

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 7 December 2021 in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 10.30 am
Concluded 12.00 pm

Members of the Executive – Councillors

LABOUR
Hinchcliffe
I Khan
Ross-Shaw
Ferriby
Jabar
Duffy

Observers: Councillors Davies, Pollard, Poulsen and Whitaker

Councillor Hinchcliffe in the Chair

60. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interest of transparency Councillor Ross Shaw declared that he was a Member of the Keighley Towns Fund Board (Minute 66).

ACTION: City Solicitor

61. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted to review restricted documents.

62. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

There were no recommendations to the Executive.

63. PROPOSED FINANCIAL PLAN AND BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2022/23

The Director of Finance submitted a report (**Document “A1”**) which set out the update on budget decisions and Council Tax including new proposals for

consultation with the public, interested parties, staff and Trade Unions for 2022-23. The Director in setting out the proposed Budget for 2022/23 alluded to the following headline figures which were set out in Document “A1”:

- A Council Tax increase of 1.99% in line with the Chancellor’s Comprehensive Spending Review assumptions.
- An Adult Social Care precept increase, currently forecast at 1% in line with the Chancellors Comprehensive Spending Review assumptions.
- A £50 Council Tax discount for working age Council Tax Reduction Scheme recipients for one year only to cushion the withdrawal of the Government’s Council Tax Hardship Grant for low income households. The scheme would cost £1.6m in 2022-23.
- Council Tax support for care leavers by extending the 100% discount for Care Leavers scheme up to the age of 25 (from 21), at a cost of £52k.
- Previously agreed Welfare Advice/Customer Services savings of £350k would also be deferred by a further year to help provide additional support to low income households.
- No new redundancies or cuts to services arising from these proposals.
- £552k of new investment into Children’s Short Breaks.
- £10.5m to address existing Children’s and Adult Social Care pressures.
- £22.4m provision for inflation (4%); National living Wage increases for Social Care and other workers (a 6.6% increase from £8.91 to £9.50 per hour for over 23s), and the cost of National Insurance Contribution increases.
- The intent to continue to focus on the delivery of efficiencies and cost effective service delivery whilst improving outcomes.

The Leader thanked officers in Finance for the work undertaken in drafting the 2022/23 Budget, stressing that this would be a one year budget and therefore there were difficulties in planning beyond April 2023, given the uncertainties.

Despite a proposed Council Tax increase, the Council Tax base remained one of the lowest charged in the country. As well as providing numerous services it was important to understand that around 60% of the Council budget was spent on social care and this demand was increasing as well as the associated costs. The Leader thanked the care workers in the district for their dedication and hard work.

No redundancies were proposed in the Budget, however there remained considerable instability in terms of future Council funding and she urged that future Council funding had to reflect the essential role Councils played up and down the country.

In the sphere of Adult Social Care the dedication of the workforce was commended by the Portfolio Holder, particularly during the pandemic. Despite the launch of the Government White Paper on the future funding of Social Care, services had to be sufficiently funded as they were a vital statutory service.

In the area of Children's Social Care, the Portfolio Holder stressed that pressures remained and the Council was doing everything in its capacity to support the Children in its care and those that were vulnerable.

The Neighbourhoods and Community Safety Portfolio Holder stated that despite Government cuts, the Council continued to invest in communities and officers were working hard at ward level to improve services, particularly in supporting communities during the pandemic.

The Deputy Leader and the Education and Skills Portfolio Holder stated that the proposed Budget was an ambitious one and it was important that the Government recognised the volume of work Councils' delivered and make good on its promises on the levelling up agenda.

The Regeneration, Transportation and Planning Portfolio Holder stated that recovery was key in coming out of the pandemic. To this end Darley Street market, Bradford Live and 1 City Park were key components of this recovery and these regeneration projects were progressing well. He also welcomed the Keighley and Shipley Town Funds, which will again bring much need investment and regeneration to key towns in the district.

A main opposition Ward Councillor was present and questioned the impact of the living wage and the proposed increase in National Insurance contributions, and the cumulative impact of these changes on the budget. In response it was stated that further details were awaited before assumptions or implications of these changes could be made on the budget.

Resolved –

That having considered the Council's public sector equality duty as set out in Document "AI", the Executive:

- (1) Approve for consultation as required with the public, interested parties, staff and Trade Unions the proposed Council Tax and Social Care precept for 2022/23 set out at in section 3.5 to 3.7. to Document "AI".**
- (2) Approve for consultation as required with the public, interested parties, staff and Trade Unions the proposed one off Council Tax support initiatives for 2022/23 as set out in section 3.9 and 3.10 to Document "AI".**
- (3) Approve for consultation as required with the public, interested parties, staff and Trade Unions amendments to previously agreed savings proposals for 2022/23 set out in section 3.14 to Document "AI".**
- (4) Approve for consultation as required with the public, interested parties, staff and Trade Unions the one off investments to address existing pressures as set out in section 3.17 to Document "AI".**

- (5) Approve for consultation as required with the public, interested parties, staff and Trade Unions the recurring investments as set out in section 3.18 to Document “AI”.
- (6) Note the proposed use of reserves as set out in section 3.21 and 3.22 to Document “AI”.
- (7) Approve for consultation the proposed new capital schemes as set out in section 4.11 and 4.12 to Document “AI”.
- (8) Approve the consultation mechanisms and processes set out in section 5 to Document “AI”.

ACTION: *Director of Finance / Strategic Directors as appropriate*

Overview & Scrutiny Area: Corporate

64. **MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (**Document “AJ”**) which provided Executive with a summary of the Council’s overall achievements in the first six months of the 2021/22 municipal year. Alongside this was an overview of performance against the Council’s Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the first six months of 2021/2022. This overview focused on measures where there has been new, comparable data since the update provided at July’s Executive Committee.

The Council was continuing to deal with the impacts of the Covid pandemic, however investments had seen a growth in economic development, with the Future Boost programme supporting over 1,100 young people. Alongside this more than 500 young people had started on Kickstart placements coordinated by SkillsHouse, of which 254 have been within the Council and 250 across the employer partnership.

The District had also secured £33.6 million for the Keighley Towns Fund, £25 million for the Shipley Towns Fund and £20 million capital funding through the Levelling Up fund to build the Squire Lane Health and Wellbeing Hub in Toller. These investment will help support regeneration in these areas of the district.

The Council also continued to provide activities and meals through a range of activities over the summer via the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme.

A number of challenges also remained, such as tackling the high number of persistent absence from school.

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder highlighted that the City of Culture Bid was an important facet in showcasing the districts strengths as well as improving the growth potential and contributing to the health and wellbeing of its residents.

The Deputy Leader and Education and Skills Portfolio Holder acknowledged that the issue of persistent absence was a national one and he was keen to work with

schools to tackle it. He welcomed the increase in the number of SEND places in the district and the success of the KickStart programme.

The main opposition Group Leader was present at the meeting and stressed the need to provide more support to those Council employees who had a disability, and also ensure that local companies and suppliers were afforded more support in the procurement arena.

The Leader echoed these comments, adding that support would be directed appropriately, in line with procurement guidelines.

Resolved –

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

ACTION: No Action

Overview & Scrutiny Area: Corporate

REGENERATION, PLANNING & TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

(Councillor Ross-Shaw)

65. IMPROVEMENT LINE REVIEW (ILR) FOR HIGHWAY SCHEMES 2021

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “AK”**) which presented the findings of the latest ILR and makes recommendations on whether existing improvement lines should be retained, amended or revoked. The ILR also considered the need for new improvement lines to be declared for new highway improvement schemes within existing capital programmes or emerging strategic plans and details of these were provided in the appendices to the report. It was stressed that this was very much a technical report; revaluating existing improvement lines as well as declaring new ones, the details of which were set out in Document “AK”.

A Silsden Ward Councillor was present at the meeting and queried the impact of the proposed Silsden bypass and what forward planning had been done in terms of the impact of new housing in the area, in order to facilitate the building of the bypass, she also expressed concerns the impact new houses/bypass would have on the countryside, the infrastructure/facilities in the area and the town centre.

In response it was stated that the focus of this report was purely on ILR's and Highway schemes and any scheme taken forward would be fully consulted on, however any issues pertaining to proposed new housing sites should be fed through the local plan consultation process.

Resolved –

(1) That Executive approve:

- a) as per Appendix 1 to Document “AK”, Schedule A those Highway Improvement Lines (HILs) for which the declared alignment should continue to be protected;
- b) as per Appendix 1 to Document “AK”, Schedule C those HILs which are no longer required due to their associated schemes being delivered are discharged from the register of improvement lines;

(2) That Executive approve for initial consultation with affected property owners in accordance with the requirements of section 73 and Schedule 9 of the Highways Act 1980:

a) those lines as per Appendix 1 to Document “AK”, Schedule B for which the Highway Improvement Line will be protected subject to the following modifications:

- i) Item B.1 - Green Lane / Otley Road revoke drawing H/22323/5B and replace with drawing HS/N.22323/5C;
- ii) Item B.2 – Sticker Lane South / Dudley Hill revoke drawing N/24311/DL-13A and replace with drawing PTH/HS/104824/GA2-1A;
- iii) Item B.3 – Silsden Eastern bypass revoke drawing N/24328/DL-1A and replace with drawing N/24328/DL-1B;
- iv) Item B.4 – Station Road / Bridge House Lane, Haworth revoke drawing T/47224/TN/17A and replace with drawing T/47224/TN/17B;
- v) Item B.5 – Thornton Road / Cemetery Road revoke drawing 2237 and replace with drawing 60600564- ACM-GEN-THR-DR-CH-001;
- vi) Item B.6 – Great Horton Road / All Saints Road / Horton Park Avenue revoke drawing N/22334/1B and replace with PTH/HS/103886/100/GA-1A;
- vii) Item B.7 – Great Horton Road / Cross Lane revoke drawing N/22333/1B and replace with drawing HS/103814/OPT14/004A; and
- viii) Item B.8 – Carlisle Road / Toller Lane / Whetley Hill revoke drawing H/23339/OPT-3a and replace with drawing PTH/HS/103813/TOL/100/GA-1C.

a.

b) As per Appendix 1 to Document “AK”, Schedule C those schemes for which the Highway Improvement Line should be revoked.

b.

c) As per Appendix 1 to Document “AK”, Schedule D those new highway improvement lines as follows:

c.

- i) Item D.1 – West Bradford Cycle Superhighway shown on drawing(s) HS/104973/HIL-1A;
- ii) Item D.2 – Denholme bypass A629 to Keighley Road shown on drawing(s) HS/105197/HIL-1A;
- iii) Item D.3 – Steeton / Silsden A650 / A6034 cycle route shown on drawing(s) STSJ/ARP/00/XX/DR/CX/1003.

- (3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to make any necessary amendments to proposed improvement lines to deal with responses from the consultation.
- (4) That following completion of the statutory consultation period a further report be presented to Executive to formally adopt the proposed lines consulted upon and to formally revoke those lines no longer to be prescribed.
- (5) That a further review of Highway Improvement Lines be undertaken following the adoption of the local Plan, or in 5 years' time (whichever is sooner) with any further modifications to existing lines, or new lines to be declared, being presented to Executive.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview & Scrutiny Area: Regeneration & Environment

66. TOWNS FUND PROGRAMME FOR SHIPLEY AND KEIGHLEY

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

It was stated that In June 2021, Shipley received an investment offer of £25m and Keighley received an investment offer of £33.6m; these were the two highest investment offers in West Yorkshire and at £33.6m, Keighley represents the fifth highest Town Deal investment offer nationally. Investments over £25m are limited to the most ambitious Town Investment Plans that promise to deliver transformational impacts for not only towns but also wider region and/or the country. In respect of Keighley, the Town demonstrated the regional significance of manufacturing and engineering sector to achieve an investment offer that exceeds £25m.

Shipley and Keighley were now in the process of developing detailed business cases for each project; all business cases will have to be completed and submitted to Government by the end of June 2022.

On 11 November 2021, the Council received the Grant Offer Letters for Shipley and Keighley. This was an important milestone as it will enable the Government to release 5% of the investment offer to the Council, as the Accountable Body (£1.25m for Shipley and £1.68m for Keighley. This was effectively an early advance of the capital investment to enable project development and drafting of the business cases. No other capital funds will be received until the respective business cases are approved by Government.

The Chair of the Keighley Town Board was present at the meeting and stated that he was excited at the potential the Fund would have on the area and he was positive that some good projects would be delivered. He however expressed

some concerns around the performance of the consultants that had been engaged and that these concerns were also echoed by his counterpart in Shipley.

The Leader in welcoming the funding , echoed that the any concerns would be performance managed accordingly.

Two projects in the Keighley area were highlighted as already having made a significant contribution to the cultural offer, and that the Fund would enable further development of these and other similar projects.

The Leader stressed the value culture offered to the district as a whole and the enthusiasm and contribution of the projects were welcomed.

The main opposition group leader stated that it was important that engagement is improved as were progressed with the Towns Fund.

In response the Portfolio Holder stated that some of the issues raised were linked with the way the Towns Fund was structured and we had little say in how that could be altered, however there was a real impetus to ensure the process and delivery were effective.

Businesses were also being supported to ensure that they applied for funding that demonstrated increased productivity as well as evidence of job creation.

Resolved –

- (1) That the work be acknowledged and the Town Deal Boards be thanked for their ongoing commitment and progress to date;**
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Director of Finance & IT, as the S151 Officer in consultation with the Strategic Director of Place, the City Solicitor and the Leader, to approve and submit the business cases to Government, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) - formerly known as MHCLG, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government;**
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Director of Finance & IT in consultation with the Strategic Director of Place to authorise expenditure from the advance payment of 5% capital funds for business case and project development and agree to passport some of this funding via grant agreements to third party organisations to help develop those projects where appropriate or necessary;**
- (4) That the assurance process for agreeing/authorising business cases for individual projects be endorsed as set out in Document “AL”.**
- (5) That authority be delegated to the Director of Finance & IT in consultation with the Strategic Director of Place, the City Solicitor and the Leader to approve business cases for individual**

projects; and

- (6) That authority be delegated to the Director of Finance & IT in consultation with the City Solicitor to agree and complete the funding agreements with organisations that will deliver Town Deal projects for the Towns Fund programme.**

Overview & Scrutiny Area: Regeneration and Environment

67. MINUTES OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

That the minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 7 September 2021 be received.

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