

## **PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL COUNCIL ARRANGEMENTS IN HAWORTH, CROSS ROADS AND STANBURY.**

### **Fact Sheet**

#### **Why is Bradford Council undertaking a review/consultation?**

Having received a petition from a group of residents asking for the dissolving of Haworth, Cross Roads & Stanbury Parish Council, and creation of Haworth & Stanbury Parish Council and Cross Roads Parish Council, Bradford Metropolitan District Council is conducting a Community Governance Review under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

#### **What is a Community Governance Review?**

A Community Governance Review provides an opportunity for Bradford Council to review and make changes to local governance within an area. This will be supported by a consultation with local people. The aim of the review is to ensure that local governance continues to be effective and convenient, that it reflects the people and interests of local communities and considers the views of local people. The recommendations arising from the Community Governance Review should deliver improved community engagement, more cohesive communities and better local democracy.

#### **What is a community council?**

A community council is a tier of local government. It can be known as a parish, town, community or village council. Most community councils are non-political. It has members (councillors) elected by the people who live in its area. It has a clerk, who is an employee of the community council and who looks after the administration of its activities.

The range of services and amenities a community council can provide varies enormously. A community council is an independent organisation and its decisions, assets and liabilities are solely its own responsibility.

#### **What can a community council do?**

A community council does not replace Bradford Council, but it can provide additional services in its area. A community council's powers could include the provision of allotments, street cleaners, public toilets, seasonal events, youth activities, management of public gardens, play areas and community centres and the allocation of grants to local organisations.

A community council is a consultee on planning applications that affect the people who live in its area. Bradford Council planners will take the views of a community council into account when making their decisions, although they don't have to agree with them. A community council could also access additional sources of funding specifically aimed at parish or town councils.

### **The people who run a community council**

As well as a paid clerk (often part time), the community council requires a number of local volunteers to stand as community councillors to represent the people of the community. These volunteers do not need to be a member of a political party. The number required will be established through the Community Governance Review, but in other areas it varies from 5 to 30.

### **Do community councillors get paid or receive allowances?**

No, community councillors do not get paid or receive any allowances for the work they do.

### **Raising money for a community council**

A community council raises money by charging a precept to all households in the area. This is in addition to any Council Tax paid to Bradford Council, the Police and Fire Authorities. The community council is required to set its own budget annually and Bradford Council is notified of how much is to be raised through the precept. This is then added to your Bradford Council Tax bill and will vary depending on the Council Tax band of your home. The community council does not charge businesses any additional money. The money raised by a community council can only be spent for the benefit of people living in the area of that community council.

Annual changes to the precept are not capped by Central Government (in the way that a percentage limit is applied to Council Tax). This means that the amount can be increased/decreased by the community council to meet its agreed budget.

### **What happens next?**

At the end of the consultation period and after all the responses have been analysed, if Bradford Council decides to dissolve the current Parish Council and create two new local councils, it could appoint a shadow council, to help establish the new community councils' finances, the arrangements for the election of councillors and the first meeting. Following this, the community councils will be left to run their own affairs. In this case, where one Parish Council already exists, it may be that this acts as the 'shadow' Council(s) until the first elections.

A map of the proposed area for Cross Roads Parish Council



A map of the proposed area for Haworth & Stanbury Parish Council

