

Agenda for a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Thursday, 10 February 2022 at 5.00 pm in the Council Chamber Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford

Members of the Committee – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST
Azam Tait Akhtar D Green Arshad Hussain Nazir	Bibby Riaz	J Sunderland	Jenkins

Alternates:

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Dearden Hussain T Hussain Salam Shafiq Wood	Birch Nazam	Griffiths

Notes:

- Please note that under the current circumstances only Members and Alternates on the Committee will receive paper copies of the agenda, however the agenda and reports can be viewed on the Councils agenda and minutes website five clear working days in advance of the meeting.
- Given the restrictions on room capacity, any Councillors and members of the public who wish to make a contribution at the meeting are asked to email yusuf.patel@bradford.gov.uk/jane.lythgow@bradford.gov.uk by **mid-day on Tuesday 8 February 2022** and request to do so. You will then be advised on how you can participate in the meeting.
- Anyone attending is strongly advised to undertake a lateral flow test. Where time allows, one test five days before attending the meeting, one test two days before attending the meeting and a further test on the day of the meeting. In addition, it is recommended you take a test 3-4 days following your involvement. Please do not attend the meeting if you feel unwell or if you test positive on the lateral flow test. This is to minimise the risk of infection to you and others attending.
- Everyone in attendance will need to wear a face covering whilst in City Hall and throughout the meeting apart from when speaking, unless exempt.
- 2m social distancing will be applied for all in attendance including in the public galleries

Parveen Akhtar
City Solicitor
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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. MINUTES

Recommended –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2021 and 13 January 2022 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

(Yusuf Patel - 01274 434579)

4. **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.

(Yusuf Patel - 01274 434579)

5. **REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

No referrals were made at the time of the publication of the agenda.

B. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITIES

6. **QTR 3 FINANCE POSITION STATEMENT FOR 2021-22**

1 - 66

The Director of Finance will submit a report (**Document “Z”**) which provides Members with an update on the forecast year-end financial position of the Council for 2021-22.

It examines the latest spend against revenue and capital budgets and the forecast year-end financial position based on information at Qtr 3. It states the Council's current balances and reserves and school balances.

Recommended –

That the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee review and comment on the Qtr 3 Finance Position Statement for 2021-22

(Andrew Cross - 07870 386523)

7. **UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

67 - 80

The scope of Universal Credit has been gradually expanded since it was first introduced, with different household types falling within its scope over time. In the Bradford District, there are now more households in receipt of Universal Credit than the benefits it has replaced.

The DWP forecast that the roll-out of Universal Credit for working-age claimants, nationally, will be completed by March 2025.

The Strategic Director Corporate Resources will submit a report (**Document “AA”**) which examines the progress of, and future plans for, the roll out of Universal Credit, the impact of Covid 19, and the arrangements in place to support residents.

Recommended –

That Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the progress being made in the roll-out of Universal Credit in the District.

(Martin Stubbs - 01274 432056)

8. COUNCIL TAX COLLECTION

81 - 92

The majority of those liable for Council Tax do pay as billed, but some do seek to avoid paying and more formal collection and recovery action needs to be taken in these cases.

Actions taken to collect Council Tax are not intended to create undue financial hardship, and the Council seeks to support those in most need. Collecting from low income households, while at the same time supporting the most financially vulnerable, has always been challenging.

The Strategic Director Corporate Resources will submit a report (**Document “AB”**) which examines performance in, and challenges for, Council Tax collection.

Recommended –

That this committee notes, and gives its view on, progress in the collection of Council Tax.

(Martin Stubbs - 01274 432056)

9. BUSINESS RATE COLLECTION

93 - 106

The impact of the pandemic on trading conditions for local businesses, and the added pressure on the Business Rates service resources to administer the Government’s business support grants, has made 2021/22 the most difficult year ever for the collection of business rates.

The Strategic Director Corporate Resources will submit a report (**Document “AC”**) which sets out the Council’s performance in, and the challenges for, the collection of Business Rates. The report also considers the impact of changes to the business rates system recently announced by Government.

Recommended –

That this committee notes, and gives its view on, progress in the collection of Business Rates.

(Martin Stubbs – 01274 432056)

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Recommended –

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Not for Publication Document “AD” and its related appendices on the grounds that it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if they were present, exempt information within Paragraph 3 (Information relating to Financial or Business Affairs) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), would be disclosed and it is considered that, in all the circumstances, the public interest in excluding public access to the relevant part of the proceedings outweighs the interest in publication of the report.

it is in the public interest in maintaining these exemptions because it is in the overriding interest of proper administration that Members are made fully aware of the financial implications of any decision.

11. INDUSTRIAL SERVICES GROUP (ISG)

The Strategic Director of Corporate Resources (**NOT FOR PUBLICATION Document “AD”**) which provides an update to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the financial performance of ISG.

Recommended –

That Members consider the recommendations set out in Not for Publication Document “AD”.

(Peter Keeley - 01274 431103)

12. CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2021-22

107 -
118

The Chair of the Committee will submit a report (**Document “AE”**) which presents the Committee’s work programme for 2021/22.

Recommended –

- (1) That Members consider if they wish to choose to add to or amend the topics included in the 2021-22 work programme.**
- (2) That Members consider any detailed scrutiny reviews that they may wish to consider.**

(Mustansir Butt – 01274 432574)