

## Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held Remotely on Tuesday, 8 September 2020

Commenced 11.30 am  
Concluded 1.00 pm

### Members of the Executive – Councillors

<b>LABOUR</b>
Hinchcliffe
I Khan
Ross-Shaw
Ferriby
Farley

Observers: Councillors Davies, Johnson, Pennington, Pollard, Poulsen and Winnard

Apologies: Councillor Abdul Jabar

### 142. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interest of transparency both the Leader and Deputy Leader declared an interest in the item relating to West Yorkshire Devolution (Minute 146), as they were both Members of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

The Deputy Leader also declared an interest in the item relating to Community Asset Transfers (Minute 149) as the building he was based at were currently in the process of undertaking a transfer.

***ACTION: City Solicitor***

### 143. MINUTES

**Resolved –**

**That the minutes of the meetings held on 9 June and 7 July 2020 be signed as a correct record.**

### 144. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

#### 145. **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE**

There were no recommendations referred to the Executive.

#### 146. **WEST YORKSHIRE DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION AND NEXT STEPS**

Prior to the consideration of the item, the Leader stated that as the number of positive Covid cases increased in the district and nationally, there was a imperative that everyone remained vigilant about the virus and maintained social distancing, washed their hands frequently and wore face masks in enclosed spaces and when out and about; and that this required a concerted effort by everyone if we were to reduce the numbers.

The Chief Executive submitted a report (**Document “BZ”**) which provided an update on devolution for West Yorkshire and the progress towards a Mayoral Combined Authority. It considered the outcomes of the recent Devolution consultation managed through West Yorkshire Combined Authority, including responses from across Bradford District. This follows the recent Executive report “Devolution Deal for West Yorkshire – Review of Governance Arrangements (and which proposed the Consultation process) considered on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

The Leader stated that this devolution deal afforded us with a great opportunity for the district particular in terms of the regeneration possibilities that it would create, driving economic growth and prosperity. The Agreement was signed in March with the Chancellor, with a deal worth £38m a year, which was one of the best deals negotiated thus far. This report would enable us to move to the next steps and complete the process by November, with Council also having oversight over the process.

The Managing Director of the WYCA was present at the meeting and explained the next steps in the devolution process which were detailed in the report, stressing that the respective Councils would have a veto on planning matters.

The Leader of the main opposition group was present at the meeting and stated that although he welcomed the Deal, people had to be aware of the financial ramifications of such a Deal, including the imposition of a levy and a precept which would see an increase in Council Tax rates once the deal was finalised, as well as a rise in business rates, so the deal had to be looked at in this context. He also questioned the governance arrangements relating to the Mayoral role, and that effectively 5 elected Council leaders would make decisions affecting the whole region, with a quorum being only three.

The Leader stated that there would be opposition member representation on the Mayoral Committee as well as Scrutiny Committee oversight. The Managing Director of the WYCA also stressed that we awaited the finer details and that there was no final decisions that had been made regarding charges etc at this stage.

Another Opposition Member was also present and stated that he was concerned that we do not end up with a Leeds centric position and that the scrutiny role had to be an effective one, to ensure oversight of the decisions that will be made. The Leader acknowledged the points made, stating that good governance arrangements would be in place to ensure there was effective oversight.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Leader for her hard work and contribution in ensuring the Deal was signed off in a timely manner. He added that the Deal would bring prosperity to the people of Bradford, through growth and resilience.

The Leader stressed that enabling access to reskilling was one of the cornerstones of the Deal, and that this would enable the economic and regeneration potential of the district to be realised.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder in expressing his support, outlined the existing Combined Authority funded initiatives, as well as Council funded programmes that had already put us on a path of economic regeneration and transport infrastructure improvements. That this deal would only accelerate and enhance what we had already achieved to date. In response to a question regarding the proposals to create a park and ride scheme in south Bradford, it was explained that this would reduce congestion on the arterial routes into the city, as well as provide environmental benefits and reduce congestion.

The Leader in endorsing the Deal welcomed the investment opportunities that would be realised and that this would in turn result in the creation of much needed employment in the district, and she urged support for the Deal.

#### **Resolved –**

- (1) That the Summary of Consultation Responses attached as Appendix 1 to Document “BZ” and its conclusions be endorsed.**
- (2) That the Summary of Consultation Responses and representations set out in Appendix 1 to Document “BZ” be agreed in principle to being submitted to the Secretary of State by 11 September 2020, and to jointly delegate authority to the Managing Director of the Combined Authority, in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive of each Constituent Council and the Chair of the Combined Authority, to finalise and submit these documents.**
- (3) That the updated timetable set out in Appendix 2 to Document “BZ” and the next steps be noted which are subject to the consent being given by the Constituent Councils and Combined Authority, to the draft Order in November 2020 so that a mayoral combined authority model and associated changes may be adopted and implemented by May 2021, as set out in the Deal.**
- (4) That Document “BZ” and the associated appendices be referred to Council to consider, provide any comments and endorse the**

**Executive decisions taken.**

- (5) **That this decision is exempt from call-in on the grounds of urgency, for the reasons set out in paragraph 6.1 to Document “BZ”.**

***ACTION: Chief Executive***

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

**147. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE, 2020/21 TO 2022/23. THE REPORT ALSO SEPARATELY OUTLINES THE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR THE LOCAL TEST & TRACE SERVICE EXPANSION IN 2020/21 TO HELP MANAGE A REDUCTION IN COVID-19 INFECTIONS; AND AN IMMEDIATE NEED TO DLIVER THE CARE HOME RESILIENCE PLAN**

The Director of Finance submitted a report (**Document “CA”**) that set out the financial envelope for the Council to deliver its key priorities as set out in the revised Corporate Plan.

Prior to Covid, the outlook for Council Finances looked significantly healthier than at any point since 2010. The impact of Covid-19 on Council services through additional expenditure and reducing income, coupled with the impact on the wider economy have now altered that outlook for the worse and have added a great deal of additional uncertainty. Additional pressures on Childrens Social Care, the impact of Brexit, and delays to Government reforms of Local Government finance also add further pressures and uncertainties.

The revised forecast identified for planning purposes a financial gap of £47.9m in 2021-22, reducing to c£42.3m in 2022/23.

Separately, the report also recommended approval of immediate funding in 2020/21 for the expansion of the Local Test and Trace service. The £1.6m of funding to derive from £300k of remaining Test & Trace Grant, £380k of Public Health Grant, with the remainder deriving from Council Financial resources in lieu of any additional Government Funding.

During the discussion , the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder stated that support for Care Homes was crucial, especially as we headed into the winter months, there was an imperative that those in a care setting were not moved during this period ,and thus investment from central government was required to offset such issues.

The Leader stressed that protecting and preserving lives was a key priority during these unprecedented times.

In the area of Children’s Social Care, the Portfolio Holder stressed that demand was increasing, in line with trends seen nationally and that he expected referrals to increase as a consequence, and therefore it was important to maintain the

levels of support, in order to safeguard children.

A Conservative Member was present at the meeting and stated that he acknowledged that these were difficult times for the Council's finances, however he was confident any shortfalls in funding as a result of the pandemic would be met by Government. He however queried was the line in the report relating to construction inflation as a consequence of Covid. He also questioned the success of track and trace, and that it needed reviewing as a matter of urgency if it was going to deliver on the numbers.

The Leader stated that Government had left Councils in a very difficult situation and that the shortfall in funding as a consequence of Covid had to be bridged as a matter of urgency. In relation to track and trace, the Leader commented that again this was a national government responsibility, however if resources were forthcoming a local track and trace would yield much better results as we would be in position to drive it.

The Director of Finance stated that no announcements had been made to date regarding how Government would meet the shortfall in funding as a result of the pandemic, and he also acknowledged that construction inflation was a factor built onto capital financing as a consequence of the current situation.

#### **Resolved –**

- (1) That having considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy as an assessment of the Council's financial outlook to 2023/24 , and a framework for it to remain financially viable and deliver sustainable public services, in line with its priorities, that Executive notes the updated and revised Medium Term Financial Strategy at Appendix 1 to Document "CA".**
- (2) That the investment of £1.6m into the expansion of the Local Test & Trace service as outlined in Appendix 2 to Document "CA" Option 2 be approved. The £1.6m of funding to derive from £300k of remaining Test & Trace Grant, £380k of Public Health Grant, with the remainder deriving from Council Financial resources in lieu of any additional Government Funding.**
- (3) That the investment of £264k to enable the delivery of the Care Home Resilience Plan be approved, to be funded from Council Financial resources in lieu of any additional Government Funding.**

#### ***ACTION: Director of Finance***

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

#### **148. THE TFD CENTRE EARLY HELP AND PREVENTION ALL AGE HUB**

The Strategic Director Children's Services submitted a report (**Document "CB"**)

which presented the background, model, approach and benefits of an all age Early Help and Prevention hub at the TFD Centre in Holme Wood. As part of a developing District wide approach across sectors and partners the hub would help build capacity within communities to prevent problems arising, support children, young people, families and adults sooner, and reduce the demand for more costly interventions at a later date. These changes were taking place against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic and significant reductions in public spending.

It was explained that the proposed plan was to develop the TFD Centre in Holme Wood, Bradford South in to an Early Help and Prevention all age hub. There is commitment and support from Children' Services, Adult Services, Libraries, Neighbourhood Service, Voluntary Sector, adults and children Disability Service's and Health providers to co-locate into the newly developed Hub. The proposed Hub would become the new South Area office for the LA parenting and family support services whilst accommodating Youth and Neighbourhood Services staff and co-locating members from the Bradford & District Care Trust currently based at Holme Wood Health Centre. A dedicated Medical room will be a base for Midwives and Health Visitors. The centre has capacity for 44 desks of which all have been accounted for by the services listed above. The proposals would retain the sports facilities, library and a café area would be created with a view to establishing a fully operational community café to increase community cohesion.

Holme Wood Children Centre would still remain a delivery site. Holme Wood Children Centre is leased to BHT Early Learning and training. BHT Early Learning and training is charitable organisation that offers childcare and group based activities e.g. Baby Massage, Stay and Play. They offer full day care and 2/3 year offer places. This offer would remain in place as it is a valuable resource to the families in Holmewood.

A Ward member was present at the meeting and in welcoming the proposals, suggested that officers work closely with the Ward Councillors on the details and delivery of the Hub going forward.

The Leader of the Conservative Group was present at the meeting and stated that although he welcomed the proposal, other development opportunities had failed to gain planning permission because it was in contravention of the Holme Wood and Tong Neighbourhood Development Plan, and he urged that private developers should also be assisted.

In response the Leader stated that as an Executive they could not comment on planning matters, which was a quasi judicial function of the Council.

The Childrens and Families Portfolio Holder in welcoming the investment stated that this would give a significant boost to our early help offer and it was therefore:

**Resolved –**

**That the Executive approves the project and incorporates the financial**

implications within the capital programme, subject to PAG agreeing the capital investment.

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

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Children's Services

**149. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER POLICY AND ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE PROCESS**

The Community Asset Transfer policy and process was approved by the Executive in 2015 and the Assets of Community Value process was approved by the Executive in 2012. The Strategic Director Corporate Resources submitted a report (**Document "CC"**) which set out proposed changes to update both policies and processes and seeks Executive's approval to both.

In addition, on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Full Council requested that the Executive considered four matters regarding Community Asset Transfers, and the report addressed each of the matters raised.

The Assistant Director gave a detailed rationale behind the proposed changes to the policy and process.

A Bingley Ward Councillor was present at the meeting and stated that he currently had a live community asset transfer with Bingley Pool and suggested that maintenance of buildings is brought up to date, so that at transfer the new owners are not left with a huge maintenance bill.

In response the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder explained that, the Council where feasible, would facilitate repairs, however this was not always possible, but having said that the Council would actively engage with any interested groups during the transfer process on such issues.

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the new Community Asset Transfer policy and revised process attached to Document "CC" be approved.**
- (2) That authority be provided to the Strategic Director Corporate Resources in consultation with the Director of Finance and City Solicitor to approve disposals (including any disposals at 'less than Best Consideration') under the new Community Asset Transfer policy and revised process.**
- (3) That the amendments to the Assets of Community Value process be adopted without amendment.**
- (4) That Executive have considered Full Council's proposals determined:**

- **Not to offer an affordable loan product**
- **To enhance the toolkit already provided**
- **That the Community Infrastructure Levy cannot be used to provide funding towards Community Asset Transfer Projects or consider Community Asset Transfer requests for Community Infrastructure Levy alongside other requests**
- **To improve the community's awareness of finance options**

***ACTION: Strategic Director Corporate Resources***

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration & Environment

**150. PARTNER-FUTURE PENSION ARRANGEMENTS-TREATMENT AS A SUBSUMPTION BODY IN THE WEST YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND**

**Resolved –**

**That consideration of this matter be deferred to a future meeting.**

***ACTION: Director of Finance***

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

Chair

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