

Department of Corporate Resources

Members of Council

Committee Secretariat
Legal and Democratic Services
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Tel: 07811 503906
Contact: Guy Close
Email: guy.close@bradford.gov.uk
Your Ref: GC/Council

Date: 16 January 2023

Dear Councillor,

MEETING OF COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2023

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford, on Tuesday, 24 January 2023 at 4.00 pm

The agenda for the meeting is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely,



Asif Ibrahim
Director of Legal and Governance

Notes:

- A webcast of the meeting will be available to view live on the Council's website at <https://bradford.public-i.tv/core/portal/home> and later as a recording.
- 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 at the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.
- The Fire Bell and Evacuation Procedure requires people to leave the building in an orderly fashion by the nearest exit, should the fire alarm sound. No one will be allowed to stay or return until the building has been checked.

Members are reminded that under the Members' Code of Conduct, they must register within 28 days any changes to their financial and other interests and notify the Monitoring Officer of any gift or hospitality received.

AGENDA

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. 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 must consider their interests, and act according to the following:*

Type of Interest	You must:
<i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.</i>

Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related)
OR
Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)

Disclose the interest; speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.

Other Registrable Interests (Affects)
OR
Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)

Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote unless the matter affects the financial interest or well-being

*(a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward, and
(b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest;
in which case speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not do not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.*

(2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.

(3) 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.

(4) Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.

2. MINUTES

Recommended – That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2022 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

(Guy Close – 07811 503906)

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

(Guy Close – 07811 503906)

**4. WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR
(Standing Order 4)**

(To be circulated before the meeting).

5. 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.

(Guy Close – 07811 503906)

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

6. PETITIONS (Standing Order 11)

To consider up to five requests for the Council to receive petitions in accordance with Standing Orders.

If any requests are received, in writing, by mid-day three working days before the meeting (Thursday), details will be circulated.

(Farzana Mughal – 07811 504164)

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Standing Order 13)

The following public question has been submitted:

On behalf of the residents of Steeton and Eastburn and as Chair of the Parish Council can I please urgently request a meeting with the Leader of the Council to secure a commitment to review the Steeton and Eastburn Parking Scheme (which isn't working)?

(Fatima Butt – 07970 411746)

**8. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES
(Standing Order 4)**

To consider any further motions (i) to appoint members to a Committee or a Joint Committee; or (ii) to appoint Chairs or Deputy Chairs of Committees (excluding Area Committees).

**9. REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
(Standing Order 11A)**

A written report by the Leader of Council giving an update on key issues will be circulated before the start of the meeting. There shall be a period of up to 15 minutes during which any Member of Council may ask the Leader of the Council (or a Member of the Council nominated by the Leader) a question on any matter arising out of the written report.

10. MEMBER QUESTION TIME (Standing Order 12)

To deal with supplementary questions arising from the attached questions of which written notice has been given.

Notes:

- (i) Answers to written questions shall be circulated at the commencement of the meeting.*
- (ii) The Lord Mayor will have regard to the list of questions and the political composition of the Council in calling on Members to put their supplementary question to the Leader of Council and Portfolio Holders.*
- (iii) A period of up to 30 minutes shall be available for supplementary questions to Members of the Executive.*

1. Councillor Caroline Firth

As a stakeholder governor at Airedale General Hospital on behalf of this council, I am concerned about the large amount of reinforced autoclaves aerated concrete on the site and back the board's plea to the Government for a rebuild on the site. The hospital staff are working hard to keep patients safe and ensure the Government knows about the issue, including putting in a funding bid for a new state-of-the-art and environmentally friendly hospital. Can you tell us what Bradford Council and the wider Act as One partnership is doing to support Airedale Hospital with this issue?

2. Debbie Davies

Would the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety confirm how many hate crimes have been reported to each of the various Hate Crime Reporting Centres available across the district and how many have been reported via the app?

3. Councillor Aislin Naylor

I have recently had a constituent get in touch regarding recycling in schools. This person works in a school and is concerned about the amount of waste that is being thrown out that could be recycled.

I understand that the onus is on the schools to recycle their rubbish and that the Environmental Task Force team is setting up an Eco school programme to be delivered in schools.

My question what else can the council do to encourage schools to recycle their waste, especially kitchen waste such as cardboard, tins and plastic containers?

4. Councillor Caroline Whitaker

Item 4.7 of the proposed 2023/24 budget ('Reviewing waste services to reduce costs and maximise efficiencies') includes the potential closure of the Keighley Household Waste and Recycling site. Can the Leader please explain: (a) the reasons behind this proposal; and (b) when will the report relating to this proposal be provided to councillors?

5. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Does the leader join me in placing on record our congratulations and thanks to the brilliant individuals from our district who won Community Stars Awards last month and those who have been recognised for their achievements in the New Year's Honours?

6. Councillor Tariq Hussain

Can I have the latest stats on how many people we are supporting into employment or upskilling through Skills House?

7. Councillor Andrew Loy

How many fixed penalty notices have been issued under the Ilkley riverside PSPO since its introduction?

8. Councillor Caroline Firth

Thwaites Brow Road – known locally as The Twines – was put forward by Keighley East district councillors for refurbishment into the Keighley Towns Fund bid, which was successful. When can we expect work on this road to be carried out?

9. Councillor Caroline Firth

How many street lights have been replaced by LED lights in the district by ward and when are the remaining replacements due to take place by ward? Have all the posts that were chopped down for safety reasons now been replaced?

10. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment & Skills please provide an update on how the 'Bradford for Everyone Strategy 2018-2023' is progressing in relation to its aim to "invest in a central unit that will support the way the provision of English language teaching for adults in the district is currently being accessed...we will make sure that all adults have access to high quality English language provision"?

11. Councillor Aislin Naylor

Recently a cannabis farm was found locally resulting in a large number of police, ambulance and fire crews and others being deployed to deal with it. This led to emergency services being out of action while the services juggled their resources to maintain cover across the rest of the district. Does the Portfolio Holder agree that people who set up cannabis farms are putting others at risk and in his role as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety advise us of what more can he do to support already stretched partner emergency services?

12. Councillor Anna Watson

The government has approved £25 million for projects to regenerate Shipley. However, over the last 12 months, the town has seen the closure of two banks and an anchor retailer (Wilko). Since those funds were agreed, there has been insufficient communication with Shipley's district councillors on the redesign of the town centre (which was last publically consulted about in 2020). Can the Leader therefore provide us with detailed information about: (a) the stage that the redesign of the town centre has reached; and (b) when the local Shipley councillors - town and district - will next be able to formally input suggestions into these proposals?

13. Councillor Caroline Firth

Does the leader share my view that Prime Minister Rishi Sunak taking a private jet to visit Keighley recently makes a mockery of the Government's plans to cut carbon emissions? Does she also agree with my assessment that flying here amplifies the fact that we desperately need a Northern Powerhouse Rail station in Bradford – something the PM has rowed back on despite his predecessor agreeing the city needed one?

14. Councillor Caroline Firth

The budget proposal to close Keighley household waste and recycling centre has generated lots of concern from residents in Keighley East and the wider area. Please can you remind people how they can feed their views into the budget consultation?

15. Councillor Mike Pollard

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport please inform council of the annual income currently derived from the £1 evening charge imposed at some of the District's car parks?

16. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

It was great to see some of our amazing foster families recognised in the Fostering in Bradford long service awards. Does the portfolio holder join me in thanking them for their service to the children of our district and can she update me on what actions we are taking to recruit and retain more foster carers.

17. Councillor Liz Rowe

Does the portfolio holder for healthy people and places share my concern about recent comments made by the MP for Shipley to a constituent, when he said that NHS performance is solely down to NHS staff and he implied that government does not have any role in supporting and challenging the health service to deliver for patients?

18. Councillor Debbie Davies

As the huge £2.9million figure quoted for the demolition of the NCP car park on Hall Ings has surprised many people, would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport be so kind as to disclose details of the number of quotes received for this work and explain why this contractor was chosen?

19. Councillor Julie Humphreys

Does the Leader agree that the current difficulties being faced by public services and the professionals who provide them are the direct result of chaotic government leadership and austerity over the past decade?

20. Councillor Angela Tait

Can the portfolio holder explain how the government's plan to block-book beds in residential care to ease NHS pressures will play out in our district and can you confirm how we perform on this measure of supporting people out of hospital and into more appropriate settings?

21. Councillor Mike Pollard

Could the Portfolio Holder for Children & Families please give an update on the plans for additional 'small group' homes to be developed, in accordance with Recommendation 5 of the Development Plan for Children's Homes approved at the meeting of the Executive on 7 June 2022?

22. Councillor Tariq Hussain

To the portfolio holder for healthy people and places, can you update me on how our district's hospitals and health system is coping with the rise in winter viruses and pressures on services we've been seeing across the country.

23. Councillor Nazam Azam

Can the Leader confirm whether the government has been in touch to clarify its policy on investment zones? It was only as recent as mid-October that councils were encouraged to apply for these zones but now it seems to have been scrapped or scaled back already in another government U-turn.

24. Councillor Debbie Davies

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport confirm when the 79 successful traders for the new Darley Street market, who applied for stalls before the end of August and were due to be confirmed in October, will actually be announced?

25. Councillor Brendan Stubbs

The Government's commitment to increase funding for schools by £2.3 billion each of the next two years in November, equating to about a 3% increase in the school's budget for the UK. Schools are currently facing inflation of around 7-8%, this combined with deficits from the 2022/23 financial year is putting many schools in a precarious financial state.

How many schools in the district are planning to cut teaching and classroom support staff? What plans are in place to ensure that class sizes are not allowed to increase and what steps has the portfolio holder taken to guarantee children in the district do not suffer a poor education in the coming years?

26. Councillor Matt Edwards

As we prepare for Bradford 2025, can the portfolio holder please confirm the short and long term plans for the Wakefield Road Cycle route? In addition to this, what will the Council be doing to ensure the subways under Wakefield Road, Tong Street and Rooley Lane are clear and safe for pedestrians?

27. Councillor Nazam Azam

I know the Leader has been lobbying ministers to invest in better rail services for our district. Can she give an update on our efforts to get better services locally and to London especially as our year as UK City of Culture moves closer?

28. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Does the Leader share my serious concern at Tory MP Andrew

Bridgen recently spouting conspiracy theories about the Covid vaccines, and can you tell us what activity is currently taking place in our district to increase take-up of the Covid and flu vaccines in these winter months?

29. Councillor Falak Ahmed

Would the Leader of the Council confirm whether the Council has a Fairtrade Champion and if so who is it and what is involved in their role?

30. Councillor Tariq Hussain

Can the portfolio holder reassure me that, in spite of a decade of government austerity, how much of the district's road network we are gritting and how often?

31. Councillor Hassan Khan

How many warm spaces are we providing across the district and is there warm space provision that's easily accessible for all residents who need it?

32. Councillor Mohammed Nazam

As the UK Youth Parliament has 369 members, aged between 11 and 18, elected each year by over 500,000 young people in elections in over 90 percent of constituencies, in order to hold debates and plan campaigns to represent the views of young people in their area, to government and service providers, would the Leader of the Council please inform colleagues how Bradford MDC supports the Youth Parliament?

33. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

To the Leader – do you agree with Molly Russell's father, Ian, and Labour's shadow culture secretary Lucy Powell about the urgent need for tougher laws to keep children safe online than the government was planning to introduce, including the need for legislation on legal but harmful material.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES (Standing Order 15) 1 - 10

In accordance with the recommendations of Executive held on 6 December 2022, to consider a report from the Director of Legal and Governance, which recommends to Council the adoption of the draft Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members, subject to realignment with the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Resolved –

- (1) That Executive agrees the draft Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members as out in Appendix to Document "AD" and

recommends to Council that the Policy be adopted, subject to realignment with the Members' Allowances Scheme.

- (2) That if the Policy is agreed by Executive and adopted by Council, the policy is kept under review with the first review being undertaken after one year of adoption.

Action: Director of Legal and Governance

(Guy Close – 07811 503906)

12. NOTICES OF MOTION (Standing Order 17)

To consider notices of motion set out below:

13.1

Reducing HGV traffic on narrow, unsuitable roads

To be moved by: Councillor Matt Edwards

To be seconded by: Councillor Caroline Whitaker

Council notes:

Government figures show that HGV traffic nationally is increasing. The most recent figures (September 2021) show that whilst car traffic had decreased, there was an 8.9% increase in HGV traffic in just one year.

The growth of HGV traffic on many of our local roads generates noise and air pollution and undermines residential safety. It can have a real impact on the quality of life of residents living on affected streets, including sleepless nights and mental health problems. It affects cyclists and pedestrians, especially older or vulnerable people and families with small children.

One significant cause of HGV traffic along unsuitable roads is the use by lorry drivers of Google Maps and/or sat navs that are only intended for car use. In extreme cases, HGVs are routed up narrow, unsuitable routes and become stuck (one example is Mill Carr Hill Road, between Oakenshaw and Bierley).

Locally, a large volume of HGV traffic is caused by new development. Residents frequently report frustration that the appropriate routing of construction traffic is not given sufficient care and attention as part of the planning process, and may feel like an afterthought, when from their perspective it should be front and centre.

Bradford Council does not require a 'Construction Traffic Management Plan' to be submitted at the same time as a planning application for major development.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport to write to Government Transport Minister Mark Harper asking for his view on the Local Government's Association's call for HGVs to be required to use commercial satnavs; and expressing this Council's support for such a measure.
- Ask officers to ensure that the 'National and Local Information Requirements –Planning Applications (including Outline, Reserved Matters and Variation of Condition)' document makes the submission of a 'Construction Traffic Management Plan' a mandatory validation requirement for planning applications for major developments. This will allow our officers, councillors and the public to have access to more information when determining the suitability of planning applications.
- Produce a 'Construction Traffic Management Plan' guidance document for developers that highlights the importance of routing construction traffic away from narrow, unsuitable and residential roads in order to ensure that this is an integral feature of any planning applications and is actively considered at the earliest possible stage in the planning process.

13.2

BMDC Supporting Local Businesses

To be moved by: Councillor Paul Sullivan

To be seconded by: Councillor Debbie Davies

Council notes that:

- The Council has a target to increase the amount of Council spending on resources locally to 50% of the total by next year and the latest figures published showed this position was actually worsening with only 36.8% of third party spend being from suppliers operating within the Bradford District.
- following Brexit the UK is no longer subject to EU public sector procurement regulations and the incoming Procurement Bill includes new rules allowing contracting authorities, when determining evaluation criteria, to take a broader view of what can be included
- the government will change tender awarding criteria from "most economically advantageous tender" to "most advantageous tender" (MAT), which will support levelling up by encouraging contracting authorities to give more consideration to social value creation when procuring public contracts in their areas, with procurement decisions no longer being driven near exclusively by lower cost, but also by quality and the creation of wider social value benefits and wellbeing goals
- cost will always play a role in the fair procurement of goods and services, but through progressive procurement, organisations can take a wider look at the impact of their work and make a conscious choice to support local business and communities where possible

- each £1 spent in Bradford District is then spent a further 7 times within the district, incentivising the selection of local contractors, in order to get more value for money by retaining wealth in local communities (Community Wealth Building) helping them become more self-sufficient and resilient, strengthening the Bradford District economy
- a number of contracting authorities are already well on with developing revised local economy support strategies which better reflect current economic realities and optimise the utility of legislative changes

Council resolves to:

- look at how the procurement process can be made simpler for potential local suppliers to bid for opportunities (within the rules and regulations that we have to observe) and placing emphasis on the duty on contracting authorities to have regard to SMEs, via actions such as breaking bigger contracts down into smaller ones and encouraging cooperatives to tender
- look at how the council's procurement of goods and services can be overhauled to maximise the benefits to local communities, in the form of increased local economic activity, employment, inward investment and attracting and retaining talent etc.
- consider the reduction in carbon footprint and other supply chain sustainability benefits of using local suppliers when awarding contracts
- build two-way relationships with local suppliers and representative organisations to ensure that any contracts awarded locally other than in a lowest bid scenario provide a "something-for-something" approach benefitting communities and citizens
- publish a guide which clarifies for the council, its contracting partners and potential suppliers, the council's latest procurement policies and the legal requirements for tenders to prioritise local suppliers
- develop a new Local Economy Support Strategy.

13.3

Transparency and accountability for the Council's Capital Investment Programme (CIP)

To be moved by: Councillor Kyle Green

To be seconded by: Councillor Mike Pollard

Council notes:

- That the Executive has already accepted that "the Council could consider foregoing some further capital investment and take a revenue saving instead. Previous analysis of the CIP has indicated that there are a number of schemes that have either not started or have only partially progressed. There is the potential to free up resources in the CIP by either deleting or delaying some of

these projects”.

- The delay in announcing decisions with regard to the Levelling Up Fund bids. However, with the exception, locally, of the estimated cost of CBMDC’s Bingley project bid, which sits comfortably within the £20 million ‘standard’ LUF grant envelope, other more expensive schemes have been proposed and, indeed accepted in Phase 1 of grant allocation, which involve local authorities in significant amounts of additional corporate borrowing. It is understandable that current high levels of construction cost inflation may have led to some delay at central Government level, possibly for re-examination of business cases.
- With regard to those schemes which involve local authorities in significant borrowing to meet LUF project costs well in excess of the grant funding available, it is clear that affordability issues must be carefully considered in the light of current high levels of construction cost inflation.
- The Squire Lane project can be cited as a relevant example of significant additional borrowing being required to complete a partially funded Levelling Up project. From information which does sit within the public domain (project reference CS0354 contained in Appendix 3 to Doc ‘Z’ presented to Executive 1 November 2022). Council borrowing for this scheme is budgeted at a total of £28.438million.
- That £19.410 million of Council borrowing for the Squire Lane project is stated to be on an ‘Invest to Save’ basis. It is not clear from information within the public domain what revenue budget savings are anticipated to accrue from this project.
- Bradford Council has committed significant resources on projects where covering reports outlining rationale and the essential thrust of the business are covered under ‘Not for publication’ exemption in terms of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and therefore spend taxpayers’ money without Elected Members (with few exceptions) and residents being offered the opportunity to scrutinise these plans.
- That the private sector should be encouraged to lead on capital investment schemes. This can be seen through the decision for the council to no longer invest in Plans for a district heat network in Bradford City Centre as they are now being taken forward by a private developer. This project could have otherwise added over £12 million to the capital projects budget.
- That projects such as One City Park have been projected not to make the council additional net revenue upon their completion.

Council resolves to:

- Accept that the scale of the District’s budgetary crisis is such that a wider moratorium on all capital projects, other than those fully funded by central Government grant, or patently demonstrating an ‘invest to save’ case, should be imposed until the Council’s financial position is seen to have been stabilised.
- Offer as much transparency and ability for the public and councillors to scrutinise all capital projects as is reasonably

possible and to avoid making these projects subject to 'Not for publication' exemption where possible.

13.4

Private Rented Housing in Bradford District

To be moved by: Councillor Brendan Stubbs

To be seconded by: Councillor Susan Knox

This Council believes that:

- The people of the Bradford district should have access to affordable and safe homes which are of a suitable standard.
- It is necessary to be able to identify and contact private landlords with ease, for the purposes of being able to inform private landlords of changes to legislation and to provide a point of contact should complaints be made.
- This will help to drive standards up in the private rented sector as well as provide the opportunity for information to be shared to assist private landlords.

This Council notes that:

- A significant number of residents of the district live in homes which are privately rented and that this number has increased in recent years. The private rented housing sector has doubled in size since 2002.
- That most private landlords provide homes of a good standard and that they play a vital role in providing homes for residents of the district.
- Local authorities have a duty under Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004 to keep housing conditions under review and identify action needed. Undertaking such reviews and subsequent action is complicated by incomplete data in the sector.
- Much time for enforcement work is spent simply identifying landlords, agents, and properties. This erodes teams' capacity to take enforcement action.
- Poor housing conditions persist in the private rented sector. The most recent English Housing Survey data shows that 23% of private rented sector properties fail to meet the Decent Homes Standard and 13% have category 1 hazards.
- Many Local Authorities have implemented selective licensing of Private Rented Properties and focus on areas that have been identified as hotspots for poor housing standards and significant number of rogue or criminal landlords.

This Council further notes that:

- The publication of the Government white paper – A fairer deal for renters - in 2022 and the plans to introduce a Renters Reform Bill in 2023 that aid Councils to better regulate and enforce housing

standards and poor landlord practices.

This Council resolves to

- Instruct the Chief Executive and relevant officers to investigate which areas of the district would benefit from a selective licensing of private landlords, including their contact information, proposed license holders and any property managers.

13.5

Future Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements

To be moved by: Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To be seconded by: Councillor Brendan Stubbs

Council notes the potential benefits of the intervention of the Secretary of State to remove Children's Services from Council control such as a fresh start, independence from wider issues of concern to the Council, increased speed of decision-making and the potential attract high calibre staff.

The Council also notes from recently published research concerns about the long-term desirability of split governance within the local authority and whether this provided the best solution for meeting the needs of all children.

Council further notes that to achieve and sustain a successful outcome for all children will be complex without clear lines of accountability, good relationship management across all partners and effective Overview and Scrutiny.

The Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to bring forward an Improvement Plan for the for the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements. The plan should include but not be limited to; relationship management arrangements, the training of members with specific reference to the importance of data both to understand the service and its use to inform improvement.

13.6

New photo ID rules risk disenfranchising legitimate voters

To be moved by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

To be seconded by: Councillor Imran Khan

Council notes:

- From 4 May 2023, Government have said that voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in local elections, Police and Crime Commissioner elections, UK parliamentary by-elections and recall petitions. From October

2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

- Our democracy is stronger when more people take part in it. The voters should choose their leaders; not the other way around. There should be no gerrymandering or restriction of access to the vote for electoral gain.
- Despite the extremely low level of fraud, the government has estimated it will spend up to £180m over the next decade to introduce ID at polling stations.
- The Electoral Reform Society says elections are generally very well run in the UK with extremely low levels of electoral fraud. In 2019, out of over 58 million votes cast there were only 33 allegations of personation at a polling station.
- The Electoral Reform Society opposes the government's policy for voter ID, saying it is an expensive distraction and we should instead be tackling "the huge challenges that undermine our democracy, not putting up paywalls around polling stations".
- The Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) says the projected timelines are "optimistic at best, undeliverable at worst".
- The Local Government Association also says it should be delayed to give elections staff more time to implement the changes.
- Research shows disadvantaged groups are less likely to have ID. The richer you are, the more likely you are to have ID.

Council resolves to:

- The Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities supporting the LGA's call not to implement this policy for the local elections in May 2023 due to the risks of disenfranchising legitimate voters, and to reconsider its introduction given the long term risks and costs.
- If the government is to push ahead with mandatory voter ID, the Council Leader will request additional on-going funding from government to reflect the on-going costs to councils to deliver this costly scheme.
- If the scheme goes ahead, instruct officers to utilise all existing channels and means of communication to supplement the publicity campaign by the Electoral Commission to make more voters aware of the need to show photo ID at polling stations in the May 2023 local elections and beyond.