

Decisions of the Council on Tuesday, 17 October 2023

These decisions are published for information in advance of the publication of the Minutes

Decisions

6. PETITIONS (Standing Order 11)

Traffic calming measures in East Morton

Resolved –

That the Petition be referred to the Keighley Area Committee.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director Place

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

Resolved –

- (a) That the following co-opted members be appointed to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year:**

Voting Co-opted Members:

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**Church Representative – Joyce Simpson
Parent Governor Representative – Fauzia Raza
Parent Governor Representative – Shifa Simab**

Non-Voting Co-opted Members:

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**Teachers Secondary School Representative - Tom Bright
Children's Social Care - Dr Samina Karim**

- (b) That Councillor Sutcliffe (Green Group) to replace Councillor Johnson (Labour Group) on the Bradford South Area Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year with effect from 23 November 2023.**
- (c) That Councillor Hawkesworth (The Ilkley Independent) replace Councillor Zaman (Labour Group) on the Keighley Area Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year with effect from 23 November 2023.**
- (d) That Councillor Nazam (Independent) to replace Councillor Clarke (Conservative Group) on the Keighley Area Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year with effect from 23 November 2023.**

(e) That Councillor Love (Green Group) to replace Councillor Rowe (Labour Group) on the Shipley Area Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year with effect from 23 November 2023 and Councillor Watson to be an alternate Member on the Committee.

(f) That Councillor Ahmed (Liberal Democrat) to replace Councillor Humphreys (Labour Group) on the Bradford East Area Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year with effect from 23 November 2023.

To be actioned by: Director of Legal and Governance

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

a) At the meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 September 2023, consideration was given to a report of the Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which presented the draft Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2022-23, for adoption by Council.

Resolved – That the Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report for 2022-23 be adopted by Council.

To be actioned by: Director of Legal and Governance

b) At the meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held on 21 September 2023, the Committee considered the proposed changes to Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for approval to Council.

Resolved – That the proposed changes to Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be approved to support improvements in the organisation's finance and procurement processes and procedures.

To be actioned by: Director of Finance and IT

12. NOTICES OF MOTION (Standing Order 17)

Resolved – That the following notices of motion be approved.

12.2 Leeds Bradford Airport

Moved by: Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw
Seconded by: Councillor Cunningham

That with the addition of the following words the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

Residents and councillors affected by flights from the airport are understandably concerned about the carbon impact and noise and any potential expansion of the airport's operations.

Leeds Bradford Airport has submitted five Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development (CLEUD) applications to Leeds City Council relating to night time flying.

Leeds City Council confirmed on 27th September that it will follow a process set out in national government legislation and guidance while dealing with the airport's CLEUD applications.

The applications, which have been published in full on Leeds Council's public access planning system, relate to whether certain aircraft movements are permitted at night.

CLEUD applications involve a different decision-making process to an application for planning permission. When dealing with a CLEUD application, local planning authorities have to adhere to regulations laid down by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

These regulations mean that CLEUD applications – which seek to confirm that an existing use of land or operational development is lawful – are not automatically subject to consultation or publication and are determined purely on the basis of relevant factual evidence assessed against a legal test.

Due to the significant public interest in the operations of the airport, the council has decided to undertake a call for evidence. This means that the council is seeking relevant factual evidence, such as flight data, flight times, flight frequency and size of aircraft, that relates to the specific operations at Leeds Bradford outlined in two of the applications.

The call for evidence relates to the two applications (23/05440/CLE and 23/05442/CLE) for which the airport has submitted flight movement data. The council is seeking further clarity from the airport on the remaining three applications, which are not included in the call for evidence.

With respect to the expansion of the airport more broadly, we need Government to create a level playing field for all regions and cities with airports and to include carbon emissions from aviation in national targets, recognising that continued growth in aviation nationally is incompatible with the climate emergency. This recognises the risk of unilateral action that simply displaces passengers from one airport and its regional economy to another. We recognise the value of our airport to the regional economy which is expected to be £460m this year, directly employing 2,100 people and indirectly supporting 4,500 jobs.

Demand for aviation is growing nationally and globally and Leeds City Council has confirmed it will continue to proactively engage with residents, interest groups, the Combined Authority, the airport and central government on aviation related policies and measures to achieve the necessary reductions in carbon.

As a council we have made great steps in reducing our own carbon emissions. Since passing our own January 2010 energy procurement motion with all-party support, we exceeded our aim of achieving a 40% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020. We are seeking to build on this progress, including in our work as part of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority which is committed to achieving net zero by 2038.

Council resolves to:

- Ensure district councillors are kept informed of the progress of the CLEUD applications.
- Ask Leeds Bradford Airport to meet with district councillors, town and parish councils and residents urgently regarding the impact of the airport on the community.
- Ask officers to seek technical views and any evidence from services including environmental health on the airport's applications; and to consider whether we have appropriate factual evidence to submit within the scope of Leeds City Council's call for evidence as defined in national legislation and guidance.
- Work with the Mayor of West Yorkshire at pace to deliver plans for the 2038 net zero target including the decarbonisation of transport.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director, Place

12.4 Providing a specialised and accessible menopause service in the Bradford District

Moved by: Councillor Sarah Ferriby
Seconded by: Councillor Julie Humphreys

Council notes that:

Age UK reports that 1 in 4 women will have severe menopause symptoms that impact on their day to day lives. This means that symptoms of peri-menopause and menopause could potentially affect approx. 18,000 women in the relevant age range across the District. As a current "hot topic" on TV and in the media, women are reporting how symptoms of menopause are causing some women to leave work, suffer relationship breakdowns and in extreme cases have severe mental health issues.

Whilst Leeds has a specialist menopause clinic, there is little specialist provision for the treatment of menopause across the Bradford District and patients rely on GP and Gynaecology & Obstetrics services for education and treatment.

Women across our district have reported receiving inappropriate treatment or limited advice in managing their symptoms. The closest specialist clinic is in Meanwood, Leeds and is so popular it now has a 2 – 3 year waiting list for Leeds patients. Therefore, being oversubscribed, it is no longer able to accept referrals from Bradford GPs leaving Bradford patients with little alternative provision unless they can afford to pay privately, leading to health inequality in our District.

There is some NHS provision to provide specific menopause training and improve education for clinicians within primary care in the Bradford District with plans to extend this to pharmacists and physician associates. The NHS has its own guidance

for their line managers to offer support to NHS staff and employment policies and guidance is now being introduced by many other large employers.

Popularity of the Bingley menopause support group, set up online last year on a voluntary basis by an NHS nurse who herself suffered severe symptoms, has grown so much it now has 672 members and the group is now starting to meet face to face.

A considerable amount of work has been done across council departments to develop menopause awareness and support for our staff, leading to our application for Menopause Friendly Employer accreditation jointly with partners across the Integrated Care Board (ICB), with a decision expected soon. In recent years the Council has developed and launched:

- a menopause policy
- a menopause staff network that was established through the Women's Voices staff network
- Celebrating World Menopause Day

Our Women's Voice Staff Network along with support from our employee health and wellbeing team have been leading the way and championing menopause support across the Council and joining up across the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership and Bradford District and Craven Health and Care Partnership.

Our women's staff network and monthly support group's work has also led to the creation of a new menopause awareness training package, initially designed for council managers but then rolled out for all staff as part of the Respect allyship programme. This has been made into a permanent training resource on the Evolve system and in-person sessions will begin soon as part of World Menopause Day.

Our HR service has provided menopause guidance for managers which is consistent with the new training.

Council resolves:

- Via the Health and Wellbeing Board, make representations to Bradford District & Craven Integrated Care Board and other appropriate partners to review current menopause services across the district. This should include consideration of a specialist menopause referral unit to ensure women have access to advice and education on the range of treatment possibilities, including alternative therapies such as diet and exercise, so that women can be fully informed to enable them to manage their own menopause giving patient choice leading to improved related health and wellbeing outcomes within the District.
- To liaise with all stakeholders to facilitate the creation of more menopause support groups and related information and awareness events across the district, including those in harder to reach communities.
- Ask officers to consider sharing our staff training toolkit of menopause support with other employers in the district to help more women share in this model of good practice.

To be actioned by: Director of Public Health/Director of Human Resources

12.5 Street lighting

Moved by: Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Seconded by: Councillor Abdul Jabar

That with the addition of the following words the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes that:

- The Smart Street Lighting Project is already saving energy and reducing costs. The programme represents a £45m investment in street lighting infrastructure across the district and will see over 56,000 bulbs and over 15,000 lighting columns replaced. This will reduce energy consumption by two thirds and reduce carbon emissions by thousands of tonnes.
- Like many councils, Bradford Council employs a widely used approach of dimming some of their streetlights for some time during the hours of darkness. This approach is refined based on footfall and traffic usage.
- Light pollution during the hours of darkness is harmful to wildlife in every ecosystem and is a key contributor to the unprecedented global decline in insect numbers which scientists are referring to as the “insect apocalypse”. The selection of lighting used for the project was carefully considered for any potential impact on the local environment in consultation with the Council’s Biodiversity Officer.
- Some streetlights need to be on overnight for safety reasons.

Council resolves:

- To complete the Smart Street Lighting Project, maximising financial and carbon savings, as quickly as possible
- Take a report to the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee outlining progress on the programme and the Council’s approach to overnight dimming, allowing members to feedback comments for officers to consider.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director, Place

12.6 Trade Unions

Moved by: Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe

Seconded by: Cllr Imran Khan

That with the addition of the following words the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes that:

The Council strives to be an excellent employer of its approximately 7,300 staff. Our partnership working with the Trade Unions plays a vital role in ensuring a healthy and productive workplace in which organisational and staff needs are met as efficiently as possible.

Trade Unions are an important part of managing industrial relations. If we didn't have Trade Unions, we'd have to invent them.

Over six million people in the UK are members of Trade Unions.

Our work with the Trade Unions saves the council considerable amounts of money because it is the most cost-effective way to manage the workplace.

Trade Unions have made clear that they recognise the unprecedented constraints on council finances due to more than a decade of government austerity. They have repeatedly asked government to fund pay awards so that hardworking council staff can be retained and rewarded.

The latest annual Service Excellence Awards on 12th October demonstrated again the brilliance of our staff who are public service heroes and go to incredible lengths to serve the public, despite the incredibly challenging circumstances the council and country finds itself in.

In several years since 2010 there were real terms wage reductions in the public sector through pay freezes or rises limited to 1%. Trade Unions therefore campaign for improved pay and conditions on behalf of their members who have experienced several challenging years of upward pressure on workloads and downward pressure on pay, reflected in the recruitment and retention challenges seen across large parts of the public sector.

Council resolves to:

- Continue to fully participate in the Regional Employers Forum which feeds into the national pay bargaining structure.
- Repeat our calls on government to reform local government finance, including for government to fully fund the pay increases that council staff earn and deserve.
- Continue to work constructively with the Trade Unions as a responsible employer that recognises that our people are our most important asset.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director, Corporate Resources/Director of Human Resources/Director of Finance

12.7 Local government finance

Moved by: Councillor Martin Love

Seconded by: Councillor Matt Edwards

Council notes:

Councils across the country are reaching breaking point in their finances due to a perfect storm of Conservative government austerity cuts, inflation and rising demands for children's and adults social care.

Bradford Council has had to find over £350m in per year cuts and savings since 2010 with a cumulative impact of over £2bn.

The Local Government Association has identified a funding gap of £3 billion in the funding of local authorities over the next two years just for services to stand still.

Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton, Chair of the Specialist Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (Sigoma), said the funding system is "completely broken". He called on government to provide additional in-year funding for the biggest pressure, children's services.

The independent Macalister Review found that £2.6bn should be invested over five years, including £1bn over the first two years, to overhaul the children's social care system nationally. The government subsequently allocated just £200m over two years.

An official report by the Competition and Markets Authority last year found the UK has a dysfunctional market for children's social care in which local authorities are forced to pay excessive fees for private services and an overhaul is needed to ensure better value services.

Sigoma research has found that the top 10% of England's most deprived councils have received cuts almost three times as high as the richest 10%. Bradford has received cuts of around 28% compared to Surrey's 8%.

We have robust controls in place to ensure effective financial management of the council through these exceptionally challenging times.

Officers have been challenged to review all spending and identify opportunities to further reduce costs and generate income given the unprecedented situation in which councils find themselves.

Cipfa are doing a review of this council's and the Children and Families Trust's finances which we welcome. Any recommendations coming from the review will be actioned.

The Leader is writing to the Chancellor setting out our ask in advance of his Autumn Statement, which must provide significant new funding for local government and deliver long-awaited reform of how that funding is distributed.

Council resolves to:

Continue our work to further reduce spending through a range of measures.
Task officers to provide an asset disposal plan. This will identify council-owned land and assets that may be deemed surplus to requirements in order to raise funds. This to be done in consultation with elected members for the affected ward.

Task officers to continue working closely with the Bradford Children and Families Trust and the DfE to ensure its budget is prudent and sustainable and enables the Trust to deliver on its vital improvement plan as part of the council's wider work.

Take the difficult decisions necessary in the upcoming council budget to further reduce the funding gap.

Ask government to urgently implement the Macalister Review.

Ask government to stop the profiteering of private providers for children's placements.

Ask government to implement the long-awaited fairer funding model for local government to link council funding to social need.

To be actioned by: Chief Executive/Director of Finance and all Strategic Directors and all other Directors

12.8 Better public transport in West Yorkshire

Moved by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Seconded by: Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Council notes:

That the Bradford district and West Yorkshire have had poor public transport connectivity for too long. There is now an opportunity to change this with bus, mass transit and heavy rail.

Bus

- Bus services are critical to many residents' lives as one of the most affordable and accessible means of getting about for work and leisure.

Nationally the privatisation of bus services has been a failure. The Conservative government introduced legislation in 2017 banning local authority ownership of bus services. Since then, thousands of bus routes have been lost across the country as private operators have struggled to make services financially sustainable.

We strongly support the West Yorkshire Mayor's work to get buses back under public control and improve bus travel.

We welcome the Mayor's Fares scheme and the £1 flat fare recently introduced for Keighley town in partnership with Transdev.

Mass Transit

- We are an active partner in the plans for a mass transit service to transform connections in our district and across West Yorkshire.

The Mass Transit Vision 2040 strategy is being developed at pace, , we encourage residents and businesses to get involved.

Getting Bradford district on the mainline

Our well-publicised ambitions to get Bradford on the mainline and for better rail connections across our district.

The Government's welcome commitment to £2 billion investment in a city centre Bradford station and connection to the mainline.

Our long-running campaign calling on government and rail operators to introduce the six or seven trains a day to London from Shipley and Forster Square stations that they have long been promised.

The recent high profile meeting with SELRAP (Skipton East Lancashire Rail Action Partnership) between the Leader, the Mayor of West Yorkshire and the Shadow Secretary of State for Transport.

Council resolves to:

Work with the Mayor and neighbouring local authorities to take back control of the West Yorkshire bus network.

To lobby Government for a London style bus network with the funding from Government to match.

Retain the ambition to improve bus connections, grow the network and reduce ticket prices.

Continue working with the Mayor and neighbouring local authorities towards the vision of West Yorkshire mass transit.

To push for an increased number of London trains to be introduced into Bradford Forster Square to be delivered in time for 1st January 2025.

To work with Department of Transport and the Department for Housing, Local Government and Communities to deliver a new Bradford city centre station and to put Bradford on the mainline.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director, Place

12.9 Fireworks

Moved by: Councillor Abdul Jabar

Seconded by: Councillor Nazam Azam

Councillors and residents across the district are angry and dismayed at the antisocial use of fireworks, which continue to cause distress to people and pets at all hours of day and night.

The council has used its powers to the full and implemented the recommendations of the 2021 cross-party Corporate Overview & Scrutiny committee review to curb the antisocial use of fireworks.

The review found action is also needed on a national level because local authority powers are limited on this issue.

Council officers, councillors, fire crews, police, VCS organisations and volunteers form a superb partnership effort around Bonfire Night every year, which helped result in fewer serious incidents last year. However, fireworks remain a blight on residents' lives year round.

Conservative government spokesperson Jacob Rees-Mogg said he was "unsympathetic" to calls for tougher action on fireworks because they are "a little bit of harmless fun".

Enough is enough. We need action to be taken on a national level.

There are brilliant low-noise fireworks that give spectacular displays which are available for people to buy and enjoy without causing harm to their neighbours. The use of these and small fireworks would be unaffected by the introduction of tougher rules outlined below.

Council resolves to ask government:

For a complete ban on the sale of Category 3 (as well as Category 4) fireworks to private individuals.

Reiterate our calls to reduce the maximum permitted noise level of fireworks sold to private individuals from the current 120 decibels down to 90 decibels.

For a tougher licensing regime backed up by additional government funding for local authorities, police, fire services and Trading Standards to enforce.

To introduce these tougher measures as soon as possible, which will reduce antisocial behaviour and ensure that larger fireworks such as those in Categories 3 and 4 could only be used in strictly licensed, well-managed public displays.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director, Place

12.10 Restoring public spaces and improving access to recreation in our communities

Moved by: Councillor Ferriby
Seconded by: Councillor Jabar

That with the addition of the following words the motion be amended to read as follows:

Public spaces have a massive impact on people. We are proud of our green spaces and parks yet 13 years of austerity means council services to maintain them are not as comprehensive as they once were.

For those who can, voluntary action, adopting/maintaining a public space or sponsoring this sort of activity has positive effects on a local area. But it is not universal. For too many residents they open their doors onto a street or neighbourhood that brings them down rather than lifts them up. This motion looks to enhance the role of the Council to improve public spaces in every neighbourhood of our district.

This Council notes:

- Local Organisations, residents and community groups put thousands of hours into their local community, adopting unloved areas, cleaning neighbourhoods and helping authorities maintain and improve many of our most loved public spaces. As part of our People Can offer, we continue to support everyone in our communities, neighbourhoods, villages and towns to find new ways to work together, with communities at the heart of this by taking a shared approach discussing challenges and finding solutions with community-led opportunities.
- The success of our investment of Covid Environmental Funding in the Environmental Task Force to improve a broad range of areas across the district. This work extended from community gardens, allotments, parks, woodlands, other open spaces, recreational grounds and tackling local environment eyesores.
- After many years of funding cuts from central government, council budgets are at breaking point. However, additional new funding streams such as CAZ, Climate Change and Public Health Small Grants are providing support to communities, groups, businesses and other partners district-wide including clean-up projects improving biodiversity, supporting community groups to start growing food and other environmental wellbeing initiatives.
- The Council Department of Place has a City of Culture 2025 readiness team that is focused on ensuring the major routes, towns and city centres are clean, repaired and ready to receive visits from across the district and beyond.
- In the absence of sufficient and sustained government funding, grant funding for public spaces and voluntary action is often shorter term and small in scale. It can come from many sources and often requires formalised groups in order to access it. This limits the scope of what and where it can be implemented.

This Council resolves to:

- Offer our sincere thanks to everyone who gives up their free time to volunteer, clean, clear, restore and maintain public spaces across the district.
- Continue to offer support to individuals, groups and organisations through our Neighbourhood services.
- Area Teams continue to support community groups and individuals to carry out community clean ups through existing resources.
- Ask officers to continue improving public spaces through efficient use of our reduced financial envelope, including through the City of Culture work that will enable similar activities to those undertaken by the Environmental Task Force

to be delivered. In addition, Cleansing and Area based teams to continue to work alongside residents, businesses and other stakeholders to deliver environmental projects that improve the visual amenity of public spaces.

- Locality Plans and Ward Plans to highlight priorities in relation to a range of environmental improvements such as public spaces, environment, biodiversity work, air quality, growing projects and much more as part of a sustainability theme. These priorities are to be delivered with a range of partners across the system with residents and other stakeholders at the heart of many interventions.
- Ask officers to ensure community chest grants continue to be made available to community groups for this purpose.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director, Place

12.11 Regarding the Recent Killing of Sikh Activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Safety of our Sikh Community and Human Rights Concerns in India

Moved by: Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe

Seconded by: Cllr Abdul Jabar

That with the addition of the following words the motion be amended to read as follows:

This Council notes:

The significant contributions made by the Sikh community to our district. The Sikh community has enriched our cultural fabric. Their values of peace, unity and social justice resonate with our diverse community.

The terrible news of the shooting of Hardeep Singh Nijjar has resonated throughout the world. Our condolences to his family, friends and supporters.

The safety concerns nationally that the Sikh Federation have raised about safety and security.

We should always be informed first and foremost in Bradford by our Sikh community and will speak up for them on any issues of concern.

Bradford is a city of sanctuary. Over many years we have welcomed many people from all over the world to lead successful, happy lives here. Everyone has the right to live in peace and mutual respect.

This Council Resolves to:

- Ask the Leader of Council to meet with the leaders of our local Sikh community, thank them for their ongoing contribution to the success of the district and seek their views and any concerns they may have at this time.
- Always support the Bradford Sikh community to make sure their voice is heard.
- Reiterate our support for Bradford Hate Crime Alliance and encourage anyone who experiences hate crime or hate speech to report it.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director Place/Leader of Council

13. **FOOD SAFETY IN THE BRADFORD DISTRICT**
Resolved –

That the work of the Food Safety Team as documented in the Food Safety Service Plan, be supported and the Food Safety Service Plan be approved.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director of Health and Wellbeing.

FROM: Asif Ibrahim
Director of Legal and Governance
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Committee Secretariat Contact: Fatima Butt, 07970 411746