

# Bradford District Quarterly Economic Update

November 2011

## Introduction

The aim of this update is to provide analysis on key economic statistics and indicators and an overview of the current national and local economic conditions. It also reports on the progress of new and ongoing regeneration projects and programmes and provides case studies of delivery.

The latest economic data for Bradford shows that the local economy is still bearing the impact of the recession with weak jobs growth, rising unemployment levels and a recent drop in business confidence.

There are however positive signs with regard to the regeneration of the city centre. Retail sales have held up, construction of City Park is nearing completion, Westfield have had a revised planning application approved and the city is in the process of securing £17.6 million from the Regional Growth Fund to promote business growth in the city centre.

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Culture Fusion: state of the art  
youth centre on Thornton  
Road

## National economy

- Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures show GDP growth of 0.5% in the third quarter, and growth of 0.5% over the last year.
- Over the third quarter, service sector output was up 0.7%, production up 0.5% and construction down 0.6%.
- Manufacturing output increased by 0.2% between August and September after declining 0.3% in the previous month. It is the first time the sector has seen growth since May.
- After reaching a record level of 5.2% in September, Consumer price inflation dropped by 0.2% to 5.0% in October, largely as a result of supermarket discounts on food prices, and lower air fares and fuel prices.
- Employment fell by 178,000 in the latest quarter (to June-August) and it is 47,000 lower than a year ago. It is likely that private sector employment is no longer expanding at a fast enough pace to offset contraction in the public sector.
- On the Labour Force Survey (LFS) measure, unemployment is now 2.62 million, the highest level since 1994, up by 129,000 on the previous three months. The claimant count measure has gone up for eight consecutive months and was up by 5,300 in September to 1.60 million.
- Earnings growth has remained low, despite this year's rise in price inflation. Over the last year, to August, regular pay was up just 1.8%, while total pay, which also includes bonuses, increased by 2.8%.
- Figures from the British Retail Consortium (BRC) showed that like-for-like retail sales values were down 0.6% compared to October 2010. Food sales were up 1.8% on a like-for-like basis but non-food sales were down 1.8%.

### Key indicators

**GDP Quarterly Growth: ↑0.5% (Q3)**

**CPI Inflation: 5.0% (Oct)**

**RPI Inflation: 5.4% (Oct)**

**Interest Rate: 0.5% (Nov)**

**Unemployment: 8.3% (July-Sept)**

**HM Treasury pocket Databank:**

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data\\_indic\\_index.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_indic_index.htm)

### Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership strategy launched

The Leeds city region LEP launched its strategic priorities at the annual LEP summit in September. Developed by the LEP the plan sets out the key areas for investment and delivery in the city region over the next five years. The four strategic priorities for the city region are:

- Unlocking the growth potential of business and enterprise.
- Enabling a flexible, skilled workforce.
- Facilitating a low carbon economy.
- Creating the environment for growth.

Planned outcomes by 2016 include local delivery of Business Coaching for Growth, a new Government programme for supporting potential high growth business (in partnership with a selected contractor), a proactive sales capacity in the city region to generate investment leads, more effective alignment of skills provision and guidance for young people to meet the current and future needs of LCR employers, increases in the number of employers offering apprenticeships from 11% to over 20%, a LCR Skills Investment Fund to foster innovation and a Green Investment Bank in the Leeds City Region.

The recently announced Growing Places fund, along with the European Regional Development Fund, revenue from the city region enterprise zone and private sector investment will be used to deliver against the priorities.

For more information on the city region LEP and the plan please visit <http://www.leedscityregion.gov.uk/LEP.htm>

## Bradford economy – overview








The Bradford economy is still bearing the impact of the recession with weak jobs growth and a growing proportion of the workforce not in employment. Youth unemployment has risen with particular concern over the high level of worklessness among young women. Business confidence has fallen back following improvements over the previous year.

There are however positive signs with regard to the regeneration of the city centre. Retail sales have held up, construction of City Park is nearing completion, Westfield have had a revised planning application approved and the city is in the process of securing £17.6 million from the Regional Growth Fund to promote business growth in the city centre.

- Bradford's population continues to grow and has increased by almost 6,000 over the year to mid-2010. Natural growth and international inward migration are the biggest drivers of population growth. Bradford has the highest proportion of under-16 year olds of any major city in Great Britain.
- The number of people in employment has fallen sharply following the recession. There were 10,600 fewer residents in employment over the 12 months to March 2011, the largest absolute fall of any local authority district in the UK. This represents a 5.0% fall in employment compared to slight growth of 0.4% across the UK as a whole.
- Employment rates in Bradford have declined sharply over the year, from 65.3% in March 2010 to 61.3% in March 2011. This is the lowest employment rate in the city region and remains well below the average city region (67.9%) and UK (70.2%) rates. Less than half of all working age women are in work.
- There are now 24,900 people unemployed in Bradford, accounting for 11.0% of the economically active working age population, higher than the city region (8.7%) and UK (7.7%) rates.
- Claimant count unemployment increased significantly over the 12 months to July 2011 with JSA claimant count unemployment increasing by 15.9%, twice the national rate of 7.0%. Youth claimant count unemployment has also risen sharply with rates for young men increasing by 18.9% over the 12 months to July 2011 and rates for young women increasing by 27.5%.
- Retail expenditure in Bradford city centre rose by £58 million between 2008 and 2010 despite the recession. However pedestrian footfall has declined over the past year and the number of vacant retail premises in secondary retail locations has increased.
- The public sector accounts for 34% of all employee jobs in Bradford district compared to 28.5% nationally. Growth in health and education employment has masked a significant fall in private sector employment. Between 2000 and 2010 the number of public sector jobs in the district increased by 10,200 to 64,600, an increase of 19%. During the same period private sector jobs fell by 18,700.
- More recently, employee jobs fell by 2.1% between 2008 and 2010. This was better than a national fall of 3.1% and a 3.5% fall across the city region as a whole. Manufacturing employment actually rose slightly (0.1%) in Bradford compared to a city region fall of 5.9% and a national fall of 8.9%.
- Overall public spending cuts will result in the loss of around 4,700 public sector and 2,100 private sector jobs and means that around 7,000 new private sector jobs will be needed to replace the jobs lost. Factoring in a growing workforce means that around 14,600 new private sector jobs will be needed.
- Growing private sector jobs and business is a key challenge and much will depend on improving the competitiveness of local businesses. Bradford ranks 309th out of 379 localities in the UK Competitiveness Index 2010 and ranks 37th of the UK's 43 largest cities.
- Economic recovery after the recession remains fragile but jobs are set to grow over the medium to long term with Bradford forecast to have one of the highest rates of growth in the Leeds city region over the medium term to 2016.

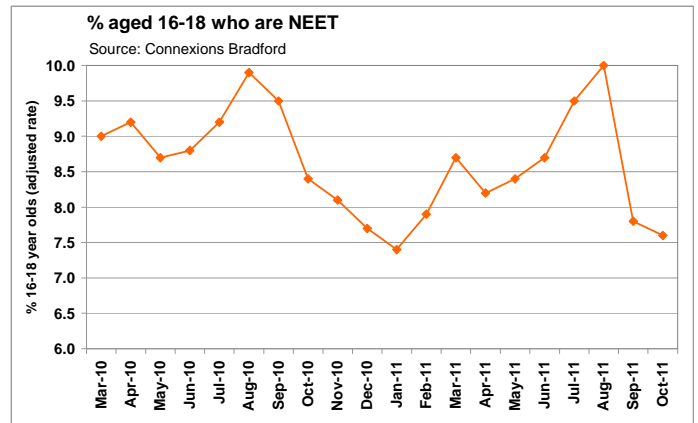
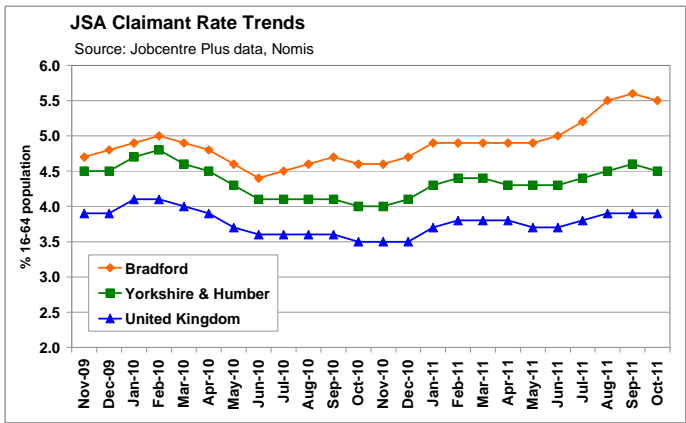
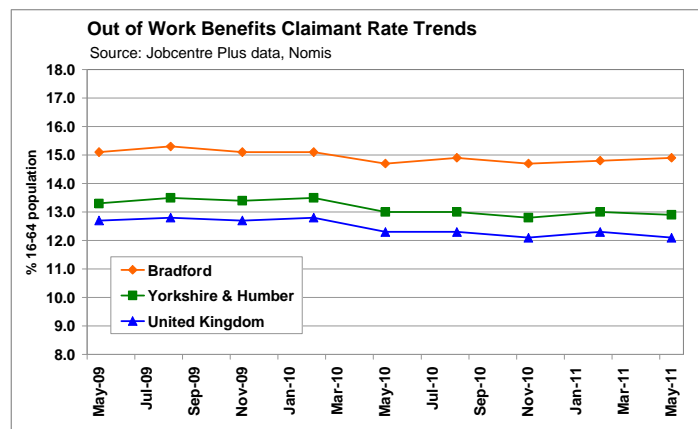
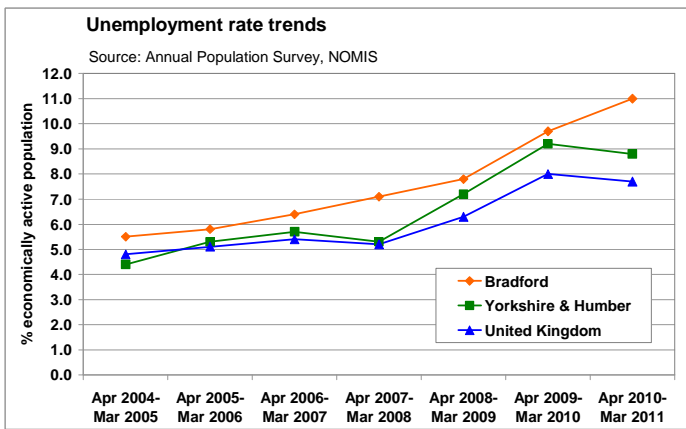
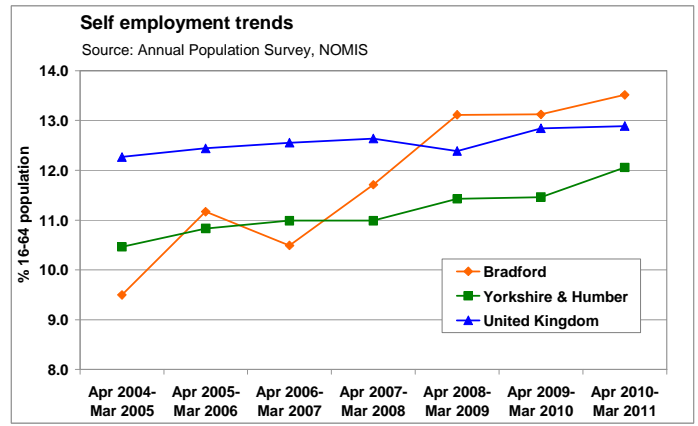
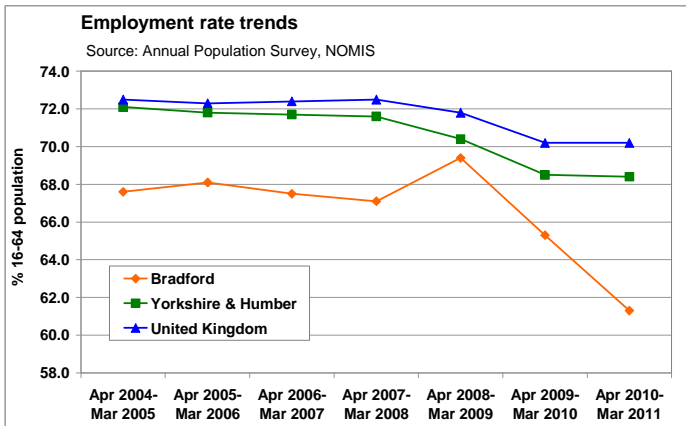
## Economic indicators

The following indicators have been selected to provide quarterly monitoring of headline trends in the local economy. These are indicators which are updated at least every quarter and provide an overview of local labour market conditions. Please note that there is a lag of 6-9 months on the publication of the Annual Population Survey, and so the table below represents the latest available data at the time this report was published.

<b>Key Economic Indicators November 2011</b>	<b>Bradford</b>	<b>Yorkshire &amp; Humber</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>Bradford - annual change in rate</b>
<b>Employment rate</b> % of 16-64 who are in employment Source: Annual Population Survey Period: April 2010 - March 2011	<b>61.3%</b>	<b>68.4%</b>	<b>70.2%</b>	<b>-4.0</b> 
<b>Self employment rate</b> % of employed who are self employed Source: Annual Population Survey Period: April 2010 - March 2011	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	<b>-0.3</b> 
<b>Unemployment rate</b> % of economically active 16-64 who are unemployed Source: Annual Population Survey Period: April 2010 - March 2011	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>+1.3</b> 
<b>Economic inactivity rate</b> % of 16-64 who are economically inactive Source: Annual Population Survey Period: April 2010 - March 2011	<b>31.1%</b>	<b>25.0%</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>+3.4</b> 
<b>JSA claimant rate</b> % of 16-64 claiming JSA Source: Jobcentre Plus Period: October 2011	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>+0.9</b> 
<b>Out of work benefit claimant rate</b> % of 16-64 claiming one or more out of work benefits Source: DWP WACG data Period: May 2011	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	<b>12.1% (Great Britain)</b>	<b>+0.2</b> 
<b>NEET rate</b> % of 16-18 year olds who are NEET Source: Connexions Period: October 2011	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-1.2</b> 

*The annual change in rate is measured by the difference between the current period and the same period for the previous year.*

# Economic trends



## Focus on...

### The growth in unemployment in Bradford

#### The growth in unemployment in Bradford

Analysis of the district's monthly Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimant count figures over the 12 months to August 2011 has highlighted the following trends:

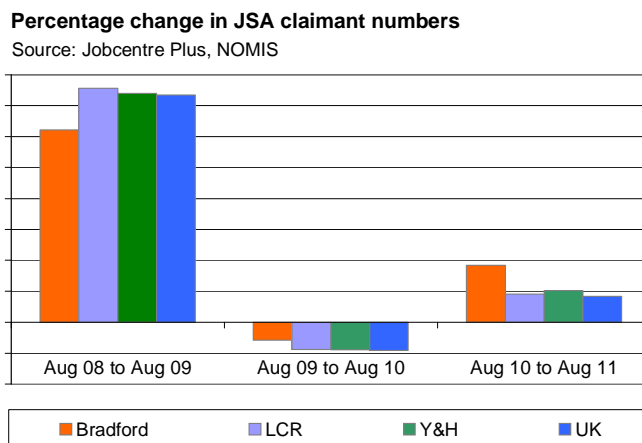
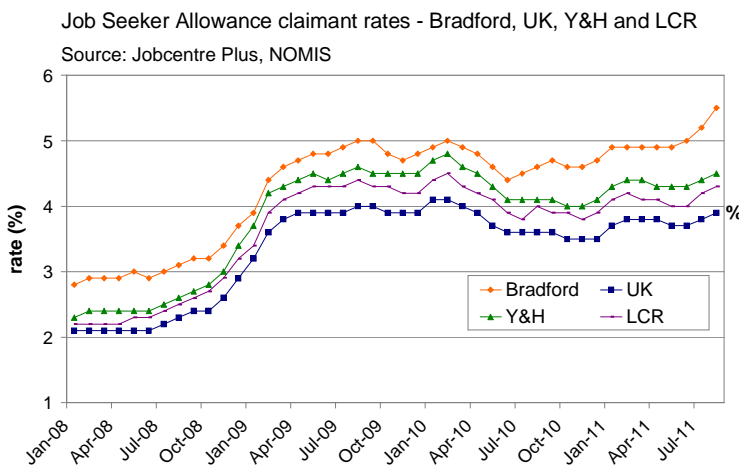
- Bradford experienced the second largest absolute increase in claimant count unemployment of any district over the most recent year (to August 2011).
- The rate of increase was the 15th fastest in the country but many of the districts above this position are smaller authorities.
- Unemployment is growing more rapidly in Bradford than in any other district in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- Female unemployment in Bradford is growing more rapidly than male unemployment. Bradford experienced the second fastest rise in female unemployment in the Y&H region.
- Male unemployment in Bradford has grown faster than in any other district in the region.

#### Unemployment has risen more rapidly in Bradford than in the region and UK

Over the year to August 2011, Bradford experienced a relatively large increase in the number of JSA claimants, rising from 15,123 to 17,900. This was an increase of 2,777 or 18.4% over the period and as such far exceeded the average national increase (+8.3%) and regional increase of 10.3%.

The first chart below shows Bradford broadly following national and regional unemployment trends until around April 2011 after which Bradford's unemployment rose much more steeply.

During the recession (mid 2008 to 2009) unemployment in Bradford didn't rise as quickly as in Leeds city region (LCR), Yorkshire and the Humber region (Y&H) and the UK. Following the recession, however, Bradford has fared relatively badly with unemployment not falling as quickly as elsewhere and in the most recent year to August 2011 rising more rapidly in the district.



#### Female unemployment rose more rapidly than male unemployment

The rise in unemployment among women in the district has accounted for around half (50.3%) of the total increase even though women account for only around a third (32.3%) of total unemployment in the district. This is in part due to some lone parents losing their entitlement to Income Support and switching to JSA instead.

#### Deprived areas underwent significantly larger rises in unemployment than less deprived areas

Increases in claimant unemployment over the year to August 2011 ranged from 4.4% in Shipley parliamentary constituency to 32.7% in Bradford West with Manningham ward undergoing a 40.7% rise. Approaching half (44%) of the district's total unemployment increase was in Bradford West. Overall, unemployment grew more rapidly in Bradford's 20% most deprived LSOAs (Lower Level Super Output Areas, based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010) than in the less deprived parts of the district – part of a trend experienced across England as a whole.

### **Ethnic minority people in Bradford have experienced a significantly larger rise in unemployment than the white population**

Over the most recent year the number of ethnic minority claimants in the district increased by 25.3% compared to a 12.1% increase in the number of white people unemployed. Ethnic minority women have experienced far larger increases in unemployment than ethnic minority men.

### **Young men aged 18 to 24 years experienced a relatively sharp rise in claimant unemployment**

The increase in male youth unemployment was over 20% but women aged 25 to 39 years were hit by rises in unemployment above 40%.

### **More vacancies have been created in the local economy but not enough to reduce the unemployment to vacancy ratio**

The number of JSA claimants chasing each Jobcentre vacancy has risen from 6.8 in November 2010 to 8.1 in August 2011 - a significantly higher ratio than found in Y&H and UK.

### **The number of new JSA claimants who formerly worked in sales and elementary trades occupations have risen considerably**

There was an increase in the number of JSA claimants who formerly worked in the public sector but the total was very small compared to those from sales (an increase of 2,545 over the most recent year) and those from elementary trades (an increase of 515).

### **Reasons for the growth in unemployment in Bradford**

- Around half of all lone parents (predominantly women) ceasing to claim Income Support as a result of benefit entitlement changes over recent years, started to claim Jobseekers Allowance, thereby moving from economic inactivity to unemployment. This has contributed to the rise in female unemployment in the district.
- A decrease in government sponsored training opportunities available to those claiming JSA mean fewer claimants, especially men, are able to leave the claimant count.
- An increasingly competitive labour market with more people chasing each vacancy means that the most disadvantaged in the labour market may be losing out to those with higher skill levels. Fewer men and women now leave the claimant count to enter work or increase part-time hours.
- Areas of relatively high deprivation in Bradford have been especially hard hit by rising unemployment with Bradford West faring the worst. Bradford has a relatively high proportion of deprived areas (as identified in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010) which has contributed significantly to the total growth in unemployment in the district.
- Unemployment among ethnic minority people has been rising more rapidly than for white people across the country and region and has been especially high in Bradford. As Bradford has a relatively large proportion of ethnic minority people this trend has resulted in a relatively large number of additional claimants to the district's total unemployed.
- An increase in the number of claimants who formerly worked in sales and elementary trades occupations has also contributed to an increase in the total number of JSA claimants.

A more detailed report will be produced shortly which identifies groups and areas in the district experiencing the greatest increases in unemployment. The report also indicates some of the reasons behind these rises and the need for further research to more fully understand the developing pattern of rising unemployment in the district. The report will be available to download from the Bradford Economy web pages below from Friday 18 November:

XXXXXXX

## Case studies

### Future Jobs Fund

The Future Jobs Fund (FJF) was a response by the previous government to the recession that began in 2008. The idea was to create 6 month temporary jobs targeted at young people and those living in unemployment 'hotspots'. All jobs paid at least minimum wage and were required to provide community benefit. Bradford Council made an ambitious bid for FJF funding for 1,250 jobs. Ultimately 1,038 jobs were created between January 2010 and March 2011. £6,500 was awarded per vacancy, a total of £6.74m.



In September 2011, an evaluation of Bradford's FJF programme was completed. It found that 13 weeks after the FJF placements finished, just under 50% of participants had not returned to benefits. This is broadly comparable to the national and regional averages. The gross cost per job outcome was £10,800, but this does not deduct any benefits accruing to the Exchequer, for example reduction in benefit payments and increases in direct and indirect taxation. The net cost per job will be much smaller.

The key FJF benefits established by the evaluation included:

- It engaged employers, many of whom say they are now more likely to employ an unemployed young person or engage with future welfare to work programmes.
- It assisted in moving people off benefit dependency, some of whom had been on benefits for considerable periods of time and had multiple barriers to employment.
- It raised people's career aspirations and their levels of relevant work experience, training and in some cases, qualifications.
- It benefited local voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, in terms of the expansion of programmes serving communities, programme and organisational development and in terms of an improved sense of citizenship and cohesion.

### New Saltaire Visitor Information Centre

Saltaire Visitor Information Centre (VIC) was matched funded by Bradford Council and LEGI and opened to visitors on 25 May 2011. The VIC is one of 4 Vist Britain official partner information centres within the district, the others are located in Bradford, Haworth and Ilkley.

Saltaire VIC is located in Sir Titus Salts board room in Salts Mill complex. Between May and October the centre saw 13,284 visitors and generated £15,504 in gift sales, exceeding both targets.



VICs are a key part of the Tourism Service and can be the first impression of not only the district, but of England for some international visitors. The VIC offers a wealth of information for both visitors and local citizens, including attractions, where to stay, events, museums and galleries and ticket sales for the district and the UK. They also stock a comprehensive range of maps, guidebooks, leaflets, brochures and can supply details on guided walks and public transport. There is also a range of gifts and souvenirs relating to the destination.

Saltaire VIC will work closely with Shipley College Tourism & Travel Department, offering work placements and other development opportunities for students.

Haworth VIC was runner up in the White Rose Awards and has been put forward as a finalist in the England Excellence Awards in spring next year.

The value of tourism to the district's economy stands at more than £500 million a year, with an estimated 8.6 million day trips within the district. The impact of this is more than 13,500 jobs supported by the tourism and retail sector.

# Regeneration projects

## City Park

Fountains Workshop Ltd, the City Park water feature specialist subcontractor, is in the process of checking and adjusting the fountain jets. Once complete the lighting artist Haque Design and Research Ltd will commence their commissioning programme working with the fountains specialists to coordinate the laser lighting and the fountains programmes.

The paving is almost complete with only a small area adjacent to Princes Way that will continue beyond November. The works in this area include the final fit out of the Pavilion building ground floor where the public toilets, City Park Custodian base and a commercial unit are situated - all works to the water storage tank and pump room in the basement are completed. The remaining half of the police station is being fitted with a temporary recycled glass facade to improve the exterior until future delivery plans are agreed. The frame has been installed and the glass fitting is ongoing.

Following the installation of the Mirror Pool lighting columns, designed by Wolfgang Buttress, the remaining lighting columns are now being installed around City Park. The final landscaping works have begun with trees being planted on what was Channing Way, around the Mirror Pool itself and in the raised beds adjacent to Princes Way.



## Westfield Bradford

A revised planning application for a phased development was approved by Bradford Council in October 2011. Phase 1 is for over 50,000sqm of retail floor space in approximately 75 retail units located around 3 malls, plus car parking. Anchor retail tenants Marks and Spencer have been confirmed – and if negotiations with other potential retail occupiers continue to be successful, Westfield is looking to start construction work in early 2012. The Council is working closely with Westfield to bring forward the amended scheme which, if this timetable is kept to, is planned to be “open for business” within the next 2-3 years – and make sure as many local people as possible benefit from the resultant construction and retail jobs. A bid to the Regional Growth Fund bid for £17m towards public realm improvements for Westfield and business rate relief for eligible tenants and wider city centre businesses has been successful.



## Premier Inn

Gregory Property Developments Ltd has been progressing on the £5 million refurbishment of Broadacre House, a vacant ten-storey 1970s vacant office building on the gateway to Bradford city centre, into a Premier Inn Hotel. The 118 bedroom hotel development with a 70 cover restaurant on the ground floor is well under way. The hotel is set to open in December 2011 creating new jobs, and will reinvigorate the building, offering both a new image and a new use as a city centre hotel.



## Culture Fusion

The £7.38 million state of the art youth centre at a converted mill in Thornton Road, includes a rooftop events area, music and dance studios, a youth cafe, climbing wall, faith pod, elevated wildflower meadow and a gym. Construction on the building started in August 2010 and was officially opened on 31st October 2011. Culture Fusion provides a new base for organisations including the Bradford city centre Connexions Centre, the Information Shop for Young People, the Schools Linking Network and the YMCA. As a building for young people, Culture Fusion has involved young



people in all aspects of the project, from writing the bid, building and interior design and planning the launch event. Now that the building is open, young people will continue to be at the heart of the project's development.

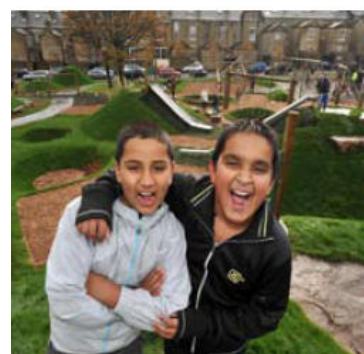
### **Airedale Masterplan**

- The 6 hectare Buck Lane development will provide new space for expanding scientific/technology companies. Works and reports to meet the conditions of the planning approval of December 2010 are soon to be completed. Interest from potential private sector end users is healthy.
- The North Street Keighley Town Heritage Improvement Scheme has begun awarding the £2m Heritage Lottery Funding and the first scheme is on site. The Council is contributing a further £700,000. The scheme aims to refurbish and bring back into use commercial heritage property along historic North Street, Church Street, Bridge Street and parts of High Street and Low Street.
- Stainsby Grange, a Leeds based developer has submitted a planning application for a major retail development in the East Parade area of Keighley town centre. Existing buildings owned by the developer are already being demolished to prepare the way. If approved, the £30m scheme aims to complement the existing retail offer provided through the Airedale Centre.
- Demolition of the former Leeds City College building at Harold Town, off Dalton Lane Keighley has begun. The building was difficult and surplus to requirements. The vacated site will provide a better offer for new investment in the midst of existing businesses. The former college building on North Street has now been vacated. A mixed use development remains the vision for the site.
- A meeting for Shipley Town Centre traders led by Cllr Green took place on 24 October. There were presentations on the developing Canal Road Masterplan, which takes in Shipley Town Centre at its northern end, and information on Town Centre Management issues, both ongoing and in the run up to Christmas. The meeting provided an opportunity for open discussion and will meet again in the new year.
- The Council's Economic Development and Property Service is leading on a piece of work to explore issues around Superfast Broadband within the Bradford district. Workshops for the public and private sectors will be run during December and January. Interested parties can contact Dave Melling on 01535 618095 or [dave.melling@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:dave.melling@bradford.gov.uk).



### **Manningham Masterplan**

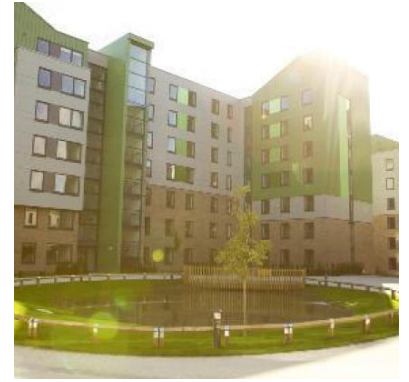
- The owner of Drummonds Mill has been exploring the potential for making further use of the major listed Mill that fronts onto Lumb Lane. Local consultation has been undertaken including an open session on 27 September at the Sweet Centre Restaurant directly opposite the Mill.
- The Manningham Neighbourhood Development Plan was agreed by the Council's Executive on 22nd July. The Executive endorsed the plan and agreed that the NDP be a material consideration which can be taken into account in the consideration of any planning applications. They also recognised that the plan must assist in accommodating the needs of the community, especially with regards to relieving overcrowding and planning constraints. Copies of the finished document are available at information outlets in Manningham including schools and can also be found on the Council's website: [http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/housing/strategies\\_plans\\_and\\_research/neighbourhood\\_plans](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/housing/strategies_plans_and_research/neighbourhood_plans)
- Manningham has been selected as one of five national pilot areas for a Co-Design on Worklessness Pilot Project, being led by Jobcentre Plus. The aim is to co-ordinate cross agency activity on worklessness support.
- Grosvenor Ground, a community led recreation project on Lumb Lane has secured funding to implement phase two of the project, to improve the sports pitch on the site and create new paths. The work is expected to be undertaken in spring 2012. Phase one was completed in November 2010 with a natural play area which has been very popular.



## The Green / Listerhills Triangle

The £40m BREEAM 'Outstanding' 1,026 bed student village, The Green, was completed in August 2011 and opened to students in September. The development partners formally launched the project on 12 September as part of the British Science Festival that was hosted by the University of Bradford this year. The Green has the highest ever BREEAM rating for any building, at 95.05%. This is the highest accredited award for sustainable building development and operation and the first BREEAM 'Outstanding' rated student accommodation in the country.

The Green is part of the wider £150 million Listerhills development which in turn part of the city's £750 million Learning Quarter scheme. The next element of the Learning Quarter is the Listerhills Triangle, a mixed use development focused on supporting health-related sectors. Work has started on refurbishing an existing building, Campus House, which is set to provide student accommodation and a retail unit. A nursery, gym, and further retail sites will also be included within the Triangle area. Bradford College is also running an OJEU competition for a contractor to deliver their new £40m building, which is expected to be on site next year.



## Travelodge

Barnfield Construction started work on the five-storey hotel in May 2011, on largely vacant land between Mill Street and Valley Road where the Canal Road Corridor joins the City Centre. The 23,000sq.ft building will provide a 69-bedroom Travelodge hotel with retail space available on the ground floor. Completion of the project in spring 2012 will bring jobs and further accommodation choice to the city centre. The hotel will create six full-time and 14 part-time jobs at all levels. Travelodge have said it will recruit locally.



## Living Street

A traffic-free route extending into the city centre. The 'Living Street' project is part of a national scheme from sustainable transport charity Sustrans, which was awarded £50 million by the Big Lottery Fund to provide new routes for walking and cycling across the country. Bradford Council, Sustrans and the community-led company Bradford Trident are working together on the project, a key part of which is to replace the old footbridge across busy Manchester Road with a modern steel structure giving easier access for pedestrians and cyclists. It will form part of a walking and cycling greenway connecting East and West Bowling with Marshfields and Little Horton. The current bridge has been taken down in sections ready for construction on the new bridge to begin in the spring.



# Press update

## **Morrisons thrilled by increase in shoppers**

11 November 2011, T&A

Bradford-based Morrisons attracted record numbers of customers to its stores in the latest quarter, it has revealed today. The supermarket chain, which boasts an 11.8 per cent share of the grocery market, said like-for-like sales were up 2.4 per cent in the 13 weeks to October 30. The store saw the number of shoppers passing through its doors each week increase by 450,000, taking its total number of shoppers to about 11.5 million each week.

## **City beats current champion Glasgow to become UK curry King**

1 November 2011, T&A

Bradford is the Curry Capital of Britain 2011 after beating four-times winner and current title holder Glasgow into second place. The announcement was made on 1 November by competition organisers The Federation of Specialist Restaurants. The district scored highly in every sector and the judges decided the Bradford bid showed deep understanding of the curry sector and particularly noted the creation of the International Food Academy and the Food Ministry.

## **Thousands of jobs on way in £17m boost for city**

1 November 2011, T&A

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills announced that a group of business leaders and members of Bradford Council had been successful in their £17.6m bid for cash from the Regional Growth Fund. That means 2,800 jobs in the city centre could be created with new and existing businesses because the cash will be ploughed into a rate relief fund for tenants moving into the Westfield shopping centre in Broadway and to other new businesses starting up. Eligible businesses will be able to claim a proportion of their business rates over three years, providing they create training and employment opportunities. Money will also be spent on works to link the Broadway shopping centre with Little Germany and the city's other shopping areas.

## **Funding pot for schemes that aim to improve Bradford's social futures**

29 October 2011, T&A

A clutch of pioneering projects aimed at transforming Bradford have been given a £130,000 funding boost. A total of 17 projects are sharing the cash after being picked from more than 100 applicants vying for funding from the Social Futures scheme run by Bradford Council, the UnLtd charity for social entrepreneurs and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Award winners included Gary Staniforth, for Hidden Voices, a campaigning magazine for the homeless; and Conor Ibrahim, for X-tremism, a project which will produce materials for schools, exploring issues around religious fundamentalism. The Little Germany Action Group will use the funding to kick-start regeneration in the area and the Manningham-based Zest for Life project, which offers support to post-operative patients using physiotherapy and counselling, has been recognised with an award.

## **£275m Bradford Broadway plan is approved**

20 October 2011, T&A

Planning permission has been granted for the long-awaited Broadway shopping centre development in Bradford, amid calls for Westfield to confirm when it will begin work on the key site. Detailed plans for the first phase of the £275 million revised plans were approved unanimously by Bradford Council's

regulatory and appeals committee. Members also agreed to outline plans for offices and apartments, the details of which must be finalised within seven years.

### **Carbon-neutral houses at West Bowling should be blueprint for others say judges**

6 October 2011, T&A

The first Council housing project in Bradford for 30 years, and the district's first zero-carbon homes, have scooped a regional sustainability award. The Pavilion Gardens 45-home development at West Bowling was officially opened two months ago. Twelve of the properties were the first in Yorkshire to reach level six of the Government's Code for Sustainable Homes. Bradford Council and the Homes and Communities Agency jointly funded the £5.6 million scheme, which was built by Lovell. The company has now picked up the Legacy Award for Sustainability at this year's Yorkshire and Humber Construction Best Practice awards.

### **Bradford Council's Skills for Work service honours those who have overcome barriers for work or training**

6 October 2011, T&A

Adults and young people from across the Bradford district were recognised for their achievements in gaining employment and training at a special ceremony last night. Bradford Council's Skills for Work service hosted the event at City Hall to reward people who have overcome barriers such as mental or physical disabilities. A total of ten awards were handed out at the ceremony, which also recognised the input of employers that have supported the programme.

### **A Bradford Council strategy has set out proposals for 45,500 new homes target**

23 September 2011, T&A

A development report outlines that 28,000 new homes will be needed in the regional city of Bradford, 7,900 in principal towns, 6,100 in local growth centres and 3,500 in local service centres in order to meet future housing needs by 2028. It is part of a core plan for the district which sets out a strategic approach to development and change for the next 20 years. The proposals come after studies looking at projected housing needs, infrastructure, land availability and earlier consultation. Once agreed the plan will become part of the Council's Local Development Framework, which is expected to replace the old Unitary Development Plan.

### **Food business to create 40 jobs in Bradford**

27 September 2011, T&A

Work is under way on building a 30,000 sq ft food manufacturing plant which Council chiefs hope will provide the base for a new business cluster near the city centre. Around 40 jobs will be created at the new CK Foods plant on Ripley Street, West Bowling, Bradford, which is due to open early next year.

## Further sources of information

### Claimant unemployment update

Monthly analysis of Job Seekers Allowance claimants in the district

Link: <http://www.investinbradford.com/bradford-economy/Economic+Intelligence/Monthly+unemployment+update>

### Local Labour Market Statistics

More facts and figures about Bradford's labour supply

Link: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038432028/report.aspx?town=Bradford>

### Business confidence

Bradford Chamber Quarterly Economic Survey

Link: <http://www.bradfordchamber.co.uk/uploads/Q311%20Report.pdf>

### Bradford Housing Market Bulletin

Looks at the latest news and statistics relating to the housing market in Bradford

Link: <http://www.bradford.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/C9AA9C46-3733-4D7A-B120-54437FF6CE0F/0/BHMBEdition13EuroTroubles.pdf>

## Links

### Bradford economy

[www.bradfordeconomy.com](http://www.bradfordeconomy.com)

### Bradford Observatory

[www.westyorkshireobservatory.org.uk](http://www.westyorkshireobservatory.org.uk)

### Invest in Bradford

[www.investinbradford.com](http://www.investinbradford.com)

### Bradford Chamber

[www.bradfordchamber.com](http://www.bradfordchamber.com)

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