

## Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 8 June 2021 in the Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 10.30 am  
Concluded 12.10 pm

### Members of the Executive – Councillors

<b>LABOUR</b>
Hinchcliffe (Chair)
I Khan
Ross-Shaw
Ferriby
Jabar
Duffy

Observers: Councillors Davies, Pollard and Poulsen

### 1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interests of transparency:

Councillor Hinchcliffe disclosed that she was a member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Councillor Khan disclosed that he was an alternate member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Councillor Ferriby disclosed that she was a member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Green Economy Panel.

Councillor Ross-Shaw disclosed that he was a member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Business Innovation and Growth Panel, Business Investment Panel, Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel, Place Panel and West Yorkshire and York Investment Committee.

**ACTION: City Solicitor**

### 2. MINUTES

**Resolved –**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2021 be signed as a correct record.**

**ACTION: City Solicitor**

**3. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

There were no appeals submitted to review restricted documents.

**4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

**Resolved -**

**That it be noted that Councillor I Khan had been appointed, by the Leader of Council, as Deputy Chair for the Municipal Year 2021/2022.**

**ACTION: City Solicitor**

**5. ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS**

**Resolved –**

**That the allocation, by the Leader of the Council, of Portfolios of Executive functions to Members of the Executive be noted.**

**The Leader welcomed Councillor Duffy to the Executive.**

**ACTION: City Solicitor**

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE**

There were no recommendations to the Executive.

**LEADER OF COUNCIL & CORPORATE**

*(Councillor Hinchcliffe)*

**7. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MAYOR FOR WEST YORKSHIRE 2021-2025**

The newly elected Mayor for West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin attended the meeting to share initial thoughts on priorities for her term of office and opportunities for working in partnership with Bradford District. The report of the Chief Executive was submitted (**Document “A”**).

The Leader referred to three key priorities for the District namely transport, skills and culture. She highlighted the importance of Northern Powerhouse high speed rail line and that a stop was vital for the District as Bradford was the biggest city in the UK that was not on the Main Line train Network. She stressed the need to ensure that people have the right skills to succeed in the workplace as Bradford was the City with the youngest population in the UK. She expressed her belief in the people of the District and welcomed the Mayor’s support for the Capital of Culture bid.

The Education, Employment and Skills Portfolio Holder referred to the Government Kick Start scheme but felt that there was a need for something that was more tailored to the needs of Bradford. He invited the West Yorkshire Mayor to visit the Skills House project that was targeting those unable to access the jobs market to increase their skills and find sustainable jobs.

The Regeneration, Transport and Planning Portfolio Holder referred to the Towns Fund and reported that it had been announced that Shipley was to be allocated £25m and Keighley £33m and thanked all those involved in the securing the funding. He also referred to the Projects supported by the Combined Authority.

The Healthy People and Places Portfolio Holder referred to the need for partnership working with the West Yorkshire Mayor, for example, on Capital of Culture, which if successful would attract investment, enhance employment opportunities and bring businesses into the District which would in turn improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the people of the District. She referred to the District's response to the climate emergency in planting trees and moving to a cleaner transport fleet.

The Neighbourhoods and Community Safety Portfolio Holder stressed that one of his key priorities was to crack down on dangerous driving and anti-social behavior and referred to Bradford's unique partnership with the police on operation Steerside.

The Chief Executive referred to the huge pool of talent and energy in the District with a young and diverse population, and the need to realise their full potential. She added that the covid19 pandemic had hit the District hard and exposed the fault lines of socio economic disadvantage, including low pay and the impact on mental health. She stressed the need for major investment in raising education attainment and addressing the levels of youth unemployment to move the District forward. She added that progress being made in the areas of domestic violence and poverty had been affected by the pandemic. She referred to the accolades bestowed on the District and the potential of Yorkshire Water's proposed Green Science Park and housing development at Esholt.

The Education Employment and Skills Portfolio Holder noted that the Adult Education budget had been affected by the pandemic and that he wanted to ensure that a share of the West Yorkshire adult education budget was allocated to the district.

The West Yorkshire Mayor thanked the Council for its work in the pandemic and confirmed that the priorities outlined for the District were in line with her ten point manifesto pledges. She added that securing a Northern Powerhouse rail stop would open up opportunities in the District. She referred to the transformational effect of adult education and the establishment of a digital academy for disadvantaged children, especially girls. She announced that annually £6m would be allocated by the Combined Authority leading to the creation of 2,500 jobs. She was grateful that the Council had recognised the impact of Covid 19 on the creative industries; £5m had been earmarked by the Combined Authority, £1m of which would be allocated to each of the constituent authorities. She confirmed

her support for the Capital of Culture bid. She praised Born in Bradford and stressed the importance of early intervention in improving life chances.

She referred to her manifesto pledges of 1,000 jobs for young people, 5,000 sustainable and affordable homes, support for local businesses, and leading a creative new deal. A new Creative Committee was to be established which she would chair and she would appoint an inclusivity champion. She referred to the effects of climate change and in particular, flooding and the need for the green agenda to be integrated into everything the authority did. She intended to work towards Combined Authority control of bus operations.

She announced that she had appointed Alison Lowe Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and added that 750 more police would be appointed and that the safety of girls would be at the heart of everything that was done. She supported the work being done to address the issue of dangerous driving and make streets safer.

**Resolved -**

**That the newly elected Mayor be thanked for attending the meeting to discuss our shared priorities.**

ACTION: Chief Executive

## **8. BRADFORD COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT LEVELLING UP FUNDING**

The Government had recently announced a series of funding programmes for levelling up and economic growth. This included:

- The Levelling Up fund - a £4.8 billion national fund with the aim in investing in high-value local infrastructure. Of this, Bradford District has potential access to £100 million in capital funding (£20 million per Parliamentary constituency).
- The Community Renewal Fund – where priority one areas such as Bradford District are entitled to up to £3 million investment to support skills, local businesses and communities and places.
- The Towns Fund – Keighley and Shipley were selected by Government as two of 101 places across England eligible for investment through the Towns Fund. A favourable decision from the Government had just been announced on the Towns Fund proposals for the two towns.

The purpose of the report of the Chief Executive (Document “B”) was to outline these upcoming and continuing opportunities and how it was intended to make the most of these as an authority for the whole District.

The Leader was of the opinion that the Levelling Up fund should have been targeted at areas in the north where the needs were greatest and that it should have been allocated regionally rather than through a national bidding process, at short notice.

The Leader of the Opposition Group asked questions on behalf of another

member regarding the type of business the Council was working with and the criteria used to ensure that it was prioritising working with companies operating in business areas with significant long-term market growth potential. She also asked how it was to be ensured that business goals align with the strategy detailed in the emerging Local Plan?

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder responded that the Council wanted to work with all businesses large and small and in partnership with the Combined Authority. Engagement with a range of businesses was anchored in the Council's economic recovery plan and the West Yorkshire recovery plan. Bids will be assessed having regard to where they will have the greatest economic impact.

The Leader of the Opposition Group welcomed the announcement regarding the Towns Fund allocations. She asked what discussions were taking place with Councillors and MP's regarding the levelling up bids given the tight time scale for submission.

The Leader responded that the Government saw MP's as the lead on levelling up so discussions had taken place with MP's. She added that the Community Renewal Fund was being allocated through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and that all parties could bid for funding.

**Resolved -**

**(1) That the information on the levelling up fund be noted.**

**(2) That the Council continues to work with Area Committees, MPs, businesses and wider partners on future rounds.**

ACTION: Chief Executive

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS  
PORTFOLIO & DEPUTY LEADER**

*(Councillor I Khan)*

**9. PERSONAL TRAVEL ASSISTANCE BUDGET RATE: POST CONSULTATION ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS**

Further to a public consultation held on personal travel assistance budgets (PTAB), the report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services (**Document "C"**) sought to present an overview analysis of the data acquired and provided a range of implementation options with associated cost implications.

The Education, Employment and Skills Portfolio Holder noted that the proposals would bring the rates in Bradford in line with other authorities. He added that it was important that consultation had taken place and that those who responded were listened to.

**Resolved -**

**That option 4, as set out in Document "C" be adopted in respect of Personal Travel Assistance Budget rates.**

ACTION: Strategic Director of Children's Services

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO**

*(Councillor Duffy)*

### **10. OFSTED MONITORING VISIT - 28 TO 29 APRIL 2021**

Following Ofsted's Inspection of Children's Social Care Services from the 17 to 28 September 2018, the fifth of a series of Monitoring Visits took place on the 28 to 29 April 2021. The Strategic Director of Children's Services presented a report on the monitoring visit (**Document "D"**).

The focus of the Monitoring Visit was around Children in Need and Child Protection. The findings were published by Ofsted on 4 June 2021.

The Children and Families Portfolio Holder thanked staff for their continued hard work during the Covid19 pandemic and for their motivation to deliver on the improvement journey. She added that the Council had allocated significant resources to support the improvement journey recommended by Ofsted. She recognised that there was still a lot to do and at speed. She added that Early Help and the recruitment and retention of social workers was a priority for which there was a clear plan going forward which had been discussed in detail and in depth.

The Strategic Director of Children's Services stated that the Ofsted visit was welcomed and the comments were balanced. A number of areas had been identified where improvements were being made while not shying away from areas where change was needed. He outlined the strengths identified while still acknowledging that there were challenges around the rate of improvement. In particular, he highlighted that positive practice in relation to section 47 enquiries had been maintained; recruitment to all levels of management had been successful; assessments were proportionate and included the child's voice; when risks escalated intervention was timely; children were seen as integral to that process; additional investment had been made and level 3 social workers were being employed on 12 month contracts which was having impact on service delivery; children had continued to be seen during the Covid19 pandemic. He added that the churn in level 3 social workers was still an issue and work was ongoing to stabilise this. He noted that demand during Covid 19 had increased by 30% and that 2,400 children were open to the service during the period of the visit.

He was satisfied that the challenges were known and a clear improvement plan was in place. It was anticipated that the next visit would be in August and would focus on children in care and care leavers.

The Leader referred to the unprecedented year due to the Covid19 pandemic and appreciated the difficulties faced by staff. She added that there was a need to make improvements at a faster pace and increase the recruitment of level 3 social workers.

The Opposition Group Leader expressed concern that the pace of improvement was not quick enough and questioned the rate of improvement after 3 years from the original Ofsted judgement. She asked whether there were any issues hindering the development and training of existing staff to reach level 3 social worker.

The Strategic Director responded that measuring the progress from where the authority was in 2018, it was where it was expected to be. He added that the Covid 19 pandemic had meant that staff had to work remotely which was challenging and had affected training. He was confident that progress should accelerate coming out of lockdown, although he added that Ofsted would not accept the pandemic as a reason for lack of progress.

**Resolved -**

**That the contents of the letter from OFSTED following the monitoring visit 28-29 April be noted.**

ACTION: Strategic Director of Children's Services

**11. MINUTES OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY**

**The Minutes of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority meetings held on 4 February and 9 March 2021 were received.**

**12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**Resolved –**

**That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items relating to Partner Future Pension Arrangements (Minute 13) and Proposed Acquisition of a Regeneration Opportunity (Minute 14) on the grounds that it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if they were present, exempt information within Paragraph 3 (Finance or Business Affairs) 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 excluding public access to the relevant part of the proceedings outweighs the interest in publication of the report.**

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

**Resolved –**

**That the recommendations contained in NFP Document “E” be approved.**

ACTION: Director of Finance

**14. PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF A REGENERATION OPPORTUNITY IN THE BRADFORD DISTRICT**

**Resolved –**

**(1) That the recommendations contained in NFP Document “F” be approved.**

**(2) That in accordance with paragraph 8.7.4 of Part 3E of the Constitution, the above resolutions be not subject to call-in as the matter is urgent for the reasons set out in paragraphs 2.3.5 of NFP Document “F”, as any delay which may result from calling-in the decision may be prejudicial to the interest of the Council or a third party.**

ACTION: Strategic Director of Corporate Resources

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