

# Minutes of a meeting of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 26 February 2019 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 1830  
Concluded 2015

## Present – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	GREEN
Heseltine Whitaker	Dodds Berry Jamil Mohammed Salam	R Ahmed	Love

Apologies: Councillor Stubbs

Observers: Portfolio Holder, Regeneration, Planning and Transport

## Councillor Jamil in the Chair

### 62. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Salam disclosed an interest in Item 6, “Regeneration – Update On Activity In Keighley And Shipley” (Minute 66) as he was employed by West Yorkshire Metro.

Councillor Berry disclosed an interest in Item 6, “Regeneration – Update On Activity In Keighley And Shipley” (Minute 66) as he was a Worth Valley Road Member and a shareholder.

***ACTION: City Solicitor***

### 63. MINUTES

Resolved –

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July, 18 September, 2 October, 23 October and 20 November 2018 be signed as correct records.**

***ACTION: City Solicitor***

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

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

**No Action**

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

There were no referrals submitted to this Committee.

**No Action**

#### 66. REGENERATION - UPDATE ON ACTIVITY IN KEIGHLEY AND SHIPLEY

This report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document "AI"**) updated the Scrutiny Committee on progress with regeneration in Keighley and Shipley.

The Assistant Director, Economy and Development, Programme Delivery Manager and the Project Development Manager were present and invited by the Chair to introduce the report to the Committee. It was explained that Bradford was one of the biggest and fastest growing districts in the UK and the youngest city in the UK. Business success, jobs growth, skills and improved transport connectivity were essential to the city's ambition to be the UK's fastest growing economy over the coming decade.

A scheme to undertake land use studies covered three key employment areas in the District's main urban centres of Bradford, Keighley and Shipley in order to produce area improvement plans that would increase. The Council's Economic Development Service would procure consultants to assist in carrying out land use studies, market research and development planning exercises. These will produce medium term improvement plans to make each zone more attractive and efficient locations for business to operate and invest in. They will encourage the reuse and development of employment sites and existing premises and increase the choice for businesses seeking to expand and relocate within the District. Work on the studies would take place over this year with final reports expected by September 2019.

Following synopsis of the report, a question and answer session ensued:

- Would consultants be procured into the scheme and what would be the likely cost to the Council?
  - Yes but costs were unknown at present as the process was still ongoing;
- What process had been decided for the buildings that had been derelict for some time?
  - The District Growth Scheme offered incentives in the form of business rates relief to companies creating new developments, taking on vacant listed properties and bringing empty town centre units back into economic use;
- What other activities were being carried out?

- The works compound at the end of the former college site had been retained to facilitate the demolition of the Cavendish Street building as previously requested by the Scrutiny Committee. Planning permission for the demolition had been granted and preparatory work had been underway. The demolition work would be tendered in early 2019 and it was proposed that demolition will commence later in the year;
- Land for shopping developments had been cleared and on standby for several years. What were next stages of the scheme?
  - Demolition had been undertaken but there was still some demolition works remaining;
- Had other uses been considered opposite to the retail development?
  - Discussions were still to take place;
- In relation to Growth Schemes and Pennine Projects funding, what would happen to funding if not spent?
  - The funding is well used and awareness of schemes is engaged with local businesses including the invitation extended to Ward Members to get involved;
- Who was responsible for carrying out the planning stage of works?
  - Engineers, specialists and consultations undertaken by consultants;
- How would the outstanding fund of £2.4m?
  - Discussions were still ongoing in relation to the match funding;
- The objectives of the project were to relieve congestion and improve journey times along the Canal Road / Valley Road corridor and to deter traffic away from the Manningham Lane. How would this be achieved?
  - By making the corridor more attractive for walking, cycling including greater access to public transport.
  - The inclusion of ensuring the network being more reliable was also paramount;
- What was being considered for ensuring more jobs in Bradford for the Bradford residents?
  - By making improvements to local development zones through land assembly, working with land owners and addressing transport needs for the purpose of creating jobs that are accessible;
- How were concerns being addressed about the age profile of managerial and technical staff in the sector and associated risk of the potential loss of expertise at retirement?
  - This was being addressed by boosting the profile and reputation of the sector through the Centre of Excellence;
- Was there any information on the replacement of European Funding after March 2019?
  - The government was dealing with a large funding source to address social and economic issues;
- There was a lack of detail in relation to the Crag Road site?
  - Due to health and safety issues and the fact that the site was in private ownership; and,
- Was dialogue with private landowners ongoing or was the Council waiting to be contacted by them?
  - The Council had contacted land owners and expressed a desire to be kept informed.

The Committee acknowledged that it was imperative that new regeneration was

right on a logistical basis in order to attract businesses to the city and create further jobs. It was clear that these schemes were about connecting communities for access to employment and therefore congratulated the officers on the work addressed to date.

**Resolved –**

**That the Committee thanks officers for Document “AI” and welcomes the many positive developments highlighted within the report.**

***LEAD: Strategic Director, Place***

**67. GET BRADFORD WORKING AND SKILLS FOR WORK UPDATE**

The report of the Interim Strategic Director, Children’s Services (**Document “AJ”**) provided an update on Get Bradford Working and Skills for Work and provides details of achievements and future plans.

The Assistant Director, Performance, Commissioning and Partnerships was in attendance and invited by the Chair to introduce the report. She explained that Get Bradford Working drew together key initiatives which tackled the issues and barriers facing Bradford’s residents in the labour market. GBW represented in excess of £16.5 million of investment, by Bradford Council and partners including: Jobcentre Plus; Incommunities; and Leeds City Region.

The Assistant Director was accompanied by Afzal Khalifa. He stated that making a decision about how to start your career could be a difficult task however there were lots of different options available for young people to gain a starting boost in their careers. Afzal had been successful in being awarded the Apprentice of the Year.

A question and answer session ensued:

- In relation to the programme that had focused on supporting 19-24 year olds into employment and the promotion of Apprenticeships to young people and businesses, how many young people continued with their employment?
  - Between 2,000 and 3,000 young people continued in employment;
- How were people with convictions being assisted?
  - The Council has trained advisors on the team who engaged with employers to give people second chances in their lives to better themselves;
- Was there advice available for individuals with convictions to help them move forward in life?
  - How ex offenders should be supported was continuously being addressed. The Council’s recruitment processes were also being looked at;
- How were jobs and opportunities being addressed to meet the needs of today’s society?
  - The Centre of Excellence had been launched in September at the art gallery which entailed engagement on a creative level with representatives from diverse companies. The Get Bradford Working

and Skills for Work had been focused on 14-19 year olds provision through a more holistic approach with higher national skills by engaging with the NHS, CCGs and other care providers so that young people had the skills to meet the needs of new jobs;

- Had discussions taken place with the armed forces in regards to people returning back to Bradford but finding it difficult to adjust to normal society?
  - This had not been considered but would be explored;
- There was a high level of unemployment in the West Constituency. Had there been any engagement work with parent involvement?
  - Yes there had been parent involvement and further work was still planned; and,
- How were parents being engaged?
  - Through educational materials, designing of pamphlets containing various careers and providing clear and concise advice.

During the discussion the following comments were made:

- For the success of future planning, it was important to engage with the Probation, Armed and the Prison Service so that people who are lacking the essential skills for employment be assisted and supported;
- A difference to the quality of life is made to individuals who have taken part;
- Bradford was lagging behind Leeds and this was due to lack of creation of new jobs;
- Leeds was a city on a larger scale and could not be compared to Bradford;
- Women deserved to be treated with greater respect in order for them to become even more confident so that they could drive themselves forward to drive them forward;
- Despite being hit hard with the reductions of levels of funding, it was still about changing attitudes of all involved; and,
- This was a fantastic model and it was paramount that it be shared for good practice through publicity.

**Resolved –**

- (1) That Afzal Khalifa be congratulated on his Apprentice of the Year Award.**
- (2) That the Committee notes the content of the report and welcomes the continued success of Get Bradford Working in providing access to employment opportunities for those living within Bradford and the District.**
- (3) That the continued success of Skills for Work and its delivery of learning and apprenticeships across the District be welcomed.**
- (4) That the Members of the Committee agree to promote Get Bradford Working (GBW) and Skills, Training and Employment Pathways (STEP) within their networks.**
- (5) That officers make arrangements for the Committee to visit one of**

the Industrial Centres of Excellence.

- (6) That reports detailing (a) Skills for Work and, (b) Progress against the Workforce Development Plan be presented to the Committee in 12 months.

*ACTION: Interim Strategic Director, Children's Services*

68. **REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19**

**Resolved –**

That the 2018/19 Work Programme continued to be regularly reviewed during the year.

*ACTION: Overview and Scrutiny Lead*

Chair

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

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