

COUNCIL
9 December 2014

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. Councillor Shafiq

Can the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services comment on the new Families First programme which seems to have significantly reduced funding. Will Bradford be able to ensure effective outcomes for families based upon this new project?

Answer

I am pleased to confirm that Bradford's Families First programme has been recognised as delivering well and has been selected as an early adopter for the new 5 year programme which will help 5,000 families. The focus will be to improve the outcomes of these families linked to improvements in attendance at school, reductions in crime & anti social behaviour and reduced domestic violence & calls for services. Also improvements in health and support to the adults in families to move out of poverty by gaining employment. The government's grant will reduce to £1,800 per family compared to £4,000 subject to achieving the payment by results targets.

Bradford has established a multi agency approach to the programme working with the Police, Health, Jobcentre Plus, Probation and Incommunities. They will be working to ensure that the programme will deliver to achieve the outcomes of the families even with the above budget reductions. This will be challenging but I'm confident the based on the work on the current programme that it will deliver improvements in our families in Bradford.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the response Portfolio Holder. There is a significant reduction per family in the budget. Do you think this reduction will leave support not being available to as many families as you would have liked to offer to children and families if you had the full budget?

Councillor Berry

I think in return for a lower rate of funding we have got a five year period of continuity to plan for and I will be looking to make sure that we use that security of that funding and at the moment we have performed very well. I take your point that it is less money but we are working on models of early intervention that will hopefully secure lasting outcomes. The team are very confident that we will continue our high performance in this area.

2. Councillor Heseltine

In the spirit of Christmas will the council offer free parking on market days to encourage shoppers to use markets in our Towns such as Bingley?

Answer

Shoppers are being offered free car parking in our towns (Keighley, Shipley, Bingley and Ilkley) plus in Bradford City Centre in the run up to Christmas.

Free parking is being offered in Bingley on the four Saturdays leading up to Christmas. This started on 29th November, at Queen Street and Main Street Car Parks. Queen Street Car Park is located very close to the market, thus giving easy and free access on Saturdays to the market.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. I did ask could we consider it on market days, not market day. Perhaps that is something we could look at for the future as not all people can make it on Saturdays and if we want to get people into our towns maybe market days needs to be considered in future.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Happy to look at it in future years but we consider it on a year by year basis basically so it is what we did last year. We will consider it again next year.

3. Councillor Reid

To the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transportation - In the municipal year 2013-14, what was the total of planning applications determined by the Bradford and the Keighley & Shipley Planning Panels and how many of these were retrospective applications; how many of these retrospective applications were then passed by the Planning Panels?

Answer

It is clear that the perception re number of retrospective applications is actually incorrect, between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014 Bradford Planning Panel had considered 81 planning applications, six of which were for retrospective planning permission; two of these were granted and four were refused planning permission. For the same period, Keighley & Shipley Planning Panel determined 39 planning applications, four being for retrospective planning permission; three were granted and one was refused planning permission.

4. Councillor Shabbir

Recently there has been an increase in gold robberies could the portfolio holder outline the steps he has taken to address this issue?

Answer

In relation to gold robberies, where persons have entered domestic properties looking for jewellery, according to Police records, this year there have been 11 compared to 12 during the same time last year so there has been no increase during that period.

Nevertheless I recognise that this is a serious crime and have raised it with the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and at the highest levels of West Yorkshire Police Force. Last year Bradford Community Safety Partnership tasked the Bradford Robbery Group to map concerns and target resources including visibility and reassurance visits. An awareness campaign was undertaken promoting crime prevention messages to encourage people not to keep large amounts of jewellery at home. The campaign attracted the support of local banks who agreed to provide safety deposit boxes at low cost and successfully improved crime prevention.

Robberies, burglaries and theft from motor vehicles are discussed every day at a divisional tactical meeting. All intelligence is collated to identify similarities between

offences, to target resource, identify suspects and ultimately make arrests, using a wide range of tactics from CCTV to disruption visits and support the victims of crime.

5. Councillor Warnes

Will the Leader please update colleagues on the Council's 'solar schools' initiative, including an estimate of the likely number of schools that will install solar PV during this academic year?

Answer

The Authority has written to all schools in relation to the agreed solar panel scheme asking for expressions of interest from schools who are interested in having solar panels installed.

To date 24 schools have expressed an interest in the scheme. This has resulted in 17 Energy Audits being carried out to assess the suitability of solar panel installation. All viable schemes are being taken forward as soon as possible. Installation is expected to be carried out over the next 12 months subject to Planning approval on some schemes and approval of a loan to the school in accordance with the terms of the School Energy Scheme.

6. Councillor Morris

Will the leader please explain why the Council has agreed to accept the sum of a paltry one hundred pounds plus VAT (viz £120 in total) from the leader of the Conservative group in settlement of the cost to the Council of his unauthorised and improper use of council facilities for electoral purposes in May 2014 when:-

1. The Council's Interim Chief Executive (Ms Hemingway) (then the Council's Solicitor and Monitoring Officer) stated in a report to the Council's Governance and Audit Committee for its meeting on 10th October 2014 that "There are no financial implications arising out of this report. The Council will seek to recover any costs to the public purse as a result of the unlawful activities".

2. The Council's Assistant City Solicitor (Dermot Pearson) stated in a report to the Council's Governance and Audit Committee for its meeting on 21st November 2014 that the value of the improper photocopying had been agreed with the leader of the Conservative group at one hundred pounds plus VAT, that the value of the labour used was £92.75 and that Council envelopes were used (by implication approximately 900)

3. In an e-mail to Lisa Kane dated 2nd July 2014 Dermot Pearson said "Suzan needs to put a figure on the cost to the Council Resources used in producing the offending election material so they can be recharged to the candidate. The issue is how to quantify the officer time in printing, putting in envelopes and the cost of the work. We are thinking of using FOI rates e.g. 10p a sheet and £25p/h for the time. As I did not ask the officers how long they spent and (redacted) is now off sick so (sic) we are thinking of e.g. 30 seconds to fold a letter, put it in an envelope, seal the envelope and then multiply that up by 916 (2x458)"

4. In an e-mail dated 2nd July 2014 from Dermot Pearson to Ms Hemingway Dermot Pearson said "What we pay the staff who did the work:
(redacted) @ £15.50 ph
(redacted) @11.00 ph

I am thinking of a 50-50 split between the two for the 1000ish envelopes (without the 20% on-costs because they would have been in the building anyway)"
to which Ms Hemingway replied on the 3rd July 2014 "I agree your suggestions"

5. In an e-mail dated 3rd July to Ms Hemingway Dermot Pearson said "So we would have
1. 1374 sheets of paper @ 10p per sheet
2. 916 envelopes @ (?) each
3. Labour (redacted) (458 x 30 seconds) @ 15.50 ph = 59.16 (to put the letters in envelopes and put stamps on)
(redacted) (458 x 30 seconds) @ 11.00ph = £41.98)
This leaves out some of the difficult to quantify activities e.g. typing letters, work on mail merge etc."

To say the Officers would have been in the building anyway is irrelevant, the Officers who deal with FOI requests are also in the building and no deduction is made to the public for that.

6. How can the Council justify charging a member less for a service than a member of the public would be charged. If John Smith had made a FOI request and the Officer time and the facilities were the same he would be charged at £25 p/h and 10p per sheet of paper plus postage. This is a slap in the face for the ratepayers of the District and cannot be allowed to continue, we can't treat this as if Councillors are somehow privileged in some way therefore can be treated differently and be given arbitrary discounts whenever it suits.

The cost in the case of Councillor Miller should have been in the region of £551.20 plus on costs. That is after deducting stamps that he has already declared. Not the £100 as he has agreed to pay. Shortfall to the ratepayers of the District £451.20. I would like to know if this will be collected by the Council?

Answer

The concerns raised by Cllr Morris, as he should be aware, have already been raised elsewhere and Governance & Audit Committee have referred the issue of discrepancies in the calculation of the amount of Council resources used to Internal Audit. It would be wrong for me to comment until their work is complete.

7. Councillor Wainwright

Can the leader comment on the recent report of the National Audit Office that identified significant failings in the Government's handling of the Better Care Fund?

Answer

The recent National Audit report is to be welcomed for its forthright frankness in its comments about the confusion and lack of clarity in the Government's approach to this initiative.

8. Councillor Lynne Smith

Does the Leader share the concerns of the National Audit Office which recently concluded that the Department for Communities and Local Government has no accurate measure of the cumulative financial challenges facing local authorities, has a limited understanding of the size and timing of potential savings from transforming services and has no way of knowing whether local authorities can absorb further funding reductions?

Answer

I absolutely share the concerns of the National Audit Office that the Government has little understanding of the affect on local authorities of the loss of almost 40% of their core funding since 2010. Likewise I totally agree there is no way the Government can confidently say that local authorities will continue to meet their statutory obligations and remain financially sustainable when the draconian cuts of the last five years are set to continue in the foreseeable future.

The Government's preferred measure of changes to local authority income, spending power; neither includes all funding streams nor shows the extent of funding reductions over more than one year at a time. It cannot therefore be regarded as a creditable measure of the cumulative financial challenge that has faced local authorities in the last five years.

For months now I have been saying in this Chamber that Councils such as Bradford with high needs and most dependent on Government funding have been affected most by Government cuts. Now at last, DCLG have acknowledged "that the scale of reductions for local authorities in general has been large and for those who are more dependent, larger still". By adding that there was no conscious decision to move money disproportionately away from those with highest need, is tantamount to admitting that the information currently collected from other Government Departments by DCLG does not enable it understand the impact of funding reductions.

As the cumulative impact of having to make savings year after year bites, because the Council has made big savings, £108m in renegotiating contracts, slashing management and administration costs, the scope for making further savings in these areas is narrowing. We accept therefore the need to transform services through integration and joint working with our partners in the District, but here is the real concern, will service transformation deliver savings that are large and timely enough to combat the twin forces of less funding and increased demand.

Just because we have been able to survive the brunt of Government reductions to date, doesn't mean they will be able to do so going forward. With a legal requirement to balance our books, which in practice makes it difficult for us to fail financially, inevitably this means that financial pressures will manifest themselves in Service pressures and failings.

The tools currently used by Central Government to measure financial sustainability, number of qualified accounts and sector driven published reports are not designed to give a robust indication of whether a local authority can withstand further funding reductions. The Government I would therefore contend is ill equipped to tell which Councils are at immediate risk of financial failure and whether the proposed further funding reductions can be absorbed.

Supplementary Question

Does the Leader agree are these concerns exacerbated further by the recent announcements of serious shortfalls in police budgets? Has the Council supported the police here with funding of PCSOs? Is this likely to impact on the Council's financial position and for law and order in the district?

Councillor Green

I would absolutely agree with Councillor Smith's comment. One of the things that we have been able to demonstrate is that the effect on public spending in Bradford, if the current Government's plans go ahead, will mean that by 2020 the health service, the local authority and the police will have been cut by £1½b, that is £1½b in the Bradford district. That is an unsustainable level of cuts for any set of services however much we work together to try and reduce their impact and clearly those services are at the front line of the wellbeing of the people of this District. We need an effective police force to allow people to feel safe. We need an effective health service to ensure that people are as well as they can be and we need effective Council services to make sure that those vital areas such as education, transport and social care meet the demands and those growing demands. With the current Government policy and the clear issue or statements that have risen out of the autumn statement that basically say they have only achieved 40% of the cuts that they want. There is going to be another 60% to come. We have seen the damage that has been done since 2010. What is clear is that the public state and public services cannot take another round of these draconian cuts. Everything will be affected and what we need to do is to raise the banner for public services be they police, the health service, the Council or any of those other public services and make sure that people are aware of what they stand to lose.

9. Councillor Baroness Eaton

As neighbouring Leeds City Council is providing an example of an innovative approach to service transformation and estate management, through an integrated health and social care programme which will see 900 staff integrated into area teams, saving up to £3million in three years, can the Leader of Council advise colleagues of actions to be taken in Bradford, to integrate health and social care in a way that improves patient care and saves money?

Answer

Integrated care teams are being established across the Bradford District.

The Better for Bradford, right care, right place, first time, is an inter agency agreement to deliver integrated services in Bradford, Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven by 2016.

Through the established Integrated Care for Adults Programme, under the governance of the Integration and Change Board (with senior representatives from all local NHS organisations and relevant Council Departments) and its related transformation programmes, integrated health and care teams are being created based on groups of GP practices. Integrated working in hospitals is also being developed to prevent unnecessary admissions and make sure people are transferred out of acute hospitals as soon as they are medically fit. Our in-house home care enablement service now provides therapeutic support following therapy plans for patients, which saves duplication of effort across health and social care, and supports better continuity of care for individuals.

In mental health services there are integrated health and care teams operating across the District and in January a multi disciplinary First Response service will commence for people of all ages with a mental health problem.

The Personalised Commissioning Team which supports Continuing Healthcare and complex care cases now has social workers integrated within the team which will improve joint working and decision making.

To enable the delivery of integrated working across the district, the Integrated Digital Care Record Programme (IDCR) is recognised as pivotal; Bradford has been recognised by the Department of Health and NHS England as one of three national accelerator programmes in the first wave of the Department of Health Technology Fund. The programme is groundbreaking in adopting a truly shared digital record between the NHS and Adult Social Care, including a digital maturity level that only Bradford can demonstrate through its IDCR programme. The programme will see the sharing of 'real time' information between Primary, Intermediate, community and acute services, using SystmOne as the primary care record for the public of the district, a system already used by most GPs across the District and by the end of 2015 will be used by the Council's adult social care services as well. This 'real time' information sharing will support closer working and more timely and informed decision making about individuals with health and social care needs. The system is expected to become operational during 2015.

To support the transformation of public services, a programme has been established to consider the requirements such as estate, ICT, performance/Business Intelligence etc. This programme, known as the Infrastructure and Systems Programme will support the Council and its partners to deliver the infrastructure changes required to enable integrated working. The Council and NHS estate (buildings) has been mapped across the District and ICT requirements are now being considered to enable better mobile and agile working for staff across health and social care. This programme is still emerging but is recognised as essential to delivering change.

10. **Councillor Engel**

What assistance is available to parents fleeing domestic violence when they need to quickly arrange a new school place for their child/ren, bearing in mind that they may be suffering financially due to their change in circumstances, they may have serious genuine concerns for the safety of their child/ren if attending schools in certain localities, they may be reliant upon the assistance of extended family members, and the need for such school places to be found quickly to minimise the disruption to the child/ren's education at what can be a very traumatic time?

Answer

We understand that domestic violence support projects work to support parents affected and we expect schools to take seriously the impact of domestic violence on children and the need for school to be a safe place.

When the LA receives in year applications from a vulnerable family, wherever possible the admission is dealt with through the Fair Access Protocol. Although 'parents fleeing domestic violence' isn't listed as a separate category in the Fair Access Protocol, we would consider such children as vulnerable and try to identify an appropriate school as quickly as possible. This does not necessarily mean parents are offered their preferred school, but a local school is usually offered and often requiring the school to admit over their published admission number. Ultimately the operation of appeals is undertaken by independent people.

Children's Services are working with the domestic violence services to assess the impact upon children and what measures schools can take to ensure better support for parents affected as part of the Help Offer.

Supplementary Question

I am just wanting to ask if there is any possibility that a category of parents fleeing domestic violence could in the future be listed in the Fair Access Protocol as I fear that there is a strong possibility of children being allowed to fall through the net if they are just classified as vulnerable but not in any specific category and any specific priority.

Councillor Berry

Obviously a source of great concern if anybody watched the television programme last night about the impact of domestic violence on children. I do not know about you, it certainly moved me. The problem with that is that the Fair Access Protocol is set down by national statute. I think what we are trying to do here is make sure that those children who are exposed to those issues are picked up through the early help offer which is increasingly going to need to focus on particularly primary schools. We had an example of this recently at a public forum for education where a parent spoke clearly of her own experience of having been helped at primary school. Her situation being identified as a result of that she was able to be got to a refuge, the children were supported and she was able to come through and speak of that experience but this is not helped by the fact that in past years we have had a bit more slack in the system. It is very hard to move people when in some year groups we have no spare places and the overall system there is 1.8% surplus capacity whatever that is. But we are working. I think it is best done on the early help offer to make sure that we do provide that support. I do share a concern that sometimes cases that I think are very compelling go to the independent panels. Again something has been set out by statute and you wonder why is that case not heard but what the headteachers will tell you is if I have got 32 or 33 kids in a class of 30, I cannot take any more. You are rightly pointing out some of the consequences of that.

11. Councillor Greenwood

Can the Portfolio Holder for Transport comment on the award of the East Coast rail franchise in the light of Council efforts to bring extra trains to Shipley?

Answer

Full details of the East Coast franchise arrangements have yet to be released but we understand that the award of the franchise to Virgin / Stagecoach will result in the following for Shipley and Bradford Forster Square Stations:

- an additional 6 trains to and from London per day from 2019
- upgraded train interiors introduced between 2015 and 2017
- stations will be served by new high speed InterCity Express IEP trains from 2019 providing:
 - more reliable services
 - more seats
 - more luggage space
 - faster journey times
 - improved Wi-Fi and mobile coverage

At an appropriate time we will be discussing the new arrangements with the new franchise holders to determine if any further benefits can be secured in relation to Virgin / Stagecoach operations serving Shipley and Bradford Forster Square.

12. Councillor Davies

Given that it has been confirmed that children's centres receive funding based on the number of potential users, rather than and to the disadvantage of actual users, can the Leader of Council confirm that he considers such an approach rational and that will this method be applied to other council services? For example, if he supports this approach to funding, can we expect to see any new school places provided not in the areas where there is actual demand, but elsewhere, or the removal of recycling bins from people who use them and provided to people who don't, or maybe the locating of new swimming pools and other leisure facilities away from areas where their customer base comes from and instead placed in areas with low usage?

Answer

The core purpose of Sure Start children's centres is to improve outcomes for young children and their families, with a particular focus on those in greatest need. Funding is provided in proportion to the numbers of children living in each reach area in order to enable centres to make contact with all families in their reach, not just those who are regular attendees of groups. The Council Executive has taken a decision to use actual numbers, rather than averages in the calculation of Children's Centre budgets.

Given the extent of the Coalition Government imposed spending cuts, which include cuts of 30% to the Council's funding for Children's Centres, services inevitably have to change and the Council has to consider where to target resources in order to achieve the greatest impact. However while changes have had to be made the Council has not closed any children's centres in stark contrast to the hundreds of closures seen across other parts of the country since 2010.

I agree that it is absurd to provide new school places in areas where there is no demand at the expense of areas where demand exists. This is why the Coalition Government's policy of opening Free Schools in areas with surplus places while Districts such as Bradford are left struggling without sufficient resources to meet demand is of deep concern.

Geographical allocation of resources in Environment and Sport services is predicated on securing the best possible outcome for the citizens of the District within available funding. Through our policy of devolution decisions on such matters are increasingly made by Area Committees. Our weekly residual waste and fortnightly recycling collections are a universal service. Sports and leisure facilities are delivered at specific locations. It is our aim that these should be accessible to the greatest number of our citizens and that all communities should have quality facilities within a reasonable reach.

13. Councillor Hassan Khan

What are the latest figures for Bradford District recycling rates, do these represent an improvement and how can we increase them?

Answer

The Council's overall recycling rate for household waste in 2012/13 was 51.85%. This ranked CBMDC as the third best Metropolitan District and placed us 55th out of 352 English councils (the best was Rochford at 66.75%, and locally Calderdale at 60.61%). This is the latest published league table data from DEFRA based on all councils' waste data flow returns.

Since this data was compiled, the Council has made improvements in recycling collection through two weekly collections, the inclusion of plastics, and the rollout of brown bins for green waste. Comparing the 6 months April to September 2014 with the same period last year, kerbside collected recycling has increased by 20%.

Further engagement and education with the public and communities is to be developed in 2015 aimed at reducing waste and encouraging more and better use of the improved kerbside recycling facilities to boost our recycling rate still further.

14. Councillor Middleton

To the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport & Sustainability - Following the Home Office Guidance (October 2014) on "Reform of Anti social Behaviour Powers: Japanese Knotweed and other Invasive non-native plants."), will Bradford Council face actions by Bradford residents where Japanese Knotweed is growing on Bradford Council land e.g. Farriers Croft BD2 and Queens Road Allotments BD2?

Answer

Japanese Knotweed is classed as an 'Invasive weed' and can, if left uncontrolled, cause damage to property and structures. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ASBCPA14 creates a power to the Council and the Police to issue a "community protection notice" requiring someone to control or prevent the growth of Japanese knotweed.

Potentially, therefore, the Council may face challenge from residents neighbouring council owned sites where Japanese Knotweed is present.

A key test for such a community protection notice, however, is that the conduct of the individual or body is having a detrimental effect of a persistent or continuing nature on the quality of life of those in the locality, and that the conduct is unreasonable. Conduct includes "a failure to act".

The Council is acting to address Japanese knotweed sites on its Land. A programme of two or three selective sprays per year is carried out. The key to effective treatment is spraying at the correct time when the plant is more susceptible to the chemical applied. Through the delivery of this programme the council has managed to eradicate some stands of the weed and controlled others.

Supplementary Question

Can I thank the Portfolio holder for his response, I note in the last paragraph it states that action is taken to control Japanese Knotweed. But how would an ordinary resident be able to find out what action was taken about specific Japanese Knotweed infested sites of Bradford Council land that potentially threatens their property?

Councillor A Thornton

I think that is a very good point as to how members of the public would know what actions the Council has taken in relation to standard Japanese knotweed where they border their properties. I will ensure that we get a communication package developed for that so that we write to residents and tell them what we are doing. Hopefully that will address some of the concerns.

15. Councillor Greenwood

What benefits does the portfolio holder see in the transfer of Health visitors to the local Authority?

Answer

Looking after children and young people is one of the most important jobs councils do and we all have a duty to make sure that children with carers have access to the services they need. That's why the transfer of public health commissioning responsibilities for 0-5 year olds to the Council next year marks such an opportunity. It brings a new momentum for developing and driving forward a shared vision for local children, young people and families. This journey began last year when the school nursing service and the Healthy Child Programme for 5-19 year olds amongst wider public health responsibilities, transferred to local government.

Now, the extra resource in health visitors and family nurses which local government will receive next year will help us to focus on early intervention work and providing universal and targeted support to families. Health visitors are in an excellent place to spot problems early and deliver support to stop problems from escalating. By learning from the previous public health transfer we can build on the good work that already exists. The Council and school nurses are already working together to co-ordinate and deliver public health interventions for school-aged children.

Going forward health visitors and school nurses will play an important role in helping councils to join up pathways for 0-19 year olds and for children and young people up to age 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Working with partners we can make sure that children and young people experience smooth transitions between social care, education and health services at key points in their life.

It is important that we use the transfer with our partners to integrate and transform and be ambitious for our children, young people and families. This will of course require strong partnership working, listening and learning from each other, creativity and sheer hard work to overcome organisational barriers. But if we persevere, our children, our communities and our organisations will continue to reap the benefits for many years to come.

16. Councillor Cooke

When does the Council intend to consult the public on its City Plan?

Answer

The City Plan has been developed in conjunction with a range of partners who have an interest in shaping a successful future for our city centre. The list includes academic institutions, leading businesses and organisations across all sectors. The City Plan Draft is due to go to Executive for approval in February followed by endorsement by the Producer City Board.

The City Plan is a live document and it is currently intended that it will be published on the Councils website following the Executive approval. Many of its recommendations will inform the finalisation of the City Centre Area Action Plan.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer and the timetable. What plans are there to consult the wider Bradford public on the City Plan and its contents?

Councillor Green

I think it is important to recognise that the City Plan is not like the wonderful documents that both Councillor Cooke and I have been responsible for drawing up in the past that have held doors open, blocked up filing cabinets and been out of date almost the minute that they are published. It is a live document that will change and develop both as the City develops and as opportunities arise. The Executive when it approves it, it will be there on the Council's website which will enable it as I say to develop and grow and expand as the City Centre continues to develop and people will be able to feed in their views on it and that will help that development of that plan. What we have been blighted with perhaps for too long are these wonderfully colourful brochures as I say that sits in people's filing cabinets, that become out of date as developments happen, or in worse case scenarios when things go wrong with the national economy. What we are doing is something different and it will be as reactive as investment in the City is going to be reactive and it will take advantage of opportunities as well as give a clear indication to outside investors about the sort of thing that we are looking for and the way that this City is going to develop in the future.

17. Councillor Swallow

Has the Council responded to the Government's consultation on how Local Welfare provision should be funded and, if so, can the leader provide a summary of the Council's position?

Answer

The Council did respond to the consultation on the future of Local Welfare Provision; and our position on this matter is clear. Funding for Local Welfare Provision for 2015/16 should be reinstated and, further to that, Government should make a commitment to funding Local Welfare Provision over the longer term.

The Coalition Government's decision to end the funding for Local Welfare Provision represents a cut of £2.3M to the Council. This funding helps to provide essential support to people in immediate need, and to those wishing to stay, or return, to the community. This need will only grow as the impacts of the welfare changes grow. Local Welfare Provision can; help reduce the risk of residents falling into chaotic lifestyles, including homelessness; create opportunities to help people make better financial and life-style choices; and reduce overall dependency on Council services and other service providers.

In the response, we challenged Government's insistence that local authorities should fund Local Welfare Provision. Doing so would have the effect of reducing Council spending in other areas; and, contrary to the idea of localism, result in central government setting local spending priorities.

We also questioned the robustness of those considerations that led Government to conclude that its funding of Local Welfare Provision was no longer necessary. The Government has been funding provision, initially through the Social Fund, and then through Local Welfare Provision, since 1987. With a clear and on-going need for this provision, it is our view that, in accordance with Government's own guidance on its New Burdens doctrine, funding should be passed to the Council so that it can deliver Local Welfare Provision in a manner best suited to the needs of the district and its residents.

18. Councillor Shabbir

Can the portfolio holder for Environment and Sport provide assurances that the changing facilities and programming in all the proposed swimming pools will be accessible to all communities and cultures thereby maximising the earning potential from all communities?

Answer

Yes. We aim to maximise accessibility and opportunities for all potential users. both through the design of new facilities and programming. We recognise that meeting the requirements of Bradford's diverse population will require careful consideration in both the design of new facilities and the programming of those facilities. We will seek to achieve this through a participative approach.

19. Councillor Dunbar

Would the Leader like to explain how much of a problem homophobic bullying is in Bradford Schools and in workplaces and what our strategy is to deal with this and what support is on offer to support victims?

Answer

Information gathered from our sentinel On-line reporting system for all prejudice related bullying in schools total five incidents of homophobic bullying for the last academic year (2013/14). This is pupil to pupil reported homophobic remarks. The system does allow for adult based bullying to be reported but there are no incidents recorded on our system by schools.

Our peer education project, on human rights issues does include issues relating homophobic bullying as well as other Hate Crimes/incidents.

Training on our on-line reporting system includes homophobic bullying alongside all other protected characteristics. Our next session is in January 2015 as a refresher course and those that are new to the system (93% schools trained on system so far). We are aware that there is further work to be done and this is being achieved through a combination of the Peer Education Project as well as training. Both these approaches will enable us to ascertain the accuracy on the level of reporting in order for continuous improvement in this area.

Support for victims would be the responsibility of individual schools/places of work.

From an employment perspective, there are no recorded cases of homophobic bullying on the Council's HR systems either in terms of Employee Grievances or any Disciplinary Action in the period examined from 1/4/13 to date.

Any allegation of homophobic bullying or harassment would be fully investigated.

The Council's Workforce Development Team provide training in relation to homophobia and sexual orientation, both in face to face and E-Learning formats.

There is also a toolkit for managing violence and aggression at work which includes actions related to sexual orientation. Incidents can be recorded via the managerial line, through reports to HR Business Partners or to the Occupational Safety Team. This toolkit guides individuals on how to access these reporting channels.

20. Councillor Dale Smith

Please identify the number of requests for Enforcement Orders currently in the system and, in 3 month blocks, when they were first registered?

Answer

Since 1st January 2014 the Council's Planning Enforcement team has received 1,029 complaints about alleged unauthorised development. This is broken down as:

- 1 Jan - 31 March = 236
- 1 April - 30 June = 286
- 1 July - 30 Sept = 310
- 1 Oct - date = 197 (still a month to the end of December)

As of 1st December 2014, the outstanding number of planning enforcement cases yet to be concluded is 2,020 (including those above). Of these 315 cases are the subject of an enforcement notice requiring corrective action by the contravener.

Supplementary Question

Can I have a further explanation on the last part of the answer in the last paragraph? It would appear to me that it is a two year waiting list and what are the 1,705 other cases, what category do they fall into.

Councillor Val Slater

I will get you further information but I will make it clear that what has happened is we have had an increase in demand of enforcement and we have also had quite a reduction of officers available to do that. About 2½ years ago a report went to Regulatory and Appeals (Committee) which said we would have to prioritise the enforcement cases that we took forward. Some were more important to people in the community than others. Maybe as an example people were perhaps not as bothered about plastic advertisement banners or fences that were half a metre too large on somebody's back garden. What was said was that we would not just throw any complaints about those low priorities away; we would keep them on a list so that if ever we got in a position where I was able to put more resources in, we could follow them up. Now the consequence of that decision means that the list grows but if you want exact details and categorisations Councillor Smith I will ensure that you do get them.

21. Councillor Warburton

Could I have an update on plans for the improvement and refurbishment of Bradford's railway stations?

Answer

Masterplans for Bradford Interchange and Forster Square Station have been developed with funding from the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund and we are currently working with colleagues at West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Network Rail to move forward to the next stage of feasibility work which will involve more detailed design and costings. This next stage will involve public consultation on the proposals and we envisage that this will take place during 2015. The aspiration is to deliver all the improvements at Forster Square by 2021 (earlier if feasible) and Phase 1 of the improvements at Bradford Interchange by the same date.

In addition to this, as part of the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund, a package of car park extensions at rail stations has been identified to enhance connectivity to, from and

within West Yorkshire. The purpose of the package is to increase car parking capacity at selected stations and deliver more localised benefits as a result of improved access to the rail network. The package is designed to support sustainable employment growth in the main urban centres and will particularly benefit commuters, but also support more travel into and between the urban centres by rail for other purposes.

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) has authorised the commencement of the feasibility studies at 16 sites including Menston, Shipley and Steeton & Silsden. A Programme Board has been established to progress work and includes representation from Network Rail and Northern Rail who will be engaged throughout. WYCA have also engaged with Bradford Council officers at this early stage. Feasibility study work is anticipated to be complete by March 2015 and delivery of any extensions will be subject to the outcome (including a deliverable and affordable design) of feasibility work.

22. Councillor Akthar

What is the latest position on the Keighley Town Centre Heritage Improvement programme?

Answer

- Scheme started June 2011, end date December 2015
- Overall budget £2,700,000
- Current spend £1,441,270
- Committed (including spent) £1,901,623

- 7 building projects completed
- 13 new residential units created
- 16 commercial units improved or created
- 954m² of vacant floor space brought back into use
- 16 refurbished shop fronts
- 17 further projects being prepared
- Owners of 10 other properties interested in funding
- 1,608m² of public realm improved

- Heritage events - Heritage Day 2012, other events and exhibitions in Keighley
- Heritage training for over 80 professionals, contractors and students
- Planned heritage training for a further 24 students and contractors
- Shop front guidance posters, history leaflet, presentations to various local groups
- Permanent interactive display in Cliffe Castle of historic buildings in the THI area
- Over 84 positive items of media coverage in the local and regional press and local radio

23. Councillor Fear

To the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning & Transportation -
How much did Bradford Council spend in 2014 on Land Registry searches?

Answer

The total Land Registry fees paid by the Council between 1 April 2014 and 1 December 2014 were £23,920.

24. Councillor Cooke

What actions has the council considered to provide more short-term parking to support local centres such as Wibsey?

Answer

Most, if not all local centres will have some form of on-street limited waiting to ensure a regular turn-around of parking and thus contribute to the viability of local businesses. Where requested, we can review on-street parking in specific local centres. If schemes to introduce changes (for example additional limited waiting areas, or variations to the length of permitted waiting time) are feasible, funding can then be sought from the Safer Roads budgets that are devolved to the Area Committees. Notwithstanding this, there are a number of factors that determine where it is appropriate to install parking restrictions that either prohibit parking or limit the length of time for which parking is allowed. Whilst the vibrancy of local businesses and facilities is a consideration, issues such as highway safety, congestion on the highway network and access to residential premises, businesses and services have to be given priority.

With regard to Wibsey, the Bradford South Area Committee has allocated funding to promote a car park on part of the Fairground site to provide additional parking, particularly for shoppers and visitors to local businesses.

Other examples of the implementation of this approach - during the past two or three years - include a proposal to install limited waiting bays in Thornton village on Thornton Road but this project had to be abandoned due to objections received from the adjacent businesses

And, as part of the Bradford Royal Infirmary permit parking scheme, parking restrictions were amended to provide limited waiting bays on Duckworth Lane adjacent to the businesses close to the junction with Toller Lane.

25. Councillor Dunbar

Would the leader like to explain what contribution that Bradford Youth Service is currently making to tackling CSE and any initiatives it has lead or taken part in over recent years?

Answer

The Youth Service works with a number of young people who are at risk of CSE, or who are vulnerable to CSE. Youth Workers where appropriate support individual young people identified by the Hub and Social Care contributing towards the plan for each individual. In open access youth provision youth workers create safe space to explore exploitation and to encourage dialogue and information of support services.

We have worked with a group of young people to develop a powerful drama and resource package, which having secured funding through the Safeguarding Children's Board, is currently touring the district and been performed to year 11 students in upper schools. All Bradford Secondary schools have been offered the performance and each constituency has had at least two performances delivered. Bookings for further performances are being taken and the tour continues around the district until March 15. This has been received very positively with one school (Holy Family) in communication about about how this can now be rolled out across their whole school. The Youth Service is undertaking follow up sessions in schools where performances have taken place to ensure information, advice and guidance is readily available to young people who have been impacted by the performance.

Outreach work is being undertaken by youth service workers in Holmewood, Bowling Back Lane and Great Horton areas to make contact with young people not currently accessing mainstream services. A drop in session is to be piloted for young people who are identified from the outreach work which will run at the café in Holmewood enabling increased support to young people who are vulnerable to CSE.

The Youth Service with young people and partners in Keighley have developed a CSE awareness card, designed to be used following a quality youth work intervention. This credit card sized fold out card, identifies what would be considered to be exploitation and where an individual young person can get help. These have been developed in partnership with hand in hand and young people from the Keighley area. The first print run has just completed and there are plans to roll these out across the district.

CSE awareness training has been identified and is being rolled out to ward officers and youth workers in neighbourhoods with a view to ensuring workers on the ground have increased awareness of the signs and symptoms and of knowing the procedures to follow when raising concerns.

On December 10th the Youth Service will be represented at the Regional Youth Work Unit networking day which is a sharing good practice and looking at how we can develop regional responses to CSE issues.

26. Councillor Warburton

Can the Leader or Portfolio holder inform us how many times Council properties have been used by film /TV companies over the last 12 months and which films/shows does Bradford District appear?

Answer

The Bradford film office has dealt with over 40 enquiries in the last 12 months approximately half of those enquiries have resulted in production days in the district, there is a small number of council buildings that have been used for filming but a larger number of private premises have also been used along with highways and other open spaces.

Productions have included DCI Banks, The Great Robbery, A Testament of Youth, Get Santa, Songs of Praise, Miss You Already, Jamaica Inn, and the One Show among others.

27. Councillor Poulsen

Please can I have an update regarding what has happened to the £2.5 million Community Hubs funding allocated to build a new community centre and library in Haworth as approved in March 2010 by the Executive?

Answer

Capital funding for a proposed library in Haworth was originally allocated in 2006-07. Further capital funding was later set aside to be shared with two other community hubs in Idle and Wyke. The Haworth scheme was the only one of the three to be wholly funded from borrowing so there was never any hard cash attached to it but borrowing costs were factored into the Council's Capital Investment Programme.

Subsequent to that decision Government spending cuts have led to some difficult decisions having to be taken including reducing plans for capital spending in order to reduce borrowing costs. The Council, in its 2014-15 budget, approved a £20m reduction in capital investment over the next three years which included the removal of the Haworth scheme from the Capital Investment Plan.

The library service would be happy to explore a library link to Haworth at no cost to the Council if the community were up for managing it and a suitable venue could be found. We have this model in place at Cullingworth Methodist Church if ward Councillors want to take a look at how this could work.

28. Councillor Dunbar

How many people have accessed the Get Bradford Working scheme since its inception and how many have gone onto full time employment?

Answer

Get Bradford Working was approved by the Executive in June 2012, and the Council and partners have been delivering employment and skills programmes which have had the following results:

A total of 2,482 people have already benefitted from Get Bradford Working. Many of these continue to receive support, such as those employed on the Employment Opportunities Fund which has already exceeded the target of creating 400 jobs. In total, Get Bradford Working has helped 1,032 people find jobs. This includes people helped through our Routes into Work commissioned Fund which targets those who are not being helped by the mainstream Welfare to Work programme, and who may be furthest away from the labour market.

29. Councillor Dodds

The Local Government Association has identified Female Genital Mutilation as a national issue about which local Councils need to raise awareness in order to prevent its occurrence and prosecute offenders. What is the Council doing locally with its partners to raise awareness in order to identify and eradicate this practice?

Answer

This briefing describes available information about the potential number of women and girls living with female genital mutilation (FGM), or at risk of undergoing FGM, in Bradford District.

From September 2014, hospital acute trusts are required to collect and submit information about the number of women who are being treated for FGM-related conditions, or who are identified as having undergone FGM. Experimental statistics published from the first month of collection report 1,279 women being actively treated and 467 newly identified cases across the UK. Nearly half of these were in London. In the North of England 177 active cases and 75 newly identified cases were reported.

The best method currently available of estimating numbers in Bradford relies on information about countries of origin. Data on country of birth collected in the 2011 census shows that 3,350 women living in Bradford in 2011 were born in Africa, but does not report the specific country.

Bradford Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust and Airedale NHS Foundation Trust have been part of the national reporting initiative described above since September 2014. Initial numbers collected are too small to report and it will be some time before this data can be used to gain a reliable estimate of how many adult women who have undergone FGM are resident in Bradford.

Current approaches to FGM with voluntary organisations and partners in Bradford

We will be seeking assurance that the FGM issue is part of the safeguarding framework in all organisations, including schools.

A sub group of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Health Strategy is devising care pathways through health organisations for women and children affected by FGM.

The Proactive and Responsive sub-group of Bradford Safeguarding Children Board is agreeing multi-agency referral protocols for children at risk of FGM

The lead for the VAWG Health Strategy delivers 2 hour training sessions to health and social care professionals in the District

A local community group, Bradford Peacemakers, has recently launched a campaign against FGM, which includes awareness raising campaigns and workshops, confidential advice and counselling, and lobbying the UK government on FGM-related issues. Peacemakers' work is linked with the development of the VAWG Health Strategy described above.

30. Councillor Davies

How much did the two day review of schools by Professor Woods cost the authority and what has been learned from it?

Answer

The review of schools by Professor Woods cost the Local Authority £2,925.

Professor Woods met with a range of stakeholders including members of the Education Improvement Strategic Board, headteachers and senior officers. Professor Woods has provided feedback about our Education Improvement plan, confirming that the Local Authority has identified the right priorities for action, namely: leadership, early years, underperforming groups and teaching and learning with a particular focus on literacy. He also highlighted the need for a more rapid intervention within some of our processes, notably challenge to schools. Professor Woods presented 16 recommendations for action which are being implemented with immediate effect. Schools have responded positively to his report and are following up on Professor Woods's recommendations to identify best practice in every school and develop a catalogue of best practice. Another recommendation for the Local Authority and schools is to respond immediately to the findings of the peer review with a focussed set of actions that are shared with Governing Bodies.

31. Councillor Dunbar

As part of the decision to cut the youth service by 36% over 2 years it was decided under the new restructure (which started on 1st July 2014) to increase the P/T workers budget.

Can the leader explain how many part time vacancies have been recruited to since the restructure?

Answer

The budget did not increase the number of part time staff members as part of the remodelling, it did realign the budgets and allocations to give an allocation of 24 hours of part time youth worker support for each full time worker, with deployment of this being organised locally.

The service has long carried a number of part time vacancies which have been filled by a pool of casual staff members. Due to the duration these casual staff have held their contracts they now have the same employment rights as the part time established staff. Most recently a number of casual workers have been removed from the casual pool due to inactivity and an unwillingness by some to travel to different areas in the district.

32. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Can the Leader of Council explain to Councillors the justification of giving Bradford Council Tax Payers cash to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for it to put into its reserves at the same time as Bradford Council is cutting services to vulnerable people?

Answer

Bradford's contribution to the combined authority is not a "gift" it is an investment in the District's future that will be spent on infrastructure projects that help to attract jobs and investment and reduce reliance on Central Government.

The contribution is to an initiative that has been agreed with Coalition Government ministers including Liberal Democrats.

Money has been ring fenced by the WYCA, to demonstrate to the Government a local commitment to the West Yorkshire Transport Plus Fund. This action led to the Government announcing in a unique deal in the summer that it will back the establishment of a £1bn West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund.

By investing in our roads and railways and connecting people to jobs and goods and services to markets, the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund will unlock growth in our local economy. By stimulating economic growth in our District and creating jobs, we will see the amount of money the Council raises locally through Business Rates and Council Tax increase. In turn this will make us more self reliant and less exposed to further savage cuts in Government funding.

Increasing local resilience to Government spending cuts represents one of the most effective ways in which we can position ourselves to continue providing services to our most vulnerable people at a time when the Government steadfastly continues to ignore our calls for sufficient funding to meet our statutory needs.

The Executive's budget proposals for 2015-16 would bring the total invested in social care to meet demographic demand and increased costs since the start of 2011 to over £20m. This makes clear the Council's commitment to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people in the District even in the face of unprecedented and disproportionate Coalition Government cuts that will continue to require very difficult decisions to be taken about services.

33. Councillor Warnes

When will the street lighting team respond to the requests by residents and myself for an assessment of the quality of lighting on The Grove in Shipley, bearing in mind that my repeated emails on this matter remain unacknowledged?

Answer

The street lighting in The Grove, Shipley is similar to that in many residential areas of the District and although the lighting is not up to modern standards the columns still have a reasonable life, although should the lanterns require replacement it is likely that the columns too would require replacement.

With this in mind The Grove will be added to the list of schemes considered for column replacement in the next financial year.

34. Councillor Cooke

Would the Leader of the Council consider urging the sub-regional partnership responsible for safety cameras to consider their installation where the following apply: 1. There is no opportunity to use physical traffic calming interventions; 2. Injury accidents, including KSIs, have occurred but not in sufficient quantity to meet core criteria?

Answer

The West Yorkshire Casualty Reduction Partnership (WYCRP) has always adopted the nationally led criteria for safety camera deployment since the Partnership's formation in 2002. The criteria serves to protect the respective LAs and the police by ensuring an evidence led approach for consideration of new camera sites, which leaves no interpretation or accusation the Partnership (and/or LAs) is generating income as a result of Partnership Activities. The consideration of the deployment of cameras is around speed related injury.

Camera deployment is always a final consideration after all other avenues have been explored. There are many other interventions that can be considered such as traffic calming, speed limit reduction, 20mph zones and other traffic management techniques such as road narrowing, parking placement, chicanes and entry treatment. If the Elected Member would like to be more specific about locations, I will ask an officer to investigate them.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer and thank you for the offer for officers. I shall be specific about locations because it is the only bit of the A629 from Ainley Top to Keighley that does not have any speed cameras and it happens to be the only bit that is in my ward. So it would be nice to have a little action on speeding through Denholme.

Councillor Val Slater

I am not sure there was a question in there but I will consider it and whatever it was I will respond.

35. Councillor Dunbar

Barnardo's new campaign 'Beyond Care' aims to make sure care leavers are living in accommodation suitable for their needs. Could the leader explain how many care leavers in Bradford in the last 12 months stayed in unsuitable accommodation like Bed and Breakfasts with a break down of how many days they stayed in such places?

Answer

A full briefing has been sent to all Councillors on this issue from the officers responsible for care leavers. It shows that the use of B&B is a last resort and kept under close scrutiny and weekly monitoring. In the last twelve months we have had four young people stay in B&B. Two 17 year olds stayed for 52 days and 10 days respectively; one 18 year old stayed for 74 days and one 21 year old stayed for 3 days. B&B is never used unless we have exhausted all other alternatives and is only used as a last resort to avoid rooflessness or no provision at all. We cannot have young people completely homeless. The reasons are complex and varied and include criminal behaviour that have excluded young people from other accommodation, challenging behaviour and for some young people B&B is a positive choice and where they want to be – adamantly refusing what else has been offered. Some are scared by life in a hostel and prefer the support that can be offered in a B&B setting.

36. Councillor Davies

Given that the nature of Social Workers remits necessitate them to be out and about in the community, does the use of additional officer travelling time, due to re-locating their base to the city centre make the measure a false economy which actually reduces the time available to support vulnerable residents?

Answer

In Adult and Community services we have two Social Work Teams based in Jacobs Well and the Sensory Needs Team based in Morley Street.

We also have Adult and Community Services Social Work Teams based in both acute hospitals, Bingley Town Hall, Keighley and in the South of the District.

All the social work team members are mobile workers and can touch down in Council buildings across the District. In addition they work in GP practices, Health Centres and NHS buildings.

We are monitoring the performance of social care staff in Adult and Community Services to ensure we maximise the amount of time available to support vulnerable residents.

Children's social work teams for the City have relocated into one building with colleagues from fostering, adoption and the child protection unit. This is in fact only a mile or two from the previous base at Flockton House. As in adult services, all staff have embraced new ways of working. With laptops they have the freedom and flexibility to log on to the system from home or hot desk across the district. Social workers can tailor visits to make the best use of their time without needing to come into the office and this increases the time available for children and their families. The additional benefit is that the child sexual exploitation hub will be moving to Sir Henry Mitchell House improving joint working with the Police for this vulnerable group of young people.

The changes are part of an ongoing programme designed to deliver savings and generate capital receipts through vacating and disposing of surplus buildings and to improve the

quality of the Council's estate through re-investment of capital receipts. By the end of this year it is projected that the programme will have delivered annual savings to the Council of £5.1m which would otherwise have had to be found from Council services to balance the books in the face of disproportionate Government spending cuts.

37. Councillor Lee

Can the Portfolio Holder clarify the policies on admissions to primary schools for children attending nursery at those schools.

I have had several reports that schools are advising parents that if their child attends the nursery at their school they will automatically get a primary place at that school. However I am told that in some instances this has proved not to be the case.

I would also like some clarification about the Government's new legislation for nursery places for two year olds and whether this guarantees the child a place at the primary school where they are attending nursery?

Answer

The statutory guidance for local authorities makes it clear that a place in a school nursery for a two, three or four year old child does not guarantee admission to a maintained school and parents must apply for a place in the normal way if they wish their child to transfer to the reception class. The DfE has recently consulted on the possibility of eligible two year olds having preferential admission to the reception class, but this is not a requirement. It should be noted that children who qualify for a funded two year old place because they are Looked-after or have Special Educational Needs will be considered as a priority for admission to reception, however such children form a very small proportion (c.1%) of all children eligible for a funded two year old place.

The following advice is provided for parents on the Bradford Schools On-line website. This makes it clear that different admissions arrangements may apply at academies with nurseries.

If my child attends the nursery of the school I would like, do I still need to apply?

If your child attends the nursery of the school you would like you still need to apply for a place. If your child goes to a nursery class at a particular school, we cannot guarantee that they will be offered a place in the main school. Admissions to reception are different to that of the nursery and children who attend the school's nursery are not given priority.

The exception to this is Appleton Academy, where children in nursery will be given priority for admission into reception.

38. Councillor Dale Smith

When does the Council intend publishing its proposals on Community Infrastructure Levy?

Answer

The Local Development Scheme which was adopted by Executive in July 2014 sets out the programme for the preparation of the Local Plan for Bradford District as well as supporting elements including Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The Council have commissioned consultants to undertake viability work to inform a CIL Charging Schedule.

In order to adopt a Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule it has to be subject to public consultation followed by independent examination by a government appointed Planning Inspector. However in order to progress CIL the Council is required to have robust and up to date evidence on economic viability of proposed developments. The Council have commissioned consultants to undertake this economic viability assessment work in accordance with the latest CIL Amendment Regulations which came into force in February 2014 in order to inform a Preliminary Draft CIL Charging Schedule. This viability evidence together with a proposed Preliminary Draft CIL Charging Schedule will be presented to Executive early next year for approval for public consultation. A second stage of public consultation would then take place on a final Draft CIL Charging Schedule prior to submission for an independent examination with the Planning Inspector. Anticipated adoption of a CIL Charging Schedule through a Full Council resolution is early 2016.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. Does the answer mean that there will be a period when the developers might be able to proceed without any contribution to the infrastructure?

Councillor Val Slater

That is quite a complicated question. In short no it doesn't, but it would mean that we perhaps would not get the same amount of contribution that we would probably get if we were able to institute CIL. One of the issues with CIL was that following the Localism Act and then case law that grew up following that it became clear that we needed to have a local plan before we could introduce CIL so as you are all aware one of my focuses is to get the local plan in place. That hopefully will have gone out to the Planning Inspectorate this week and that means that we can therefore plan for the Public Inquiry and in the meantime we can get on with looking at getting the evidence together for a CIL rate so that we are ready once the local plan has been examined by the inspector and then it comes back to the Council for adoption.

39. Councillor Middleton

To the Portfolio Holder Children & Young People's Services - Given that in the Mid Year Finance Report 30 September 2014 (Page 17) staffing vacancies in the Bradford Achievement Service are forecast to deliver an underspend of £300,000, is vacancy control in that department compromising improvements in Educational Achievement in the District?

Answer

The Bradford Achievement Service are forecasting an underspend in the staffing budget due to the difficulty in recruiting high level calibre staff. When we appoint people, who are employed in schools as headteachers, their long notice period can lead to a delay in getting people into post.

We are determined to employ the very highest calibre of people to provide effective challenge and support to schools. This sometimes means that we have to advertise the role more than once which can lead to a delay in making an appointment. Although the Bradford Achievement Service does commission some current Bradford headteachers to undertake a challenge and support role with schools this configuration of deployment does lead to temporary savings to the overall staffing budget.