



# COVID-19 BFT Community Response

Coordinated By  
**Bradford Foundation Trust (BFT)**



Bradford  
Foundation  
Trust

# Introduction

The World is facing an unprecedented challenge the with Coronavirus, Covid-19. This global challenge is currently crippling the UK, and all major cities are now working tirelessly to deal with the trial this represents and the expected peaking of the virus over the next 2-4 weeks.

Unprecedented measures have been taken and are still required, and with this civil society in the Bradford district is seeking to work together to respond. There is a commitment from across the charity sector, the business community, and local government to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable and ensure the city emerges from the virus, stronger, more united and in good health.

This short document represents a proposal for the City of Bradford Metropolitan Council. The proposal is a product of 10 days of extensive discussions across the key civil society actors and a position deemed workable by the key partners identified. Core purpose of this document is to identify existing VCSE and Local Business networks that are best placed to support BMDC to scale services as need arise over the coming weeks.

The key partners consulted and those supporting Bradford Foundation Trust (BFT) recommendations and proposal include:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. The Faith Centre (TFC)                      | 12. NKhanz                              |
| 2. The City of Sanctuary (CoS)                 | 13. In-Touch Foundation (ITF)           |
| 3. Mears Housing (MH)                          | 14. The Cellar Trust (TCT)              |
| 4. Council for Mosques (CFM)                   | 15. Staying Put (SP)                    |
| 5. Bradford 4 Better (B4B)                     | 16. Inspired Neighbourhoods (IN)        |
| 6. Community Action Bradford & District (CABD) | 17. Sharing Voices (SV)                 |
| 7. West Yorkshire Police (WYP)                 | 18. Rio Grande (RG)                     |
| 8. 30 Chapel Street (CS)                       | 19. MyLahore (ML)                       |
| 9. Save The Mothers Trust (SMT)                | 20. Lubna Food Limited (LFL)            |
| 10. Charity Right (CR)                         | 21. Regal Food Products Group Plc (RFP) |
| 11. Bradford Curry Project (BCP)               | 22. Sea Fresh (Adams) Cash & Carry      |

*'MyLahore as a community investor is committed to serving the people of Bradford. As a local employer we have always tried to invest in the city of Bradford and taken pride in projecting the Bradford brand as our HQ. We have worked with the Faith Centre form many years and alongside a number of other catering businesses are proud to partner with the Bradford Foundation Trust. We are able to manage catering for thousands of people through our factory in City Road additional and capacity is available from other consortium catering partners, we will make this available to the efforts of the city.'*

**Asghar Ali (Chief Executive)**

# Key Objectives

There are six key objectives of our proposal:

1. To ensure vulnerable people receive the health and social care they need
2. To ensure a faith and culturally sensitive service
3. To support our communities to look after one another
4. To support business resilience (Keep it Local)
5. To keep essential services running
6. To keep people informed about what to do, where to go for help and how to support each other.

## Engagement Upon Which Proposal Was Developed

Zulfiqar Karim (President of Council for Mosques CFM) invited BFT to a special consultation regarding the COVID-19 on Saturday 14th March 2020. BFT supported CFM with web, digital and marketing assets. Attended CFM Mosques meeting and supported suspension of congregation prayers.

Kim Shutter (CEO Cellar Trust) invited BFT to a special VCS Assembly to discuss COVID-19 on Monday 16th March 2020. Agreed to take lead on support the plans for Asylum Seekers and Refugees. Kim and Soo requested support to develop app to register interest from volunteers. All marketing resources and tools developed and launched on Thursday 19th with support of B4B team registering over 600 expressions of interest to volunteer in first 4 days.

Shadim Hussain (B4B Core member) met with Mohammed Mahmood and Noreen Akhter on 16th March to discuss how B4B can work better with BMDC and given likelihood of the Big Spring clean needing to be cancelled how we could mobilise volunteers to support any efforts around COVID-19.

BFT board held extraordinary meeting on 16th March and made commitment to support and work in collaboration with CFM, BMDC and VCSE sectors to ensure all parts of community and business get the message and mobilise to limit spread of infection.

BFT hosted video conference on 18th March to inform VCSE supporting asylum seekers, refugees and other vulnerable people of the challenges related to COVID-19.

Representatives from 16 organisations including City of Sanctuary, Mears Housing and BMDC joined call providing excellent feedback on the current and ongoing challenges related to this group (PFA meeting minutes). Set up google drive to map all VCSE and provided access to Matthew Henderson and Wahid Rashid at BMDC.

BFT hosted video conference on 19th March with food manufactures, retailers, catering firms and VCSE currently supporting vulnerable adults with food parcels. Discussed supply chain challenges and managed to galvanise support of the BMDC COVID-19 plan. Lubna foods, Regal Bakeries, MyLahores and many other hospitality and catering firms agreed to work as a collation to ensure foods are rationed sensibly in order to control distribution.

BFT hosted video conference on 19th March with medical, mental health and pharmaceutical professionals to discuss challenges around supply chain and support for those in isolation as well as bereavement support. Good representation and immediate concern was around education, awareness and tackling fake news.

BFT hosted conference on 20th March with Kersten England and representatives of 22 of the main venues for events, resolving issue with planned events. Discussed impact of closure and also how many business were ready and willing to support any planned efforts.

**These specific engagement efforts have been supported by a major effort with wider civil society. BFT has:**

- Engaged 50+ professionals
- Engaged 50+ business
- Engaged 30+ VCSE
- Deployed 20 senior volunteers over 500 hours to consult, advise, develop assets and this proposal.

## The Proposal

It is identified for the most vulnerable in the city to successfully challenge the threat of the virus and avoid the mass casualties which are a distinct possibility there are three key priorities which need to be managed.



# Human Resources

Bradford 4 Better has over 5,000 subscribers across network. BFT has worked with B4B to coordinate the recruitment of 600 skilled volunteers who wish to support the community through these difficult times. Both organisations are committed to supporting Bradford Volunteering and CABAD to filter through the 600+ applications and identify suitable volunteers to support the launch of phase 1 for local anchors on 25th March 2020.

We recognise alongside the general volunteers there is a very specific and important thread around emotional well-being and good mental health. This area of work will be led by key sector organisations (SP, TCT, IN, SV) our role will be to mobilise from the volunteer bank specialists for the following three areas;

- 1. Counselling for mental health issues**
- 2. Befriending loneliness**
- 3. Bereavement and Chaplaincy**

# Food Security & Life Essentials

Food security is a major challenge, and in the interests of providing essential supplies to the needy and managing the risk of looting/ rioting, it is essential a major in-community dry food hub is established. The hub should ensure a variety of foods to cater for the diverse and multi-cultural community in these areas. At the same time there is a number of people who do not have the physical ability to prepare meals for themselves, and as the virus progresses this will only increase, as such a hot meal distribution service will definitely be required.

**BFT has a two-tier solution available, should funding be secured:**

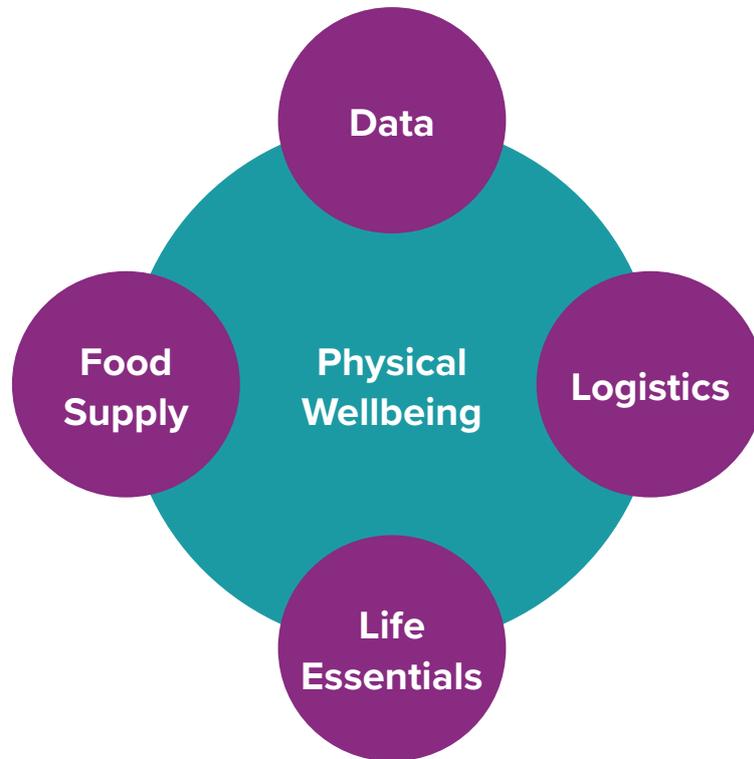
## **Dry Food Distribution Hub**

BFT has galvanised support and commitment from major local business, logistics and security partners, community venues, places of worship and volunteers to establish the set up and management one main hub.

An A1 7,500 sq foot retail/warehouse facility in secure retail park with adequate parking and loading facilities has been identified which has all the necessary infrastructure including racking, shelving, refrigeration and cold storeroom. It is possible to go live from this site within 72 hours. This hub would be well placed to service Bradford East and Bradford West Anchors and local hubs.

## Hot Food and Home Delivery Network

We believe that hot meal provision is critical for the vulnerable people of the city. We believe there are four key workstreams that need to be managed, and are as follows:



### Data

The Faith Centre and City of Sanctuary will work in partnership to co-ordinate with 10-15 other VCSE partners have a collective database of over 600 families and Mears housing is ready to work together and identifying other families.

### Logistics

SMT (Saved the Mothers Trust) have experience in food box home delivery and is currently already supporting adults over 65 in self isolation. With 30 volunteers they are in a good position to deliver food parcels and hot food direct to households.

### Mobile Services: Homeless

In-Touch Foundation has many years' experience mobilising hundreds of volunteers and serving thousands of meals to homeless people in Bradford. ITF is well placed to support the efforts of other sector organisations to provide hot meals.

### Cooked Meals

MyLahores and numerous other large caterers have agreed to support the cooking of hot meals with a potential collective capacity of up to 60k meals daily.

## Life Essentials

We intend to use the logistical effort for food supply to also ensure vulnerable people secure other 'life essentials. Through our engagement we have identified the following to be also essentials and could easily be added to the deliveries as they are despatched:

- i. Medicines
- ii. Sanitary products
- iii. Baby products (milk and nappies)
- iv. Energy tokens

# Communications

At the heart of the community response is keeping people informed. Silence and 'fake' news is what causes people to behave illogically and it is important we provide security and certainty of service levels to avoid further risks of anti-social behaviour. BFT will work in partnership with local health care professionals, CFM and BMDC

From our current experience there are three channels which are critical and our current team is well placed to manage:

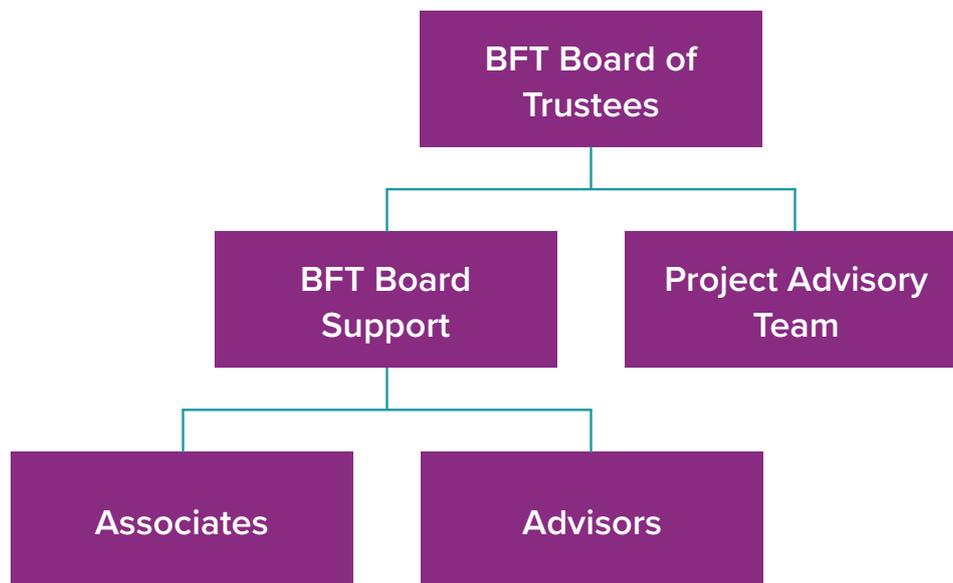
- Whasapp groups
- Nextdoor groups
- Social media

The fact we have managed to engage diverse mainstream media channels already reflects our ability to serve multiple audiences:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/coronavirus-muslim-mosque-closure-prayer-nhs-a9411936.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLDxpybJUDA&t=160s>

Our confidence comes from our comprehensive structure and expertise, which is reflected in over 100 years community experience from diverse areas. We are proud to represent people of many different traditions, faiths and cultures in our leadership team, as per the below:



This structure is made up from the following individuals who are leaders across civil society:

### BFT Board of Trustees

- Aweis Asghar - Raising Explorers
- Dr Ishtiyak Muhammad - The Eye Clinic
- AH Bewley - Muslim Faculty of Advanced Studies
- Will Sutcliffe - City of Sanctuary

### BFT Board Associates

- Shadim Hussain - My Foster Family
- Kim Shutter - The Cellar Trust
- Abda Khan - Better Start Bradford

### BFT Board Advisors

- Kamran Rashid - 39 Chapel Street
- Yusef Asghar - The Faith Centre

### Project Advisory Team

- Kashif Ahmed - Bradford 4 Better
- Dr Sohail Ahmad - A&E GP, British Islamic Medical Association
- Kim Shutter - The Cellar Trust
- Soo Neevison - Community Action Bradford District
- Shahid Islam - Born In Bradford
- Wafaa Nawaz - Inspired Neighbourhoods
- Yasmin Khan - Staying Putt
- Yusef Asghar - The Faith Centre
- Muhammad Shahid - Save The Mothers Trust
- Shadim Hussain - My Foster Family
- Sajad Mahmood - Charity Right

# Conclusion

As time is very limited it is essential to be brave and create a proposal that is agile and delivers for the community. It is also critical we recognise and embrace the diversity of the city and support key actors which have specialist knowledge in serving the community.

This proposal brings together many key organisations which have proven their appetite and ability. It is essential trust is reciprocated with us, and we work shoulder to shoulder to help some of the most vulnerable people of Bradford survive the very real threat of COVID-19.

## Appendix A.

Name	Lead area	Assets in place	What is required
Shadim Hussain (BFT) Kim Shutter (TCT)	Project Management Financial Management	New refurbished building, with 10 desk locations and large meeting room to host meeting as required	Project Budget equipment, budget for core staff and re-source development
Soo Nevison (CABD) Kashif Ahmed (Bradford4Better)	Volunteer recruitment and deployment	Volunteer recruitment form and geo-location app. Significant networks 5,000+	Volunteer Hub. Budget for resource development
Yusef Asghar (BFT) Luqman Rashid (CFM)	Food and essentials distribution	7,500 modern warehouse. Experienced workers Forklift truck 25 Volunteers Cold store and refrigeration	Financial resources to invest into products or donated products Pharmaceutical products Energy tokens Sanitary products
Shahid (Save The Mothers Trust) Sajad Mahmood (Charity Right)	Home Delivery Network	Warehouse Forklift truck 40 Volunteers	Food supply Volunteer expenses and equipment.
Osman Gondal (In Touch Foundation) Jon Royle (The Bridge Project)	Mobile hot meals (Homeless) Substance misuse	20 volunteers and mobile kitchen.	Food supply Volunteer expenses and equipment.
Dr Sohail Ahmad (Aelixir Media) Benyamin Farooqi (CFM)	Tech, digital assets and Communications	Web, Social media channels	Budget for staff and resource development
Wafaa Namaz (Inspired Neighbourhoods) Yasmin Khan (Staying Putt)	Mental Health and wellbeing, isolation support	Telephone, zoom and skype. Digital groups, triage support, intervention referral	Budget for core staff and resource development

## Hubs Required:

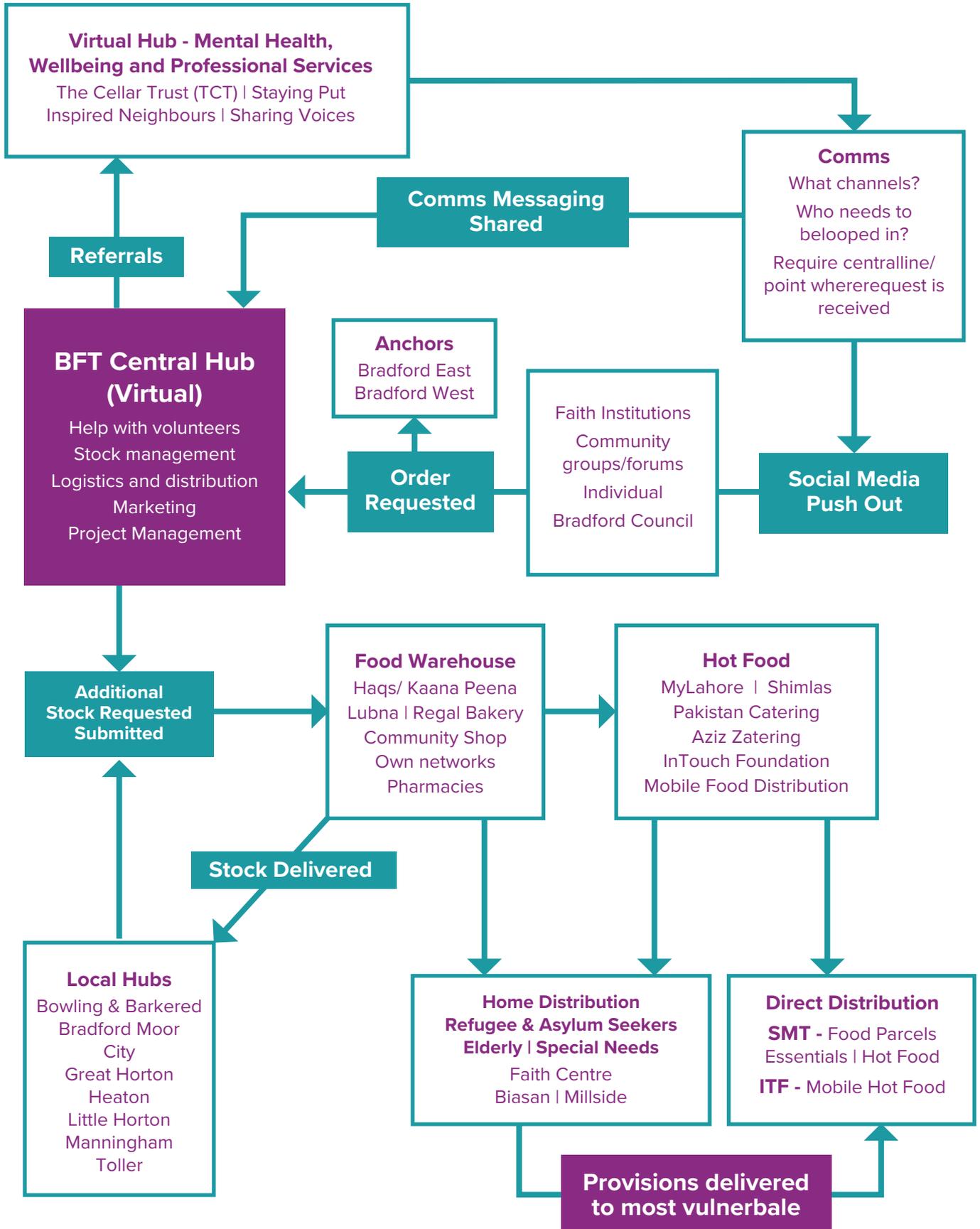
Priority area:	Lead organisation		Address
Central Management	One Centre – Bradford Foundation Trust	Central coordination	One Centre
Priority 1	Central Hub Bradford Foundation Trust	Food and supplies distribution	16 Legrams Ln, Bradford BD7 1ND
Priority 2	Save The Mothers trust	Home delivery depot Food boxes and hot food.	SM Complex, Beckside Ln, Bradford BD7 2JX
Priority 3	MyLahores	Hot Food cooking	8LD, 21B Thornton Rd, Bradford BD8 0BU
Priority 4	Inspired Neighbourhoods	Mental health and wellbeing	Wright Watson Enterprise Centre, Thorp Garth, Bradford BD10 9LD

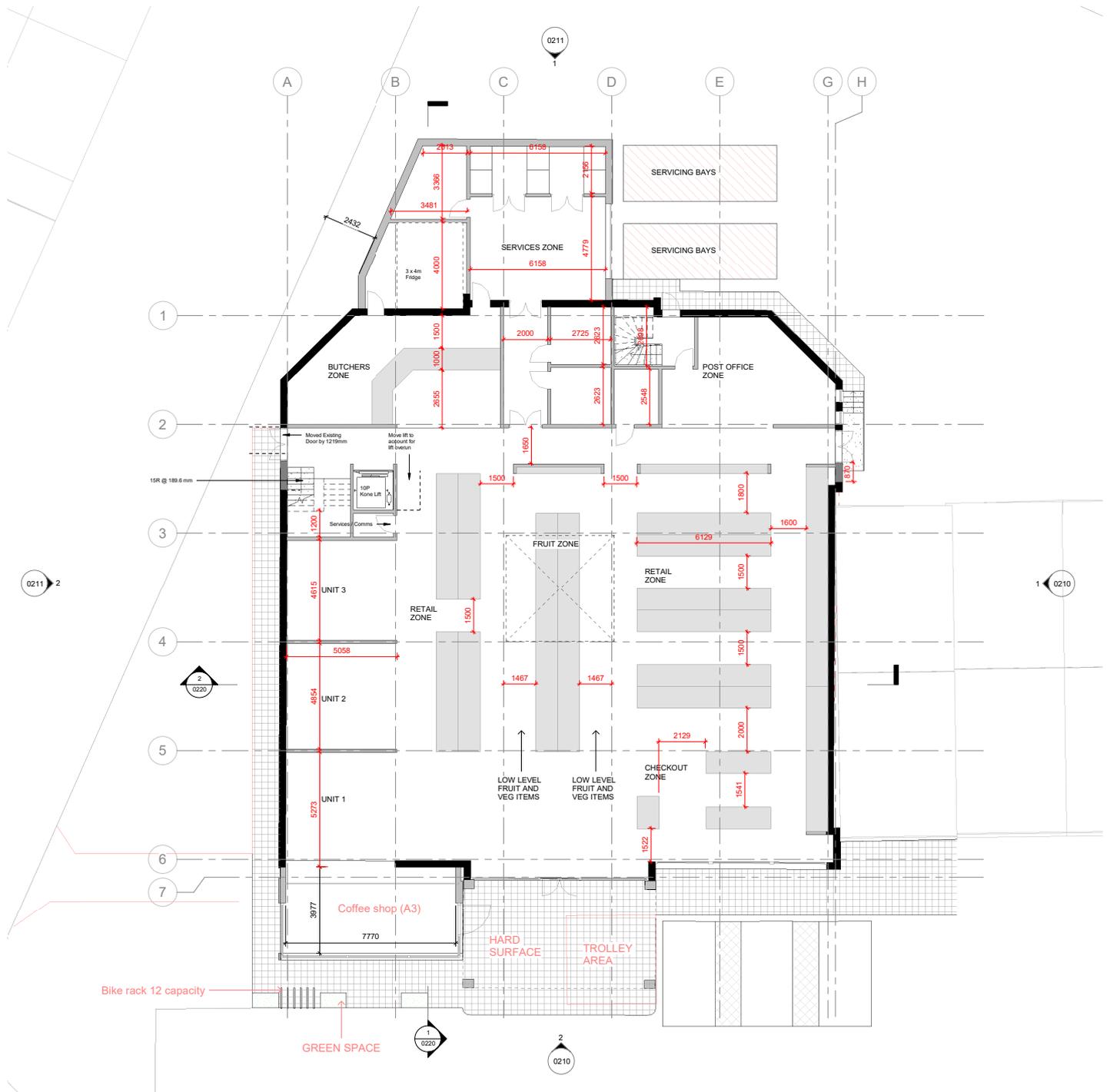
## Priority Wards:

Ward	Total Population	Over 70	% aged 70 and over	% underlying issues?
Bolton and Undercliffe	16,908	1,604	9.5%	
Bowling and Barkerend	22,340	1,229	5.5%	
Bradford Moor	21,180	958	4.5%	
City	25,524	903	3.5%	
Clayton and Fairweather Green	17,094	1,723	10.1%	
Great Horton	18,768	1,405	7.5%	
Heaton	18,085	1,287	7.1%	
Keighley Central	18,393	1,591	8.7%	
Little Horton	22,988	1,018	4.4%	
Manningham	19,939	1,034	5.2%	
Shipley	15,674	1,957	12.5%	
Thornton and Allerton	17,812	1,963	11.0%	
Toller	20,310	1,087	5.4%	
Wibsey	14,791	1,670	11.3%	

# BFT Coalition

24th March 2020





Notes: -  
Do not scale from drawings unless by agreement with architect. Use figured dimensions only. Check all dimensions on site prior to commencing the works. Drawing to be read in conjunction with other relevant consultant information.

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**Proposed Ground Floor Plan**

**0200**

number

revision

AMI Europe Ltd  
Alterations to existing structure to form food hall

1:100 @ A1  
scale

Project Number  
T-0225

SB  
drawn

**FOR PLANNING**

**TH3M**

