

**CITY OF BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**MEETING OF COUNCIL – TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2023**  
**ITEM 4 WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR**

**FAREWELL TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE, KERSTEN ENGLAND, CBE**

I would like to pay tribute to our former Chief Executive, Kersten England, on her retirement.

Kersten became Chief Executive of the Council in 2015 and has long been a passionate champion and advocate for Bradford and its people.

Her local government career has spanned 33 years, with 14 of them spent in the role of Chief Executive, both here and for six years in the City of York. Prior to joining us, Kersten's career encompassed work in the higher education, central government (as Director of Local Government for Yorkshire and the Humber) and the voluntary sector.

From the outset, her time with us has been marked by her committed drive to build and enable resilient and confident communities, to support local democracy, strengthen partnership working and to embed sustainable and inclusive urban growth.

Kersten's dedication to this district has been second to none and her being awarded the CBE, for services to the communities and economy of Bradford, in Her late Majesty The Queen's New Year Honours list in 2020, amply confirmed this.

Kersten leaves us as we look forward to an exciting and transformational year as the UK's City of Culture in 2025, an accolade which reflects the renewed ambition and drive felt right across our district.

I feel sure that you will wish to join me in extending our gratitude to Kersten for her tireless work on behalf of the people of Bradford and in wishing her many years of health, happiness and well-deserved rest in the future.

**WELCOME TO NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DR LORRAINE O'DONNELL**

I am delighted to welcome, to her first Council meeting here, our new Chief Executive Dr Lorraine O'Donnell.

Lorraine grew up in Northern Ireland and, prior to joining us, she spent three and a half years as Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council, a large unitary authority in the northwest.

Lorraine has spent the majority of her local government career in the northeast, almost all of that time at Corporate Leadership Team level.

Before joining local government, Lorraine completed a doctorate in theoretical physics at Oxford University, having completed a first degree there.

We all look forward to working closely with Lorraine and I know that you will join me in congratulating her on her appointment and extending to her the warmest of welcomes to Team Bradford. We very much hope that she enjoys her new role with us and that a successful and rewarding journey lies ahead for her in helping shape the future of this unique district.

## **DEATH OF FORMER COUNCILLOR ALAN RYE**

Members will be saddened to learn of the death of former Cllr Alan Rye, at the age of 80.

Alan represented the Keighley South Ward from 1982 until 1990 and was a committed and driven public servant, who served the people of his community with passion and unflagging energy.

On Council his interests centred particularly on matters relating to education, housing and social services.

I have written to his widow, Sheila, to convey our gratitude for his time on this Council and to express our sympathy at his passing.

## **CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

I am sure that you will share my great concern at the ongoing situation in Israel and Palestine.

We are horrified at the loss of life. We mourn their loss. We want the bloodshed to stop. This conflict benefits no-one.

We stand together for the cause of humanity, to pray for peace and an end to this conflict.

## **CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

I was delighted to attend the ceremony to raise the Black History Month flag in Centenary Square on 1st October.

The marking of this month is a very tangible and meaningful way in which the impact of black heritage and culture can be shared, widely celebrated and fully understood. The contributions of people from African and Caribbean backgrounds have often been overlooked in the past and, every year, this month acts as a strong means of righting that imbalance.

This June we remembered the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Windrush generation and the remarkable legacy they created. A part of this year's Black History Month has also been to place the focus squarely on the exceptional achievements of black women, especially those who have been forgotten.

The Lady Mayoress and I are very much looking forward to attending a family and community event later this month which also celebrates and explores black history and culture, both past and present.

I would encourage everyone to try and attend one of the events being held across the district to mark this significant month.

## YORKSHIRE IN BLOOM AWARDS

Now that summer has drawn to its close, it is a good time to reflect on the hard work, imagination, talent and creativity which has provided us with some great floral displays around our district throughout the spring and summer months. Roadsides, green spaces, parks, towns and villages have once again been a blaze of colour and originality.

From the members of our Parks and Green Spaces teams, to green-fingered groups, organisations and individuals, all perform remarkable work in making the environs in which we live, work and play more attractive, vibrant and welcoming.

It is, naturally, always gratifying to see these great efforts being formally recognised and I know you will all wish to join me in congratulating not only the winners of these prestigious Yorkshire in Bloom awards but also all the organisations and individuals for their tremendous effort and enthusiasm in the creation of such eye-catching displays.

They have truly enhanced the Bradford district for residents and visitors alike and I offer our thanks and congratulations to all those involved.

Entrant	Award	
<b>Category 6 Parks, Gardens, Cemeteries &amp; Public Buildings</b> (aimed at "Friends of Groups")		
Cliffe Castle Park, Keighley	Platinum	
Roberts Park	Gold	
Harold Park	Gold	
Keighley Town Hall Square	Platinum	
<b>Category B4 Tourist Attractions</b>		
Keighley & Worth Valley railways	Silver Gilt	
Lister Park	Silver Gilt	
<b>C1a Small Village</b>		
Esholt in Bloom	Silver Gilt	
<b>C3a Small Town</b>		
Wilsden in Bloom	Silver Gilt	Category Winner
Menston in Bloom	Silver Gilt	
<b>C3b Town</b>		
Shipley in Bloom	Silver	

<b>C3c Large Town</b>		
Keighley in Bloom	Silver	
<b>B3 Large Business</b>		
Airedale Shopping Centre	Gold	
<b>E2 Universities, Colleges</b>		
University of Bradford	Silver Gilt	
<b>Best Supported Learning Project Award</b>		
Northcliffe Environmental Enterprise Team (NEET)		
<b>B2 Medium Business</b>		
Abbeydale Residential Home, Ilkley	Gold	
<b>Best Commercial Entry Supporting the Community</b>		
Airedale Shopping Centre	Joint Winners	
<b>E1 Harrogate Flower Show Young People Award</b>		
Wilsden Primary School	Silver	

## CELEBRATIONS MARKING THE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CITY HALL

This magnificent building had its grand opening on 9th September 1873 and exactly 150 years later, its doors were thrown open for members of the public to take a look around.

Thousands of people seized the chance to see behind the scenes and to learn about this fascinating building at an Open Weekend, which coincided with the national Heritage Open Days scheme.

In the run-up to the open weekend, we hosted a series of events including a lecture by Dr Simon Ross Valentine, author of a book on the City Hall which was written with the assistance of Council officers. There were also events for representatives of the local Tourism and Hospitality Sector, as well as one for local business leaders, which also served to showcase the regeneration work going on in the city centre.

I hosted an Afternoon Tea which was attended by many former Lord Mayors, Lady Mayoresses and consorts, a group of schoolchildren from Frizinghall Primary School, as well as representatives of the justice service, the police and fire service, the University of Bradford, the armed forces and the NHS. We were also joined by recipients of Community Star Awards, as well as those who had recently taken part in their Citizenship ceremony.

I feel certain that you will all wish to join me in thanking all those people who have been involved in organising the celebratory events which have allowed us to share this magnificent building with as wide a range of people as possible, as well as the volunteers and sponsors who helped to make these happen.

## **77<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BRADFORD FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE**

I should like to remind all Members and Officers that the 77th annual Bradford Festival of Remembrance will take place at Bradford Cathedral, at 5:00pm on Sunday 5th November 2023. All attending are asked to be seated by 4:50pm.

This moving event will feature the City of Bradford Brass Band, the Bradford Cathedral Choir and a soprano soloist. The Festival begins with community singing and a short concert, ahead of the Service of Remembrance. Refreshments will take place following the event.

Please do show your support for this worthwhile and important event, which remembers the courage and sacrifice of all the members of the country's armed forces who have lost their lives, been injured or continue to place themselves at risk in the line of duty.

Tickets to this popular evening are free but booking is essential, directly with the Cathedral please, using this link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-77th-bradford-festival-of-remembrance-tickets-690029676337?aff=cs>

## **REMEMBRANCETIDE**

I should also like to remind all Members that we mark Remembrancetide in November.

Remembrance Sunday will be observed on Sunday 12th November 2023 with a civic service, an Act of Remembrance and wreath-laying ceremony at Bradford Cenotaph at 11:00am.

Other local services take place at various locations throughout the district and a full list will appear on the Council's website.

A short service at the Bradford Cenotaph, led by the Dean, The Very Reverend Andy Bowerman, from Bradford Cathedral, will mark Armistice Day at 11:00am on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023, which you are also very welcome to attend.

*Distribution:*

Lord Mayor (Cllr Gerry Barker)

Chief Executive (Dr Lorraine O'Donnell)

Director of Legal and Governance (Asif Ibrahim)

Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Jason Field)

Head of Governance (Mandy Hill)

Acting Civic Affairs Manager (Farzana Mughal)

Acting Governance, Scrutiny & Members' Support Manager (Fatima Butt)

Principal Executive Officer, Chief Executive's Office (Nigel Smith)

PA to the Leader of Council (Victoria Spratt)

Policy Research Officer, Bradford Labour Group (Simon O'Hare)