

**CITY OF BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
FULL MEETING OF COUNCIL – TUESDAY 16TH MARCH 2021
ITEM 4: ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR**

NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION – 23RD MARCH 2021

The 23rd March will mark the first anniversary of the UK's first national lockdown in response to the Coronavirus outbreak in 2020. This anniversary is being marked by a national day of reflection.

It is estimated that over three million people have been bereaved since the pandemic began, from Covid and other causes, yet many have been unable to say goodbye to loved ones as they would have wished, or to grieve properly. That pain and the raw sense of loss is being felt by so many families across our district.

On that day, I hope we will all take the time to come together spiritually in our communities to **reflect** on our collective loss, **support** those who have been bereaved and **hope** for a brighter future.

Though we are beginning to see green shoots of recovery emerging with the rollout of the vaccination programme, we must all remain mindful and continue to follow the guidance and do all we can to keep ourselves and each other safe.

GIFT TO THE CITY

I would like to inform Members and Senior Officers that normally there would be a short adjournment in proceedings for the presentation of gifts.

Instead, I would like to announce that my gift to the City as a memento of our term in Civic office, is a hamper of luxury items for use in the Civic shower room including a pair of cotton robes, a bale of Egyptian cotton towels and other bathroom accessories.

With the money you kindly collected in order to mark the year, I have bought an elegant designer watch and I would like to thank you all very warmly for your generosity.

ELECTIONS

As this is the last ordinary meeting of the Council for this municipal year, I am sure that Members will wish to join me in extending every good wish for the future to colleagues who are standing down from the Council at the forthcoming elections.

Many years' service will have been given to the work of the Council by those Members who are not standing and their departure will bring with it the loss of a wealth of experience and knowledge which will not be easy to replace.

I would like the Council to place on record its thanks and appreciation for their contribution to the life of the District and the wellbeing of its citizens.

May I also wish 'Good Luck' at the Polls to those Councillors who are seeking re-election on the 6th of May.

Distribution:

Lord Mayor
Chief Executive
City Solicitor
Civic Affairs Manager/Joanne Gleeson
Committee Services Manager (Adrian Tumber)
Principal Executive Officer, Chief Executive's Office (Nigel Smith)
PA to the Leader of Council
Policy Research Officer, Bradford Labour Group (Simon O'Hare)