

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 5 November 2019 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 10.30 am
Concluded 12.00 pm

Members of the Executive – Councillors

LABOUR
Hinchcliffe
I Khan
Ross-Shaw
Ferriby
Jabar
Farley

Observers: Councillors Pennington and Kyle Green

Councillor Hinchcliffe in the Chair

44. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

45. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

46. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

COUNCIL MEETING – 14 OCTOBER 2019 - PETITION RE MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES SERVICE

The Council, at its meeting on Tuesday 14 October 2019 received a petition in respect of Museums and Libraries Service and referred the petition to the Executive.

Note: In receiving the above petition the Leader stated that it should be considered as part of the Budget Consultation report at the December meeting, and that the lead petitioner be advised accordingly.

ACTION: Assistant Director Sports and Culture

47. **PROTECTING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS AT RISK OF EXPLOITATION**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (**Document “Z”**) which provided an update to and built on the report presented to the Executive on 6th November 2018 and subsequently to the district’s Area Committees regarding the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). It now focused on the strategic response to all forms of exploitation in Children and Adults and how partners were working together to safeguard children – the Bradford Partnership and the Bradford Safeguarding Adults Board work to drive improvements across the district and to hold agencies to account for their work in their area. The report also outlined the emergence of other complex safeguarding themes and outlined how partners were effectively collaborating and focussing upon the protection of vulnerable children and adults.

The Chief Executive stressed that this was a significant annual report setting out what the Council and its Partners were doing to protect vulnerable children and adults. The report was a testimony to the work done to strengthen our safeguarding arrangements and how the strong partnership work was paying dividend. One of the emerging agendas in line with other cities in the country was the issue of county lines, where drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs.

A number of partner organisations were present at the meeting, including West Yorkshire Police and Barnardos, who gave an overview of the work done by them.

Overall good progress had been made in Bradford to tackle the issue of exploitation, although there had been a downturn in some areas of risk such as the criminal exploitation of children, the work of the Partnership was to build on the achievements and not be complacent in any way.

Significant challenges remained in the area of adults and this was a new emerging piece of work which the Partnership would build on.

The West Yorkshire Police representative stated that the work done in the district was exemplary, with keen interest from other parts of the country on how we were tackling the issue of CSE in the Bradford district. She alluded to the figures set out in the report and commended the excellent partnership work.

In response to a question by the Leader on the work being undertaken in the area of Adults, the Police representative stated that the exploitation routes in the area of adults was similar to Children’s, with vulnerability being the key factor and furthermore County Lines was a particular growing area of activity, with vulnerable adults used in the illicit drugs trade. In essence the all age approach as well as identifying and tackling risks and ensuring there was a good reporting mechanism were in place to deal with the problem.

Representatives from Barnardos alluded to the engagement work they had done with children around relationships, self esteem, drugs, criminality and CSE, and as result there had been some good outcomes, including some one to one work with certain children who were identified to be at greater risk. It was stressed that the voice of the young person was a key element of the work done by Barnardos.

The Leader acknowledged the valuable work undertaken by all Partners, and that awareness was key in tackling issues across the board as well as enabling young people to articulate their concerns.

The Children and Families Portfolio holder in welcoming the report and progress made stated that the report highlighted the issues we faced as a district and in no way were we complacent in tackling what was a very serious issue. He thanked Partners for the work done and that there was now a better understanding of the risks and that the assessments undertaken were now more thorough, which could only be seen as a positive.

The Police representative acknowledged that the depth of knowledge in this area had improved significantly and this would better ensure that we managed risk more effectively.

In response to a question regarding the work done around criminal activity, the Police representative stated that Home Office funding had enabled some targeted work to be done in the district to support families and individuals at risk and that some of this work had yielded some positive results.

In response to a question regarding work done with perpetrators, it was acknowledged that this area of work was difficult and that outcomes amongst this group were generally poor.

It was also highlighted that capturing the children's voice presented particular challenges, but was crucial in tackling exploitation. In addition some work was also being undertaken with young men around boundaries and acceptable relationships.

The Police representative also stressed that tougher sentences for slavery and trafficking offences acted as a good deterrent.

The Healthy People and Places Portfolio Holder thanked officers for broadening the report to include vulnerable adults and she questioned what the concept of "cuckooing" meant . In response it was explained by the Police representative that "cuckooing" referred to criminal activity where criminals commandeered a vulnerable adults home and then operated drug dealing and other criminal activity from that property. Some engagement work in this area had been done, and it was stressed that any suspicious activities or concerns should be reported to the Police or through Crimestoppers.

In response to a question regarding identifying signs of those at risk, the Police representative stated that vigilance was key as well as identifying anything out of the ordinary.

The Deputy Leader stated that he was encouraged by the work done by Partners and the progress made in tackling CSE, and that the e-safeguarding training figures in schools were also encouraging.

The Leader thanked officers and Partners for attending the meeting and providing a detailed explanation of the work being undertaken to protect children and vulnerable adults at risk from exploitation, adding that this was an important issue that needed continued focus as well as tackling issues around modern slavery.

Resolved –

- (1) That the contents of Document “Z” be endorsed.**
- (2) That the Executive shall receive a further update on the progress of the response to exploitation in 12 months time.**
- (3) That subsequent reports be provided to Area Committees.**

ACTION: Chief Executive

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Children’s Services

48. QTR. 2 FINANCE POSITION STATEMENT FOR 2019-20

The Director of Finance submitted a report (**Document “X”**) which provided Members with an overview of the forecast financial position of the Council for 2019-20.

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 reserves and forecasted school balances for the year.

It was reported that based on a projection at September 30th 2019, the Council was forecasted to underspend the £359.9m net revenue budget (£1.123bn gross budget) by £0.1m. Children’s Services were forecasting to overspend the £97.4m net expenditure budget by £8.5m, due mainly to a £9.0m forecast overspend on Children’s Social Care linked to increasing numbers of Looked After Children (LAC) and Children requiring support.

The Leader welcomed the news regarding the underspend on the overall budget, but acknowledged that pressures remained particularly in the area of Children’s Social Care. The Leader alluded to how cuts in Local Government funding over the years had impacted severely on Council services, and that although the figures showed an underspend, this was not without pain.

She urged that Government needed to understand the challenges facing Local Government, particularly in the area of Children's Social Care and that investment was needed to ensure the best outcomes for our children, adding that one off monies did not adequately cover the shortfall, however she thanked officers and services for their effort on making the necessary savings and ensuring that the budget was on target.

An Ilkley Ward Councillor was present and stated that he welcomed the investment proposals for Ilkley Lido and he urged that some further discussions should be had regarding development of the Pavilion and how the works could be funded. The Leader started that these could be explored in further discussions between the Councillor and the portfolio holder.

Resolved –

- (1) That the contents of this report and the actions taken to manage the forecast overspend be noted.**
- (2) That the following capital expenditure schemes be approved:**
 - **£0.04m for the completion of drainage works at Dow Park Water Activities Centre, to be funded from the general contingency budget.**
 - **£0.46m to replace the pool tank at Ilkley Lido. This will be funded by a mixture of general contingency and as an invest to save scheme with the additional income funding the capital spend.**
 - **£1.2m of additional funding to complete Adults Residential and Extra Care Schemes . This will be funded by a mixture of Service Prudential borrowing and additional grant.**
 - **£1.75m for the completion of the Affordable Housing Programme 2015-18. The additional spend will be funded by Service Prudential borrowing from rental income.**
 - **£0.3m to extend the fitness facilities at Shipley Pool. This will be funded by the additional income generated through increased membership.**
 - **£0.05m to replace and repair the roof on a property that the Council leases. The works would be funded from the general contingency line of the Capital Investment Programme.**
 - **£1.4m to relocate the Schools Meals Central Production Unit to a smaller more efficient property. The works to the Council property will be funded by a mixture of capital receipt, revenue contributions and corporate funding.**
 - **£2.1m for the 2019-20 IT capital programme. It will be funded from revenue resources.**

ACTION: Director of Finance

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

49. MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Chief Executive submitted a report (**Document “Y”**) which provided a summary of progress in the first half of the year against the Council’s key performance indicators. A PowerPoint presentation set out the key achievements to date.

The Leader stated that in spite of the challenges, the achievements were good and she acknowledge the collaborative work with Partners, adding that although good progress had been made in terms of education, attainment levels at key stage 4 needed to improve.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio holder thanked the housing team for the success in tackling homelessness, rough sleeping and addressing the issues of empty homes.

The Deputy Leader commended Carlton Bolling College for their recent success on becoming Secondary School of the Year at the prestigious Pearson awards, which was a testimony to the hard work of the school and the local community. He added that it was one of many good schools in Bradford and that the push to drive up standards would continue with earnest.

Resolved –

That the progress against performance metrics outlined in Document “Y” be noted.

ACTION: No Action

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

50. BEREAVEMENT SERVICES STRATEGY - CREMATORIA PROVISION UPDATE

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “AA”**) which was a progress update on delivery of the adopted Bereavement Strategy relating to crematoria provision covering:-

- Land acquisition for the first new crematorium including the use of a Compulsory Purchase Order if required.
- Construction of the crematorium
- Procurement of cremators
- Approval of the current funding profile for delivery of the crematoria programme
- Implementation of the final phases of the contract with external specialists

The Leader in welcoming the progress made in securing crematoria provision,

stated that the need for good facilities was paramount and she thanked officers for their diligence and hard work in devising the proposals.

The Healthy People and Places Portfolio holder stated that this had been a long awaited ambition to replace our outdated facilities and that the artist impressions of the proposed crematoria showed how the district would benefit from such an updated modern facility. It was also highlighted that once the crematoria was constructed, Nab Wood would remain open, so that relatives could continue to pay their respects to their loved ones.

Resolved –

- (1) To delegate approval of spend to the Strategic Director Place in consultation with the S151 officer for the construction of the first new crematorium within Heaton at a cost of £9.1m subject to land acquisition and planning permission.**
- (2) That the Executive is satisfied that the proposed development schemes to construct the Crematorium is in the public interest and that any harm caused by the use of compulsory purchase powers to acquire and interfere with third party land and rights needed for the scheme is outweighed by the public benefits which the Crematorium development scheme is likely to generate,**
- (3) That it be agreed in principle to Compulsory Purchase Orders being made pursuant to Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by Section 99 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004), Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 and all other relevant and enabling powers, to secure the compulsory acquisition of the land shown edged red on the plan appended hereto in order to facilitate the construction of the proposed Crematoria subject to a final decision being taken jointly by the Strategic Director Place and the Strategic Director Corporate Resources , in consultation with appropriate Portfolio Holders as necessary, on whether to make and submit the Compulsory Purchase Order to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for confirmation, if satisfied that the Council has properly taken into account the statutory requirements under human rights and public sector equality legislation**
- (4) To further delegate to the Strategic Director Place and Strategic Director Corporate Resources, in consultation with as necessary appropriate Portfolio Holders authority to:-**
 - (i) make any necessary, minor or technical amendments to the Compulsory Purchase Order;**
 - (ii) modify and settle the draft “Statements of Reasons” to justify the**

use of compulsory purchase powers, the Compulsory Purchase Order Maps and Schedules and all other legal documentation necessary to support and accompany the Compulsory Purchase Orders to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for confirmation;

- (iii) promote any modifications to the Compulsory Purchase Order, if expedient to do so;**
- (iv) approve agreements for withdrawal of any objections to the Compulsory Purchase Order, including where appropriate, seeking exclusion of land from the Compulsory Purchase Order;**
- (v) confirm the Compulsory Purchase Order, if satisfied that it is appropriate to do so, in the event that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has empowered the Council to decide on whether or not to confirm the Compulsory Purchase Order;**
- (vi) take all necessary action to continue or open negotiations with persons for the acquisition of land included in the Compulsory Purchase Order and any other land needed for the Crematorium scheme and to authorise acquisitions by agreement where the use of compulsory purchase powers is in contemplation and to approve the purchase price, advance payments and all other compensation payments;**
- (vii) take all necessary steps in relation to any statutory blight proceedings instituted against the Council for the acquisition of land claimed to be blighted by the threat or presence of the Compulsory Purchase Order;**
- (viii) take all necessary action, should the quantum of compensation flowing from the threat or use of compulsory purchase powers be in dispute and be referred to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) or other form of arbitration;**
- (ix) to take and do all things necessary or incidental to the implementation of the above resolutions;**
- (5) That implementation of Phase 3 and 4 works by Rex Procter & Partners to finalise the designs for the new crematoria and administer the subsequent building contracts be approved.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration & Environment

51. MINUTES OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

That the minutes of the meeting(s) of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 1 August 2019 be received

ACTION: No Action

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