



# A message from the Leader of the Council Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe



## Dear business

Thank you for the vital contribution you make to our district. You create wealth and jobs and many of you take pride in being a focal point of your local communities. The best businesses are an important part of what makes our towns, villages and city special and I am grateful for the difference you make.

I realise no one likes to receive a bill, especially in challenging times. National government sets business rates and councils have to collect them. But you can be assured that your business rates make a very significant contribution to the local services we all rely on. We invest the funds that are raised in street cleansing, road improvements, streetlights and public transport, in our wonderful parks and green spaces, in health and social care, in education, museums, theatres and libraries. As a valued local business you are helping to fund the services and infrastructure that make this district a better place to live and work.

Whilst providing the services that people rely on every day, we are investing to stimulate economic growth for the future. We are delivering regeneration schemes at pace – top class office space at One City Park, a market for the future at Darley Street, a world class music and events venue at Bradford Live and a host of investments in Keighley and Shipley to boost economic growth and improve the public realm in our towns. At the same time we continue to invest significantly in SkillsHouse – our award-winning education, training and skills partnership, which up-skills residents and matches them with good jobs to help businesses grow.

Bradford's year as UK City of Culture 2025 will bring a substantial boost for the district's businesses. The positive impact is already being felt with increased

confidence in Bradford as a place to do business. The experience of previous host cities shows that the City of Culture status is a catalyst for economic and social change, with a positive legacy for many years after. City of Culture attracts significant inward investment, with potentially 7,000 new jobs set to be created, a likely visitor spend of around £700 million and a £365m boost in GVA for our local economy.

There's no doubt these are challenging times for the country. The high cost of living continues to impact on businesses, households and the public and voluntary sectors. After 13 years of national austerity, followed by the Covid pandemic and unprecedented inflation, the cross-party Local Government Association has called on government to address the multibillion-pound shortfall in funding for councils. However, we do not let these challenges dim our ambitions for the place.

We are the youngest city in the UK, with great entrepreneurial talents and immense growth potential. We are investing in our people and their skills and we are building the right infrastructure to support businesses to grow – right across our district's wonderful urban and rural landscapes we are so lucky to call home.

Thank you for all you do for Bradford District.

Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe, Leader of Bradford Council

The wording in this publication can be made available in other formats such as large print and Braille. Please call 01274 437866.

## What are Business Rates?

Business Rates is a tax set by national government but is collected by local authorities.

## Pay your bill on time

You must pay your Business Rates by the date shown on the front of your bill. If you cannot pay on time, you must contact us immediately with an alternative payment proposal.

## Keep your information up to date

It is your responsibility to tell us about changes which may affect your Business Rate bill. You should tell us about any changes within 21 days. We may request evidence, such as leases, to support any changes you tell us about.

## What happens if I don't pay?

If you don't pay your bill on time, the council will take action to enforce payment. This will include;

- Issuing a summons to court,
- Enforcement Agents calling to recover monies due including taking your personal or business assets/ goods in settlement of the sums outstanding,
- Personal bankruptcy or the liquidation of your company.

This will incur substantial additional costs.

## Discounts or Exemptions

**You may be contacted by private companies offering to help to lower your bill who may charge you for doing so. If you think you may be entitled to a discount or exemption, please contact us in the first instance as we will consider your request at no cost to you.**



## Sign up today for Direct Debit

Why not join many businesses in the Bradford district who pay their Business Rates bill by Direct Debit?

- the easiest way to pay – your bank does all the work for you
- choice of payment dates – either the 5th, 10th, 15th or 28th of the month

To sign up for this service, go to  
[www.bradford.gov.uk/directdebit](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/directdebit)

## Business Rates services available online



- pay your bill
- set up a Direct Debit
- request paperless billing
- tell us about changes of address
- ask for a copy of your bill
- apply for discounts or exemptions



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