

DRAFT FOR PRESS RELEASE

LAUNCH OF BRADFORD WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Inspired by her visit to the Women of the Year Awards, at the InterContinental Hotel in London last October, the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor Naveeda Ikram, is to launch a local award to celebrate and recognise the women of the Bradford district.

The Lord Mayor said ‘I was relaxing on the journey home, thinking about the wonderful, inspiring and courageous women I had the good fortune to meet at the lunch and then thinking about the many local women I have encountered as a Councillor and Lord Mayor and thought that we should do more to celebrate these women who make such positive contributions to our local communities. Then just before Christmas I met up with Rev Dr Barbara Glasson, team leader at the Methodist Touchstone Centre, who told me she was thinking of organising an award to recognise the achievements of women in the district. It was the spur we both needed to make this happen’.

The awards will recognise women who live, work or are active in the Bradford district. Barbara said ‘We are looking for nominations for women of inspiration, dedication, commitment, courage and achievement, from the well-known to unsung heroines doing outstanding work in their community.’

The Lord Mayor and Barbara will be joined on the judging pane by Jane Vincent from Positive Bradford, Adeeda Malik MBE Deputy Chief Executive of QED, Liz Firth Chair of Bradford & District Women's Forum, Sandra Howard from Soroptimist International and the Telegraph & Argus's Hannah Baker.

People have until 31st January to nominate their Bradford Women of the Year. Winners will be presented with their awards at the annual International Women's Day Lunch hosted by the Lord Mayor at the Great Victoria Hotel on Thursday 8th March. All the nominees will be invited to the Bradford & District Women's Forum International Women's Day Event at Forster Community College on 10th March.

To nominate your Bradford Woman of the Year please complete the form below and return to the Lord Mayor's Office by 31st January 2012.

For more information on the Bradford Women of the Year Awards contact the Lord Mayor's Office on 01274 434965 or email lord.mayor@bradford.gov.uk

For tickets for the International Women's Day Lunch, priced at £20 each, please call 01274 434965 or email lordmayorsappeal@bradford.gov.uk

For more information about the Bradford & District Women's Forum International Women's Day event at Forster Community College on 0787 679 4453 by email on liz.firth@live.co.uk

ENDS

Contact – Alexis Jenner, Lord Mayor's Office, City Hall, Bradford. 01274 434965 Email alexis.jenner@bradford.gov.uk

Photo Opportunity – **Short listing by Judging Panel.** - Lord Mayor's rooms 6th February 1000hrs

Award Presentation – at International Women’s Day Lunch, Great Victoria Hotel, 8th March 12 Noon. Lord Mayor, Winners & Sponsors.

With all nominees - Bradford & District Women's Forum International Women’s Day Event at Forster Community College on 10th March 1430hrs.