

## Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 9 January 2024 in Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 10.30 am  
Concluded 11.10 am

### Members of the Executive – Councillors

<b>LABOUR</b>
Hinchcliffe
I Khan
Ross-Shaw
Ferriby
Jabar
Duffy

### Councillor Hinchcliffe in the Chair

#### 61. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under discussion were made.

#### 62. MINUTES

**Resolved –**

**That the minutes of the meetings held on 7 November 2023 and 5 December 2023 be signed as a correct record.**

#### 63. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

#### 64. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

**Resolved –**

**That the petition be considered by the Executive as part of the budget proposals at the meeting on 20 February 2024.**

***To be actioned by: Director of Finance / Strategic Director, Place***

## LEADER OF COUNCIL & CORPORATE

*(Councillor Hinchcliffe)*

### 65. CALCULATION OF BRADFORD'S COUNCIL TAX BASE AND BUSINESS RATES BASE FOR 2024-25

The report of the Director of Finance and IT (**Document “AB”**) estimated the Council’s Council Tax and Business Rates bases for 2024-25. The Executive were informed that these bases in turn would determine the amount of taxation raised in 2024-25. The Head of Financial Accounting summarised the report and outlined the recommendations contained within the report.

#### **Resolved –**

- (1) That the number of Band D equivalent properties for 2024- 25 for the whole of the Bradford Metropolitan District is fixed at 144,890 (as set out in Appendix A, line 13 of Document “AB”).**
- (2) That the Council Tax Base for 2024-25 for each Parish (set out in Appendix B of Document “AB”) be approved.**
- (3) Further that Bradford’s £3.39m share of the anticipated 2023-24 Council Tax surplus is approved. Also, that the Police and Fire share of the surplus (as set out in 6.3 of Document “AB”) be noted.**
- (4) That the latest estimate of the gross shares of Business Rates income for 2024-25, be noted. These are set out below:  
50% is paid to Central Government - £60.3m  
1% is paid to the West Yorkshire Fire Authority - £1.2m  
49% is retained by the Council - £59.1m**
- (5) That authority be delegated to the Section 151 officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make any necessary amendments to the Business Rates estimate arising from the completion of the 2024-25 NNDR1 form. The amended figures will be provided in updates to the Executive and the 2024-25 Budget papers for Council.**

***To be actioned by: Director of Finance***

Overview and Scrutiny Area: Corporate

## 66. BRADFORD WEST LOCALITY PLAN - PROGRESS UPDATE 2022/23

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “AC”**) provided an update on the progress achieved towards addressing the locality-wide priorities set out in the Bradford West Locality Plan during 2022/23. The Assistant Director outlined the contents of the report and provided a brief overview of locality work and partnership working in Bradford West. It was acknowledged that it was important to capture evidence in order to measure impact.

The Bradford West Area Coordinator gave examples of locality work in the Bradford West constituency, one example was the Thornaby Hub Estate in Clayton Ward, which was a social housing area, concerns were raised about community empowerment. Ward Officers consulted with residents and realised they needed a hub in the local area to improve accessibility. Working in partnership a portacabin was opened in the estate for local people and a number of successful events were hosted from there, a resident’s association was also set up to make the work sustainable. One of the key purposes of the Hub was to work with key stakeholders and develop opportunities for local residents to gain better skills, this demonstrated partnership working in action.

JU:MP Projects were also highlighted, and Members of the Executive were informed that the service was commissioned and piloted in Bradford West. It was discovered that Frizinghall Primary School had no outdoor play area, subsequently a group was established working with a local community organisation to commission an up-to-date outdoor play area.

The Bradford West Area Coordinator addressed the initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour and the role of the Bradford West Area Office in supporting communities and empowering people.

The Chair of the Bradford West Area Committee thanked all the staff who had supported the Bradford West area and stressed the importance of the frontline service and the Bradford West Area Office. The need for community empowerment was underlined, particularly how it could reduce reliance on Council services, and it was stated that the Bradford West Area Office delivered this and had made a positive impact in the community. The impact that the Area Office had on the voluntary sector through the distribution of grant funding was highlighted alongside the extensive work of Area and Ward Officers.

The Chair of Bradford West Area Committee urged further commitment and increased involvement in the Area Office from other departments across the Council.

The Leader thanked the Chair of the Bradford West Area Committee and the staff of the Bradford West Area Office. It was highlighted that the empowerment of local communities was a form of early help and issues could be resolved at a local level without the need to escalate to more costly services. The Leader stated that the example of the lack of outdoor space at Frizinghall Primary School indicated structural disadvantage in some communities and the work done to resolve this by locality working was important.

The Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places spoke about the importance

of locality work in relation to early help and prevention, particularly the health check work that helped raise awareness to identify undiagnosed illnesses. The work with JU:MP and the positive impact it had on promoting physical activity was praised as well as providing the opportunity for people to socialise which could combat social isolation.

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport stated that the work delivered on school streets was a success and a good example of locality working that was community led as it provided volunteers to act as school streets stewards. The school streets project encouraged more families to walk to school and to reduce dangerous congestion around the school gates and subsequently to reduce air pollution whilst also improving health and wellbeing.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills highlighted the consistency of how funding was delivered across wards in Bradford West in relation to the voluntary sector. It was added that communities had been empowered through the work of the Bradford West Area Office.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Families addressed the work done to combat anti-social driving and how partnership working had been pivotal in this.

The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety thanked everyone involved with the locality work in Bradford West and praised how issues surrounding congestion outside schools were resolved within the community and a sustainable solution found.

The Leader spoke about the cost-of-living crisis combined with high inflation and how this would lead to increased demand in communities for locality work.

#### **Resolved –**

- (1) The Executive commented on the Bradford West Locality Plan – Progress Update 2022/23, as set out in Appendix A of Document “AC”.**
- (2) The Executive requests that the Bradford West Area Coordinator, accompanied by the Chair of Bradford West Area Committee, presents a progress report to the Executive in 12 months time, setting out the progress and achievements made for each of the priorities detailed in the Bradford West Locality Plan during 2023/24.**

***To be actioned by: Bradford West Area Coordinator***

Overview and Scrutiny Area: Health and Social Care / Corporate

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO

(Councillor Duffy)

### 67. OFSTED MONITORING VISIT OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

The report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services (**Document "AD"**) provided an update on the Ofsted Monitoring Visit of children's social care which took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The Portfolio Holder for Children and Families highlighted the progress achieved and thanked the Bradford Children and Families Trust (BCFT) as well as the department of Children's Services for their work and the improvements that had been delivered.

The Strategic Director Children's Services stated that this was the second monitoring visit since BCFT went live, and that it had positive findings which demonstrated progress since the previous visit. The Chief Executive of the Bradford Children and Families Trust stated that staff were bolstered by the progress and highlighted the importance of encouraging staff.

Members of the Executive were informed that the data indicated a reduction in children on Child Protection Plans and that there were fewer children in care than when BCFT went live which demonstrated progress.

#### **Resolved –**

- (1) That the contents of the Ofsted letter and the progress made be noted.**
- (2) The Executive continue to work with the DfE appointed Commissioner to support the work of the Trust and, where possible, to accelerate improvements in line with the Children's Social Care Improvement Plan.**

***To be actioned by: Strategic Director of Children's Services***

Overview and Scrutiny Area: Children's Services

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