

Agenda for a meeting of the Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Tuesday, 28 February 2017 at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 4 - City Hall, Bradford

Members of the Committee – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	GREEN	INDEPENDENT
Heseltine Mallinson	Farley Pullen Green Jamil	Fear	H Hussain	K Hussain

Alternates:

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	GREEN
Pennington Whiteley	Johnson H Khan Salam	R Ahmed	Warnes

Notes:

- This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.
- The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Agenda Contact who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present who are invited to make spoken contributions to the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.
- If any further information is required about any item on this agenda, please contact the officer named at the foot of that agenda item.

From:

Parveen Akhtar
City Solicitor

Agenda Contact: Asad Shah/Sheila Farnhill

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To:



A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. ALTERNATE MEMBERS (Standing Order 34)

The City Solicitor will report the names of alternate Members who are attending the meeting in place of appointed Members.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

(Members Code of Conduct - Part 4A of the Constitution)

To receive disclosures of interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

Notes:

- (1) *Members may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or an interest which the Member feels would call into question their compliance with the wider principles set out in the Code of Conduct. Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (2) *Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*
- (3) *Members are also welcome to disclose interests which are not disclosable pecuniary interests but which they consider should be made in the interest of clarity.*
- (4) *Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.*

3. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.



Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Strategic Director or Assistant Director whose name is shown on the front page of the report.

If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting.

Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Asad Shah - 01274 431182)

4. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Any referrals that have been made to this Committee up to and including the date of publication of this agenda will be reported at the meeting.

B. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITIES

5. ACTIVE BRADFORD'S PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 1 - 14

Active Bradford is a partnership of agencies from across the District that are committed to working together to increase the number of people being active and playing sport across the Bradford District.

The Strategic Director Place will submit a report (**Document "R"**) which is the final version of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy Strategic Framework which has a vision to create a 'healthy and prosperous Bradford where everyone chooses to make physical activity and sport an every day part of their lives'.

The committee is asked to endorse the finalised version of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy Strategic framework following consultation.

Recommended –

Those Members of the Committee endorse Active Bradford's Strategic Framework for Physical Activity and Sport

(Phil Barker – 01274 432616)



6. UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE HOUSING STANDARDS TEAM 15 - 22

Housing Standards team (HST) delivers a number of statutory functions to address housing conditions across the district.

The report of the Strategic Director Place (**Document “S”**) will provide an update for members on housing conditions and the work of the HST taken to address these.

Recommended –

That the Committee note the report and request a further update on the work of the Housing Standards team in a further 12 months.

(Julie Rhodes – 01274 431163)

7. EMPTY HOMES UPDATE 23 - 36

The report of the Strategic Director Place (**Document “T”**) provides an update on the Council’s empty homes programme of work and introduces the draft Empty Homes Delivery Plan.

Recommended –

That the Committee note the report and endorse the draft Empty Homes Action Plan and request a further update on the work of the Empty Homes team in 12 months

(Julie Rhodes – 01274 431163)

8. REGENERATION AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17 37 - 38

The report of the Chair of the Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee (**Document “U”**) presents the Committee’s Work Programme 2016-17.

Recommended –

That the Work programme 2016-17 continues to be regularly reviewed during the year.

(Licia Woodhead – 01274 432119)

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



Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 28 February 2017

R

Subject:

Active Bradford's Physical Activity and Sport Strategic Framework

Summary statement:

Active Bradford is a partnership of agencies from across the District that are committed to working together to increase the number of people being active and playing sport across the Bradford District.

Active Bradford will present the final version of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy Strategic Framework which has a vision to create a 'healthy and prosperous Bradford where everyone chooses to make physical activity and sport an every day part of their lives'.

The committee is asked to endorse the finalised version of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy Strategic framework following consultation.

Steve Hartley
Strategic Director of Place

Portfolio:

Environment, Sport and Culture

Report Contact: Phil Barker Assistant
Director Sport & Culture
Phone: (01274) 432616
E-mail: phil.barker@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Regeneration and Economy



1. SUMMARY

Active Bradford is a partnership of agencies committed to increasing the number of people being active and playing sport across the Bradford District.

In February 2016 Active Bradford presented its draft Strategic Framework to this committee and was asked to carry out further consultation.

The committee is asked to endorse the finalised version of the Strategy Strategic framework following consultation.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Since 2002 there has been a Community Sport Network in Bradford consisting of a range of agencies working together to improve sports provision across the District. It has previously developed and implemented sports strategies, the most recent being the “Active, Healthy and Successful” strategy that finished at the end of 2015. The strategy had previously been discussed and endorsed by this committee with regular updates being given.

The strategy covered a period of major change for sport and its environment especially with the impact of the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, Tour de France passing through the District and changes in government strategy.

2.2 The Community Sports Network enabled greater partner working and many projects and programmes have been completed over the last five years, for example:

- Introduction of mass participation events such as the Bradford Runs and the Sky Ride Cycling event and Skyride locals. Development of a series of district events across the annual calendar.
- School Sports Partnerships across the District have been retained delivering services to schools, especially primary schools which have had an injection of around £1.5m government funding for PE and school sport each year
- Completion of built facility and playing pitch strategies that have paved the way for the council’s programme for redeveloping its swimming pools and facilities.
- The introduction of the Sportivate programme involving over 1,300 young people on coaching programmes each year across the district.
- Extension of physical activity health referral programmes involving over 1,000 people per year.
- Bradford Schools Inter Winter and Summer Games leading to winners attending the West Yorkshire School Games.
- Active Bradford Network Health Conference and PE, Health and Well Being Conference.
- Creation of a new Active Bradford Website and links to sport and physical activities across the district.
- Born In Bradford has undertaken research into children’s physical activity levels since birth from 2007 to improve their health and well being.



- Introduction of new Bradford district Sports Awards in February 2016
 - Creation of Active Schools Group in October 2016
 - Bradford Cycling Summit January 2017
 - PE, Health and Well Being Conference February 2017
 - Year 2 Bradford District Sports Awards in March 2017
 - Active Bradford are leading on an Active Aging Sport England Funding Application.
 - Active Bradford Are leading on Local Pilots Sport England Funding Application
- 2.3 Despite this work, it remains that participation rates have been fairly static over the last five years. Only around half of our adult population have activity levels within the government's minimum guidelines and, worryingly, over one in three people are inactive, having carried out less than 30 minutes activity in the previous week. There is a similar picture for our children and young people. Whilst most of our children are active in the Early Years, by the time they reach 9 or 10 year old around two thirds of our children don't meet the current guidelines for activity.
- 2.4 Over the last 2 years the Community Sports Network has been refreshed with a new identity, "Active Bradford", a broader remit that extends to physical activity and a renewed commitment to greater collaborative working. It is chaired by Wayne Jacobs, ex Bradford City player and Assistant Manager and co-founder of the One in a Million charities. Partners include University of Bradford, Bradford College, schools representatives, sports volunteers, Born in Bradford, Health sector, Bradford City, Bradford Bulls, Yorkshire Sport and the Council.
- 2.4 It has recently developed a "Strategic Framework for Physical Activity and Sport" for the District (appendix A). Its purpose is to:
- Guide it in its work in the future through regular development, implementation and monitoring of action plans
 - Enable partner and other organisations to set out their own plans and strategies to promote a unified sense of direction for those working, paid and unpaid, across the physical activity and sport sector
 - Act as an advocacy tool to outside bodies so that it is able to clearly present its vision and ambitions
 - Provide a "check and challenge" for current and future work
- 2.5 The framework puts the person at the centre of the action plans, recognising that people choose to make physical activity and/or sport an everyday part of their lives. It is the sector's role to enable the choice to be easier and more enjoyable. This is reflected in the Vision:
- "A healthy and prosperous Bradford where everyone chooses to make physical activity and sport an everyday part of their lives"*



- 2.6 The framework has taken a life-course approach in common with the Chief Medical Officer's Guidelines for physical activity with action plans being drawn up around the several stages using its enablers (workforce, places, promotion, programmes and events, knowledge and research) within the sector.
- 2.7 During the development of the Strategic Framework a wide range of partners were consulted with from the public, private and voluntary sector. This included colleagues from the CVS sector (through Bradford Young Lives), the professional clubs and community foundations as well as colleagues from early years and schools. Following the consultation period, amendments were made to the strategy to reflect suggestions and comments that were received and the final document was finalised by Active Bradford members at the end of December 2016.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Government's Department of Culture, Media and Sport has developed a Sporting Future Strategy setting out 5 key outcomes for health, social and the economy which the Sport England Towards an Active Nation Strategy launched in May 2016 will deliver against. The framework fits well with the messages in the government strategy i.e. a focus on encouraging inactive people to become active and tackling behaviour change on mass, further alignment of sport and physical activity, greater recognition of the wider impact of sport on health, communities and the economy and a broadening of Sport England's remit. This will include children and young people from the age of five, families based activities and offering training to at least two teachers in secondary school in England to better meet the needs of all children, irrespective of their ability.
- 3.2 The government's strategy also makes reference to the importance of locally driven plans through local partnerships which will strengthen the role of Active Bradford in the future.
- 3.3 Once completed, as a major partner of Active Bradford, the council will be asked itself to use the framework in drawing up its own plans and strategies related to physical activity and sport.
- 3.4 Active Bradford member organisations have agreed that they would like to proceed with making the partnership more formalised through becoming a fully constituted group.
- 3.5 Active Bradford have been working with Schofield Sweeny Solicitors to provide advice on the logistical and legal processes of creating a Company Limited by Guarantee. An Articles of Association and Limited Executive Summary have been created for the proposed company. These have been circulated to all Active Bradford member organisations who have been asked to refer them to their own respective legal teams and to feedback any questions or queries.



4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

There are no financial implications.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

There are no significant risks arising out of the framework

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

There are no legal issues in this report.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The actions plans arising from the framework will have a large focus on those who are currently inactive or low participation groups in sport. These tend to be those on low incomes, disabled people, some women and girls and some ethnic minority groups.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Through the strategy implementation Active Bradford will be looking to influence local transport and planning strategic plans to increase the number of people making journeys by walking and cycling across the city. This should contribute to lower emissions'.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Contact the Safer Communities Delivery Co-ordinator, on (01274) 432816 for further guidance.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Refer to the guidance contained in: 'Deciding Rights - Applying the Human Rights Act to Good Practice in Local Authority Decision-Making' published by the Local Government Association (<http://www.lga.gov.uk>).

- Consult the lawyer who normally offers advice in relation to the matters covered in the report.

7.5 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The framework is District wide so there are no specific ward implications.



8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

Those Members of the Committee endorse Active Bradford's Strategic Framework for Physical Activity and Sport.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Physical Activity and Sport Strategic Framework

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation, Department of Culture Media and Sport, HM Government, 2015.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486622/Sporting_Future_ACC_ESSIBLE.pdf

- Towards an Active Nation: A New Strategy to Tackle Inactivity, Sport England May 2016.

<https://www.sportengland.org/med10629/spengland-towards-an-active-nation.pdfort-ia/>





Physical Activity and Sport Strategic Framework for the Bradford District

We are proud that Bradford is a brilliant place to be active and play sport. We have some of the best countryside in England within the district and on our doorsteps. We have a wide range of sports facilities that have recently been modernised through the building of new schools. This range will soon be enhanced even further by the forthcoming Bradford Metropolitan District Council programme of building new swimming pools and sports centres. We have a strong voluntary sports framework with a higher proportion of sports volunteers than in other parts of the country and we are also lucky to have professional sports clubs flying the flag for the Bradford district on the national and international stage.

Through the lifetime of the previous “Active, Healthy and Successful” Sport and Physical Activity Strategy a great deal of work has taken place to increase opportunities to be active. The Olympics and Tour de France created a lot of enthusiasm and vibrancy around sports participation which resulted, initially at least, in an increase in activity levels. We have regular mass participation events across the district encouraging many people to take part in physical activity and sport for the first time. In our schools increased competitive and recreational opportunities, such as outdoor adventure, have been created alongside an increased focus on primary school physical activity provision.

Yet, despite the huge amount of project work that has taken place, it remains the case that not enough people in our communities choose to be physically active on a regular basis. Only around half of our adult population have activity levels within the government’s minimum guidelines and, worryingly, over one in three people are inactive, taking part in less than 30 minutes of activity each week. There is a similar picture for our children and young people. Not enough of our children are active in their Early Years and by the time they reach 9-10 years old around two thirds of our children don’t meet the current guidelines for levels of activity. Put starkly Bradford remains one of the most inactive places in the country.

This is having massive implications for our district’s health as physical inactivity is now widely acknowledged as the fourth biggest cause of early deaths in this country. The links between physical activity and obesity are commonly known, and we know we have higher obesity rates in Bradford than the England average, but being inactive also contributes to cardiovascular disease, risk of stroke, type 2 diabetes, certain cancers and mental health issues.

We know that physical activity and sport also has an impact on the vibrancy of communities, our economy and our personal safety. We believe that more people being active and playing sport will contribute massively to Bradford being a more healthy and prosperous place to live and work.

In 2015 the Government set out its “Sporting Future: A Strategy for an Active Nation” which was followed up months later by Sport England’s “Towards an Active Nation”. Both documents clearly set out a change in direction in national policy where the focus is on the impact physical activity and sport has on individuals and communities rather than only raising the numbers of people taking part. In doing so there has been a shift towards reducing inactivity levels through local planning and implementation. We will make sure our framework and actions are aligned to these national strategies.

We can't make people become active, but we can support them to make that lifestyle choice for themselves. Often that choice is easier and more enjoyable for certain sectors of our communities than others. We know that for many women and girls, disabled people, those on low incomes, for example, often the choice has been a difficult one and as a result we see large differences in activity rates across the district.

It is our ambition and passion, as Active Bradford, that everyone in the district can make this choice to be active on a regular basis. This will require a real focus on the needs and aspirations of individuals; initially supporting people throughout their life to have the physical and mental attributes to be active and play sport, followed by ensuring that accessible and enjoyable opportunities are available and promoted to all. This requires a collective effort by all those involved to create the right environment and opportunities to enable people to be active.

Active Bradford

Active Bradford is a partnership of organisations from across the district who are committed to working together to increase the number of people being active and playing sport in Bradford. This includes the University of Bradford, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Bradford College, the health sector, Born in Bradford, Bradford City FC, Bradford Bulls RLFC, Bradford Disability Sport and Leisure, Yorkshire Sport Foundation, Sport England and other representatives of community sport.

All of the partners help to develop and deliver a wide range of opportunities to be active. They work together, through Active Bradford, to collectively influence strategic plans, give support to each other and other bodies and develop and collectively promote opportunities through ongoing campaigns and events.

We believe physical activity and sport has a huge role to play in the Bradford district and our vision reflects this;

“A healthy and prosperous Bradford where everyone chooses to make physical activity and sport an everyday part of their lives”

Strategic Framework and Implementation

The following sets out the framework that will help us shape our plans as we move forward to increase activity levels across the district. We will use it to;

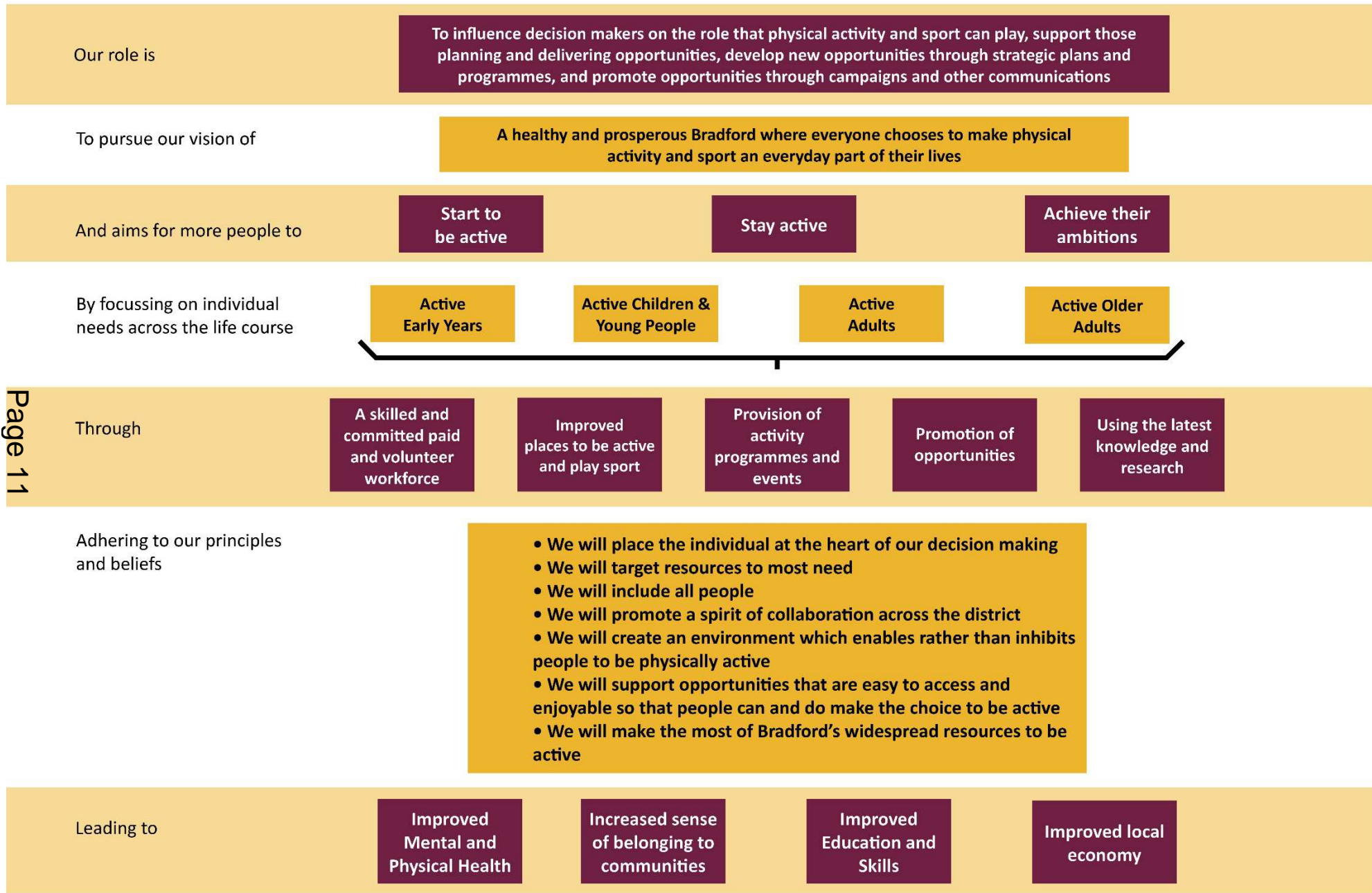
- Guide us in our future work through regular development, implementation and monitoring of action plans
- Enable partners and other organisations to set out their own plans and strategies to promote a unified sense of direction for those working, paid and unpaid, across the physical activity and sport sector
- Act as an advocacy tool to outside bodies so that we are able to clearly present our vision and ambitions

- Provide a “check and challenge” for current and future work

In drawing up the framework we have considered other national and local strategies related to health, physical activity and sport and we are confident that we are able to both compliment and contribute to shared outcomes across our region.

The framework sets out our vision and aims alongside six activity areas that we will be working on. We will be taking a life-course approach to our planning, setting out clearly defined actions that Active Bradford will be collectively focusing on. Those that will be worked on in the first instance are set out in the tables within this document.

Alongside the framework we will be developing a range of measures that we will be using to gauge the levels of activity across the district which will also enable us to assess physical activity and sport’s contribution to the district’s Health, Economy and Wellbeing.



Early Years

	Action	Enabler	Related to Aims
EY1	Support awareness raising and education for the Early Years workforce, including Health Workers, mothers and families on the guidelines and importance of physical activity	Workforce / Research	Starting to be Active
EY2	Safeguard the provision of safe places to play in community settings, including nurseries, playgrounds and outdoor spaces by influencing decision makers and ensure play areas are accessible to all	Places	Starting to be Active
EY3	Influence decision makers to ensure physical activity is embedded in related interventions of local programmes such as 'Better Start'	Programmes and Events	Starting to be Active
EY4	Promote opportunities and programmes available through campaigns and communications so that children have a high exposure to many different physical activity opportunities	Opportunities	Starting to be Active
EY5	Develop tailored interventions and programmes so that every mother and family has access to a culturally appropriate offer	Research	Starting to be Active

Primary School Children and Young People

	Action	Enabler	Related to Aims
CYP1	Support schools to get the most out of the Primary School Premium and evidence its impact by providing advice, guidance and examples of good practice	Workforce	Starting to be Active / Staying Active
CYP2	Promote Active Travel, specifically to schools, through providing advice on alternative routes and travel plans	Places / Opportunities	Starting to be Active
CYP3	Influence decision makers in schools to understand the value of physical education/activity and its positive impact on learning and make changes to support provision of physical activity in their schools	Research / Places	Starting to be Active / Staying Active / Achieving Ambitions
CYP4	Promote and support community access to school sports facilities and target full use of built facilities	Opportunities / Programmes and Events	Starting to be Active / Staying Active / Achieving Ambitions
CYP5	Provide support to voluntary sports clubs in recruiting and retaining young members during key 'transition periods'	Workforce / Programmes and Events	Starting to be Active / Staying Active / Achieving Ambitions
CYP6	Develop a physical literacy programme	Opportunities / Workforce	Starting to be Active
CYP7	Support the development of player pathways to enable young people to succeed in their sport including; competition, talent identification and talent support	Opportunities / Workforce	Achieving Ambitions

CYP8	Support non-sporting community groups to promote and develop opportunities for children and young people	Opportunities / Workforce	Starting to be Active / Staying Active
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Adults and Families

	Action	Enabler	Related to Aims
AD1	Support communication between the health sector and physical activity opportunities so that pathways for adults to start and stay active are clear	Workforce	Starting to be Active / Staying Active
AD2	Promote opportunities to be physically active in the workplace through campaigns and provision of events	Programmes and Events	Starting to be Active / Staying Active
AD3	Promote through campaigns the use and access of the countryside and urban green space to families for the purposes of physical activity	Programmes and Events / Opportunities	Starting to be Active / Staying Active
AD4	Work with National Governing Bodies and others to support adults to play and access sport	Programmes and Events / Opportunities	Starting to be Active / Staying Active
AD5	Use customer data and insight to develop and implement appropriate programmes and opportunities	Research	Starting to be Active / Staying Active

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Older Adults

	Action	Enabler	Related to Aims
OA1	Support health and social care providers to work with older people to develop personalised physical activity programmes	Workforce	Starting to be Active / Staying Active
OA2	Support organisations and individuals to build physical activity into retirement planning	Programmes and Events	Staying Active
OA3	Support providers in ensuring sporting opportunities are accessible to older adults	Opportunities / Programmes and Events	Staying Active
OA4	Support ongoing and develop new provision of walking and low impact sport and physical activities targeted at older adults	Opportunities / Programmes and Events / Research	Staying Active
OA5	Support awareness raising and education for the Older Adults workforce, including Health Workers, social care providers and families on the importance of physical activity	Workforce / Research	Staying Active

All Ages

	Action	Enabler	Related to Aims
AA1	Support stakeholders to ensure up to date Built Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategies are in place, adopted and used as a basis for strategic decision making	Places	Starting to be Active / Staying Active / Achieving Ambitions
AA2	Promote through campaigns the use and access of the countryside and urban green space for the purposes of physical activity to all	Places / Opportunities	Starting to be Active / Staying Active / Achieving Ambitions
AA3	Influence senior decision makers across multiple sectors and act as the representative body for physical activity and sport in Bradford	Research	Starting to be Active / Staying Active / Achieving Ambitions
AA4	Organise and promote an annual programme of mass participation sports events accessible to all, promoted under a seasonal events branding	Programmes and Events	Starting to be Active / Staying Active / Achieving Ambitions
AA5	Develop an evaluation measure to evidence the impact physical activity and sport has on wider strategic priorities and plans for Bradford	Research	Starting to be Active / Staying Active / Achieving Ambitions
AA6	Organise and promote an annual Bradford Sports Awards, Bradford PE Conference and workforce education seminars to celebrate and promote physical activity and sport across the district	Programmes and Events	Starting to be Active / Staying Active / Achieving Ambitions
AA7	Support the physical activity and sport sector through the recruitment, training and retention of a skilled and motivated paid and volunteer workforce	Workforce	Starting to be Active / Staying Active / Achieving Ambitions
AA8	Promote the use of the physical activity and sport sector to build individual's transferable skills that will contribute to the wider Bradford economy	Workforce	Starting to be Active / Staying Active / Achieving Ambitions
AA9	Influence relevant wider strategies and plans to include the use of Active Travel as a major consideration	Places	Starting to be Active / Staying Active
AA10	Influence land planning and other strategies to consider the impact of built and environmental developments on physical activity and sport for communities	Places	Starting to be Active / Staying Active

Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the meeting of Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 28 February 2017

S

Subject:

Update on the work of the Housing Standards Team

Summary statement:

The Housing Standards team (HST) delivers a number of statutory functions to address housing conditions across the district. This report provides an update for members on housing conditions and the work of the HST taken to address these.

Steve Hartley
Strategic Director of Place

Portfolio:

Health and Wellbeing

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Jowett

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Regeneration and Housing



1. SUMMARY

The Housing Standards team (HST) delivers a number of statutory functions to address housing conditions across the district. This report provides an update for members on housing conditions and the work of the HST taken to address these.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Members have been clear that the provision of quality and affordable housing is a key strategic priority and recognise the importance of a good quality private rented sector in the Council's "Housing and Homelessness Strategy for Bradford District - A Place to Call Home: 2014-2019".

2.2 Members last received an update on the work of the Housing Standards team in September 2015. This report provides an update on activity since that date.

2.3 The Housing Standards Team based within the Economy and Development service is a statutory service responsible for inspecting property in order to ensure compliance with various housing and other legislation. The service is largely reactive and particularly focuses on conditions in the private rented sector, although it does perform a number of statutory functions relating to statutory nuisance and filthy and verminous premises across all tenures.

The HST is also responsible for the administration and enforcement of the mandatory licensing scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).

2.4 In 2015/16 the service received 1416 service requests, all of which related to housing condition, the majority of which were from the private rented sector. By the end of Quarter 2 in 2016/17 we have seen a 37% increase in service requests compared to the number received by this point in 2015/16.

2.5 The main legislation enforced by the team is the Housing Act 2004. This legislation came into force in April 2006 and uses the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) as the prescribed method of assessing a house's condition. Under the HHSRS officers are required to ensure that each property is assessed against 29 separate hazards. Using the assessment tool hazards are categorised as either Category 1 or Category 2 hazards.

2.6 Under the Housing Act 2004 the Council must keep the housing conditions in their area under review and has a duty to remove Category 1 hazards where they exist.

2.7 The HHSRS is based on risk assessment and is not prescriptive. All 29 hazards in each property must be individually risk assessed, thus the outcome of the assessment between properties will vary.

2.8 Some property types pose a higher risk than others; For example in back to back properties which are common in the District (approximately 10,500) there is a higher risk of serious injury should a fire occur as there is only one way out of the house and this can be through a high risk room, such as a kitchen or living room. Also the high proportion of pre – 1919 housing in Bradford's housing stock means that the



hazard of falls on stairs due to the steepness of stairs in these properties is often identified.

- 2.9 In 2015/16 the most frequently scored hazards were Fire, Damp and Mould, Excess cold, electrical hazards and falling on stairs.
- 2.10 The service works with landlords to ensure compliance with legislation. Wherever possible this is through education and encouragement but the service does use enforcement powers, in line with the Council's Enforcement Policy, where necessary.
- 2.11 During 2015/16:
- The HST served 736 notices requiring works to be undertaken
 - Housing conditions were improved in 1330 properties
 - Housing conditions were improved in 385 properties where children aged 0 - 18 years were living
 - 11 prosecutions were taken for non compliance
- 2.12 The Housing Standards Team is also responsible for the enforcement of standards in Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), such as bedsits and shared houses. These are statistically proven to pose a higher risk of fire than singly occupied houses and therefore require a higher standard in terms of fire safety. Measures included higher specification for fire alarm systems and fire doors and fire stopping measures.
- 2.13 Under the Housing Act 2004 certain high risk categories of HMO are required to obtain a licence in order to operate. This is known as mandatory licensing. The main reason that these properties are deemed to be high risk relates to risks associated with fire due to their size and mode of occupation i.e. sharing of amenities and sanitary facilities. The Housing Standards Team is responsible for administering the mandatory licensing scheme.

The Council has a Zero tolerance approach towards owners who operate licensable properties without a licence. There are currently 265 licensed HMOs in the Bradford district.

- 2.14 The results from the recent Stock Modelling report indicate that there are potentially as many as 11,000 HMOs in the Bradford district, of which 1,399 may require a licence. The HST already routinely visits properties that have previously required a licence but no longer do so because of their occupation levels but is now utilising the data provided by the BRE to undertake further proactive targeted surveys to



identify whether these additional properties are HMOs and whether they do require a mandatory licence. This has resource implications for the team but is an important piece of work given the increased risks of such properties to their occupants.

- 2.15 In January 2016 the Housing Standards team was successful in securing £45,000 of funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to carry out intensive enforcement inspections of flats above commercial premises along three main arterial routes into Bradford; Leeds Road, Manchester Road and Great Horton Road, and to target properties with outstanding Housing Act Notices on a district wide basis.

Inter-agency working was a key part of the project with West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue providing over 1,000 single point smoke alarms to support the project and key contacts informed about the project in Homelessness services, Revenue and Benefits and Council members.

The main aims of the project were to identify high risk properties where a fire was likely to result in serious harm or death due to lack of fire precaution measures and safe escape routes out the property.

In total 180 properties were inspected during the project with hazards found at 133 rented properties resulting in 20 formal Housing Act Notices, including three emergency prohibition orders. In 10 cases a property was found to have a fire risk high enough to justify Emergency Prohibition Orders but either the tenants moved out the same day and works were completed, or the property was owner occupied, so advice, information and smoke detectors were provided.

Informal notices were served in 113 cases, often where landlords were shown to have high levels of co-operation. Fire alarms were handed out to both owner occupiers and tenants reducing the fire risk in over 60 properties.

The funding required that the initial project was completed by March 31st 2016 but one officer in the Housing Standards Team has continued to undertake this work on a proactive basis as it was clear from the project findings that this work was important and potentially saves lives.

- 2.16 The HST works closely with the Housing Options service and now undertakes housing inspections for the service to ensure compliance with standards as part of the new approach to provide additional housing options in the private rented sector. During 2015/16 HST carried out inspections of 88 properties in support of the Private Rented Lettings Service.

- 2.17 The Redress Schemes for Lettings Agency Work and Property Management Work (Requirement to Belong to a Scheme etc) (England) Order 2014 (the Order) made it a legal requirement for all lettings agents and property managers to join a



Government approved redress scheme by October 1st 2014 and placed a statutory duty on the Council to enforce the requirement. On February 10th 2015 the Council's Executive agreed that a monetary fine of £5000 would be applied for non-compliance.

Since the introduction of these Regulations the service has served 19 notices requiring agents/managers to prove that they are members of an approved scheme and has issued 3 penalty charges for non-compliance.

2.18 The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015 (the Regulations) came into force on 1 October 2015.

These Regulations place a duty on landlords of rented accommodation (excluding registered providers of social housing) to ensure that:

- a smoke alarm is installed on each storey of premises where there is living accommodation
- a carbon monoxide alarm is installed in any room of a premises used as living accommodation, which contained a solid fuel burning appliance.

and for tenancies starting from 1 October 2015

- that checks are made by the landlord, or someone acting on his behalf, that the alarm(s) is/are in proper working order on the day the tenancy starts.

Where the Council believe that a landlord is in breach of one or more of the above duties, the Council must serve a remedial notice on the landlord.

If a landlord, then fails to take the remedial action specified in the notice within the specified timescale, the Council can require a landlord to pay a penalty charge.

The HST is the team responsible for enforcing this new requirement. Since the introduction of these Regulations the service has served 51 remedial action notices and issued 3 penalty charges for non-compliance.

2.19 All action undertaken by the Housing Standards team is taken in line with the Council's Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy that was agreed at Executive in February 2006.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 In order to release capacity the HST has for some time actively encouraged tenants and owners to address issues themselves with landlords/neighbours before approaching the HST for assistance. This is not just a local issue however and the team is currently working with officers from the other West Yorkshire authorities to further develop use of a "triage" type approach.



This approach is not appropriate for all clients but if effective could free up capacity within the team to enable it to address new and proposed areas of statutory responsibility and/or to undertake further proactive inspections.

3.2 The increasing size and importance of the private rented sector is a national issue. Further proposed statutory responsibilities for the Council include:

- Subject to Parliamentary approval the Government is proposing to require that all privately rented accommodation has an EPC rating of band E by April 1st 2018.
- The Government has recently consulted on proposals to extend mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation and on the introduction of banning orders for the most serious and prolific offenders.
- The Housing and Planning Act 2016 also includes proposals to extend the use of Rent Repayment Orders and on the introduction of civil penalties for non-compliance with Housing Act notices.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 Additional resources will not be made available from central Government to implement the new and proposed statutory responsibilities. The Council can however retain any income generated from fines that are paid.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

No significant risks have been identified.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

6.1 Legal Services have provided advice on the format of notices and procedures required to implement new statutory responsibilities.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The improvement of housing conditions in the District will have a positive impact on those groups and individuals who suffer multiple disadvantages associated with poor quality and inadequate housing.



7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The interventions that the Housing Standards team take to improve the quality of the private rented stock will help to create a more sustainable housing stock for the district.

The Housing service will continue to work with neighbouring Local Authorities and other regional partners to gather information and develop initiatives to tackle local and regional problems.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Any work done to a domestic property to remove excess cold as a hazard or to improve its energy efficiency is likely to have the effect of reducing the domestic carbon emissions of that property (in addition to reducing the household's heating bills). This will contribute to meeting the District's Greenhouse Gas Emissions targets.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

One of the hazards assessed by officers using the Housing Health and Safety Rating system (HHSRS) relates to entry by intruders. Where the hazard of entry by intruders has been identified in a home measures to address that hazard will be included in any action taken.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

No implications under the Human Rights Act have been identified.

7.6 TRADE UNION

No Trade Union implications have been identified.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Housing Standards work is largely reactive and covers the whole District.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.



9. OPTIONS

- 9.1 Option 1 – that the Committee note the report.
- 9.2 Option 2 – that the Committee note the report and request a further update on the work of the Housing Standards team in 12 months.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Committee note the report and request a further update on the work of the Housing Standards team in a further 12 months

11. APPENDICES

None.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.



Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the meeting of Regeneration and Economy Scrutiny Committee to be held on 28 February 2017

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Subject:

Empty Homes Update

Summary statement:

This report provides an update on the Council's empty homes programme of work and introduces the draft Empty Homes Delivery Plan.

Steve Hartley
Strategic Director of Place

Portfolio:

Health and Wellbeing

Report Contact: Julie Rhodes,
Principal Operations Manager

Phone: (01274) 431163

E-mail: Julie.rhodes@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Regeneration and Economy



1. SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Council's empty homes programme of work and introduces the draft Empty Homes Action Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As the district has over 214,000 properties it is recognised that there are always a number of homes that are empty due to people moving home, ending tenancies, etc. Known as "transactional" empties these properties are generally empty for less than 6 months (however due to the current housing market it is not uncommon for properties to remain empty for up to 12 months whilst being sold). These properties do not generally need any intervention from the Empty Homes and Loans team so resources are focussed on properties that have been empty for more than 6 months (known as long term empties).
- 2.2 At February 2017, 44% of empty properties have been empty for less than 6 months. This means 56% (4,130) of empty properties have been empty for more than 6 months (long term). For those, the length of time they have been empty for is summarised below:

Length of time empty	Number of properties	% of total number of empty properties
6 months – 1 year	1,641	22%
1 - 2 years	1,182	16%
2 - 3 years	427	6%
3 - 5 years	351	5%
5 - 10 years	323	4%
Over 10 years	206	3%
Total	4,130	56%

- 2.3 At October 2016 there were 7,525 empty properties in the district, of these 3,581 had been empty for less than 6 months and 3,944 were considered to be long term empty properties (empty for over 6 months). In 2009 there were 7,302 long term empty properties therefore the current figure shows a reduction of 3,358 long term empty homes since 2009.
- 2.4 Prior to 2015 the only indicator relating to empty homes reported on the net number of long term empty homes in the district. This figure represented the number of long term empties as a net figure resulting from properties becoming empty and all those no longer being empty. This indicator did not easily illustrate how many empty properties were no longer empty in the district or allow us to appreciate the scale of the 'churn' of empty and the impact this would have on communities. Consequently, in 2015, the Council introduced an additional performance indicator relating to empty homes.



The additional indicator reports on the total number of long term empty properties that have ceased to be empty. This is reported on a monthly basis as a rolling 12 month figure. The January 2017 outturn for this indicator is 4,943 – meaning that in the year January 2016 to January 2017, 4,943 long term empty properties ceased to be empty.

- 2.5 Demand for the service continues to be high with 595 service requests being responded to in 2015/16. The work of the team is a mixture of this reactive work as well as proactive work generated from the Councils' own data and surveys of the district. The team are dealing with approximately 1,000 empty properties at any one time.
- 2.6 A large proportion of the work and response provided by the team relates to resolving issues through formal enforcement powers such as nuisance from empty properties (i.e. dampness) and securing empty properties against unauthorised access. In addition, Empty Homes Advisors work both reactively and proactively to investigate the circumstances surrounding empty properties and provide advice to owners on their options, products available and organisations that may be able to help.
- 2.7 The most problematic long term empty properties, considered to be of a higher risk (following a risk assessment by officers), are targeted more intensely by officers for action. There are currently 100 high risk long term empty properties.
- 2.8 The reasons why properties are left to become long term empty can be many and varied. Detailed investigations are often necessary to identify legal ownership of properties before any action can be taken. For this reason one of the products developed and used by the team is to offer some owners legal assistance to help them to resolve ownership issues which are preventing them bring the property back into use.
- 2.9 Officers utilise appropriate products from the full range of options available to them to try to encourage owners to bring their homes back into use but in some cases they have to use the ultimate sanction against uncooperative owners – compulsory purchase. Since 2010, the service has voluntarily acquired 29 properties and compulsorily purchased 18 properties. 15 cases are currently ongoing, of which 11 are CPOs and 4 are Voluntary Acquisition.
- 2.10 The Team continues to work with other organisations such as Bradford Youthbuild Trust, Centrepont, ARISE and other smaller charities to provide the opportunity to purchase empty properties and bring them back into use as rented accommodation for young and vulnerable people in addition to providing support to those young people.
- 2.11 The Empty Homes and Loans team is often approached by developers who are looking to find empty properties to bring them back into use. Officers will often pass the details of these developers to empty home owners and act as facilitators in negotiations as it may provide an additional means of bringing their property back into use.



- 2.12 The range of products and services the Council and its partners are able to support continues to grow with 11 fact sheets available from the Council. This information provides advice to owners on how the barriers they are facing may be broken down, this is accompanied by face to face advice and signposting on complex issues.
- 2.13 One of the key products developed by the service is the Empty Property Loan (EPL). This is an equity share loan intended to provide essential funding to enable long term empty property owners to bring their properties back into use. This is one of a very few loan products that are being successfully delivered to empty home owners nationally and has been developed in partnership with Sheffield City Council who administer the loan on behalf of the Council. To date over 400 enquiries have been received and 22 loans have been completed, 20 of which were brought back into use by the loan (2 have only just been completed and the owners are seeking tenants).
- 2.14 The service has also developed a new product known as Empty Property Assistance (EPA) which is a small grant of up to £5,000 which owners can only access where they have been unable to access loan funding. It is intended to be a last resort and to provide help to empty property owners who have no other means of funding and who have exhausted all other ways to raise finance. It will only suit circumstances where works costing up to £5,000 will bring the property back into use. Since it was introduced in late 2014, 10 of these have been completed and most now occupied with the most recent ones awaiting tenants.
- 2.15 Each month, the service proactively targets all empty home owners whose properties have been empty for 12 months. Working in partnership with the Council's Revenues and Benefits service, the team uses Council Tax information to identify these owners and send out a letter promoting the various products available to help an owner bring their property back into use.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Following the Government's Autumn statement, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has advised that applications for funding to create affordable homes through the acquisition and repair of empty homes will now be considered. The Council is now looking to identify opportunities to access this funding.
- 3.2 The provision of quality and affordable housing and communities and neighbourhoods where people want to live is a key strategic priority within both the District Plan and Council Plan. Tackling empty homes in the district contributes towards the issues of housing supply, housing quality and creating neighbourhoods which are clean and where people feel safe.
- 3.3 The current Empty Homes Delivery Plan 2011 -14 has been reviewed. In line with the Council's other housing delivery plans it is proposed that the new plan becomes an action plan under the Council's Housing and Homelessness Strategy as opposed to a stand alone delivery plan. The draft Empty Homes Action Plan is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.



4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The service continues to recycle funding through loans, property acquisition and disposals. The funding supports bringing homes back into use. Other impacts include the reduction of debt to the council through enforced sale and the use of the empty property loan and assistance, as owners can only access these forms of assistance if they have cleared any outstanding council tax debt to the Council first.
- 4.2 The financial benefit to the Council of bringing empty homes back into use can be measured in a number of ways with one of the most significant being its contribution to the new homes bonus (NHB) awarded by Government.
- 4.3 The new homes bonus is calculated annually using the previous year's October figures. However, the bonus paid to the Council is spread over a number of years, a base year ('year zero') having been calculated from data obtained in 2010-11. This creates a cumulative effect with each year's performance adding to or offset against new homes performance the previous year.

The most recent provisional Local Government Financial Statement changed the way that New Homes Bonus will be paid. Previously payments were received over a 6 year period. The changes mean that bonuses up to 2016/17 will now be for 5 years and those from 2018/19 will be for 4 years. Despite this, year on year the New Homes Bonus continues to be important to the Council as un-ringfenced income. The table below shows the New Homes Bonus awarded to date and the total to be paid. Not all of the amounts shown below are attributable to empty properties brought back into use, it represents the total NHB awarded to the Council.

Year		Annual Award	Total New Homes Bonus to be received over 6 years
Year 0		£2,760,424	£16,562,544
Year 1	2012/13	£1,055,829	£5,279,145
Year 2	2013/14	£1,664,440	£8,322,200
Year 3	2014/15	£1,776,641	£8,883,205
Year 4	2015/16	£1,612,000	£8,060,000
Year 5	2016/17	£1,794,000	£8,970,000
Total		£10,663,334	£56,077,094

- 4.4 In November 2012 the Executive decided to charge a Council Tax premium on empty homes which have been vacant for more than two years. This premium is currently set at 150% of the Council Tax for the property. Since its introduction in April 2013 the Council has seen a drop of almost 20% in the number of properties empty for over two years. At any one time there are between 1,300 and 1,500 properties that have been empty for more 2 years. Using Council Tax data, the number of empty homes vacant for more than 2 years in 2013 was 1,756 and in January 2017 was 1,406.



5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

No significant risks have been identified.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

6.1 Legal Services provide advice on the format of notices and procedures required to implement statutory responsibilities.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The improvement of housing conditions in the District will have a positive impact on those groups and individuals who suffer multiple disadvantages associated with poor quality and inadequate housing.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

7.2.1 The Councils work on bringing empty homes back into use supports the objective of making use of existing resources to provide housing wherever possible rather than using new materials to construct new housing. Significant CO₂ emissions occur through construction which may be avoided by maximising the existing housing stock. Greenfield sites in particular comprise a valuable resource for biodiversity, recreation and resilience to climate change which further strengthens the case for consolidating existing housing stock and previously developed land.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

7.3.1 Inevitably, occupied homes will contribute additional emissions of around 6 tonnes of CO₂ annually, thereby increasing overall emissions for the district. The objective therefore will be to influence energy efficiency refurbishments, for example the previously empty Green Deal Communities show home in Keighley, included internal wall insulation, under floor insulation and an efficient new heating system.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.4.1 The presence of empty homes within communities impacts significantly on community safety, the fear of crime and the feelings that residents have towards their neighbourhood. As a result, the success of the team, and returning a property into occupation, impacts significantly on whole streets and neighbourhoods.

7.4.2 Empty homes can, in some cases, attract antisocial behaviour, accumulations of refuse and also criminal activity. The team often work with neighbourhood wardens, Neighbourhood Services and the police to highlight and tackle problematic properties, ensuring that action can be taken where possible.

7.4.3 The team also attend Ward Partnership meetings, providing and gathering information about problematic properties.



7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

- 7.5.1 A key element of the teams' work in the enforcement of legislation, and in particular in the compulsory purchase of properties is the consideration of individuals' human rights, both those of the property owner/s and the residents in the neighbouring properties or community.
- 7.5.2 All actions taken by the team are in line with the Housing Service Enforcement Policy (agreed at the Councils Executive Committee on the 28th February 2006) which is based upon the principles of the Enforcement Concordat.

7.6 TRADE UNION

No Trade Union implications have been identified.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 7.7.1 The team responds to all service requests across the district and works proactively to target the most problematic empties on a risk assessed basis regardless of location.
- 7.7.2 The team also attend Ward Partnership meetings, providing and gathering information about problematic properties.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Committee note the report and endorse the draft Empty Homes Action Plan and request a further update on the work of the Empty Homes team in 12 months.

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix 1 – Breakdown of long term empty properties (at February 2017), by Ward.
- 10.2 Appendix 2 – Draft Empty Homes Action Plan.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.



Appendix 1 – Breakdown of long term empty properties (at February 2017), by Ward

Ward	Long Term
Baildon	68
Bingley	97
Bingley Rural	118
Bolton And Undercliffe	133
Bowling And Barkerend	300
Bradford Moor	179
City	417
Clayton And Fairweather Green	95
Craven	88
Eccleshill	100
Great Horton	204
Heaton	151
Idle And Thackley	89
Ilkley	81
Keighley Central	175
Keighley East	144
Keighley West	78
Little Horton	183
Manningham	243
Queensbury	141
Royds	113
Shipley	112
Thornton And Allerton	122
Toller	139
Tong	109
Wharfedale	48
Wibsey	122
Windhill And Wrose	65
Worth Valley	116
Wyke	100
Total	4,130



TACKLING EMPTY HOMES IN THE BRADFORD DISTRICT

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ACTION PLAN

2017-2019

Introduction

This Action Plan forms an appendix to the strategic document **Housing and Homelessness Strategy for Bradford District 2014 – 2019: A Place to Call Home**. The Action Plan:

- responds to the growing need to make better use of the district's housing supply, at the same time addressing a whole range of problems associated with empty homes, including the blight on communities that empty homes contribute to;
- outlines our objectives and planned actions.

This Action Plan details **what** we plan to do, **how** the Council and its partners are going to do it and **who** will be responsible for taking the action.

The actions are based on our four objectives:

- Objective 1 – Preventing properties from becoming empty
- Objective 2 – Partnership approach to tackling empty homes
- Objective 3 – Practical solutions to bringing empty homes back into use
- Objective 4 – Prosperity for the district

Bradford Empty Homes and Loans Team has been working closely with its partners within and outside the Council to tackle a wide range of issues associated with empty homes. The key focus of the team is to reduce the number of empty homes in the district by directly bringing empty properties back into use or by influencing others to do so.

This Action Plan focuses on the actions the team and its partners will be committing to in order to achieve the four objectives above.

We are going to review the Action Plan annually to ensure that we monitor our progress and to enable us to respond to new challenges.

Ref	What we are going to do and How we are going to do it	Objectives				Who will lead	Who will help
		Preventing properties becoming empty	Partnership Approach	Practical solutions	Prosperity		
1	<p>Ensure property owners understand the impact of their empty property on them, on the community and explain their options, opportunities and the products and services that can help them, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicising and promoting the Council's empty homes work and services it can offer; Maintaining direct contact with empty property owners through letters, visits, etc; Take enforcement action where necessary to resolve issues caused by empty properties. 	✓		✓		Empty Homes & Loans Team	<p>Council: Press Office, Revenues & Benefits</p> <p>External partners: Police, Fire Service</p>
2	<p>Constantly review current practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek feedback from empty home owners on how the Council can support them better; Develop new initiatives to encourage homes being brought back into use; Networking locally and nationally to keep abreast with new approaches and products. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	Empty Homes & Loans Team	<p>Council: Revenues & Benefits,</p> <p>External partners: Registered Providers, Community organisations, Homes & Loans service</p> <p>National agencies: Empty Homes Network</p>
3	<p>Communicate the Council and its partners' commitment to reducing the number of empty homes and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage residents to report any issues or concerns; Continue to take enforcement action where appropriate and publicise the outcomes. Share this information with partners. 	✓		✓		Empty Homes & Loans Team	<p>Council: Revenues & Benefits, Legal, Press Office, Elected Members</p>
4	<p>Make neighbourhoods stronger and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support regeneration initiatives in localities; 	✓	✓	✓		Empty Homes & Loans Team	<p>Council: Department of Place, Council Wardens,</p>

Ref	What we are going to do and How we are going to do it	Objectives				Who will lead	Who will help
		Preventing properties becoming empty	Partnership Approach	Practical solutions	Prosperity		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Council Wardens are kept up to date with activities and work around empty homes; • Keep councillors aware. 						<p>Elected members</p> <p>External partners: Voluntary & Community Sector</p>
5	<p>Work proactively with other Council colleagues, external partners, Registered Providers (e.g. Incommunities), Voluntary and Community organisations, social enterprises and within communities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop alternative approaches; • Attract additional investment & monitor performance; • Share data and intelligence; • Undertake joint projects; • Provide feedback to communities on action taken; • Publicise the joint work between the Council and partners; 	✓	✓	✓		Empty Homes & Loans Team	<p>Council: Services such as Environmental Health, Planning, Building Control, Neighbourhood Service, Revenues & Benefits, Elected Members</p> <p>External partners: Police, Fire Service, Valuation Office, Registered Providers, Voluntary and community organisations, Homes and Communities Agency</p>
6	<p>Stimulate empty homes owners to find best solutions for themselves through promoting existing products and services (eg the Private Sector Lettings Scheme) and keeping up-to-date with latest developments.</p>	✓	✓	✓		Empty Homes & Loans Team	<p>Council: Press Office</p>
7	<p>Continually consider and develop new products and services and extend and improve existing products or services for empty homes owners in response to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in the housing market; • Changes in the behaviour of property owners; • Changes in legislation; • Opportunities that arise, such as funding, etc 	✓		✓		Empty Homes & Loans Team	<p>Council: Revenues & Benefits, Legal</p> <p>External partners: Sheffield Homes & Loans</p> <p>National agencies:</p>

Ref	What we are going to do and How we are going to do it	Objectives				Who will lead	Who will help
		Preventing properties becoming empty	Partnership Approach	Practical solutions	Prosperity		
	and innovations.						Homes & Communities Agency, Empty Homes Network
8	Consider opportunities to further use the council tax system to encourage empty home owners to return their properties into use, through financial incentives and penalties.	✓		✓	✓	Revenues & Benefits	Council: Empty Homes & Loans Team, Legal National agencies: Empty Homes Network
9	<p>Improve health outcomes of future occupiers of empty homes brought back into use by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encouraging empty home owners to bring their properties back into use to recognised minimum standards; advising home owners on the standards that need to be achieved in order to be able to let properties to tenants, eg. Housing Health & Safety Rating System (HHSRS); advising owners on help that is available either through the Council or through other initiatives / partners. 			✓		Empty Homes & Loans Team	Council: Housing Standards Team, Public Health Service
10	<p>Improve access and choice for residents by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to include housing need, supply and affordability of housing as a key factor in risk assessing and prioritising empty properties for action; Contributing to reducing homelessness through the increased supply of affordable housing. 			✓	✓	Empty Homes & Loans Team	Council: Housing Options Team External partners: Registered Providers, Private Sector Landlords & owners
11	<p>Make sure record keeping on empty homes is correct and up-to-date by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to verify the accuracy of empty homes data through site visits and 'street by street' inspections of empty homes; 			✓	✓	Revenues & Benefits and the Empty Homes & Loans Team	Council: Legal, Estate Management External partners: District Valuer /

Ref	What we are going to do and How we are going to do it	Objectives				Who will lead	Who will help
		Preventing properties becoming empty	Partnership Approach	Practical solutions	Prosperity		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulating empty homes owners to provide up-to-date council tax returns / land registry details; Data cleansing projects around properties taken off valuation list; Looking at empty homes owned by the Council; 						Valuations Office
12	Maximise the New Homes Bonus (NHB) by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Council Tax data is as accurate as possible; Through reducing the number of long term empty properties in the district. 			✓	✓	Empty Homes & Loans Team and Revenues & Benefits	
13	Deliver products & services which recycle funds by place increasing emphasis on products and services which recycle funds / investment back into future service provision, e.g. enforced sales, Empty Property Loans, etc.			✓	✓	Empty Homes & Loans Team	Council: Finance, Legal External partners: Sheffield Homes & Loans
14	Maximising the use of external funding and 'levering in' additional investment where possible by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making successful bids for HCA and other government funding. Working with the private sector to deliver market-led solutions. Explore opportunities to utilise the resources of the Third Sector. 			✓	✓	Empty Homes & Loans Team	External partners: Homes & Communities Agency, Leeds City Region, Sheffield Homes & Loans, Private Developers and purchasers.

Report of the Chair of the Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the meeting to be held on Tuesday 28 February 2017

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Subject:

Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2016-17

Summary statement:

This report presents the Committee's Work Programme 2016-17

Cllr Adrian Farley
Chair – Regeneration and Economy O&S
Committee

Portfolio:

**Regeneration, Planning & Transport
Education, Employment and Skills
Environment, Sport & Culture
Health and Wellbeing**

Report Contact: Licia Woodhead
Overview and Scrutiny Lead
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1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report presents the Committee's Work Programme 2016-17.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required by the Constitution of the Council to prepare a work programme (Part 3E – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Para 1.1).

3. REPORT ISSUES

3.1 **Appendix 1** of this report presents the Work Programme for 2016-17.

3.2 Work planning cycle

Best practice published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny suggests that 'work programming should be a continuous process'. It is important to regularly review work programmes so that important or urgent issues that come up during the year are able to be scrutinised. In addition, at a time of limited resources, it should also be possible to remove projects which have become less relevant or timely. For this reason, it is proposed that the Committee's work programme be regularly reviewed by Members throughout the municipal year.

4. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE APPRAISAL

None

5. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 That the Work programme 2016-17 continues to be regularly reviewed during the year.

7. APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – Regeneration & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2016-17



Democratic Services - Overview and Scrutiny

Regeneration and Economy O & S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Licia Woodhead tel - 43 2119

Work Programme 2016/17

Description

Report

Agenda

Wednesday, 8th March 2017 at City Hall, Bradford.

Chair's briefing 20/02/2017. Secretariat deadline 23/02/2017.

- 1) City Centre Regeneration
- 2) City Centre Markets
- 3) Regeneration and Economy O&S Committee Work Programme

The Committee will receive an update report on the regeneration work in Bradford City centre including an update on the City Plan.

Steve Hartley

The Committee will receive an update on the City centre markets
The Committee will consider its Work Programme and make changes as necessary.

Colin Wolstenholme
Licia Woodhead

Tuesday, 28th March 2017 at City Hall, Bradford.

Chair's briefing 08/03/2017. Secretariat deadline 15/03/2017.

- 1) National Media Museum

The Director of the Media Museum will present an annual update on the museum, which will include details of the Council's £1m investment in the National Media Museum and the economic impact the museum has had on the district.

Jo Quinton-Tulloch / Stuart
McKinnon-Evans / Phil
Barker

- 2) Get Bradford Working / SkillHouse Programme

The Committee will receive an update report on the Get Bradford Working Programme

Emma Longbottom

- 3) Regeneration and Economy O&S Committee Work Programme

The Committee will consider its Work Programme and make changes as necessary.

Licia Woodhead

Thursday, 27th April 2017 at City Hall, Bradford.

Chair's briefing 10/04/2017. Secretariat deadline 12/04/2017.

- 1) Housing and Homelessness strategy / Housing Allocations Policy Review

The Committee will receive a report reviewing the progress against targets within the Housing and Homelessness strategy, and information on the Housing Allocations Policy Review

Sarah Holmes

- 2) Tourism

The Committee will receive an update report which includes feedback from public consultation on the Tourism review and the impact of other strategies.

Tricia Tillotson

- 3) Cultural Strategy

The Committee will receive an update report which will include information on how data is collected and analysed.

Phil Barker / Bobsie
Robinson

- 4) Former Odeon Building

The Committee will receive an update report on the former Odeon building.

Tina Parry

Regeneration and Economy O &S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Licia Woodhead tel - 43 2119

Work Programme 2016/17

Description

Report

Agenda

Thursday, 27th April 2017 at City Hall, Bradford.

Chair's briefing 10/04/2017. Secretariat deadline 12/04/2017.

- 5) Sports Facilities Investment Plan

The Committee will receive an update report on the Sports Facilities Investment Plan which will include detailed designs and the detailed revenue projections for the first phase of the new facilities.

Phil Barker

Tuesday, 9th May 2017 at City Hall, Bradford.

Chair's briefing 12/04/2017. Secretariat deadline 25/04/2017.

- 1) West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Leeds City Region

A joint meeting of Regen, Corporate and Environment O&S Committees will consider a report on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Leeds City Region

Jamie Saunders