

Department of Corporate Resources

Members of Council

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Date: 15 January 2024

Dear Councillor,

MEETING OF COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2024

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford, on Tuesday, 23 January 2024 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.**
- **Members of the public are respectfully reminded that this is a meeting that is being held in public NOT a public meeting. The attendance of the public to observe the proceedings is welcome.**
- 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:
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest; not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> 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 <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> 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 12 December 2023 be signed as a correct record.

(Fatima Butt – 07970 411746)

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

(Fatima Butt – 07970 411746)

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.

(Fatima Butt – 07970 411746)

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.

(Su Booth – 07814 073884)

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Standing Order 13)

There are no public questions.

(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 Alex Mitchell

Would the leader be surprised to learn that even Conservative MPs in leafy suburbs, like Danny Kruger, are admitting that the Tory Government is leaving the country in a worse state than they found it. Up and down the country it is ordinary people who continue to pay the price for ongoing austerity to local councils. Bradford Council has had to find £350m through cuts and savings in 14 years of austerity. Residents of Queensbury are rightly sick of the Tory cuts to their frontline services including the proposed closure of the tip at Ford Hill. Whilst the opposition locally are powerless to help and can only point the finger. What more can be done to compel this government to do the right thing, restore fair local funding to Bradford Council to protect vital services for the most vulnerable in society and keep open much loved local facilities in wards like Queensbury?

2. Councillor Mike Pollard

Can the Leader of Council explain why, as soon as it became patently clear, as long ago as July last year, that there was no plausible route to presenting a balanced Revenue Budget for 2024/25 (even including whatever positive adjustments to the Council's usable reserves position might at that time have been thought feasible), was the sensible proactive decision to lodge a request with DLUHC for Exceptional Financial Support not taken at that time?

3. Councillor Caroline Whitaker

Can the portfolio holder please reassure residents in Steeton and Silsden that the long-awaited construction of the bridge over the A629 between Silsden and Steeton is still going ahead as planned?

4. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

As part of the plan to achieve financial sustainability there is a proposal to close and dispose of Ingleborough Hall Outdoor Centre and the transition of bookings to Buckden House and the enabling of Respite and Short Breaks to support cost avoidance of the growing financial pressure being experienced in the Children and Families Trust to provide Short Breaks and holiday respite provision. Notwithstanding the serious detriment to children in the district which the closure of Ingleborough Hall represents can the Portfolio Holder explain to Council what financial provision is being made to ensure that the facilities at Buckden are fully accessible to all?

5. Councillor Alex Mitchell

Will the portfolio holder for culture join me in congratulating the wonderful Black Dyke Band on their national trophy.

6. Councillor Ralph Berry

Can the Portfolio holder advise how many vulnerable people have been placed in Bradford rented accommodation by other local authorities, principally from the south, seeking to discharge their duties under the homeless persons legislation following in the last year and what impact this is having on Bradford's budget.

7. Councillor Ralph Berry

Can the Portfolio holder please advise how many Bradford families have required re housing as part of Child in Need assessments in the last 6 months and at what cost.

8. Councillor Liz Rowe

Is it true that our district's Tory MPs refused to lobby their Ministers to support the Bradford Children and Families Trust in getting the funding it needs to provide children's social care services this year and next?

9. Councillor Andrew Loy

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport please provide usage figures and running costs for individual Waste Recycling Centres across the district for the past five municipal years?

10. Councillor Ian Parsons

In the light of the recent legislation could it be confirmed that the Dog Warden service has enough resources to meet an expected rise in demand; also are plans in place to inform our constituents where they can flag up any concerns about the behaviour of dangerous dogs?

11. Councillor Ian Parsons

Eccleshill Library is a well-used and much loved resource for the people of Eccleshill. Given that the library is one of the most used libraries in the district, could it be confirmed that this will be considered in any review that is due to take place?

12. Councillor Martin Love

At the meeting of Full Council in October a motion was passed supporting an asset disposal plan to help towards alleviating our terrible financial situation. Can the Leader of Council tell us when elected members will have sight of the list of assets being considered for disposal in their respective wards?

13. Councillor Beverley Mullaney

Would the leader join me in thanking Christa Ackroyd, the City of Culture Trust and the volunteers for all their hard work to secure the Bronte Birthplace as an asset of historical interest for the benefit of our residents across the district and to promote the history and talent of the Bronte Sisters to visitors nationally and beyond.

14. Councillor Caroline Firth

Re-opening the Skipton-Colne train line would be a boost to the economy of Keighley and the whole Aire Valley. Can the Portfolio Holder provide an update on the campaign to get this vital stretch of rail infrastructure reopened?

15. Councillor Allison Coates

Further to the Mayor of London's December 2023 announcement of the councils in the running to host the London Borough of Culture 2025, which will be held across two separate London Boroughs, coupled with the launch on 13 January 2024 of "Our Year", the Wakefield MDC led and WYCA supported, year-long celebration of the District's "culture and creativity", does the Leader of Bradford Council share my concerns that these events may somewhat undermine Bradford Council's aspirations for Bradford's year as the 2025 City of Culture to boost visitor numbers and create investment opportunities in the district?

16. Councillor Nazam Azam

With the positive news that the NEC is hoping to open Bradford Live this autumn, can the portfolio holder give any further updates at this stage?

17. Councillor Alun Griffiths

Proposals to reduce the access to Household Waste Sites will inevitably lead to an increase in fly-tipping. What consideration has been given to the impact of this on existing hot spots such as Ainsbury Avenue in Idle and Thackley? Do the financial assumptions include the additional costs of increased demand for removal of fly-tipping?

18. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Can I have an update on when the works will be carried out to get the Interchange fixed and back to normal operations?

19. Councillor Tariq Hussain

Obviously we knew that a project of this scope and ambition would cause some disruption but we all eagerly look forward to more progress with the Transforming Cities works in the city centre, can the portfolio holder give a progress update including when disruption to road and bus routes will be reduced?

20. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Research by the UCL Institute of Health Equity has found that a million people in England would have lived longer if they had experienced the same death rates as the wealthiest 10% of the country. In other words, poverty and inequality is literally shortening people's lives in this country. Can the portfolio holder for healthy people and places outline the things we are investing in with partners to try and tackle or mitigate health inequalities in light of these shocking statistics?

21. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Leader of the Council confirm the amounts of unpaid Council Tax per ward, for each of the last 5 years?

22. Councillor Matt Edwards

Despite previous responses to our questions regarding HGV traffic on Mill Carr Hill Road in Oakenshaw, there is still a significant number of HGVs trying to access the road up to Bierley and getting stuck – resulting in considerable disruption to residents. Will the portfolio holder and Highways Department tell us what they can do to address this issue?

23. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

It's a frightening prospect that the government won't renew the Household Support Fund, which will take away £11m of support for some of the district's most vulnerable families. Will the leader set out what support the council and our partners provide for families on the breadline?

24. Councillor Malcolm Slater

The application to re-open Horn Crag Quarry, which was rejected last year by Bradford Council, is now going to appeal. Can the Portfolio Holder outline the reasons planners rejected the application and provide more information on the appeal and any comment on the strength of our position?

25. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

The Chief Medical Officer has issued guidelines saying that young people between the age of 5 and 18 should aim to do a least 60 minutes exercise a day. Can the Portfolio Holder advise what work is going on to make sure Bradford district children are able to meet this target?

26. Councillor Paul Godwin

Rivers campaigner Feargal Sharkey has warned residents in areas hit by flooding that in the UK "flood water is invariably massively contaminated with sewage", with sewage networks unable to cope with periods of heavy rainfall. Does the leader join me in calling on the flooding minister, Robbie Moore, to take action on this horrendous state of affairs that the people of Keighley face as a result of his department's policies.

27. Councillor Bob Felstead

In light of the Council's oft stated desire to improve the rail connectivity of the Bradford District, would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport please clarify why the Council and / or the West Yorkshire Combined Authority have not chosen to exercise Compulsory Purchase powers to secure ownership of the Wortley Curve section of the former railway route that connected the Wakefield to Leeds line to the Bradford to Leeds line, in order protect the option to once again allow trains to travel from Bradford to Wakefield and beyond without having to pass through Leeds Station?

28. Councillor Mohsin Hussain

Please can you tell me what support is available to start-up businesses in the Bradford district if people are thinking about going down this route?

29. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

What are we doing to reduce road traffic accidents in Bradford district?

30. Councillor Anna Watson

Shipley Station is one of the key gateways into the Bradford District. However, the land around it - owned by Network Rail - is strewn with litter. The underpass is often flooded and is dark and dingy. Will the Council leader let us know how the Council is working with Network Rail and Northern to clean up our railway estate so that our railway stations are welcoming and safe for local rail users and visitors to the District?

31. Councillor Brendan Stubbs

As part of the Budget proposals a substantial disposal of assets is outlined including a review of Leisure services. Can the leader explain in relation to Eccleshill Library and Eccleshill Pool, if the Labour Group are going to support the disposal, will they give active consideration and support to Community Asset Transfers, the creation of a Leisure Trust or alternative models that will preserve the service for local residents or is the plan simply to sell to the highest bidder?

32. Councillor Debbie Davies

Baildon's Ian Clough car park currently costs £2 to park in all day (Mon-Sat 8am-6pm) and yet the budget proposal is for this to increase to £1 per hour – you must realise that people working in the centre are not going to pay £50 per week to do so – has any assessment been made that this could actually lead to a loss of income to the Council and more issues with people parking on residential streets as well as hitting local businesses again as people with their own transport can drive and park for free at larger shopping centres and supermarkets?

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

To consider any recommendations arising from meetings of the Executive and Committees.

(Fatima Butt – 07970 411746)

12. NOTICES OF MOTION (Standing Order 17)

To consider notices of motion set out below:

12.1 - Problematic Pavement Parking

To be moved by: Councillor Matt Edwards

To be seconded by: Councillor Caroline Whitaker

This Council notes:

- The Highway Code is clear - vehicles should not park on the pavement. However, outside of London and Scotland, it is still legal
- Pavement parking can pose a hazard to pedestrians, especially parents with pushchairs, people with sight loss, wheelchair users and other disabled people. These people are especially at risk as they can be forced into the road and faced with oncoming traffic that they cannot see.
- Pavements are not designed to take the weight of vehicles and so surfaces can become damaged or subside, presenting a

- further hazard for pedestrians, particularly those with disabilities.
- Action to tackle pavement parking is currently problematic because:
 - The current legislation on nuisance pavement parking is confusing.
 - The legal remedies available to tackle nuisance pavement parking are unsatisfactory.

This Council also notes:

- The Department of Transport's 'Pavement Parking: Options for Change' consultation closed in November 2020 - but to date the outcome of this has not been published.
- Over 15,000 people took the time to respond to this consultation, demonstrating the level of public concern. They are still waiting for a response.
- Some local authorities, including Sheffield, have introduced Traffic Regulation Order (in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984) to tackle the issue of problematic pavement parking in hotspots.
- From June 2016, all parking contraventions became the responsibility of the Local Council Authority's Civil Enforcement Officers (Traffic Wardens) - whilst Police have responsibility for and the ability to deal with nuisance / obstruction offences - where a vehicle is causing an obstruction. However these powers are currently not consistently utilised across Bradford District.
- Surveys and polls repeatedly show overwhelming support for legislation to address pavement parking across England and Wales. Sustrans' Walking and Cycling Index showed that 65% of residents supported the complete prohibition of pavement parking (while only 16% oppose it).

This Council resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport requesting that the Government's response to the consultation now be published as promised.
- Ask highways officers to conduct a survey amongst the elected members of this Council asking members to identify streets within their ward where nuisance pavement parking occurs.
- Ask the Strategic Director of Place to bring a report to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee within 6 months outlining the findings of this survey and details of the enforcement action that this Council proposes to take.
- Write to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to ask her to ensure that West Yorkshire Police are consistently using their powers to tackle nuisance / obstruction offences. Her response should be circulated to all councillors.

12.2 - Bradford Council Climate Strategy and Action Plan

To be moved by: Councillor Kevin Warnes

To be seconded by: Councillor Anna Watson

Council notes that:

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

Council further notes that:

- d. On 24 March 2020, the Executive:
 - I. approved a Sustainable Development Action Plan (2020-2022),
 - II. approved the establishment of a Sustainable Development Partnership for the District,
 - III. resolved that "effective environmental management and performance be developed including rapid and significant reduction in harmful greenhouse gas emissions",
 - IV. requested that a "dedicated report on the key developments in UK environmental legislation and environmental protection be brought to the Executive in autumn 2020",
 - V. requested that "as a matter of urgency support, training and guidance is provided to elected members, officers, suppliers, contractors and partners and citizens on taking forward sustainable development and climate action 2020-2025",
 - VI. requested that "an annual report (on the above) be brought to the Executive".
- e. The Climate Change Committee stated in December 2020 that *"more than half of the emissions cuts needed rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions – decisions that are made at a local and individuals' level. Many of these decisions depend on having supporting infrastructure in place. Local authorities have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas."*

- f. The Executive has not yet considered any annual progress reports linked directly with their decision of 24 March 2020.
- g. The Executive Forward Plan published earlier this month (laying out the Executive's anticipated key decisions through to May) does not include a report relating to the above.
- h. Bradford Council does not yet have a comprehensive climate strategy and action plan for the years 2024-2038.
- i. Bradford Council's response to the climate emergency does not include specific targets for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions other than reaching net zero by 2038 and making 'significant progress' towards that overarching goal by 2030.
- j. Bradford Council's webpage on the 'climate emergency and green economy' does not appear to have been updated for almost four years.
- k. Bradford Council's published information about the work of the Sustainable Development Partnership remains extremely limited – the relevant page on the Council's own website, for example, does not appear to have been updated since December 2022 (a small amendment to the membership of the Partnership's Board).
- l. According to the above, the Partnership merely states that scoping documents relating to its eleven workstreams "*will be available shortly*", and that it "*is developing a delivery plan and key initiatives and will communicate and involve others more widely in the near future.*"
- m. Climate Emergency UK, an organisation which publishes Council Climate Plan Scorecards that assess seven different areas of activity relating to greenhouse gas emissions, ranks Bradford's climate actions in 2023 as 76th out of 177 single-tier local authorities (Leeds ranks 20th in comparison).
- n. Bradford Council is delivering positive climate actions across a range of policy areas - and our dedicated officers are to be highly commended for their efforts; nonetheless, we now have less than fifteen years to meet our declared net-zero carbon target by the end of 2038.

Council therefore requests that:

The Leader of Council and Chief Executive consider establishing a cross-party working group involving councillors and officers to help develop a climate change strategy and action plan.

2. The Leader of Council and Chief Executive seek to arrange for a draft climate change strategy and action plan for Bradford Council to be presented for consideration to the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee before the end of July 2024.
3. This draft climate change strategy and action plan includes detailed targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions for the end of 2027, 2032 and 2037, in line with the UK government's own carbon budgets.
4. This draft climate change strategy and action plan is as fully costed as possible.
5. This draft climate change strategy and action plan lays out clearly (a) what Bradford Council can do in response to our self-declared climate emergency and (b) what we require our regional and national levels of government to do in parallel.
6. The Leader of Council and Chief Executive work to ensure that carbon budgeting is integrated into the Council's annual financial budget process in time for the 2025-2026 financial year.
7. The Leader of Council and Chief Executive work to ensure that full information about the Sustainable Development Partnership for the District, its work streams and their progress to date is published before the end of the 2023-2024 municipal year.

12.3 - Budget setting process

To be moved by: Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

To be seconded by: Councillor Mike Pollard

Council Notes:

- Bradford Council's current budget setting process this year is not fit for purpose.
- The Conservative Group Finance Spokesman stated in Council meetings early in 2023 his belief that the Council's budget for the current municipal year was likely unworkable and that without drastic action the Council could not possibly set a balanced budget for 2024/25.
- Council's request to Government for Exceptional Financial Support should have been made many months earlier, rather than announced just as the Council went on Christmas break.
- The recruitment of a s151 Officer with experience of refloating councils who have mismanaged their budgets to the point of collapse, should have taken place many months ago, not a mere 6 weeks before the Council Budget is set, which is poorly

timed and is of great concern to this council.

- The budget proposals in the Executive Report for the meeting of 11th January were lacking in detail and the answers to the questions put to the Executive were equally vague.
- A number of reviews are mentioned in the budget papers but the public cannot be accurately consulted without the outcome of these reviews into service delivery and cuts. These reviews should have been carried out earlier in the year prior to the budget setting process starting.
- Crucial Executive papers were released and briefed to the press before elected members of this Council, who first saw the proposals on the Telegraph & Argus website.
- Elected members have been requesting information on the budget proposals but much of it is still outstanding including costings and the asset list.
- Much of the root cause of the Council's financial collapse dates back to 2017 when the Director of Children's Services requested £1.4m to stabilise the workforce many who were being offered roles in other authorities and that this funding refusal has led to the spiralling cost of agency staff.
- That between the first financial year end of Coalition Government 31/3/2011 and 31/3/2017, despite the austerity which has been deployed as an excuse for the Council's financial collapse, Council reserves increased from £72.835 million to £127.825 million.

Council resolves:

- To ensure that all councillors and residents are provided with all information necessary to allow proper budget scrutiny in a timely manner.
- To make available to residents, the ability to engage in face-to-face consultation as part of the consultation process across each constituency.
- That at all options for service delivery including shared services across Local Authorities as a preference to service cuts.

12.4 - Cost of School Uniforms

To be moved by: Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To be seconded by: Councillor Aislin Naylor

1 Council notes:

- a) The cost of school uniforms can put an enormous strain on family budgets and can result in children not going to a school

on grounds of the affordability of the uniform.

- b) Having a uniform ready the night before school is one of the "top tips" for improving school attendance.
- c) The Government has issued statutory guidance which seeks to make school uniform more affordable for families.
- d) Research by the School wear Association shows the average cost of a school uniform, worn for around 175 days, has declined.
- e) Not wearing the correct uniform can lead to sanction.
- f) The most expensive items are the branded items of school clothing such as blazers, ties trousers, skirts and physical education kit.

2. Council believes:

- a) The cost of buying a school uniform should never be a barrier to learning or attendance.
- b) Schools should make their uniforms more affordable by reducing the number of branded items to no more than two and ensuring most items can be bought from high street retailers.
- c) Adherence to the school uniform statutory guidance should form part of the OFSTED Inspection
- d) Parents, Carers and Pupils should have right of appeal to the Department for Education should school uniform policy fail to comply with the guidance.

3. Council resolves to:

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

- a) Reduce the number of branded school uniform items to no more than two
- b) Include adherence to the statutory guidance on the cost of school uniform as part of the OFSTED framework
- c) Ensure that Parents, Carers and Pupils have the right of appeal to the Department of Education should a school's uniform policy fail to comply with the guidance.

12.5 - A Financial Plan for a Sustainable Council

To be moved by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

To be seconded by: Councillor Imran Khan

This council notes:

This year Bradford Council will receive £233 million in council tax whilst the Bradford Children and Families Trust tell us they need £250 million to run children's social care this year. The cost of social care compared to the council tax we receive no longer adds up. This is an issue the LGA has raised nationally.

Councils across the country are again being told by Government to increase council tax to make up for some of the Government shortfall in funding so services are consequently cut. This is due to the structural deficit in funding created by government cuts since 2010.

The LGA state that the latest Government settlement for local authorities "does not provide enough funding to meet the severe cost and demand pressures which have left councils of all political colours and types warning of the serious challenges they face to set balanced budgets next year. Councils in England continue to face a funding gap of £4 billion over the next two years".

Analysis by SIGOMA demonstrated the disproportionate level of cuts suffered by the most deprived authorities compared to more affluent authorities and specifically highlighted the disparity between cuts seen in Bradford (28%) and Surrey (8%).

In this national context Bradford Council has had to deliver more than £350m of cuts, savings and additional income since 2010 with a cumulative impact of over £2bn.

From June 2010 to March 2023 Bradford Council reduced its workforce by 2,530 full time equivalent posts, a 27% reduction in workforce.

Following instructions from Government for councils to use their reserves, these are now exhausted and there remains a structural budget gap of approximately £120m in the council's finances.

Bradford Labour Group has tabled regular motions at Full Council on the council's finances inviting other Groups to debate and contribute their ideas. This includes motions in March, October and, most recently, at the last Full Council meeting in December on the council's finances.

Bradford remains a district of huge potential, we cannot allow the financial challenges we face to slow down our growth plans. Achieving economic growth will improve people's lives and generate more funds to pay for council services in the future.

There is a major impact on individuals and families from national austerity and the cost of living crisis. Government policies since 2010 have increased the demands for council services.

In particular we have serious concerns about the government seemingly removing the Household Support Fund (HSF), which provided around £11.4m of support to the district's lowest income households in 2023/24.

Council resolves to:

- Task the Chief Executive in conjunction with Executive to continue to work at pace in developing and delivering the emergency plan for financial sustainability.
- Continue the discussion with DLUHC to progress the request for Exceptional Financial Support.
- Continue to work with Bradford Children and Families Trust as it continues its vital work towards sustainability and excellence in services for the children of the district.
- Continue working with the LGA and other cross-party local government representatives in making the compelling case to government for the need for structural change to the way local authorities are funded.
- Make available Council Finance Officers to Opposition Groups so that they can propose their own ideas for the budget.
- Thank Council staff and partners for their continuing hard work for the people of the district in spite of the council's financial challenges.
- Lobby Government to quickly restore the Household Support Fund to protect our most vulnerable residents.
- Remain willing and ready to work with Government to deliver our sustainable growth ambitions.
- Continue to add our voice to the growing demands nationally for a cap on private sector profits in the provision of children's and adult social care services.