

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 11 JULY 2023

Agenda item 12 – Notices of Motion (Standing Order 17)

Amendments submitted by political groups

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

12.1 – Council (and schools) provision of plant-based food

To be moved by: Councillor Si Cunningham

To be seconded by: Councillor Sarah Ferriby

That with the addition and deletion of the appropriate words, the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

Bradford Council, together with our partners, is taking a comprehensive range of actions to tackle the climate emergency, reduce our carbon footprint, improve our environment and deliver clean growth.

As reported to the Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 15 November 2022, we have almost halved the Council's total emissions from 42,000 tonnes of CO₂e to 22,000 tonnes between 2014-15 and 2021-22 and we are continuing to make progress.

This year the Council has adopted a Good Food Strategy to improve access to healthy food and make it more affordable for people across the District to make informed choices about what they eat. The Strategy recommends encouraging residents to choose a more balanced, more plant-based diet.

Through our Facilities Management service to schools we enshrine choice in the offer which includes plant-based options for students and a full vegan diet for anyone who requests it. National nutritional guidance still recommends a balanced diet is most easily accessible to all children if it includes fish, poultry, meat and dairy products so we continue to offer those choices too.

An increasing number of our Council-run events – such as the recent Culture and Climate Symposium and the Culture Is Our Plan showcase – are already offering fully plant-based catering, and there is a commitment for future events to satisfy a percentage of plant-based options.

All relevant UN and UK Climate Change Committee reports emphasise the need to significantly reduce our use of animal products in response to the climate crisis. In the UK, for example, approximately 10% of greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to be linked to agriculture, most of which is the methane produced by livestock.

The agriculture sector has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by around 16% between 1990 and 2020, according to [Defra data](#). Whilst this is heading in the right direction there is clearly much more to do if we are to meet our Net Zero target.

The 2022 Farm Practices Survey indicated that 64% of farmers thought it important to consider greenhouse gases when making farm business decisions.

The 2021 National Food Strategy, led by Henry Dimbleby, set a ten-year goal of a 30% reduction in meat consumption in the UK.

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority's 2020 Emission Reduction Pathway Report estimates that a 32% reduction in red meat and dairy consumption is needed across the region if our goal of net zero carbon is to be met by 2038.

Our district is two-thirds rural and our farmers and food producers make an important contribution to the local economy and the local environment by providing good quality local food.

Council therefore:

Requests that the Director of Public Health provides a report to Health and Social Care Overview & Scrutiny setting out the Council's progress on delivering our food strategy including how it can support residents in the cost of living crisis, local businesses in a changing world and reducing our carbon footprint including any options for extending plant-based catering across all Council-run external sites (leisure centres etc.) whilst retaining freedom of choice for individual dietary preferences or requirements.

12.2 – Animal homelessness crisis and support for pet owners during the cost of living crisis

To be moved by: Councillor Julie Glentworth

To be seconded by: Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

With the addition and deletion of appropriate words, the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

- Animal homelessness is a massive problem that has only been exacerbated by the Covid pandemic and the current cost of living crisis. At any given time, there are an estimated 100,000 dogs without homes in the UK. Research from Cats Protection has estimated that there are as many as 50 stray cats per square kilometre in some cities.
- The simplest, and most effective way to tackle animal homelessness is making sure that pets are spayed or neutered.
- There is a network of remarkable open-admission shelters across Bradford District accepting every animal in need, caring for them and keeping them safe, warm, fed, and loved.
- The cost of living crisis has created more financial pressures on households with the cost of feeding and looking after pets being a big concern for many people.
- This has meant that shelters and rescues are more overloaded than ever before with more animals and there are far more cats and dogs than potential owners. Local rescues - including 'Allerton Cat Rescue' have warned the volume of animals they are looking after is creating unprecedented and unsustainable demands on their services.
- The Blue Cross animal charity has partnered with the retailer Pets at Home to place pet food donation stations in every store. All donations collected go to local food banks - and a database of food bank partners is available on their website. There are currently two food banks offering this service: Horton Bank Top Community Foodbank and Bradford North Foodbank in Eccleshill.
- The RSPCA has also noted that the cost of living crisis is leading to more pets being left unneutered, not microchipped, and not receiving medical care when they need it.
- In many ways, pets can help us to live physically and mentally healthier lives being a great source of comfort, motivation, therapy and emotional support, so for many people, pets are family members and simply "getting rid of them" is not an option.
- Some dogs living in poverty will also be retired dogs that have worked to help humans in roles such search and rescue, serious crime prevention and detection, aiding those with physical and emotional needs or the entertainment industry, such as greyhounds and those misused for blood sports.

Council resolves to:

- Use its social media channels to raise awareness on the importance of spaying or neutering pets, highlight what financial support is available for pet owners.

- Add a section for pet owners onto costoflivingbradford.co.uk and any future printed edition of the 'Cost of Living Support Booklet'. This should include what support is available to pet owners including the £5 cat neutering scheme by Cats Protection and the services of the PDSA who offer free and low cost veterinary care to eligible households.
- To work with food banks to identify opportunities to expand the number of pet food banks operating in the district.

Amendment C

12.2 – Animal homelessness crisis and support for pet owners during the cost of living crisis

To be moved by: Councillor Sue Duffy

To be seconded by: Councillor Sarah Ferriby

That with the addition and deletion of the appropriate words, the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

Animal homelessness is a massive problem that has only been exacerbated by the Covid pandemic and the current cost of living crisis. At any given time, there are an estimated 100,000 dogs without homes in the UK. Research from Cats Protection has estimated that there are as many as 50 stray cats per square kilometre in some cities.

The simplest, and most effective way to prevent animal homelessness is making sure that pets are spayed or neutered.

There is a network of remarkable open-admission shelters across Bradford District accepting every animal in need, caring for them and keeping them safe, warm, fed, and loved.

The cost of living crisis has created more financial pressures on households with the cost of feeding and looking after pets being a big concern for many people.

This has meant that shelters and rescues are more overloaded than ever before with more animals and there are far more cats and dogs than potential owners. Local rescues - including 'Allerton Cat Rescue' - have warned the volume of animals they are looking after is creating unprecedented and unsustainable demands on their services.

The Blue Cross animal charity has partnered with the retailer Pets at Home to place pet food donation stations in every store. All donations collected go to local food banks - and a database of food bank partners is available on their website. There are currently two food banks offering this service: Horton Bank Top Community Foodbank and Bradford North Foodbank in Eccleshill.

The RSPCA has also noted that the cost of living crisis is leading to more pets being left unneutered, not microchipped, and not receiving medical care when they need it.

Council also notes:

A pet can be a great source of comfort and motivation.

In many ways, pets can help us to live physically and mentally healthier lives.

For many people, pets are family members and simply “getting rid of them” is not an option.

Council resolves to:

- Use its social media channels to raise awareness on the importance of spaying or neutering pets, highlight what financial support is available for pet owners.
- Add a section for pet owners onto costoflivingbradford.co.uk and any future printed edition of the ‘Cost of Living Support Booklet’. This should include what support is available to pet owners including the £5 cat neutering scheme by Cats Protection and the services of the PDSA who offer free and low cost veterinary care to eligible households.
- To work with food banks and the Feeding Bradford Network to identify opportunities to expand the number of pet food banks operating in the district, to encourage all food banks to stock pet food where possible and for Bradford District pet food banks to be published on the RSPCA’s ‘find a pet food bank’ online directory.
- The Director of Public Health to liaise with the RSPCA to explore what more we can do as a local authority to support pet owners and promote good animal welfare which in turn supports good mental health.
- The Director of Public Health to present a report to the Anti-Poverty Coordination Group chaired by the Director of Adult Social Care and to then share that paper with all members.

12.3 – Anti-social behaviour (ASB) reduction fund

To be moved by: Councillor Abdul Jabar

To be seconded by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

That with the addition and deletion of the appropriate words, the motion be amended to read as follows:

This council notes the widespread community concern over antisocial behaviour and low grade criminal activity.

This council believes local residents and councillors are best placed to understand the impact of ASB and their views should inform what measures might be taken to mitigate it.

The large scale cuts in local authority budgets and policing budgets over the last 13 years of Conservative government which have been detrimental to all our communities.

That in spite of the funding constraints, together with the police, VCS and other district partners through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) the council undertakes a wide range of activities to prevent and tackle crime and ASB.

Examples of recent CSP activities and investments include: work at bonfire ASB hotspots; youth intervention work with West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue; grants in grassroots community organisations; fencing off ASB hotspots.

The good work of the West Yorkshire Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Crime and Policing to build a regional approach in tackling crime and its causes as many communities are facing common challenges.

This Council resolves to:

Continue prioritising action against ASB and working with police and partners in measures to combat it.

Request a report to Corporate Overview & Scrutiny on the district's progress in tackling ASB and options for any new approaches and learning from other areas to build on our measures to tackle ASB and its causes.

The Council Leader to write to all District MPs asking them to make the case to Government about the detrimental impact of national funding cuts on police resources to tackle ASB and community safety issues.

12.4 – Increasing Cancer Screening Uptake Rates in the Bradford District

To be moved by: Councillor Sarah Ferriby

To be seconded by: Councillor Bev Mullaney

That with the addition and deletion of the appropriate words, the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

- deaths from all cancers in the under 75's living in Bradford are worse than the national average and there is disparity between the communities across the District, which statistically contributes to poorer life expectancy and there is disparity between the inner city and rural wards across the District.
- as an example in March 2022 the Pennine Breast Screening Unit at Bradford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust sent out approximately 1200 breast screening invitation letters in the inner city, approximately 600 responded and attended their mammogram appointments with 5 cancers being detected.
- that on the balance of probabilities, with a 50 % uptake rate and in line with the national average of 9.2 breast cancers being detected per 1000 screened, there were a similar number who did not attend who already had cancer with the likelihood being that they would go on to present with symptoms at a late stage and have a less favourable outcome.
- Public Health professionals know anecdotally from experience that some communities find it easier to access breast screening than others. Further research will pinpoint where the barriers are and therefore how they can be overcome to provide better access to all.
- Data analysis has already begun to identify which groups in particular are less likely to take up the offer of screening. The next step is to do in-depth community engagement.
- the screening uptake rates, not just for breast cancer but also cervical and bowel cancer, are below national uptake rate levels.
- there are fantastic Living Well and Stronger Communities teams within the Council, along with NHS partners and groups such as HALE and the Bingley Bubble Community Partnership, who are already doing great work. The Council's Public Health Team has identified staff to specifically work on increasing health awareness and screening uptake levels with two more Community Health Development workers having been recently appointed.
- the importance of this work given that the pandemic has delayed people visiting health care appointments even before health inequalities are taken into account.
- the Council's Executive Assistant on Health is supporting the efforts to take this work forward with partners to tackle health inequalities particularly amongst women.

Council resolves:

- to complete the in depth data analysis as quickly as possible which is currently being undertaken by the Public Health Team to understand what the issues and barriers are to attending screening for the different community groups across the District.

- carry out in-depth community engagement to understand at first hand the reasons for not attending breast and cervical screening when invited and ascertain what additional support mechanisms such as additional targeted locations for mobile screening vans and help with travel, would increase uptake.
- to work collaboratively with all partners and stakeholders to educate and improve knowledge in all communities around self-awareness, the screening process and promote the understanding that early detection of cancer will result in a more favourable treatment outcome.
- ensure that the current service provision, including the new diagnostic centre at Eccleshill, is accessible for all areas of the community and is utilised to its full potential in order to quickly diagnose all types of cancer.
- Officers to bring a report to the Health & Wellbeing Board showing the plans for how we will address this issue.

Amendment F

12.4 – Increasing Cancer Screening Uptake Rates in the Bradford District

To be moved by: Councillor Alun Griffiths

To be seconded by: Councillor Brendan Stubbs

Motion 12.4 be amended by addition of the following text:

Additional bullet points under “**Council notes**”

- Although breast screening systems are working normally following the Covid 19 pandemic uptake rates have not returned to pre-pandemic levels
- That there is a clear inverse relationship between deprivation and screening uptake rates
- That a national improvement programme for breast screening is currently under development
- That the 6th National screening programme, targeted lung health checks, is being rolled out starting in more deprived areas.

Additional bullet points under “**Council resolves**”

- To use lessons learned from the success of the Covid Vaccine rollout in connecting to ‘hard to reach’ groups in promoting screening programmes.
- To prepare for the national improvement programme for Breast Screening to integrate our promotion with that.
- To support and promote targeted lung health checks.

Amendment G

12.5 – Improving scrutiny, transparency and accountability at Bradford MDC

To be moved by: Councillor Kevin Warnes

To be seconded by: Councillor Martin Love

That the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

- a) The proportion of seats on our overview and scrutiny committees allocated to the various political groups is governed by the provisions of Subsection 5 of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- b) Bradford's Labour Group – in addition to its control of Council and the Executive - currently chairs three of the four overview and scrutiny committees (Corporate OSC, Health and Social Care OSC, and Regeneration and Environment OSC).
- c) Guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2006 suggested that, "Where there is a majority group, local authorities might consider it appropriate to have all or some of these committees chaired by members outside the majority group."
- d) The Centre for Public Scrutiny's Good Scrutiny Guide in 2019 indicated that "membership of [scrutiny] committees must be politically appropriate, but chairing need not be", and "Chairs could be selected by secret ballot...by their peers at full Council."
- e) The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny has also been supportive of the idea of elected overview and scrutiny chairs.
- f) The House of Commons Communities and Local Government Select Committee published a report in December 2017 which concluded that there was "great merit in exploring ways of enhancing the independence and legitimacy of scrutiny chairs such as a secret ballot of non-executive councillors", and that, "It is vital that the role of scrutiny chair is respected and viewed by all as being a key part of the decision-making process, rather than a form of political patronage."
- g) The above report further concluded that overview and scrutiny chairs elected by their peers "are more likely to have the requisite skills and enthusiasm for scrutiny by virtue of the election process" and that electing chairs "would also dispel the notion that being appointed scrutiny chair is a consolation prize for members not appointed to cabinet."
- h) A number of UK councils either ban majority parties from chairing their overview and scrutiny committees and/or elect the Chairs of these committees by secret ballot.
- i) The reduction in the number of Bradford's overview and scrutiny committees in May 2018, through the merger of the Environment and Waste Management and Regeneration and Economy OS committees, reduced the capacity of the overview and scrutiny process to focus on those key decision-making areas.
- j) Approximately one fifth of respondents to the 2021-2022 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Review were NOT satisfied that overview and scrutiny in Bradford acts as a 'critical friend' to our Council's leadership, senior officers and partners, or 'contributes to improving services' in Bradford District.

- k) The proportion of Questions to Council allocated to each political group represented on Council tend to change following each district election, reflecting the levels of representation of each group and independent members within the chamber, with the number of questions available to opposition councillors reducing as the size of the controlling group increases.
- l) A limited number of member questions are answered at each Council, obliging councillors to wait for up to twenty working days for replies to their unanswered questions as stipulated by Standing Order 12.14 of the Council's Constitution - and that even this generous mandatory deadline was missed in response to the surplus questions submitted by members at our January 2023 Council meeting.
- m) Overall, the scope for – and transparency of - opposition scrutiny of the controlling group is reduced the more dominant the latter becomes.

Council therefore:

1. Requests that the Chief Executive evaluates alternative methodologies for the allocation of the Chairs of our overview and scrutiny committees, with a view to enhancing their independence and expertise, in order to improve the effectiveness of, and public confidence in, the overview and scrutiny process.
2. Requests that the Chief Executive evaluates alternative methodologies for the allocation of Questions to Council, including a specific number of 'Opposition Questions to Council', in order to maintain the confidence of the residents we represent that the Council's controlling group is properly held to account at Full Council meetings.
3. Requests that the Chief Executive assesses the viability of reinstating the arrangement whereby all member questions are answered in writing at each Council meeting.
4. Requests that the Chief Executive presents a report about the above matters for consideration by the cross party Constitutional Review Group within three months.
5. Requests that the Chief Executive writes to the District's MPs to request a review of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, with a view to improving the overview and scrutiny process in local government.

12.5 – Improving scrutiny, transparency and accountability at Bradford MDC

To be moved by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

To be seconded by: Councillor Imran Khan

That with the addition and deletion of the appropriate words, the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

- Bradford Council has an agreed Constitution that sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures that are followed to ensure the Council is efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.
- The Constitution was adopted in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 following extensive public consultation. It provides the framework within which the Executive takes decisions in the discharge of the Council's functions, subject to the scrutiny of a number of Overview and Scrutiny committees. The Executive is collectively responsible for the decisions it makes and its decision-making arrangements so that they are open, transparent and accountable.
- The Council is committed to realising the aspirations reflected in the Corporate Plan and the Constitution sets out the working arrangements that will be followed in pursuit of these aims.
- Political proportionality is based on Sections 15 (duty to allocate seats to political groups) and 16 (duty to give effect to allocations) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990
- That democracy in this country gives the winning party more power than those who win less seats.
- That the Conservatives in the recent local elections lost 1100 seats nationally and therefore their power in councils across the country is reduced.
- In the 2019 General Election the Conservatives won with an 80 seat majority and there was a resulting reduction in the number of Labour voices being heard in the Chamber and in committees. This will change if voters make a different decision at the next general election.
- That Bradford Council is a very diverse Chamber with lots of political views represented and heard, reflecting the decisions at the ballot box made by residents of this district.
- It is the people who decide who represents their voice, political parties don't.
- Over 300 Part 1 member questions have been answered at full council in the past year alone, however Executive members also answer many more questions and queries from councillors and members of the public on an ongoing basis as part of our open and comprehensive democratic processes.

Council resolves:

- To respect the role of democracy in choosing who represents people's voice in the Chamber.

- Not to use the cross party Council Constitutional review to gerrymander more power for any political group.
- To recognise that upholding the voters' decision is paramount.
- To remain open and transparent in all our decision-making, being answerable to Full Council, Scrutiny, the Media, Government, residents and businesses as any healthy democracy should.

Amendment I

12.5 – Improving scrutiny transparency and accountability at Bradford MDC

To be moved by: Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To be seconded by: Councillor Brendan Stubbs

Motion 12.5 be amended by the addition of the following text:

The council further resolves to consider the following ideas to bring about change in the way the council operates to enable greater public and back-bench councillor participation and debate in the life of our district.

1. All members to be elected in elections held once every four years.
2. The Council to publish an online non-political manifesto for every candidate in the election.
3. Increase the number of area committees to cover smaller areas and include every councillor.
4. Scrap overview and scrutiny in favour of a committee system.
5. Create Commissions of enquiry. These would be raised by a ballot of elected members or petitions from the public.
6. Leader and Portfolio Holders to publish their diaries.
7. Leader and Portfolio Holders to receive and publish answers to questions from elected members on a weekly basis.
8. All FOI requests should be published.
9. Each Portfolio holder and the Leader shall undertake a briefing on a regular basis (at least 8 times a year) with the relevant spokespersons from each political group and other interested members.
10. Policy and strategy impact assessments shall be conducted and published on an area basis in conjunction with the members elected to represent that area.
11. Following the elections consultation will be carried out with the successful candidates to ensure local strategy accords with the wishes of the electorate.
12. Elected members should also act as Well-being Boards for the areas they represent to ensure scrutiny of local health and well-being services and the delivery of health action plans.

12.6 – Clean Air Zone (CAZ) creep

To be moved by: Councillor Sarah Ferriby

To be seconded by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

That with the addition and deletion of the appropriate words, the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

- Bradford Council has been legally mandated by national Conservative government to implement a charging CAZ. The Government will allow the Council to remove the CAZ once our air quality levels are consistently improved. We look forward to the day when Government therefore withdraws its Ministerial Direction.
- Bradford Council secured the highest level of funding for a CAZ of its type anywhere in the country. The council has successfully allocated £21.332m so far upgrading 3,788 vehicles, including buses, taxis, coaches, HGVs and LGVs in the district. Having achieved one of, if not the cleanest taxi fleet in the UK this should enable Bradford to comply with the Ministerial Direction as soon as possible and persuade government to remove the Ministerial Direction more quickly.
- Government-approved modelling has shown that Bradford would not achieve legal levels of air quality until 2028/9 at the earliest without a charging CAZ. This means that the people of Bradford, particularly in the most underprivileged wards, would be breathing toxic air for longer.
- Cleaner air will have health benefits for everyone, but especially young children, the elderly and those with existing health conditions. The council is committed to putting the voice and needs of children at the heart of everything we do.
- The biggest health benefits from the CAZ will be felt by the most disadvantaged communities in Bradford, health research has found.
- The CAZ programme will include reinvestment of revenue to make environmental improvements, Government do not allow CAZ revenue to be used for any other purpose.
- The CAZ will improve air quality in every ward in the Bradford District. The data shows there is no traffic displacement due to the Clean Air Zone and that our rural villages continue to enjoy some of the best air quality in the UK.
- The proposal to establish the post of Assistant Director Sustainability on a permanent basis from the previously titled temporary post of Programme Director Clean Air Programme has no implications for council base budget as the post is funded outside base budget. The proposal reconfigures the responsibilities of the role around the implementation of the programme of work relating to climate change and transition work, which require ongoing management and leadership.
- The proposal is also based on the fact that retaining the sustainability post on a fixed term basis would provide no advantage given that fixed term posts attract the same employment rights as permanent posts at their two-year anniversary, with redundancy eligibility and the associated liability for the council applying at that stage.

Council resolves:

- To continue publishing all air quality monitoring in line with government standards. The Council has submitted our data in line with requirements to the Government for their approval for 2022 and will publish once Government have allowed us to. Live data for the Mayo Avenue station which is the Government's own station, is already online.
- To continue driving forward at pace with achieving air quality improvements and rapidly reinvest funds to further improve the environment for residents and businesses, therefore achieving compliance with legal air quality standards within the shortest possible timeframe so that Government can find no further reason to impose a CAZ on the district.
- For all Groups in the chamber not to undermine through local disinformation the Government's national approach to clean air zones across the country.

12.7 – Children and Young People’s Mental Health

To be moved by: Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To be seconded by: Councillor Aislin Naylor

Motion 12.7 be amended by the addition of the following text:

The Council further resolves to:

Bring forward an action plan to detailing the specific interventions required to deliver the aim of the Children and Young Peoples Strategy to ensure Children and Young People have early access to and a good experience of mental health interventions.

The plan should include but not be limited to:

- Actions to capture the views of children not in school in the Age of Wonder research project.
- Actions taken to reduce waiting times.
- Actions taken to reduce the impact of restrictive interventions in school such as seclusion, restraint and exclusion.
- Actions to ensure children or young people at risk of exclusion have a full assessment to identify whether they have unmet mental health needs.
- Actions to ensure that all of our secondary schools, colleges and university have mental health support teams by the end of 2025.
- Actions to increase our assessment figure produced by the Children’s Commissioner by the end of 2025.

12.9 – Making our neighbourhoods and green spaces nature friendly

To be moved by: Councillor Caroline Whitaker

To be seconded by: Councillor Janet Russell

That the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

In 2019 a report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report warned “Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history – and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating” although “it is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global.”

One in seven UK species is now at risk of extinction. Since the 1930s, 97 percent of the UK’s ancient wildflower meadows have been destroyed. There has been a 76 percent decline in flying insects since the 1990s and A third of British wild bees and hoverflies are in decline.

Climate change is adding further pressure on biodiversity and loss of biodiversity is helping to drive climate change, so the two are inextricably linked.

Reduced mowing in carefully planned areas of green spaces as part of ‘No Mow May’ has been one example of a range of activities we are undertaking to improve the local environment for residents, boost biodiversity and tackle the climate emergency.

But not mowing lawns is only part of the solution to improving biodiversity and careful planning is required to ensure unmowed lawns improve biodiversity.

A growing body of research shows there are substantial positive effects from this nature-friendly approach, such as increasing plants and insects to benefit the food chain; extending and connecting nature friendly areas creates an important mosaic of habitats especially in urban and semi-urban areas; and a reduction in pesticides supports a healthier environment for plants and all living things.

The benefits to mental and physical health of greater biodiversity and a more pleasant living environment for us all cannot be overstated.

There are potential economic as well as social and environmental benefits from adopting a more nature-friendly approach and shifting to low carbon technologies.

Making the whole district more nature-friendly is also a matter of social justice as part of our work to tackle health inequalities, because national research shows that the least privileged communities are impacted the most by environmental harm and a lack of access to nature and green spaces.

Nature-friendly measures the council is undertaking with partners include but are not limited to:

- Reduced mowing to better meet the needs of people and nature.
- Planted a tree for every child – the creation of new woodland, school trees and 40 school orchards (blossom for pollinators).

- Encouraging nature and play opportunities on the doorstep of new housing and commercial developments.
- New wildflower strips and meadow development.
- A shift to herbaceous planting in the city centre.
- The conversion of conifer plantation woodlands to semi-natural woodlands at St Ives.
- Ilkley Moor restoration.
- Reduced use of glyphosate.
- Measures to clean up the air we all breathe.
- Working with businesses and partners in the Bradford District Sustainable Development Partnership.

Council resolves to:

Declare a biodiversity emergency – this will help to harness the collective powers of partners across the district and accelerate our efforts, including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Incorporate protection, promotion, and connection of biodiversity into the council's priorities and identify biodiversity in the key performance indicators of the Corporate Plan.
- b. Critically evaluate the ecological impacts of all strategic policies or major decisions.
- c. Draw up a coherent habitat connectivity framework for the district with partners to support habitat restoration, connectivity and climate change resilience and use the framework in decision making to drive its implementation wherever possible.
- d. Follow the principles of sustainable development and ensure that council projects or initiatives deliver net biodiversity gains.
- e. Actively promote the safeguarding and improvement of the natural environment.
- f. Ensure biodiversity mitigation proposals are joined up, effective and deliver net biodiversity gains.
- g. Monitor progress in achieving a net gain in biodiversity and in connecting wildlife habitats.
- h. Work with other councils and organisations (both within the District, UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods.

More specifically:

1. Task officers with conducting a biodiversity audit of our local parks and open spaces and setting measurable targets and standards for biodiversity increase in these areas.
2. Task officers with developing a Bradford Parks Strategy with widespread stakeholder consultation, including the aims of: deepening our partnerships with Friends groups; formalising our approach to improving biodiversity and environmental renewal; recognising its strong links to residents' physical and mental wellbeing; and supporting new jobs and opportunities for residents and businesses through the emergent clean growth economy.
3. Create and support a network for schools both financially and with information to learn from one another about creating forest school areas in nearby available council land, and to create or use existing water features such as ponds and streams which support freshwater species.

4. Include additional wildlife measures in the whole council estate including council owned roofs, gardens and communal areas including greening, wildflower beds and small mammal holes.
5. Work in partnership with institutions, housing associations, schools, businesses, and community groups to raise awareness and encourage wider biodiversity across Bradford District by providing a range of public engagement and awareness campaigns to provide advice to residents and businesses on how to protect and enhance habitats within their neighbourhoods.
6. Produce a Developing with Nature toolkit for all new major developments to ensure biodiversity practice is implemented and recognised.
7. Make nature and play opportunities part of the developers' responsibilities to provide with new housing and commercial developments and provide the resources to enforce tree and hedgerow protection.
8. Ensure the current trials of the reduction in use of glyphosate on council land are properly evaluated and further recommendations are made on how we can continue to minimise its use to increase biodiversity within Bradford.
9. Produce Management Plans for sites which are being left to rewild to ensure that rewilding efforts increase biodiversity - and that low quality invasive weeds don't take over.
10. Work continuously and urgently with businesses and partners in the Bradford District Sustainable Development Partnership to progress the aims of this biodiversity policy.
11. Work with agencies and organisations who focus on species preservation to set out new ideas and options for future activities.
12. Request officers present a report to the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee with some urgency assessing the impact to date of the measures we are taking and setting out new ideas and options for future activities to build on our progress.

12.9 – Making our neighbourhoods and green spaces nature-friendly

To be moved by: Councillor Debbie Davies

To be seconded by: Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

With the addition and deletion of appropriate words, the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

- Reduced mowing in carefully planned areas of green spaces as part of 'No Mow May' has been one example of a range of activities we are undertaking to improve the local environment for residents, boost biodiversity, tackle the climate emergency and save money.
- A growing body of research shows there are substantial positive effects from this nature-friendly approach, such as increasing plants and insects to benefit the food chain; extending and connecting nature-friendly areas creates an important mosaic of habitats especially in urban and semi-urban areas; and a reduction in pesticides supports a healthier environment for plants and all living things.
- The benefits to mental and physical health of greater biodiversity and a more pleasant living environment for us all cannot be overstated.
- There are potential economic as well as social and environmental benefits from adopting a more nature-friendly approach and shifting to low carbon technologies.

Council resolves:

- Task officers with developing a Bradford Parks Strategy with widespread stakeholder consultation, including the aims of: deepening our partnerships with Friends groups; formalising our approach to improving biodiversity and environmental renewal; recognising its strong links to residents' physical and mental wellbeing; and supporting new jobs and opportunities for residents and businesses through the emergent clean growth economy.
- Request officers present a report to Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee assessing the impact to date of the measures we are taking and setting out new ideas and options for future activities to build on our progress.
- Ensure trees planted are in suitable locations and cared for so they grow to maturity, ensure verges are cut back where necessary for highway safety and ensure areas of grass are kept mown for children to play in, especially to support the least privileged communities who may not have access to any outside space by way of a garden.
- Support the Conservative Group budget proposal for 2023/24 to spend £25000 to commission contractors to trial no use of glyphosate alternatives for weed control.
- Ensure ward members are consulted on changes in their wards.

Amendment N

12.9 – Making our neighbourhoods and green spaces nature friendly

To be moved by: Councillor Aislin Naylor

To be seconded by: Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

That motion 12.9 be amended by the addition of a further bullet point to the end of the 'This council resolves to' section of the motion.

- Create an 'Action plan for nature' for each ward in the district. Consulting with Ward Councillors and local groups during the plans development and ensuring that adequate funding is in place to enable the plan to be delivered.