

Decisions of the Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 26 March 2013

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

DECISIONS:

1. PETITIONS

Sale of land to the west of 306 Great Horton Road, Bradford

Resolved –

That the petition be referred to the Executive for consideration.

ACTION: City Solicitor (reference to Committees)

2. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

No membership changes were made.

3. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE – ‘WEST YORKSHIRE PLUS’ TRANSPORT FUND

Resolved –

Council endorses the resolution of the Executive:

(1) That the principle of establishing a £1 billion ‘West Yorkshire Plus’ Transport Fund be supported and the associated, indicative levels of financial commitments subject to:

(i) A satisfactory conclusion to on-going City Deal negotiations, specifically including securing clarity and agreement on an acceptable level of Earn Back funding from future additional business rates in West Yorkshire and York; and



Suzan Hemingway, City Solicitor

(ii) An in-principle agreement being made by all West Yorkshire District Authorities and York Council.

- (2) That the scope of improvements to be included in the Fund be agreed in principle, as referenced in the report and Appendix A to Document “BY”, subject to appropriate on-going engagement and consultation with local Members and other relevant partners and communities during scheme design.

ACTION: *Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture*

4. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE STAFFING COMMITTEE – ASSIMILATION AND APPOINTMENTS PANEL

Resolved -

- (1) That an Assimilation and Appointments Panel be given delegated responsibility for the determination of assimilation rights and appointment of Strategic Directors and Statutory Chief Officers (the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer).
- (2) That the Assimilation and Appointments Panel comprise three Elected Members (2 Labour and 1 Conservative) with the membership to be on the nomination of the Leader of Council and Leader of the Conservative Group (and shall include at least one member of the Executive).

ACTION: *City Solicitor/ Strategic Director Business Support*

5. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SHADOW HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Resolved-

- (1) That following the publication of the Local Authority (Public Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 the terms of reference for the Bradford and Airedale Health and Wellbeing Board be approved.
- (2) That the Health and Wellbeing Board be included within the annual review of the Council’s Constitution and delegated authority be given to the City Solicitor in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Leader of Council to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution.

ACTION: *City Solicitor/Interim Strategic Director Adult and Community Services/Director of Public Health*

6. BEDROOM TAX

Resolved-

Council notes that from April 1st 2013 thousands of residents of the Bradford District will be severely disadvantaged due to the reform of Housing Benefit, commonly known as the 'Bedroom Tax'.

Council welcomes the increase in funding available for Discretionary Housing Payments and the decision of Executive to approve the Draft Discretionary Housing Payments Policy and Working Practice for 2013/14 on 12 March 2013.

Council requests that officers urgently prepare a report to Executive outlining additional measures that the Council, working with partners in the housing sector, can take in order to reduce the impact of this benefit cut on the residents affected.

ACTION: Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture/Director of Finance

7. PRIVATISATION OF FIRE SERVICES

Resolved-

The Council notes the Government's plans to privatise Fire Services by the back door.

This Council believes that essential emergency services such as the Fire Service should be concerned with protecting the public and not with the pursuit of profit.

We believe that the privatisation of fire services would put lives at risk and undermine the principle of a service for all people whenever they need it.

The Council therefore resolves to:

1) Oppose the Government's proposals for the back door privatisation of fire services.

2) Write to Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Communities and Local Government and to the Chair of the House of Commons Regulatory Reform Committee making clear its opposition to Fire Service privatisation and its concerns about the impact that such a move would have on the safety and security of the residents and businesses of Bradford District.

3) Call on the District's MPs to oppose the privatisation of fire services.

4) Call on the other West Yorkshire Authorities to take similar action to protect the County's fire services from privatisation.

ACTION: Chief Executive

8. FUEL POVERTY

Resolved-

The Council notes that:

- 1) Over 37,000 or 19.6% of Bradford District households suffer from fuel poverty, spending more than 10% of their income on keeping their home warm. The proportion of households living in fuel poverty rises to 37% in the worst affected parts of the District. Nationally a third of households are forecast to be in fuel poverty by 2016.
- 2) The principal reasons for the fuel poverty crisis are high energy prices, low incomes and poor home energy efficiency.
- 3) Cold homes have a major negative effect on vulnerable peoples' health.
- 4) Over the next 15 years the Government will take an average of £4 billion a year in carbon taxes through the European Emissions Trading Scheme and the Carbon Floor Price. Recycling this revenue back into households could bring 9 out of 10 homes out of fuel poverty, lower peoples' bills, cut carbon emissions and create jobs.
- 5) Three of the District's MPs have signed the Early Day Motion 47 – "Reducing Fuel Bills Through Energy Efficiency."
- 6) The extensive work already undertaken by the Council to reduce fuel poverty and the significant amount of ongoing activity including:
 - The Warm Homes Healthy People Programme delivering winter interventions to vulnerable people.
 - Bradford Domestic Energy Efficiency Project delivering practical energy efficiency measures across the District.
 - Community Energy Direct – to establish a community energy supplier switch scheme.
 - Healthy Heat – piloting health referrals to energy improvements.
 - Facilitating a new project between energy supplier and community interest companies to target vulnerable groups.
- 7) That preparatory work is being undertaken to revise the District's Fuel Poverty Strategy and Action Plan.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- 1) Support the Energy Bill Revolution Campaign calling for the Government to recycle revenues from carbon taxes into improving the energy efficiency of UK homes and request those local Members of Parliament who have not yet signed Early Day Motion 47 to do so.
- 2) Work closely with its partners to identify and eliminate fuel poverty and require the revised Fuel Poverty Strategy and Action Plan to focus on integrating the work of staff delivering technical improvements and those delivering social welfare services. This will focus activity and maximise the opportunities to secure external funding.

- 3) Target measures at those people in greatest need of support and promote all available options to the District's residents through as many channels as possible.

ACTION: *Strategic Director Regeneration and Culture/Interim Strategic Director Adult and Community Services*

9. WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Resolved-

This Council notes the Coalition Government's decision to withdraw PFI credits for the Waste Management Project.

The Council requires that, should the Executive intend to proceed with the Waste Management Project on a materially different basis to that previously agreed by Full Council on 13 December 2011, then any decision to proceed should be debated and made at a Full Council meeting.

ACTION: *Strategic Director Environment and Sport*

10. WINTER DEATHS

Resolved-

Council notes concerns about the impacts of cold, fuel poverty and a need for additional support, on the elderly, with excess winter deaths perhaps reaching 30,000 for 2012/13.

Council believes this is one of the most important public health issues facing Bradford in the coming years.

Council asks the Chief Executive, Director of Adult Social Care and Director of Public Health to investigate the use of public health funding to:

1. Support schemes and activities aimed at reducing fuel poverty including information, insulation and other support
2. Develop a strategy to reduce trips and falls especially in the home
3. Improve the conditions into which elderly people are discharged from hospital care

Council requests that this work is completed and presented to Executive in time for it to be considered during the 2014/15 Budget process.

ACTION: *Chief Executive/Interim Strategic Director Adult and Community Services/Director of Public Health*

11. RESTRAINT AND RESPONSIBILITY

Resolved-

This Council notes:

That the Coalition Government is sending Local Authorities and Town and Parish Councils mixed messages by offering the pretence of localism while retaining significant powers of intervention and frequently governing by top-down centralised diktat.

The Council therefore rejects the proposals laid out in the Conservative Group motion.

NO ACTION

12. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2013/14

Resolved-

That the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2013-2014, as set out at Appendix 1 to Document "M" be approved subject to:

Paragraph 7 to be amended to provide that any salary package over £100,000 must be positively approved by full Council before being offered.

Paragraph 8 to be amended so that any severance package exceeding £100,000 (excluding accrued pension rights) must be subject to positive approval by full Council (as per DCLG guidance but making positive approval mandatory).

ACTION: Strategic Director Business Support

FROM: Suzan Hemingway
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City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

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