



# Devolution & Working Between the Tiers

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City of Bradford MDC

[www.bradford.gov.uk](http://www.bradford.gov.uk)

# Bradford's Population: Key Facts

# 526,400

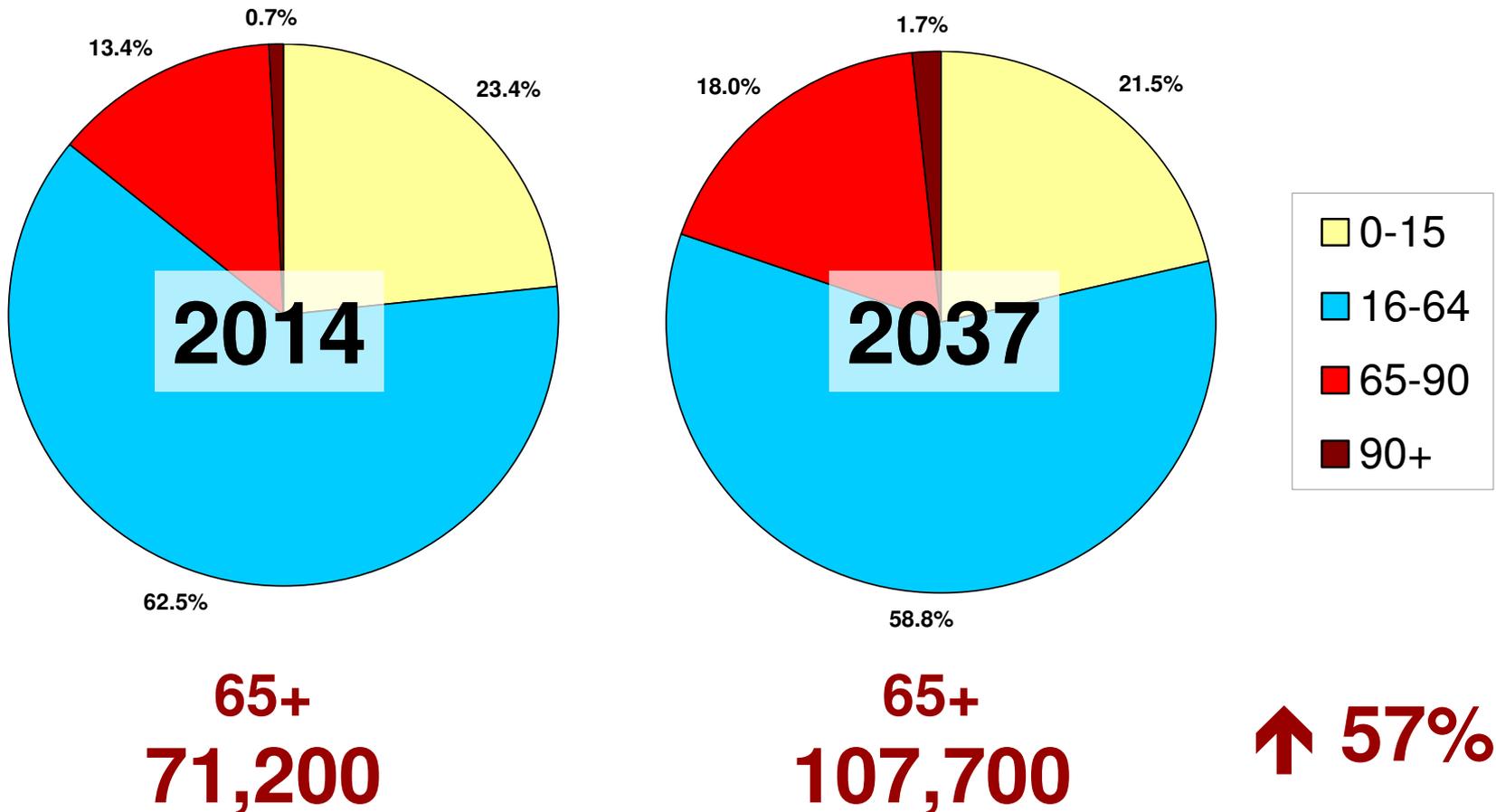
**4th biggest** population in England outside London  
(behind Birmingham, Leeds and Sheffield)

**3rd highest** number of 0-15 year olds in England - 123,800  
(behind Birmingham and Leeds)

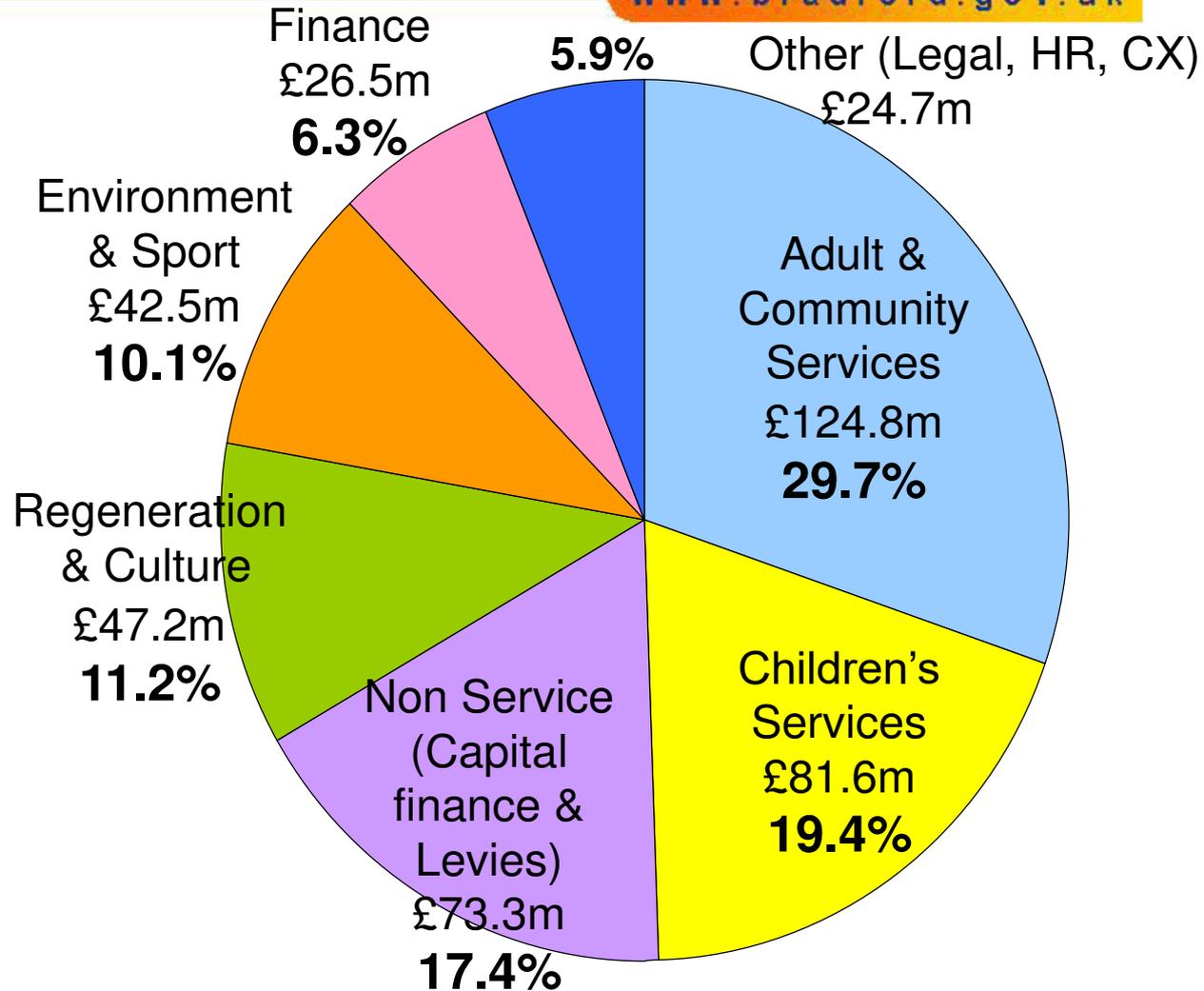
**Youngest English city outside London**  
23.5% of our population is under 16

## Future Population Trends

### Older people will form a larger proportion of the total population



- Nearly half the net budget is spent on Adults and Children's Services
- Another 17% goes on fixed costs like capital debt repayment and levies – these are hard to reduce in the short-term

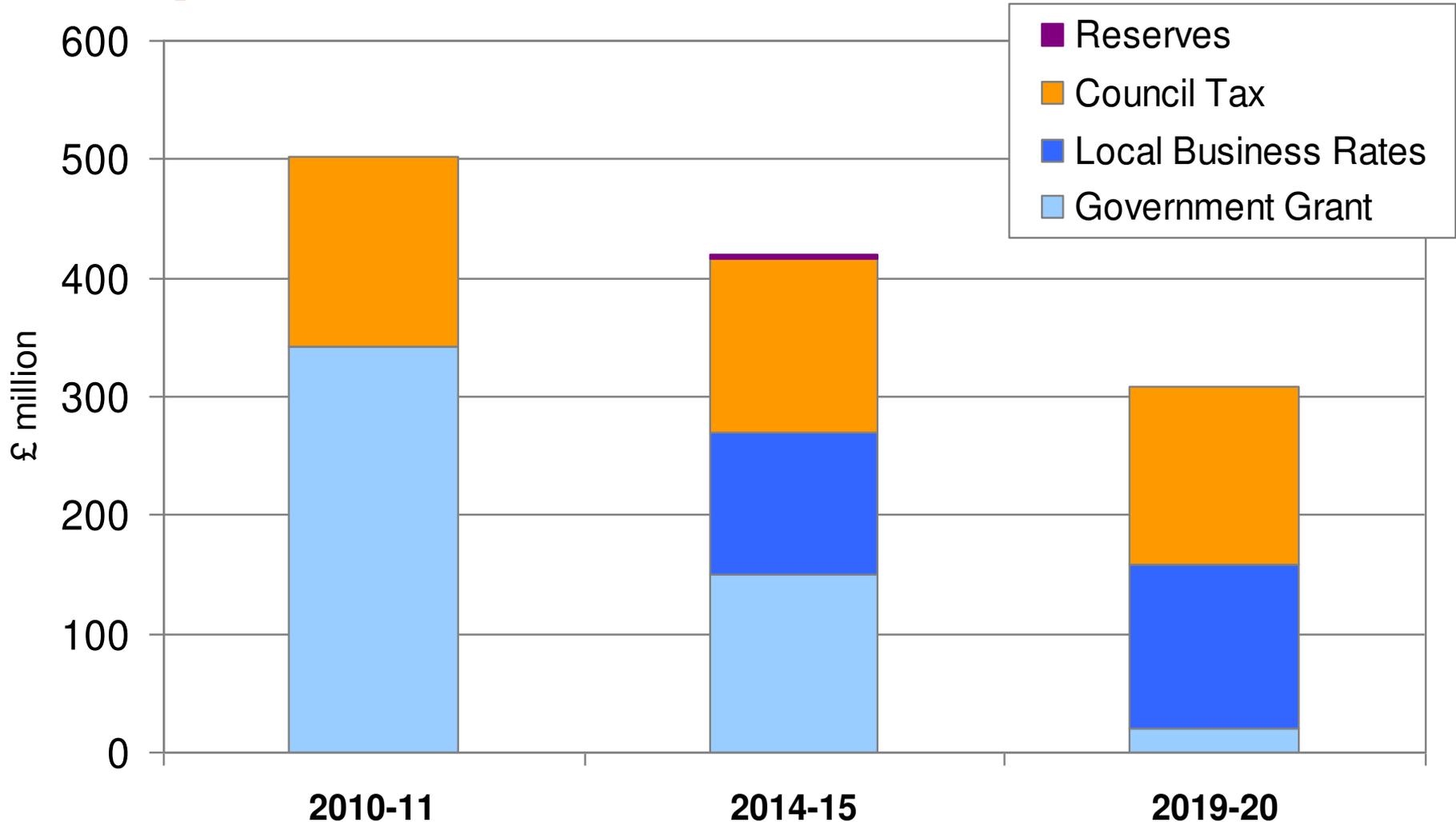


## Current Spending

(£million and % of net budget)

**Where the money goes**

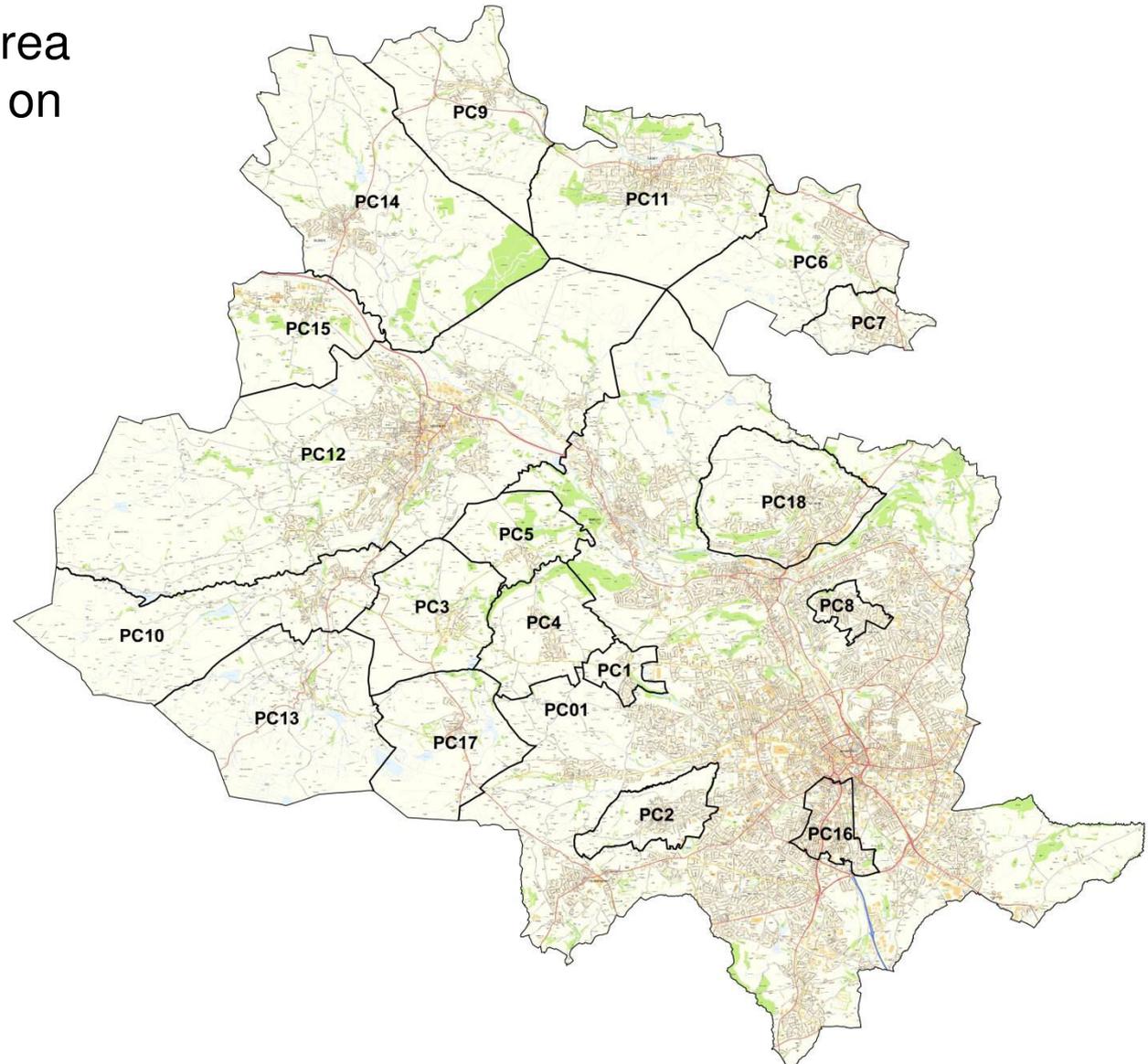
## By 2020 a greater share of income will be raised locally in Council Tax & Local Business Rates



## Parish councils in Bradford

- 142,000 electors covered by parishes, the largest for any district council in Yorkshire.
  - 41% of the total electorate and 70% of the area.
- 19 local councils of which 7 meet the NALC larger council criteria.
  - In a national context all are relatively large with electorates between 1,400 and 37,000.
- Post 1974 there were only 6 parishes. All others created post 2000.
  - Most are in outer areas but one council, Trident, is in the heart of the inner city.
- Average precept is 36% of national average.
  - Total funds raised by precept is £1.4 million, up by 59% from 2012-13

Bradford has five Area Committees based on parliamentary boundaries. Two of these are wholly or predominantly parished.



# The evolution of parishes in Bradford

- The growth in the number of parish councils led to an increased engagement between the tiers from about 2000.
- Until the austerity agenda parishes were viewed primarily as either consultees or lobbyists for services in their area.
- From 2010 some parishes became more interested in becoming service providers.
- Since 1974 virtually all public assets were owned by Bradford Council. Bradford was also responsible for the delivery of virtually all local services.
- A growing self confidence by a number of parishes has coincided with a recognition by Bradford that different service delivery models were needed.

# What Next – A New Deal!

- We need to reduce our net expenditure by 1 further £100 million over the next 4 years.
- A new relationship between citizen and state
- A new relationship with partners.
- Better understanding of needs and expectations

# The Localism Act

Sustainable Community Empowerment

## **Definition**

### **Community Asset Transfer (CAT)**

The transfer of land or buildings into the stewardship of third sector organisations by lease

# Criteria

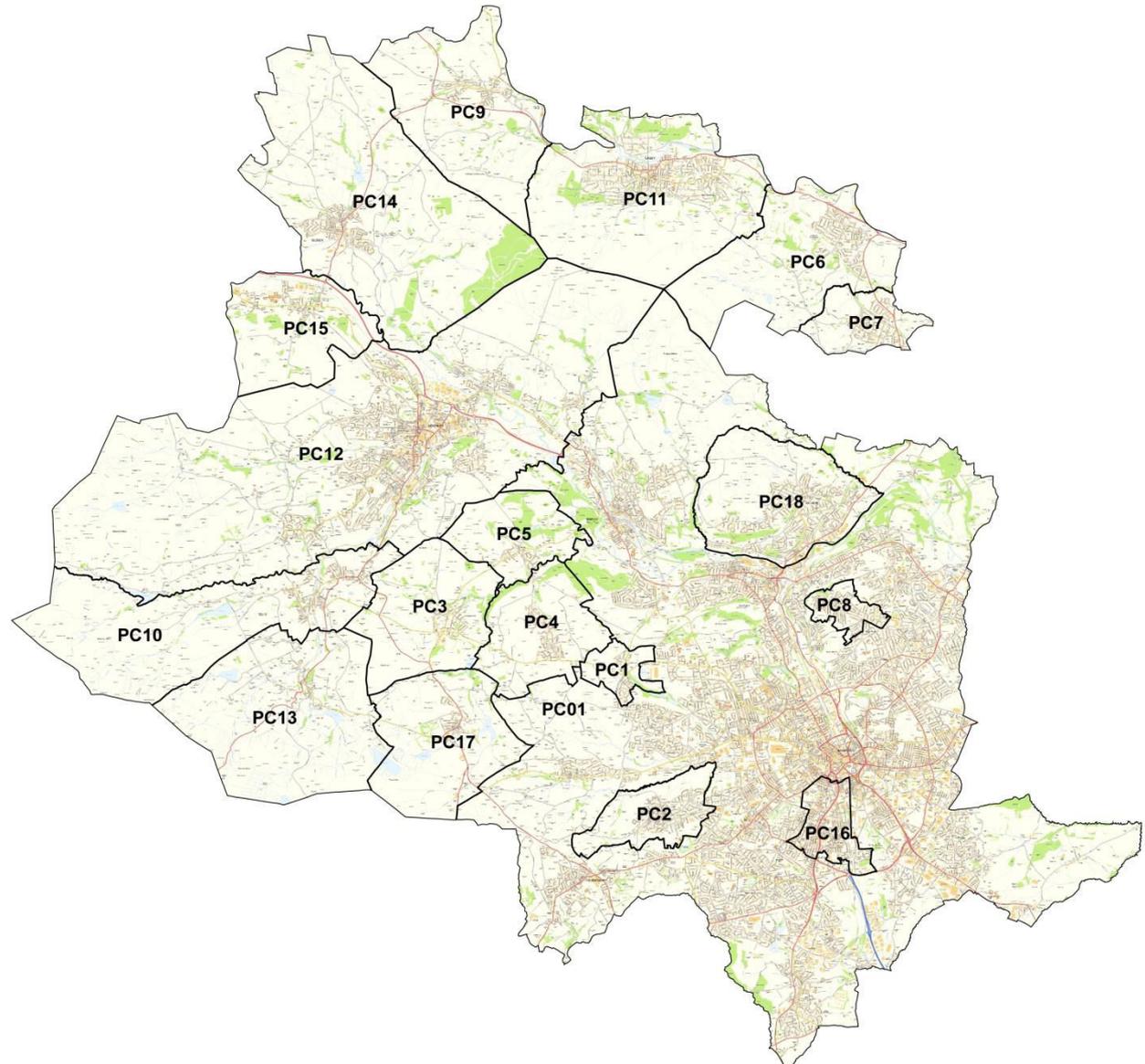
- Benefits - social, economic or environmental to diverse range of local people
- Demand
- Business case –showing a sustainable model
- Strong Governance
- Capacity – people with the right skill set
- Contribute to the corporate objectives
- Not duplicate or affect existing services or facilities

# Initial focus upon pilot areas

- Burley & Wilsden effectively selected themselves
  - Both are relatively large villages with an older and more affluent population than the district average
  - Both had aspirations for a higher level of service than Bradford was able to deliver currently
- Will the devolution model to parishes in metropolitan districts such as Bradford develop in a similar way to some of the larger local councils who have delivered high levels of local services since 1974?
- What are the implications of the Northern Powerhouse devolution agenda from central to local government?

Burley – PC6  
Population – 7,340  
Precept income  
£46,544  
Band D precept  
£15.88

Wilsden – PC4  
Population – 4,810  
Precept income  
£40,828  
Band D precept  
£24.13



# Burley Parish Council



- Building focus
- Disposal can generate capital receipt for reinvestment
- Includes property, community facilities and public open space.

# Wilsden Parish Council

- We have provided hanging baskets and managed a small grassed area, acquired through planning gain, since 2010 using sub-contractors
  - Volunteers, supported by the parish council, have managed the flower beds during 2016



# Wilsden Parish Council

- Main focus upon public open space
  - Assets in Wilsden, owned by Bradford, are not income generating and there is no potential to generate capital by asset disposal.
  - Although the parish is willing to use precept funding to support service delivery some financial support is required in order to sustain the service delivery without double taxation



# Wilsden Parish Council

- Management strategy
  - Councillors in conjunction with representatives of community groups will provide detailed direction to the management of green spaces in the village
  - Most routine work will be handled through sub-contractors
  - Aim is to minimise employment of additional staff and capital investment
  - Some additional training required e.g. play area routine safety checks
  - Contract value would be small enough to encourage participation by local companies to encourage community pride and buy-in

# Issues for Bradford

- Lack of experience and expertise
- Single Points of Failure
- Major unforeseen costs
- Loss of political control/influence
- What if
- Possible TUPE impact
- Capacity to meet demand generated

# Issues for parishes

- Not all parishes are equally keen on expanding their role
  - Most employ only a Parish Clerk
  - In order to deliver local services the job description of the Clerk may need to change fundamentally. Not all are equally keen
- Main focus is upon service delivery based upon operational expenses rather than capital
  - OK to acquire land & buildings not equipment?
  - Do we employ staff or sub-contract?
- Double taxation implications for both tiers
  - Transparency of fund allocation and equity of funding between neighbouring villages

# Opportunities

- Lowest level of subsidiarity
- Local control and 'ownership' putting decisions closest to those affected
- Maintains outcomes supporting vulnerable people
- Reduce costs e.g. travel to district extremities, local labour force
- Focus on the new core business