

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held Remotely on Tuesday, 5 January 2021

Commenced 10.40 am
Concluded 12.50 pm

Members of the Executive – Councillors

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

Observers: Councillors Davies, Pollard and Poulsen

Councillor Hinchcliffe in the Chair

183. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interest of clarity the following declarations were received:

- (i) The Leader and Councillor Ross-Shaw declared an interest in the item relating to the Bradford Economic Recovery Plan (Minute 188) as serving Board Members.
- (ii) Councillor Ross-Shaw also declared an interest in the item relating to the Towns Fund Programme (Minute 189) as he is a serving member on the respective Boards.

ACTION: City Solicitor

184. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 November 2020 be signed as a correct record.

185. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

186. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

The following recommendation had been received from the meeting of Full Council held on Tuesday 8 December 2020:

Keighley Carnegie Library

Resolved –

That the petition be referred to the Executive.

Note: The Leader stated that this matter already formed part of the agenda for this meeting and will be considered at the appropriate juncture.

187. LEADER'S OPENING REMARKS

Yesterday evening the Government announced a further national lockdown in an attempt to curb Covid infection rates. Although Bradford district was in a better position, given the high infection rates nationally, there was no room for complacency and therefore another concerted effort was now required to ensure rates remained low and everyone had to play their part. Since the onset of the pandemic, the district had recorded 780 deaths and this was a tragedy for all those affected and this was brought home recently with the death of a well respected and much loved Councillor, Councillor Abid Hussain who sadly passed away over the Christmas period. Councillor Abid Hussain served as Lord Mayor and proudly served the Keighley Central Ward for many years, helping the vulnerable and making a difference. He was kind and well mannered and will be sadly missed as a friend and colleague. The Leader expressed her sincere condolences to his family at this difficult time and she urged that people follow the Government advice and stay at home.

Councillor Poulsen also placed on record her condolences on the passing of Councillor Abid Hussain.

188. THE BRADFORD DISTRICT ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

The Assistant Director, Office of the Chief Executive submitted a report (**Document "CV"**) which provided an overview of the Bradford District Economic Recovery plan that had been developed by the Bradford District Economic Recovery Board. The Economic Recovery Board is a partnership board, chaired by Professor Zahir Irani, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Bradford with membership from across the business community, public sector partners, education and voluntary sectors.

The recovery plan assessed the impacts of the COVID pandemic on Bradford District's local economy and set out the actions we need to take now and over the next two years to accelerate our recovery from Covid-19 by sustaining

employment and boosting productivity whilst continuing to build a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient economy for the subsequent period.

Executive were asked to note the work carried out by Professor Zahir Irani and partners on the Economic Recovery Board in developing the Economic Recovery Plan. Executive were recommended to ask the Economic Partnership to lead on taking forward this plan for the whole District. In doing this, the partnership would work with other relevant boards including the Bradford District Sustainable Development Partnership, the Bradford District Culture Partnership and the Bradford District Skills Partnership.

Professor Zahir Irani was present at the meeting and stated that the pandemic had occurred at a time of real change with Brexit and climate change at the forefront. The recession that had followed the pandemic had resulted in a large contraction of the economy, as well as creating an educational, health and societal crisis.

In the Bradford context unemployment rates had seen a marked increase and with our larger young population and black and minority ethnic communities, the Bradford district was seeing a disproportionate impact. To this end, together with the low skills base there was a need to address digital and physical connectivity. As well as addressing these issues there was a need to recognise, enhance and promote the architectural assets of the district and really project Bradford as a place of growth and opportunity.

One of the key aims of the recovery board would be to boost all sectors of the economy and ensure that equality, diversity and inclusivity were important facets in this. So this was a strong plan informed by a number of key factors and one which had received good feedback from esteemed business leaders.

The Leader in welcoming the work thus far stated that she was encouraged by the level of business engagement and the endorsement of the plan by business leaders.

A representative from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority was also present and in endorsing the plan, stressed the synergy between the Bradford Economic Recovery Plan and the regional plan, and that many common themes ran between the two plans.

The Leader stressed the need for Government to fund economic recovery on a more sustainable footing and one which encompassed a better regional approach.

Portfolio Holders echoed their support for the economic recovery plan and the benefits it would bring in addressing some of the key challenges in their respective areas such as reducing carbon emissions; a more sustainable district; improve skills, education and create job opportunities.

The Leader of the largest opposition group was present at the meeting and echoed the sentiments expressed in the Plan and the need for all partners to work together to realise its benefit. In response to a number of issues raised by the

opposition group leader, it was stated that there would be cross party representation on the Economic Recovery Board and that business input and ideas would be welcomed by the Board.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Executive would like to thank Professor Zahir Irani and the Economic Recovery Board members for their valuable contribution to this crucial area of work.**
- (2) That the approach to Economic Recovery outlined in Document “CV” and the accompanying Bradford District Economic Recovery Plan be noted.**
- (3) That the Economic Partnership takes the lead in taking this plan forward and uses the plan to inform the District’s approach to economic recovery supported by other appropriate partnership boards including the Skills Partnership and the Sustainable Development Partnership.**
- (4) That these plans are progressed for the whole District, working with the Keighley and Shipley Towns Fund Boards and other partnerships.**

ACTION: Assistant Director Place/Office of the Chief Executive

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Economy

189. TOWNS FUND PROGRAMME FOR KEIGHLEY AND SHIPLEY

Keighley and Shipley were selected by government as two of 101 places across England eligible for up to £25m investment through the Towns Fund. The Towns Fund constitutes a transformational programme of activity and investment in town and high street regeneration; promoting the distinctive offer of each place.

The Strategic Director of Place submitted a report (**Document “CW”**) which provided an update to the Executive in relation to the Towns Fund; it set out the progress to date and key milestones.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder in welcoming the exciting potential the Towns Fund Programme would bring, stated that the Council had mirrored its support by ensuring there was match funding in the budget.

The respective Chairs of the Programme Boards were present at the meeting to lend their support to the work that will be undertaken.

The Chair of the Shipley Board stated although the timescales were very compressed, a lot of progress had been made in a short space of time and that the backing of the community was essential, as well as helping traders in the

process.

The Chair of the Keighley Board commented that there was so many positives in the district and although challenges remained, the programme would make a real difference.

The Leader of the largest opposition group was present at the meeting and in welcoming the funding stressed the need for a level playing field and the importance of supporting projects for smaller groups, as well as keeping ward councillors updated on progress.

The Portfolio Holder stated that although the timescales had been tight, good progress had been made with ward members briefed on developments.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Chairs and Members of both Boards be thanked for their continued hard work in developing the Town Investment Plans.**
- (2) That the Executive welcomes the exciting opportunity for investment in town and high street regeneration for Keighley and Shipley.**
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director Place in consultation with the Leader to consider and make decisions on recommendations from the Town Deal Boards.**
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director Place in consultation with the Leader to approve and submit the Town Investment Plans by 29 January 2021**
- (5) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director Place in consultation with the City Solicitor, Director of Finance and IT and the Leader to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Heads of Terms as described in Document “CW” should the Town Investment Plans be successful.**
- (6) That the work and progress that has taken place to date be acknowledged and endorsed.**
- (7) That the Terms of Reference for Shipley and Keighley Town Deal Boards (as set out in Appendix 3 to Document “CW”) be approved.**
- (8) That the Board Composition for Shipley and Keighley Town Deal Boards (as set out in Appendix 4 to Document “CW”) be approved.**
- (9) That the Town Deal Boundary for Shipley and Keighley (as set out in Appendix 5 to Document “CW”) be approved.**
- (10) That the Council’s role as accountable body for the Town Investment Plans be approved.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Environment

190. AN UPDATE ON BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL'S PREPARATIONS FOR BREXIT

The Leader submitted a report (**Document “CX”**) which provided an update on District wide preparations for Brexit including a no deal Brexit.

The Brexit transition period ended on 31 December 2020. From 1 January, the UK is no longer part of the EU single market, customs union or any trade deals negotiated by the EU. Negotiations had continued on a new trade deal, but, regardless of whether or not we left the EU with a trade deal, substantial changes affecting all sectors of society will occur from 1 January as a result of leaving the EU.

The work done in the district around settled status was particularly highlighted and that the Home Office had recognised the sterling work done in Bradford.

The Chief Executive stressed that the Chamber of Commerce had welcomed the deal that had been negotiated and that a number of work streams were on-going to take the work forward.

Resolved –

That this update be noted.

ACTION: No Action

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

191. CALCULATION OF BRADFORD'S COUNCIL TAX BASE AND BUSINESS RATES BASE FOR 2021-22

The Director of Finance submitted a report (**Document “CY”**) which estimated the Council's Council Tax and Business Rates bases for 2021-22. These bases in turn determine the amount of taxation raised in 2021-22.

Section A of the report estimated the Council Tax Base. This involves considering: total dwellings in the district; exemptions, discounts and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme among others items.

Section B estimated the Business Rates base, starting with the total rateable value of property used by businesses in the district.

Section C summarised the implications of the tax bases for the 2021-22 revenue budget.

The Director acknowledged that this was the first time that there had been a reduction in the Council Tax base.

Resolved –

- (1) That the number of Band D equivalent properties for 2021-22 for the whole of the Bradford Metropolitan District is fixed at 142,000 (as set out in Appendix A, line 12 of Document “CY”).
- (2) That the Council Tax Base for 2021-22 for each Parish (set out in Appendix B to Document “CY”) be approved.
- (3) Further that Bradford’s £6.4m share of the anticipated 2020-21 Council Tax deficit be approved, along with the Council’s ability to repay this across three future years; also that the latest Government announcement is to repay 75% of this. Also that the Police and Fire share of the deficit (as set out in 7.2 to Document “CY”) is noted.
- (4) That the latest estimate of the gross shares of Business Rates income for 2021-22, be noted (Appendix C, line w, x & y to Document “CY”). These are set out below:

50% is paid to Central Government - £62.5m
1% is paid to the West Yorkshire Fire Authority - £1.3m
49% is retained by the Council - £63.7m
- (5) That authority be delegated to the Section 151 officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make any necessary amendments to the Business Rates estimate arising from the completion of the 2021-22 NDR1 form and to include the amended figures in the 2021-22 Budget papers for Council.

ACTION: Director of Finance

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

192. STEETON WITH EASTBURN AND SILSDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “CZ”**) which set out the Steeton with Eastburn and Silsden Neighbourhood Development Plan which had been prepared by the Steeton with Eastburn Parish Council and Silsden Town Council. The Plan had been subject of an independent examination by Robert Bryan and his report confirmed that the Plan, subject to the incorporation of a number of modifications met the Basic Conditions outlined in legislation. He had recommended that the Plan proceeds to local referendum.

The report recommended that the Executive agree to all of the proposed modifications and that the modified plan proceeds to referendum. This will take place in May 2021.

A Silsden Town Councillor was present at the meeting and stated that the

development plan had taken many years in the making; that the production of a joint plan was seen as a constructive way forward, saving on resources. She also stated that the plan would benefit the localities immensely and enable the receipt of community infrastructure levy monies, and she thanked all parties for their input and looked forward to the next stage.

The Leader in welcoming the Plan, expressed her sincere thanks to the respective Parish and Town Councils for their hard work and input.

Resolved –

- (1) That the submitted Steeton with Eastburn and Silsden Neighbourhood Development Plan (Appendices 1a and 1b to Document “CZ”) be subject to the modifications (Recommendations 1 to 18) as set out in the Examiner’s Report (Appendix 2 to Document “CZ”), together with any relevant factual changes required to ensure that it is up to date.
- (2) That it is then subject to a local referendum.
- (3) Should the plan be successful at referendum, the plan should be formally made via delegated decision by the Assistant Director (Planning, Transportation & Highways) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder (Regeneration, Planning & Transport) in line with the agreed governance arrangements.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration & Economy

193. RESPONSE TO PETITION ABOUT KEIGHLEY LIBRARY

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “DA”**) which asked the Executive to note the information contained in the report in response to a petition about Keighley Library that was presented to Council on 8 December 2020. It was stressed that there was never a intention to close the library.

The lead petitioner was present at the meeting and stated that it was important to develop the library provision so that a holistic and firm foundation was there, and a sustainable platform for incorporating additional services into the library was key to its future survival.

The Strategic Director stressed that the lead petitioner had been invited to join the working group to represent the Friends of Keighley Library to take key developments forward for the Library .

Resolved –

That the information presented in Document “DA” in relation to the petition

about Keighley Library be noted.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Economy

194. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved –

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the Not for Publication Document “DB” on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings, that if they were present, exempt information within paragraph 3 (financial or business affairs) and Paragraph 5 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.

195. ONE CITY PARK

The Strategic Directors of Place and Corporate Resources submitted a report (**Not For Publication Document “DB”**) which provided an update on the One City Park development.

Resolved –

That the recommendations contained in Not For Publication Document “DB” be approved.

ACTION: Strategic Director Corporate Resources/ Director of Finance

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Economy

Chair

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