



COUNCIL – TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2024

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AGENDA ITEM 4 - LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGENDA ITEM 6 - PETITIONS

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to follow**

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To follow**

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COUNCIL SEATING PLAN

THIS AGENDA AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER

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Agenda Item 4

CITY OF BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF COUNCIL – TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2024

ITEM 4 WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO THE RETIRING HONORARY RECORDER, HHJ RICHARD MANSELL, KC

I would like to place on record this Council's debt of gratitude to the retiring Honorary Recorder, His Honour Judge Richard Mansell, KC.

Judge Mansell's passion for this district and its people is very well-established and he has served with great distinction as Honorary Recorder since his appointment in 2020.

He has strengthened the links between the judiciary and the City and his deep sense of public service has been widely appreciated.

I am sure we all wish him well for the future.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW HONORARY RECORDER, HHJ JONATHAN ROSE

It is with great pleasure that I can report the appointment of His Honour Judge Jonathan Rose as Resident Judge at Bradford Crown Court with effect from 11 October 2023.

Judge Rose was called to the Bar in 1981. In 1999 he was appointed as an Assistant Recorder, a Recorder in 2002 and a Circuit Judge in 2008.

In 1997, together with Steve Panter and Trevor Wilkinson, he co-authored the book "Innocents: How Justice Failed Stefan Kiszko and Lesley Molseed".

Judge Rose has been Schools, Colleges and Universities Judge at Bradford Crown Court since 2008. For the past eight years he has also been the founder and Course Director of SPRUCE (Student Pre-University Course Exposure), a course for Year 12 students from Bradford and the surrounding area, interested in studying and/or careers in the Law.

Married with two children, in his leisure time Judge Rose enjoys writing, playing and recording music, reading, history, cycling and watching sports from the comfort of the sofa.

I know that Judge Rose is delighted, honoured, and humbled to be appointed Honorary Recorder. Together, we share a strong interest in continuing to enhance the working relationship between the City and District of Bradford and the Court, and in emphasising the crucial and interwoven roles the Law and the Local Authority play in the consolidation and betterment of our civil society.

I am sure Members will wish to join me in extending a warm welcome to the new Honorary Recorder and to wish him every success in his new role.

**DEPARTURE OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE
(MONITORING OFFICER), ASIF IBRAHIM**

I am sad to report that the Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer), Asif Ibrahim, is to shortly leave the Authority and, indeed, this will be his final Council meeting and his last working day at the Council.

Asif joined us on 12 September 2022 and, throughout his time with us, has been an unwavering source of sound counsel and guidance to us all.

We have valued enormously the thoughtful, courteous help and support he has provided, and we appreciate his commitment and, of course, his unfailing eye for detail.

I am sure Members and Officers will wish to join me in thanking Asif and wishing him every possible happiness and success in the future.

Distribution:

Lord Mayor (Cllr Gerry Barker)

Chief Executive (Dr Lorraine O'Donnell)

Director of Legal and Governance (Asif Ibrahim)

Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Jason Field)

Head of Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Mandy Hill)

Acting Civic Affairs Manager (Farzana Mughal)

Acting Governance, Scrutiny & Members' Support Manager (Fatima Butt)

Principal Executive Officer, Chief Executive's Office (Nigel Smith)

PA to the Leader of Council (Victoria Spratt)

Policy Research Officer, Bradford Labour Group (Simon O'Hare)



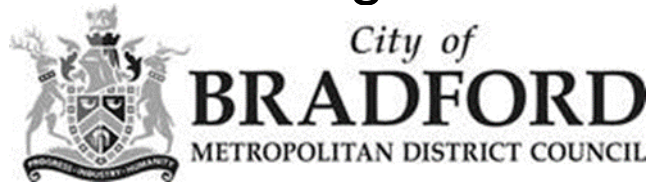
COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2024

Agenda Item 6 – Petitions (Standing Order 11)

- (1) Petition - Save Ilkley Tip (15 minute debate)
- (2) Petition – Stop Bradford Council Closing Ford Hill
Queensbury HWRC (TIP) (15 minute debate)

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Fatima Butt 07970 411746

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COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 23 January 2024

Agenda Item 8 – Membership of Committees and Joint Committees (Standing Order 4)

The following membership change has been submitted:

1. West Yorkshire Combined Authority Transport Committee:
that Councillor A Loy replace Cllr P Clarke on the
Committee.

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Fatima Butt – 07970 411746

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Amendment A

12.1 - Problematic Pavement Parking

To be moved by: Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

To be seconded by: Councillor Abdul Jabar

This Council notes:

- The Highway Code advises vehicles “should not” park on the pavement. However, outside of London and Scotland, it is still legal
- Pavement parking can pose a hazard to pedestrians, especially people with pushchairs, people with sight loss, wheelchair users and other disabled people. These people are especially at risk as they can be forced into the road and faced with oncoming traffic that they cannot see
- Pavements are not designed to take the weight of vehicles and so surfaces can become damaged or subside, presenting a further hazard for pedestrians, particularly those with disabilities
- Many estates were designed at a time car ownership was much lower, and therefore inevitably were not planned to comfortably accommodate modern car numbers
- Action to tackle pavement parking is currently problematic because:
 - The current legislation on nuisance pavement parking is confusing
 - The legal remedies available to tackle nuisance pavement parking are unsatisfactory

This Council also notes:

- The Department for Transport’s ‘Pavement Parking: Options for Change’ consultation closed in November 2020 - but to date the outcome of this has not been published
- Over 15,000 people took the time to respond to this consultation, demonstrating the level of public concern. They are still waiting for a response
- Bradford Council responded to the consultation requesting the discretionary ability to apply greater powers to deal with pavement parking
- From June 2016, all parking contraventions became the responsibility of the Local Council Authority's Civil Enforcement Officers (Traffic Wardens) - whilst Police have responsibility for and the ability to deal with nuisance / obstruction offences - where a vehicle is causing an obstruction
- Surveys and polls repeatedly show overwhelming support for legislation to address pavement parking across England and Wales. Sustrans’ Walking and Cycling Index showed that 65% of residents supported the complete prohibition of pavement parking (while only 16% oppose it)
- In some areas there is simply nowhere available for many of the cars to go, and therefore discretion is required in how to tackle the problem
- Sustainable and strong public transport provides a long-term alternative to car ownership that can help minimise the impact in many areas

This Council resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport requesting that the Government's response to the consultation now be published as promised
- Within existing legislation, powers and resource, take action on inconsiderate pavement parking wherever it is found in the district.
- Ask officers to provide a comprehensive briefing note to all Councillors outlining the existing powers available to deal with pavement parking, where the responsibility lies locally and the process members can follow to address pavement parking in their own wards
- Write to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to ask her to ensure that West Yorkshire Police are consistently using their powers to tackle nuisance / obstruction offences. Her response should be circulated to all councillors.

Amendment B

12.2 - Bradford Council Climate Strategy and Action Plan

To be moved by: Councillor Kevin Warnes

To be seconded by: Councillor Anna Watson

Council notes that:

- a) It is five years since Bradford Council declared a 'climate emergency' on 15 January 2019.
- b) Bradford Council, like many local authorities, faces unprecedented financial challenges. However, there is no economic sustainability without environmental sustainability.
- c) Failure to implement urgent action to tackle the climate crisis presents a significant financial risk to the Council.

Council further notes that:

- d) On 24 March 2020, the Executive:
 - I. approved a Sustainable Development Action Plan (2020-2022),
 - 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".
- e) 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."*
- f) The Executive has not yet considered any annual progress reports focused specifically on the Council's response to the Climate Emergency arising from their decision of 24 March 2020.

- g) The Executive Forward Plan published earlier this month (laying out the Executive's anticipated key decisions through to May) does not include a specific report relating to the Climate Emergency.
- h) Bradford Council does not yet have a comprehensive climate strategy and action plan for the years 2024-2038.
- i) Bradford Council's response to the climate emergency does not include specific targets for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions other than reaching net zero by 2038 and making 'significant progress' towards that overarching goal by 2030.
- j) Bradford Council's webpage on the 'climate emergency and green economy' does not appear to have been updated for almost four years.
- k) Bradford Council's published information about the work of the Sustainable Development Partnership remains extremely limited – the relevant page on the Council's own website, for example, does not appear to have been updated since December 2022 (a small amendment to the membership of the Partnership's Board).
- l) According to the above, the Partnership merely states that scoping documents relating to its eleven workstreams "*will be available shortly*", and that it "*is developing a delivery plan and key initiatives and will communicate and involve others more widely in the near future.*"
- m) Climate Emergency UK, an organisation which publishes Council Climate Plan Scorecards that assess seven different areas of activity relating to greenhouse gas emissions, ranks Bradford's climate actions in 2023 as 76th out of 177 single-tier local authorities (Leeds ranks 20th in comparison).
- n) 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; nonetheless, we now have less than fifteen years to meet our declared net-zero carbon target by the end of 2038.

Council therefore requests that:

- 1) The Leader of Council and Chief Executive consider establishing a cross-party working group (modelled on Leeds Council's cross-party Climate Emergency Advisory Committee) involving councillors and officers to advise on the development and subsequent implementation of a climate change strategy and action plan.
- 2) The Leader of Council and Chief Executive seek to arrange for a draft climate change strategy and action plan for Bradford Council to be presented for consideration to the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee before the end of July 2024.
- 3) This draft climate change strategy and action plan includes detailed targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions for the end of 2027, 2032 and 2037, in line with the UK government's own carbon budgets.
- 4) This draft climate change strategy and action plan is as fully costed as possible.

- 5) This draft climate change strategy and action plan lays out clearly (a) what Bradford Council can 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.
- 6) The Leader of Council and Chief Executive ensure that a bespoke annual report on the Council's response to the Climate Emergency is considered by the Executive, beginning in September this year, and that the Executive finalises a climate strategy and action plan for Bradford Council before the end of 2024.
- 7) The Leader of Council and Chief Executive work to ensure that carbon budgeting is integrated into the Council's annual financial budget process in time for the 2025-2026 financial year.
- 8) The Leader of Council and Chief Executive request a written report for the Executive from the Chair of the Sustainable Development Partnership, to be considered by the Executive in September this year.
- 9) The Leader of Council and Chief Executive work to ensure that full information about the Sustainable Development Partnership for the District, its work streams and their progress to date is published before the end of the 2023-2024 municipal year.
- 10) The Leader of Council and Chief Executive request that the Chair of the Sustainable Development Partnership submits an annual report before the end of 2024 on its activities to the Health and Wellbeing Board, in line with paragraph 7.4 of the draft Terms of Reference for the Sustainable Development Partnership (Page 4, Appendix B to Document BF) approved by the Executive at its meeting on 24 March 2020.

Amendment C

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.

Amendment D

12.3 - Budget setting process

To be moved by: Councillor Celia Hickson

To be seconded by: Councillor Janet Russell

Council Notes:

- Bradford Council's current budget setting process this year is not fit for purpose.
- Council's request to Government for Exceptional Financial Support should have been made many months earlier, rather than announced just as the Council went on Christmas break.
- The recruitment of a s151 Officer with experience of refloating councils who have mismanaged their budgets, should have been considered months ago.
- The budget proposals in the Executive Report for the meeting of 11th January were lacking in detail and the answers to the questions put to the Executive were equally vague.
- Several reviews are mentioned in the budget papers, but the public cannot be accurately consulted without the outcome of these reviews into changes to service delivery and potential cuts. These reviews should have been carried out earlier in the year prior to the start of the budget setting process.
- Crucial Executive papers were released and briefed to the press before elected members of this Council, who first saw the proposals on the Telegraph & Argus website.
- Elected members have been requesting information on the budget proposals but much of this information is still outstanding including costings and the asset list.
- That 11 councils have declared effective bankruptcy since 2018 and 1 in 5 Councils are at risk of putting a S114 notice in place by the end of 2025¹.

Council resolves:

- That the Chief Executive to write to all local MPs asking for their support for the revival of the Government's long overdue 'Review of Relative Needs and Resources', so that central government funding misalignments affecting Districts like ours with greater needs are appropriately funded to deliver vital services with a properly calculated relative needs formula.
- To ensure that all councillors and residents are provided with all information necessary to allow proper budget scrutiny in a timely manner and this is distributed appropriately.
- That all options for service delivery, including shared services across Local Authorities, be considered as a preference to service cuts.

Amendment E

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.

Amendment F

12.4 - Cost of School Uniforms

To be moved by: Councillor Janet Russell

To be seconded by: Councillor Anna Watson

1 Council notes:

- a) The cost of school uniforms can put an enormous strain on family budgets and can result in children not going to a school on grounds of the affordability of the uniform.
- b) Having a uniform ready the night before school is one of the "top tips" for improving school attendance.
- c) The Government has issued statutory guidance which seeks to make school uniform more affordable for families.
- d) Research by the School wear Association shows the average cost of a school uniform, worn for around 175 days, has declined.
- e) Not wearing the correct uniform can lead to sanction.
- f) The most expensive items are the branded items of school clothing such as blazers, ties trousers, skirts and physical education kit.
- g) That there are community and charity projects within the Bradford District that provide school uniform support such as the Shipley Area School Uniform Support and the Preloved School Uniform Support Shop at the Hive in Silsden.
- h) That West Yorkshire Combined Authority provides support to single parent families to save for uniform through their Uniform Saver scheme.

2. Council believes:

- a) The cost of buying a school uniform should never be a barrier to learning or attendance.
- b) Schools should make their uniforms more affordable by reducing the number of branded items to no more than two (including PE kit) and ensuring all the most expensive items can be bought from high street retailers.
- c) Schools should clearly define the shape and style of non-branded items so that families can avoid buying inappropriate items.
- d) Parents, Carers and Pupils should have right of appeal to the Department for Education should school uniform policy fail to comply with the guidance.

3. Council resolves to:

request the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education requesting that she amends the guidance as follows:

- a) Reduce the number of branded school uniform items to no more than two (including PE kit).
- b) Ensure that Parents, Carers and Pupils have the right of appeal to the Department of Education should a school's uniform policy fail to comply with the guidance.
- c) Request the Chief Executive to ensure the information about how families can access school uniform support is made available on the council website and other social media channels.

Amendment G

12.4 – Cost of school uniforms

To be moved by: Councillor Imran Khan

To be seconded by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Council notes:

a) The cost of school uniforms can put an enormous strain on family budgets and can result in children not going to a school on grounds of the affordability of the uniform.

b) Having a uniform ready the night before school is one of the "top tips" for improving school attendance.

c) The Government has issued statutory guidance which seeks to make school uniform more affordable for families.

d) Research by the School wear Association shows the average cost of a school uniform, worn for around 175 days, has declined.

e) Not wearing the correct uniform can lead to sanction.

f) The most expensive items are the branded items of school clothing such as blazers, ties, trousers, skirts and physical education kit.

g) All schools receive Pupil Premium funding and many schools use this funding to support families with the cost of school uniforms.

h) Many schools already provide parents with non-logo alternatives so that they do not have to buy uniform with a logo on it, such as a school jumper or school shirt.

i) The majority of schools have played an important and valued role, alongside the council and other partners, in going above and beyond to support children and families through the pandemic and cost of living crisis.

j) The council in partnership with the Bradford District Credit Union is running a UniformSavers scheme in which parents pay £10 into a monthly savings account, which is then topped up with a £100 payment from the scheme in August to supplement the parent's savings to pay for their child's school uniform.

Council believes:

a) The cost of buying a school uniform should never be a barrier to learning or attendance.

b) Schools should make their uniforms more affordable by reducing the number of branded items to no more than two and ensuring most items can be bought from high street retailers.

c) Adherence to the school uniform statutory guidance should form part of the OFSTED Inspection.

d) Parents, Carers and Pupils should have the 'right of appeal' to the Department for Education should school uniform policy fail to comply with the guidance.

Council resolves to:

Support the #CutTheCost campaign by the Children's Society and support the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills to write to the Secretary of State for Education requesting that she amends the guidance as follows:

- a) Reduce the number of branded school uniform items to no more than two
- b) Include adherence to the statutory guidance on the cost of school uniform as part of the OFSTED framework
- c) Fund schools sufficiently so that they can ensure that all parents of children on Free Schools Meals are able to access a fully subsidised uniform annually and that an enhanced Pupil Premium Grant may be used to off-set this cost.
- d) Ensure that Parents, Carers and Pupils have the right of appeal to the Department for Education should a school's uniform policy fail to comply with the guidance.