

Decisions of the Council on Tuesday, 19 March 2019

These decisions are published for information in advance of the publication of the Minutes

Decisions

6. **PETITIONS**

Menston Primary School – Pedestrian Crossing

Resolved -

That the petition be referred to Shipley Area Committee.

ACTION: City Solicitor

Sun Lane, Burley in Wharfedale, Planning Inspectorate Public Inquiry

Resolved -

That officers be requested to arrange a local venue for the Sun Lane Planning Inspectorate Public Inquiry taking into account the petition and officers be reminded that the venue is the decision of the Local Planning Authority not the Planning Inspectorate.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

8. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES**

There were no appointments made to committees.

11. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES - GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2019/20**

Resolved –

That Governance and Audit Committee Document “AN” be adopted.

ACTION: Director of Finance

12. **COMPULSORY HOME EDUCATION REGISTER AND ACTION AGAINST "OFF-ROLLING"**

Resolved –

Nationally all Local Authorities (LAs) have seen a rise in Electively Home Educated (EHE) pupils. Bradford's approach is considered proactive, respecting the right of parents to home educate if they wish to whilst at the same time, seeking to make informal enquiries with all registered families as opposed to only taking action in respect of concerns raised.

This Council notes the call by the Children's Commissioner for a compulsory home education register in response to the rapid growth in home education and growing evidence of "off-rolling" by schools as a way of seeking to improve the school's league table position. This immoral behaviour is known to disproportionately affect children from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with Special Educational Needs.

This Council also notes in July 2018 the LA responded to the Department for Education's call for evidence stating the following in respect of registration: "Parents/carers can opt out and avoid scrutiny by a Local Authority. An advantage of mandatory registration is that LAs would have knowledge of all children in their area whose parents/carers have opted to home educate."

Currently the EHE team adopts a supportive approach to encourage parents/carers to register. Protocol determines schools cannot remove a pupil from their roll to EHE without confirmation from the Local Authority.

In respect of entering homes, the Local Authority responded with: "Monitoring is not currently permitted. Giving LAs power to monitor and visit the home at least annually to meet with the child would help the process of effective monitoring."

The current EHE team offers home visits to all families who are registered as EHE. We also offer to meet families in a neutral venue if they are not agreeable to officers entering their homes which presently they do not have to permit.

The Leader and Portfolio Holder wrote to the previous Secretary of State (SoS) when in power, highlighting the issues raised above and asked whether the SoS had any appetite for additional powers for LAs to enable more effective monitoring of EHE.

This Council further notes the resistance to the Badman Report in 2009 by other parties, who rejected the recommendations and effectively opposed the compulsory registration and monitoring of home educated children.

In 2017 data collected evidenced that some schools were 'off-rolling' pupils to EHE. The team has addressed this with schools, offering challenge to leadership teams where patterns of off-rolling are identified. The team interrogates each registration to EHE from a school to reassure that it is parental choice to Electively Home Educate. The locally agreed fair access protocol means that where a parent reapplies for a school place following a period of EHE they will be admitted to the previous school's roll.

This Council:

- 1. Respects the right of parents to choose to educate their children at home.**
- 2. Resolves to share the letter and response between the Council and SoS with all elected members**
- 3. Notes the consultation and ‘call for evidence’ and awaits the outcome of the consultation and its intended next steps.**
- 4. Resolves to continue the good work currently being undertaken locally within the current legal parameters.**
- 5. Will challenge schools including academies if evidence is found that they are off-rolling and take action accordingly.**

ACTION: Interim Strategic Director Children’s Services

12. SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS

Resolved –

Council notes the successful transfer of assets from the authority to local communities and applauds the efforts and commitment of local people who have taken over management of public halls, libraries and other facilities.

Council recognises the support given to these transfers and other social businesses in the District by voluntary sector infrastructure organisations and funders including the National Lottery as well as by officers from across the Council.

Council recognises that access to finance and business planning remains a challenge for groups wanting to take control of community assets or to develop facilities for their local neighbourhood.

Council request that the Strategic Director for Place and the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources draw up proposals for consideration by the Executive as follows:

- 1. An affordable loan product making use of Council prudential borrowing powers and drawing on the successful model developed for Cullingworth Village Hall**
- 2. A toolkit for local groups considering asset transfers or development projects that provides advice on planning, licensing, building control and the Council’s approach to using its assets for community purposes**
- 3. Options for applying Community Infrastructure Levy (or other proceeds from planning gain) to the development of new or transferred community facilities**
- 4. A plan for raising awareness of finance options and opportunities throughout the District’s voluntary and community sector.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place/Strategic Director Corporate Resources

12. **SCHOOL ADMISSIONS**

Resolved –

Council notes that:

1. In March 2018 the Executive approved an increase in places for Low Ash Primary School from 60 to 90, to start in September 2019.
2. Recently notification has been received that this increase in numbers is not required this year due to the fact that proposed housing developments, which were expected to increase the demand on school places, have not yet begun construction.
3. A referral will be sent to the Schools Adjudicator week commencing 25 March following modelling of allocations for September 2019. The results of this modelling will be included in the referral. The school, surrounding schools and the Council are all in agreement with the proposal so there is no reason to think the Schools Adjudicator should disagree.
4. There has been no increase in the overall number of preferences for Low Ash this year. Low Ash is a Good school and used to be the only Good school in the area, this is now no longer the case with other local primary schools now having also achieved this Good Ofsted rating as well as Low Ash.
5. The school forecasting process is continually reviewed and updated. Schools all over the district have changed their PANs.

Council resolves to:

Await the outcome of the Schools Adjudicator's decision and then review the situation at the school in conjunction with the Governing Body for future years.

ACTION: Interim Strategic Director Children's Services

12. **TACKLING YOUTH CRIME**

Resolved –

We support the police completely in their action of bringing to justice the youths who committed the brutal attack in City Park on 24th February. We want to see justice served and welcome the three arrests that have been made.

We condemn mindless violence wherever it happens but it is particularly distressing when we see it happening in our city and town centres. These are familiar places we all own and where we feel at home. No one, whoever they are, has the right to inhibit others from using that space comfortably and without fear. Our city and town centres belong to all of us, not to a

mindless few.

We see serious youth crime rising in other parts of the country. We must act quickly to make sure that in the Bradford District our young people are diverted from such dangerous activity.

There has been an announcement in the last few weeks that the police are increasing the Police precept on Council Tax for Bradford residents. Next year this will increase by £24 on a band D property. We want to see all this money being spent on front line policing officers who will bolster the prevention of and reaction to crime, and particularly on youth-on-youth offences.

We know that when communities and agencies come together, we can have a positive impact in our neighbourhoods and public spaces. Bonfire Night was one such example when communities worked as one and engaged with young people on the night with the result that incidences of anti-social behaviour were reduced.

We are concerned that nine years of Tory Government austerity has seriously damaged the fabric of society. Council, police, probation and judiciary have all had huge cuts to their services and in growing cities like ours, this kind of public service attrition is having a major impact.

We call on the Government to restore levels of funding for the police and for the council.

We resolve to:

- **Demand more action to prevent our young people coming to harm.**
- **Call on parents and carers to partner with us and other public agencies in preventing their children from being involved in incidents that we all witnessed in City Park.**
- **Convene town centre summit meetings with the BIDs and local agencies to refresh plans in place to tackle anti-social behaviour.**
- **Use our youth service to engage more extensively in town centres with our young people, as has been done in Shipley so that young people can be diverted towards more positive activities.**
- **Review the offer being provided by our Youth Offending Team to see what more can be done to turn young people away from crime.**

ACTION: Interim Strategic Director Children's Services/Strategic Director Place

12. APPRENTICESHIPS KEY TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Resolved –

We note the success of National Apprenticeship Week between 4th and 8th March and associated promotional activity across the district.

The Council supported various local initiatives to promote apprentices including:

- **Promoting the excellence of our Council Apprentice of the Year, Afzal Khalifa. He featured on Cabinet Office and DWP social media**
- **The Council's 300th apprentice has been a milestone to celebrate and has been an opportunity to hold information sessions for managers to further support new apprenticeship opportunities in the Council – we are working towards a target of 500 apprentices employed in the Council and maintained schools by 2021**
- **The Lord Mayor visited Skills for Work, the Council's apprenticeship delivery arm**
- **An SME event was held at City Training Services, and the Employer Pledge Evening**
- **Joint events were organised with regional partners**
- **The big screen in City Park promoted the benefits of apprenticeships and local apprenticeship opportunities.**

This Council believes that high-quality apprenticeships are a vital ingredient in driving an inclusive and prosperous economy, as well as an excellent way of providing opportunity for young and older people alike. For young people apprenticeships offer the opportunity to gain skills and improve their chances of embarking on a great career; for older people apprenticeships can also be an opportunity to take their career in a fulfilling new direction.

We note the poor implementation of the Apprenticeship Levy. And that 95% of levy-paying employers were not able to spend their full allowance in the first year of operation which means that just £268 million was spent by levy-paying employers on apprentices. This equates to just 13% of the Treasury's £2.01 billion apprenticeships budget.

This Council:

- **Commends local businesses and organisations which already offer a range of high-quality apprenticeships to people across the district**
- **Encourages all businesses and organisations to provide good apprenticeships**
- **Renews its commitment to being an example of best practice and employing 500 apprentices across our workforce by 2021**
- **Calls on Government to fully devolve the planning and funding of the apprenticeship system to local authorities.**
- **That the Government immediately introduce reforms that will devolve Apprenticeship Levy to local areas and to introduce greater flexibility for employers and learners. We must invest in human capital at this**

crucial juncture in our country's history.

*ACTION: Chief Executive/Assistant Director Children's Services
(Performance, Commissioning and Partnerships)*

13. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019/20

Resolved –

That the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2019/20, as set out at Appendix 1 to Document "U", be approved.

ACTION: Director of HR

FROM: Parveen Akhtar
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City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

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