

## Minutes of a meeting of the Environment and Waste Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 23 January 2018 in Committee Room 4 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 5.30 pm  
Concluded 7.50 pm

### Present – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENT	GREEN
Gibbons Senior	A Ahmed Berry Mohammed Watson		Love Warnes

Observers: Councillor Ferriby, Portfolio Holder Environment, Sport & Culture, Councillor Ross-Shaw, Portfolio Holder Regeneration, Planning & Transport Councillor V Slater, Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing (Minute 52 only)

Apologies: Councillor Brendan Stubbs, Nicola Hoggart and Julia Pearson

### Councillor Love in the Chair

#### 48. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

#### 49. MINUTES

**Resolved –**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2017 be signed as a correct record.**

#### 50. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

#### 51. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no referrals made to the Committee.

#### 52. PROPOSED FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATED 2018/19 TO 2020/21

The report of the Strategic Director, Place, (**Document “X”**) presented budget proposals pertaining to the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee which were approved for consultation by the Executive on 5 December 2017.

Document “X” reiterated that the Council, during 2016, had embarked on an exercise to develop a financial plan to show how the forecast revenue budget deficit over four years would be closed.

Members were aware that, as stated in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), local government continued to face various challenges amidst a backdrop of uncertainty. As such, the four year plan must be monitored and action taken to reflect changes to the forecast position. The MTFS forecasted a financial gap of £12.4m in 2018/19 rising to £20.1m in 2019/20 and a potential gap of £45.8m by 2023/24.

The report made detailed proposals for refreshing the 2018/19 position and set out comprehensive plans for 2019/20.

For 2020/21 it indicated the level of affordable spending on Council priorities, and signalled the need for continuing engagement with stakeholders in developing plans and proposals for those years.

Appended to the report were specific proposals for recurring pressures and investment proposals; non recurring investment proposals; new proposals open for consultation until 28 January 2018; a schedule of proposals for 2019/20 open for consultation until 28 January 2018 and a schedule of amendments to previous budget decisions not subject to consultation.

The Strategic Director and officers explained those proposals in detail. Members acknowledged that the Committee were due to receive reports on a number of the topics, however, following that presentation they raised a number of issues and comments to which the following responses were provided:-

### **Appendix C: New Proposals Open for Consultation until 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

- Reduced de-trunked road maintenance

It was confirmed that it was more costly to close roads for maintenance during the night than through the day as there was a requirement for a Traffic Management Consultant to be on site during the closure. Efforts were made to co-ordinate maintenance activities during the closures and Traffic Management Consultants now offered a range of services. The guidance required accredited Traffic Management Consultants to be used which meant it was not possible to utilise Council officers for those positions.

### **Appendix D: Schedule of 2019/20 proposals open for consultation until 28<sup>th</sup>**



## January 2018 (2018/19 for reference only)

- Road Safety Team

Alternative sources of funding to continue the work of the Road Safety Team were being explored. If that funding could not be secured it may be necessary to reconfigure the composition of the team or combine with other West Yorkshire Local Authorities for the provision of the service. A joint service could now be provided with only two authorities involved. A report to consider progress against the Safer Roads element of the Single Transport Plan would be presented for discussion at the Committee's meeting on 27 March 2018.

Members acknowledged that an amalgamation of teams facing similar cuts could enable a larger team to be developed across the region and provide an opportunity for schools or other authorities to purchase provision which they could not provide themselves. It was acknowledged that such an arrangement would be good for the region as a whole.

- Bereavement Services

The Strategic Director did not have available at the meeting details of the reduced rates for the walling of graves to coffin height or the likely number of occurrences when the reduction would likely be applied. It was agreed that the information would be provided to Members.

The proposed above inflation increase in the charges for funerals would have little impact on the support provided for low cost funerals as that provision was only provided when the deceased had no means to pay and occurred infrequently. It was agreed to provide more details if Members wished to scrutinise that proposal more thoroughly.

- Street Lighting

It was confirmed that sodium bulbs were still utilised, however, these would soon cease to be manufactured and, therefore, efforts to remove that classification of bulb from the street lighting asset were being prioritised. LED lighting was more controllable and cast light more efficiently. Members' comments that usage but not energy cost could be controlled were acknowledged. There was potential "invest to save" with up to date, well specified, lighting requiring reduced energy across the district. The potential use of technology which could contact a lighting column and instruct it into use or to close was discussed. A future report on new technologies; controllability and usage would be provided to Members.

Reassurances were provided that public consultation would be undertaken and Members would be engaged in that process.

- Reduction in West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) Transport Levy



It was confirmed that decisions regarding the WYCA Budget were made by the WYCA Board. Recommendations were made through the Transport Board, however, Bradford was one of five local authorities and it was essential that the desire to reduce the levy was communicated at the appropriate level. The WYCA budget was set annually and Bradford was apportioned approximately a quarter of that share. Original proposals were to provide £750,000 but only £250,000 had been realised.

The Member who had taken a lead on Ilkley Parish Council's discussions surrounding the takeover of public conveniences commended officers for the efficient and reasonable approach taken during negotiations. In response the Strategic Director expressed the Council's gratitude to Parish and Town Councils, Friends of Groups and other interested community groups for their involvement in the management of public toilets.

Members acknowledged progress made towards the production of a strategy on proposals to limit or switch off street lights and to utilise emerging technology to reduce energy costs. They requested that once the strategy had been finalised a report to Members be provided.

**Resolved –**

**That the Strategic Director, Place, be requested to present the Street Lighting Strategy to the Committee for consideration at a future meeting.**

***Action: Strategic Director, Place***

### **53. BRADFORD FORSTER SQUARE FULL BUSINESS CASE PROCUREMENT**

The report of the Strategic Director, (**Document "Y"**) advised Members that officers had prepared a draft commissioning document for the development of a Full Business Case (FBC) for the Forster Square Station Gateway Project. The commission was likely to have a value in excess of £2m and as such must be seen by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Appendix to Document "Y" provided the draft wording for the Procurement Brief on the development of the FBC for the scheme. Members were asked to read through and comment upon the content of that Appendix. Officers would take account of comments made at the meeting and return the final version of the procurement documentation to the February meeting of the Committee.

Members questioned if there had been any indication of interest in the commission and were advised that officers were, in the course of their duties, in regular contact with the key players in the industry who were capable of delivering such a prestigious project. It was suspected that a number of the large consultant firms in the UK would express an interest.

Members expressed their appreciation that the project was progressing. It was believed that the development would provide a pleasing welcome to visitors



arriving in the city; would create business opportunities for the district and could assist the redevelopment of the top of the town area. The stylish and innovative designs were also commended.

In response to questions about the potential timescale of the project it was explained that it should commence in 2019 and be completed by 2021. It was acknowledged that problems could occur when working with the rail network and it was agreed that the commission included a requirement for a senior responsible person with experience of dealing with Network Rail to be nominated by each tenderer. That person would be responsible for driving the scheme through any Network Rail processes.

The ability to accurately calculate costs was discussed and Members were advised that indicative costs for the commission were within the FBC envelope. It was agreed that failure to deliver on time and within budget would not only be detrimental to the project but to the reputation of the authority.

**Resolved –**

**That the Strategic Director, Place, be requested to present the procurement documentation, in its final form, to the meeting on 20 February 2018.**

***Action: Strategic Director, Place***

#### **54. WORK PROGRAMME 2017/2018**

Members were reminded that a resolution had been passed by Council, at its meeting on 16 January 2018, requesting the Committee look at the matter of single use plastics in more depth cross party and make recommendations. A scrutiny review on Air Quality was also still to be scheduled on the work programme.

It was acknowledged that the review into air quality could be a larger body of work involving other Committees and bodies. It was agreed it would be prudent to undertake that work after the review of Single Use Plastics had been undertaken. Members were informed that Terms of Reference for the Single Use Plastics Review would be available at the next meeting.

**No resolution was passed on this item.**

Chair

**Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Environment and Waste Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee.**

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

