

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

Reconvened (5 March Budget)	10:30 am
Concluded (5 March Budget)	10:31 am
Commenced (9 April)	10:31 am
Concluded (9 April)	11:10 am

### Members of the Executive – Councillors

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

Observers: Councillors Steele, Pollard, and Felstead

### Councillor Hinchcliffe in the Chair

#### 104. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were made.

#### 105. MINUTES

**Resolved –**

**That the minutes of the meetings held on 5 March 2024, including Budget Executive be signed as a correct record.**

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

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

## 107. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

Petition referred from Council - Objection to the sale of Skirrow Street Car Park, Cottingley.

Petitioners addressed the meeting at the invitation of the Leader and outlined the difficulties associated with parking in the area and explained how the sale of Skirrow Street Car Park would exacerbate parking issues and potentially compromise health and safety due to access issues for emergency vehicles. The financial difficulties that the Council faced were acknowledged although concerns were expressed regarding the impact reduced parking facilities would have on community groups and activities.

The Leader thanked petitioners for their work within the local community and stated that the site was part of the wider asset disposal strategy agreed by the Executive on the 5 March 2024.

The Strategic Director of Corporate Resources added that there was a need to evaluate each site/property on the list as part of the Disposals Programme.

**Resolved –**

**That the Strategic Director Corporate Resources takes into account the petition when conducting the asset review of this land as part of the Disposals Programme.**

***To be actioned by: Strategic Director, Corporate Resources***

Recommendations from Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 19 March 2024

**Resolved –**

**That the recommendations from the Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted and that a report be brought back to a future meeting of the Executive.**

***To be actioned by: Strategic Director, Place***

Recommendations from Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 21 March 2024

**Resolved –**

**That the recommendation from the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted and that a report be brought back to a future meeting of the Executive.**

***To be actioned by: Director of Public Health***

## LEADER OF COUNCIL & CORPORATE

*(Councillor Hinchcliffe)*

### 108. QTR 4 FINANCE POSITION STATEMENT FOR 2023-24

The report of the Director of Finance (**Document “AY”**) provided Members with the forecast year-end financial position of the Council for 2023-24 and sets out the unprecedented scale of the financial challenges. It outlined the revenue and capital budgets and the year-end forecast financial position based on information at the end of February 2024. The report also stated the Council’s current reserves and school balances.

The Head of Finance summarised the report which detailed that the Council’s forecast overspend had a net decrease of £1.2m from Quarter 3/ Period 9 to £74.2m and that this was subject to the actual outturn, closure of the accounts and the pending balance sheet review. The report outlined the unprecedented overspend, and the ongoing action being undertaken to address the current challenges and further urgent action that will be required to secure a sustainable financial position. The report explained that the Council had effectively run out of reserves, and consequently it applied for, and has now had approved, Exceptional Financial Support from Government of £80m for 2023-24 and £140m for 2024-25. It was noted that a capitalisation directive was only an interim solution. The report detailed that to achieve a financially sustainable position, the Council and the Trust would need to deliver a combination of; significantly higher level of savings than currently proposed; additional income, further asset disposals and further capital expenditure reductions. A continuous cycle of identifying new savings and other measures to reducing the gap would need to be embedded in 2024-25.

The Leader thanked the finance department for their work to ensure the Council was able to function in what was a financially challenging environment.

A Member of the opposition group queried section 9.8 of the report in relation to vacancy and abatement factor savings and expressed concern surrounding staffing levels and underdelivered savings.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Families addressed the challenging financial times but underlined that the Bradford Children and Families Trust was making progress and that future years would see further reductions in agency staff.

#### **Resolved –**

- (1) That the Qtr 4 Finance Position Statement for 2023-24 be noted.**
- (2) That it be noted that the following has been approved under Section 1.7 of the Financial Regulations for inclusion in the Capital programme:**

- £0.075m for capital works on the garden and the purchase of three hoists at a Children’s Residential Homes. This will be funded from the 2023-24 General Contingency budget included in the CIP.
- (3) That the charges for court costs in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates as outlined in section 15.3 to Document “AY” be approved.

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

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

## HEALTHY PEOPLE AND PLACES PORTFOLIO

*(Councillor Ferriby)*

### 109. REVIEW OF INTERMEDIATE CARE SERVICES

The report of the Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health (**Document “AZ”**) set out ambitious plans for the health and care partnership to transform intermediate care (IMC) services in Bradford District and Craven. This had drawn on the District Plan and strategies as a Health and Care Partnership; approaching this challenge as one system, committed to the sustainability of all partners.

It was outlined that Intermediate Care was a short-term health and social care service that could prevent the need for hospital admission, respond to a crisis, or expedite a hospital discharge. The collaboration between partners in Bradford were detailed.

The review of Intermediate Care services resulted in a new blueprint that prioritised jointly commissioned services that reduce hospital admissions, investment in community-based services which would enable people to return home from hospital with support.

Executive were informed that the decision to close Woodward Court care facility last year had resulted in no change in system performance. The Thompson Court and Normal Lodge care facilities were closed to new admissions over a period of time to assess how the system would cope with fewer beds, and it was found that community beds were still available, and no performance issues had arisen. It was noted that if the recommendations of the report were adopted this could achieve potential savings of £3m in a financial year.

The Leader highlighted that these facilities were not home to long-term residents and instead were for re-enablement to assist with getting back home. The Leader underlined the value of social care staff and asked how the Council could ensure that staff were retained. The Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health informed the Executive that following a meeting with unions, they were confident that it would be possible to redeploy all staff in the wider Council, but mostly in social care services.

The Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places thanked staff and partners in the NHS for their services to the community. The importance of services in the community to prevent hospital admissions and ensure people could return home were underlined.

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the blueprint for intermediate care in Bradford District and Craven be agreed.**
- (2) That the permanent closure of Thompson Court Care Facility in Crossflatts and Norman Lodge Care Facility in Odsal be agreed.**

**To be actioned by: Strategic Director, Health and Wellbeing**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Health and Social Care

## **REGENERATION, PLANNING & TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO**

*(Councillor Ross-Shaw)*

### **110. BRADFORD COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) - ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF HEALTH PROVISION IN BURLEY IN WHARFEDALE**

The Council resolved at the meeting of Executive on 13 July 2023 to be minded to allocate £400,000 from the Bradford Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), towards the costs of the construction of an extension of Grange Road GP Surgery Burley in Wharfedale, in order, to increase capacity of the practice. This was subject to the need for a further report to Executive to formally allocate the funds which were conditional on the receipt of CIL from the Sun Lane housing development and a funding agreement between the Council and the surgery.

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “BA”**) confirmed receipt of the first phase of funds from the development and that a draft funding agreement had been prepared with the surgery and their lenders. The report recommended that the Council formally allocate the £400,000 to the Surgery in line with the funding agreement to support the delivery of the extension.

The Planning and Transport Strategy Manager summarised the report and outlined the purpose of CIL funding, that supported infrastructure linked to new developments and was paid by the developer. Engagement with the surgery and the NHS was detailed.

Upon invitation from the Leader a Member of the opposition group and Ward Councillor addressed the Executive and detailed their joint work with the surgery to resolve some issues. Concerns were expressed regarding the timescale

associated with the funding.

A Member of the majority group and Ward Councillor addressed the Executive and thanked all those involved in delivering the funding.

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport acknowledged the timescale which was linked to the complexities associated with the project and the funding attached to it.

The pressure on GP services across the district was outlined and it was noted that projects like this would enable expansion and help address increased demand due to new residential developments.

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the allocation of £400,000 from CIL to the Grange Park Surgery, Burley in Wharfedale be approved.**
- (2) That the allocation be made available in line with the mechanism set out within the draft funding agreement which allows staged draw down linked to the construction plan.**
- (3) That the implementation of the funding agreement and any variation required be delegated to the Strategic Director (Place) in consultation with the Interim Director of Legal and Governance, Section 151 Officer and the Portfolio Holder.**

***To be actioned by: Strategic Director, Place***

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Environment

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