromie

UKIP

Morris

INDEPENDENT

Robinson

The Lord Mayor in the Chair

83. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The following declaration was received:

Motion – Street Trading (Minute 93)

Councillor Shabbir declared a pecuniary interest that he owned two commercial properties and he left the meeting during consideration and voting on the item.

ACTION: Assistant City Solicitor

84. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2015 be signed as a correct record.

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barker, Baroness Eaton, Ellis, Ikram, Javed, Malik, McCabe, Shaw, G Thornton and Warnes.

86. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRADFORD CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

Congratulations were given to Bradford City Football Club on their recent successes in the FA Cup, alongside commiserations at the team losing to Reading on 16 March. Fans had been provided with some memorable moments during the recent run, from beating Halifax and Dartford, to Championship Millwall and then knocking out Premier Leaguers Sunderland and Chelsea. The Lord Mayor wished the team well in its bid to win promotion to the Championship league.

GIFT TO THE CITY

The Lord Mayor informed Members and Senior Officers that, at the end of the meeting, he would announce his gift to the City to mark his Civic year.

ELECTIONS

As this was the last ordinary meeting of the Council for the current municipal year, the Lord Mayor extended good wishes for the future to Members who were standing down from the Council at the forthcoming elections. It was acknowledged that their departure would bring the loss of a wealth of experience and knowledge and the Lord Mayor placed on record thanks and appreciation for their contribution to the life of the District and the wellbeing of its citizens. 'Good Luck' at the Polls was wished to those Councillors who were seeking re-election on 7 May 2015.

Members supported the Lord Mayor's comments and paid tribute to those long serving Members who were not standing again.

87. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no restricted documents.

88. PETITIONS

The following requests were received:

Eastwood Primary School, Keighley – Safe Crossing

Resolved –

That the petition be referred to the Keighley Area Committee.

Saltaire Trees – Consultation Process

Resolved –

That the petition be referred to the Shipley Area Committee.

ACTION: Assistant City Solicitor (referral to Committees)

89. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

90. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Resolved –

- (1) That Councillor Barker replace Councillor Whiteley on the Shipley Area Committee and Councillor Whiteley be an alternate.**
- (2) That Councillor Miller replace Councillor L'Amie as an alternate on the Regulatory and Appeals Committee.**
- (3) That Councillor Sher Khan replace Councillor Javed on the Standards Committee.**
- (4) That Councillor Javed be removed as an alternate on the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- (5) That Councillor Javed be removed as an alternate on the Bradford West Area Committee.**

ACTION: Assistant City Solicitor

91. **MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

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

92. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES -
RECOMMENDATION FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE –
TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT, MINIMUM REVENUE
PROVISION STRATEGY AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2014/15**

At its meeting on 20 March 2015 the Governance and Audit Committee considered the report of the Director of Finance **Document “AK”** which showed the Council’s Treasury Strategy for borrowing for the three financial years commencing 2014/15 and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2014/15.

Resolved-

That the changes to the Treasury Policy set out in section 4.3 of Governance and Audit Committee Document “AK” be adopted.

ACTION: *Director of Finance*

93. **STREET TRADING**

A motion was moved by Councillor Karmani.

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

An amendment moved by Councillor Fear was defeated.

Resolved-

This Council notes that the rise in street trading is a means for hard working people to make a living in these difficult times. Across Bradford there has been an increase in Mobile Street trading vans selling fresh fruit, food, clothes and also items such as sofas.

The Council acknowledges the need to maintain a flexible approach to enable people with entrepreneurial skills to trade. It nevertheless notes that in many cases street trading is adversely impacting on local businesses operating from premises. Established businesses pays business rates, employ staff, VAT and also contribute to the vibrancy of localised trading areas supporting local communities.

Street trades are impacting adversely on shops, as they are able to undercut business because of the following:

- **Pay no business rates**
- **Do not have other utility overheads**
- **Largely do not employ staff**
- **Do not pay VAT**

In the current climate where businesses are struggling to survive the increasing arrival of streets traders is threatening business with closure and inability to pay business rates and employ staff.

The Council resolves to ask the Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the concerns raised in this motion and report back to Council any changes in Council procedures that they deem to be necessary.

ACTION: *Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture/Assistant City Solicitor (Scrutiny Lead)*

94. COUNCIL PRIORITIES

A motion was moved by Councillor Cooke.

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

Resolved-

This Council notes that in pursuit of the District's priorities since 2010 it has:

- (1) Saved £112m through reducing management, administrative and property costs, improving productivity and cutting the inefficiency inherited from the previous Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition.
- (2) Supported schools to improve achievement while recognising the need to go further and faster, increased school places by 7,000, built two new special schools and kept all the District's Children's Centres open.
- (3) Allocated over £20m extra funding to meet demand for social care, invested in better accommodation for older and vulnerable people, helped more people to live at home, reduced premature winter deaths, supported dementia friendly communities and helped to overturn the Coalition Government's plans to cut the District's NHS funding.
- (4) Worked with Westfield to get Broadway built, invested in the £35m City Centre Growth Zone, opened new Industrial Centres of Excellence, increased apprenticeships, supported over 1,000 people into work through Get Bradford Working, helped secure the Tour De France and National Media Museum and supported the health technology enterprise zone.
- (5) Brought over 3,000 empty homes back into use, delivered over 1,000 new affordable homes, improved recycling, kept uniformed patrols on our streets, protected Child and Adult Safeguarding from Government cuts and invested in the prevention, detection and prosecution of Child Sexual Exploitation.
- (6) The Council agrees that these are the priorities that local people and businesses would expect it to focus effort and resources on.

The Council further notes:

- (i) That the principal responsibility for funding school places lies with the Government.

- (ii) **The derisory and inadequate funding provided by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition Government for extra school places in Bradford District.**
- (iii) **The ageing, decaying and unsustainable estate inherited from the previous administration including sorely neglected swimming pools.**
- (iv) **That the Sports Facilities Strategy will deliver cost reductions to the Council and new facilities to support the health and well being of our communities.**
- (v) **That Conservative budget proposals politically targeted Richard Dunn Sports Centre and Pool for closure with no replacement while proposing to invest the proceeds in areas represented by Conservative Councillors.**
- (vi) **The significant savings delivered to date by the Council's property programme and its benefits to City Centre regeneration.**
- (vii) **That the proposed Public Service hub will be funded by the private sector and that there is no agreement for it to accommodate Council staff.**

The Council resolves to:

- (1) **Continue to deliver and invest in services and facilities in the long term interests of the District not short term political gain.**
- (2) **Call on the next Government to provide sufficient funding to deliver the school places the District needs.**
- (3) **Keep the Capital Investment Programme under regular review and continue to ensure that it is aligned with priorities.**
- (4) **Continue to work with partners to increase employment and economic activity across Bradford District.**

ACTION: Interim Chief Executive/all Strategic Directors

95. SCHOOL PLACES

A motion was moved by Councillor Berry and was carried.

Resolved -

The Council believes that if Local Authorities are to be held responsible for the provision of sufficient school places they should also have the powers and funding needed to work with schools and sponsors to deliver them.

The Council notes:

- (a) **The ongoing pressure on School Places across all parts of the Bradford District as the population continues to grow.**
- (b) **That the Academies Act 2010 prevents the Council from setting up and running new schools.**

- (c) That, working with schools, the Council has expanded school places by 7,000 since 2010 and has invested £44m in the building of two new special schools.
- (d) The recent announcement of a derisory and inadequate funding settlement from Government for extra school places in Bradford District that represents a 92% cut in Government support and will have an adverse impact across the entire District.
- (e) The Coalition Government's policy of paying for school places in parts of the country where there are surplus places at the expense of areas like Bradford District where there are high levels of need.
- (f) The fragmented system of local schools capital funding.
- (g) That the Council is unable to require academies to expand.
- (h) That any decisions about proposals and sponsors for building new academies lie with the Secretary of State for Education and not with local decision makers who have the best understanding of local needs.
- (i) That the Council has very limited ability to determine or influence decisions about what new types of schools are needed to secure sufficient places.

The Council therefore calls on the next Government to:

- (1) Establish a single local schools capital fund to enable the Council to work with schools to maximise the impact of the very limited capital funding available for repairing, rebuilding and building new schools.
- (2) Provide an indicative five year capital allocation enabling the Council to work with schools and potential sponsors to plan ahead and commission and deliver the school places that the District needs.
- (3) Re-instate local decision making about the provision of new schools as was the case before the introduction of the Academies Act 2011.
- (4) Provide Councils with the option of establishing community schools where this is the preferred local approach and where academies are the preferred option to ensure that decisions about sponsors are taken locally.
- (5) Ensure that funding for new school places is targeted at those parts of the country where places are needed and not at areas of surplus places.

ACTION: *Strategic Director Children's Services*

96. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2015/16

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 2015/16 was submitted for approval and attached to the report of the Director of Human Resources (**Document "Q"**).

Resolved-

That the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2015/16, as set out at Appendix 1 to Council Document “Q”, be approved.

ACTION: Director of Human Resources

Chair

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

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