

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 11 October 2016 at 10.30 am in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 10.30 am
Concluded 11.20 am

Members of the Executive – Councillors

LABOUR
Hinchcliffe (Chair)
V Slater
I Khan
Ross-Shaw
Ferriby
Jabar

Also present: Councillors Engel and Dunbar

Councillor Hinchcliffe in the Chair

39. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

LEADER OF COUNCIL & CORPORATE PORTFOLIO

40. **A COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME FOR 2017/18**

Legislation required each Billing Authority to consider, annually, whether it wished to revise its Council Tax Reduction scheme. The report of the Finance Director (**Document “Y”**) explored options to revise or retain the current scheme; which may, to a greater or lesser extent, impact on the funding gap forecast in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Executive was asked to consider the report and to make a Decision to maintain the current scheme, or alternatively, to make provision for a change to the scheme for 2017/18.

The Director of Finance summarised the options and implications of the proposals as contained in the report. The Leader explained that, in recent times



amendments had been made to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and that no further changes were proposed at that time.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Director of Finance be instructed to continue operating the Council Tax Reduction scheme, without change, for 2017/18 (Option 1 as set out in Document “Y”).**
- (2) That the Director of Finance be requested to submit a report detailing the options for a new model of Council Tax Support, including an analysis of the impact on the Medium Term Financial Strategy, within the next twelve months.**

Action: Director of Finance
Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

REGENERATION, PLANNING & TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

41. LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY - INSPECTORS REPORT AND ADOPTION

The Council was in the process of preparing a new Local Plan which would replace the current statutory development plan for Bradford District (the Replacement Unitary Development Plan) which was adopted in 2005.

The first of the Local Plan documents was the Core Strategy which set out the strategic approach to managing development and change to 2030. It was submitted for Examination in December 2014 with Hearings held in March 2015. Proposed modifications were published in November 2015 and resumed hearings held in May 2016.

The Council had received the Inspector’s final Report and recommendations. The Inspector had considered all the matters before him including the plan, the evidence underpinning it, and the objections and representations made and the published modifications. In his report he concluded that the Plan could be considered to be legally compliant and sound, providing a limited set of Main Modifications were made to the plan, as submitted.

The purpose of the report of the Strategic Director Regeneration (**Document “Z”**) was for the Executive to note the contents of the Inspector’s report and to seek authority to proceed to Full Council to request the legal adoption of the modified Core Strategy in line with the Inspector’s recommendation.

The City Solicitor reported that a holding direction had been received from the Department of Communities and Local Government under S21 of the Planning



and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and that the Executive was not able to consider this item.

The Leader expressed concern at the actions of the MP for Shipley in requesting the holding direction as he had already had the opportunity to make recommendations on the Core Strategy and she would take up her concerns with the government.

The Regeneration, Planning & Transport Portfolio Holder stressed that the actions of the Local MP would not stop houses being built but would only hinder the Council in ensuring that houses were built in appropriate places. He added that without a Core Strategy the green belt could not be protected from inappropriate development. He went on to state that the MP wanted no development of the green belt until all brown field sites were developed which he stressed was illegal and confirmed that the Planning Inspector had agreed with the Council in this regard. He added his concerns that the actions in issuing a holding direction could delay the City Centre Development and the Canal Road Development and that it increased the possibility of poor quality development in the MP's own constituency.

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder referred to the Housing and Planning Act 2016 in accordance with which the Secretary of State would intervene if the Local authority did not have a Core Strategy in place. She stressed the authority's desire to prioritise building on brown field sites. She emphasised that there had been two public enquiries at which the MP had opportunities to express his concerns. She added that the Inspector had accepted the Core Strategy and that in rejecting the professional view of the Planning Inspector the MP was putting Bradford in a very difficult position.

The Education, Employment and Skills Portfolio Holder expressed disappointment at the delay caused by the actions of the MP. He pointed out that the plan would create access to jobs and increase jobs in the City Centre by 16,000. He added that it would identify a new supply of employment land and support rural diversification and employment and have a massive impact on the economic prosperity of the district. He added that without a Core Strategy in place the authority would lose control over where additional school places were located.

The Environment, Sport and Culture Portfolio Holder emphasised that the Core Strategy related not only to housing but also to climate change and green infrastructure. She pointed out the impact on slowing the process of managing waste. She added that it also affected the development of flood resistant houses and use of low carbon options.

The Neighbourhoods and Community Safety Portfolio Holder stressed the potential effect on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). He expressed disappointment on behalf of Parish Council's that had identified local priorities to which the CIL could be allocated at the last Parish Council liaison meeting.

The Leader summed up by advising members that she was taking up the issue at



a high level of government to ensure that the Core Strategy was adopted as soon as possible. She added that there was no reason why the Strategy could not be adopted as it was a good plan.

No resolution was passed on this item

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS PORTFOLIO

42. INSPECTION OF BRADFORD LOCAL AUTHORITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPORTING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The original review of the effectiveness of current arrangements to support school improvement in Bradford was completed in September 2014 by Professor David Woods. An interim report on progress made towards meeting the recommendations from the initial report was provided to the Committee in September 2015.

The report of the Deputy Director of Children's Services (**Document "AA"**) was the final part of the reporting cycle: reviewing the progress made towards meeting the outstanding recommendations from the initial report. The report also set out the next steps in Bradford's school improvement journey, recognising where achievements had been made and where further work was required.

The Education, Employment and Skills Portfolio Holder commended the positive report and the fact that all of the recommendations of Professor Woods had been implemented. He stressed however that this was not the end of the process but it gave schools a sound base to move on and he was confident that an improvement will be seen in educational standards.

The Leader stressed that education remained a key priority for the district and that the emphasis should be on raising standards regardless of the school setting that the children were in.

The Strategic Director of Children's Services stressed that every school and every child was in the authority's line of sight and that real improvements had been made in early years foundation Key stages 1 and 2.

The Deputy Director of Children's Services referred to the continued journey of improvement and raising standards across the board. She highlighted the improvement in standards in early years Key stage 1. She reported that a cultural shift had taken place and that the authority had strong relationships with schools in all sectors and worked well with the Department of Education and the Regional Schools Commissioner. She added that improved results were starting to be seen and that they would continue to improve moving forward.

The head teacher of Carlton Bolling College attended the meeting and outlined the school's improvement journey from 2013-2016. He set out the issues faced



by the school in 2013, the foundations for success and the impact on results, attendance, teaching, finance, staff training, safeguarding, and sport. He concluded by outlining future developments at the school.

The Leader thanked the staff team at Carlton Bolling for the improvements that had taken place and continued to take place at the school.

The Education, Employment and Skills Portfolio Holder noted the a clear focus on good discipline and behaviour and concentrating on teaching and learning at the school was having demonstrable results.

The Independent Chair of the Education Improvement Strategy Board attended the meeting and explained that the Board met five times a year and had a membership across all phases and included Councillors and senior officers and the Regional Schools Commissioner. The purpose of the Board was to hold the authority to account in meeting key priorities. Evidence had been taken from case studies, features of Professor Woods report had been implemented and were beginning to bear fruit. The Board identified good practice and shared it. It also identified where practice needed to improve. Progress was being seen in what were acknowledged to be more difficult circumstances than in London. There was outstanding practice in every stage but not all stages. She added that the direction of travel was correct.

The Education, Employment and Skills Portfolio Holder commended the partnership approach of the Regional Schools Commissioner and noted that everyone wanted to be involved in improving the attainment of Bradford children.

The Leader stated that Councillors and the Executive were impatient to see faster rates of progress and would still challenge for Bradford children to get the best education they could. She stressed that Bradford was the city with the youngest population in Europe and she was impatient for deeper improvements to be made at a faster rate and welcomed the improvement made to date.

Resolved -

- (1) That it be noted that, with the completion of the recommendations by Professor Woods Document “AA” is the final report on his paper.**
- (2) That further developments regarding school improvement will be reported through the Education Improvement Strategic Board and the Education Standards report.**

Action: Director of Children’s Services
Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Children’s Services

43. EXCEPTION TO THE FORWARD PLAN



The following report had not been included on the published forward plan as an issue for consideration. However due to the increasing number of academy conversions and to enable a policy to be drawn up without delay this report has been drafted as a matter of urgency. As it is impractical to defer the decision until it has been included in the published Forward Plan the report was submitted in accordance with paragraph 10 of the Executive Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution.

44. REQUEST TO THE EXECUTIVE TO CONSIDER THE INTRODUCTION OF A POLICY FOR CHARGING SCHOOLS FOR THE WORK ASSOCIATED WITH ACADEMY CONVERSIONS

The number of maintained schools in the district converting to academies was rising and capacity for Council services such as Human Resources, Estates and Legal were extremely stretched. As a result, it was proposed that the Authority implement a charging policy. The Director of Children's Services presented **Document "AB"** requesting that approval be given to introduce a charging policy for academy conversions.

The Education, Employment and Skills Portfolio Holder commended the proposal to charge schools for the work associated with academy conversion and noted that other authorities already levied a charge.

The Deputy Director of Children's Services added that there were a large number of conversions in the system and that officers would look at good practice in other authorities in developing a charging policy.

Resolved -

- (1) That option b contained in Document "AB" be approved, to allow the introduction of a charging policy for Academy Conversions.**
- (2) That the Strategic Director, Children's Services be instructed to develop and implement a charging policy in consultation with the City Solicitor, the Director of Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills.**

Action: Strategic Director, Children's Services/City Solicitor/Director of Finance

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Children's Services

Chair

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

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

