

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 5 February 2019 in City Hall Bradford

Commenced 10.30 am
Concluded 12.10 pm

Members of the Executive – Councillors

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

Observers: Councillors Pennington, M Pollard, Senior and Riaz Ahmed

72. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

- (i) The following members disclosed a personal interest in the item on the agenda relating to the Budget 2019 – 20 (Minute 79) and of the nature and description indicated by each category:
1. Members with a spouse, partner or close relative in the employment of the Council:

Cllr Imran Khan
Cllr Jabar
 2. Members employed by or who have a spouse, partner or close relative employed by a voluntary organisation/public body funded by the Council:

Cllr Imran Khan
 3. Members who occupied land or who had a spouse, partner or relative who did or who were directors of companies or sat on the management committee of an organisation that occupies land under a lease or licence granted by the Council:

Cllr Imran Khan
Cllr Ross-Shaw

4. Members of other public authorities:

Airedale Partnership:

Cllr Ross-Shaw

Bradford Business Improvement District:

Cllr Ross-Shaw

Bradford Economic Partnership:

Cllr Hinchcliffe

Cllr Ross-Shaw (Alt)

City Regions Board (LGA):

Cllr Hinchcliffe (VCh)

Drake and Tonson Foundation:

Cllr Farley– Not appointed by the Council but approached by the Chair.

Haworth Exhibition Trust:

Cllr Farley

Key Cities:

Cllr Hinchcliffe

Cllr I Khan

Leeds Bradford International Airport – Consultative Committee:

Cllr Ross-Shaw

Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership:

Cllr Hinchcliffe

Sir Titus Salt Trust:

Cllr Hinchcliffe

University of Bradford – Court:

Cllr Hinchcliffe

West Yorkshire Combined Authority:

Cllr Hinchcliffe (Chair)

Cllr I Khan (Alt)

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Inclusive Growth and Public Policy:

Cllr Ross-Shaw

West Yorkshire Combined Authority West Yorkshire & York Investment Panel:

Cllr Ross-Shaw

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Business Innovation and Growth Panel:

Cllr Ross-Shaw

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Business Investment Panel:

Cllr Ross-Shaw

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Employment Skills Panel:

Cllr Hinchcliffe

Cllr Imran Khan

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Governance and Audit:

Cllr Hinchcliffe

Cllr Imran Khan (Substitute)

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Green Economy Panel:

Cllr Ferriby

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Leeds City Region Partnership:

Cllr Hinchcliffe

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Place Panel:

Cllr Hinchcliffe
Cllr Ross-Shaw

West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee:

Cllr Hinchcliffe
Cllr Imran Khan

Wrose Carnival Management Committee:

Cllr Hinchcliffe
Cllr Ross-Shaw

Yorkshire Libraries and Information:

Cllr Ferriby

Yorkshire Regional Flood & Coastal Committee:

Cllr Farley (Sub Member)

5. Members who sit on the management committee/ trustee volunteer of a voluntary organisation in receipt of Council Funding:

Cllr Ferriby
Cllr Hinchcliffe
Cllr Jabar
Cllr Imran Khan

6. Members who are members of a Council funded organisation:

Cllr Imran Khan
Cllr Ross-Shaw

7. Members appointed by the Council to a public body with an interest in the Council's budget

Keighley Business Improvement District Board:

Cllr Ross-Shaw

- 8(i) Members who are appointed to external bodies

Bradford City Challenge Foundation Limited:
Cllr Imran Khan

Canal Road Urban Village:
Cllr Ross-Shaw

City of Film:
Cllr Ferriby

Friends of Brackenhill Park:
Cllr Jabar

Great Horton Partnership:
Cllr Jabar

Ummid/Himmat Management Board:
Cllr Jabar

8(ii) Other Interests:

Unison Calderdale
Cllr Jabar (Lab)

9. Members who are school governors:

Cllr Farley
Cllr Ferriby

10. Members entitled to receive an allowance paid by the Council

All members of the Executive in attendance.

11. All members who are in receipt of a West Yorkshire Pension Fund pension.

- (ii) The following Members of the Executive had also been granted dispensations under the Localism Act 2011 in relation to declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests relating to employment, sponsorship and land for the purposes of speaking and voting at this meeting in relation to the Budget 2019 – 20 (Minute 79):

Employment :

Councillors Imran Khan and Ross Shaw

Sponsorship:

Councillors Farley, Jabar, Imran Khan and Ross-Shaw

Land:

Councillors Farley, Ferriby, Hinchcliffe, Imran Khan, Ross-Shaw and Jabar

ACTION: City Solicitor

73. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

74. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

The following recommendations to the Executive were noted:

PETITION AGAINST CONSIDERATION OF LITTLEMOOR PARK AS A SITE FOR A NEW CREMATORIUM – Referred from Council 15 January 2019

Resolved -

That the petition be referred to the Executive.

ACTION: City Solicitor

In receiving the petition it was noted that a report on the Petition formed part of today's agenda.

75. PETITION AGAINST CONSIDERATION OF LITTLEMOOR PARK AS A SITE FOR A NEW CREMATORIUM

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document "AY"**) which set out a petition against consideration of Littlemoor Park as a site for a new crematorium which was received by Full Council on 15 January 2019 and referred for consideration to the Executive.

The petition related to the inclusion of Littlemoor Park as one of 2 sites under consideration for the building of a new crematorium to replace the facility at Scholemoor cemetery.

The Leisure Services Business Manager stated that Littlemoor Park was one of the sites identified within the Bereavement Strategy and that the Executive confirmed last month its intentions to retain options upon other sites, Littlemoor Park being one, until at least receipt of the full feasibility report.

There had been no material change in circumstances to suggest that removal from the list at this stage could be anything but prejudicial to the Council's overall aim to provide a fit for purpose crematoria service, and it is for these reasons that

the option to withdraw Littlemoor Park from the list of sites is not recommended at this time.

The Lead Petitioner was present at the meeting and made the following points:

- That pursuing this process not only exposes the Trustees and the Council to reputational risk, it destroys the legitimacy of any protective deeds, site statuses or the opinions of the Charity's beneficiaries.
- That using Littlemoor as a site for a cremation service would not only cause reputational risk and financial damage to the Council, you can add to that a complete loss of trust and confidence in the Council as well as the Trustees of the Park.
- That from a commercial perspective, keeping Littlemoor on the list would offer leverage in negotiations with the private site owner but this would be at the expense of the community.
- That the Executive confirmed last month to retain options upon other sites, with Littlemoor being one of them and despite highlighting constraints in out petition that weren't considered in the feasibility study, and despite local support, it states in the report that there had been no material change.
- That in the context of all that has been said, and all the constraints allude to Littlemoor should be removed from the list of sites.

The Leader stated that the Executive would not be the sole decision maker as ultimately the trustees would make the decision if the site were to progress.

The Healthy People and Place Portfolio Holder thanked the petitioners for raising the concerns and that these concerns would be looked at in detail. She stated that there was a need to replace outdated crematoria for the future of the district; adding that the feasibility will look at the feasibility of all the sites and until such time as the feasibility study is completed, Littlemoor Park will remain on the list of potential sites.

Resolved–

- (1) Executive notes the receipt of the petition and its content.**
- (2) Executive instructs the Strategic Director Place to ensure that the contents of the petition are considered within the current Feasibility Study.**
- (3) Executive instructs the Strategic Director Place to include the petition as part of the future report presenting recommendations for the potential locations to build crematoria in line with the Bereavement Strategy.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Environment

76. CONSIDERATION OF A PETITION IN RELATION TO HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT IN SHIPLEY

A petition was received by Full Council on 16 October 2018 and referred to Executive for consideration. This petition required the Council to respond to local concerns relating to the environment and health of residents in developing its proposals for the junction improvements at the site of the former Branch Public House and at the Otley Road / Valley Road junctions.

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “AU”**) which updated Executive on the actions taken in response to this petition and progress which had been made on developing proposals for this junction.

The Highways Services Engineer explained that the proposals for this junction were at a very preliminary stage and that there was an on going consultation, which had yielded a good response so far, with 750 questionnaires completed and over 6,500 visits to the website.

The Leader welcomed the good engagement work on the proposed scheme and that the aspirations set out in the petition were laudable aims.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder stated that the proposed scheme had to be looked at in the context of wider ambitions and development proposals for the area. In particular as this was a key gateway into the city, and that in the context of the Bolton Woods development there was a need to plan for infrastructure to facilitate this growth as well as address the issue of road congestion in this area.

Resolved –

(1) That Executive noted and supported:

- a) The arrangements for the engagement and consultation with the local community, commuters and other interested stakeholders which are currently on-going;**
- b) That the proposals for improvements associated with the Bradford to Shipley Route Improvement scheme are still being developed and that an outline strategy for the on-going engagement and participation of the affected communities has been identified.**
- c) That due consideration will be given to the concerns raised in the petition in developing proposals for the outline business case submission to the Combined Authority for the project.**

(2) That Executive receives a further report on the development of proposals for the Bradford to Shipley Route Improvement scheme prior to the submission of the Outline Business Case in order that the benefits in relation to improvements of journey times and the environment of Shipley, particularly those in close proximity to Shipley C of E Primary school, can be fully understood.

(3) That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

ACTION: Strategic Director of Place

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Environment

77. QUEENSBURY TUNNEL

Queensbury tunnel is a disused railway tunnel constructed in the 1870's situated between Bradford and Halifax which passes directly beneath Queensbury. The tunnel is approximately 2.3km in length and formed from masonry and brick arches which span some 8 metres. At its deepest the tunnel is 115 metres below the surface.

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document "AW"**) which outlined the key implications to the Council of taking over the ownership and responsibility for the tunnel to facilitate its ultimate conversion to a leisure cycling facility connecting Bradford and Halifax.

The Highways Services Engineer explained in detail the options as well as the funding requirements and opportunities for the scheme which were detailed in the report.

A Member of the Queensbury Tunnel Society was present at the meeting and stated that the Tunnel was the longest underground tunnel route in the country and that the Society and the people of Queensbury fully appreciated the financial constraints, however they were encouraged by the Council's mind set to explore the different possibilities. She added that the Society were keen to work with the Council and that the development potential of the tunnel concurred with Bradford's Local Plan, and that it would be transformational for Bradford and for future generations. That it would improve connectivity, reduce congestion on the Bradford South and Halifax routes, as well as reduce air pollution and bring immense health benefits to those who would use it as a cycle route. The heritage value of Queensbury tunnel was also alluded to. She welcomed the conversations the Council was having with Highways England and that despite the reports around the condition of the tunnel this could be rectified and abandonment would only increase the risk of subsidence and accelerate the decay, and she urged Members to actively pursue the opportunities for the scheme and safeguard the tunnel from abandonment.

A Ward Councillor for the area was present at the meeting and stated that the tunnel provided Bradford with a huge economic and leisure potential, and would encourage tourism, and he urged that all possibilities be explored to save it from abandonment.

The Leader of the opposition group was also present and in echoing the above sentiments, stated that we owed it to the people who built the tunnel, many of them who sadly lost their lives in its construction, to keep and develop the tunnel for future generations.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder stated that he

understood the passion and the potential the development of the tunnel could afford to the people of Queensbury and the wider district, and he affirmed that the Council would work with partners to try and secure the necessary funding for the project.

Resolved –

- (1) That Executive commend the work of Queensbury Tunnel Society in bringing forward the work which has been done to date to identify the issues and risks associated with the conversion of Queensbury Tunnel to a leisure cycling facility as well as their advocacy of the benefits of such a scheme to stakeholders.**
- (2) That Executive fully recognises and supports the benefits in saving the tunnel for the enjoyment of future generations and that its potential conversion to a leisure cycling facility connecting Bradford city centre and Halifax town centres.**
- (3) That Executive acknowledges that the offer of Historic Railways Estate to transfer ownership of the tunnel to the Council, together with the residual of any unspent abandonment funding, as a dowry for its future maintenance is an interesting proposition. But, given the indicative repair costs and funding gap identified for the stabilisation works, Executive reluctantly confirms that it is currently unable to agree to the proposed transfer of ownership.**
- (4) That the Strategic Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder continue to lobby Highways England / HRE to delay their abandonment works to allow the Council and its partners time to explore further potential sources of funding for the scheme through development of an advocacy document.**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Environment

78. MEETINGS OF COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE 2019/20

The City Solicitor submitted a report (**Document “AP”**) which recommended a schedule of ordinary meetings for Council and the Executive for the municipal year 2019-20.

Resolved –

- (1) That the schedule of meetings of the Executive for 2019-20 as set out in Appendix 1 to Document “AP” be approved.**
- (2) That it be a recommendation to the annual meeting of Council that the ordinary meetings of Council for 2019-20 as set out in Appendix 1 to Document “AP” be approved.**

ACTION: City Solicitor

LEADER OF COUNCIL & CORPORATE

(Councillor Hinchcliffe)

79. 2019-20 BUDGET UPDATE

On 4 December 2018 the Executive approved, amended and new, budget proposals for consultation as required with the public, interested parties, staff and the Trade Unions.

The Director of Finance submitted a report (**Document “AQ”**) which provided the Executive with an update on national announcements and local decisions since 4 December 2018. It also identified issues and uncertainties which could still have a bearing on the final size of the funding gap for the financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21 to be closed by Budget decisions.

The report set out details of the Local Government Settlement as well as one of monies that had been received from Central Government.

The Leader welcomed the report and stressed that this was now the 8th year of austerity and that it was becoming increasingly difficult to meet our objectives, particularly in the sphere of Adults and Children’s Social Care, with one off monies not really bridging the funding gap. In addition the fair funding review did not reflect Bradford’s needs and vulnerability were not taken up as a factor in the funding criteria, so these were tough times for resident, people in public services and for the country at large.

Resolved –

That the contents of Document “AQ” be noted and that Executive has regard to the information contained within Document “AQ” when considering the recommendations to make to Council on a budget for 2019/20 and budget proposals for 2020/21 at their meeting on 19 February 2019.

ACTION: Director of Finance

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

80. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK AND EQUALITY ASSESSMENT FOR THE 2019-20 COUNCIL BUDGET AND PROPOSALS FOR 2020-21 COUNCIL BUDGET

On 4 December 2018 the Executive approved new budget proposals for consultation with the public, interested parties, staff and the Trade Unions.

The Assistant Director, Office of the Chief submitted a report (**Document “AR”**) which provided feedback from the public engagement and consultation programme and sets out a summary of the equality assessments carried out on the Executive’s Budget proposals for 2019-20 and 2020-21. There was particular

reference to the Council's responsibilities under equality legislation to enable the Executive to have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty when considering its recommendations to Council on a budget for 2019-20 and proposals for 2020-21 budget.

The Assistant Director further tabled an addendum to the consultation document following the end of the consultation on 27 January 2019, the Council had received a further 588 comments on the budget proposals from people and groups. The proposals generating the most comments were regarding Welfare Advice and Customer Services; Libraries, Youth Service and the raise in Council Tax. It was stated that the Equality Impacts Assessments will be updated in light of the additional feedback received.

The Leader welcome the good number of responses received to the budget proposals and it was confirmed that the number of responses were slightly up from last year.

The Leader stated she looked forward to receiving the EIA's prior the next meeting of the Executive on 19 February.

Resolved –

That in accordance with Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Executive has regard to the information contained in Document "AR", appendices and equality assessments and the tabled addendum 1, when considering the recommendations to make to the Council on a budget for 2019-20 and proposals for 2020-21 on 21 February 2019.

ACTION: Chief Executive

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

81. INTERIM TRADE UNION FEEDBACK ON THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2019/20 AND 2020/21

The Director of Human Resources submitted a report (**Document "AS"**) which provided interim feedback from the Council's Trade Unions on the Council's budget proposals for 2019/20 and 2020/21 for consideration by Executive.

The Head of Human Resources stated that discussions on the budget proposals would continue with the Trade Unions and an update provided at 19 February meeting of the Executive.

The Leader took the opportunity to thank all staff for their hard work and dedication in the face of increasing demands, and in the midst of the austerity measure which had had a profound impact on the delivery of services.

Resolved –

That Executive has regard to the interim feedback received from the Council's Trade Unions in relation to the budget proposals when considering the recommendations to make to Council on a budget for 2019/20 and proposals for 2020/21 on 21 February 2019.

ACTION: Director of Human Resources

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

82. QTR. 3 FINANCE POSITION STATEMENT FOR 2018-19

The Director of Finance submitted a report (**Document "AT"**) which provided Members with an overview of the forecast financial position of the Council for 2018-19.

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

Based on the 31 December 2018 projection, the Council was forecasted to overspend the £358.1m net budget by £0.4m. The overspend related primarily to the area of Adults and Children's Social Care and in the Department of Place.

The Leader thanked the finance teams across the Council who were working hard to ensure the budget did not go into deficit, and she stressed that Councils had to balance its books at the end of the end of the financial year. She added that Councils were lobbying through the LGA to get adequate funding for adult social care.

Resolved –

- (1) That the report and the actions taken to manage the forecast overspend be noted**
- (2) That the following capital expenditure schemes be approved:**
 - £0.440m for additional works as part of the Council property programme and the Above Ground Fuel Storage scheme.**
 - £0.1m for a Café at Cartwright Hall subject to final PAG appraisal.**

ACTION: Director of Finance

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

REGENERATION, PLANNING & TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

(Councillor Ross-Shaw)

83. STREET LIGHTING INVEST TO SAVE STRATEGY

The Strategic Director of Place submitted a report (**Document “AV”**) which provided information to the Council’s Executive regarding the Street Lighting Invest to Save Strategy. It provided details of the Invest to Save project to replace all street lighting lanterns with energy efficient LED units and the replacement of life expired street lighting columns.

The installation of around 17,000 new columns and the replacement of all lanterns (around 59,000) will be undertaken via an external contractor over a four year period, although the maintenance will continue to be delivered by the in-house operational teams. The project was anticipated to cost in the region of £45.59m.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder welcomed the Strategy and thanked officers for the work done, adding that the economic and environmental benefits of the scheme would be significant and that it built on the ability to utilise smart technology as well as improving the street lighting across the district.

Resolved –

That the introduction of the Street Lighting Invest to Save project in the Capital Investment Plan be approved and proceed to implementation at the earliest possible opportunity.

ACTION: *Strategic Director Place*

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Environment

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO

(Councillor Farley)

84. PREVENTION AND EARLY HELP ESTATES STRATEGY

The Interim Strategic Director Children’s Services submitted a report (**Document “AX”**) which set out a proposed new model to support families and communities for the future, including proposed changes to how we provide the Children’s Centre core offer across the District).

As a result of consultation carried out between November 2017 and February 2018 on the creation of a new 0-19 years Prevention and Early Help service a

recommendation was taken to Executive in April 2018 that the use of buildings across the district be reviewed to look for ways in which the two year additional funding for staffing could be sustained through different use of buildings assets.

The report set out a proposal in relation to the buildings use within Prevention and Early Help Service and requested permission to go out to public consultation as recommended by Executive.

The Deputy Leader and Children and Families Portfolio Holder stated that the Strategy was aimed at bolstering frontline services and rationalising buildings, as some these building were not being utilised in the best way.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Interim Strategic Director for Children’s Services be authorised to commence a formal consultation on 12th February 2019 until 7th May 2019 on the proposals set out in Document “AX”.**
- (2) That the Executive receives a further report in July 2019 following formal consultation.**

ACTION: Interim Strategic Director for Children’s Services

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Children’s Services

Chair

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