

Agenda Item 4 Lord Mayor's Announcements

CITY OF BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING OF COUNCIL – TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023 ITEM 4 WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR

DEATH OF FORMER CORONER ROGER LLEWELLYN WHITTAKER, DL

It is my sad duty to report the death of Roger Llewellyn Whittaker, DL, which occurred on 09 November 2023, at Airedale Hospital.

Roger retired as HM Coroner (West Yorkshire West) in 2011, having served Bradford, Calderdale and Huddersfield diligently for 15 years, during which time he estimated that he had presided over 7,500 inquests. Before his appointment to the coronial service in 1994, Roger was a solicitor in Keighley.

He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in 2003 and carried out that role with real aplomb, being well-remembered for his warmth and courtesy, a sense of old world charm and his distinctive, dapper dress sense.

He was married to Elizabeth and they had four children. I have written to his widow and family to express our sorrow in their loss and our gratitude for Roger's grace, generosity of spirit and his dedicated service to our local communities.

DEATH OF FORMER COUNCILLOR MICHAEL JOHNSON

I am saddened to also report to Council the death of former Councillor Michael Johnson, who died on 20 November 2023.

Michael was elected for the Tong Ward in 1999, stepping down in 2021. During those many years he served his constituents with an unswerving commitment and made a great contribution to the work of this Council, particularly in the areas of regeneration, the environment, housing and education. Michael was a true community champion and a man of principle. He will be missed by many.

I have written to his family to extend both our condolences on his death and to place on record our thanks for his more than two decades of work for this Council.

ANNUAL CITY CAROL SERVICE

The ever-popular annual City Carol Service will take place on Monday 18 December 2023 at 6:00pm in Bradford Cathedral.

This is a wonderful, festive gathering in splendid surroundings, with the service led by the organ and choir of Bradford Cathedral and the City of Bradford Brass Band.

I understand that the service is now fully-booked and I do hope that all those attending will greatly enjoy this very special evening in the life of the district.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

I would like to extend warm greetings of the season to all Members and Officers of the Council. I wish you a Christmas filled with comfort, joy and hope and, ahead of us, a happy and healthy New Year.

I am enormously grateful for the support given by elected Members and Officers to the Lord Mayor's Appeal during our first six months.

Might I also remind you that if Father Christmas' deliveries this year fail in any way to live up to your expectations, my Lord Mayor's Appeal office will be more than happy to 'recycle' your unwanted items by way of charity tombolas, raffles and auctions in the New Year. Our Appeal Co-ordinator, Emma Walker in Room 215, City Hall, will be delighted to receive any items which may be surplus to your requirements.

The money raised is for the Bradford Cinderella Club, a charity established in the City in 1890 and which provides support and arranges treats for underprivileged children right across our district. It is a wonderful and greatly worthwhile cause and one which I hope I can rely on you to also support, wherever you can, into the New Year.

I hope you all thoroughly enjoy the Christmas holidays safely with your nearest and dearest.

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 and Deputy Monitoring Officer (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)