

CITY OF BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF COUNCIL – TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024

ITEM 4 WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR

DEATH OF THE RIGHT REVEREND DAVID SMITH, FORMER BISHOP OF BRADFORD

It is with great sadness that I report the death, on 29 January 2024, of the Right Reverend David Smith, former Bishop of Bradford.

Bishop David was very well respected and loved across the district for his inspired leadership and for his devoted ministry.

His was a life devoted to serving and helping other people. His pastoral care and concern touched many lives locally and, during his time as Bishop, he initiated and developed numerous strong and enduring bonds of friendship throughout our communities.

I am certain that he will be remembered with an abiding sense of fondness by many people and I wrote to Bishop David's widow and family, on behalf of the people of the district, to express our sorrow at his passing.

39TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRADFORD CITY FIRE DISASTER

On Saturday 11 May 2024, we will once again gather to commemorate one of the most poignant dates in the district's calendar, marking the 39th anniversary of the dreadful fire at Bradford City Football Club's ground on 11 May 1985.

Fifty-six people died and countless others were injured. Many people were dreadfully affected, and continue to be so, by the terrible events of that day. It is always very moving to come together on the anniversary of the disaster to reflect upon, and to pay tribute to, all those who were lost and injured, those who acted selflessly in the service of others and the effect it had on all our community.

At 1100, the annual memorial service will take place at the Bradford City Fire Disaster sculpture, in Centenary Square and I do hope that many of you will be able to join me on that sad morning.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

On 1 April 2024, Bradford Council and Bradford District turns 50 and I would like to place on record my thanks to everyone who has served as Councillors and as officers during that time for their service.

CIVIC SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

The Lady Mayoress and I will attend a Civic Service of Thanksgiving, marking our year in office, at Bradford Cathedral, Stott Hill, Bradford, BD1 4EH on Monday 22 April 2024 at 1730.

I do hope that many of you will be able to join us, and Members of Council and others will receive an email invitation from Farzana Mughal, Acting Civic Affairs Manager, which will include a link for you to use to reserve your place(s). You are welcome to bring along your family and friends, should you wish. Please note that reserved seating will not be offered, and that seating will be allocated on first-come, first-served basis.

Please arrive at the Cathedral by no later than 1715, ready for the start of the Service at 1730.

The Lady Mayoress and I look forward to seeing you on the day.

MARKING THE MONTH OF RAMADAN

I would like to advise Members that time will be provided today to break the fast and for prayers during the adjournment at approximately 1800.

GIFT TO THE CITY

I would like to inform Members and Senior Officers that, at approximately 1830 during this meeting's short adjournment, I will present my gift to the City, which will be given as a memento of our year in Civic office. I shall also announce the gift which I intend to buy with the money you so kindly collected in order to mark the year.

All are invited to join me in the Banqueting Hall for this short announcement during the break.

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 is certainly not easy to replace.

I would like the Council to place on record its sincere gratitude and appreciation for their contribution to the life of this 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 2 May.

Distribution:

Lord Mayor (Cllr Gerry Barker)

Chief Executive (Dr Lorraine O'Donnell)

Interim Director of Legal and Governance and 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)