

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 6 July 2021 in Council Chamber, City Hall

Commenced 10.30 am
Concluded 12.25 pm

Members of the Executive – Councillors

LABOUR
Hinchcliffe
I Khan
Ross-Shaw
Ferriby
Jabar
Duffy

Observers: Councillors Davies, Felstead and Davies

Councillor Hinchcliffe in the Chair

15. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interests of transparency, the Leader declared an interest in the NFP item relating to 2025 City of Culture Bid in her capacity as the Chair of the Cultural Place Partnership.

ACTION: City Solicitor

16. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2021 be signed as a correct record.

17. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

18. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

There were no recommendations referred to the Executive.

19. YEAR END FINANCE POSITION STATEMENT FOR 2020-21

The Director of Finance submitted a report (**Document “G”**) which provided Members with an update on the year-end financial position of the Council for 2020-21.

It examined the latest spend against revenue and capital budgets and the financial position at the year end. It stated the Council's current balances and reserves and school balances for the year.

The Director of Finance stated that the Council underspent the £378.1m net revenue budget by £0.4m in 2020-21.

The overall underspend did, however, contain significant overspends in some service areas, most notably Agency staffing costs and increased Child Looked After Placements in Children's Services.

Additionally, the Council will also have administered a further c£190m of Business Grants, and hardship grants in the year, with £ms more to be administered in 2021-22.

The forecast costs and income losses to the Council are currently covered by very welcome additional funding from the Government in 2020-21 meaning that there was no financial loss to the Council as a result of Covid in 2020-21.

However, there remained significant uncertainty about how long Covid will continue to impact for, and hence how long the additional funding lasts for in 2021-22.

The Leader welcomed the Budget position at the year end, particularly in the context of the financial challenges posed by the pandemic; however, uncertainties remained going forward and in order to realise recovery, additional Government funding was required.

A Member of the main Opposition Group was present at the meeting and stated that the additional Covid related funding from Government had helped the Council balance its books. He also questioned the proposed integration between Health and Adult Social Care and the budget earmarked for this purpose when Government plans were unknown.

In response the Leader stated that the Council's prudent management of its finances had to be acknowledged and that we were spending our reserves responsibly.

In relation to the integration of Health and Social Care, it was stressed that no plans were forthcoming from Government yet, on the future funding arrangements for Adult Social Care, however, the partnership arrangements with Health were very good, and the Integrated Care System in West Yorkshire was a model for the

Country.

Resolved –

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That the £1.519m of better use of budget requests to carry forward underspends to 2021-22 be approved as outlined in section 13.6 to Document “G”.

ACTION: Director of Finance

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

20. QUARTER 1 FINANCE POSITION STATEMENT FOR 2021-22

The Director of Finance submitted a report (**Document “H”**) which examined the latest spend against revenue and capital budgets and the forecast the year-end financial position based on information at Qtr 1. It stated the Council’s current balances and reserves and school balances.

As the District emerges from national restrictions and looks to build recovery from the impact of the COVID pandemic a series of priority investments were proposed in order to kick start recovery with a particular emphasis on sustainable and economic growth, visible services and support to our children and young people. These investments would be made through the deployment of any remaining COVID Emergency Grant or through existing Council reserves.

Based on a projection at 31st May 2021, the Council was forecast to overspend the £385.4m net revenue budget by £9.0m by March 31st 2022. This is after taking account of the c£27m of Covid related funding that has been carried forward from 2020-21, and c£26m of additional Covid related funding that is expected to be received in 2021-22.

The forecast overspend contained significant variances in a number of service areas, most notably agency staffing costs and increased Child Looked After Placements in Children’s Services, both of which have increased significantly in recent years. The forecast overspend is after the £7.1m increase in budget that was approved at budget Council in February 2021.

Covid had also had a significant effect on Adult Social Care in the Health & Wellbeing department, and was delaying the implementation of planned Learning Disability demand management savings leading to the forecast overspend.

The Department of Place also has a number of forecast pressures, with the main ones being in Waste Services due in part to higher tonnages and recycling income losses, and also in Housing Services.

As a result of prudent financial management, the Council entered into the COVID pandemic in relatively good financial health, particularly in relation to the reserves available to draw on and this provided the flexibility to take decisions in advance of announcements about additional Government spending, and therefore move at pace to address the immediate challenges presented by the virus.

The pandemic's financial impact had, however, been vast. By the end of the 2020-21 financial year, the additional COVID related gross costs and losses associated with Council service provision totalled c£92m (excluding Collection Fund losses), and will be c£160m by the middle of this financial year. Additionally, the Council also administered a further c£190m of Business Grants, and hardship grants in 2020-21, with £ms more to be administered in 2021-22.

The costs and income losses to the Council have so far been covered by very welcome additional funding from the Government, however, it should be noted that there remains significant uncertainty about how long Covid will continue to impact for, and hence how long the additional funding lasts.

The Leader acknowledged the challenges facing the Council at the start of this Financial Year and the pressures being addressed by many service areas. To this end a bid had been made to Government for additional funding to enable economic recovery, however, this funding had not materialised and funding received during the pandemic was being utilised to meet the Council's objectives, particularly in the area of economic recovery.

The impact Covid had had on the lives of young people was alluded to by the Education and Skills Portfolio Holder, and therefore investment was being made into mental health support and improving leisure opportunities.

In the area of Regeneration, the Portfolio Holder stressed that supporting enterprise was crucial in creating jobs and enabling new business start-ups. To this end, a £2m investment was proposed, which together with the Towns Fund allocations, would go some way to developing the principal towns in the District as well as looking at growth opportunities for the smaller towns.

In the Environmental arena, the Portfolio Holder stressed that fly tipping and street cleansing were priorities, and enforcement activity was a key area of focus, as well as encouraging and enabling communities to take a pride in their localities.

Resolved –

- (1) That the contents of the report and the actions taken to manage the issues highlighted in Document “H” be noted.**
- (2) The priority investments recommended at paras 4.3-4.5 to Document “H” be noted.**
- (3) That the formation of a new Joint Committee to oversee**

the new 2021/22 Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool be agreed.

- (4) That the Leader's position on the Joint Committee to oversee the new LCR Business Rates Pool be approved.
- (4) That the recommendation in section 15.2 to Document "H" in relation to the Early Years Block Nursery Supplement for 2021-22 be approved.
- (5) That the following capital expenditure schemes as outlined in section 16.8 & 16.9 to Document "H" be approved:
 - (i) £0.931m for the additional cost of purchasing electric vehicles and ensuring that the appropriate charging infrastructure is in place.
 - (ii) £0.072m for the replacement of two franking machines and two finishers at the centralised Council mailing centre. This will be funded by the General Contingency Budget.
 - (iii) £3.1m for the relocation of a current Children's Residential Home to a new refurbished property subject to final PAG appraisal. This will be funded by invest to save borrowing.
 - (iv) £0.4m for the Council's capital costs linked to the former Odeon scheme.
- (6) That it be noted that the following has been approved under Section 1.7 of the Financial Regulations:

£0.05m for the completion of health and safety works on the footbridge at Ilkley riverside. To be funded from the general contingency budget.

ACTION: Director of Finance

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

21. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

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

The MTFS is set in a context of substantial uncertainty with the long term impact of Covid on the wider socio-economic impacts across the District and uncertainties of the Local Government Finance settlements and planned reforms.

The Council had prudently and carefully managed its finance position

over the medium term, which led to no new cuts being proposed in the past two financial years.

The report set out the initial planned budget strategy for 2022/23, which will evolve as the year progresses.

The Director of Finance stressed that a further report would be brought to Executive in early autumn, as has been done in prior years, to provide an update on the MTFS and provide further clarity as the position becomes clearer on a number of fronts.

Resolved –

- (1) That the level of uncertainty in forecasting the resource position for 2022/23 be noted.**
- (2) That the national and local context which will impact the 2022/23 Budget be noted.**
- (3) That the high level budget strategy components (paragraph 4.1 to Document “I”) be agreed.**
- (4) Should resources be available, it be agreed that these be directed to the revenue priorities identified at paragraph 4.2 and capital priorities at 4.3 to Document “I”.**
- (5) That the proposed MTFS / Budget timeline leading to Full Council in February 2022 be noted.**
- (6) That a MTFS Update be received in September 2021 which will specifically detail the MTFS strategy and resource position in order to commence formal budget consultation in December.**

ACTION: Director of Finance

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

22. FULL-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Chief Executive submitted a report (**Document “J”**) which provided a summary of the high level achievements of the Authority as well as performance in the last year.

The municipal year 2020-21 was far from usual with all Council activity dominated by the response to the Coronavirus pandemic. A summary of some of our key achievements over the last year were included in the report.

This performance report covered a period where Local Government had faced

unprecedented challenges and changes. In particular, the impact of the COVID pandemic, which has had an unprecedented impact on all of the District's citizens and its businesses as well as on the way in which we work as an Authority.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPI) in the report were agreed at Executive, December 2020, for the municipal year 2021/22. This is a baseline year and as such this report described the direction of travel for each indicator in advance of the Council Plan period.

Those KPIs with a green status had an improving direction of travel, the details of which were set out in the report.

The Leader in welcoming the report stressed that Bradford despite the challenges, was making good progress on the key performance indicators, in particular our response to Covid should be commended for protecting communities.

In addition, with a number of infrastructure projects coming on stream such as Darley Street Market and Bradford Live, the District's prospects were improving.

The Leader also extended her thanks to all staff for their hard work during the pandemic, and ensuring that Council services continued to be delivered.

Resolved –

That the baseline of the key performance indicators in the 2021/25 Council Plan be noted.

ACTION: No Action

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

23. EXPLORING THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF ST JAMES'S WHOLESALE MARKET

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document "K"**) which sought approval for the proposed relocation of St James's Wholesale Market to facilitate the delivery of a new city centre Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) station and to enable the market to expand to become a nationally significant wholesale market.

As part of the Phase 1 master planning work funded by Government through the West Yorkshire devolution deal, work was commissioned by the Council to demonstrate the economic regeneration opportunities of a station in the Southern Gateway area of the city centre.

The work considered three different station options and the outcome of this process was that the St James's Wholesale Market site was selected as the preferred option for a proposed Bradford Northern Powerhouse Rail station.

The current wholesale market is at the heart of the Southern Gateway and its

proposed relocation would be key to not only enabling NPR as it is under Council ownership, but also in providing an opportunity for the development of a new modern market in a more convenient location to serve not only Bradford and the city region, but the whole of the north of England and southern Scotland, and increase the importance of food supply and manufacture across this area of the UK.

The Leader in welcoming the proposal commented on the vibrancy of the wholesale market, that it was a real asset to the District, and it was imperative to enable its future growth.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder in echoing the Leader's comments stressed that the wholesale market was operating at full capacity and this project would enable the market to realise its full potential.

In response to a number of questions from a main Opposition Group Member, it was stated that the market generated a revenue surplus of £250k and that the nearest similar market was in Manchester. Occupancy rates were at a maximum, with established tenancies.

Resolved –

- (1) That the relocation of St James's Wholesale Market and to expand into a regional food hub be approved.**
- (2) That the undertaking of a site appraisal and other studies (including a feasibility study) be approved to determine the most appropriate option. The £250,000 cost would be funded from the corporate project feasibility reserve initially, with potential for those costs to be subsequently capitalised.**
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Directors of Place and Corporate Resources in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Regeneration, Planning & Transport to agree the selected site and to advance the project including seeking approval of the capital resources required to deliver the scheme.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place / Corporate Resources

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration & Environment

24. SOUTH PENNINE MOORS SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) / SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document "L"**) which sought Executive approval to formally adopt the South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) / Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Planning Framework as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for use in the determination of planning applications. This document was in support of Policy SC8 in the adopted Local Plan Core Strategy.

A main Opposition Group Councillor was present at the meeting and stressed the importance of preserving the South Pennine Moors and that any future activity should not adversely impact on air quality and the natural habitat, adding that species like curlew had to be protected within this context.

In response it was stated that the SPD was not policy but merely guidance and that policy was contained within the Adopted Plan, however, it could be used in determining planning applications.

The Leader acknowledged that 2/3rd of the Bradford district were rural and it was therefore vitally important to preserve this natural heritage.

Resolved –

- (1) That the South Pennine Moors SPA/ SAC Planning Framework with the changes as recommended, attached in Appendix 1 to Document “L”, be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document.**
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to carry out any minor amendments of a drafting or similar nature necessary, prior to the formal publication of the adopted South Pennine Moors SPA/ SAC Planning Framework SPD.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration & Environment

25. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME UPDATE

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “M”**) explaining that the Council was required to publish and keep up to date a Local Development Scheme (LDS) which sets out the content and timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan. The Current Local Development Scheme was approved in 2018 outlining the programme to 2021.

The LDS had been revised and updated taking account of recent and emerging changes to the planning system, changes in local circumstances, as well as progress to date on the Local plan.

The revised LDS would provide an up to date position for the public and other interested parties. It was also a key background document which is considered when examining Local Plan Documents by an Inspector at Examination in Public.

Resolved –

That the LDS contained in Appendix 1 to Document “M” be approved and published on the Councils web site.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration & Environment

26. BRADFORD COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) - INVESTMENT OF THE STRATEGIC FUND

The Council had adopted the Bradford Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which had been in place and applied to new development since July 2017. This report related to the investment of the strategic CIL fund.

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “N”**) which sought Executive approval for the investment of the CIL strategic fund collected from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

In response to a question from a main Opposition Group Councillor regarding EV charging points, air quality and libraries, the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder stated that the usage of EV charging points would be monitored; that additional schemes to improve air quality would be developed and that he would provide a further written answer.

Resolved –

- (1) That the allocation of the CIL Strategic Fund as set out in Tables 2 and 3 to Document “N” be agreed (up to March 2021), be used to contribute to education, recreation and open space, electric vehicle charging points, cycle links, clean air plan, habitat mitigation and libraries.**
- (2) That the decision on the spend of the Strategic CIL Pot in Table 1 (to Document “N”) be delegated to the Strategic Director (Place) in consultation with the Portfolio holder.**
- (3) That the Assistant Director of Planning Transportation and Highways liaise with other Assistant Directors and Portfolio Holders to remind of the purpose of the Strategic Pot and how the CIL funds retained within it may be accessed to help deliver infrastructure projects.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Environment

27. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved –

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items relating to Squire Lane, the City of Culture Bid 2025 and a Construction Project 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.

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 implications of any decision.

28. DEVELOPMENT OF SQUIRE LANE SITE FOR A LEISURE, WELLBEING AND COMMUNITY FACILITY

The Strategic Directors of Place and Corporate Resources submitted a joint report (**Not for Publication Document “O”**) which set out the principles of developing a Leisure, Wellbeing and Enterprise centre at Squire Lane, Bradford.

Resolved –

That the recommendations set out in Not for Publication Document (“O”) be approved.

ACTION: Strategic Director’s Place / Corporate Resources

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration & Environment

29. BRADFORD'S BID TO BE UK CITY OF CULTURE 2025

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Not for Publication Document “P”**) which updated the Council on the DCMS timetable for bidding.

Resolved –

That the recommendations set out in Not for Publication Document (“P”) be approved.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration & Economy

30. CONSTRUCTION PROJECT - UPDATE ON CONTRACT DELIVERY

The Strategic Directors of Corporate Resources and Children’s Services submitted a joint report (**Not for Publication Document “Q”**) which related to a construction project and provided an update on the contract delivery.

Resolved –

That the recommendations set out in Not for Publication (Document “Q”) be approved.

ACTION: Strategic Director of Corporate Resources / Children’s Services

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Environment and Children’s Services

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