

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 5 April 2022 in Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 10.30 am
Concluded 11.00 am

Members of the Executive – Councillors

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

Observer: Councillor Pollard (Minute 114)

Apologies: Councillor Sue Duffy

Councillor Hinchcliffe in the Chair

111. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

112. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted to review restricted documents.

113. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

A petition objecting to the sale of green field off Elliott Street was received from the Council meeting held on 15 March 2022.

To note and recommend that a report be considered at the meeting on 7 June 2022.

ACTION: Strategic Director Corporate Resources

114. QTR 4 FINANCE POSITION STATEMENT FOR 2021-22

The report of the Director of Finance (**Document “BK”**) provided Members with an update on the forecast year-end financial position of the Council for 2021-22.

It examined the latest spend against revenue and capital budgets and the forecasted year-end financial position based on information at the end of February 2022. It stated the Council's current balances and reserves and school balances.

Based on a projection at February the 28th 2022, the Council was forecasted to overspend the £385.4m net revenue budget by £3.2m by March 31st 2022. This is after taking account of the c£27m of Covid related funding that's been carried forward from 2020-21, and c£58m 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, and the allocation of significant amounts of Covid related funding.

The Council wide forecast overspend has remained the same as Qtr 3, however, there has been a £2.5m increased in the forecast overspend in Children's Services, offset by an equivalent improvement in other areas.

The forecast Council overspend is a best estimate of the 2021-22 year-end position based on current trajectories, and although it is late in the financial year there remains a number of uncertainties that could impact on the final year end position.

The Leader enquired how the pandemic would impact on the Council's finances going forward. In response it was stated that a number of income streams would still be affected, including car parking revenue as well as other fees and charges across a number of service areas; the increase in the cost of looked after placements and in the areas of waste was another area of concern.

The Leader stressed that the impact of the pandemic would be felt long into the future, and that Government had not indicated that they would cover these additional costs.

The Leader added that it had been a very difficult year for the Council, as Social Care pressures remained acute in the face of high demand; mental health services also needed bolstering in the context of increased demand. In relation to Children's Social Care the overspend was similar to that of other Local Authorities up and down the country.

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder thanked the Finance Team for the work done on the budget. She highlighted that the number of people accessing Adult Social Care was increasing across a number of age groups. The pressure on services was acute however the focus remained in supporting, where possible,

people in their own homes, and it was important that Government adequately funded Adult Social Care.

A Main Opposition Group Councillor was present at the meeting and expressed his concerns at the continuing cost pressures in Children's Social Care and what mitigations measures were being looked at to stabilise the situation going forward. In response it was stated that although there was the prospect of increased costs in the context of increasing demand, there was a concerted effort to look at individual cases to see which cases could be closed, as well as looking at a raft of other measures in order to manage the budget.

The Leader stated that the ongoing pressures in Social Care and future funding was a national issue that Government needed to address.

Resolved -

- (1) That the contents of Document "BK" and the actions taken to manage the issues highlighted be noted.**
- (2) That the following capital expenditure schemes as outlined in section 14.9 to Document "BK" be approved:**
 - **£0.33m additional budget to complete the relocation of the Central Processing Unit to Mitre Court. This overspend will be funded by an additional corporate capital receipts and underspends on corporate property schemes.**

Note that the following has been approved under Section 1.7 of the Financial Regulations:

- **£3.3m for additional investment in BACES. The budget is currently included in Reserve Schemes.**

ACTION: Director of Finance

115. ENSURING THE SUFFICIENCY OF SPECIALIST PLACES FOR SEND - BINGLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Strategic Director of Children's Services presented a report (**Document "BL"**) on a proposal to establish a 24 place Resourced Provision at Bingley Grammar School as part of the construction works to enlarge the school premises, increasing the overall mainstream net capacity by 150 places and enabling the removal of fourteen temporary units.

The Bradford District had experienced a significant increase in demand for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision over the last 10 years.

The number of children and young people with an EHCP within the Bradford district continues to rise year on year. The high levels of occupancy of the current

specialist provisions demonstrates that there is a need to develop more specialist provisions across the district in order to meet current and future demand.

Hence the development of the proposed Resourced Provision would ultimately reduce the reliance on placing children and young people with SEND, within more expensive specialist provisions outside of our Local Authority.

Additional built capacity to accommodate an extra form of entry in every year group (Years 7 - 11) would enable Bingley Grammar School to continue to admit bulge classes until the current increased demand has diminished. It would also offer flexibility should the number of younger children across the District increase in the future and the additional places are again required or required for longer than currently forecast. New permanent built accommodation being the most suitable to meet the needs of the children and young people.

Following a statutory consultation process, which ran from 13 January to 10 February 2022, a favourable response was received on the proposals, from all those who participated in the process.

The Education and Skills Portfolio Holder stated that the proposals reinforced the Council's commitment to SEND provision in the district as well as increasing the pupil intake in a popular secondary school.

Resolved -

- (1) That the proposal to establish at Bingley Grammar School a new Specialist Resourced Provision for up to 24 children and young people with Communication and Interaction needs including Autistic Spectrum Disorders be approved; and**
- (2) That the related proposal to enlarge the premises of Bingley Grammar School by increasing the capacity by 150 places be approved.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Children's Services

116. MINUTES OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

That the minutes of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 3 February 2022 be received.

Chair

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