



Agenda for a meeting of the Executive to be held on Tuesday, 10 January 2017 at 10.30 am in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Members of the Executive – Councillors

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

Notes:

- This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.
- The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Agenda Contact who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present who are invited to make spoken contributions to the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.
- If any further information is required about any item on this agenda, please contact the officer named at the foot of that agenda item.

From:

Parveen Akhtar

City Solicitor

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To:



A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

(Members Code of Conduct - Part 4A of the Constitution)

To receive disclosures of interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

Notes:

- (1) Members may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or an interest which the Member feels would call into question their compliance with the wider principles set out in the Code of Conduct. Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (2) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*
- (3) Members are also welcome to disclose interests which are not disclosable pecuniary interests but which they consider should be made in the interest of clarity.*
- (4) Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.*

2. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.

Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Strategic Director or Assistant Director whose name is shown on the front page of the report.



If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting.

Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Jill Bell / Yusuf Patel - 01274 434580 434579)

3. **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE**

To note any recommendations to the Executive that may be the subject of report to a future meeting. (Schedule to be tabled at the meeting).

(Jill Bell / Yusuf Patel - 01274 434580 434579)

4. **CALL- IN: BRADFORD DISTRICT LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

At its meeting on 6 December 2016, the Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director Regeneration (**Document "AP"**) which asked Members to adopt the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). As Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council is required under Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010, to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management – a "Local Flood Risk Management Strategy" (LFRMS). The strategy must detail the risk management authorities and the functions that they can exercise within the Bradford Lead Local Flood Authority area, assess local flood risk, the objectives for managing that risk and measures proposed to implement those objectives.

The decision of the Executive has been called-in for the following reason:

"I wish to call in this decision to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that the actions and activities that flow from the implementation of this strategy do not adversely impact on recommendations made by Members in the Flood Review".

The Call-in will be considered by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 5 January 2017 and its recommendations, if any will be reported to the Executive.

(Jill Bell / Yusuf Patel - 01274 434580 434579)



B. STRATEGIC ITEMS

LEADER OF COUNCIL & CORPORATE

(Councillor Hinchcliffe)

5. CALCULATION OF BRADFORD'S COUNCIL TAX BASE AND BUSINESS RATES BASE FOR 2017-18

1 - 20

The Director of Finance will submit a report (**Document “AQ”**) which calculates both the Council's Council Tax and Business Rates bases for 2017-18, which in turn will determine the amount of income the Council will raise locally in 2017-18.

The report is divided into two sections. Section A sets out how the Council Tax Base is calculated. It takes into account the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme, exemptions and discounts and an estimate of the growth in new residential builds. Section B estimates the amount of income that will be generated from Business Rates.

Recommended –

- (1) That the number of band D equivalent properties estimated by the Council as the Council Tax Base for 2017-18 for the whole of the Bradford Metropolitan District is 136,252 as set out in Appendix A of this report.**
- (2) The Council Tax Base for 2017-18 for each Local Council is set out in Appendix B of this report.**
- (3) The amount estimated by the Council as the Business Rates income for 2017-18 as included on the Council's NDR1 return (Appendix C) - £117.6m**
- (4) Of the total Business Rates income;-
50% is paid to Central Government - £58.8m
49% is retained by the Council - £57.6
1% is paid to the West Yorkshire Fire Authority - £1.2m**
- (5) That authority is delegated to the Strategic Director for Corporate Services in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make any necessary amendments to the calculation of the Business Rates estimate arising from the completion of the 2017-18 NDR1 form received from the Government and to include the amended figures in the 2017-18 Budget papers for Council.**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

(Martin Stubbs / James Hopwood – 01274 432065 / 2885)



C. PORTFOLIO ITEMS

HEALTH & WELLBEING PORTFOLIO & DEPUTY LEADER

(Councillor Val Slater)

**6. GREAT PLACES TO GROW OLD - LONG TERM SUPPORT FOR
OLDER PEOPLE - THE FUTURE OF THE COUNCIL'S
RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME - HOLMEVIEW**

21 - 36

Great Places to Grow Old (GPGO) is an integrated programme to address the accommodation and support needs of older people, including older people with dementia. It includes the development of housing, extra care housing, short term rehabilitation, respite care/crisis support, residential and nursing care.

The programme promotes independence and wellbeing for older people with the aim of reducing the overall reliance on intensive forms of care support by expanding services that help people stay at home, or return home after a crisis. This includes the development of resources and support which can be tailored for individuals enabling people to remain in their own home and be independent for longer.

The Strategic Director Adult and Community Services will submit a report (**Document "AR"**) which sets out the Council's decision on 18th February 2014 to include in the budget proposal for Adult and Community Services, a reduction in the provision of two in house residential homes over the next 2 years, one of which was closed in January 2015. This decision is included in the plans within the GPGO delivery programme which was approved by Executive in January 2013.

As a result of changes in the local market and acceleration of joint commissioning proposals with health partners, permission was sought and a decision was made in September 2015 to defer the consultation on the future of Holmeview.

The report reviews a range of information regarding in-house services and independent provision and permission is sought from Executive to go out to consultation on the future of Holmeview.

Recommended –

Permission is sought from Executive to go out to consultation on the future of Holmeview Care Home.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Health and Social Care

(Lyn Sowray - 01274 432900)



7. FOSTERING ALLOWANCES REVIEW

37 - 52

The Strategic Director Children's Services will submit a report (**Document "AS"**) which sets out the proposals to;

Align the level of fostering allowances ensuring that payments for all fostering, special guardianship, Child Arrangement Orders (formerly Residence Orders) and adoption are all paid at the same rates as required by law.

The proposal to bring fostering allowances in line with statutory requirements will achieve affordable equity for children for whom Bradford has a financial responsibility by ensuring that they are not disadvantaged as a result of the permanency option that best meets their needs.

Recommended –

That Option 2 – Reducing Fostering allowances to the Government minimum allowances over a two year period with effect from 01 April 2017 be approved.

Overview and Scrutiny Area: Children's Services

(Jim Hopkinson - 01274 432904)

**REGENERATION, PLANNING & TRANSPORT
PORTFOLIO**

(Councillor Ross-Shaw)

8. OBJECTIONS RECEIVED TO THE AMENDMENTS TO THE OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2015

53 - 66

The Strategic Director Environment and Sport will submit a report (**Document "AT"**) which sets out objections and other proposals suggested in response to the formal advertisement of amendments to the Off-Street Parking Places Consolidation Order 2015.

Recommended –

That the objections are overruled and the Off-street Parking Places Consolidation Order 2015 is amended to incorporate the changes highlighted in Appendix A – 'proposed tariffs'.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Environment and Waste Management

(Louise Williams - 01274 431066)



**ENVIRONMENT, SPORT & CULTURE
PORTFOLIO**

(Councillor Ferriby)

9. PETITION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ON 13TH DECEMBER 2016 - SAVE QUEENSBURY SWIMMING POOL FROM CLOSURE 67 - 74

A petition was presented to the meeting of Council on 13 December 2016 to save Queensbury Pool from closure. Council referred the matter to Executive for further consideration.

The Strategic Director Environment and Sport will submit a report (**Document "AU"**) which sets out a response to the petition, including options.

Recommended –

That the Executive agree, Option 1: confirm the intention that when the new pool at Sedbergh opens, Queensbury Pool will be offered for community management and if no solution can be found the pool will close.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Economy

(Phil Barker – 01274 432616)

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Recommended –

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the Appendices relating to the Sports Facilities Review and the White Rose Energy report on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings, that if they were present, exempt information within Paragraph 3 (Financial or Business Affairs) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) would be disclosed and it is considered that, in all the circumstances, the public interest in allowing the public to remain is outweighed by the public interest in excluding public access to the relevant part of the proceeding for the following reasons:

It is in the public interest in maintaining the exemption because it is in the overriding interest of proper administration that Members are made fully aware of the financial implications of any decision without prejudicing the financial position of the authority.

(Yusuf Patel - 01274 434579)



Following the report to the Executive on the 15th January 2015 Officers have progressed the development of plans for investment in the District's sports facilities

The Strategic Director Environment and Sport will submit a report (**Document "AV" with Not for Publication Appendix 1**) which provides Members with an update on progress made and sets out alternative options for development and improvements in provision of swimming pools and leisure facilities.

Recommended –

It is recommended that:

- (1) The work undertaken on behalf of the Council is noted.**
- (2) The Council continues to develop the Sedbergh Sports Facility allowing the subsequent disposal of the Richard Dunn Sports Centre site.**
- (3) The Council ceases to develop the City Centre sports facility and will not take forward the South West Pool at Clayton Heights planned for phase 2 of the sports facilities investment programme.**
- (4) That the Council brings forward the development of a new community Swimming Pool and Sports Facility in the North of Bradford City with immediate effect, allowing for Bingley Pool to be offered for community management and if a solution can not be found the pool will close.**
- (5) The Council agrees that when the new pool at Sedbergh opens, Queensbury Pool will be offered for community management and if no solution can be found the pool will close.**
- (6) The capital requirement for £28.1m and the revenue budget consequences of proceeding with the scheme are reflected in the recommendations to the Council Budget for future financial years.**
- (7) The Council continues with the plan to forward fund the new facilities from the Capital Investment Plan prior to the closure and disposal of the Richard Dunn site.**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Economy

(Phil Barker – 01274 432616)



12. WHITE ROSE ENERGY

91 - 100

Leeds City Council has created a local authority led energy services company (LESCo) called White Rose Energy (WRE) to provide a “fairer” energy supply deal to households across the Yorkshire & Humber region.

White Rose Energy is being opened up as a partnership, to other local authorities across the Yorkshire & Humber region. Some authorities and housing associations have been involved in discussions to date, including Bradford Council.

Leeds City Council is aiming to have the first partners signed up by January 2017.

The Strategic Director Regeneration will submit a report (**Document “AW” with Not for Publication Appendix A and B**) which seeks Executive approval for Bradford Council to enter into a formal partnership with White Rose Energy.

Recommended –

That Option 2 be approved:

That the option to proceed to becoming a partner of White Rose Energy be approved; and is in consultation with the Director of Finance subject to full due diligence which confirms the optimal benefits for working as a partner with WRE in delivering energy supply locally; that the Service Level Agreement is signed at the earliest opportunity

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Environment and Waste Management

(Kate Smallwood - 01274 433885)

13. MINUTES OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

101 -
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To receive the minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 29 September 2016 (**Document “AX”** attached)

(Angie Shearon – WYCA)

THIS AGENDA AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER



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Report of the Director of Finance to the meeting of the Executive to be held on 10th January 2017

AQ

Subject:

CALCULATION OF BRADFORD'S COUNCIL TAX BASE AND BUSINESS RATES BASE FOR 2017-18

Summary statement:

The purpose of this report is to calculate both the Council's Council Tax and Business Rates bases for 2017-18, which in turn will determine the amount of income the Council will raise locally in 2017-18.

The report is divided into two sections. Section A sets out how the Council Tax Base is calculated. It takes into account the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme, exemptions and discounts and an estimate of the growth in new residential builds. Section B estimates the amount of income that will be generated from Business Rates.

Stuart McKinnon Evans
Director of Finance

Portfolio: Leader and Strategic Regeneration

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Overview & Scrutiny Area: Corporate



City of Bradford
Metropolitan District Council



1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to calculate both the Council's Council Tax and Business Rates bases for 2017-18, which in turn will determine the amount of income the Council will raise locally in 2017-18.
- 1.2 The report is divided into two sections. Section A sets out how the Council Tax Base is calculated and Section B estimates the amount of income that will be generated from Business Rates.

SECTION A – CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires every billing authority to calculate its Council Tax Base in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 2.2 These Regulations require each authority to make its own arrangements for deciding the Council Tax Base. For Bradford, the Executive will decide the 2017-18 Council Tax Base.
- 2.3 The Regulations also require Bradford to determine a separate Council Tax Base for each Local Council area (Parish or Town Council).
- 2.4 In addition, the Council Tax Base must be set between 1 December and 31 January. The West Yorkshire Fire and Police Joint Authorities must also be notified of the outcome of the calculation by 31 January 2017.
- 2.5 The purpose of Section A of this report is to
 - a) Calculate the Council Tax Base (Appendix A) (i.e. the amount of money which Bradford will raise for every £1 of council tax set) and not the level of council tax which will be set by Council on 23 February 2017 when the 2017-18 Budget is determined
 - b) Calculate the 2017-18 Council Tax Base for each Local Council (Appendix B).

3.0 CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE

- 3.1 The calculation of the Council Tax Base begins with the number of properties at a point in the current financial year. This is adjusted by the actual take up of discounts, exemptions and the impact of Council Tax Reduction scheme. The Council Tax Base is then projected forward into the 2017-18 year by estimating likely future changes, such as the growth in properties. Finally all the properties in different Council Tax Bands are all converted into Band D equivalents.
- 3.2 The number of properties has been derived from the valuation list at September 2016 (See Appendix A – Line 1). The Valuation Office Agency (an Executive Agency of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) has valued all domestic properties in the Bradford

District based on the market value as at 1 April 1991. The Valuation Officer allocates each domestic property into one of nine bands from Band A (properties valued below £40,000) to Band H (properties valued above £320,000).

- 3.3 The number of properties in each band has then been adjusted by the actual exemptions (Appendix A – Line 2) and discounts (Appendix A – Line 4) on the valuation list at October 2015. This calculation has been further adjusted for the impact of Council Tax Reduction (CTR) discounts (Appendix A – Line 5).
- 3.4 In 2017-18 CTR, which helps people with their Council Tax by reducing the overall amount they have to pay, will be in its fifth year of operation. The amount of CTR granted by the Council is taken off the Council Tax Base, with partial compensation for the reduction in the tax base being provided by the Government through Revenue Support Grant (RSG) (See para 4.2 for the impact of this on Local Tax Bases).
- 3.5 The CTR scheme is estimated to reduce the number of chargeable properties in the 2017-18 Council Tax Base by 31,212 (Appendix A – Line 5). When the number of chargeable properties is adjusted for the different weights of the Council Tax Bands, this equates to a reduction in Band D equivalents of 22,694 properties (Appendix A – Line 11).
- 3.6 The Council also has to make an adjustment for sums that will not be collected in the fullness of time. This helps prevent over-estimating the amount of total tax revenue that will be collected from the Council Tax Base. In the 2016-17 Council Tax Base, the provision for all sums that will not be collected was set at 2.3%. This provision will also be 2.3% for the 2017-2018 Council Tax Base (Appendix A – Line 8).
- 3.7 Before converting the number of taxable properties into Band D equivalents (para 3.8), a further adjustment has been made for the estimated net growth in properties from October 2016 to March 2018. The growth in properties has been estimated from an analysis of new buildings in progress as well as past trends (Appendix A – Line 6).
- 3.8.0 Finally to express the number of taxable properties (as calculated in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.7) as a number of Band D chargeable properties the following ratios are applied (Table below). In simple terms a property in Band H would be equivalent to two Band D properties; whilst one in Band A would only be equivalent to 2/3 of a Band D property.

Band	Property Value	Ratio to Band D quoted precept
A*		
A	Up to 40,000	6/9ths
B	40,000 – 52,000	7/9ths
C	52,001 – 68,000	8/9ths
D	68,001 – 88,000	9/9ths
E	88,001 – 120,000	11/9ths
F	120,001 – 160,000	13/9ths
G	160,001 – 320,000	15/9ths
H	Over 320,000	18/9ths

(Band A* are properties in Band A entitled to disabled relief reduction)

- 3.9 Overall the Council tax base has increased by 2,747, from 133,505 band D equivalents in 2016-17 to 136,252 in 2017-18. Again, in terms of band D equivalents, around 1,200 of the increase relates to actual growth in new homes between September 2016 and September 2017. The full year effect of further growth is projected as 1,000 during 2017-18. The reduction in Council Tax Reduction and other changes account for the remaining increase.
- 3.10 The increase in the Council Tax base is also 1,997 above the July Medium Term Financial Strategy, which anticipated a Council Tax base of 134,255 (Executive 21 July Medium Term Financial Strategy).
- 3.11 This increase in the Council Tax base increases revenue above the Medium Term Financial Strategy by £2.4m in 2017-18.
- 3.12 Further a Council Tax surplus of £2m is projected for 2016-17, the benefit of which will be taken by Bradford in 2017-18.
- 3.13 Overall Council Tax income for 2017-18 is £4.4m above the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

4.0 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX BASES

- 4.1 Excluding CTR from the Council Tax Base (see paras 3.4 & 3.5), also excludes CTR from the tax bases from Local Councils. This is in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 4.2 Compensation for the tax bases of Local Councils being reduced as a result of CTR is provided to Bradford Council as part of its RSG, as opposed to being paid direct to each Local Council.
- 4.3 In 2017-18, Bradford proposes to passport in full the £161k the Government states in its Revenue Spending power calculations Bradford receives in its RSG for Council tax support for Local Councils.

SECTION B CALCULATION OF BUSINESS RATES BASE

The purpose of Section B of the report is to approve the Council's 2017-18 Business Rates base (the estimated amount of Business Rates income it will raise).

5.0 BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Under the current Business Rates Retention scheme, which started 1 April 2013, the Council retains 49% of all Business Rates income that it collects. 50% is paid over to central government and 1% to the West Yorkshire Fire Authority (WYFA). The Retention scheme includes a system of top up grants and tariffs to equalise between the relative needs assessment and the Business Rate income for each authority area.
- 5.2 Each financial year, by statute, the Council, central government and WYFA are paid a share of Business Rate income equal to the pre-set budgeted amount. The 2017-18 budgeted amounts will be based on this Business Rate Base report that the Executive is being asked to approve. The Council's amount will be part of the 2017-18 Budget set by the Council on 23 February 2016.
- 5.3 Payments in line with the budgeted shares are made out of a separate account called the Collection Fund. Receipts of Business Rate income are similarly paid into the Collection Fund. The difference between the payments out and the receipts of actual rates in any year creates a deficit or surplus on the fund. Therefore in setting the 2017-18 Business Rates base and budgeted shares, the aim is also to recover any deficit or surplus arising in 2016-17. However, as the 2016-17 financial year is still ongoing, the deficit or surplus at the end of the year has to be anticipated now (See Section 6.3).
- 5.4 The calculations for the 2017-18 Business Rates base are made in accordance with the Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations. The Non-Domestic Rates (NDR1) form, issued by the government each year, provides a standardised framework.
- 5.5 The approved estimate of Business Rates income for 2017-18, alongside the NDR1 form showing the calculations, has to be notified to the Secretary of State and the WYFA by 31 January 2017.
- 5.6 Business Rates are calculated on the rateable values of each property as assessed by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and a multiplier, set by central government. The calculation is the rateable values multiplied by the multiplier, the result being known as the gross rate yield. The VOA is revaluing all the rateable values for 2017-18 and onwards, and these new values will be held in the 2017 Rating List. 2016-17 rateable values are based on a previous revaluation done in 2010, and held in the 2010 Rating List. The introduction of the 2017 list has to be fiscally neutral at a national level between central government and ratepayers and also for individual Local Authorities.
- 5.7 Fiscal neutrality between central government and ratepayers as a whole will be achieved by adjusting the multiplier. Fiscal neutrality for individual local authorities will be achieved by adjusting top up grants and tariffs.
- 5.8 Rateable values for the 2017 list increased nationally compared to the 2010 list. So that nationally the total amount paid is not altered by this increase in the 2017 list, the multiplier

will be reduced, to provide the same gross rate yield. To ensure fiscal neutrality for individual local authorities, Bradford will receive additional top up grant from central government.

- 5.9 Following the adjustment for the increase in rateable values, the multiplier will also increase by 1.8% in 2017-18 for inflation, per the Retail Price Index (RPI) increase in the year to August. In addition, the multiplier has then been increased by 4.8% to cover the government's estimated cost of appeals. This estimate therefore implies that around 4.8% of gross rates receivable by Local Authorities should be set aside in 2017-18 and future years to pay refunds for appeals against the 2017 list. The amounts will be set aside in 2017-18 ready for use, but it is unlikely any refunds will be paid out in this first year because the appeals will not have been decided on. There will be a new appeals process in 2017-18 with a variety of filters, so no appeal will reach the final stage during 2017-18. However, this makes it difficult to determine how the new process will impact on the success rate of appeals or to project the cost of refunds.
- 5.10 Previously, Bradford's experience has been of receiving less business rates income than anticipated. This has mainly been due to successful appeals against rateable values, leading to a high cost of refunds backdated over a number of years. For example, in 2015-16 Bradford's share of Business Rates collected was £11.7m lower than budgeted, because of refunds arising from appeals - a significant proportion of which related to the appeals against the rateable value of purpose build health centres and doctors' surgeries, which in some cases were backdated ten years. However, the 2015-16 deficit was fully anticipated when the 2016-17 Business Rates Base and budgeted share was set in January 2016, so this is already being paid off during 2016-17.
- 5.11 Another issue related to the Business Rates Base is that Bradford receives ongoing section 31 grants to compensate for central government decisions that reduced Business Rates income. For example, the government compensates Councils for the cost of doubling small business rate relief. However, not all the information about the calculation of these section 31 grants has been provided by the government so an estimate has been made.
- 5.12 As also noted above, the Council currently retains 49% of Business Rate income. By 2019-20 or 2020-21, the government expects to bring in a new system in which Councils in total will retain 100% of income. We expect there will still be a redistribution mechanism to equalise needs. However, Business Rate income will become with Council Tax, one of the Council's most valuable income streams.

6.0 THE COUNCIL'S 2017-18 BUSINESS RATES BASE

- 6.1 The Council set an expectation that its share of Business Rates in 2017-18 would be £72.1m in its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (Executive 19 July 2016 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017-18 to 2019/20, Table 1 page 122). This Business Rates share forms an important income stream within the general resources available to fund the net cost of the Council's services.
- 6.2 Any anticipated surplus or deficit from 2016-17 has to be distributed or paid off as part of the calculation of the 2017-18 Business Rates Base. A deficit is anticipated in 2016-17 which has to be paid off next financial year, so this will reduce the 2017-18 Business Rates Base.

- 6.3 The 2016-17 anticipated Collection fund deficit is £11.9m, of which Bradford's 49% share is £5.8m. Of the £11.9m, £8.7m is caused by an additional provision for appeal costs, £4.9m by a reduction in rateable values and there is a saving of £1.7m in the provision for bad debt. These amounts are further explained below.
- 6.3.1 The £8.7m additional cost of refunds is in part due to a £5.1m increase in the amounts set aside in a provision to fund appeals already outstanding at 1 April 2016. Estimate of the refunds arising from these appeals has increased based on more recent experience. The remaining £3.6m is a provision for other new appeals this year.
- 6.3.2 The £4.9m reduction in rateable values is because not all the anticipated growth in rateable values during 2016-17 has materialised. There are ongoing reductions in rateable value. Reliefs (discounts) given to business rate payers have been higher than expected, for example empty property relief. Also this reduction includes a statutory accounting adjustment to spread prior year costs.
- 6.3.3 As noted above, there is a saving of £1.7m on the bad debt provision. The amount set aside is a cumulative provision for all uncollectable debt going back many years. The Council's debt collection service seeks to recover all debts. By recovering debt from past years the amount set aside for that year can be used to reduce projected uncollected debt in 2016-17. As a result, the amount set aside for uncollected debt in 2016-17 has been reduced.
- 6.4 The anticipated deficit caused by refunds for appeals assumes no cost to the Collection Fund arises from the issues surrounding NHS Foundation Hospitals. NHS Foundation Hospitals have made a legal claim to receive mandatory charitable relief, with Bradford's share of the potential backdated refund cost being £3m. The assumption of no cost is that the legal claim will be unsuccessful or that it will be resolved between the Department of Health and the Department for Communities and Local Government.
- 6.5 Overall since the introduction in 2013-14 of the Business Rate retention scheme, Bradford's experience with appeals against the 2010 list is that refunds are higher than expected and they are difficult to forecast. Forecasts are difficult because the appeal process is managed by external agencies such as the Valuation Office Agency and Tribunals and require a lot of estimation because there has always been a significant backlog of appeals awaiting a decision.
- 6.6 As well as that part of the calculation incorporating the 2016-17 deficit, the 2017-18 Business Rates Base is impacted by the 2017 revaluation. The 2017 list shows a rateable value of £393.6m compared to £388.6m in 2010, an increase of 1.3%.
- 6.7 However, across England and Wales, the rateable value of the 2017 list has increased by 10.6% overall, so the national multiplier will be reduced by 10.6% in 2017-18. Therefore nationally the rateable value times the multiplier, the gross rate yield, will be the same for the 2017 list as the 2010 list. This ensures fiscal neutrality at the national level.
- 6.8 Bradford's rateable value increases by 1.3% but the multiplier reduces by 10.6% in line with national average increases in rateable value. Bradford's gross rate yield for the 2017

list is less than the 2010 list, but because of the need for fiscal neutrality between Authorities as well, Bradford's top up grant is expected to increase by £6.3m.

- 6.9 That Bradford's gross rate yield is reduced means that Bradford's businesses will pay less Business Rate income. However, a corollary of this is that the collection of Business Rate income is further weighted towards London and the South East.
- 6.10 In addition to reducing the multiplier by 10.6% there will be other changes. Firstly the multiplier is increased by 4.8% to fund the cost of appeals. It is unlikely any appeals against the 2017 list will be settled in 2017-18 but Bradford will have to set-aside an amount each year in a provision to cover the eventual costs. Therefore in calculating the 2017-18 Business Rates Base, 4.8% of the gross rate yield is set aside to fund appeals amounting to £8.6m.
- 6.11 A new appeals process will be in place for the 2017 list. This is called 'Check, Challenge, Appeal' and introduces a number of filters to remove unnecessary appeals. The impact of this new process will not be known for sometime, although it is hoped to eventually reduce the number of appeals. However, as this is uncertain and some time away the 4.8% increase in the multiplier for appeals is seen as the best indicator of the eventual cost.
- 6.12 Finally, the multiplier has also been increased by 1.8% for inflation, per the August 2016 Retail Price Index.
- 6.13 In summary for Bradford the impact of the 2017 revaluation has been balanced out by additional top up grant. Also the cost of appeals has been set equal to the uplift in the multiplier for appeals. The normal uplift for inflation is also reflected in the multiplier.

7.0 THE COUNCIL'S 2017-18 BUSINESS RATES BASE IN COMPARISON

- 7.1 The MTFs expected that Bradford's share of 2017-18 Business Rate base would be £72.1m. Compared to the 2016-17 NNDR 1, this is £1.2m lower than the ongoing 2016-17 Business Rates element of the calculation, once the 2015-16 deficit is excluded.
- 7.2 Therefore the 2017-18 Business Rates Base should be £1.2m more than the MTFs, if there were no 2016-17 deficit and all other factors were equal. This means that the calculation of the 2017-18 Business Rates Base starts with headroom of £1.2m compared to the MTFs.

a) The 2016-17 anticipated deficit

The 2016-17 anticipated deficit is £11.9m with Bradford's 49% share £5.8m.

b) Gross Rates Yield and Net Rates Payable

The reduction in the gross rate yield because of the change from the 2017 list to the 2010 list is equalised by £6.3m extra top up grant.

The 1.8% uplift on the multiplier for inflation suggests an increase in net rates payable of around £2.7m compared to the underlying 2016-17 Business Rates Base. However, this increase has been outweighed by the cost of other reductions in rateable values.

Therefore instead of an increase in net rates payable, overall there is a reduction in net rates payable of £0.6m. These other reductions in rateable value include the impact of lower than anticipated growth in 2016-17.

In addition, central government caps the increase to the multiplier for inflation by 2%. The cap in previous years increases has cumulatively reduced the multiplier in 2017-18. Therefore the Council will receive an additional £0.025m in section 31 grants 2017-18.

Net Rates payable comprise the gross rate yield, less discounts which are known as reliefs. These reliefs are either mandatory, set by central government or discretionary, set by Bradford.

Increases to certain mandatory reliefs reduce Local Authorities share of the Business Rate base, so they receive compensation from section 31 grants. The 2017-18 Business Rates Base includes increases in mandatory relief for small businesses.

In 2017-18, Small Business Rate Relief will apply where the rateable value is below £12,000, rather than £6,000 in 2016-17, subject to conditions. Smaller reliefs will also be available for those with rateable values between £12,000 and £15,000. In addition, the small business multiplier will apply to businesses with a rateable value below £51,000, compared to £18,000 in 2016-17. It is estimated these changes reduce Bradford's share of Business Rate income by £3m which should be compensated by a section 31 grant.

Rural rate relief is awarded to specific properties in designated rural areas. The relief will increase from 50% in 2016-17 to 100% in 2017-18. However, the impact is marginal, reducing Bradford's share of Business Rate income by £5,000 and this too will be compensated with a section 31 grant.

Discretionary reliefs will change with the removal of the scheme that allows discretionary relief for not for profit organisations, increasing the Council's share of Business Rate income by £190,000 compared to 2016-17. Other discretionary reliefs will continue as before, as outlined below:-

- New, listed and empty buildings relief - see Bradford District Discretionary Business Rate Relief Programme, Executive 1 December 2015. Any loss in Bradford's business rate income would be refunded through earmarked reserves. This is not expected to be material to the 2017-18 Business Rates estimate.

c) Estimated Bad Debt Provision (Losses on Collection)

The sum of the Gross Rate yield less the Mandatory and Discretionary Reductions is reduced to reflect an amount that has to be set aside to build up a provision for uncollectable Business Rates. The Council estimates this figure to be 1.8% of the net yield, which is around £2.5m.

d) Allowance for Cost of Collection

From the amount the Council collects from businesses it is allowed to deduct an amount to cover the cost of administering Business Rates. In 2017-18 it is forecast Bradford will be able to retain £737,000 for the cost of administering Business Rates.

e) Transitional Arrangements

The Government's Transitional Relief scheme is applied to certain accounts over the course of a five year rating list. The scheme aims to limit the increase or decrease of the rate bill following each revaluation.

The transitional relief scheme is designed to be neutral in any one year. Therefore this is assumed in the 2017-18 Business Rates Base.

f) Business Rates Overview

In summary, the Council's share of the 2017-18 estimate is £57.6m. However, to this should be added £6.3m additional top up grant and £3m additional section 31 for Small Business Rate Relief and the 2% cap. The equivalent share, therefore is £66.9m, which is £5.2m less than projected in the MTFS.

This £5.2m is made up as follows: £5.8m 2016-17 deficit, £0.6m net rateable value reductions in 2017-18, less the £1.2m headroom in the MTFS compared to the 2016-17 base.

8.0 SUMMARY OF 2017-18 BUSINESS RATES BASE

- 8.1 The 2017-18 Business Rates Budget includes both the 2017-18 estimated income as well as the anticipated deficit in 2016-17.
- 8.2 The 2017-18 Business Rates Base is forecasted to be £117.6m. Of the £117.6m, £58.8m relates to the Government, £1.2m to the WYFA and £57.6m retained by the Council (Appendix C).

9.0 OVERALL SUMMARY

The overall position in 2017-18 for both Council Tax and Business Rates compared to the MTFS is a reduction of £0.8m. This comprises a £4.4m increase for Council Tax and a £5.2m reduction for Business Rates. This is summarised in the table below:

	£m MTFS	£m Overall Position	£m Increase/ (Decrease)
Overall position for Council Tax and Business Rates			
*Council Tax	160.8	163.2	
Council Tax surplus	0	2.0	
Sub-total for Council Tax	160.8	165.2	4.4
Business Rates	72.1	57.6	
Additional Top Up grant	0	6.3	
Additional Section 31 grant	0	3.0	
Sub-total for Business Rates	72.1	66.9	(5.2)
<u>Overall Position</u>			<u>(0.8)</u>

(*Note: includes impact of projected increase in the Council Tax Base only)

10.0 LEGAL APPRAISAL

10.1 The Legal implications are contained in the body of the report.

11.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no other equal rights, sustainability, community safety, human rights, trade union, ward or greenhouse gas emissions implications.

12.0 NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

13.0 RECOMMENDATION

13.1 That the number of band D equivalent properties estimated by the Council as the Council Tax Base for 2017-18 for the whole of the Bradford Metropolitan District is 136,252 as set out in Appendix A of this report.

13.2 The Council Tax Base for 2017-18 for each Local Council is set out in Appendix B of this report.

13.3 The amount estimated by the Council as the Business Rates income for 2017-18 as included on the Council's NDR1 return (Appendix C) - £117.6m

- 13.4 Of the total Business Rates income;-
50% is paid to Central Government - £58.8m
49% is retained by the Council - £57.6
1% is paid to the West Yorkshire Fire Authority - £1.2m
- 13.5 That authority is delegated to the Strategic Director for Corporate Services in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make any necessary amendments to the calculation of the Business Rates estimate arising from the completion of the 2017-18 NDR1 form received from the Government and to include the amended figures in the 2017-18 Budget papers for Council.
- 14.0 APPENDICES**
Appendix A - Bradford Metropolitan District Council 2017-18 Council Tax Base
Appendix B - Local Councils' 2017-18 Tax Bases
Appendix C – Provisional NDR1 for 2017-18

Appendix A Bradford Metropolitan District Council 2017-18 Council Tax Base

Dwellings on Valuation List		Band @	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Total
			-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total number of dwellings as 12 Sept	1	160	90,890	45,375	38,959	17,528	12,085	5,695	3,574	264	214,530
Exempt properties	2	0	-2,297	-636	-357	-133	-57	-24	-20	-4	-3,528
Taxable properties	3	160	88,593	44,739	38,602	17,395	12,028	5,671	3,554	260	211,002
Discounts	4	-14	-9,991	-3,758	-2,719	-1,037	-547	-229	-148	-20	-18,463
Estimated Impact of Council Tax Reduction Scheme	5	-54	-21,044	-5,650	-3,139	-899	-315	-84	-27	0	-31,212
Net estimated increase in properties	6	1	489	255	223	104	71	34	21	1	1,199
Empty Homes Scheme	7	0	454	97	68	21	10	6	6	2	663
Adj for losses on collection, banding changes etc.	8	-2	-1,346	-821	-760	-358	-259	-124	-78	-6	-3,753
Estimated Taxable properties after adjustments	9	91	57,155	34,862	32,275	15,225	10,988	5,274	3,328	237	159,436
Ratio to band D			6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
Council Tax Base	10	51	38,104	27,115	28,689	15,225	13,430	7,618	5,546	474	136,252
Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Band D Equivalent)	11	-30	-14,029	-4,394	-2,790	-899	-385	-122	-44	0	-22,694

Appendix B 2017-18 Local Council Tax Bases

	Base	CTR	Net changes including growth in properties, banding changes & losses on collection	Final 2017-18
	Band D Equivalents	Band D Equivalents	Band D Equivalents	Band D Equivalents
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d) (a+b+c)
Addingham	1,789	-81	-29	1,679
Baildon	6,771	-502	-103	6,166
Bingley	9,297	-675	-142	8,480
Burley	3,135	-108	-51	2,976
Clayton	2,741	-327	-39	2,375
Cullingworth	1,216	-94	-18	1,104
Denholme	1,202	-130	-18	1,054
Harden	847	-24	-14	809
Haworth etc	2,468	-210	-37	2,221
Ilkley	7,361	-233	-119	7,009
Keighley	17,325	-2,576	-236	14,513
Menston	2,239	-59	-37	2,143
Oxenhope	1,083	-50	-17	1,016
Sandy Lane	948	-74	-14	860
Silsden	3,118	-194	-49	2,875
Steeton/Eastburn	1,662	-82	-27	1,553
Wilsden	1,855	-102	-30	1,723
Wrose	2,279	-172	-35	2,072
	67,336	-5,693	-1,015	60,628

Appendix C – Abbreviated NDR1 for 2017-18

PART 1A: NON_DOMESTIC RATING INCOME

Line

(1) Collectable rates £130,282,236

TRANSITIONAL PROTECTION PAYMENTS

(2) Due to the authority £0

(3) Due from the authority £0

COST OF COLLECTION

(4) Cost of collection formula -£736,622

(5) Legal costs £0

(6) Total allowance for cost of collection -£736,622

SPECIAL AUTHORITY DEDUCTIONS

(7) City of London Offset £0

DISREGARDED AMOUNTS

(8) Enterprise Zone £0

(9) Renewable Energy Schemes £0

(10) ...retained by billing authority £0

(11) ...retained by major precepting authority £0

(12) NON-DOMESTIC RATING INCOME £129,545,614

Bradford's' share £63,477,351

2016-17 deficit -£11,962,701

Bradford's share of the deficit from Part 4 -£5,861,723

Net Rates Bradford £57,615,627

PART TWO: NET RATES PAYABLE

Line	Billing Authority
(1) Total rateable value as at 25-09-2016	£393,605,396
(2) Small business multiplier	£0.466
(3) Gross rates	£183,420,115
(4) Estimated growth/decline in gross rates	-£1,312,240
(5) Forecast gross rates payable	£182,107,875
(6) to (11) Transitional arrangements	

Mandatory reliefs

(12) Small business rate relief	-£21,500,000
(13) on existing property where a 2nd property is occupied	
(14) Small business supplement	£3,433,561
(15) Net cost of small business rates relief	-£18,066,439
(16) Charitable occupation	-£14,200,000
(17) CASCs	-£156,500
(18) Rural rate relief	-£15,428
(19) Forecast of mandatory reliefs	-£32,438,367
(20) Growth/decline of mandatory reliefs	
(21) Total forecast mandatory reliefs	-£32,438,367

Unoccupied Property

(22) Partially occupied premises	-£173,682
(23) Empty premises	-£8,308,670
(24) Forecast of unoccupied property relief	-£8,482,352
(25) Growth/decline of empty reliefs	£0

(26)	Total forecast unoccupied property 'relief'	-£8,482,352
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Discretionary reliefs

(27)	Charitable occupation	-£7,207
(28)	Non-profit making bodies	£0
(29)	Community Amateur Sports Clubs	£0
(30)	Rural shops etc	-£3,000
(31)	Small rural businesses	£0
(32)	Other ratepayers (put Hardship Relief in here)	£0
(33)	Case A hereditaments	£0
(34)	Case B hereditaments	£0
(35)	Forecast of discretionary reliefs	-£10,207
(36)	Growth/decline in discretionary reliefs	£0
(37)	Total forecast discretionary reliefs	-£10,207

Discretionary reliefs funded through section 31 grant

(38)	New Empty relief	-£6,000
(39)	Long term empty relief	-£5,000
(40)	Retail relief	£0
(41)	Forecast section 31 reliefs	-£11,000
(42)	Growth/decline in s.31 reliefs	£0
(43)	Total forecast section 31 reliefs	-£11,000

(44)	NET RATES PAYABLE	£141,165,949
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PART THREE: COLLECTABLE RATES AND DISREGARDED AMOUNTS

Line	Billing Authority
(1) Net Rates Payable	£141,165,949
(2) Allowance for bad debts	-£2,618,000
(3) Allowance for appeals affecting 2017-18 income only	-£8,265,713
(4) COLLECTABLE RATES	£130,282,236
DISREGARDED AMOUNTS	
(5) Renewable energy	£0
(6) Transitional Protection Payment	
(7) Baseline	
(8) DISREGARDED AMOUNTS	£0

PART FOUR: 2016-17 ANTICIPATED DEFICIT

**PROVISIONAL NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES RETURN - NDR1
2017-18**

All figures must be entered in whole £

Please check the Validation tab and answer the validation queries that need to be answered

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Local Authority : Bradford

PART 4: ESTIMATED COLLECTION FUND BALANCE

OPENING BALANCE

1. Opening Balance (From Collection Fund Statement)	£	£
		-23,881,381

BUSINESS RATES CREDITS AND CHARGES

2. Business rates credited and charged to the Collection Fund in 2016-2017	148,672,982	
3. Sums written off in excess of the allowance for non-collection	-700,000	
4. Changes to the allowance for non-collection	-440,000	
5. Amounts charged against the provision for appeals following RV list changes	4,200,000	
6. Changes to the provision for appeals	-10,666,714	
7. Total business rates credits and charges (Total lines 2 to 6)		141,066,268

OTHER RATES RETENTION SCHEME CREDITS

8. Transitional protection payments received, or to be received in 2016-2017	0	
9. Transfers/payments to the Collection Fund for end-year reconciliations	45,937	
10. Transfers/payments into the Collection Fund in 2016-2017 in respect of a previous year's deficit	21,191,372	
11. Total Other Credits (Total lines 8 to 10)		21,237,309

OTHER RATES RETENTION SCHEME CHARGES

12. Transitional protection payments made, or to be made, in 2016-2017	0	
13. Payments made, or to be made, to the Secretary of State in respect of the central share in 2016-2017	-74,821,893	
14. Payments made, or to be made to, major precepting authorities in respect of business rates income in 2016-2017	-1,496,438	
15. Transfers made, or to be made, to the billing authority's General Fund in respect of business rates income in 2016-2017	-73,325,455	
16. Transfers made, or to be made, to the billing authority's General Fund; and payments made, or to be made, to a precepting authority in respect of disregarded amounts in 2016-2017	-741,111	
17. Transfers/payments from the Collection Fund for end-year reconciliations		
18. Transfers/payments made from the Collection Fund in 2016-2017 in respect of a previous year's surplus		
19. Total Other Charges (Total lines 12 to 18)		-150,384,897
20. Adjustment for 5-Year Spread		

ESTIMATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ON COLLECTION FUND IN RESPECT OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2016-2017

21. Opening balance plus total credits, less total charges, plus adjustment for 5-year spread (Total lines 1, 7, 11, 19 & 20)		£ -11,962,701
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Checked by Chief Financial / Section 151 Officer :

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Report of the Strategic Director of Adult and Community Services to the meeting of the Executive to be held on 10 January 2017

AR

Subject: Great Places to Grow Old – Long Term Support for Older People – the future of the Council’s Residential Care Home – Holmeview

Summary statement:

Great Places to Grow Old (GPGO) is an integrated programme to address the accommodation and support needs of older people, including older people with dementia. It includes the development of housing, extra care housing, short term rehabilitation, respite care/crisis support, residential and nursing care.

The programme promotes independence and wellbeing for older people with the aim of reducing the overall reliance on intensive forms of care support by expanding services that help people stay at home, or return home after a crisis. This includes the development of resources and support which can be tailored for individuals enabling people to remain in their own home and be independent for longer.

This report follows the Council’s decision on 18th February 2014 to include in the budget proposal for Adult and Community Services a reduction in the provision of two in house residential homes over the next 2 years, one of which was closed in January 2015. This decision is included in the plans within the GPGO delivery programme which was approved by Executive in January 2013.

As a result of changes in the local market and acceleration of joint commissioning proposals with health partners, permission was sought and a decision was made in September 2015 to defer the consultation on the future of Holmeview.

The report reviews a range of information regarding in-house services and independent provision and permission is sought from Executive to go out to consultation on the future of Holmeview.

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Health & Wellbeing
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Portfolio: Councillor Slater
Health & Wellbeing

Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Health and Social Care



1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. Great Places to Grow Old (GPGO) is an integrated programme to address the accommodation and support needs of older people, including older people with dementia. It includes the development of housing, extra care housing, short term rehabilitation, respite care/crisis support, residential and nursing care.
- 1.2. The programme promotes independence and wellbeing for older people with the aim of reducing the overall reliance on intensive forms of care support by expanding services that help people stay at home, or return home after a crisis. This includes the development of resources and support which can be tailored for individuals enabling people to remain in their own home and be independent for longer.
- 1.3. This report follows the Council's decision on 18th February 2014 to include in the budget proposal for Adult and Community Services a reduction in the provision of two in house residential homes over the next 2 years, one of which was closed in January 2015. This decision is included in the plans within the GPGO delivery programme which was approved by Executive in January 2013.
- 1.4. As a result of changes in the local market and acceleration of joint commissioning proposals with health partners, permission was sought and a decision was made in September 2015 to defer the consultation on the future of Holmeview.
- 1.5. The report reviews a range of information regarding in-house services and independent provision and permission is sought from Executive to go out to consultation on the future of Holmeview.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Bradford Council is reviewing its in-house residential and day care provision as part of shaping the future long term care for older people, including people with dementia.
- 2.2. The decision of the Council to approve the closure of two residential homes over two financial years as part of the Adult and Community Services budget proposals for 2014/15 and 2015/16 was made in the context of the Great Places to Grow Old (GPGO) delivery programme which was endorsed by the Executive in January 2013. The plan includes the proposal, previously agreed by Executive in 2009 that the in-house service no longer continues as a long term provider (except for specialist dementia care), to enable the delivery of flexible support as part of the joint community beds strategy in development with the NHS.
- 2.3. In line with the decision made by the Council's Executive on 18th February 2014 to decrease provision by closing a further two in-house residential homes, subject to formal consultation. Consultation on Home A, Harbourne residential home commenced on 9 September 2014 and a paper was presented to Executive on 16 October 2014. The decision was made to decommission Harbourne and this home was closed in January 2015.

- 2.4. This currently leaves 6 in house residential homes which provide a total of 197 beds across the District. 71 long stay beds; 92 flex beds and 34 intermediate care beds (See Appendix 1). The remaining services have moved away from the provision of long term care for frail elderly focussing on services for older people with complex dementia care needs, rehabilitation/intermediate care and respite services.
- 2.5. Existing in-house services are under review based on appraisals of the condition of each building and the site and costs of improvement, forecast changes in the population of older people and to meet rising expectations and the need to sustain investment in preventative services and alternatives to residential care.
- 2.6. Despite the current CQC rating being good, we need to be able to future proof services for the future to ensure that they are fit for purpose and can meet the needs of service users. The longer term investment required to future proof Holmeview would be in the region of £1 million. This would to complete priority work already highlighted such as electrical and mechanical services, and in addition, to address the condition of the building which would include reconfiguration of the layout of the building to incorporate the expectations and needs of service users.
- 2.7. The review itself was a response to the strategic vision for long-term support for older people as set out in the Council resolution, Long Term support for Older People of 8 December 2008.
- 2.8. The resolution set out a vision for older people to benefit from a range of high quality services and support to promote independence, increase choice, improve quality of life and meet increasing requirements for provision for people with long term conditions, including dementia. The vision emphasises a shift to providing enablement, providing more support for people at home and the development of alternatives to residential care, including extra care housing.
- 2.9. The Care Act which came into force in April 2014 introduced the concept of wellbeing, personalisation, individual control and influence through a legal right to personal budgets and direct payments. It brings in a duty to provide preventative services, to integrate with health and to shape the market and provides powers for local authorities to delegate certain care and support functions to a third party which will be determined locally.
- 2.10. The integrated plan operates on the principle that in-house services are not decommissioned until alternative arrangements are identified by the delivery programme, and with the full engagement of current service users, their families, carers and advocates.
- 2.11. As a result of changes in the local market and acceleration of joint commissioning proposals with health partners, the decision was made in September 2015 to defer consultation on the future of Holmeview until sufficient bed capacity could be sustained to meet the needs of people with dementia.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. Great Places to Grow Old (GPGO) is an integrated programme to address the accommodation and support needs of older people with dementia. It includes the development of housing, extra care housing, short term rehabilitation, respite care/crisis support, residential and nursing care.
- 3.2. Public Health have completed a health needs assessment on dementia in the Bradford District. Recommendations have been formulated as a result of this work and ongoing action is being taken to implement them. The key messages from the needs assessment are the same as GPGO and the integrated working with the NHS and third sector:
 - 3.2.1. To help people with dementia stay in their homes as long as possible rather than entering a care home.
 - 3.2.2. Develop more specialist long term care places for people with dementia in the independent sector and ensure that this is of the highest quality.
 - 3.2.3. Adequate and effective palliative care for people with dementia.
- 3.3. The programme will promote independence and wellbeing for older people with the aim of reducing the overall reliance on intensive forms of care support by expanding services that help people stay at home, or return home after a crisis.
- 3.4. The Bradford Enablement Support Team (BEST) provides an enablement service to all new District wide service users working with them to set achievable goals, maximising their independence or stabilising care prior to transferring to a long term Home Care provider. In addition, the BEST plus service supports service users to achieve therapy goals that are set and monitored by therapists.
- 3.5. Enablement can now be provided over 24 hours and works closely with the District Nursing service, a rapid response service (responds within 2 hours) has been implemented, co located with the Virtual Ward Team at Bradford Teaching NHS Foundation Trust. The aim of this service is to provide rapid response to social care needs which if not provided would mean the person was admitted to hospital.
- 3.6. GPGO has interdependencies with integrated programmes of work within the Sustainability and Transformation plan implementation which includes the establishment of two Accountable Care Systems across the District. GPGO will be fundamental in the development of new models of care in the out of hospital services.
- 3.7. Since January 2013 progress has been made to develop alternative options to residential care, however as indicated at 1.4 there have been changes to the local market and joint commissioning with health partners which influenced the commissioning intentions for the medium to long term to ensure sustainability in the provision of specialist dementia services.
- 3.8. This has been enhanced by integrated health and social care community services including specialist dementia services provided by the NHS and Adult Services. The aim of the service will be to provide additional 24 hours support to people in their own home so that they can remain at times of crisis/illness and return home

as soon as possible after a stay in hospital. This is in line with the plans outlined in the Executive report in January 2013.

- 3.9. Details include joint venture arrangements with appropriate partners which will deliver the proposed investment programme and meet the programme benefits which includes the following:
 - 3.9.1. Delivery of a flexible and high quality whole system model that promotes independence and wellbeing for older people and reduces reliance on intensive care and support. This is underpinned by joint commissioning between health, Adult Social Care and housing.
 - 3.9.2. Develop the independent sector market as the primary provider for long term services and support. This includes nursing and residential care homes and personal support provided to people in their own homes.
 - 3.9.3. Redesign the in house enablement service residential and day care services with health and housing services to create more flexible crisis support to enable people to stay in their own homes for longer.
 - 3.9.4. Increase the provision of extra care and specialist housing options in the independent sector.
 - 3.9.5. Support carers by providing more flexible short breaks.
 - 3.9.6. Increase opportunities for social involvement by ensuring day opportunities are flexible and community focussed.
- 3.10. The Council is supporting the development of extra care housing schemes. Extra care housing is designed with the needs of frailer older people in mind and offers and provides 24 hour care and support on site. People who live in these schemes have their own self contained homes with their own front doors, but can also use communal facilities which can include restaurant/dining facilities; hairdressers; health/fitness facilities; computer room.
- 3.11. The extra care housing schemes include:
 - 3.11.1. Elm Tree Court, Thackley a 51 unit extra care facility opened in March 2015 and provides 24 hour care and support services for people, including people with dementia according to their assessed needs.
 - 3.11.2. The extra care units are supported by local community services, including specialist dementia services which are provided by the NHS and Adult Services.
 - 3.11.3. Neville Grange residential care home in Saltaire closed in November 2013 to allow for the development of a new build of 45 extra care flats and a 20 bed intermediate care centre. This development was going to be a partnership between Incommunities, Adult Services and the NHS. It was anticipated that the development would begin late 2015 but Incommunities have made a decision to withdraw from this scheme and therefore alternative options are currently being considered.
 - 3.11.4. The Council has been successful in a bid for grant funding to support the building of a 69 extra care flats in Keighley at the Bronte school site and a 50 bedded residential unit and work will start on site March 2017 and will be completed in 2018.

- 3.12. Planning permission has been granted or is pending on the future increase of 614 beds across the District, this is made up 207 nursing beds; 129 residential beds and 278 extra care beds.
- 3.13. Future loss of 14 residential beds at Ghyll Court Residential Home has been identified.
- 3.14. Over the last 12-18 months 9 care homes across the District have been closed resulting in the loss of 277 beds of which 170 were specialist dementia beds.
- 3.15. Over the last six months the average vacancy rate for residential beds across the District for older people was 157 per week. The current vacancy rate is 111.
- 3.16. Intermediate care services being developed with the NHS will offer additional specialist care and support to people so that they can remain in their own homes for as long as possible and be supported to die at home if that is their decision.
- 3.17. Work continues with NHS colleagues and the Clinical Commissioning Groups to ensure that we have available sufficient numbers of community beds to meet the growing number of people with dementia and complex support needs across the District.
- 3.18. The in-house residential care homes currently provide 34 intermediate care beds, with the NHS contributing to the funding of these, these are mainly used for people coming out of hospital. Work is ongoing as part of the Accountable Care System development to ascertain the number of short term beds required across the District.
- 3.19. The Advanced Health in Care Homes Vanguard project led by Airedale NHS Foundation Trust in West and North Yorkshire has installed telemedicine in 217 care homes, including the Council's in-house homes, with approximately 7,500 residents across Yorkshire and East Lancashire ranging from isolated rural communities to inner-city Bradford. This is reported to have reduced ambulance call outs to care homes by almost 30% and GP referrals by 40%. More than 70% of these residents in care homes have dementia and this support has reduced stress for people by preventing unnecessary hospital admissions.
- 3.20. The Integrated Residential and Nursing Care Framework has been commissioned by CBMDC Adults and Community Services and CCGs from 2016-2020. The new arrangements will support the providers to shape their services to meet the needs of individuals and to support the personalisation and integration agendas locally in partnership with the Council and CCGs. The new framework includes an initiative to support Providers in fostering a culture of continuous improvement and will allow us to reward the best quality services.
- 3.21. The number of care homes assessed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) using their quality framework as inadequate across the District was at its peak 26% in 2015, this has now reduced to 9% and has been achieved by working with support providers to improve areas of concern working with our NHS health partners, we have been able to support providers to improve standards and ratings of their services overall which has increased the number of available beds.

- 3.22. There has been problems with the registration status with some providers across the District, but this has now been overcome and standards overall continue to improve with quality being monitored through the new residential and nursing framework.
- 3.23. The Gateway Care Village is a new provision located in the Dudley Hill area that opened in September 2015 which is in Bradford West, Tong Ward. The service has 92 beds and is registered to provide residential care for older people including older people with dementia. The Gateway would have capacity to accommodate all residents at Holmeview if they wished to stay together and this would be done in line with the transitions policy.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The proposal to consult on the future of Holmeview is part of the long term strategic direction of care for older people within the Great Places to Grow Old programme. Savings are attached to the closure of homes and the plan is to provide care in extra care schemes instead of residential care homes.
- 4.2 The total gross budget for Holmeview in 2016/17 is £1,094,600. The budgeted unit cost of Holmeview for 2016/17 is £599.78 per week. Including recharges, which includes all central, corporate and departmental recharges takes the budgeted unit cost to £728.55. Those individuals in receipt of long term care are subject to a financial assessment under nationally set financial regulations and contribute to the cost of their care subject to their individual circumstances, income and capital. The income budget for this is £220,000. The total budgeted net unit cost for Holmeview is £590.60 including income and recharges.
- 4.3 The Council's agreed budget for 2016/17 make provision for the proposed closure of a second home, which would be subject to further consultation. A decision was made to delay the consultation on Holmeview. The savings for 2016/17 anticipated from the closure of Homeview have been mitigated on a non-recurrent basis through alternative savings.
- 4.4 If the decision is taken not to close the home alternative compensating savings would require costing and would need to be found from within Adults services budgets for 2017/18. Similarly, if the decision was taken to further delay the closure of the home, savings would be needed in mitigation up to the point at which the home closed or the fully costed strategy was prepared and approved. Current timescales highlight that full year savings will not be achieved and further mitigated will be required.
- 4.5 Since 2014 an investment of £155,000 has been made to Holmeview. The latest conditions data report shows that a further investment of £363,000 is required to address priority areas such as electrical and mechanical services. In addition to this we need to future proof the service and address the condition of the building which would need to include reconfiguration of the layout of the building to incorporate the expectations and needs of service users. The longer term investment necessary to future proof Holmeview would be in the region of £1 million.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1. Key risks associated with not closing Homleview are the savings not being achieved, and the lack of opportunity to invest in promoting independence or alternative housing options for older people with care needs. This in turn impacts on the costs of meeting rising demand for care services. There is a longer-term reputational risk, in that expectations of older people is already increasing as the condition of the existing buildings continues to worsen and facilities such as en-suite bathrooms in the bedrooms are expected by service users and families.
- 5.2. Demographic pressures are expected to increase demand on services and budgets, if we do not act to change the pattern of service provision. Presently 14.2% of the population (74,900) are 65+ and it is expected that this population age group will increase by 12% over the next 5 years and by 25% by 2025. This increase will be

even more significant for the very elderly, with the number of people over the age of 85 increasing by 20% over the next 5 years and by 42% by 2025 (ONS 2012). The number of people living with dementia is likely to increase by 6,059 by 2020 (*Bradford District dementia health needs assessment July 2014*). Some of the areas of the District have more elderly people than others and it is likely that the north of the District, including Ilkley, Craven, Bingley and Bingley rural wards will continue to have the largest elderly population. The vision emphasises a shift to providing enablement, providing more support for people at home and the development of alternatives to residential care, including extra care housing. This means investing in preventative approaches and services that promote recovery and rehabilitation.

- 5.3. The availability of alternative services for people who currently use services at Holmeview could be a risk, however, officers believe that there is now sufficient suitable alternative options (Appendix 2 – Map of provision across the District), including future planned provision (3.12). There are risks to moving vulnerable older people which would be addressed through individual support plans and the steps described in the services' policy for managing transitions (background document).
- 5.4. As outlined in 4.4 the savings proposals associated with reducing the number of in house residential homes can be mitigated through alternative savings.
- 5.5. A mitigation plan will be drawn up and agreed with the Trade Unions to manage the risk involved in redeployment of staff.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1. As a Local Authority, the Council is required to ensure there is adequate provision of residential accommodation to enable it to discharge its statutory responsibility to meet assessed eligible need for provision of accommodation (s21 National Assistance Act 1948). It is lawful for a Local Authority to discharge its duty to provide residential accommodation entirely by means of arrangements made with third parties. There is no obligation upon a Local Authority to maintain some accommodation in premises under its own ownership/management.
- 6.2. A public body proposing any review of service provision involving the potential closure of residential care homes that will affect current and future service users, carers, families and staff must allow sufficient time for full and meaningful consultation over a period of three months with all stakeholders including those aforementioned individuals. The consultation should ensure that all relevant parties receive sufficient information to enable them to provide informed feedback which should be taken into account prior to any final decision being made. The consultation process and timing should be sufficient to enable consultees to be informed of the proposals, raise queries, consider and respond to the issues and complexities of the proposals whilst remaining coherent, focussed and proportionate. The public body is not bound to act upon the preferred option of consultees but must take full account of any preferred view, expressed opinion and overall feedback. The requirement is for consultation to be meaningful. Clear reasons must be given for not taking a preferred course of action expressed by consultees.
- 6.3. Legal considerations relate to the law governing community care, employment, human rights and equality. The Council has a duty to meet assessed, eligible needs

for community care services, and is obliged to consult meaningfully, including giving clear reason for any decisions which go against the wishes of consultees. If the home were to close the Council would have to meet its obligations under employment law regarding any job losses.

- 6.4. Pursuant to Section 188 Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (“TULCRA”) the Council as employer is required to consult the recognised trade unions where there is a proposal to dismiss by redundancy (which includes voluntary redundancy) 20 or more employees at an establishment within a period of 90 days or less.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010, requires the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to:

- 7.1.1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- 7.1.2. Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- 7.1.3. Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- 7.1.4. Relevant protected characteristics include age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion or belief.
- 7.1.5. Further engagement and consultation will be carried out to ensure the Council fulfils its equality duties and mitigates any adverse impacts. The EIA concludes that the balance of risks is higher towards current service users, but can be balanced off against the expected benefits for the wider population in maintaining a sustainable service. Mitigating actions are proposed to mitigate or remove any negative impact, including continuing to engage existing service users in developing new services and support, adopting the principle that in-house services are not decommissioned until alternatives are in place, and using the Transitions Policy to ensure a smooth transfer of services where this is required, and which has been used successfully for earlier de-commissions.

7.2. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.2.1. The status quo does not appear to be sustainable, both in terms of the risks of continuing to deliver services in the building as it is and the impact of demographic growth on the existing pattern of service provision.

7.3. GREENHOUSE GAS IMPACTS

- 7.3.1. The overall impact of closing homes built between the 1960s – 1980s is that people would be cared for in more energy-efficient buildings. In particular, the plans for the proposed new-build homes would include modern energy and cost-saving measures in the design and build.

7.4. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.4.1. Older people with dementia and other long-term conditions are among the most vulnerable people in the community. Providing high quality care and appropriate environment for care services is consistent with the Council's statutory duty to safeguard vulnerable adults.

7.5. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

7.5.1. The Human Rights Act 1998 makes it unlawful for any public body to act in a way which is incompatible with an individual's human rights. Where an individual's human rights are endangered, Local Authorities have a duty to balance those rights with the wider public interest and act lawfully and proportionately. For this report, the most relevant rights from the 16 covered in the [Human Rights Act \(1998\)](#) are:

“the right to respect for private and family life”

“the right to peaceful enjoyment of your property” (if this were interpreted broadly as enjoyment of one's home).

“the right to freedom from inhuman and degrading treatment”

“the right not to be discriminated against in respect of these rights and freedoms”

7.5.2. The definition of adult abuse, in guidance issued under statute, is based on the concept of human rights: *“Abuse is a violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons”*. (No Secrets, Department of Health, 2000).

7.5.3. As with the equal rights considerations, the proposed changes are expected to have an overall positive impact on these considerations though there is a risk of adverse impact for individuals who live in the homes currently. In line with legal requirements and Council policy, vulnerable individuals and their friends, families and advocates have been and will continue to be involved in any consultation process and planning of changes, and that planning of change is fair and proportionate, and seeks to mitigate any identified adverse impacts of decisions made.

7.5.4. The background document *Managing Transitions - Risk Assessment and Risk Management Protocol for the Transfer of Vulnerable / Frail Residents*, indicates how welfare and rights of vulnerable service-users would be protected during any home closures should a decision be taken to close any homes following consultation. Research evidence indicates the importance of well-managed moves, and the impact of the quality of planning and support on the well-being of older people, when care homes close ([closure of care homes for older people](#)).

7.6. TRADE UNION

7.6.1. Staff have been made aware of the proposals and further consultation will take place with individual staff through meetings. In addition further detailed consultations will be take place with Trade Unions as required by legislation in relation to any staff affected by the proposed changes.

7.6.2. There are currently 49 members of staff (37.6 full time equivalent) employed at Holmeview of which 6 posts (3.75 full time equivalent) are vacant. The aim would be to retain the skills and experience of current staff and it is envisaged that this could be achieved through redeployment and recruitment.

7.6.3. There is also the potential to explore the opportunity for staff to work as part of collaboratively service provision within the accountable care system.

7.7. WARD IMPLICATIONS

7.7.1. Holmeview is in the Bradford West Ward Tong, all ward members will be involved and informed and consulted on any changes.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENT

8.1. None

9. OPTIONS

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1. Permission is sought from Executive to go out to consultation on the future of Holmeview Care Home.

11. APPENDICES

11.1. Appendix 1 – In House Care Provision

11.2. Appendix 2 – Map of current provision across the District

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1. Report to the Strategic Director Adult and Community Services to the meeting of the Executive on 14th July 2009 – Long Term Support for Older People – The Future Of The Council's Residential Care Homes and Day Care Services

12.2. Report to the Strategic Director Adult and Community Services to the meeting of the Executive on 3rd December 2010 – Long Term Support for Older People – The Future Of The Council's Residential Care Homes and Day Care Services

12.3. Report to the Strategic Director Adult and Community Services to the meeting of the Executive on 10th February 2012 – Long Term Support for Older People – The Future Of The Council's Residential Care Homes and Day Care Services

12.4. Report to the Interim Strategic Director Adult and Community Services to the meeting of the Executive on 17th July 2012 – Long Term Support for Older People – The Future Of The Council's Residential Care Homes

12.5. Report to Strategic Director Adult and Community Services to the meeting of the Executive on 15th January 2013– Review of Residential Strategy – Great Places to Grow Old

12.6. Health Inequalities Action Plan 2013 – 2017

12.7. Report to the Director of Finance to the meeting of Executive to be held on 18th February 2014 – The Council's Revenue Estimate for 2014-15 and 2015-16

12.8. Report to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Culture, A Great Place to Grow Old; Housing for Older People in Bradford

- 12.9. Executive Decision 18th February 2014
- 12.10. Dementia Health Needs Assessment – July 2014
- 12.11. Holme View Building Conditions Report – September 2014
- 12.12. Report of the Director of Adult & Community Services to the meeting of the Executive to be held on 16 October 2014
- 12.13. Executive Decision 16th October 2014
- 12.14. Integrated Residential and Nursing Care Framework 2016-2020

Appendix 1

In House Care Provision (November 2016)

Area	Care Home	Total (beds)	Current Designation			Registration categories	Comment
			Long Stay	Flex Beds	Intermediate Care (IC)		
Homes with specialist mental health registration							
Keighley BD22 6AB	Holmewood	28	15	9	4	Dementia	Recent Investment £378,000
Bradford BD15 7YT	Woodward Court	28	11	13	4	Dementia / challenging behaviour	Significant investment to make dementia friendly
Bradford BD4 9BT	Holmeview	35	14	21		Dementia	
Subtotal		91	40	43	8		
Homes with no specialist mental health registration							
Bradford BD2 4BN	Beckfield	34	14	12	8	Older people 65+	Long stay beds are also used as IC beds
Bradford BD6 1EX	Norman Lodge	35	7	20	8	Older people 65+ (2 younger adults)	Unit to become short stay/IC
Bingley BD16 2EP	Thompson Court	37	10	17	10	Older people 65+ (8 younger adults)	
Subtotal		106	31	49	26		
TOTAL		197	71	92	34		
Homes decommissioned							
ShIPLEY BD18 4JJ	Neville Grange	31	15	8	8		Closed 2013 - Saltaire
Bradford BD6 2LE	Harbourne	28	4	14		Dementia / functional mental health needs	Closed January 2015

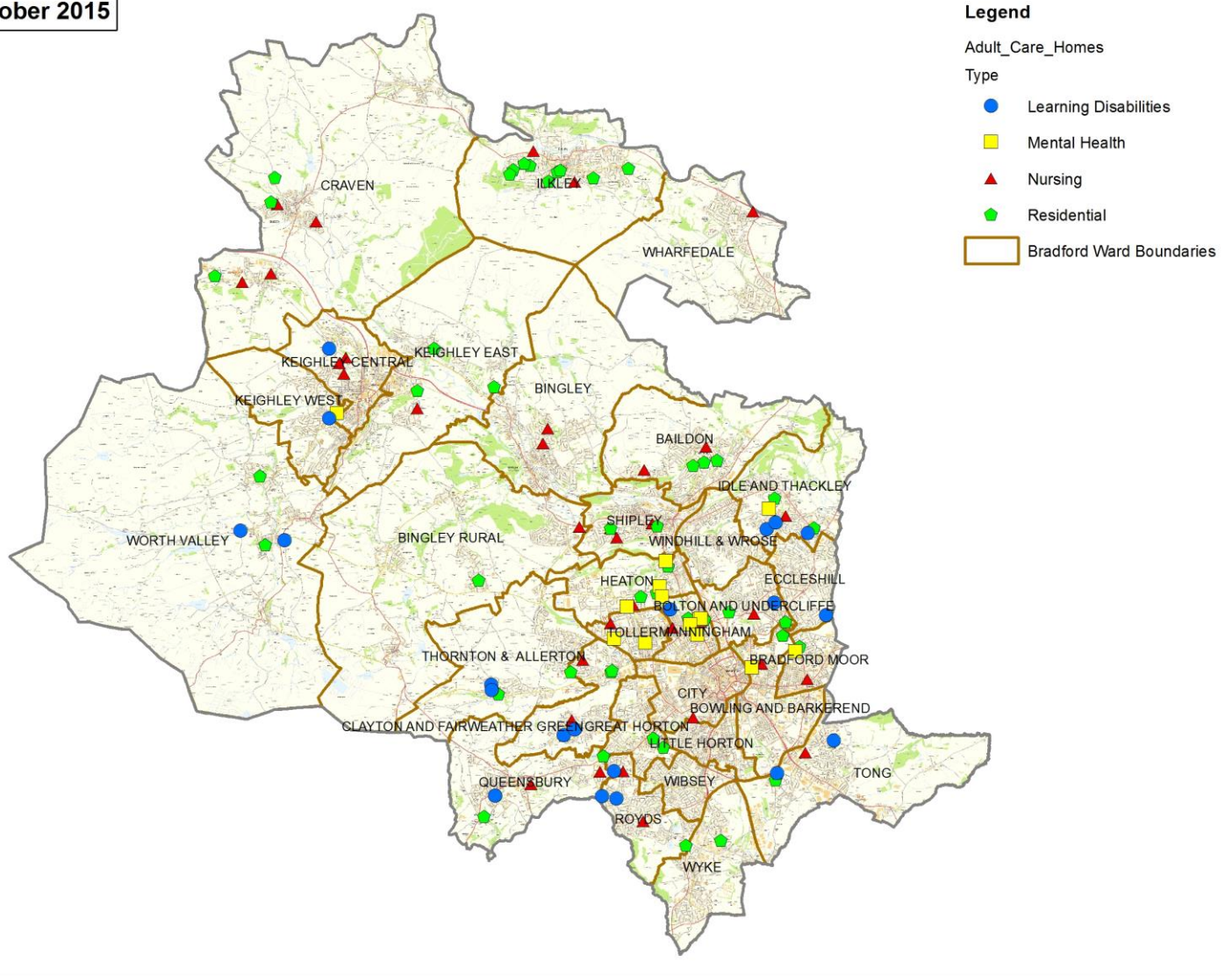
If Holmeview is decommissioned the number of beds in homes with specialist mental health registration would be:

Total (beds)	Designation		
	Long Stay	Flex Beds	Intermediate Care (IC)
56	26	22	8

If Holmeview is decommissioned the total number of beds in-house would be:

Total (beds)	Designation		
	Long Stay	Flex Beds	Intermediate Care (IC)
163	57	72	34

Adult Care Homes - October 2015



Legend

Adult_Care_Homes
Type

- Learning Disabilities
- Mental Health
- ▲ Nursing
- ⬡ Residential
- Bradford Ward Boundaries

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Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the Meeting of the Executive to be held on 10th January 2017

AS

Subject:

Fostering Allowances Review

Summary statement:

This report sets out the proposals to;

Align the level of fostering allowances ensuring that payments for all fostering, special guardianship, Child Arrangement Orders (formerly Residence Orders) and adoption are all paid at the same rates as required by law

The proposal to bring fostering allowances in line with statutory requirements will achieve affordable equity for children for whom Bradford has a financial responsibility by ensuring that they are not disadvantaged as a result of the permanency option that best meets their needs.

Michael Jameson
Strategic Director Children's Services

Portfolio:

Health & Wellbeing

Report Contact: Jim Hopkinson
Deputy Director (Children's Social Care)
Tel : 01274 432904

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

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1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report sets out the proposals to;

- Ensure that Bradford is compliant with the law by equitably aligning payments across fostering, special guardianship, Child Arrangement Orders (formerly Residence Orders) and adoption based on the national age related minimum allowance.

The proposal will achieve equity as required by law through bringing allowances in line with legal requirements. Under these proposals Bradford foster carers will receive a fee and allowance that when aggregated is in excess, for the most part, of all other local authorities in West Yorkshire. There is a significant financial risk to the authority if we do not achieve equity. However by implementing the proposals, the authority, whilst paying more than elsewhere in the region, will also make a saving of £454k in a financial year based on current rates and numbers of children.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 There are approximately 450 foster carers in the Bradford District who provide a highly valued service in looking after children in care in Bradford. As at November 2016, there were 243 mainstream fostering households; 158 approved Family and Friends households and 47 approved short breaks households. Bradford has a proud tradition of working positively in partnership with foster carers to support our children in placements to improve their life chances. Foster carers provide a safe, secure, nurturing environment and are passionate about wanting to make a difference to the lives of children and young people in their care. The Council is committed to ensuring that it is able to place Bradford children in Bradford with Bradford carers with the right kind of skills to provide the appropriate level of care and support.

2.2 The Council has a duty under the Children Act 1989 to ensure it provides a range of suitable and appropriate accommodation to meet the assessed needs of children in care. Local Authorities are responsible for providing fostering services in line with Fostering Regulations, Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations and National Minimum Standards for Fostering.

2.3 The service currently spends £10.1 million on fostering fees and allowances. Proposals for budget reductions identified within Children's Services include a review of fostering allowances to achieve the required budget savings. The Council approved budget savings of £830k over 2 years i.e. £415k in 2015/16 and £415k in 2016/17. Phase 1 changes within the service identified £415k savings by introducing a range of measures: the Holiday scheme was ended saving £85k in 2015/16; the retainer on the fostering allowance has been removed; indefinite fee payments for vacant placements ended reducing the cost of vacancies from £12k per week in February 2015 to £2.7k per week in August 2016. The scope for these efficiencies was widely acknowledged. A dedicated Family Finding team was established which has been successful in matching children to carers. Vacancies

have been managed much more proactively. Implementing these measures has contributed already to £340k savings made in 15/16. Bradford's current and proposed combined fees and allowances to our foster carers remain higher than all other West Yorkshire Authorities.

- 2.4 Phase 2 of the process relates to reviewing the payment of fostering allowances. A weekly age-related allowance is paid to foster carers to cover the child's living expenses (e.g. food, clothing, household, transport etc). Currently Bradford pays differential rates for Special Guardianship, Adoption and Residence allowances compared to Fostering allowances. At the moment foster carers, including approved Family and Friends, are paid more in Bradford than those providing care through Special Guardianship, Adoption and Residence Orders. The law requires that there should be very clear justification for differences in payments. Bradford faces the risk of judicial review of its current payment policy if the allowances are not aligned equitably across all placements. The risk for the council of judicial review is that there would need to be an uplift of all allowances to the current fostering rate at a cost of £1.6 million to the authority.
- 2.5 The Government sets a National Minimum Allowance for foster carers and many local authorities set their allowances based on this rate. The fostering allowance in Bradford was historically paid at the rate recommended by the Fostering Network. For some years Bradford has not kept pace with the Fostering Network's recommended annual increases, which has resulted in payments for children aged 0-10 reducing to almost the national minimum allowance while payments for children aged 11+ have remained relatively high in comparison. The Fostering Network has discontinued recommending rates.
- 2.6 The allowance is deemed to cover the costs of clothing and day to day living; food; heating; normal transport to school; social activities; toiletries; hair/skin care and school dinners. Bradford Council adopts the age related percentage category/costs breakdown of the weekly allowance as currently recommended nationally and provides this as guidance for foster carers.

The current allowance rates in Bradford compared to national minimum rates are as follows;

Fostering	No. of Children	Current Weekly Rates	Government Weekly Rates
0-4	70	127.47	126.00
5-10	127	145.21	139.00
11-15	136	180.76	159.00
16-18	42	219.86	185.00
	375		

Family & Friends	No. of Children	Current Weekly Rates	Government Weekly Rates
0-4	56	127.47	126.00
5-10	74	145.21	139.00
11-15	64	180.76	159.00
16-18	24	219.86	185.00
	218		

2.7 Additionally, foster carers can be paid a 'fee' as a 'reward'. There is no legal entitlement to a fee. In Bradford, the rate of fees paid to foster carers remains competitive compared to those paid by neighbouring West Yorkshire authorities. The fee structure rewards foster carers for their skills and experience and does not relate to the age of the child. Carers are asked to evidence their skills and experience against a set of competencies in order to progress with the highest reward paid to those who carry out the most complex tasks, regardless of the age of the child. For example, experienced foster carers may be required to facilitate complex contact arrangements, prepare children for adoption, care for children with complex health and emotional needs, or support young people at risk of child sexual exploitation.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The Council also plans to undertake work to explore options relating to Special Guardianship Orders.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 Bradford's allowances have been benchmarked against other local authorities. In comparing Bradford's allowances with neighbouring Local Authorities, the rates in Leeds and Kirklees are higher as they are based on the Fostering Network's 2015/16 recommended allowance. However, from 2016/17 the Fostering Network is no longer publishing recommended allowances.

4.2.1 The preferred option to meet legal requirements in Bradford is to reduce the allowances paid to foster carers to the national minimum allowance in order to achieve parity across all care arrangements. This has the added potential to save £454k in a financial year based on current rates and numbers of children. The proposal is to achieve the savings over 2 years with £227k of savings to be delivered in each year in order to minimise the impact on recruitment and retention of foster carers.

4.2.2 The table below compares Bradford's existing allowance and fees based on one child against the rates in neighbouring Local Authorities as an annual amount. In addition, the table compares the proposed allowance rates for Bradford combined with fees calculated on the basis of one child.

Annual fee & allowance	Age Group	Bradford (£)	SUGGESTED BRADFORD (£)	Leeds (£)	Kirklees (£)	Wakefield (£)
Allowance + Level 1	0 - 4	13,609	13,505	7,456	12,671	8,969
	5-10	14,496	14,183	8,499	12,671	9,594
	11-15	16,373	15,226	10,585	15,799	10,637
	16-17	18,406	16,581	12,827	18,041	11,941
Allowance + Level 2	0 - 4	16,477	16,425	13,714	13,974	12,879
	5-10	17,416	17,103	14,756	13,974	13,505
	11-15	19,241	18,146	16,842	17,103	14,548
	16-17	21,326	19,501	19,084	19,345	15,851
Allowance + Level 3	0 - 4	20,649	20,596	16,321	16,581	18,094
	5-10	21,587	21,274	17,364	16,581	18,719
	11-15	23,412	22,317	19,449	19,710	19,762
	16-17	25,446	23,673	21,691	21,952	21,066
Allowance + Level 4	0 - 4	29,200	29,148	18,928	20,753	0
	5-10	30,139	29,826	19,971	20,753	0
	11-15	32,016	30,869	22,056	23,881	0
	16-17	34,049	32,224	24,299	26,124	0

Note: Calderdale fees and allowances excluded as currently under review.

The following examples demonstrate the difference made by the proposed changes to the weekly rate;

3 year old with a level 3 carer:

Bradford proposed rate is £20,596, Leeds £16,321, Kirklees £16,581
Proposed Bradford weekly rate is £394.56 - reduction of £1.47 per week

6 year old with a level 3 carer:

Bradford proposed rate £21,274, Leeds £17,364, Kirklees £16,581
Proposed Bradford weekly rate is £407.56- reduction of £6.21 per week

12 year old with level 3 carer

Bradford proposed rate is £22,317. Leeds £19,449, Kirklees £19,710
Proposed Bradford weekly rate is £427.56- reduction of £21.76 per week

16 year old with level 3 carer

Bradford proposed rate is £23,673, Leeds £21,691, Kirklees £21,952
Bradford proposed weekly rate is £453.56- reduction of £34.86 per week

4.3 The projected savings are required to be met as the budget has already been reduced by £830k for the Fostering service. This process of proposed change to the allowances represents a financial and reputational risk to the Council.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 Proposals to reduce allowances are contentious and may result in impacting on the District's ability to meet its Sufficiency Duty in relation to placements for looked after children and the Journey to Excellence recruitment target. Adjusting to a new allowance structure may present some challenges for some foster carers and it is possible that some foster carers might decide to leave the service.
- 5.2.1 Plans are in place for ongoing consultation with stakeholders at all stages in order to minimise disruption for looked after children, agree terms and conditions with foster carers and to continue to pro-actively promote recruitment and retention. Consultations will provide opportunities to explain the options and the rationale for the proposals. Carers will be offered advice on entitlement to work and benefits. The key message the Council will continue to reinforce is our commitment to ensuring that Bradford children are placed in Bradford with Bradford carers with the right skills to offer the appropriate level of care and support needed. Elected Members will continue to be briefed at all stages.
- 5.2.2 Consultations were held on 24th and 25th November 2016. It was apparent at the consultation events that some foster carers have a strong sense of feeling undervalued. Foster carers are not classed as employees or workers because they are not engaged under a contract of employment, this means they are not entitled to sick pay, holiday pay or the national minimum wage. A recent meeting in parliament of foster carers led to a vote to form a union which would aim to give foster carers the same rights as employees. The Department of Education have stated they will launch a fundamental review of fostering nationally as a result.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The Local Authority's policy relating to fostering payments should be clear, equitable and transparent. The criteria for calculating allowances and fees must be applied equally to all foster carers whether related to a child or not. A clear justification is required for any differences in allowances paid to foster carers, adoptive carers, special guardians and those caring under residence/child arrangement orders. To date, the courts have rejected justifications put forward by local authorities for differences in allowances. Policies that differentiate allowances are vulnerable to legal challenge. Fostering allowances must cover the full cost of caring for a child.
- 6.2 The Local Authority is required to consider the impact of proposals on its duty to ensure sufficiency of foster carers and its duty to ensure the welfare of the children it looks after.
- 6.3 The proposal has been equality assessed to ensure compliance with the Local Authority's duties under the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 1.
- 6.4 The Local Authority's duty to act fairly includes a general duty to consult. In addition, there is a specific duty to consult foster carers in advance of any changes to fostering payments. Consultations should be on all viable options, be proportionate, allow time for consideration and response and take place at each stage of the process. Consultation events have now taken place. In addition,

Children's Services will respond to requests for additional face to face meetings as well as promoting the on-line consultation opportunities.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The proposals may have a greater impact on single carers, most of whom are single females. There could be an impact on young people aged between 11 to 17 years if placements are disrupted though this has not been the case so far.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The financial changes proposed within this report ensure that the service is aligned with the national minimum expectations in complying with legal requirements whilst remaining viable.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None.

7.6 TRADE UNION

None. Foster carers are not employees of the Council. They are currently categorised as self-employed.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

These proposals will impact on foster carer households in all Wards across the District.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

Option 1 – Reducing foster carer allowances to the Government minimum allowances. Although this option brings foster carer allowances in line with Special Guardianship, Adoption and Residence allowances and removes any risk of legal challenge in relation to the payment of differential rates, it will impact more

significantly on older children between the ages of 11 to 17 years with payment differences of between £21 to £34 per week. There is no capacity to spread the reduction in fostering allowances more fairly across the age ranges or to reduce the payments for younger children more to reduce the impact for carers of older children because the allowances for children aged 0-10 are already close to the minimum rate. Fostering allowances cannot legally be paid at lower than the national minimum allowance. As stated above (see paragraph 2.4), the fostering allowance is intended to cover the cost of caring for a child. It is not a reflection of the perceived challenges of caring for an older child in comparison to caring for a younger child. This option will save approximately £454k based on current rates and numbers of children in a full year.

Option 2 – Reducing fostering allowances to the Government minimum allowances over a two year period with effect from 01 April 2017. This option is the same as above as it aligns payment in all care arrangements thereby ensuring compliance with the legal requirements and has the added potential to reduce impact on carers of older children by giving them time to adjust as it would be introduced over 2 years as illustrated below.

Fostering	No.of Children	Current Rates	Government Rates	2017/18 phased at 50%	2017/18 50% saving	2018/19 100% saving
0-4	70	127.47	126.00	126.74	-2,889	-5,777
5-10	127	145.21	139.00	142.11	-22,139	-44,278
11-15	136	180.76	159.00	169.88	-83,073	-166,147
16-18	42	219.86	185.00	202.43	-41,100	-82,200
	375				-149,201	-298,402

Family & Friends	No.of Children	Current Rates	Government Rates	2017/18 phased at 50%	2017/18 50% saving	2018/19 100% saving
0-4	56	127.47	126.00	126.74	-2,311	-4,622
5-10	74	145.21	139.00	142.11	-12,900	-25,800
11-15	64	180.76	159.00	169.88	-39,093	-78,187
16-18	24	219.86	185.00	202.43	-23,486	-46,971
	218				-77,790	-155,580
					-226,991	-453,982

This option will save £227k in 2017/18 and a further £227k in 2018/19. This is the preferred option.

Option 3 – Increase Special Guardianship, Adoptions and Residence Orders to Bradford rates for Fostering. This option would align all payments for care arrangements and remove the risk of legal challenge in relation to paying differential rates but would be a more costly option as it could cost approximately an additional £582k.

Option 4 – Increase Fostering allowances, Special Guardianships, Adoptions and Residence Orders to rates currently paid by Leeds and Kirklees based on the Fostering Network’s recommended allowance for 2015/16. From 2016/17 the Fostering Network are no longer publishing recommended allowances. Although implementing the Fostering Network rates to all types of carers will bring Bradford’s rates in line with some other neighbouring authorities and remove the risk of legal challenge, this option will be an additional cost of £1.6m which makes it unviable.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That **Option 2** – Reducing Fostering allowances to the Government minimum allowances over a two year period with effect from 01 April 2017 be approved.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment.

Appendix 2: Initial analysis from consultation as at 12th December 2016

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report to the Meeting of the Executive held on 23rd June 2015 on Changes to Bradford’s Fostering Fees and Allowances.

APPENDIX 1

Equality Impact Assessment Form

Department	Children's Services	Version no	2.1
Assessed by	Kal Nawaz	Date created	9 November 2016
Approved by		Date approved	
Updated by		Date updated	
Final approval		Date signed off	

The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and
- foster good relations between different groups

Section 1: What is being assessed?

1.1 Name of proposal to be assessed.

Fostering Allowances Review

1.2 Describe the proposal under assessment and what change it would result in if implemented.

Proposal to align the level of fostering allowances ensuring that payments for all fostering, special guardianship, Child Arrangement Orders (formerly Residence Orders) and adoption are all paid at the same rates as required by law and to undertake broader consultation to review the payment for skills framework.

The Council has a duty under the Children Act 1989 to ensure it provides a range of suitable and appropriate accommodation to meet the assessed needs of children in care. Local Authorities are responsible for providing fostering services in line with Fostering Regulations, Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations and National Minimum Standards for Fostering.

There are approximately 450 foster carers in the Bradford District who provide a highly valued service in looking after Children in care in Bradford. As at November 2016, there were 243 mainstream fostering households; 158 approved Family and Friends households and 47 approved short breaks households.

The proposal to bring allowances in line with statutory requirements will ensure equity and achieve a saving of £454k over 2 years between 2017-2019.

The service currently spends £10.1 million on fostering fees and allowances. Proposals for budget reductions identified within Children's Services include a

review of fostering allowances to achieve the required budget savings.

A weekly age related allowance is paid to foster carers to cover the child's living expenses (e.g. food, clothing, household, transport etc.). Currently Bradford pays differential rates for Special Guardianship, Adoption and Residence allowances compared to Fostering allowances. At the moment foster carers are paid more in Bradford than those providing care through Special Guardianship, Adoption and Residence Orders. The law requires that there should be very clear justification for differences in payments. The national minimum allowance is paid to foster carers in some authorities

Additionally, foster carers can be paid a 'fee' as a 'reward'. There is no legal entitlement to a fee. In Bradford, the rate of fees paid to foster carers has been generous compared to those paid by neighbouring West Yorkshire authorities. The fee structure rewards foster carers for their skills and experience. Carers are asked to evidence their skills and experiences against a set of competencies in order to progress.

The preferred option to meet statutory requirements in Bradford is to reduce the allowances paid to foster carers to the national minimum allowance in order to achieve parity across all care arrangements. This has the added potential to save £454k in a financial year based on current rates and numbers of children as required within the budget plans for the District.

Section 2: What the impact of the proposal is likely to be

- 2.1 **Will this proposal advance equality of opportunity for people who share a protected characteristic and/or foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those that do not? If yes, please explain further.**

The proposal will achieve parity across all care arrangements

- 2.2 **Will this proposal have a positive impact and help to eliminate discrimination and harassment against, or the victimisation of people who share a protected characteristic? If yes, please explain further.**

N/A

- 2.3 **Will this proposal potentially have a negative or disproportionate impact on people who share a protected characteristic? If yes, please explain further.**

The proposal aims to standardise payments to all carers. Service data on foster carers by household type and gender indicates that 35% of our 446 foster carer households are single women carer households. Currently available data indicates that approx. 34% of children in foster care are aged between 11-15yrs whilst 11% are 16-18yrs. Although the proposal brings foster carer allowances in line with Special Guardianship, Adoption and Residence allowances and removes any risk of legal challenge in relation to the payment of differential rates, it will impact more significantly on older children between the ages of 11 to 17 years with payment differences of between £21 to £34 per week but the proposal does create parity for

children in those age groups in whatever the care arrangements.

2.4 **Please indicate the level of negative impact on each of the protected characteristics?**

(Please indicate high (H), medium (M), low (L), no effect (N) for each)

Protected Characteristics:	Impact (H, M, L, N)
Age	M
Disability	N
Gender reassignment	N
Race	N
Religion/Belief	N
Pregnancy and maternity	N
Sexual Orientation	N
Sex	M
Marriage and civil partnership	N
Additional Consideration:	
Low income/low wage	N

2.5 **How could the disproportionate negative impacts be mitigated or eliminated?**

(Note: Legislation and best practice require mitigations to be considered, but need only be put in place if it is possible.)

The Local Authority's policy relating to fostering payments needs to be clear, equitable and transparent. The criteria for calculating allowances must be applied equally to all foster carers whether related to a child or not.

The proposal is to reduce fostering allowances to the Government minimum allowances over a two year period. This option aligns payment in all care arrangements thereby ensuring compliance with the legal requirements and has the added potential to reduce impact on carers of older children by giving them time to adjust as it would be introduced over 2 years.

Plans are in place for ongoing consultation with stakeholders at all stages in order to minimise disruption to looked after children. Consultations will provide opportunities to explain the options and the rationale for the proposals. Carers will be offered advice on entitlement to work and benefits.

Section 3: Dependencies from other proposals

- 3.1 Please consider which other services would need to know about your proposal and the impacts you have identified. Identify below which services you have consulted, and any consequent additional equality impacts that have been identified.**

Neighbourhood Services and Targeted Early Help to be consulted on potential to ensure links with targeted youth provision to promote access to opportunities for LAC

Section 4: What evidence you have used?

- 4.1 What evidence do you hold to back up this assessment?**

Bradford's allowances have been benchmarked against neighbouring local authorities and combined with a relatively generous fees structure, comparisons show that Bradford's foster carers will still be better off than those in neighbouring areas.

The Government's national minimum allowance is applied in some Local Authorities and is the basis for the Bradford proposal.

Currently available Service data on foster carers and children in Bradford in addition to financial data has been utilised in undertaking the assessment.

- 4.2 Do you need further evidence?**

Consultations are planned with foster carers to collate further evidence

Section 5: Consultation Feedback

- 5.1 Results from any previous consultations prior to the proposal development.**

N/A

- 5.2 The departmental feedback you provided on the previous consultation (as at 5.1).**

N/A

- 5.3 Feedback from current consultation following the proposal development (e.g. following approval by Executive for budget consultation).**

Dates planned for consultation on 24 & 25 November 2016 in addition to on line feedback.

- 5.4 Your departmental response to the feedback on the current consultation (as at 5.3) – include any changes made to the proposal as a result of the feedback.**

APPENDIX 2

Initial analysis from consultation as at 12th December 2016

The Fostering service have held two consultation events during November in Bradford and Keighley, they were attended by over 150 foster carers. There was a mixed reception to the proposals and the preferred option. Foster carers were asked to complete written feedback at the event and an on line consultation has been promoted for four weeks ending on the 27th December.

Full analysis of the feedback will be provided once the consultation closes. However at this stage foster carers are stating as follows to a selection of questions posed:

Q3 I think the fostering allowance currently paid in Bradford is:

1 too high
31 about right
9 too low

Q5 I think the reasons behind the proposal to reduce the fostering allowance to the National Minimum Allowance are:

10 very clear
11 clear
14 neither clear nor unclear
4 unclear
0 very unclear

Q6 I think the proposal to reduce the fostering allowance to the National Minimum Allowance is:

2 very fair
5 fair
9 neither fair nor unfair
10 unfair
15 very unfair

Q7 – The impact of reducing the fostering allowance to the NMA on me will be:

14 very high
14 high
12 neither high nor low
0 low
1 very low

Q8 – The impact of reducing the fostering allowance to the NMA for my foster child/ children will be:

15 very high
12 high

12 neither high nor low

0 low

2 very low

Q13 – if the proposal to reduce the fostering allowance to the NMA is accepted, I think the reduction should be made:

6 in 1 year

26 over 2 years

At the consultation events, Foster Carers also made a number of suggestions for how the fostering service as a whole could potentially gain efficiencies and provide support to foster carers differently, including ensuring that there were no gaps in named support workers. As a result of this consultation it is proposed that a rapid review of the Fostering Service is undertaken and any recommendations will be shared in due course.

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Report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Sport to the meeting of The Executive to be held on 10 January 2017.

AT

Subject:

**Objections received to the amendments to the Off-Street Parking Places
Consolidation Order 2015.**

Summary statement:

**This report considers objections and other proposals suggested in response to the
formal advertisement of amendments to the Off-Street Parking Places
Consolidation Order 2015.**

Steve Hartley
Strategic Director – Environment and
Sport

Report Contact: Louise Williams
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Portfolio:

Representation, Economy and Sustainability

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Environment and Waste Management



1. SUMMARY

This report considers objections and other proposals suggested in response to the formal advertisement of amendments to the Off-Street Parking Places Consolidation Order 2015.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 On 25th February 2016, full budget Council approved a range of changes to on- and off-street parking across the district. This includes amendments to charges, an extension of hours, the introduction of charges and the removal of free periods for parking.

2.2 Off-street charges are generally banded according to location and the proposed changes to car parks are in accordance with these bandings.

2.3 The car parks at which changes are currently being progressed are: city centre premium car parks, Shipley area – Ian Clough and the Grove in Baildon, Wharf Street, Briggate and Commercial Street parking area, Bingley – the area around the Arts Centre, Keighley area – Bronte Village and Gas Street in Haworth, Wesley Place and Bridge Street in Keighley.

2.4 The proposed amendments, approved at full budget Council on 25th February 2016, to the car parks about which objections have been received are shown in Appendix A.

2.5 In accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, amendments to the Off-Street Parking Places Consolidation Order 2015, other than a variation of the tariffs, require a new Order to be created. As part of this process, consultation is undertaken.

2.6 The proposed changes to the existing Order were formally advertised in all affected car parks between 4th November 2016 and 25th November 2016. In addition, information was included in the T&A. Officers also emailed all Ward Councillors, Parish and Town Councils and Chambers of Trade and Commerce in the affected areas. These emails were sent out approximately 2 weeks prior to the start of the formal consultation.

2.7 The consultation resulted in a range of objections and other suggestions.

A summary of the points of objection, other suggestions and corresponding officer comments is shown in Appendix B.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

There are no other considerations.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

It is anticipated that the amendments to charges, the removal of free periods for parking and the introduction of charges referred to in this report will result in £57,500 additional income. These were agreed as part of full budget Council on 25th February 2016. If any of the changes are not made, mitigating action to achieve the income will need to be taken.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

There are no perceived risks arising from the implementation of the proposed recommendation.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

There are no specific legal issues arising from this report.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

An Environmental Impact Assessment was completed and identified a low impact on people on low incomes. This is however mitigated by the level of charges being proposed which are considered to be reasonable and proportionate for the parking offered.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

There are no greenhouse gas emissions impacts arising from this report.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

7.6 TRADE UNION

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Ward members have been consulted on the proposed changes in their wards.

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 Option 1 – To overrule the objections and approve the changes as shown in Appendix A – ‘proposed tariffs’.

9.2 Option 2 – To approve some changes as outlined in Appendix A – ‘proposed tariffs’, with some amendments.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.0 That the objections are overruled and the Off-street Parking Places Consolidation Order 2015 is amended to incorporate the changes highlighted in Appendix A – ‘proposed tariffs’.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Current tariffs and proposed tariffs.

Appendix B – Objections and other suggestions and other responses.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Location	Current tariffs	Proposed tariffs
Shipley		
Baildon Ian Clough	Up to 1 hour Free Up to 2 hours 60p All Day £1.50	Up to 1 hour 30p Up to 2 hours 60p All Day £1.50 Remove Sat afternoon free after 12.00am.
The Grove, Baildon	free, 1 hour max stay	Up to 1 hour 30p Up to 2 hours 60p Max stay 2 hours.
Wharf Street	Up to 1 hour 50p Up to 2 hours £1.00 Up to 3 hours £1.50 Over 3 hours £3.00	Up to 1 hour 50p Up to 2 hours £1.00 Over 2 hours £3.50
Briggate	FREE	Up to 1 hour 50p Up to 2 hours £1.00 Over 2 hours £3.50
Commercial Street	Not currently a car park	Up to 1 hour 50p Up to 2 hours £1.00 Over 2 hours £3.50
Haworth, Keighley		
Gas Street	Up to 30 mins free Up to 1 hour 40p Up to 2 hours 80p All day £1.50	Up to 1 hour 30p Up to 2 hours 60p All Day £1.50
Silsden, Keighley		
Wesley Place	Up to 30 mins free Up to 1 hour 30p up to 2 hrs 60p All day £1.50	Up to 1 hour 30p Up to 2 hours 60p All Day £1.50
Bridge Street	Up to 30 mins free Up to 1 hour 30p	Up to 1 hour 30p Up to 2 hours 60p

	up to 2 hrs 60p All day £1.50	All Day £1.50
Crown court	£4.00 all day	8.00am to 6pm Monday to Saturday £4.00 per day 6.00pm to midnight Monday to Saturday £1.00 per stay 8.00am to midnight Sundays £1.00 per stay.
Radwell Drive	Up to 1 hour 60p Up to 2 hours £1.20 Up to 3 hours £1.80 Over 3 hours £4.00	8.00am to 6pm Up to 1 hour 60p Up to 2 hours £1.20 Up to 3 hours £1.80 Over 3 hours £4.00 Monday to Saturday 6.00pm to midnight Monday to Saturday £1.00 per stay 8.00am to midnight Sundays £1.00 per stay
Sharpe Street	Up to 1 hour 60p Up to 2 hours £1.20 Up to 3 hours £1.80 Up to 4 hours £2.40 Up to 5 hours £3.00 Up to 6 hours £3.60 Max stay 6 hours Evening charge Mon – Fri 50p	8.00am to 6pm Monday to Saturday Up to 1 hour 60p Up to 2 hours £1.20 Up to 3 hours £1.80 Up to 4 hours £2.40 Up to 5 hours £3.00 Up to 6 hours £3.60 Max stay 6 hours 6.00pm to midnight Monday to Saturday £1.00 per stay 8.00am to midnight Sundays £1.00 per stay
Rawson Road	Up to 1 hour 60p Up to 2 hours £1.20 Up to 3 hours £1.80 Max stay 3 hours	8.00am to 6pm Up to 1 hour 60p Up to 2 hours £1.20 Up to 3 hours £1.80

		<p>Max stay 3 hours Monday to Saturday</p> <p>6.00pm to midnight Monday to Saturday £1.00 per stay 8.00am to midnight Sundays £1.00 per stay</p>
Simes Street	<p>Up to 1 hour 60p Up to 2 hours £1.20 Up to 3 hours £1.80 Over 3 hours £3.50</p>	<p>8.00am to 6pm Monday to Saturday Up to 1 hour 60 Up to 2 hours £1.20 Up to 3 hours £1.80 Over 3 hours £4.00 6.00pm to midnight Monday to Saturday £1.00 per stay 8.00am to midnight Sundays £1.00 per stay</p>
Raphael House	<p>Authorised users and permit holders</p>	<p>Monday to Sunday 8.00am to Midnight - Authorised users and permit holders 6.00pm to midnight Monday to Saturday £1.00 per stay 8.00am to midnight Sundays £1.00 per stay</p>
Central library	<p>Authorised users only</p>	<p>8.00am to 6pm Monday to Friday Authorised users only 2 hours maximum stay no return within 1 hour Authorised users only 20 min max stay no return within 1 hour. Where bays are individually signed. 6.00pm to midnight Monday to Saturday £1.00 per stay 8.00am to 6.00pm Saturdays Up to 1 hour 60p Up to 2 hours £1.20</p>

		Up to 3 hours £1.80 Up to 4 hours £2.40 Up to 5 hours £3.00 Up to 6 hours £3.60 Max stay 6 hours 8.00am to midnight Sundays £1.00 per stay
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Objectors concerns:	Officer comments:
<p>Ian Clough & The Grove car parks LEG/PCD/SPN/73360 Objectors 59 (includes a 478 signature petition).</p> <p>The petition was supported by Cllr Townend, Cllr Davies and Cllr Pollard.</p> <p>The objections came from businesses, residents, visitors and councillors.</p> <p>The issues raised are listed below with the number of times it was raised.</p> <p>Loss of trade for local businesses (30).</p> <p>Discourage local shopping and move trade to larger retailers or other areas that offer free parking (28).</p> <p>Visitors will not pay to park for just a few minutes (19).</p> <p>Illegal parking due to the introduction of charges (2).</p> <p>Areas will become congested with vehicles on residential streets (21).</p> <p>Possibility of shop closures and the loss of income generated from Council tax (14).</p> <p>The library and Co-op car parks may be forced to charge (14).</p> <p>Parents will have to pay to both pick up and drop off at Baildon Village pre-school (2).</p> <p>Volunteers will be subject to charges for supporting the Council (2).</p> <p>Effects on elderly people or people with mobility issues (15).</p> <p>It is not financially viable for the Council (12).</p> <p>Vital service to the community (20).</p> <p>Road safety issues (4).</p> <p>Push people to shop online (1).</p>	<p>Ian Clough and The Grove car parks are situated in the centre of Baildon in close proximity to shops and small businesses. Historically these sites have offered free parking for up to 1 hour.</p> <p>59 objections have been received in total.</p> <p>We would not expect the introduction of a minimal 30p charge to deter visitors and shoppers, even for short visits. Baildon is fortunate to have 2 hour free limited wait bays on Westgate outside the businesses. These bays will continue to allow people stopping for a few minutes to park without being charged. In terms of moving to areas where free parking is offered, it is unlikely that shoppers will travel to obtain free parking. Due to travelling costs, inconvenience and time it would not benefit shoppers to find alternative locations to visit.</p> <p>Any issues that arise with abuse of parking in residential areas would be monitored and managed accordingly. Generally, however, drivers park for convenience and will park as close to the amenities as possible. We would not expect drivers to park in residential streets and walk.</p> <p>Drivers that choose to park on restrictions will be managed through parking enforcement.</p> <p>We are unable to determine what the effects will be on other free private car parks.</p> <p>There is some concern that businesses may close due to the removal of the 1 hour free. There is no evidence to suggest that this is the case. We would not expect that the minimal parking charge will impact on businesses.</p> <p>Users that take advantage of the 1 hour free such as parents, volunteers and community workers are subject to parking charges at other locations, but have been fortunate to benefit from free parking in Baildon.</p> <p>We would not expect that the</p>

<p>Penalise business owners, staff and customers (3).</p> <p>Endanger the monthly farmers market (1). Congested roads due to people travelling to alternative locations (1).</p> <p>Having to find change (4).</p> <p>Low income families and individuals (1).</p> <p>Suggestions:</p> <p>1st 30/60 mins free, 2nd hr 60p, 3rd hr £1.20, over 3 hrs £1.80</p> <p>Raise the daily parking charge was suggested 5 times. 2 of which suggested an all-day charge of £2.00.</p> <p>Leave a few short stay free spaces. 1 suggested between 5 and 10 free spaces.</p> <p>1 hour free in both car parks to remain.</p> <p>2nd hour at The Grove car park to be chargeable.</p> <p>Ian Clough - £3.00 all day or increase the second hour charge or introduce a 4 hour option.</p> <p>Introduce 1 hour parking charges on street.</p> <p>Minimum request for some free parking for the launderette (loading area).</p> <p>Broadway reduced charges and increased footfall.</p> <p>Reduce the free period to 15 mins</p> <p>Pass the parking powers to the unelected Parish Council.</p>	<p>introduction of a minimal charge would discourage shopping in Baildon. A 30p charge remains the cheapest parking in the Bradford district.</p> <p>Some businesses feel that shoppers will switch to using larger retailers that offer free parking. This would mean shoppers travelling further, which they are unlikely to do in order to make a saving of 30p. Another concern is that shoppers will not want to pay for 1 hour if they are only staying for a few minutes. We would not expect this to discourage visitors. Other users who currently drive a short distance to use the amenities may be now encouraged to walk, improving the environment and reducing traffic.</p>
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Commercial Street Shipley
LEG/PCD/SPN/73360
Objectors 8

6 objections were received from local businesses, 1 from a resident and 1 from the Chamber of Trade.

All 7 of the objections received from businesses/resident were duplicate copies.

The issues raised are listed below with the number of times it was raised.

Loss of trade for local businesses (8).

Discourage local shopping and move trade to larger retailers or other areas that offer free parking (1).

Visitors will not pay to park for just a few minutes (7).

Creating less parking by introducing bays (7).

Not financially viable for the council (7).

Staffing issues due to having to pay to park (7).

Briggate Shipley
LEG/PCD/SPN/73360
Objectors 1

1 objection was received from the Chamber of Trade.

Loss of trade for local businesses (1).

Discourage local shopping and move trade to larger retailers or other areas that offer free parking (1).

Commercial Street in Shipley is currently a free car park situated on the fringe of Shipley centre. It is positioned in front of a row of small independent retailers.

Briggate is a similar site, however only the Chamber of Trade raised an objection.

Some auditing was undertaken in July 2016 which showed that these sites are predominately used for long stay visits. This suggests that they are used by workers, business owners and commuters. We would not expect that the introduction of a small charge would deter the visitors that are parking for short stay visits to cease.

Other small independent retailers in Shipley do not have free unlimited parking and does not demonstrate a consistent approach to parking and charges.

Shoppers visiting these retailers will generally be local to the area and aware of charging elsewhere in Shipley. The car park has not got any marked bays or signage which allows vehicles to park on paved areas including where pedestrians may wish to pass. The introduction of a

**Wharf Street Shipley
LEG/PCD/SPN/73360
Objectors 1**

1 objection was received from the Chamber of Trade.

Loss of trade for local businesses (1).

Discourage local shopping and move trade to larger retailers or other areas that offer free parking (1).

**Gas Street Haworth
LEG/PCD/SPN/73360
Objectors 32**

The objections came from businesses, residents, visitors and Councillors.

The issues raised are listed below with the number of times it was raised.

Loss of trade for local businesses (16).

Discourage local shopping and move trade to larger retailers or other areas that offer free parking (5).

Visitors will not pay to park for just a few minutes (13).

Illegal parking, particularly on Mill Hey, due to the introduction of charges (27).

Areas will become congested with vehicles on residential streets (8).

Possibility of shop closures and the income generated from Council tax (2).

Effects on elderly people or people with mobility issues (2).

Force people to use the medical centre or the local Spar

new Traffic Regulation Order will allow the Council to promote orderly parking and manage it effectively.

There have been concerns raised in relation to the cost of managing the car park (pay and display machine and maintenance). These costs have been factored in as part of the original budget proposal.

Any repairs will be managed in line with all other sites.

The objection was about the introduction of charges however this location already has charging and the tariffs will not change.

Gas Street car park is situated on the fringe of Haworth. It is close to a road named Mill Hey which consists of some residential properties and small retailers. Historically, users have benefited from 30 minutes free parking. The changes will require all users to pay a minimal charge for the first hour of 30p.

We would not expect that the introduction of the charge will deter shoppers and residents from using the businesses situated at this location. All other car parks within Haworth do not offer free parking and are currently charged.

There is some concern that businesses may close due to the removal of the 1 hour free. There is no evidence to suggest that this is the case.

We believe that most shoppers will continue to support these small independent retailers, as opposed to travelling further away to benefit from free parking.

We do not believe that there is an increased risk of road traffic accidents or other accidents occurring on Mill Hey.

This issue needs to be managed through the enforcement of the yellow lines.

We are unable to determine what the

<p>Discourage local shopping and move trade to larger retailers or other areas that offer free parking (2).</p> <p>Visitors will not pay to park for just a few minutes (1).</p> <p>Possibility of shop closures and the income generated from Council tax (3).</p> <p>Effects on elderly people or people with mobility issues (2).</p> <p>Vital service to the community (2).</p>	<p>for users. Additionally, youths have historically fed all the tickets out of the machines. These tickets have been used to vandalise property. The machines have also gone out of order as the machines are out of tickets.</p> <p>Silsden is fortunate to have 1 hour free limited wait bays on-street outside the businesses. These bays will continue to allow people stopping for a few minutes to park without being subject to a charge. We are unable to determine what the effects will be on other free private car parks.</p> <p>Elderly people will still have exactly the same facilities as previously. We would not expect the minimal charge being introduced to impact on these users.</p>
<p>Premium City Centre Car Parks LEG/PCD/SPN/73360 Objectors 1 1 objection was received from the Chamber of Trade for the locations listed below:</p> <p>Crown Court Radwell Drive Sharpe Street Rawson Road Simes Street Raphael House Central Library Jacobs Well</p>	<p>The named car parks are all identified as premium city centre car parks. Historically these sites have been free after 6.00pm with the exception of Sharpe Street and Jacobs Well. The demand for evening parking has increased and the requirement to consistently introduce an evening charge at all these sites has been identified.</p> <p>We have not received any objections from users of these car parks. Wardens will actively patrol these sites to ensure that there is compliance which therefore improves the facilities in the area.</p>

Report of the Director of Environment & Sport to the meeting of Executive to be held on 10th January 2017.

AU

Subject:

Petition referred from Council on 13th December 2016 – Save Queensbury Swimming Pool from closure

Summary statement:

A petition has been presented to the Council to overturn a proposal to close Queensbury Pool when the new pool at Sedbergh is completed unless a community managed solution for the pool can be found.

Council has referred the matter to Executive for further consideration.

Steve Hartley
Strategic Director Environment and Sport

Portfolio:
Environment, Sport & Culture

Report Contact: Phil Barker
Phone: (01274) 432616
E-mail: phil.barker@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:



1. SUMMARY:

- 1.1 A petition has been presented to the Council to overturn a proposal to close Queensbury Pool when the new pool at Sedbergh is completed unless a community managed solution for the pool can be found.

Council has referred the matter to Executive for further consideration.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The revised proposals for sports facilities in Bradford now includes the construction of two new sports facilities instead of the four new facilities agreed at Executive in 2015. No new pool is now planned at Clayton Heights as a replacement for Queensbury. The proposal is now for the Council to withdraw from directly managing Queensbury Pool when the new pool at Sedbergh opens and to offer the pool as a community managed model. If the offer of the community managed model is not successful then Queensbury Pool will close.
- 2.2 Queensbury Pool dates from 1887 and is now a very old swimming facility. The pool is small and the building is not practical for adaptation to secure DDA compliance. Although the building has recently had some work completed to ensure compliance with fire safety under the Regulatory Reform Act, there is still a great deal of work outstanding on the site. Backlog maintenance is estimated at £250,000 - £300,000. Replacement of the hot water system is now considered an essential item, if the hot water system is not replaced within the next few months it is likely that the pool will be unable to operate.
- 2.3 Due to the age and condition, attendances at Queensbury Pool are very low. Public swimming at Queensbury Pool is 9,204 per year. Swimming development lessons are 8087 per year.
- 2.4 School swimming lessons at Queensbury are 22,646 per year. The new sports facilities will offer enhanced opportunities for swimming lessons and all schools in Queensbury that use the current facilities will be offered alternative swimming lessons at nearby Council pools.
- 2.5 In accordance with national guidance we aim to ensure that people are within a 20 minute drive time of a swimming pool. Calculating alternative pools within the travel time from Queensbury Pool there are six alternative pools within a 20 minute drive time. When the new pool is completed at Sedbergh it will be approximately 4.0 miles away from Queensbury.
- 2.6 Further to the Council proposal to change the provision of new swimming facilities a petition for Queensbury Pool was presented to Council on the 13th December and referred to Executive for further consideration.



4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Withdrawal from Queensbury Pool will save significant capital expenditure including re wiring and the replacement of mechanical and electrical services estimated at £230,000.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 A decision not to proceed with community management or closure of Queensbury may increase community opposition at Bingley to the community management or closure of pool currently under consideration.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The Executive are asked to consider this petition as exceptional business due to its potential impact upon future year's revenue budgets.
- 6.2 The options set out in the report are within the existing powers of the Council under section 1 Localism Act 2011 i.e local authorities' general powers of competency to act.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

An initial Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed in relation to the closure of Queensbury Pool. The low numbers of public swimmers and the accessibility issues associated with the site means that the equality impacts for protected characteristics are nil to very low..

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The introduction of community managed swimming facilities or the closure of certain outdated facilities will allow a more sustainable network of swimming provision within the finances of the service.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

No issues anticipated.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

No issues anticipated.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

No issues anticipated.

7.6 TRADE UNION



The impact of community management or closure of swimming facilities will be discussed with trade unions.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Queensbury Ward.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

- 9.1 Option 1: Confirm the intention that when the new pool at Sedbergh opens, Queensbury Pool will be offered for community management and if no solution can be found the pool will close.
- 9.2 Option 2: Continue to operate Queensbury Pool and commit to replace boilers and mechanical and electrical services through planned maintenance.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Executive agree, Option 1: confirm the intention that when the new pool at Sedbergh opens, Queensbury Pool will be offered for community management and if no solution can be found the pool will close.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1: Extract of Petition presented to Council on 13th December – To Save Queensbury Pool from Closure.
- 11.2 Appendix 2: Speech to Council from petitioners 13th December 2016

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 12.1 Full Petition containing 966 signatures and other correspondences.



SAVE QUEENSBURY POOL

APPENDIX 1

Bradford council have decided due to lack of funding they are no longer able to provide the new sports and swimming facility they had planned at Clayton Heights. They still, however intend to close the Pool in station road Queensbury. This facility is used by the local Primary schools as part of the curriculum along with many other children and adults in the local area. Swimming and access to a pool is an important and lifesaving facility for many children. If you want the council to rethink this decision please sign below.

If you are a user of the pool, past or present and are able to submit a short statement valuable to this cause please e-mail lisa.carmody@bradford.gov.uk

Thank you for your support.

Name	Postcode	Address	e-mail	Signature
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Clayton C of E- four hundred and ninety-five

Clayton Village- two hundred and seven

Denholme- two hundred and thirty one

Foxhill- two hundred and forty three

Home Farm- four hundred and fifty eight

Horton Grange- seven hundred and forty

Keelham- ^{one} ~~of~~ hundred and twenty

Reevy Hill- two hundred and twenty six

Russell Hall- two hundred and fifty seven

Shibden Head- four hundred and sixteen

St Anthony's- two hundred and fifty five

St John's - two hundred

St William's- two hundred *and twenty seven*

St Winefride's - four hundred and fifty five

Stocks Lane - one hundred and twenty one

Thornton - six hundred and forty

This is a total of five thousand, two hundred and ninety one children that you are depriving.

My name is Brooke and I use the swimming pool every week with school. This is Sharn who uses the pool for her knee injury. This is Pat who goes every Monday to help with her mobility. This is Sharon who reopened the petition. And this is my teacher who has walked with hundreds of pupils before me, to the swimming pool every week.

We had to reopen our petition as the plans for the new pool at Clayton Heights have been scrapped and there will be no replacement pool for mine and the 15 other schools that also learn to swim at Queenbury. According to the National Save Kids campayn, drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death to children between the ages of 1 and 14. Swimming is the only sport that I can learn, that could help save my life.

I know that the government doesn't give you a lot of money and you rely on people to pay their council tax but not everybody does. If everybody in Bradford paid their council tax, you would be loaded. However, we've seen you spend our council tax money on:

- The Baby of the North sculpture in town costing 15 thousand pounds.
- Lights on top of the Margaret McMillan Tower costing 13 thousand pounds
- And the cost of Britannia Mills for the swimming pool costing 1.2 million pounds. Now you're not building a pool there. What a waste!

Did you know that the time it will take for a class to travel to the new pool at Odsal would mean less time in class and less time swimming? That's not fair on any of us. Our School can't afford to send us swimming for a whole year. I only have the right to swim for 3 half-terms but my school pays for us to learn for double that. If my school has to pay 3 and a half thousand pounds a year for a coach, it means that they can't afford to send us for the whole year. Again, it is us children that are being affected.

You planned to build 4 new swimming pools across the city and one of these was a replacement for Queensbury. Your budget was around 40 million pounds. Now you are only building 2 pools as 4 was too expensive. I know I'm only in Year 5, but even I know that a big mistake was made in that calculation. Again it is my community and those five thousand, two hundred and ninety-one children who are missing out. We feel a little bit like Boris Johnson and his gang in the run up to Brexit. We pay an awful lot in, but don't get much back out.

To top it all, there's new houses popping up constantly! Opposite Tesco are one hundred and fourteen new houses and down the road is another one hundred and twenty-four. I've done my own research and in your Bradford council plan for 2016 to 2020, you say that your goals are 'Better health, better lives' and 'Active communities'. One of the actions you want to take is 'to improve the health and wellbeing of people for example swimming pools, parks, walking and cycling activities.' Well how can we keep our ever-expanding community active and healthy if you take away our pool?

I look forward to hearing your decision on my future.

Merry Christmas (*Smile*)

Report of the Strategic Director Environment and Sport to the meeting of the Executive to be held on the 10th January 2017

AV

Subject:

Sports Facilities Investment Plan

Summary statement:

Following the report to the Executive on the 15th January 2015 Officers have progressed the development of plans for investment in the District's sports facilities. This report provides Members with an update on progress made and sets out alternative options for development and improvements in provision of swimming pools and leisure facilities.

Steve Hartley
 Strategic Director, Environment and Sport

Portfolio:
Environment, Sport and Culture

Report Contact: Phil Barker
 Assistant Director Sport and Leisure
 Phone: (01274) 432616
 E-mail: phil.barker@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Regeneration and Economy



1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following the report to the Executive on the 15th January 2015 Officers have progressed the development of plans for investment in the District's sports facilities. This report provides Members with an update on progress made and sets out options for development and improvement in provision of swimming pools and leisure facilities.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The report to Executive in January 2015 presented that a number of the Council's swimming pools were outdated and fall short of current benchmarks for accessibility, energy consumption / greenhouse gas production and running costs. Due to the financial pressure facing the Council it was considered unlikely that continuing current levels of provision with the existing facilities would be affordable.
- 2.2 The report summarised the key findings of a feasibility study by Deloitte and, considered options for a programme of investment for changes to the Council's portfolio of sports facilities. The report outlined plans for 4 new facilities in the district, and earmarked four outdated and not fit for purpose facilities to close.
- 2.3 The projected cost of all four facilities was £41.01million. This is broken down by facility as:
- City Centre - £14.21 million
 - North of Bradford City - £7.43 million
 - South Bradford - £12.50 million
 - South West Bradford - £6.87 million
- 2.4 A model of reconfiguration and replacement of outdated swimming pool sports facilities was therefore proposed. The principle in this model was that facilities made surplus by a programme of investment would be released for disposal with the receipts generated contributing to the capital costs incurred by the Council in building new facilities. The sites earmarked for disposal by the Council were:
- Bingley Pool
 - Bowling Pool
 - Queensbury Pool
 - Richard Dunn Sports Centre
- 2.5 Executive resolved:
- That the Council commences a phased programme of investment in sports facilities as outlined at 6.3 with Phase 1 being delivery of a new City Centre sports facility and construction of a new Community Swimming Pool in South Bradford (Allowing the subsequent disposal of the Richard Dunn Sports Centre and Bowling Pool sites).
 - That the capital and revenue budget consequences of proceeding with the scheme are reflected in the recommendations to Budget Council for future financial years.

- That the Council forward funds from the Capital Investment Plan completion of Phase 1 of the programme prior to the closure and disposal of Richard Dunn Sports Centre and Bowling Pool sites.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND PROGRESS TO DATE

3.1. Progress to Date

- 3.1.1 Since the previous report to Executive officers have made substantial progress towards delivering the facilities agreed as part of the first phase.
- 3.1.2 Rex Proctor and Partners were appointed to lead a multi-disciplinary design team including architects, engineers and cost consultants following a detailed tender process.
- 3.1.3 Designs have been produced and submitted to the Council up to RIBA Stage 2 (Concept Design) for the City Centre Pool and the Sedbergh Sport Facility.
- 3.1.4 Britannia Mills building formerly occupied by Wetherby Engineering has now been demolished by the Council and the site is now vacant. The £1.3m cost associated with the site is within the overall cost of the project. Prior to a determination of the long term future of the site it is intended to be used as a car park.
- 3.1.5 The projected cost of developing the City Centre Pool was £14.21 million including the cost of purchasing the site. The projected cost at August 2016 was estimated to be £21.0 million.
- 3.1.6 The projected cost of developing the Sedbergh site was £12.5 million. The projected cost at August 2016 was estimated to be £17.5 million.
- 3.1.7 Costs have risen for a number of reasons.
- The initial feasibility study underestimated the size of the facility that was required.
 - Rising inflation has significantly added to the cost.
 - The initial feasibility study did not conduct in depth site investigations. Once these were carried out by our design team it became evident that providing a facility on this location would prove to be expensive due to the requirement for extensive foundations.
- 3.1.8 Against the backdrop of these rising costs officers have been asked to consider alternative proposals to take forward the development of the Districts sports facilities

4. OPTIONS

4.1 Continue to Build

- 4.1.1 It is anticipated currently that to continue to deliver phase 1 of the Sports Facilities

Investment Plan as approved by Executive in January 2015 would now cost the Council £38.5million.

4.1.2 To further continue the development programme and complete all four facilities identified in the Investment Plan is now projected to cost £56.7million.

4.1.3 Continuing with this plan and undertaking significant amounts of prudential borrowing would place a significant strain upon the revenue budget of the Service.

4.2 Halt All Development Work

4.2.1 A do nothing option was considered previously and was an option not progressed by the Council. Continued operation of the existing portfolio of leisure facilities is not recommended as a best value, or even a zero cost option:

- A number of the Council's swimming pools are outdated and fall short of current benchmarks for accessibility, energy consumption / greenhouse gas production and running costs, fundamentally it is not practical to make significant improvements without replacement.
- These facilities also fall below modern standards for community use, swimming lessons or competition and athlete development, again it is not practical to make improvements without re-building and there are risks of increased customer dissatisfaction and loss of business.
- Buildings are known to be in a poor condition. Five year backlog maintenance costs across the sports portfolio were estimated in 2011/12 at £12m. Condition surveys of the four existing facilities within the scope of this proposal indicate over £7.7m of backlog maintenance liabilities eg re wiring t Richard Dunn Sports Centre £814,000. Protracted facility closures would be required to undertake works. It should be noted that this figure for backlog maintenance excludes any works to improve the facilities.

4.2.2 In keeping the existing buildings open there is a much increased chance of serious mechanical or structural failure. This would result in a significant closure of the facility whilst any repair is considered and evaluated.

4.3.1 Revised Programme

- Build two new high-specification sports facilities with swimming pools.
- Build one new centre in the south of the District at Sedbergh for a planned opening at the end of 2018.
- Build a second new centre north of Bradford City at Squire Lane.
- The new facility at Sedbergh will replace the existing Richard Dunn Sports Centre, which will close when Sedbergh opens, Queensbury pool at the same time will be offered for community management and if a solution can not be found then the pool will be closed.

- The new facility at Squire Lane will improve provision for people on the north side of the City Centre and will attract new users not currently accessing facilities.
- Do not continue with the plan to build new facilities in the city centre and at Asa Briggs Park in Queensbury.
- Building two new pools in the heart of local communities will have the biggest health and wellbeing impact for the District and will reduce the annual running costs of leisure facilities, as compared to keeping the existing facilities going. This means we are investing to save money in the future while also providing better facilities.
- Bowling Pool will remain open.
- Bingley pool is relatively old with high maintenance costs which will only increase. When the Squire Lane facility is complete Bingley Pool will be offered for community management and if a solution can not be found then the pool will be closed.

Swimming and Sport Facilities	
New (location)	Surplus – released for community management and closure if no solution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Bradford Community Swimming Pool (Sedbergh) • North of Bradford City Community Swimming Pool (Squire Lane) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Dunn Sports Centre * • Queensbury Swimming Pool • Bingley Swimming Pool

- *closure is the only option for the Richard Dunn Sports Centre and as the sale of the site is being used to part fund the replacement facilities.

4.3.2 Benefits of revised scheme

- The new community facilities will provide enhanced opportunities for participation in sport and active recreation which will have significant benefits for health and well being.
- Many schools use the existing pools that are scheduled for closure. All existing schools that use the current facilities will be offered alternative swimming lessons at nearby Council pools
- The older sports facilities and in particular Queensbury Pool do not comply with DDA requirements. New facilities will be fully DDA compliant and offer the whole community the opportunity to enjoy swimming and other sporting activities.

4.4 NORTH OF BRADFORD CITY POOL

4.4.1 Location

The site is located to the north of the city centre. On its eastern and southern boundaries lie low density residential properties. The western boundary is formed by Squire Lane with educational properties including the Girls Grammar School. The northern boundary is formed by Duckworth Lane and Bradford Royal Infirmary.

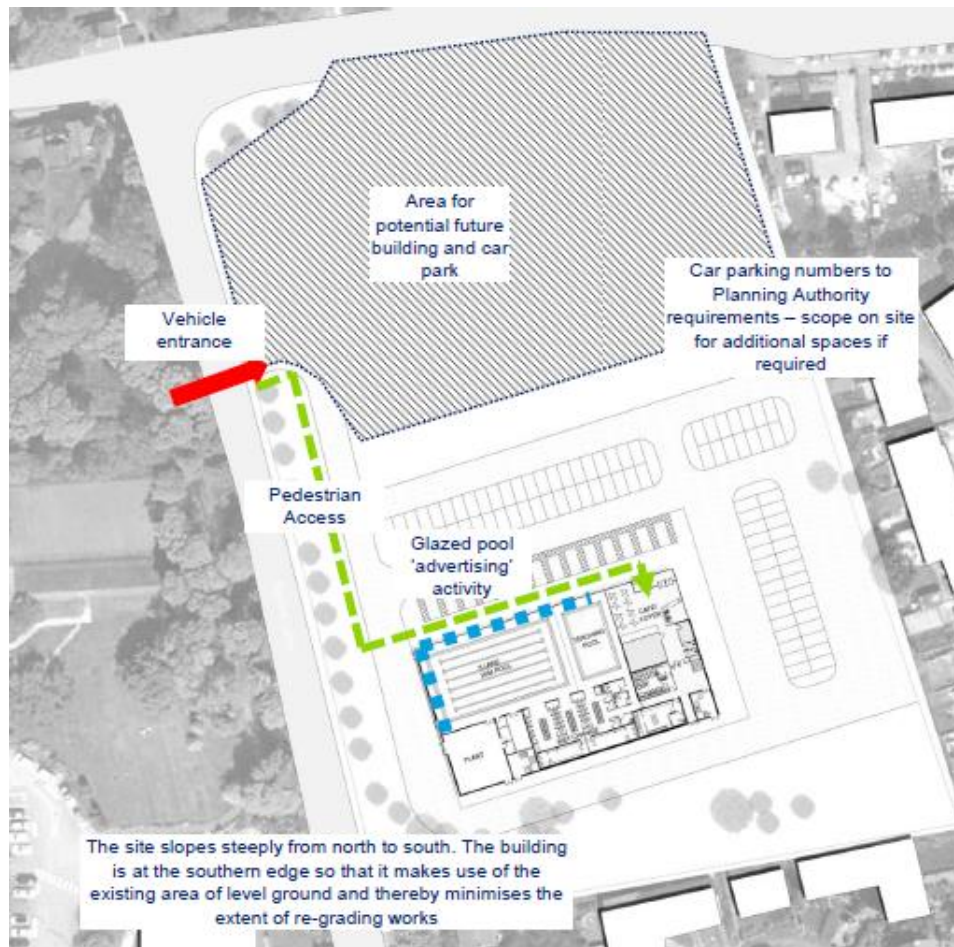
The Council will look to develop vehicular access to the site from Squire Lane and not Duckworth Lane, ongoing work to develop a traffic study for the site is currently taking place.

The building's location on the site has been carefully considered. Ideally it would be best located near the northern boundary so that it is visible to the public.

- Good connection to local community
- Site on steep, terraced slope
- Site has the potential to accommodate additional car parking for NHS site
- Site topography creates the need for some ground levelling.

Approximately 105,000 people have been identified as living within a catchment area of this site.

4.4.2 Location Plan



4.4.3 Facility Mix

- 25m, 6 lane pool
- Learner pool
- Gym
- Dance studios
- Viewing/vending area
- Car parking

4.4.4 Projected Cost

The projected cost of developing the North of Bradford City Pool is £10 million

4.6.5 Progress to Date

Negotiations are currently underway with the NHS in order to ensure that suitable provision for parking is made in the area in order to assist the Hospital with parking issues at their site.

5. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

5.1 The appraisal of this scheme comprises two financial tests:

- Are the proposed new facilities better financially than the existing ones? In this test, we compare the total costs and revenues over time of new versus existing.
- Are the proposed new facilities affordable given the Council's financial context? In this test, we ask the question whether, even if we take the comparatively more attractive financial route, we have enough budget to pay for it.

For both these tests

- We have to make assumptions about the future, based on best available estimates. These assumptions have also been informed by the Deloitte report, and current financial performance of the existing facilities. The material assumptions that have been made in the "base case" are shown at Appendix A Section 1.
- We then vary those assumptions, to see what happens to the financial conclusions. This sensitivity analysis allows us to compare potential variations to the "base case", which allows conclusions to be made about the degree and longevity of risk.

5.2 Are the proposed new facilities better financially?

The total forecast cashflows of the new facilities and the existing facilities have been compared over 25 years, to reflect the expected life of the new facilities. In order to make the comparison fair, we have assumed that the new facilities require annual life-cycle maintenance, and that the existing facilities first require backlog maintenance to be carried out, followed by annual life cycle maintenance.

The table below summarises the comparison of the real and discounted cashflows so that the difference can be measured in financial terms. The discounted cashflow works on the principal that £1 now will be worth 42p in 25 years so that inflation can be incorporated.

Table 1: Comparison of cashflows of new and existing facilities over 25 years

	New Facilities	Existing In-Scope Facilities	Benefit of New Facilities
	£m	£m	£m
Net cashflow in real terms – (cost)/surplus	(27.1)	(52.3)	25.2
Net cashflow discounted – (cost)/surplus	(17.5)	(33.8)	16.3

Using the analysis in the base case, we draw the following main conclusions.
The existing facilities:

- Will lose money each year. As table 1 shows, we forecast that the cost of the existing facilities will total £52.3m over the 25 years. Closing them down and replacing them avoids the losses they are expected to make.
- Will require significant capital spend on accrued backlog maintenance costs and ongoing maintenance costs to keep them open, which will not be rewarded by an improved annual financial result. The forecast assumes that income gradually falls over time, despite expenditure on backlog maintenance (£7.4m) and lifecycle costs (£12.6m) totalling £20m over a 25 year period. Closing them down avoids those maintenance costs.

The new facilities:

- Will cost £28.1m to build. We will fund the build costs by a combination of borrowing; using capital receipts from disposing of the existing facilities; and using grant.
- Will require on-going lifecycle costs of £6.7m over a 25 year period.
- Will make an operating surplus but will lose money each year, taking into account all the operating, maintenance and capital financing costs. However, they will run at a much lower loss than the existing facilities.

This means that, comparatively, the new facilities offer a better financial prospect than the current facilities. In today's money, we estimate that new facilities provide a total of £16.3m more financial value over 25 years.

Given the uncertainty related to any forecast over 25 years, we have also considered the comparative financial advantage offered over the first five and ten years.

Table 2: Comparison of cashflows of new and existing in scope facilities (in real terms)

	5 years £m	10 years £m	25 years † £m
Costs of new facilities	5.6	11.3	27.1
Costs of existing facilities	8.4	17.7	52.3
Variance	2.8	6.4	25.2

† from Table 1

A further breakdown of the figures in Table 2 is included in the Appendix A Section 2.

Table 2 demonstrates that there is a financial advantage in replacing the existing facilities over 5, 10, and 25 years.

However, there are significant caveats to these conclusions.

Clearly, there is a high level of uncertainty about the realism of extending the operating life of the existing facilities, given their age.

Tables 3a and 3b below shows what happens to the comparative financial value if the assumptions in our base case analysis do not hold good.

Table 3a: Income sensitivities that result in zero financial advantage of building the new facilities

Income	Existing In Scope facilities in 2013/14	New facilities – base case	Zero financial advantage of building new facilities	% reduction from the base case
Average income per visit	£2.52	£3.02	£2.27	25.0%
Average No of visits annually	0.65m	0.68m	0.51m	25.0%

Table 3b: Capital sensitivities that result in zero financial advantage of building the new facilities

	New facilities base case	Zero financial advantage of building new facilities	% increase in capital costs
Increase in capital construction costs	£28.1m	£45m	60%
Increase in interest rates	3.50%	17.00%	

Additional sensitivities are included in Appendix A Section 3 on capital.

5.3 Are the proposed new facilities affordable?

While the comparison between “old” versus “new” shows a financial advantage over 25 years of proceeding with the project, we also need to assess whether a scheme is affordable.

In the context of the expected continued squeeze on funding for Councils, this test is crucial for any scheme which will run at a net cost, albeit it considerably lower than the current facilities.

In running the test, we have compared the net costs of the proposed scheme against the current base budgets of 2015-16.

Table 4 below summarises the 25 year average annual cost of the new facilities, compared with the existing budget provision.

Table 4: 25 year average annual cost of new facilities

	Average - 25 years
Per year budget requirement of new facilities	£1.13m
Existing per year base budget	£1.37m
Per year budget surplus	£0.24m

† Existing base budget includes £436k to fund the allocated Capital Investment

By comparison, the Table 5 shows the same for the existing facilities.

Table 5: 25 year average annual cost of existing facilities

	Average over 25 years
Budget requirement of existing facilities †	£2.10m
Existing per year base budget	£1.37m
Per year budget shortfall	£0.73m

†Assuming backlog maintenance is addressed and on-going lifecycle costs are incurred.

Table 6 below shows the assumptions in the base case about visitor number compared to current levels. This comparison suggests that in addition to the assumed 28% increase in average income per visitor outlined in table 3a, there would also have to be an increase in the usage of all pools and dry facilities by the people of Bradford to make these investments affordable. The Deloitte future revenue projections on the new facilities are based on benchmarks from the Sports Consultancy operational database which contains over 600 records of financial performance from over 300 public leisure facilities in the UK.

Table 6: Throughput of facilities

	Number of visits per annum
All existing facilities	1.90m
Current in scope existing facilities	0.65m
New facilities	0.68m
New facilities plus remaining sites	2.01m
Increase in number of visit to all sites required	0.11m
% increase in number of visits from existing all facilities	6%

A material factor in the context of the Council's financial outlook is the amount of budget that the Council can afford to set aside for this scheme. The latest Council budget papers forecast that savings of £100m will have to be found over the next four years

Proceeding with the scheme as proposed therefore has the following consequences:

- First, once the new facilities are completed, their net cost becomes essentially "fixed" within the Council's net budget.
- Any deterioration in the financial performance of the facilities will have to be borne by the rest of the Council's services, or by additional Council Tax.
- Overall financial performance is heavily dependent on income levels, which are difficult to control; and 55% of total revenue costs are largely fixed as they relate to premises and capital financing expenditure (94% if staffing costs were included which could be considered fixed as minimum staffing levels are required for Health and Safety reasons).

On affordability, then, we draw two main conclusions:

- new facilities in the longer term provide a better prospect of reducing the strain on the revenue budget. However, they will require a total revenue budget of £11.3m (see table 2) in the next ten years.

5.4 Overall Conclusions

The financial analysis supports the conclusion that:

- Maintaining the existing facilities provides poor value, with expected further deterioration in their financial performance meaning they fast become unaffordable
- The base case analysis shows that there is a comparative advantage in undertaking the scheme
- The affordability test of proceeding with the whole scheme shows that:
 - The new facilities will require a budget of £11.3m over the next ten years
 - There are consequences for the rest of the Council's services of committing to the long-term cost commitment of the new facilities
- The viability of the scheme is dependent on the control of capital costs, and the quantum of capital receipts
- Likewise, the operational performance of the new facilities is the key to overall financial advantage. Income levels are a dominant factor, and can be difficult to control
- There is a risk that, should the projections about visitor numbers and their spending habits turn out to be over-optimistic, the Council replaces its current loss-making facilities with new loss-making facilities which places further pressures on the already constrained net revenue budget;

6. PROCUREMENT

6.1.1 The element of the contract held with Rex Proctor and Partners for the design of the City Centre Pool will be formally ended, this contract will continue for work on the Sedbergh site.

6.1.2 A new procurement process will be initiated for the appointment of a multi disciplinary services team for the Squire Lane site.

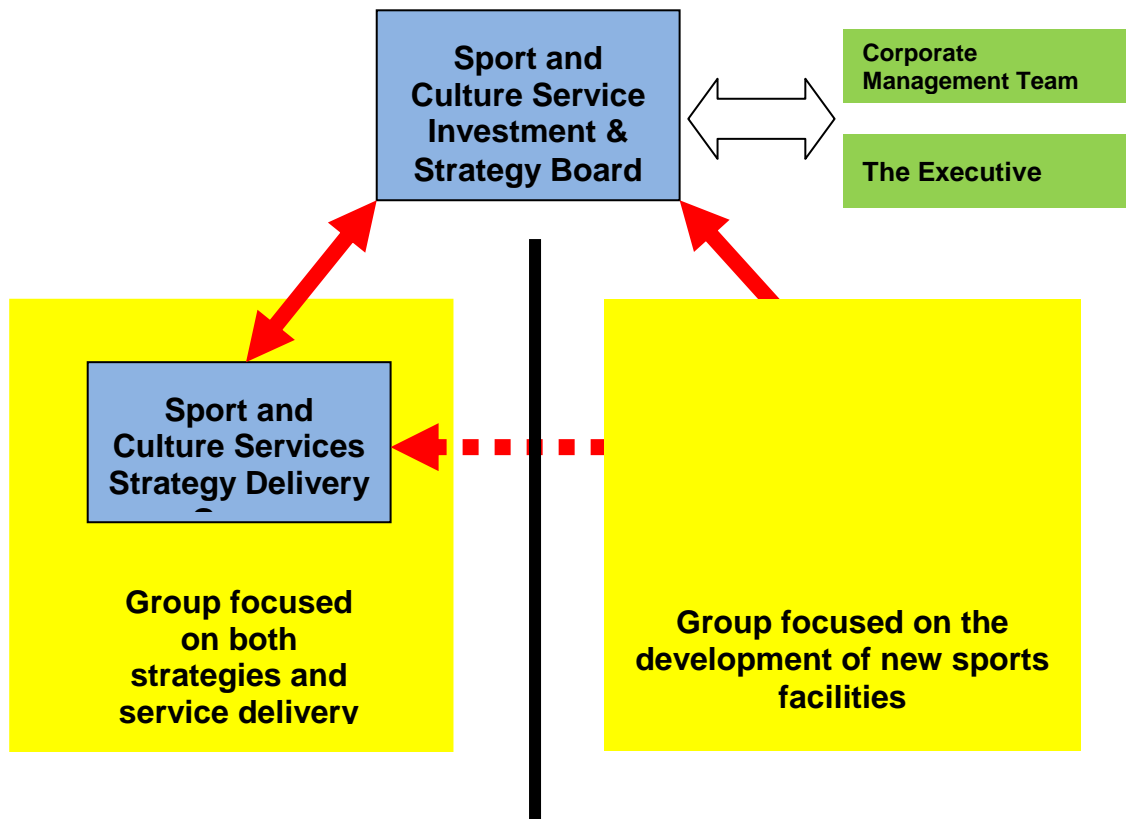
6.1.3 Throughout the procurement process consideration will be given to the use of local labour and developing opportunities for the local workforce. The Council is committed to using its buying power to secure social, economic and environmental outcomes in ways that offer sustainable long term benefits. This includes improving education and training opportunities to assist people in gaining employment, and maximise Social Value. The opportunities arising from procurement associated with the developments referred to on this report can therefore support the continued development of a skilled workforce which will help to meet the needs of businesses and the economy, encouraging enterprise, competition and innovation, and contributing towards economic growth for the district.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

7.1 In pursuing its programme of development the Council will ensure efficient delivery of new sports facilities and maintain close control of project cost and quality. It will still be required to forward fund costs to be offset by future capital receipts from the disposal of surplus sites. A dedicated project management resource has been allocated to the project as part of a project governance structure. A project board chaired by the Strategic Director Environment and

Sport will take financial decisions in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport and Sustainability, and the Director of Finance.

7.2.1 The project will continue to be supported by its existing governance structure.



Representatives from Environment and Sport will act as the client and the Department of Regeneration will be the responsible department to deliver the project as a contracting agent.

7.2.2 The Financial and Resource Appraisal above explains the intention to de-risk the strain that may be placed upon the Councils revenue budget. By delivering only two of the facilities that were earmarked previously this should reduce the strain on operating budgets.

The risks that the scheme could place a long-term burden on the Council's revenue budget are still relevant and should the capital construction phase and the financial operating performance of the facilities vary from the base case assumptions. In particular, the base case is dependent on both a growth in the overall number of visitors and an increase in average spend compared with now (as outlined in section 5).

7.2.3 The inflation figure applied to the projected construction cost of the new facilities is in accordance with industry guidance from RICS. There is a risk that the projected inflation is not reflected in the tender bids associated with this project as a number of variables are at play e.g. materials, labour costs, etc.

7.2.4 The income and expenditure projections used in this report are based on studies carried out for the Council in 2014.

8. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 8.1 Legal Services will continue to provide advice and support to the Project Team to develop proposals and highlight potential legal issues/risks that need to be considered.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The development proposals to construct two new sports facilities will lead to overall increased availability of provision within the district. Whilst there will be a small decrease in available water space the additional of movable floors and segregated facilities including changing will make facilities far more accessible and sympathetic to the cultural net.

Both of the new facilities will be fully DDA compliant and will provide a much more strategically aligned geographical spread of facilities to serve the demographic needs of the district.

The new facilities will help to increase participation through removing some of the physical and logistical barriers that are present in the Council's current building stock.

9.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The following principles have been considered in the production of the feasibility report and will continue to be included as the detailed design work is progressed.

- Green transport will be encouraged by providing quality facilities for cycle users
- CO₂ output will be reduced through sustainable design which will reduce operational energy consumption.
- The wider environmental impact will be considered in the design phase. E.g. Specifying locally sourced materials that are produced through environmentally sound methods.

9.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

It is anticipated that significant reductions in carbon emissions will be achieved by closing inefficient and energy intensive buildings with modern buildings designed with green building principals as a core element of their construction.

9.4 TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL IMPLICATIONS

The new facilities will:

- Utilise and enhance existing transport connections to reduce the use of cars

- Use existing pedestrian routes and investigate possibilities for upgrades relating to improved safety, sense of route and quality experience.

9.5 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct Community Safety implications arising from this report. However as the detailed design of the new facilities is progressed the following will be considered as part of the planning process:

- Secure parking
- Well lit external areas
- Open and welcoming building design
- Building security
- Well supervised facilities to enhance safeguarding

As part of the planning process all designs will be presented to West Yorkshire Police as a consultee.

9.6 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

9.7 TRADE UNION

As part of the public consultation process both staff and trade unions have been consulted.

It is currently expected that there will be the need to relocate staff from existing facilities to the new facilities. Depending upon the specific details of relocations this may well have a small financial impact as the Council is liable for any additional expenses incurred by staff travel for a period of up to four years.

9.8 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The proposals will impact upon individual wards across the Bradford District.

Pools will open in the following wards:

- Toller – North of Bradford City, Squire Lane
- Wyke – Bradford South, Sedbergh

The decision not to continue will result in facilities no longer being developed in the following wards:

- Little Horton – City Centre Pool
- Queensbury – Asa Briggs Recreation Ground

Facility Closures will occur in the following wards:

- Bingley – Bingley Pool
- Queensbury – Queensbury Pool
- Wibsey – Richard Dunn Sports Centre

9.9 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

There are no Area Committee implications arising from this report.

10. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

Appendix A

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 11.1 The work undertaken on behalf of the Council is noted.
- 11.2 The Council continues to develop the Sedbergh Sports Facility allowing the subsequent disposal of the Richard Dunn Sports Centre site.
- 11.3 The Council ceases to develop the City Centre sports facility and will not take forward the South West Pool at Clayton Heights planned for phase 2 of the sports facilities investment programme.
- 11.4 That the Council brings forward the development of a new community Swimming Pool and Sports Facility in the North of Bradford City with immediate effect, allowing for Bingley Pool to be offered for community management and if a solution can not be found the pool will close.
- 11.5 The Council agrees that when the new pool at Sedbergh opens, Queensbury Pool will be offered for community management and if no solution can be found the pool will close.
- 11.6 The capital requirement for £28.1m and the revenue budget consequences of proceeding with the scheme are reflected in the recommendations to the Council Budget for future financial years.
- 11.7 The Council continues with the plan to forward fund the new facilities from the Capital Investment Plan prior to the closure and disposal of the Richard Dunn site.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Sports Facilities Investment Plan report to Executive 15th January 2015

Report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services to the meeting of Executive to be held on 10 January 2017.

AW

Subject:

White Rose Energy

Summary statement:

Leeds City Council has created a local authority led energy services company (LESCo) called White Rose Energy (WRE) to provide a “fairer” energy supply deal to households across the Yorkshire & Humber region.

White Rose Energy is being opened up as a partnership, to other local authorities across the Yorkshire & Humber region. Some authorities and housing associations have been involved in discussions to date, including Bradford Council.

Leeds City Council is aiming to have the first partners signed up January 2017. This report seeks Executive approval for Bradford Council to enter into a formal partnership with White Rose Energy.

Stuart McKinnon-Evans
Strategic Director – Corporate
Services

Portfolio:**Cllr Sarah Ferriby**

Report Contact: Kate Smallwood
Environmental Awareness Officer
Phone: (01274) 433885
E-mail: kate.smallwood@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:**Environment & Waste**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Leeds City Council has created a local authority led energy services company (LESCo) called White Rose Energy (WRE) to provide a “fairer” energy supply deal to households across the Yorkshire & Humber region.
- 1.2 White Rose Energy is being opened up as a partnership, to other local authorities across the Yorkshire & Humber region. Some authorities and housing associations have been involved in discussions to date, including Bradford Council.
- 1.3 Leeds City Council is aiming to have the first partners signed up January 2017. This report seeks Executive approval for Bradford Council to enter into a formal partnership with White Rose Energy
- 1.4 This report sets out the background to the establishment of White Rose Energy, a not for profit, “fair price”, domestic energy supply offer. The report summarises the proposal for wider local authority partnerships within WRE, the nature of the partnership agreement and costs and benefits for authorities and citizens.
- 1.5 The report seeks Executive approval for Bradford Council to establish a local partnership with WRE, to sign up to the Service Level Agreement and to launch the product to Bradford citizens early in 2017.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 OVO Energy from 2014/15 has been offering “community energy tariffs” – an own label local authority branded energy offer for communities. Versions of this have been offered with varying degrees of success in East Cheshire, Peterborough & Southend. This offered customers a tariff in the lower price quartile across, variable, fixed and pre-payment tariffs. Bradford were approached, had discussions with OVO, briefed Leader and Portfolio Holder who asked that this be explored as a Leeds City Region (LCR) opportunity. There was no traction with the idea at LCR at the time. The OVO partnership agreement was too inflexible for Bradford Council to pursue on its own.
- 2.1.2 Robin Hood Energy (RHE) is a fully licenced, Ofgem compliant energy supply company, a small operator but with ambitions to operate in market where OVO and other new entrant suppliers compete. Originally set up by Nottingham City Council, as the UK’s first local authority owned energy supply company, Robin Hood Energy set itself apart from the ‘Big Six’ and many other private sector energy companies as it is a not for profit company. RHE has picked up the local energy tariff approach as a tool for growing market share and offering customer value. Bradford Councils Environment & Climate Change Unit (ECCU) lead knows the RHE team and has had discussions with them about joint opportunities for energy service provision. The unique selling proposition for RHE is local authority ownership, “not for profit” operation and ability to reinvest surpluses in social & fuel poverty support



- 2.2.1 Leeds City Council went out via procurement to market test for a citizen energy offer and had bids from OVO and RHE, with the RHE offer having better social and fuel poverty benefits. Leeds has invited other LCR authorities to become partners with an LA led “white label” energy offer for all citizens and additionally with a fuel poverty focus.
- 2.2.2 In February 2016 Leeds City Council awarded a 5 year contract to Robin Hood Energy. During the tender process an option was included to enable White Rose Energy to be opened up as a partnership across the Yorkshire & Humber region.
- 2.2.3 Between February & September 2016 Leeds City Council developed a brand “White Rose Energy” for the initiative. Bradford Council officers were closely involved in the brand development discussions.
- 2.2.4 Leeds City Council publically launched White Rose Energy in September 2016 and is now in the position to sign up local authorities as partners, with the aim of having the first partners signed up from January 2017 onwards
- 2.2.5 The WRE tariffs delivered through a partnership arrangement will offer citizens potentially significant energy cost savings particularly for those on pre-payment tariffs, supplementary benefits include better debt advice and management and energy efficiency advice provision.

2.3 **About White Rose Energy** (see www.whiteroseenergy.co.uk)

Their mission statement:

“At White Rose Energy we believe that people across Yorkshire deserve a better type of Energy Company. Our tariffs are open to all and we serve the interests of every one of our customers but we are particularly keen to provide fairer tariffs to prepayment (pay-as-you-go) customers who have traditionally been poorly served by the energy market.

We aim to offer energy tariffs that are both easy to understand and stable over the long-term, so that customers are not hit with sudden, unexpected cost increases later down the line. Our main ambition is to help people to stay warm and comfortable in their own homes, without breaking the bank. We also recognise that switching energy providers should be easy and for that reason we try to make it as simple as possible to switch to us.”

2.3.1 Not-for-profit

White Rose Energy’s aim is to supply fair and competitively priced energy to households across the Yorkshire and Humber region. Any margins that are generated – once the costs of running the scheme are covered – will be reinvested into initiatives to reduce fuel poverty.



2.3.2 Unique model

White Rose Energy agreement means that the energy tariff prices must always stay consistently low and that high levels of customer service must to be achieved.

2.3.3 Here to help

White Rose Energy will be sympathetic if residents run into financial problems. They also give customers the power to come off Pay-As-You-Go style arrangements wherever possible, as PAYG customers pay the most per unit of energy but are often some of those people who are least able to afford it.

2.4 Energy offer and tariffs

White Rose Energy is available to all domestic properties in the region. Customers have been able to switch to White Rose Energy since September 2016, via the website www.whiteroseenergy.co.uk or call centre.

2.4.1 Customers are offered personalised quotes to help them compare prices for the supply of electricity and / or gas via the website.

Customers receive monthly statements so know their exact usage and to avoid the build up of large bills. There are no exit fees, even on fixed price tariffs, so residents can switch without penalty if they wish.

2.4.2 Three types of tariff will be offered:

- Fixed Rate
- Variable Rate
- Pre – Payment Rate

Customers will be able to compare White Rose Energy prices via various price comparison websites such as Uswitch, Compare the Market and Go-Compare.

White Rose Energy has already been at the top or close to the top of comparison sites on several occasions during its short existence. As the image on the next page shows on the 22nd of November 2016 White Rose Energy was listed second on a Uswitch website search, and a saving of over £400 was indicated for an average usage three bed terrace.

Tariffs must always be in the lowest 10% of energy tariffs (price comparison will be checked monthly against Energylinx to ensure the tariffs are one of the lowest in the region as agreed under a KPI).

Table 1 below shows some actual quotations produced for council staff.

Homes	Estimated Savings
Home 1	£162.62
Home 2	£135.58
Home 3	£57.12
Home 4	£88.26
Home 5	£190.04
Home 6	£186.25

Table 1



uSwitch Limited [GB] | <https://www.uswitch.com/gas-electricity/results>

You are seeing the results for the next 12 months to be **£1,573.74** (How is this calculated?)

Need help choosing a plan?
Call our UK team for free on **0800 6888 244**

show me
Dual fuel plans

Paid by
Monthly direct debit

Rate type
Fixed or variable

Your results
 Only show me plans uSwitch can help me switch to
 Show me the whole market

Choose suppliers
Supplier	Exit fee	Rate type	Your savings
Direct Saver This supplier has not made this plan available through uSwitch [More info](#)	You'll pay **£25 per fuel** to leave this plan early	Fixed for **12** months	You save **£407.27** per year [What will I pay?](#)
Flat Capped V2 This supplier has not made this plan available through uSwitch [More info](#)	There is **no fee** to leave this plan early	Fixed for **12** months	You save **£406.50** per year [What will I pay?](#)
Robin Hood Energy Prime V5 This supplier has not made this plan available through uSwitch [More info](#)	There is **no fee** to leave this plan early	Fixed for **12** months	You save **£406.50** per year [What will I pay?](#)
Together - December This supplier has not made this plan available through uSwitch [More info](#)	You'll pay **£30 per fuel** to leave this plan early	Fixed for **13** months	You save **£353.97** per year [What will I pay?](#)

11:16 22/11/2016



2.5 Customers with Prepay meters

Prepayment meters are a more expensive method of paying for energy, White Rose Energy will enable residents to switch to one of the cheapest prepayment tariffs available.

2.5.1 As an extra benefit White Rose Energy is offering smart meters as standard to all new customers with existing Pay-As-You-Go meters, allowing customers to monitor their energy and top up via more methods such as over the phone or online so customers should always be able to access energy.

2.5.2 A long term ambition would be for customer to have smart meters switched to credit mode, to enable them to access lower tariffs and not be reliant on “putting money in the meter” to access energy. If customers can stay out of their emergency credit facility for a continuous 3 month period White Rose Energy provides a process that allows smart meters to be switched into credit mode, remotely, at no cost, and without the need for credit agency checks. When in credit mode, customers can access cheaper deals.

2.6 Partnership Arrangements (see appendix 1 Service Level Agreement)

2.6.1 The contractor Robin Hood Energy provides the back office functions of an energy company, Leeds City Council and hence its partners are responsible for branding and marketing of the offer to customers in their respective areas.

The contract between WRE and RHE has a number of key performance indicators which include tariff position within energy market and ensuring high levels of customer care.

2.6.2 In return for marketing and customer generation, a £15 payment will be generated for each dual fuel customer or £7.50 for a single fuel customer within our District who switches, for each year that the customer stays with White Rose Energy (this is known as a disbursement).

2.6.3 A Central Cost Recovery Pool will be set up, into this will be paid the disbursements, a percentage deduction will be made at source by WRE for historical establishment costs, on-going administration and some generic marketing costs such as website hosting. Once deductions are made the surplus will be paid to the partner on a pro rata customer acquisition volume basis

2.6.4 Bradford Council will need to enter into a Service Level Agreement to become a partner in White Rose Energy. This agreement will be continuous for the length of the contract, but can be terminated by a partner at any time serving a 28 day termination notice.

2.6.5 The main role of a partner will be marketing the scheme; the partner must provide a marketing schedule and an endorsement of the partnership. The endorsement shall involve exploiting all “zero cost” marketing and promotional routes available via Bradford Council. *For full details see appendix SLA section 3.28 -3.33.*



3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Warm Homes Discount (WHD) – at this time White Rose Energy will not be able to offer the WHD. This is a £140 payment to qualifying residents who receive the “guaranteed credit” element of “pension credit” or people on certain benefits. New customers will be advised of this if they contact White Rose Energy by phone and encouraged to compare prices with suppliers that do provide the WHD and would only be encouraged to switch if the savings were greater than the value of WHD.

3.2 Fuel Poverty

Currently there are around two thirds of households who do not switch energy supplier. These ‘sticky’ customers often overpay by hundreds of pounds compared to the cheapest tariffs available, with a high percentage of sticky households on low incomes (often OAPs) and vulnerable to fuel poverty. A key cause of ‘stickiness’ among households is mistrust of energy companies. A council backed energy company is more likely to be trusted and can engage residents and encourage them to access lower tariffs via its unique channels.

The objective of securing an affordable energy tariff delivery mechanism is included within the current annual action plan of Bradford Fuel poverty Framework for Action. These updated annual objectives were agreed at the Environment & Waste Overview & Scrutiny Committee in October 2016.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 As a partner of White Rose Energy and if large volumes of customers can be signed up, Bradford Council will be able to generate a project surplus from disbursements, which will be paid quarterly. No upfront financial commitment is required except for some project officer resource from within the existing service. There will be some marketing costs for launch and specific campaigns but it is proposed that the marketing plan be built around existing low cost or free routes to market.

4.2 Leeds City Council has modelled the potential income across the partnership based on customer sign up across a number of performance scenarios for this new enterprise.



Below is a summary of potential income after deductions are made for establishment and central marketing costs.

Yorkshire & Humber Region model:

Market Share	Year 1 Income	Year 2 Income	Total Year 1&2
Pessimistic 1%	£39,121	£173,389	£212,510
Realistic 2%	£66,946	£286,514	£335,460
Optimistic 3.5%	£91,253	£370,744	£415,797
Blue Sky 5%	£101,893	£494,510	£596,402

Bradford District model:

Market Share	Year 1 Income	Year 2 Income	Total Year 1&2
Pessimistic 1%	£4,936	£24,190	£29,126
Realistic 2%	£9,577	£42,302	£51,879
Optimistic 3.5%	£15,813	£72,205	£88,017
Blue Sky 5%	£21,209	£100,048	£121,258

In practice it is anticipated that the income Bradford Council is likely to generate will be somewhere in between £30,000 to £50,000. However as the income is cumulative this has potential to draw greater income in future years.

Partners will take a share based on the customer sign up in their catchment, as Bradford is one of the largest authorities we have potential to generate a large proportion of customers within the region.

- 4.3 As White Rose Energy is a not for profit company any income Bradford Council receives must be invested back into fuel poverty alleviation, this can however cover officer staffing costs within ECCU required to delivery White Rose Energy or other fuel poverty related schemes.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 Leeds City Council will manage the contractual arrangements with Robin Hood Energy, and monitor the contract via a series of Key Performance Indicators and commits to utilise all reasonable means to ensure that the White Rose Energy offer remains “fair” for customers.
- 5.2 A partnership steering group will meet monthly to discuss any partner concerns. Bradford Council will be represented on the steering group.
- 5.3 There are no customer sign up targets for partners to meet however region wide 10,000 customers are required to sign up by the end of year 2 to meet RHE contractual targets. If that target isn’t met Robin Hood Energy has an option to terminate the contract. (Leeds City Councils own housing stock and void switching is estimated to meet this target).
- 5.4 Energy companies operate within a highly regulated sector and as a partner council officers will need to ensure compliance, particularly in relation to direct sales, miss-selling, and the general marketing of the scheme.



6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

The current documentation indicates that Bradford Council would contract with Leeds City Council and not with Robin Hood Energy directly. Bradford Council's relationship is as an "endorsing/promoting partner".

There is no power supply relationship between Bradford Council and Leeds City Council or Robin Hood Energy. Residents would contract directly with Robin Hood Energy (operating as White Rose Energy under the white label arrangement) and so would have individual contracts for the purposes of resolving issues. In the event of any serious problem with Robin Hood Energy it is likely that Ofgem, the industry regulator, would put another provider in place to avoid disruption.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

White Rose Energy is available to all homes there is no equality & diversity impact.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable within the context of this report.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Not applicable within the context of this report.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable within the context of this report.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

7.6 TRADE UNION

Not applicable within the context of this report.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable within the context of this report.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 The following documents that are appendices to this report are confidential and not for publication.

- Service Level Agreement (SLA) document for White Rose Energy regional partners
- Annex 1 – Income Sharing Agreement



9. OPTIONS

9.1 Option 1

Do nothing; do not enter into SLA with White Rose Energy initiative.

Residents within the Bradford district will still be able to switch to White Rose Energy; however it will not be actively marketed in the District. If residents do choose to sign up the disbursement will not be paid to Bradford Council.

9.2 Option 2

This is the preferred option

Proceed to becoming a partner of White Rose Energy in early 2017 and that this is made in consultation with the Director of Finance subject to full due diligence which confirms the optimal benefits for working as a partner with WRE in delivering energy supply locally.

By becoming a partner Bradford residents will be actively encouraged to switch, accessing fair energy prices.

No upfront financial commitment is required from Bradford Council but income from disbursements could support some fuel poverty work in the district in the future.

The project will maximise the benefits of the initiative for Bradford residents enabling them to take advantage of the winter heating season when householders are likely to be more aware of high heating costs.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended – Option 2

That the option to proceed to becoming a partner of White Rose Energy be approved; and is in consultation with the Director of Finance subject to full due diligence which confirms the optimal benefits for working as a partner with WRE in delivering energy supply locally; that the Service Level Agreement is signed at the earliest opportunity.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Service Level Agreement (SLA) document for White Rose Energy regional partners
- 11.2 Annex 1 – Income Sharing Agreement





AX

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS**

Present:	Cllr Peter Box (Chair)	-	Wakefield MDC
	Cllr Tim Swift (Vice Chair)	-	Calderdale MBC
	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	-	City of Bradford MDC
	Cllr David Sheard	-	Kirklees Council
	Cllr Judith Blake	-	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Stewart Golton	-	Liberal Democrat Representative (Leeds City Council)
	Cllr Keith Aspden	-	City of York Council
	Roger Marsh	-	Leeds City Region LEP
In attendance:	Ben Still	-	WYCA
	Caroline Allen	-	WYCA
	Angie Shearon	-	WYCA

41. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew Carter, Simon Cooke and Jeanette Sunderland.

42. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared by members at the meeting.

43. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 July 2016

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the WYCA held on 28 July 2016 be approved and signed by the Chair.

44. Project and Spending Approvals

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Resources seeking the progression of, and approval of funding for, schemes from the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund and the Local Growth Fund.

The report provided details of the projects considered by the Investment Committee on 7 September which were recommended to WYCA for progression and approval of funding. The report mapped each of the projects across to the new Project Management Office (PMO) process.

Resolved: That progression of, and funding for, schemes from the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund and Local Growth Fund be approved as follows, with a decision on the final details on terms and conditions of the individual approvals to be delegated to the Managing Director:

- (i) £400k to develop the Leeds Station (Yorkshire Hub) Development - Reference Case Masterplan project.
- (ii) £130k to progress Mirfield to Dewsbury to Leeds (A653) corridor.
- (iii) £500k for feasibility works on East Leeds Parkway at Thorpe Park.
- (iv) £160k for Halifax Station Gateway.
- (v) £1.1m grant investment for Wakefield Civic Quarter site acquisition.
- (vi) £4.8m grant for the One City Park in Bradford.
- (vii) New Bolton Woods – part of the Bradford-Shipley Road Corridor, progressing from outline to full business case.
- (viii) In principle support to a £33.4m grant and £8.8m loan for Leeds City College.
- (ix) £1.0112m grant for Tackling Fuel Poverty Programme Phase 2.
- (x) A loan of £1m to LL309.

45. WYCA Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Resources regarding the budget process for 2017/18, the development of the medium term financial strategy and additions to the agreed budget following the award of further funding to the region.

It was reported that work was ongoing to produce a detailed budget for 2017/18 aligned with the priorities identified through the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). The budget would need to be approved at the February meeting of the WYCA.

Members noted that work was underway to update the medium term financial strategy to ensure that funding available may be used to best effect in delivering its priorities for economic growth. It was acknowledged that there were significant challenges to address with increasing workloads for the Authority to support the growing agenda of activity including devolution and Transport for the North at a time

of pressure on local government funding. Early discussions with District Councils had also identified a requirement for WYCA to look at options for cutting services in order to reduce the transport levy. WYCA would be looking at the resources available and streamlining those resources and sharing costs where possible. Work was also required on the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund to identify the extent of local funding required to support borrowing and to understand the growth of new business in the Enterprise Zone and the timing of how this translated to business rates income.

It was proposed that a further report be prepared for the Authority meeting of 1 December outlining the proposed budget for 2017/18 and addressing the issues set out above.

Resolved:

- (i) That WYCA note the process for the 2017/18 budget as set out in the submitted report.
- (ii) That WYCA note the work to date on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- (iii) That WYCA approve further budgets of £150k for the Enterprise Adviser Continuation Phase 1 and £192k for Strategic Heat Networks, funded as set out in the submitted report.

46. Implications of the vote to leave the European Union

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications providing members with further information on the implications of the UK's vote to leave the European Union (EU).

In July, WYCA and the LEP approved a high-level joint Plan to provide a calm and measured approach to the decision to exit the EU in order to underpin investor and consumer confidence. The Plan covered short, medium and long-term issues which were considered to be best addressed at the city region level with close liaison with local partners such as universities, councils and business groups.

Members acknowledged that the UK's exit from Europe would present opportunities as well as some difficulties and discussed developments with Brexit over the summer, making the following observations:

- There had been very little further information from Government about the timing of Britain's exit from the EU, or what the outcome might mean for free trade and the movement of people.
- There had been no announcements of large scale job losses, although intelligence suggested that some contracts for overseas workers to come and work in the UK may have been withdrawn due to uncertainty in the job

market. It was acknowledged that there were particular skills shortages in the UK which needed to be addressed, for instance in the health sector.

- There had been a relatively calm economic reaction with no immediate recession, although it was projected that long-term growth would be lower than had the UK remained a member of the EU. It was acknowledged, however that there may be economic turbulence once Article 50 was triggered.
- Communities, local councils and employers continued to recognise the valuable contributions made to the city region by people of all nationalities and, although reports of hostility resulting from tensions had been limited, such crimes continued to be addressed swiftly.

European Funding

Members discussed the importance of securing the repatriation of European funding locally and felt that it was imperative that, once discussions commenced with government on the redistribution of funding, WYCA had a seat at the table.

Members were pleased to note that in August, HM Treasury had provided an assurance that all European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) projects under contract ahead of the Autumn Statement would be fully funded even if those projects were to continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU

In July 2015, WYCA had agreed to be the Urban Authority (UA) and take on intermediate Body (IB) status to be able to receive delegated authority from government for a Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) Strategy. Members noted that there had been renewed impetus from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for SUD strategies to be agreed by the end of September 2016 and for IB status with the UA to be in place by early December largely because SUD was an EU regulatory obligation and therefore potentially more secure than ESIF funding.

Members discussed the response of city region partners in response to Brexit and felt it would be useful to convene a meeting involving representatives of the business community, health sector and universities and colleges to understand their interests and concerns.

Members noted that the short-term responses set out in the Plan had been completed and the medium-term actions were being developed, including helping growth sectors exploit new international opportunities and for exports to exploit the weak pound.

Resolved:

- (i) That the latest update of the joint CA/LEP plan to respond to the vote to leave the EU be noted.
- (ii) That authority be delegated to WYCA's Managing Director to finalise and agree, in conjunction with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Legal Agreement with the Department for Communities and Local Government for Intermediate Body status, and commence operations as required.
- (iii) That a joint meeting be arranged with city region partners, including representative of the business community, health sector and universities and colleges to discuss their respective interests and concerns regarding the implications of leaving Europe.

47. Devolution

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications on progress to secure the devolution of further powers and budgets away from Whitehall and Westminster to Leeds City Region (LCR), building on the first stage deal secured in 2015.

Members discussed progress made to date in securing a devolution deal and also the impact of recent events on progress, including the changes to the Government ministerial line up following the EU referendum. It was recognised that, in the absence of a clear steer on national policy over the summer, eg on the Northern Powerhouse and English Devolution, there had been some press speculation about a potential shift in Government policy on the requirement for directly elected Mayors in return for devolution.

Members welcomed the Prime Minister's confirmation of her Government's support for the Northern Powerhouse which the Leeds City Region wished to be a part of and help to shape.

Members re-affirmed their commitment to secure a devolution deal for the City Region and proposed, ahead of the Autumn Statement on 23 November 2016, to seek to progress discussions with officials and Ministers on the terms of a devolution deal, including seeking clarity on the following:

- that the ambition of WYCA and Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership be matched by Government's commitment to devolve substantive powers and funding to local areas;
- the Government's position regarding the geographic area for devolution to the City Region; and

- the most appropriate model of Governance required in order to provide local accountability for powers and funding devolved from Whitehall and Westminster.

Resolved:

- (i) That the progress made to secure a devolution deal and the impact of recent events, including the changes to the Government ministerial line up following the EU referendum, be noted.
- (ii) That, ahead of the Autumn statement, WYCA should seek to progress discussions with officials and Ministers on the terms of any devolution deal.

48. One Organisation Programme

The Authority considered a report of WYCA's Managing Director providing an update on the One Organisation programme (the change programme for the WYCA officer body) and seeking approval to two director appointments.

The report provided a six monthly update on the One Organisation change programme and a detailed update on priority projects as set out in paragraph 2.4. Members discussed progress with the One Organisation programme and particularly welcomed the increased focus on delivery.

It was reported that, following a recruitment and selection exercise, the following appointments were recommend to WYCA for approval:

- Dave Pearson - Director of Transport Services
- Melanie Corcoran – Director of Delivery

It was further report that Sue Cooke had been appointed to the post of Executive Head of Economic Services and that external recruitment was underway for the post of Head of Communications.

Resolved:

- (i) That the progress made so far with the One Organisation Programme be noted.
- (ii) That the appointment of Dave Pearson to the post of Director of Transport Services with effect from 1 October 2016 and the appointment of Melanie Corcoran to the post of Director of Delivery, with a start date to be delegated to the Managing Director, be approved.
- (iii) That the appointment of the Executive Head of Economic Services be noted.

- (iv) That it be noted that external recruitment to the post of Head of Communications had commenced.

49. WYCA Appointments to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Resources seeking approval to a change in nomination by the City of York Council to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

On 20 September, the City of York Council notified WYCA's Monitoring Officer of their wish to replace Councillor Helen Douglas with Councillor Jenny Brooks.

Resolved: That the Authority note the City of York Council's revised nomination to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and co-opt Councillor Jenny Brooks onto the committee in place of Councillor Helen Douglas.

50. WYCA Overview & Scrutiny Flood Response

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications seeking endorsement to the recommendations of WYCA's Overview & Scrutiny Committee regarding their investigation into the 2015 Boxing Day Floods.

Members discussed the progress made both nationally and regionally in response to the 2015 Boxing Day Flood events and the impact on businesses, residential properties, critical infrastructure and jobs. The economic and social impacts of the floods had been significant running into several hundred millions. Actual costs would need to be fully calculated in order to build a case for future investment and identify funding gaps for investment in flood defences and green infrastructure whilst taking account of whole catchment areas. Concern was expressed that some areas remained very exposed to the risk of flooding. Members considered the potential to make better use of infrastructure in readiness for future winters; for example, exploring how reservoirs could help mitigate the risk of flooding together with other Green Infrastructure measures such as land management in upper river catchments.

Members were keen to ensure that, despite a change in government Minister, the events of the Boxing Day floods on the Leeds City Region were not forgotten. A letter had been sent to the Rt Hon Andrea Leadson MP, Secretary of State for DEFRA, and responsible minister for planning and responding to flood risk and flood events, inviting her to visit the Leeds City Region and her response was awaited. Members considered that it was important that the Government funding commitments, made following the Boxing Day floods, to support flood alleviation and mitigation measures in the Leeds City Region continue to be honoured.

It was reported that, against the national and regional context, WYCA's Overview & Scrutiny Committee had, along with senior representatives from Yorkshire Water

and the Environment Agency, considered the broad range of issues relating to the Boxing Day Flood events. Arising out of their discussions, the Committee had formulated a list of recommendations which were set out in the Addendum to the report.

Members considered the recommendations of the Committee which, it was suggested, could be incorporated into the LCR Flood Review, commissioned by WYCA earlier in the year, and which was now nearing completion. The outcome of the LCR Flood Review would be reported to WYCA at their meeting on 1 December.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in response to the 2015 Boxing Day Flood events, as set out in the Addendum to the submitted report, be endorsed.
- (ii) That the recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and proposed associated actions, be considered within the LCR Flood Review.
- (iii) That WYCA considers with Yorkshire Water the potential contribution that upland land management and their reservoirs could make to reducing future flood risk in winter.

51. Response to consultation on 100% Business Rates Retention

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications advising of the joint WYCA and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) submission to the Government consultation on 100% business rates retention.

The report provided information on the joint WYCA and LEP response to the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) consultation on retained business rates which had been developed over the summer and submitted by the deadline of 26 September. A copy of the response was attached to the submitted report.

Whilst the retention of business rates was welcomed, members were keen to ensure it was accompanied by a fair funding mechanism and national redistribution to match local need. Members expressed concern that there had been no detail of how the process would be implemented at a local level and how local councils would be able to manage the further responsibilities arising from it.

Resolved: That the joint WYCA/LEP response to the Government's consultation be noted.

52. Governance Update

The Authority considered a report of the Head of Legal & Democratic Services providing an update on the progress of an Order anticipated to affect WYCA governance arrangements in relation to overview and scrutiny, audit committee and access to information arrangements.

The Cities and Local Government and Devolution Act 2016 placed the overview and scrutiny arrangements, and audit committee arrangements of combined authorities on a statutory footing. For WYCA, the impact had principally been on the membership of the governance and audit committee, which may no longer include co-opted members. The Secretary of State had now indicated that a further Order may affect current arrangements further. Paragraph 2.4 of the submitted report set out the principles which the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have indicated will underpin any Order.

In terms of the impact on WYCA, it was noted that none of the proposals conflicted with current WYCA practices and arrangements, with the exception of the requirement to appoint an independent person to an audit committee.

The DCLG have not confirmed when any Order will be made, but it was understood that they were aiming to have it in place by spring 2017.

Resolved: That the approach of the Secretary of State in relation to the draft Order, as set out in the submitted report, be noted.

53. City of York Council Local Plan Consultation

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications providing information of WYCA's response in support of the City of York Council's Local Plan under WYCA's Duty to Co-operate role.

The City of York Council had consulted WYCA in July 2016 on their Local Plan which had outlined the proposed housing and employment growth requirements for York and proposed preferred strategic site allocations to deliver that growth. The Plan set out a target for 841 net additional homes per annum and an employment land supply requirement of 33.3 hectares which supported the City Region's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) aspirations to increase housing delivery and create additional jobs. The draft Plan also identified a series of 'Green Wedges' across York which would make an important contribution to the Green Infrastructure network across the City Region and support delivery of Priority 4 (Clean Energy and Environmental Resilience) of the SEP.

Members noted that the response which had been submitted by WYCA in accordance with the City of York Council's deadline and which was appended to the submitted report, had confirmed that York's 'Preferred Sites' consultation was

aligned with the SEP and provided support for the SEP's Spatial Priority Area at York Central and other major growth areas.

Resolved:

- (i) That the response to the City of York Local Plan consultation as set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report be supported.

54. Draft minutes of the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 13 July 2016

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 13 July 2016 be noted.

55. Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Governance & Audit Committee held on 28 July 2016

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Governance & Audit Committee held on 28 July 2016 be noted.

56. Draft Minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee held on 7 September 2016

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee held on 28 July 2016 be noted.