

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 7 March 2023 in the Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 10.30 am
Concluded 11.30 am

Present – Councillors

LABOUR
Hinchcliffe
I Khan
Ross-Shaw
Ferriby
Jabar
Duffy

Observers: Councillor Davies and Felstead (Minute 217)

Councillor Hinchcliffe in the Chair

214. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In relation to the Bereavement Strategy (Minute 218), Councillor I Khan declared that he was the president of the Council for Mosques, and that this declaration was recorded in the Member's register of interest, however he had received a dispensation on the matter from the Director of Legal and Governance. On the basis the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area, and it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

ACTION: Director of Legal and Governance

215. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

216. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

There were no recommendations to the Executive.

217. COUNCIL PLAN - MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022-23

The Chief Executive submitted a report (**Document “BE”**) which provided a summary of the Council’s overall achievements in the first six-months of the municipal year 2022-2023. Alongside this was an overview of performance against the Council’s Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the first six-months of 2022-23. This overview focussed on measures where there has been new, comparable data since the full-year report provided at the Executive meeting in July 2022.

The Head of Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Research gave a brief overview of the significant achievements to date and the exemplary work done around the cost of living crisis; housing standards and the Keighley Warm Spaces project. The City of Culture announcement and resulting work continued to improve our cultural offer, and standing nationally and internationally, as well as bring in investment into the district. The Kickstart Programme and the localities work in collaboration with our partners continued to make a difference to the lives of residents. The introduction of the voter ID scheme would have a disproportionate impact on young people which needed to be addressed. Performance on the key performance indicators were set out in Document “BE”.

The Leader welcomed the report and stated that it gave us some foresight and a trajectory of where we are; she highlighted the overall good performance in most areas of the Council’s activities, despite the continuing impacts of the pandemic.

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder commended the staff in Adult Social Care for making a real difference to the lives of older people. The work of managing the discharge of older people from hospital was alluded to and that by working closely with our health colleagues, good arrangements were in place in terms of the transition between hospital and home, and ensuring that the right level of support was in place upon discharge, and thus enabling more patients to remain in their own homes.

She also expressed her thanks to residents and the waste collection and recycling team for the increase in recycling rates and the positive impact this would have on the environment.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder commended the work around homelessness and tackling rough sleepers, as well as the work done by the private sector housing team.

The number of people killed or seriously injured continued to pose a challenge and the work around Vision Zero with WYCA should see us making a difference to these casualty figures, however the Road Safety Team were doing some sterling work with schools in the district around road safety awareness and tackling the issue of traffic and parking around schools.

A opposition group Councillor was present at the meeting and sought clarity on a number of issues; whether landlords paid a contribution to the energy efficient homes scheme; the disparities in the number of warm spaces in the district; whether there were any plans to introduce electric gritter vehicles to the fleet and the holiday food programme roll out.

In response it was stated that in relation to the warm spaces and the disparity in

the numbers, many in Bradford East took up the offer of food parcels as an alternative to the provision of warm spaces; in terms of the Holiday Food Programme the DFE were very prescriptive, going forward, and only those children on free school meals would be eligible for help outside term time, however there were many families, who did not meet the criteria but were still in desperate need, who had been helped in the past, but will no longer qualify. Electric refuse vehicles had been rolled out and we will be looking how this can be extended to the remaining fleet and in relation to the energy efficient homes scheme an answer will be provided outside of this meeting.

A further opposition group Councillor ascertained that in relation to employment rates in the district what economic factors contributed to this rate; which areas of the economy showed growth/decline; of the jobs created how many were full or part time; any caveats to the annual population survey data and is the data set used in the analysis. In response to the questions, the Head of Performance stated that there was granular data that sat behind the KPI's and this information can be circulated outside of this meeting. She stressed that it was important that the right data sets were used, and to this end we were looking at adding some additional KPIs to give a more rounded picture to the performance data.

The Leader stressed the need to maintain the core KPIs and not make too many changes, otherwise measuring performance over time could be lost.

Resolved –

- (1) That the performance against the key performance indicators in the 2021/25 Council Plan be noted.**
- (2) Members commented on the Council's performance over the last six-months.**

ACTION: Chief Executive

Overview & Scrutiny Area: Corporate

218. BEREAVEMENT SERVICES STRATEGY UPDATE

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “BF”**) which provided a progress update on delivery of the Councils' Bereavement Services Strategy and sought approval for further projects and the required corporate capital funding.

The Bereavement and Amenity Manager outlined the main proposals and developments to date, which were detailed in Document “BF”.

The Leader stated that ensuring a good bereavement service was crucial, and that it was important to give people the confidence that their loved ones were provided with the right level of service, during a very difficult time in their lives.

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder thanked officers in the Bereavement Service for their sterling work and patience during the transition to new facilities, which were state of the art, and that further facilities would be coming on stream as the Strategy was rolled out.

The Deputy Leader echoed the above comments, adding that he welcomed the proposals for Bowling Cemetery, ensuring that the Service catered to the needs of our diverse communities and he extended his thanks to the Service, staff as well as to Councillor Jabar and the MP for Bradford East, Imran Hussain for his support and input into the matter, and that he was hopeful that future cemetery provision was provided in the right places, so that the needs of the community could continue to be met.

Resolved –

- (1) That Implementation of Phase 2 of the Bereavement Service's Cemetery Delivery Plan be approved at an estimated cost of £5.98m to be funded within the Council's corporate capital programme.**
- (2) That the extension of Bowling Cemetery be progressed at an estimated cost of £2.38m as the first project within Phase 2 of the Cemetery Delivery Plan.**
- (3) That authority for spend be delegated to the Strategic Director, Place in consultation with the S151 officer to deliver the first new cemetery as the second project within Phase 2 of the Cemetery Delivery Plan subject only to further review by PAG.**
- (4) That the Strategic Director Corporate Services be instructed to commence preliminary negotiations for the acquisition of sites identified for possible development as major cemeteries.**
- (5) That Executive receives a further update report on the Bereavement Strategy delivery plans, to include details and options for the development of a major cemetery and to approve acquisition of the necessary land.**
- (6) That the progress made to date on delivering the crematoria investment programme within the Council's Bereavement Services Strategy be welcomed and supported.**

ACTION: *Strategic Director Place / Strategic Director Corporate Resources*

Overview & Scrutiny Area: Regeneration and Environment

219. EXCEPTION TO THE FORWARD PLAN

Note: The items relating to HRA (Minute 220) and the Government Funded Housing Fund Initiative (Minute 221) were included on this agenda as exceptions to the Forward Plan in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 10 (General Exception to the Forward Plan) of Part 3D of the Constitution.

220. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2023-2028

The Strategic Director of Place submitted a report (**Document "BG"**) which sought approval to the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan,

which set out the council's strategic approach to the future maintenance, repair and refurbishment of the council's affordable housing stock.

Details of the HRA and Business Plan were set out in Document "BG" and alluded to at the meeting.

The Leader stated that the housing stock which was under Council ownership provided good value for money, as well as contributing to meeting our housing need.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder commented that it had been a long journey in delivering the HRA and that the ambition behind the scheme was to create affordable homes, interventions in the private rented sector, drive growth and improve standards.

Resolved –

That the draft HRA Business plan be approved.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview & Scrutiny Area: Regeneration & Environment

221. PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT FUNDED LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING FUND INITIATIVE

The Strategic Director of Place submitted a report ((**Document "BH" – which included a Not for Publication Appendix 1**)) which sought approval to participation in the Governments Local Authority Housing Fund initiative. The initiative makes grant funding available for the acquisition of dwellings as temporary accommodation for households currently provided with leave to remain in the UK as part of the Ukraine and Afghanistan resettlement schemes. At the conclusion of the scheme, the dwellings would be added to the council's general needs housing stock in order to meet local housing need.

Details of the initiative were set out in Document "BH" and alluded to at the meeting.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder commented that the initiative would provide good quality homes, and at the same time enable us to grow our housing stock.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Council's involvement in the Governments Local Authority Housing Fund Initiative be confirmed.**
- (2) That approval be provided to officers to agree and for the council to enter into the required Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities for the delivery of the Local Authority Housing Fund.**

- (3) That subject to further review of the financial position, an analysis on property and rent values will be required to determine if the Council can provide match funding as detailed in Not for Publication Appendix 1 towards the acquisitions of the properties described in Document “BH”.
- (4) That officers be instructed to commence the task of identifying appropriate properties for acquisition.
- (5) That authority given to the Strategic Director of Place in consultation with the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Finance & IT to progress with property acquisitions as part of the Local Authority Housing Fund.

ACTION: *Strategic Director of Place / Strategic Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Finance & IT*

Overview & Scrutiny Area: Regeneration & Environment

222. CITY VILLAGE REGENERATION SCHEME

The Strategic Director of Place submitted a report (**Document “BI”**) which sought the Executive’s endorsement of the strategic regeneration proposals to create a new ‘City Village’ in the heart of the City Centre, and to authorise the procurement of a preferred private sector Development Partner to assist the Council in planning, preparing and delivering the project.

Details of the City Village Scheme were set out in Document “BI” and alluded to in detail at the meeting.

The Leader stated that the City Village proposal was an exciting opportunity to reshape our city and provide leisure, commercial and housing opportunities, particularly for young people, who were captivated by city living.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder added that this scheme was very much part of our emerging growth plan which would link in with the developments and trends already in situ or coming on stream, such as Broadway, Darley Street, 1 City Park and Bradford Live and also provide linkages to developments outside of the city centre. This growth would also stimulate inward investment into other areas of the district.

Resolved–

- (1) That the strategic regeneration concept, objectives and proposals to create a new ‘City Village’ at the heart of

Bradford City Centre be approved.

- (2) That the Strategic Director of Place, in conjunction with the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to proceed with the appointment of preferred developer under the Pagabo framework as the Council's preferred Development Partner for the Stage 1 Pre Development Services Agreement.**
- (3) That the Strategic Director of Place be requested to provide a further report in due course to the Executive with a project update, delivery plan and funding proposals and if recommended to request Members' approval to progress to the Stage 2 delivery elements of the Scheme.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place / Strategic Director Corporate Resources

Overview & Scrutiny Area: Regeneration & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

223. MINUTES OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

That the minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 8 December 2022 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