

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 8 October 2019 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 10.30 am
Concluded 11.25 am

Members of the Executive – Councillors

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

Observers:

Apologies:

36. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor I Khan disclosed a pecuniary interest in the item relating to Update on Bradford Council's Preparations for Brexit (Minute 41) as he was employed by an organisation that was in receipt of finance from the Council under the EU Settlement Scheme and he withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

37. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2019 be signed as a correct record.

38. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

39. **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE**

**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 12 September 2019
GAMBLING IN THE BRADFORD DISTRICT**

Resolved –

- (1) That this Committee requests that the final Local Area Profile be presented to this Committee at its meeting on 14 November 2019.
- (2) That this Committee requests that a cross departmental and cross organisational plan be presented to this Committee on 14 November 2019, which focuses specifically on the issues identified in the Local Area Profile and also identifies other potential populations that could be deemed to be at risk.
- (3) That this Committee requests that representatives from treatment services and the Gambling Commission be requested to attend the meeting in November 2019.
- (4) **That this Committee requests that the Executive consider organising a cross sector group conference to examine the issue of problem gambling in the Bradford district and to also explore local solutions.**

NOTE: In receiving the recommendation contained in (4) above the Leader undertook to meet the Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss how to take the recommendation forward.

ACTION: *Strategic Director Place*

**REGENERATION, PLANNING & TRANSPORT
PORTFOLIO**

(Councillor Ross-Shaw)

40. **OBJECTIONS IN RELATION TO THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ON-STREET
PARKING PLACES CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2015**

The report of the Strategic Director of Place (**Document “U”**) requested that any objections received in relation to the amendments to the On-Street Parking Places Consolidation Order 2015, be considered by the Strategic Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder. This would require authority from the Executive to delegate consideration of objections to the proposal and enable decisions to be made regarding whether the Order was sealed as advertised or if any modifications were to be made before implementation.

The Opposition Group Leader attended the meeting and spoke about parking issues in Bingley and Ilkley to illustrate his opposition to the proposals for the City Centre. He was of the opinion that any additional income would be depleted by the cost of implementing the proposals and that increased charges would deter visitors.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder reminded him that the proposals were to implement a budget decision and that no alternative plans had been put forward. He considered that the charges were not unreasonable and were in line with other cities and towns in the Country. He stressed that the proposals were designed to achieve a turn over of parking and manage premium parking spaces in the City Centre which would be beneficial for businesses.

The Leader and the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder stressed the importance of making Bradford a destination and referred to initiatives such as Sparkling Bradford that had led to an increase in footfall.

Resolved -

That consideration of objections to the Schedule as outlined in 9.1 – On Street Parking Places, shown in Appendix A to Document “U” , be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with power to seal the Order as advertised or make any modifications before implementation.

ACTION: Strategic Director of Place
Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny

LEADER OF COUNCIL & CORPORATE

(Councillor Hinchcliffe)

NOTE

The following item is included on this agenda as an exceptions to the Forward Plan in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 10 (General Exception to the Forward Plan) of Part 3D of the Constitution.

41. UPDATE ON BRADFORD COUNCIL'S PREPARATIONS FOR BREXIT

A report was submitted (**Document “V”**) that provided an assessment on the latest position of our businesses, residents and service providers in preparing for Brexit. It was noted that the report was prepared on the 25 September and was up to date at the time of writing.

The Government was committed to leaving the EU on 31 October, with or without a deal. Bradford Council’s preparations were aimed at ensuring that services, residents, businesses and partners were supported through Brexit. This

preparation continued to follow the key themes and actions outlined in the Brexit Preparedness Report approved by Executive on the 5 March 2019.

The Government had also issued a further £104,000 to support the Council to prepare for Brexit. The report recommended that this money be held in readiness to deploy to cover eventualities which the Council may need to react to over the coming weeks in this fast changing environment.

Members were advised that the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources had been identified as Brexit Lead Officer to act as a link to national Government and co-ordinate all Brexit preparations at a District level.

The Head of Policy and Performance reported that 5,270 of the 37,000 EU citizens living in the District had applied for Settled or Pre-Settled Status. He added that local social care providers had been surveyed to assess their readiness for Brexit and that 84% of those providers that had replied employed less than 10% of their staff from EU nationalities.

The Leader underlined the importance of planning in such uncertain times. She stressed that EU citizens living in the District were welcome and that there was a need to ensure that they stayed and contributed to the economy of the District. The Neighbourhoods and Community Safety Portfolio Holder reiterated that EU citizens living in Bradford were valued but noted that a significant number had not yet applied for Settled Status and gave an assurance that they would be supported in this process. The Head of Policy and Performance acknowledged that this was a high priority and commented that the Authority was working with partner organisations regarding vulnerable groups and Settled Status. Particular issues faced by vulnerable residents were being raised with the Home Office and different methods of communication were being rolled out.

The Stronger Communities Delivery Co-ordinator advised members that the Authority supported VCS organisations working as community hubs offering support and guidance on the EU Settlement Scheme. He added that funds had been made available to gain level 1 advice worker status at these centres. He noted that all leaflets and posters were available on the Council web site. He explained that families in the West Bowling area were being visited in their homes, organisations were visiting factories in Keighley and the Authority was working through schools to reach parents to provide advice and guidance on Settled Status. He reported that the Roma community had been identified as the group most likely to require more intensive support but noted that there were fewer groups that provided this higher level of advice. It was acknowledged that the support provided in this District had been recognised nationally.

The Leader noted that if there was a hard Brexit at the end of October there would be an increase in demand for services and that finance could be directed to areas of most need.

The Children and Families Portfolio Holder asked about the 84 looked after children in the District who could apply for settled status and for whom the Council has a statutory responsibility. In response he was advised that the Authority had a statutory duty to ensure that looked after children had settled status and that the Government would allocate additional finance for the purpose but that the

exact amount was not known at this time. The deadline to obtain settled status was by the end of December 2020 if there was a no deal Brexit, and summer 2021 if there was a deal. The Portfolio Holder would be kept up to date on progress in this regard.

The Healthy People and Places Portfolio Holder asked a question regarding the vulnerability of the health and social care workforce to loss of EU staff. In response it was noted that only 3% of the social care workforce in the District were EU nationals as compared to 6% nationally. An assurance was given that the provision of food for care homes and schools was secure. She also asked about the continued supply of medicines and was informed that the NHS had confirmed that if behaviour remained as at present, then the supply of medicines should continue. The NHS advice was not to stock pile medicines. Emergency powers were in place to give priority to medicines that were being imported, most of which came through the port of Dover.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder stressed the importance of the Get Ready for Brexit campaign and the need for businesses to engage and make preparations.

Reference was made to the delay in consultations on the Shared Prosperity Fund which had been raised with Government on a number of occasions.

Resolved –

- (1) That the additional £104,000, awarded by Government in August 2019 to help with Brexit preparations, be held in readiness to deploy to cover eventualities which the Council may need to react to over the coming weeks in this fast changing environment.**
- (2) That each Portfolio Holder be kept updated on the areas of concern expressed at the meeting.**
- (3) That a further report be presented to the Executive following Brexit.**

ACTION: Chief Executive
Corporate/All Overview & Scrutiny Committees

42. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved –

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of Not for Publication Document “W” relating to Partner Future Pension Arrangements on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings, that if they were present, exempt information within paragraphs 3 and 5 (financial or business affairs and legal privilege) 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 allowing the public to remain is outweighed by the public interest

in excluding public access to the relevant part of the proceedings for the following reasons:

It is in the public interest in maintaining these exemptions because it is in the overriding interest of proper administration that Members are made fully aware of the financial and legal implications of any decision.

43. PARTNER FUTURE PENSION ARRANGEMENTS

The report of the Director of Finance (**NOT FOR PUBLICATION Document “W”**) set out the considerations in respect of a request for the Council to guarantee pension arrangements (by way of subsumption) of another body within the West Yorkshire Pension Fund.

Resolved –

That consideration of this item be deferred to the meeting of the Executive on 5 November 2019.

ACTION: Director of Finance
Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Chair

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

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