

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL, BRADFORD ON TUESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2024

Commenced: 4.00 pm
Adjourned: 5.55
Reconvened:
6.20
Concluded: 7.25 pm

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor (Councillor) and Councillors:

LABOUR

A Ahmed	Amran	Azam	Berry
Choudhry	Cunningham	Dearden	Dodds
Duffy	Engel	Ferriby	Firth
Godwin	D Green	Hayden	Hinchcliffe
Humphreys	A Hussain	I Hussain	K Hussain
M Hussain	S Hussain	T Hussain	Iqbal
Jabar	Jamil	Johnson	Kauser
H Khan	I Khan	S Khan	Lal
Lintern	Mohammed	Mullaney	Parsons
Robinson	Ross-Shaw	Rowe	Shafiq
Shaheen	Slater	Steele	Tait
Thirkill	Thornton	Walsh	Zaman

CONSERVATIVE

F Ahmed	Barker	Birch	Brown
P Clarke	Coates	Davies	Felstead
Glentworth	Loy	Nunns	Pollard
Poulsen	Sullivan		

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

R Ahmed
Griffiths
Stubbs

BRADFORD INDEPENDENTS

Elahi
Sajawal
Salam

GREEN

Edwards
Hickson
Love
Russell
Sutcliffe
Warnes
Watson
Whitaker

BRADFORD SOUTH INDEPENDENT COUNCILLORS

J Clarke
Majkowski

**THE ILKLEY
INDEPENDENT
COUNCILLOR**
Hawkesworth

The Lord Mayor Councillor Barker in the Chair

Notes: Under Council Standing Order 9.1.6, Motions 12.1 (Problematic Pavement Parking) and 12.4 (Cost of School Uniforms) were withdrawn from the Agenda.

66. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

67. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2023 be signed as a correct record.

68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alipoor, Fricker, Herd, Mitchell, Naylor, Nazir, Regan, Sunderland, Wheatley and Wood.

69. 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.

70. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

71. PETITIONS (Standing Order 11)

(1) Save Ilkley Tip

Resolved –

That the petition be referred to the Executive for consideration as part of the budget process.

To be actioned by: Director of Legal and Governance

(2) Stop Bradford Council Closing Ford Hill Queensbury HWRC (TIP)

Resolved –

That the petition be referred to the Executive for consideration as part of the budget process.

To be actioned by: Director of Legal and Governance

72. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Standing Order 13)

There were no public questions to consider.

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

Resolved –

That Councillor Andrew Loy replace Councillor Peter Clarke on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Transport Committee.

To be actioned by: Director of Legal and Governance

74. REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Standing Order 11A)

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

75. MEMBER QUESTION TIME (Standing Order 12)

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

76. NOTICES OF MOTION (Standing Order 17)

Motion 12.1 – Problematic Pavement Parking

Resolved –

That under Council Standing Order 9.1.6 Motion 12.1 Problematic Pavement Parking be withdrawn from the agenda.

12.2 – Bradford Council Climate Strategy and Action Plan

To be moved by: Cllr Si Cunningham

To be seconded by: Cllr Sarah Ferriby

Council notes that:

It is five years since Bradford Council declared a ‘climate emergency’ on 15 January 2019.

Bradford Council, like many local authorities, faces unprecedented financial challenges. We have also gone through a pandemic since that declaration. However, there is no economic sustainability without environmental sustainability.

Failure to implement urgent action to tackle the climate crisis would present a significant financial risk to the Council.

Council further notes that:

On 24 March 2020, the Executive:

- I approved a Sustainable Development Action Plan (2020-2021),
- II approved the establishment of a Sustainable Development Partnership for the District,
- III resolved that “effective environmental management and performance be developed including rapid and significant reduction in harmful greenhouse gas emissions”,
- IV requested that a “dedicated report on the key developments in UK environmental legislation and environmental protection be brought to the Executive in autumn 2020”,
- V requested that “as a matter of urgency support, training and guidance is provided to elected members, officers, suppliers, contractors and partners and citizens on taking forward sustainable development and climate action 2020-2025”,
- VI requested that “an annual report [on the above] be brought to the Executive”.
 - a. The Climate Change Committee stated in December 2020 that *“more than half of the emissions cuts needed rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions – decisions that are made at a local and individuals’ level. Many of these decisions depend on having supporting infrastructure in place. Local authorities have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas.”*
 - b. Along with all West Yorkshire Authorities, the Council is committed to achieving Net Zero, in terms of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions, by 2038, with significant progress made by 2030. We also work closely with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority on delivering the Mayor’s commitment to net zero.
 - c. The Council has almost halved its CO₂e emissions between 2014/15

and 2021/22 from 42,000 tonnes to 22,000 tonnes. The Clean Air Zone is achieving CO₂e emission reductions of 150,000 tonnes.

- d. There is a comprehensive report going to Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee in January 2024.
- e. The Executive has received regular updates on climate action including through the annual Full Year Performance reports, as well as other more focused reports such as the Clean Air Schools Programme. Climate and the environment is also routinely considered as part of all council decisions and activity. In addition, regular sustainability and climate action updates have been considered through district partnerships such as the District Plan Annual Report at the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- f. The council is also doing further considerable climate and environmental work as an active partner in the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. As part of the journey to become a sustainable region and net zero carbon economy by 2038, Wyca is delivering a range of ambitious activities – to give some recent examples: filled more than 1,700 rented homes this year with new insulation and renewable energy measures such as heat pumps, with a further 4,000 to be completed by 2025; progressing plans for a region-wide mass transit system to get people onto zero emission trams or buses; and an extra £22 million recently announced to fund new flood defences, on top of grants and free support to help businesses reduce energy usage, cut emissions and minimise waste.
- g. To support Council Plan delivery of a Sustainable District, the Clean Air Team has now become the Sustainability Service, and will prepare a Climate Action Plan for the council and update the Sustainable Development Plan while delivering key programmes and coordinating sustainability activity across the council.
- h. Bradford Council is developing a comprehensive climate strategy and action plan for the years 2024-2038 as part of the transition to a new Sustainability Service for the District.
- i. The Sustainability Service is working with the Sustainable Development Partnership Chair as part of the Local Industrial Decarbonisation Programme – a partnership of major industrial concerns in the district to develop a prospectus for decarbonisation and investment in the district.
- j. A Climate Action newsletter, detailing all council and community activity in tackling climate change and improving the environment, is issued on a monthly basis. The Sustainability Service is also reviewing and refreshing its online information and, building on the success of the Breathe Better Bradford website, will be delivering exciting new web content dedicated to Climate Action, Sustainability and a prospectus for Net Zero investment.
- k. Bradford Council is delivering positive climate actions across a range of policy areas - and our dedicated officers are to be highly commended for their efforts which will be vital in rising to the challenge as we now have less than 15 years to meet our declared net-zero carbon target by the

end of 2038.

- l. Bradford Council is making this significant progress despite the mixed messages from government in scaling back its own commitment to sustainability and the associated economic benefits it will bring.
- m. Bradford Council has been working hard to secure vital private sector investment and government funding in line with our vision of a district of the future with a focus on securing net zero investment. Throughout the transition to the Sustainability Service we have continued to support investment and secure net zero funding, such as:
 - HyBradford – the largest hydrogen production facility in the UK, including £50m private sector investment plus half a billion of Government support over fifteen years
 - District Heat Network - £200m-plus private sector investment
 - £1m for the Local Industrial Decarbonisation Programme
 - £500k Mayor’s Community Climate Fund
 - £1.1m Clean Air Schools Fund
 - Over £10m in private sector investment and public sector funding for EV Infrastructure
 - £4m EV Taxi Programme
 - £18m WY Better Homes Hub
 - £32m Clean Air Funding

Council therefore requests that:

1. The Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee receives the report on the council’s Climate and Environmental Sustainability actions and makes appropriate recommendations.
2. The Assistant Director of Sustainability coordinates the development of a Climate Action Plan for the council, an updated Sustainable Development Plan and a refreshed Sustainability Development Partnership.
3. The Action Plan will lay out clearly a) what Bradford Council can continue to do in response to our self-declared climate emergency and b) what we require our regional and national levels of government to do in parallel and c) how we will engage and secure inward investment in our net zero economy
4. The Assistant Director of Sustainability give due regard to detailed targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions for 2030 and 2038, in line with the Mayors commitment to net zero by 2038, and for the end of 2027, 2032 and 2037, in line with the UK government’s own carbon budgets.
5. The Chief Executive ensures that information about the district’s Sustainability Service is well communicated to residents, councillors, businesses and other stakeholders via regular communication channels.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director, Place/Chief Executive/Overview and Scrutiny Lead

12.3 – Budget setting process

To be moved by: Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe

To be seconded by: Cllr Imran Khan

Council notes:

Bradford Council's budget setting process is in line with that of councils up and down the country.

After delivering over £350m of cuts, savings and additional income due to the Conservative government funding cuts since 2010, the council is nevertheless faced with a significant structural funding gap and is therefore one of the local authorities currently seeking exceptional financial support while consulting on a proposed budget for 2024-25.

In December, research by the Local Government Association revealed that almost 1 in 5 council leaders and chief executives think it is very or fairly likely that they will need to issue a Section 114 notice this year, or next year due to funding shortfalls. The LGA has estimated that local authorities in England face a funding gap of £4bn over the next two years.

Effectively this means that all councils will need re-shaping to become affordable within the reduced resources that are available. There will be a further reduction in the level of services provided and the number of staff employed by the council.

The council is correctly carrying out strategic service reviews, including of leisure and library services, considering the requirement to reduce costs. The council has been clear that this could result in service reductions. The public's feedback and responses through the consultation will be properly considered to help inform more detailed proposals that will follow the reviews.

As set out in another motion to this meeting, the council's Labour Group has submitted many motions to council about council finance and made representations to government on this burning issue over a number of years as we raised the alarm about unsustainable council funding.

Council officers are committed to ensuring that the budget consultation reaches as far and wide as possible. Officers regularly cross-check against other councils to share best practice and ensure our consultation is at least as far-reaching as others, often we do more.

At the time of writing, the budget consultation is attracting strong engagement and at the end of week 1 has already received over 500 survey responses. The budget consultation deploys a range of channels including online survey, leaflets distributed in libraries and warm spaces, press releases and social media. An online session will also be held when members of the public will be able to take part, comment and ask questions of the council.

Council resolves to:

- Ensure all councillors and residents are provided with all information necessary to allow proper budget scrutiny in a timely manner.
- Ensure virtual and face to face meetings are held in order to hear from as wider range of views as possible.
- To make available to residents in all parts of the district the ability to contribute via various channels as described above.
- Consider all options for service delivery including shared services across local authorities as a preference to service cuts, while recognising that much of this has already been done and that the unprecedented scale of the funding gap means difficult decisions cannot be avoided.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director of Finance and IT/Chief Executive

Motion 12.4 – Cost of School Uniforms

Resolved –

That under Council Standing Order 9.1.6 Motion 12.4 Cost of School Uniforms be withdrawn from the agenda

12.5 - A Financial Plan for a Sustainable Council

To be moved by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

To be seconded by: Councillor Imran Khan

This council notes:

This year Bradford Council will receive £233 million in council tax whilst the Bradford Children and Families Trust tell us they need £250 million to run children's social care this year. The cost of social care compared to the council tax we receive no longer adds up. This is an issue the LGA has raised nationally.

Councils across the country are again being told by Government to increase council tax to make up for some of the Government shortfall in funding so services are consequently cut. This is due to the structural deficit in funding created by government cuts since 2010.

The LGA state that the latest Government settlement for local authorities "does not provide enough funding to meet the severe cost and demand pressures which have left councils of all political colours and types warning of the serious challenges they face to set balanced budgets next year. Councils in England continue to face a funding gap of £4 billion over the next two years".

Analysis by SIGOMA demonstrated the disproportionate level of cuts suffered by the most deprived authorities compared to more affluent authorities and specifically highlighted the disparity between cuts seen in Bradford (28%) and Surrey (8%).

In this national context Bradford Council has had to deliver more than £350m of cuts, savings and additional income since 2010 with a cumulative impact of over £2bn.

From June 2010 to March 2023 Bradford Council reduced its workforce by 2,530 full time equivalent posts, a 27% reduction in workforce.

Following instructions from Government for councils to use their reserves, these are now exhausted and there remains a structural budget gap of approximately £120m in the council's finances.

Bradford Labour Group has tabled regular motions at Full Council on the council's finances inviting other Groups to debate and contribute their ideas. This includes motions in March, October and, most recently, at the last Full Council meeting in December on the council's finances.

Bradford remains a district of huge potential, we cannot allow the financial challenges we face to slow down our growth plans. Achieving economic growth will improve people's lives and generate more funds to pay for council services in the future.

There is a major impact on individuals and families from national austerity and the cost of living crisis. Government policies since 2010 have increased the demands for council services.

In particular we have serious concerns about the government seemingly removing the Household Support Fund (HSF), which provided around £11.4m of support to the district's lowest income households in 2023/24.

Council resolves to:

- Task the Chief Executive in conjunction with Executive to continue to work at pace in developing and delivering the emergency plan for financial sustainability.
- Continue the discussion with DLUHC to progress the request for Exceptional Financial Support.
- Continue to work with Bradford Children and Families Trust as it continues its vital work towards sustainability and excellence in services for the children of the district.
- Continue working with the LGA and other cross-party local government representatives in making the compelling case to government for the need for structural change to the way local authorities are funded.
- Make available Council Finance Officers to Opposition Groups so that they can propose their own ideas for the budget.
- Thank Council staff and partners for their continuing hard work for the people of the district in spite of the council's financial challenges.
- Lobby Government to quickly restore the Household Support Fund to protect our most vulnerable residents.
- Remain willing and ready to work with Government to deliver our sustainable growth ambitions.

- Continue to add our voice to the growing demands nationally for a cap on private sector profits in the provision of children's and adult social care services.

To be actioned by: Chief Executive/Director of Finance and IT

77. LORD MAYORS CLOSING REMARKS

The Lord Mayor expressed his good wishes and success for the future on behalf of members and officers to the Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer), Asif Ibrahim, who was leaving the Authority.

He praised the courteous help, support, commitment and his unfailing eye for detail Asif had provided throughout his time with the Authority.

Lord Mayor

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

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER