

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive to be held on Tuesday, 19 July 2016 at 10.30 am in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 10.30 am
Concluded 11.40 am

Members of the Executive – Councillors

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

Also present: Councillors Engel and Dunbar

11. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillors Ross-Shaw and Ferriby disclosed a non pecuniary interest in the item relating to the referral from the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the Anti Poverty Scrutiny review (Minute14) as the former Chair and Deputy Chair of the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

12. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2016 be signed as a correct record.

ACTION: City Solicitor

13. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

14. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

The receipt of the following recommendations to the Executive was noted:



(a) **BRADFORD POVERTY SCRUTINY REVIEW**

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee 29 June 2016

Resolved –

- (1) That the Draft Bradford Poverty Scrutiny Review Report be approved.
- (2) **That this Committee recommends to the Executive that Bradford Council should develop a comprehensive Anti Poverty Strategy addressing the multiple factors related to poverty including but not limited to: food, health, housing, children, energy and employment. The Anti Poverty Strategy should include key actions monitored through a delivery plan and its development should involve a review of existing, subject specific poverty strategies to ensure efficiency and possible mergers to ensure a lack of duplication.**
- (3) That a further progress report be presented to this Committee in 6 months time.
- (4) That this Committee requests that further work be undertaken reviewing how approaches in employment, education and skills can help reduce the number of people in poverty.

Note: in receiving the above recommendation the Leader requested the Strategic Director Regeneration to review the recommendation in consultation with the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder with a view to it being taken forward.

ACTION: Strategic Director Regeneration

(b) **REGIONALISATION OF ADOPTION SERVICES**

Resolved –

- (1) That the regionalisation of the Adoption Service is supported as being in the best interests of the District's children.
- (2) **That the recommendations to be submitted to the Executive, at its meeting to be held on 19 July 2016, to:**
 - (i) **Approve the formation of a Yorkshire and Humber Adoption Service, and**
 - (ii) **Delegate authority to the Strategic Director Children's Services to progress the development of the Yorkshire and Humber Hub and the West Yorkshire Adoption Agency and to proceed with the revised structure leading to the transfer**



of staff to Leeds City Council, as the host of the West Yorkshire Agency, with the new arrangements being in place by April 2017, be endorsed.

- (3) That the Deputy Director Children's Social Services be requested to submit regular progress reports to the Panel and that these include information in relation to resource allocation and the position in respect of Special Guardianship Orders.

Note: in receiving the above recommendation the Leader noted that the decision would be taken into account when the Executive considered the report on Adoption Regionalisation (Document "J") later in the meeting.

LEADER OF COUNCIL & CORPORATE

15. ANNUAL FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE OUTTURN REPORT 2015-16

The primary purpose of the report of the Director of Finance and the Assistant Director of Policy, Programmes & Change (**Document "G"**) was to give Members insight into the Council's overall position at the end of the 2015-16 financial year by integrating finance and performance information. It provided a detailed statement of the final financial position of the Council at the 31 March 2016 as well as the annual outturn for the Corporate Indicator Set. The report specifically detailed how services were performing within the context of the Council's stewardship of its revenue resources.

The Interim Assistant Director of Policy, Programmes and Change referred to the detailed summary of overall performance and all performance indicators set out in table 1.1 of the report. A detailed summary of action being taken in the case of under performing indicators was included in the report. She stressed the need to set Corporate Indicators carefully and referred to the indicator regarding permanent admissions to residential and nursing homes which was below the target set for 2015-16 despite Bradford being a top performer and comparing favourably with regional and national averages. It was noted that a new set of indicators would be identified in the new Council Plan.

The Director of Finance outlined the main variances in specific savings across all parts of the Council. He added that unallocated reserves were £19.9m at 31 March 2016 and the 2016-17 budget assumed £6.2m would be used to leave a forecasted unallocated balance of £13.8m at March 2017 as a contingency reserve. He advised members that good progress had been made in managing risks in 2015-16 however he stated that risks would be more difficult to manage going forward. He confirmed that £172.6m of government cuts had been made to the Council's budget over the last 6 years.



The Leader emphasised the impact of reductions in the Council's budget being experienced by members of the public in the district every day. She added that some of the current key performance indicators did not reflect the current situation and would be reviewed as part of the Council Plan.

The Strategic Director, Children's Services reported that the number of children attending a good or outstanding primary school had increased from 63% to 72% from September 2015 to July 2016 and he pointed out that the vast majority of primary schools were maintained. He added that in the secondary sector between September 2015 and July 2016 two maintained schools had improved and three academies had either been assessed as having serious weakness or had gone into special measures. He advised members that there continued to be an ongoing dialogue between the authority and the Regional Schools Commissioner and academy trusts to ensure that all schools improved.

The Leader emphasised that both of the secondary schools that were in special measures had improvement plans in place.

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder echoed the need to reassess the indicator for the permanent admissions to residential and nursing homes as the indicator had not been achieved despite the authority being in the top 5% of authorities for performance. She added that progress had been made in areas of health and health inequalities which were not measured such as the significant reduction in infant mortality, the reduction in the number of 4-5 year olds that were over weight and the reduction in tooth decay in the under 5's.

Resolved -

- (1) That the financial position of the Council reported for the year ended 31 March 2016 be noted.**
- (2) That the £1.259m of additional requests to carry forward funds to 2016-17 outlined in section 2.1 of Appendix 1 to Document "G" be approved.**
- (3) That the performance position be noted and the actions to address the identified areas of underperformance in Appendix 1, Section 1 of Document "G" be endorsed.**

ACTION: Director of Finance
Assistant Director of Policy, Programmes and Change



16. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2017-18 TO 2019/20 AND BEYOND INCORPORATING THE EFFICIENCY PLAN

The Director of finance presented **Document “H”** on the Medium Term Financial Strategy which focused on how the Council intended to respond to the forecasted public sector funding reductions as a result of the on-going austerity measures imposed by the Government’s spending plans. It set out the approaches and principles the Council would follow to ensure the Council remained financially viable and delivered on its priorities.

The Plan also formed the basis of the Council’s Efficiency Plan for the next four financial years.

The next four years already contained a series of potentially significant changes to the structure of the Council and the services it would be responsible for and what it could provide. Many of these changes were still at consultation stage which brought additional complexity when predicting the future. However, the result of the EU referendum had added a further layer of uncertainty to prospects of stability in local government finances.

The forecast identified further savings of £11.5m in 2017/18 in addition to the £24.2m agreed in February 2016. In the following year the gap would increase to £32m in 2018/19 and then up to £109.5m by 2022/23.

The Director of Finance highlighted the £4.2m contribution from the Better Care Fund to support Adult Social Care Services. He referred to the business rate reform currently the subject of consultation in which 100% of business rates would be retained by local authorities. He added that the business rates baseline review would impact on the top up grant.

The Leader pointed out that in line with the efficiency plan the Council’s total budget had been reduced by 1/3 over the last 4 years. She added that the result of the EU Referendum had highlighted the inequalities between the north of England and the more economically prosperous areas of the south. She urged the government to provide more investment in the north. She went on to stress that by 2022-2023 the Council’s budget would have to reduce by £100m and that challenging decisions would have to be made. She added that the public would be consulted on any changes and that every effort would be made to ensure that front line services continued to be provided as far as possible.

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder referred to work being undertaken on a sustainable Health and Welfare Plan and by the Health and Wellbeing Board to take the health needs of the district forward.

The Director of Finance referred to the national financial uncertainty and Bradford’s involvement in discussions relating to Health Service finance issues, consultation on Business Rates and dealing with issues arising from the academisation of schools.



Resolved -

- (1) That Executive consider the Medium Term Financial Strategy as an assessment of the Council's financial outlook to 2019/20 and beyond, and a framework for it to remain financially viable and deliver sustainable public services in line with its priorities using the principles contained in the Efficiency Plan (Annex D) of Document "H".**
- (2) That it be recommended that the updated and revised Medium Term Financial Strategy at Appendix 1 of Document "H" be forwarded to Council for approval.**
- (3) That, subject to Council approval, authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to apply to take up the multi-year settlement supported by the Efficiency Plan at Annex D to Document "H" based on their assessment of whether this will be in the best interests of the Council.**

ACTION: Director of Finance
City Solicitor (for reference to Council)

17. FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT FOR 2016-17

The report of the Director of Finance (**Document "I"**) provided Members with an overview of the forecast financial position of the Council for 2016-17.

It examined the latest spend against revenue and capital budgets and forecast the financial position at the year end. It stated the Council's current balances and reserves and forecast school balances for the year.

The Director of Finance reported on the overspending in the departments of Adult and Community Services and Children's Services and also on under achieved savings. He reported that cash reserves at 17 June 2016 were £13.8m which he and the Council's external auditor continued to see as potentially inadequate given the expected future cuts in non protected Government Departments spending. He referred to the capital bid for £0.7m land acquisition for Station Gateways Programme. Council Tax and Business Rates collection were as detailed in the report.

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder referred to the growing demand for services which put pressure on the Adults and Social Care budget. She emphasised the need for the Council to explore, with its partners, new ways of providing services. She added that the new Strategic Director, Health and Wellbeing would be in post in September 2016. She pointed out that during June 2016, 17 children from 3 large families had to be taken into the care of the Local Authority for which there had been a considerable cost. She stressed the need to draw to the attention of the government the pressures that the Council faced in trying to meet the needs of children and adults with high levels of need.



The Leader added that difficult decisions would have to be taken over the next years as £32m would be taken out of the Council's budget.

Resolved -

- (1) That the contents of Document "I" and the actions taken to manage the forecast overspend be noted.**
- (2) That the addition of the £0.7m land acquisition for Station Gateways Programme to the Capital Investment Plan as set out in paragraphs 2 and 5 of Document "I" be approved. The scheme to be funded by £0.275m from the Strategic Acquisition scheme and temporary borrowing.**

ACTION: Director of Finance

HEALTH & WELLBEING PORTFOLIO & DEPUTY LEADER

18. REGIONALISATION OF ADOPTION SERVICES

The purpose of the report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services (**Document "J"**) was to provide information to the Executive about the proposals for adoption reform contained within the government's Education and Adoption Act 2016. It set out the Yorkshire and Humber regional plan for adoption and requested delegated authority for the Director of Children's Services to form a Yorkshire and Humber central adoption hub and develop a West Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency which was to be hosted by Leeds City Council.

The Strategic Director summarised the main issues that the government sought to address within the adoption reform. He advised members that costs would be saved by reducing tiers of management and savings on inter agency fees and that Bradford children would be able to be placed nearer home. He stressed that decisions would continue to be made in Bradford about Bradford children. He added that there would be no change in service for Bradford adopters and that there would be an improvement in timeliness and an increased pool of children. Support for adopters would be less piecemeal.

The Leader welcomed working with other Local authorities to improve the outcome for children in the district.

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder confirmed that Bradford's performance in adoption services was good. The Strategic Director stressed that the proposals were to raise the standards of all agencies to become a centre of excellence. He added that Bradford was coming to the regional adoption agency from a position of strength and that Leeds was to just host the agency. He stressed that adopter recruitment and adoption support would improve as a result of the proposals. He



went on to advise members that a further report would be presented to the Executive once the human resources and governance issues were clearer.

Resolved –

- (1) That the formation of a Yorkshire and Humber adoption service as set out in Document “J” be approved.**
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director Children’s Services, in consultation with the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder to progress the development of the Yorkshire and Humber Hub and the West Yorkshire Adoption Agency and to proceed with the revised structure leading to the transfer of staff to Leeds City Council as the host of the West Yorkshire Agency with the new arrangements being in place for April 2017.**
- (3) That a further report be presented to the Executive prior to the implementation of the new arrangements, including details of proposed governance arrangements.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Children’s Services

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS PORTFOLIO

19. PROPOSED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY TEAM SPIN-OUT FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Strategic Director of Children’s Services presented a progress report on the proposal to spin out the Educational Psychology Team as an Employee Owned Mutual (**Document “K”**). The Strategic Director introduced the report and outlined the benefits of the proposals to develop the role of the Local Authority as commissioner of previously centrally held services and add social value to the district through attracting more skilled and experienced Educational Psychologists to the area.

Resolved -

That the final sign off of the proposal that the Education Psychology Team spins out of the LA as an Employee owned Mutual, in the form of a Community Interest Company, from 1st November 2016 be approved.

ACTION: Strategic Director Children’s Services

ENVIRONMENT, SPORT & CULTURE PORTFOLIO



20. UNAUTHORISED DEPOSIT OF WASTE (FIXED PENALTIES) REGULATIONS 2016

The Strategic Director Environment & Sport submitted a report (**Document “L”**) in which the Executive was asked to agree to the use of Fixed Penalty Notices for fly-tipping offences as provided for in the Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016.

The Environment, Sport and Culture Portfolio Holder welcomed the proposals and noted that Bradford was working with other authorities in West Yorkshire and Humberside to adopt a consistent approach to the unauthorised deposit of waste.

Resolved -

- (1) That the Strategic Director Environment and Sport be given delegated authority in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to implement the provisions within the Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016.**
- (2) That the Strategic Director Environment and Sport authorise in writing designated Council officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for fly-tipping and such officers will receive appropriate training.**
- (3) That the fixed penalty be set at £400 which will be reduced to £300 if the penalty is paid in full before the end of the period of 10 days following the date of the notice.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Environment & Sport

21. MINUTES OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY 31 MARCH 2016

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meetings of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority contained in Document “M” be noted.

NO ACTION

22. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved –

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item relating to the allocation of Basic Need Funding for a new primary school in Silsden (Not for publication Document “N”) on the grounds that it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or 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 excluding public access to the relevant part of the proceedings outweighs the interest in publication of the report.

23. ALLOCATION OF BASIC NEED FUNDING FOR A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SILSDEN

The report of the Strategic Director Children's Services (**Not For Publication Document "N"**) provided an overview of the various arrangements put in place to enable the replacement of Aireview Infants and Hothfield Junior schools with a new school building.

Resolved

That the allocation of basic need funding and other incomes towards the cost of the new school building be approved as set out in Not For Publication Document "N".

ACTION: Strategic Director Children's Services

Chair

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

