

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL, BRADFORD ON TUESDAY, 12 JULY 2022

Commenced 4.00 pm
Concluded 8.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillors:

LABOUR

Akhtar	Alipoor	Amran	Azam
Berry	Choudhry	Cunningham	Dearden
Dodds	Duffy	Engel	Ferriby
Godwin	D Green	Hayden	Hinchcliffe
A Hussain	I Hussain	K Hussain	M Hussain
S Hussain	T Hussain	Iqbal	Jabar
Jamil	H Khan	I Khan	S Khan
Lal	Lintern	Mohammed	Mukhtar
Nazir	Parsan	Regan	Ross-Shaw
Rowe	Salam	Shafiq	Shaheen
Slater	Tait	Thirkill	Thornton
Walsh	Wheatley	Wood	

CONSERVATIVE

F Ahmed	Ali	Barker	Bibby
Birch	Brown	P Clarke	Coates
Davies	Glentworth	Goodall	K Green
Loy	Nazam	Pollard	Poulsen
Sullivan	Winnard		

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

Griffiths	Knox	Naylor	Stubbs
Sunderland			

GREEN

Hickson	Love	Warnes	Watson
Whitaker			

**BRADFORD
INDEPENDENTS**

**BRADFORD SOUTH
INDEPENDENTS**

**THE ILKLEY
INDEPENDENT**

Elahi

Majkowski

Hawkesworth

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Love in the Chair

13. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Minute no. 22 – Member Question Time

In the interests of transparency, Councillor P Clarke declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to question no. 9 in his capacity as S151 Officer of Keighley Town Council.

Minute no. 24 – Notices of Motion

In the interests of transparency, Councillor Loy declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to notice of motion 12.5 (A Council Structure to meet future needs) due to his employer's involvement in setting up the Children's Trust.

Councillor Parsan declared an interest in relation to notice of motion 12.1 (Eliminating the use of pesticides in our community). On the basis that it was a disclosable pecuniary interest, Councillor Parsan left the meeting during the consideration of this item and did not participate in the vote.

14. MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 17 May 2022 be signed as a correct record.

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Ahmed, R Ahmed, Amran, Brown, J Clarke, Edwards, Felstead, Firth, Herd, Humphries, Lee, Mullaney, Sajawal and Smith.

16. WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR (Standing Order 4)

A copy of the Lord Mayor's announcements had been circulated and published on the Council's website.

17. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no restricted items.

18. PETITIONS (Standing Order 11)

Traffic calming measures on Vine Terrace West (Clayton and Fairweather Ward)

Resolved – That the petition be referred to Bradford West Area Committee.

Action – Interim City Solicitor

19. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Standing Order 13)

The following public question had been received from Robert Hargreaves:

“Can the council leadership provide an update on the outcome of the report it commissioned Sport England to carry out on swimming pools in Bradford, specifically in relation to the future of Queensbury Pool? As a former Queensbury Ward councillor, an active community campaigner and a frustrated resident with a keen interest in the future of the site, it is disappointing that the council has been sitting on this information since the middle of December and that it's officers refuse to make an announcement despite previous promises made.”

Resolved – That a copy of the response be provided in writing and published on the Council's website.

Action – Interim City Solicitor

20. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES (Standing Order 4)

Resolved – That the following membership changes to Committees, be approved:

a) That the following non-voting co-opted members be appointed to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2022/23 Municipal Year:

- Tom Bright – Teacher Secondary School Representative
- Dr Samina Karim – Children's Social Care.

b) That the following non-voting co-opted members be appointed to the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2022/23 Municipal Year:

- Susan Crowe – Bradford District Assembly Health and Wellbeing Forum
- Trevor Ramsay – i2i Patient Involvement Network, Bradford District NHS Foundation Care Trust
- Helen Rushworth – Healthwatch Bradford and District.

c) That other membership changes to Committees, be approved as follows:

- Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Brendan Stubbs to replace Councillor Jeanette Sunderland. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland to replace Councillor Susan Knox as an alternate.
- Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Aneela Ahmed to replace Councillor Karen Regan.

- Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny – Councillor Joe Wheatley to replace Councillor Aneela Ahmed as an alternate.
- Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Karen Regan to replace Councillor Hassan Khan as an alternate.
- Regulatory and Appeals Committee – Councillor Shabir Hussain to replace Councillor Marcus Dearden as an alternate. Councillor Kevin Warnes to replace Councillor Caroline Whitaker as an alternate.
- Area Planning Panel (Keighley and Shipley) – Councillor Mohammed Shafiq to replace Councillor Ralph Berry as an alternate.

21. REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The report of the Leader of the Council had been circulated and published on the Council’s website.

22. MEMBER QUESTION TIME (Standing Order 12)

Details of the questions from Members to the Leader of Council and Portfolio Holders and the answers given had been circulated and published on the Council’s website.

23. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES (Standing Order 15)

At the meeting of Governance and Audit Committee held on 9 June 2022, consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance and IT, which presented the Annual Treasury Management Report 2021-22 for adoption by Council.

Resolved – That the Annual Treasury Management Report 2021-22 (**Document C**) be adopted by Council.

Action – Director of Finance and IT

24. NOTICES OF MOTION (Standing Order 17)

Resolved – That the following notices of motion be approved:

12.1 - Eliminating the use of pesticides in our community

Moved by: Councillor Sarah Ferriby

Seconded by: Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Council notes:

The debate concerning the possible harmful effects of glyphosate is continuing to take place within organisations, including councils and governmental bodies, across

the world.

The motion approved by full council on 16 July 2019 titled 'Use of glyphosate herbicides by CBMDC' requested that the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee commission and publish a report covering these issues, the steps taken to protect both staff and the public from harm and examine alternative measures for weed control with a view to making recommendations for the reduction or cessation of glyphosate use.

Council therefore requests:

That the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which has recently completed work on climate emergency, green space, water management, biodiversity and single-use plastics, progress the report, which was inevitably delayed by the Covid pandemic, at its earliest opportunity.

That the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which is under development and incorporates the existing Strategic Action Plan for bumblebees, be sent to the Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee for review and feedback by members before it is adopted.

12.2 - Woodlands and trees

Moved by: Councillor Sarah Ferriby

Seconded by: Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Council notes that:

Bradford Council currently manages around 30,000 street trees and 860 hectares of woodland across the district.

In January 2019, Bradford Council passed a motion that declared a Climate Emergency and on our website commits to "improve green space" across the district.

Bradford Council has also pledged to plant one tree for every primary school child across the district. This equates to 55,000 trees of which around 26,000 have already been planted including 10,000 planted as part of the Queen's Canopy (QGC). A further 29,000 will be planted up to 2024.

Bradford Council was awarded 'Tree City of the World' for its commitment to urban tree forestry.

Bradford District is part of the Northern Forest Project - an ambitious plan to plant 50 million trees across the North of England before 2032.

Bradford Council is achieving all of the above despite the unprecedented level of Conservative government funding cuts over the past 12 years which continue to put incredible strain on all council services for people throughout the district.

With regard to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), an individual tree is the

responsibility of the land owner, who has the responsibility to regularly risk assess them.

Council resolves to:

Achieve the ambitious targets we have set ourselves to plant new trees whilst maintaining and improving our substantial existing woodlands, street trees, parks and green spaces

Continue to work with schools, volunteers and Friends groups in our new planting and management of existing trees, parks and green spaces and acknowledge the leading role our parks services have played in facilitating and supporting new Friends groups

Support the planned introduction of a new Customer Relationship Management system by the Customer Contact Centre which is intended to bring a number of improvements including giving residents direct access to the trees service to report issues and to be able to track the progress of their service requests.

Continue to invest in keeping all our trees and woodlands safe and environmentally friendly and to respond quickly to reports of any dangerous or damaging trees through efficient communications with residents, whilst ensuring any future budget decisions relating to trees and woodlands are properly considered as part of the council's wider budget process.

12.3 - Supporting all road users

Moved by: Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Seconded by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Council notes that:

- The cost of filling a typical family car has increased 20% in the last six months, exacerbating the cost of living crisis. While car ownership is an aspiration or necessity for some people, many others cannot afford one. Whatever their reason, residents should not have to rely on owning a car to get around
- This Council has invested extensively in infrastructure for electric vehicles while the Government has told the motorist there will be no further sales of new petrol and diesel cars beyond 2030
- The Highway Code has been updated by The Department of Transport to incorporate a 'Hierarchy of Road Users' with the following order of importance: Pedestrians, Cyclists, Horse Riders, Motorbikes, Cars/Taxis, Vans/Minibuses, HGVs
- Public transport is a public good and any public transport unreliability is due in no small part to the failure of government to resolve sector disputes and properly fund services
- Provision of bus lanes and quality, segregated cycle facilities encourages a switch to potentially cheaper, more sustainable modes of transport. Government has said it expects West Yorkshire to increase the kilometres of bus lanes we have in the recent City Region Sustainable Transport

Settlement (CRSTS) negotiations.

- Road safety remains an overwhelming concern when considering any highways scheme

Council resolves:

- To continue thinking of all road users when planning transport and public realm schemes in line with The Highway Code, Bus Back Better, the West Yorkshire EV charging ambitions and cycle regulations LTN1/20
- To continue developing a network of bus lanes and segregated cycleways across the district to add to existing routes between Leeds and Bradford, Bradford and Shipley and the Leeds-Liverpool canal towpath
- To implement Vision Zero for road safety across the district, working with partners across the council and externally, to drastically reduce the number of people hurt or killed on our roads.

12.4 - Rental Auctions

Moved by: Councillor Alun Griffiths

Seconded by: Councillor Brendan Stubbs

This council notes the provisions in the Levelling up Bill currently before parliament pertaining to powers for Local Authorities to require “Rental Auctions” where high street properties have been left empty for more than a year.

This council believes that such empty properties are a blight on our City and Town centres and have a damaging knock on effect on neighbouring businesses and the areas as a whole.

This council resolves to:

- Write to our district’s members of parliament requesting that they support these parts of the bill.
- Prepare to make use of these provisions by identifying areas to be designated as “High Streets” within the meaning of the act.
- Identifying the properties in these street that fulfil the “vacancy condition” within the act in order that letting notices and if subsequently required final letting notices may be issued without delay when the powers are made available.

12.5 – A Council Structure to meet future needs

Moved by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Seconded by: Councillor Sue Duffy

This Council notes:

There is nothing more important than improving services for the thousands of children who need us in the Bradford district.

The Council is setting up a Children’s Trust which will be a wholly owned

subsidiary of the council.

The Council will still have responsibility for all children in the Bradford district and will hold the Children's Trust to account for excellent delivery of services.

It is vital we retain and recruit the best staff available to run the Children's Trust, notwithstanding a national shortage of children's social workers including a national 16.7% vacancy rate.

The Council will always have a legal responsibility for Children and therefore has to have a Director of Children's Services (DCS) in the Council who can work well with the Children's Trust.

A significant number of staff including senior leaders will TUPE across to the Children's Trust when it is established.

The Council, together with the NHS, will continue to have responsibility for delivering SEND services. The responsibility for school admissions, working with schools to improve absenteeism, education safeguarding and other key areas of work will still remain in the Council. The DCS will have responsibility for a significant budget.

The Council is facing significant financial challenges in managing the budget in the face of rising demand and costs. This is in common with many other authorities in the country. Placement costs alone have increased by 30% since April this year, these are unprecedented. Significant work is continuing to mitigate these financial pressures.

There has been a considerable amount of work done by the Government Commissioners and legal counsel to set up the Children's Trust and to advise the Council on the correct structures to support the new organisation. This legal counsel is paid for by the Government through general taxation.

The Council should continue the regular briefings with councillors across party so that they are sighted on and involved in the establishment of the Children's Trust. We should follow advice and experience of how best to manage the development of the Trust, including structures, in the best interests of the children of Bradford district.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive as the Head of the Paid Service to ensure:

- That in the establishment of the Trust an appropriate senior management structure is developed for the Council.
- That as required by employment legislation these roles are filled via TUPE transfer up to the date at which the Trust becomes operational.
- That appropriate roles are filled in the council's structure to discharge our abiding statutory responsibilities for Children's services including education support services, SEND services and the client management function for delivery of Children's social care
- Regular cross party briefings continue with elected members so that they are fully sighted on and involved in the establishment of the Children's

Trust.

12.6 - UK City of Culture 2025

Moved by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Seconded by: Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

On 31 May 2022 Bradford was named UK City of Culture 2025 after a hugely successful bid which showed off the whole district, its talent and its unequalled potential to the expert judges and ministers. Bradford's award of UK City of Culture will generate significant new inward investment to the district and create exciting opportunities for residents and businesses.

This Council:

- Thanks the Bradford 2025 City of Culture team for their hard work in developing a brilliant and inclusive bid that galvanised the whole district.
- Reaffirms our support as the team progress to the next stage of planning for delivery.
- Recognises the importance of art, culture and the creative industries in driving regeneration and generating world class opportunities for residents of all ages and backgrounds.
- Recognises that the arts and culture are integral to a high-quality STEAM curriculum in schools and other educational settings (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics)
- Notes and welcomes the economic and social benefits already gained for the district through the bid, including:
 - Over £5m revenue secured in the past three years.
 - £2m secured for Creative People and Places and £1m for the Bradford Producing Hub (one of only two in the UK).
 - Extensive local, national and global coverage across print, digital, TV and social media.
 - Published a 10-year cultural strategy, Culture is our Plan, recognised as a national model of good practice.
 - Delivered a series of projects showcasing a new wave of talent.
 - Developed new levels of collaboration and partnership between key agencies, particularly the University of Bradford and the Council.

We resolve to:

- Continue our strong support for the City of Culture team in the next phase of planning for delivery of a successful year.
- Work with partners across the district and nationally to gain and share expertise and to involve everyone in the district as excitement builds to 2025.
- Work to ensure the strongest possible lasting legacy from Bradford's year as City of Culture for all communities across the whole of the district – we must ensure our residents and businesses enjoy sustained benefits post-2025 and this must be a key part of the delivery plans.

12.7 - UK cost of living crisis

Moved by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Seconded by: Councillor Abdul Jabar

This Council is concerned that these are extremely difficult times for residents and businesses in our district faced with the national cost of living crisis. UK inflation is at a 40-year high of 9.1%. The Bank of England expects it will reach 11% in October, significantly higher than other similar countries in the G7.

Wages in the UK stagnated between 2010 and 2020 in a decade of government austerity and weak growth. We now have a country where household budgets are under strain, including those of working families who account for over 40%, or 2 million, of Universal Credit claimants. Plus, a growing number of families who receive no state support are worried about money. Two thirds (66%) of respondents to the Office for National Statistics' latest Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) in January said their cost of living had gone up in the last month. Of those, almost 9 in 10 (87%) said the price of their food shop had increased, and 8 in 10 (79%) said gas and electricity prices were a factor. We now have the added impact of Covid, Brexit and global events like the war in Ukraine, creating a perfect storm for all households and especially the most vulnerable who are disproportionately hit by rising food and energy costs.

The government's £20 a week cut in Universal Credit last October takes £66m from the least well-off households in our district over the course of a year.

For families, businesses and public services alike, costs are rising rapidly. Growth is lacking. Whilst we as a Council do everything we can to support residents through this, the country needs a transformation not a sticking plaster. The Government needs to invest in growth that everyone can contribute to and share in.

This Council resolves to:

- Continue to support our most vulnerable residents facing immediate pressures by providing:
 - Welfare assistance and advice.
 - Council Tax Reduction scheme including for care leavers.
 - Discretionary housing payments.
 - The Household Support Fund, including support for: VCS provision, free school meal families during the summer break, foodbanks, carers, lower-cost white goods and help with fuel costs.
 - Holiday activity and food (HAF) programmes.
 - Support for social supermarkets and foodbanks.
 - Support for the Bradford Credit Union.
 - Support for the development of our anti-poverty strategy to meet the growing challenges of the post-covid world and rising cost of living, which will aim to protect people in poverty, prevent people falling into or deeper into poverty, provide pathways out of poverty and ensure those in poverty can participate in the full life of their communities – economic, social, political and cultural.

- Continue to work with the West Yorkshire Mayor who is taking action to tackle the cost of living crisis on a regional level, for example by capping bus fares.
- Invest in growth – we are building the infrastructure for businesses to grow and investing in employment and skills to support people into work.
- Call on government to do more for struggling families – current HAF funding covers only four weeks of the six week holidays and only four days in those weeks.
- Call on government to invest in a stronger, more secure and growing economy for the long term – which means investing in Bradford to make levelling up a reality.
- Lobby government for fairer council funding.

25. PAY POLICY STATEMENT UPDATE FOR 2022/23

The Director of Human Resources submitted a report which presented details of the proposed amendments to the Council’s Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2022/23 to provide for appointments to the Children’s Trust, and alterations to senior roles in the Council following job evaluation and benchmarking.

Resolved –

- (a) That the amended Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2022/23 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- (b) That the Chief Executive be given authority in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services, and also after undertaking consultation with the S151 Officer, the Department for Education and the Children’s Commissioner, to authorise an appropriate remuneration package in respect of the posts of Chief Executive and Finance Director of the Children’s Trust.

Action – Director of Human Resources

26. EXECUTIVE CONSIDERATION OF URGENT REPORT

Pursuant to paragraph 12.1 of the Executive Procedure Rules, the Leader submitted a report to Council, which detailed Executive decisions considered within the previous three months under the Special Urgency provisions contained in paragraph 11 of the Executive Procedure Rules.

Resolved – That the contents of the report be noted.

Lord Mayor

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