



A message from the Leader of the Council Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe



Dear business

First of all, thank you for making our district a better place. I know that lots of our businesses contribute hugely to our local communities in all kinds of ways, from creating good jobs and generating wealth to supporting good causes. You are a big part of what makes this a great place to live and work.

I appreciate that no business owner wants to receive a bill like this especially in challenging times. National government sets business rates and as your council we are required to collect them. But you can be assured that your contribution is vital for our place. This is all the more important in an era when council funding has been reduced. Your contribution helps to fund the local services we all rely on, like street cleaning, parks, museums and social care to name a few. We invest these funds in the infrastructure you need to help support and grow your business and that our residents need to live happier, healthier lives.

Despite the challenging economic circumstances in the country at the moment, our district is well placed to capitalise on a more hopeful future. Our district is the UK City of Culture 2025, which will bring a big influx of visitors with national and international media showing our district as a place of opportunity. We have always been clear that a fairer, more successful Britain needs a successful Bradford at the heart of the North.

As well as UK City of Culture, we have lots more to look forward to, including a cleaner and greener transformed city centre, the opening of top class offices at One City Park, a brand new Darley Street Market and a host of improvements in Keighley and Shipley to improve the public realm of our town centres and boost business growth.

These are challenging times for local authorities, businesses and towns and cities across the country. However we believe in our place and we believe in businesses like you to invest with us in a better future.

Thank you for everything you do for the 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

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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Visit www.bradford.gov.uk/businessrates for more information