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## Minutes of a meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held on Friday 20 March 2015 at City Hall, Bradford

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Commenced 1100  
 Adjourned 1205  
 Reconvened 1210  
 Concluded 1220

### PRESENT – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Eaton	Akthar
	M Slater

Apologies: Councillor L Smith

### Councillor M Slater in the Chair

#### 65. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

- (1) In the interest of transparency Councillor M Slater disclosed an interest as he was a Member of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund Joint Advisory Group and Investment Advisory Panel.
- (2) In the interest of transparency all those who were in the West Yorkshire Pension Fund disclosed an interest.

**ACTION:** *Assistant City Solicitor*

#### 66. MINUTES

**Resolved -**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January and 20 February 2015 be signed as a correct record.**



## 67. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

## 68. ENVIRONMENT AND SPORT'S ADMINISTRATION OF VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS

The Strategic Director Environment and Sport submitted **Document "AJ"** which outlined the process the Department of Environment and Sport had undertaken to allocate funding, since taking responsibility for part of the 'Voluntary Sector Budget' in April 2014. The process undertaken sought to achieve agreed savings within the Council budget, to increase democratic accountability and transparency and maximise the impact of the remaining resource.

It was reported that until 31 March 2014 the Community Funding Unit within the Department of Adult and Community Services administered the entire Voluntary Sector Budget. In 2014/15 the Voluntary Sector Budget was split between four Council departments; Environment and Sport, Children's Services, Regeneration and Culture and Adult and Community Services.

Members were informed that the total value for Environment and Sport in 2014/15 was £1,209,000 (+£75,000) which included Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support, Community Development, Core Costs and Environment.

It was reported that as part of the 2014/15 Council budget process, Council resolved in February 2014 to make savings of £300,000 from the Voluntary Sector Budget. Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure Support was to be reduced by 25%, Advice Work, Domestic Violence and Community Centre Care Costs were all protected and other areas were expected to find savings of 10%.

Members commented on a number of issues which included:

- Were there inconsistencies/duplication now that the budget had been split into four Council departments?
- In relation to paragraph 2.3 of the report what was meant by one community fund?
- Disappointed that Clinical Commissioning Groups had decided not to jointly fund VCS Infrastructure Support with the Council and were currently undertaking their own separate process.
- Clinical Commissioning Group's needed to be kept informed of what was being commissioned in the relevant wards to ensure they were aware of what was happening in their areas.
- It was concerning that Area Committees did not choose to set any specific priorities when considering community development grants.
- It was important that Area Committees considered that affluent areas also had areas of deprivation, decisions should not be just ward based but needed to be more localised.
- Needed to be content that individual area committees used resources following due process.
- Monitoring arrangements for grants needed to be more robust, clearer and more transparent.

In response to Members' questions it was reported that:

- A lot of work was undertaken with Council departments in 2014/15 to analyse how much was spent in the Voluntary Community Sector to ensure there was no duplication; but some third sector bodies were funded more than once.
- Infrastructure was right in that it gave greater accountability and transparency, relating to the voluntary sector funding.
- The Safer and Stronger Communities Portfolio Holder had requested that relevant officers from all four departments and the Commissioning and Procurement Service to continue to co-ordinate, the funding across the four departments as one community fund to ensure there was greater democratic accountability and transparency related to the funds and where appropriate to devolve decision making to the Council's five area committees. This would mean less duplication and less inconsistency.
- The CCG's decided not to jointly fund VCS infrastructure support with the Council as they felt some elements of health did not fit in with their priorities.
- Each Area Committee in distributing the community development funding dealt with the grants differently.
- Monitoring reports went to area committees on a regular basis which explained the meetings of the Grants Advisory Group; Ward Members were also more involved in that work.
- There was a Commissioning Funding Group that looked at commissioning and CCG's had a representative on that body; the Council was committed to joint working and CCG's would be kept informed when considering funding.

#### **Resolved -**

- (1) That the approach taken towards the allocation of voluntary sector funding within the Department of Environment and Sport be noted.**
- (2) That the Committee expresses concern about some aspects of this years Grants Advisory process and therefore recommends to all Area Committees that when considering the next round of funding allocations which commences in September 2017, that they first establish agreed priorities with a clear outcome focus before asking for expressions of interest.**
- (3) That it be recommended to the Director of Finance that an open, transparent and consistent method of monitoring and evaluating community development awards and grants based on outcomes required and achieved be established.**

***ACTION: Strategic Director Environment and Sport (Decision 2)/Director of Finance (Decision 3)***

#### **69. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STRATEGY AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2014/15**

The Director of Finance submitted **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.

It was reported that changes to the Treasury Policy were detailed at paragraph 4.3 of the report.

Members had a short discussion on the Municipal Bond Agency, which was currently in the process of being set up, would be offering loans to local authorities in the near future. It was hoped that the borrowing rates would be lower than those offered by the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB).

The Chair requested that as required by the CIPFA Code Members with responsibility for Treasury Management receive adequate training in Treasury Management and that Members of the Committee need to be advised of any such training taking place.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the changes to the Treasury policy set out in section 4.3 of Document “AK” be noted and referred to Council for adoption.**
- (2) That Members of this Committee be informed of any Treasury Management Training that is organised.**

***ACTION: Director of Finance***

**70. WEST YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND (WYPF) LOCAL PENSION BOARDS**

The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 requires the Department for Communities and Local Government to make regulations that require each Local Government Pension Scheme administering authority to establish a Local Pension Board.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment)(Governance) Regulation 2015 were laid before Parliament on 28 January 2015.

The Director of West Yorkshire Pension Fund submitted **Document “AL”** which reported that the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council had to establish a board for the West Yorkshire Pension Fund by 1 April 2015.

It was reported that the role of the Pension Board was to assist the Administering Authority in ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

In response to a Members question it was reported that the Boards would be overseen by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Members were informed that the Terms of Reference of the Board would be reviewed every two years.

**Resolved -**

**That the establishment and Terms of Reference of the Pension Board be agreed.**

***ACTION: Director of West Yorkshire Pension Fund***

**71. MINUTES OF WEST YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND (WYPF) JOINT ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2015**

The Council's Financial Regulations requires the minutes of meeting of the WYPF Joint Advisory Group to be submitted to this committee.

In accordance with this requirement, the Director of West Yorkshire Pension Fund submitted **Document "AM"** which reported on the minutes of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund Joint Advisory Group meeting held on 29 January 2015.

**Resolved –**

**That the minutes of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund Joint Advisory Group Meeting held on 29 January 2015 were considered.**

**72. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**Resolved –**

**That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items relating to minutes of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund Investment Advisory Panel meeting held on 29 January 2015 because the information to be considered is exempt information within paragraph 3 (Financial or Business Affairs) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. It is also considered that it is in the public interest to exclude public access to this item.**

**73. MINUTES OF WEST YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND (WYPF) INVESTMENT ADVISORY PANEL MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2015**

The Council's Financial Regulations requires the minutes of meetings of the WYPF be submitted to this Committee.

In accordance with this requirement, the Director of West Yorkshire Pension Fund submitted **Not for Publication Document "AN"** which reported on the minutes of the meeting of the WYPF Investment Advisory Panel held on 29 January 2015.

**Resolved –**

**That the minutes of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund Investment Advisory Panel held on 29 January 2015 were considered.**

Chair

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

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