

Decisions of the Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 16 October 2012

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

DECISIONS:

1. PETITIONS

Mayo Avenue, Bradford

Resolved –

That the petition be referred to the Bradford South Area Committee for consideration.

Ingleby Place, Bradford

As the petitioners were not present in accordance with the Constitution's Rules of Procedure, paragraph 11.5 of Part 3A, the petition was not received.

Changes to Council Tax Support

Resolved –

That the petition be referred to the Executive for consideration.

ACTION: City Solicitor

2. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Resolved –

(1) That Councillor Khaliq replace Councillor Billheimer and Councillor Billheimer be an alternate on the Bradford East Area Committee.



Suzan Hemingway, City Solicitor

- (2) That Councillor Ikram be appointed Deputy Chair, Councillor Malcolm Slater replace Councillor Billheimer and Councillor Hassan Khan replace Councillor Malcolm Slater as an alternate on the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.
- (3) That Councillor Engel replace Councillor Billheimer on the Licensing Committee.
- (4) That Councillor Hassan Khan replace Councillor Imran Khan on the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (5) That on the Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Councillor Hassan Khan replace Councillor Malcolm Slater; Councillor Khaliq replace Councillor Billheimer; and Councillor Khadim Hussain replace Councillor Khaliq as an alternate.
- (6) That Mr M Shakeel be appointed as a non-voting Independent person and Parish Councillor Heathcliffe Bowen and Town Councillor Graham Mitchell be appointed as the two non-voting Parish and Town Councillor representatives on the Standards Committee.
- (7) That the appointment of Ian Foster to replace Jacqui Tootill as a non-voting co-opted representative on the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2012/2013 municipal year be confirmed.

ACTION: *City Solicitor*

3. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE – MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Resolved –

- (1) That the updated and revised Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/14 to 2015/16 be approved.
- (2) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy be used as the basis for early consultation on the development of the Council's 2013/14 budget proposals.

ACTION: *Director of Finance*

4. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2011/12

Resolved –

That the Annual Treasury Management Report 2011/12 be approved.

ACTION: *Director of Finance*

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW UP TO 31 JULY 2012

Resolved –

That the Treasury Policy for the investment of the Council’s cash be revised in accordance with the changes in paragraph 2.4.3 and 2.4.4 of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee Document “S” and the report be approved.

ACTION: Director of Finance

6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE – REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS IN WEST YORKSHIRE

Resolved –

That the following resolution of the Executive be endorsed:

- (1) That the Council should be party, together with other West Yorkshire Authorities (including the ITA), to a Review of governance arrangements relating to transport, economic development and regeneration in West Yorkshire pursuant to S108 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and Sec 82 of the Local Transport Act 2008.**
- (2) That the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader, to commission the preparation of the Review, in consultation with the other West Yorkshire Authorities.**
- (3) That the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader to commission the preparation (in consultation with the other West Yorkshire Authorities) of a draft Scheme for a Combined Authority for consideration by Executive and Council, if the Review recommends that a Combined Authority would be the most beneficial option for West Yorkshire.**
- (4) That the provisional timetable and next steps on the governance review process including, if appropriate, the submission of a draft Scheme to Executive and Council by January 2013 and a final scheme which takes account of consultation and submitted to the Secretary of State by July 2013, be noted.**

ACTION: Chief Executive/ Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE – ‘WEST YORKSHIRE PLUS’ TRANSPORT FUND

Resolved –

That the following resolution of the Executive be endorsed:

- (1) That the contents of Document “AD” and attached documents be noted.**

- (2) That the further development and progression of the work on the 'West Yorkshire Plus' Transport Fund, as described in Paragraphs 2.20, 2.21 and 2.24 - 2.26 to Document "AD" be approved.

ACTION: *Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture*

8. POLITICAL CAMPAIGN LITERATURE

Resolved –

This council condemns the vexatious use of the Standards Regime for the purpose of attempting to substantiate false allegations against elected members in campaign literature.

Council instructs the City Solicitor to write to the local offices of the various political parties, reminding them of the need to ensure that their political activists do not misuse legitimate instruments, potentially risking bringing themselves, their political parties, individual elected members and the wider council into needless disrepute.

ACTION: *City Solicitor*

9. COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT

Resolved -

This Council notes;

- 1) Its resolution of January 2012 expressing its deep concern at Government proposals to cut by 10% the funding to Local Authorities to help people with their Council Tax and the fact that Bradford Conservative Group opposed that resolution claiming that the issue was being politicised by virtue of being debated in the Council Chamber.
- 2) The Coalition Government plans to implement £18 billion of welfare cuts that will hit some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our District including the working people on low wages, causing widespread distress and hardship to people on low incomes.
- 3) That the Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced his intention to cut a further £10 billion in welfare support by 2015-16.
- 4) The abject failure of the Coalition Government to deliver the jobs and growth the country needs.
- 5) That the impact of the Government's 10% cut in Bradford is estimated at a £4.7 million cost to the Council and £1 million to Police and Fire services.
- 6) That the Council's estimate of the sum it could raise through scrapping Council Tax discounts on second and empty homes is £2 to £2.5 million and therefore insufficient to meet the cost of the cut to Council Tax Benefit.
- 7) That Government proposals for a Business Rates contingency fund and on Early

Intervention Grant could see the Council lose an additional £10 million in addition to the cuts it is already facing.

8) That proposals on a local scheme for Council Tax support are out for public consultation.

The Council recognises that the severity of the cuts handed down by Government threatens the ongoing viability of Council services.

The Council resolves to:

1) Continue to work with Council Officers and partners to identify and deliver innovative solutions to service delivery that can be implemented with minimal impact in order to protect public services and the local economy as far as is possible.

2) Continue to lobby Government to reverse its proposals on Business Rates and Early Intervention Grant and to make sure that Bradford and its most vulnerable people get a fairer funding deal.

3) Await the outcome of public consultation before finalising any decision on the levels of Council Tax Support it can afford to provide.

ACTION: *Director of Finance*

10. **PROPOSED PLANNING CHANGES**

Motion defeated – no decision

11. **PLANNING REFORM**

Resolved-

This Council notes:

- a) That the Government's proposed relaxation of Planning Reforms will waive requirements for affordable housing, relax the need for planning permission for home extensions and allow developers to by-pass local authorities.

- b) That the reforms are based on the assumption that planning laws are impeding development and economic growth and therefore require relaxation.

- c) That the Council's 2011 Annual Monitoring Report shows that across the District land with outstanding planning permission for over 11,000 homes had yet to be developed.

The Council therefore concludes that planning laws are not the barrier to development in Bradford District.

The Council believes that the Government's proposals will undermine democratic accountability, marginalise the views of local communities, increase neighbour

disputes, allow developers to ignore the urgent need for more affordable housing across the Bradford District and fail to deliver economic growth. We recognise that many people are worried about the impact on their communities.

The Council wishes to protect and enhance the quality of the built environment in Bradford District and therefore resolves to oppose the Government's proposals to extend development rights and remove affordable housing requirements.

The Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government making clear its opposition to these proposals.

ACTION: *Chief Executive/ Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture*

12. LICENSING OF PRIVATE SECTOR LANDLORDS

Resolved-

This Council recognises the importance of a good quality, privately rented sector and is committed to improving standards in this growing sector of the housing market.

This Council's Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy aims to achieve compliance with standards through actions that are proportionate and in line with legislative requirements.

This Council resolves to continue to work with landlords, tenants and partners to improve standards in the private rented sector through a combination of education, encouragement and enforcement.

ACTION: *Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture*

13. ISLAMOPHOBIA

Resolved-

This Council supports the right of all individuals to freedom of religious expression and opposes measures that curtail that right.

This Council recognises:

1) The existence of Islamophobia which can be broadly defined as the fear and/or hatred of Islam, Muslims or Islamic culture and is characterised by the belief that all or most Muslims are religious fanatics, have violent tendencies towards non-Muslims, and reject as directly opposed to Islam such concepts as equality, tolerance, and democracy.

2) The increasing prevalence of Islamophobia across Europe and in the UK as documented in a number of EU reports and the work of Amnesty International.

3) That challenging hate crime including Islamophobia and other religious hatred is crucial if we are to continue to foster and maintain positive community relations in the Bradford District; to allow it to go unchallenged will increase hostility and

conflict and the likelihood of political extremism.

4) The distress and offence caused to many people by crude and inflammatory materials designed to incite religious hatred.

5) That there are widespread negative stereotypes of Muslims and Islam, that British Muslims are disproportionately affected by poverty and social exclusion and that Islamophobic hate crime is, in all likelihood, under-reported.

We believe that it is important to note the extensive measures that the Council and its partners have already taken and continue to take to tackle discrimination and promote cohesion and good community relations and which demonstrate the seriousness with which the Council takes these issues. These include:

- The strong and visible political leadership, rejecting racist and Islamophobic extremism, that was evident in the handling of the national EDL protest in 2010 and the regional demonstration in Keighley in 2012.
- Weekly tension monitoring allowing early identification of issues related to Islamophobia and acts against places of worship and enabling local partnerships to co-ordinate a multi-agency response.
- Inclusion of community tensions as a standing item on all Ward Partnership agendas.
- Regular meetings of the Community Engagement and Reassurance Partnership to identify, discuss and tackle issues with a potential impact on community relations.
- Offering equality and diversity training to all staff but particularly targeted at those working directly in local communities. This training includes identifying different types of prejudice, including Islamophobia and sets out the Council's commitments to Equalities and procedures for staff to follow where they come across these issues for example, the Youth Service offer their staff extensive support and training in dealing with prejudice and young people who harass others.
- Training through the Prevent programme to Council and partners staff on dealing with violent extremism. This includes dealing with issues from extremist groups that perpetuate hatred towards people of Islamic faith. The Prevent Agenda in Bradford District recognises the current Islamophobic trend in extreme right wing behaviour as exemplified through the EDL and its offshoots. Significant efforts are being made to raise the awareness of frontline staff to recognise, respond and where appropriate refer to Islamophobic behaviour, as well as other forms of extremism through the Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP). To date around 250 staff have been trained. Prevent will also support specific sectors which request support in this area and has delivered a tailored full day session to the staff of the different Pupil Referral Units.
- Targeted work with young people at risk of extremism for example, The Channel scheme works with individuals exhibiting extreme right wing/ Islamophobic behaviours.

- **Training to equip Prevent leads to have a better understanding of the history, context and current pattern in extreme right wing behaviours, as well as other forms of extremism. This training specifically supports those who work with younger people.**
- **The appointment of a team of Community Engagement, Development and Equality Officers including an Officer playing a co-ordinating role and acting as the central point of contact on Faith related issues.**
- **Publication of an annual Stronger Communities Partnership delivery Plan covering Community Relations and Equalities issues.**
- **Developing an Equalities Action Plan to be reported through the Councils Committee structures.**
- **Advertising campaign designed to raise awareness of hate crime and increase reporting.**
- **Funding for Bradford Hate Crime Alliance to run 27 third party reporting centres across the District in addition to the route of direct reporting to the Police.**
- **A zero tolerance approach to all racial and religious hatred.**
- **Peer education work in schools addressing all forms of prejudice and discrimination.**
- **The SUSOMAD 2013 education project that will promote the importance of human rights as a means of reducing religious discrimination, racism, bullying and hate crime.**
- **The Anne Frank: A History for Today exhibition for schools showing how religious and racial intolerance can begin, its potentially catastrophic consequences and how to stop it happening.**
- **Building resilience programme in schools.**
- **Schools twinning programme promoting mutual respect and understanding between pupils from different communities and heritage.**
- **Provision of an Education Diversity and Cohesion Service tasked with helping to reduce racism, prejudice and tackle stereotypes, promote diversity and cohesion and raise awareness of human rights.**
- **Supporting schools to become more confident, willing and able to deliver education around extremism including Islamophobia through a significant teacher training programme called 'Resilience'.**
- **Youth service delivery of creative programmes ensuring young people learn more about difference including specific work around faith and culture.**

- **Near Neighbours project providing support to groups who want to work with people from different backgrounds.**
- **Funding a Model Mosque programme**
- **Encouraging schools to be flexible in setting holidays to take account of religious festivals.**
- **Supporting all faith groups to celebrate their faith through festivals including the provision of city centre lights.**
- **Facilitating the freedom of people to express their faith for example, through the provision of prayer rooms in public buildings.**

Despite its extensive efforts and investment of resources the Council is not complacent in its approach and resolves to remain vigilant and to continue to:

- 1. Work closely with its partners to tackle all forms of prejudice, discrimination and hatred including that motivated by religion.**
- 2. Proactively monitor religiously motivated hate crime and to promote increased reporting.**
- 3. Train staff and develop resources to understand and tackle Islamophobia and other religious hatred.**
- 4. Dedicate staff to co-ordinate activities relating to faith issues.**
- 5. Gather and report intelligence on the incidence of religious hate crimes and related activity.**
- 6. Maintain its zero tolerance stance toward all racial and religious hatred and discrimination.**
- 7. Promote community cohesion, tolerance and understanding of different faiths and cultures in schools and across communities including addressing negative stereotypes.**
- 8. Support the right of all individuals to freedom of religious expression and oppose measures that curtail that right.**

ACTION: All Strategic Directors

14. TACKLING HATRED, PROMOTING TOLERANCE

Resolved-

This Council believes that people should be protected from hatred and condemns all forms of hate crimes including those motivated by religion.

We condemn the promotion of religious hatred and note that the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 makes it an offence to stir up religious hatred through the use of threatening words, behaviour or unwritten materials.

Just as we condemn hate speech so we condemn violent acts in response to it.

The Council recognises that while the actions of a few people do not represent the views of their wider community, they can cause significant damage and contribute to misunderstanding and division.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- 1) Continue to work together work together with the Police and other partners to tackle all hate crime, to encourage victims to report it, bring perpetrators to justice and to provide support to victims.**
- 2) Continue to work with people of all faiths and of none in order to promote mutual respect, understanding and to secure increased community cohesion and resilience to all forms of hatred, provocation and extremism.**

ACTION: All Strategic Directors

15. SHISHA SMOKING

Resolved-

The council notes

The increase in the number of shisha lounges in Bradford and its acceptability as a social past time amongst young people and students.

The harmful health effects of smoking shisha – according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) an hour of smoking shisha is equivalent to smoking 200 times the volume of smoke in one cigarette.

It is a myth that smoking ‘herbal’ or tobacco-free material is safe – smokers can inhale dangerous levels of carbon monoxide and sharing mouthpieces can lead to diseases and infections.

A very worrying increase in the incidence of Mouth Cancer which has risen by 41% over 10 year period.

The Council further notes that in 2010/2011 West Yorkshire Trading Standards in partnership with NHS Airedale, Bradford and Leeds began a campaign to raise awareness of the health impacts of using niche tobacco products, including the dangers of Shisha within some communities in Bradford.

This initiative:

- Worked with over 2,500 South Asian residents and supported more than 50 people to quit the use of niche tobacco**
- Delivered 60 workshops in schools to ensure key messages were taken on board by young people.**
- Trained over 300 Health professionals on health risks of niche tobacco**
- Recruited 26 community champions to build long term sustainability**

The council welcomes the fact that this work has been continued to be a priority for the NHS Airedale and Bradford and commends its current campaign targeted towards new and existing students at the University and colleges

The Council instructs the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Director of Public Health to continue to:

- **increase awareness of the dangers of smoking shisha and other niche tobacco products**
- **work in partnership with Trading Standards, Environmental Health Services, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Fire service to inspect premises to ensure they comply with the smoke-free legislation and take action to enforce where required.**

ACTION: Director of Public Health/ Strategic Director Environment and Sport

16. REGIONAL SECTOR PUBLIC PAY

Resolved-

This Council notes that:

- **The Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcements in his 2011 Autumn statement and announced in the 2012 Budget the Government's desire to introduce 'more market facing' public sector pay. This could mean regional or local public sector pay.**
- **There has been no independent assessment of the impact and consequences this policy could have for public services or the economies of low pay regions.**
- **The New Economics Foundation believes that regional and local pay could cost the Yorkshire and Humber economy up to £1.5bn per year and 14,394 jobs.**
- **Full time workers in Bradford District area are paid £80.60 per week less than the national average.**
- **65% of public sector workers are female.**
- **There are almost 50,000 public sector jobs in Bradford District over 25% of all jobs.**
- **Over 43,000 residents are employed in public sector occupations, more than 20% of all residents in employment.**

This Council believes that:

- **The Government's case is based on the claim that public sector pay is 'crowding out' the private sector. This is not supported by evidence, particularly at a time of high unemployment. There are currently 8 JSA claimants for every job vacancy in Bradford District.**

- This approach also ignores the real reasons for the differences between public and private sector pay. For instance, there are greater proportions of high skilled workers in the public sector (such as teachers and nurses) and a smaller pay gap between top and bottom earners.
- Public sector employers already have some flexibility to adjust pay in response to local conditions, and higher rates are paid in London and the South East
- All other English regions including Yorkshire and Humber would be affected by the introduction of regional and local pay, with the possibility pay falling behind the cost of living for years to come.
- People should be paid for what they do, not where they live.

Council further believes that Regional or local public sector pay would:

- Have a harmful effect on the Bradford District and widen inequalities between different parts of the country.
- Have a disproportionate effect on women.
- Make it harder for schools and other public services to recruit and retain good quality professionals who could earn more for doing the same job elsewhere.
- Reduce the spending power of public sector workers in Bradford District reducing their real terms pay each and every year with a dramatically negative knock on effect on the local private sector.
- Not improve the pay of private sector workers but instead could encourage further depression of wages in all sectors.
- Be inefficient, costly and disruptive.

The Council rejects the idea that Bradford District should be defined as a low pay area and the policy of regional and local public sector pay therefore runs counter to our ambitions for its future.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Chief Secretary to the Treasury stating its' opposition to plans for regional and localised public sector pay and spelling out the negative impact it would have on the economy of Bradford District.
- Write to all local MPs outlining concerns about the impact that this policy would have on services and the local economy and asking those who have already supported the campaign against it to continue to do so and those who have not to oppose the proposals and join the campaign against them.
- To sign up to the Pay Fair campaign and raise awareness of the implications and risks of this policy locally, regionally and nationally for local economies and workers in both the private and public sectors.

ACTION: Chief Executive/Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture

17. CUTS TO WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE SERVICE

Resolved-

This Council notes :

- a) The Coalition Government's 25% national cuts to Fire and Rescue Services.**
- b) That 60% of the funding for West Yorkshire Fire Service comes from Government grant.**
- c) That reductions in Government Grant have been unfairly distributed leading to the Metropolitan Brigades receiving a disproportionate reduction in grant compared to other parts of the country including London and the South of England. Metropolitan Brigades have had to make percentage cuts double those of the national average and shoulder the burden of over 80% of the national cuts.**
- d) Metropolitan Brigades serve some of the most deprived parts of the country and deprivation is the greatest single determining factor of risk with regard to incidence of fire.**
- e) That West Yorkshire Fire Service has already seen its grant reduced by £5.9 million and if the Government persists with its current funding policies and formulae it will see a further £8 - £14 million reduction in funding by March 2015.**
- f) That West Yorkshire Fire Service has already made significant efficiency savings of over £7 million in the last two years.**
- g) That West Yorkshire Fire Service has the lowest expenditure per head of population and the lowest grant of all Metropolitan Brigades.**

The Council believes that the Coalition Government's cuts to Fire Services go too far, have a disproportionate effect on the people of West Yorkshire and Bradford District will put lives at risk.

The Council resolves to lobby Government to reconsider its position on funding Fire and Rescue authorities, to liaise with other West Yorkshire Authorities in order to present a strong, united and consistent case.

The Council further resolves to write to all the District's MPs urging them to oppose the disproportionate level of cuts imposed on West Yorkshire Fire Service.

ACTION: Chief Executive

18. DIABETES

Resolved-

This Council notes:

- **A recent national report indicated that nationally half of people with Type 2 diabetes do not get the health care specified by Dept of Health. In Bradford District around 2/3rds of people are not getting the health care they require to monitor and manage their diabetes.**
- **Poor management of diabetes leads to other major health problems and complications such as heart and other circulatory problems; limb amputations and sight problems/blindness.**
- **Diabetes is on the increase in the District and is already a significant contributor to our health inequalities and premature death rates.**
- **Certain ethnic heritages, life-style factors and age increase the risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes, and that Bradford District has all these factors within our population.**

The Council resolves to request the Director of Public Health along with the Clinical Commissioning Groups and key partner agencies to compile a Bradford District Action plan for diabetes which builds on national high impact, evidence of good practice and findings in Section 5.3.1 of the Bradford District Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The Diabetes Action Plan should include practical actions that the Council and the Health and Wellbeing Board can take to deliver/commission services to:

- **Promote wider awareness of diabetes and ways of preventing it, such as better engagement for all on physical activity and better access to healthy food options.**
- **Encourage collaborative working within NHS and Clinical Commissioning Groups to offer intensive lifestyle support for patients who are pre-diabetic.**
- **Take forward initiatives to raise awareness of the early onset of diabetes and ensure our (soon to be) Council led Health Checks programme and all local community and clinical services are geared up to implement and follow up early identification**
- **Ensure NHS/CCG and Public Health commissioning plans and the NHS Commissioning Board address the 2/3rds shortfall in key areas in performance of primary care diabetes management in the District by identifying different models of care and different ways of paying for care in implementing the Department of Health recommendations.**
- **Ensure appropriate services and support are commissioned to enable people to better self manage their own diabetes**

ACTION: Director of Public Health

19. CHANGES TO THE SCHEME OF MEMBER ALLOWANCES

Resolved-

- (1) That Council notes that the West Yorkshire Police Authority will be dissolved on 22 November 2012.**
- (2) That Council agrees that a Special Responsibility Allowance of £11,500 per**

annum be paid to the Bradford Council Members appointed as representatives of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

- (3) That additional monies be allocated to the Members' Scheme of Allowances to fund the Special Responsibility Allowances payable to the Bradford Council Members of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.
- (4) That Council agree the amended Scheme of Allowances as set out in Appendix 1 to Document "F".

ACTION: *City Solicitor*

FROM: Suzan Hemingway
City Solicitor
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Committee Secretariat Contact: Adrian Tumber – 01274 432435

i:\dec sheets\council16Oct.doc