

**COUNCIL**  
**14 July 2015**

**MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

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**1. Councillor Thornton**

What are the implications for Bradford District of the Chancellor's "Emergency Budget"?

**Answer**

In terms of telling us how much the Council's general funding will be cut by in the next few years the Summer Budget provided no clarity. With the Government having made spending commitments to health and defence, it is too early to speculate how the remaining cuts will be applied across Government Departments in the Autumn Spending Review however we do not anticipate any respite from more big cuts to the Council's funding.

Whilst welcoming the announcement that the Government has followed the Council's lead and from the 1 April 2016 is introducing a new National Living Wage of £7.20, be it £0.65 pence below the £7.85 the Council will pay its employees from the Autumn, there are grave concerns that this increase in take home pay for low paid workers in Bradford District will not match the cut in benefits.

The National Living Wage will also bring additional pressures on suppliers and providers of Council commissioned services in particular in the care sector. We will be renewing our calls for Government to ensure that the costs of social care are fully funded in the local government financial settlement including the additional costs of the National Living Wage.

The budget will have a disproportionate negative impact on our lowest income children, families and young people.

The changes to reduce welfare benefits, including a four year freeze in most working age benefits and cuts to tax / universal credits will have a detrimental impact on some of the poorest families in the District. Latest figures show that in Bradford there are over 56,000 households in receipt of tax credits, nearly 50,000 of which include children. The freezing of the amount (from April 2016 for four years) and the limitation, from 2017, to awards for two children only, will impact negatively on those on low-income, especially those with more than two children, local media reports suggest that Bradford will be one of the places hardest hit by this measure raising concerns about the negative impact on child poverty.

The freezing of awards for four years will also affect around 12,000 individuals claiming job seekers allowance, over 21,000 claiming Employment Support Allowance and over 16,000 claiming housing benefit in the private rented sector.

Also at any one time we have over 1,000 18-21 year old claimants in the District. From April 2017, any new claimants in this age bracket, with certain unknown exception, but

likely to include those with children, will not be entitled to help with their housing costs (which by then is likely to be part of universal credit). Nor will those under the age of 25 be able to earn the National Living Wage so opportunities for this group to move out of their family homes and live independently are being curtailed.

By reducing the maximum amount a family can claim in Benefit from £26,000 down to £20,000, all but 6 of our larger families that currently still receive some housing benefit will see that reduced to the 0.50p minimum Housing Benefit allowed under the scheme. This will see 233 families have their housing support reduced. Furthermore, it is not possible to predict how many new families will fall to be capped, as the Council has no record of the amount of income families on 'out of work' benefits receive. As soon as the DWP provide this information, further analysis will be done.

The Council now funds its own Council Tax support scheme, which is sensitive to changes in income and benefit. It is too early to say the extent to which the Council's scheme will be affected, although it is safe to say if the overall impact of the changes is that families receive less money, then, without compensating change, the Council's scheme will be more costly.

The proposed reduction in Social Housing rents of 1% a year for four years will have a significant impact on housing associations rental streams, their ability to deliver good quality housing in the District and potentially their investment in employment, skills and training.

While we await the outcome of the Autumn Spending Review to indicate future funding levels we do know that the Government is going ahead with consultation on how to make a £200m cut to Public Health funding during this financial year. The potential effect in Bradford could be up to £2.7m which, given the District's levels of need would be a serious blow and the Council will be making robust representations to ensure that its Public Health funding remains intact.

### **Supplementary Question**

I would like to thank the Leader for the very comprehensive answer which puts some further detail on what we already knew that this was not a budget for working people but was a kick in the teeth for working people. I would like to ask him what he thinks the Council can do to alleviate the inevitable suffering and hardship that will result from this budget?

### **Councillor Green**

Thank you Councillor Thornton. We will be discussing this in further detail later on but I think you just need to look at the extent of some of the measures that have been taken to reduce benefit and limit access to welfare in all its forms at a time when the Council is being attacked in terms of its finances as well as having additional burdens put on it to recognise that whilst we will continue to try and mitigate the worse effects of any national government policy our ability to do so is extremely limited given the demands on our shrinking financial resources and the effects of the budget last week which is going to affect thousands of people particularly the working poor in Bradford district over the years to come.

## 2. **Councillor Martin Smith**

Could the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Transportation inform colleagues of the number of planning enforcement notices which are currently outstanding, along with details of their longevity?

### **Answer**

The oldest planning enforcement case, where a formal enforcement notice has been served is from the year 2000. Since that time the enforcement team have received 19,385 complaints. There are 313 open Planning Enforcement cases where a formal Enforcement Notice has been served and the notice has not yet been complied with. These are all at various stages of the Planning Enforcement process.

As a general comparison I can advise that in the year ending December 2014 Bradford Planning Enforcement Team issued 123 Enforcement notices whilst Leeds issued 79, in fact the only authorities to issue more enforcement notices in the same period are all London based e.g. Westminster issued 224, Hounslow 155, Hammersmith and Fulham 243

### **Supplementary Question**

Could we have a fuller picture of the 313 complaints that were actioned and some of the 19,385 require further planning applications and were they upheld and also a schedule per ward helping me to get a better view of the service?

### **Councillor Val Slater**

Obviously you do not expect me to have those answers in my back pocket. I will ensure you do get them.

## 3. **Councillor Rachel Sunderland**

To the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills & Culture - Hanson has been on the list of schools causing concerns for the last five years. During this time what specific actions have the Local Authority taken to raise standards in the school?

### **Answer**

Long gone are the days when the local authority is the sole agent for school improvement. Hanson has been under an academy order for the last four years. Its original conversion date was 1st September 2011. The Department for Education took this action to improve the school rapidly and after a search by the Department for Education, sponsor SPTA were brought in to take over the school. After protracted negotiations the sponsor was unable to conclude the agreement and never took control of the school although they did have SPTA Governors in leadership of the school for some time.

In spite of the transition in ownership of the school and the ongoing negotiations, the local authority nevertheless did continue to support the school. Over the last 5 years the local authority school improvement services have invested significant resources at Hanson in an effort to support school leaders and governors to improve the quality of provision and raise student outcomes. Throughout that period LA consultants in English, maths, science and SEN have worked with departments and teachers in the school.

Recently the school was placed in Special Measures by Ofsted and arrangements were made for interim Leadership. Through Bradford's new school-led improvement model, the Head teachers of Guiseley School, Leeds and Oakbank School Keighley were drafted

in and are providing strong leadership in the school. In addition the local authority provides interim deputy principal and targeted consultancy support. A successful application was made to the Secretary of State to replace the governing body with an Interim Executive Board (IEB). A new sponsor is being sought but in the meantime necessary improvements are being made to improve standards across the school.

**4. Councillor Ahmed**

Could the leader please state how much the Hayes report cost the Bradford Council and does he believe that the original draft report has somewhat been toned down to prevent embarrassment to the leadership and senior management?

**Answer**

The Council paid the Hay Group £67,138.48 for producing the report. It is usually the case that a report will go through a number of drafts before a final version is produced. There has been no embarrassment on anybody's part at any stage about the findings of the Hay Report which highlighted areas for action and those actions are now being taken.

**5. Councillor Robinson**

What steps to Central Government by Bradford Council should be taken to ensure that all Madrassa are ofsted inspected to ensure radicalisation of young Muslims is not taking place?

**Answer**

There are no regulatory requirements of supplementary schools (Madrassas) by Central Government. Like other out of school clubs and classes the national curriculum is not relevant to their purposes and therefore they are not inspected by OFSTED.

Nevertheless the local authority does provide training and support to Madrassas on issues such as safeguarding which would include supporting them with advice on how to protect young people from radicalisation and extremism. The Local Authority through Children's Services also provides Child Protection Training to all supplementary schools each term which is well received by the Madrassas with almost 200 people attending. Over 150 DBS checks are undertaken annually the majority of which are from Madrassas.

**Supplementary Question**

I would like to thank the Leader for the answer given. This in my opinion, and many others, does not go far enough to protect young people from possible radicalisation and possible extremism. Would the Leader have a problem if I take this up directly with the Government?

**Councillor Green**

Whether I had a problem or not Councillor Robinson I would suspect that you would not take any notice of my views anyway but in wider terms I think that there is an issue that we need to be very careful of. Blaming mosques and Madrassas simply for radicalisation is wrong. They are clearly one aspect in the faith and social life of people of the Muslim faith in the same way that Sunday schools and churches are for Christian faith and various temples and synagogues are for people of other faiths. What is clear is that a vast majority of the radicalisation that is going on is going on in people's bedrooms, in

their houses and in small discussion groups outside of these formal places of learning and religion. So whilst I accept, and for all sorts of child protection reasons, that we need to increase our work with Madrassas I do think that simply looking at Madrassas or mosques or any other place of religious worship as the cause of radicalisation is potentially dangerous because you will miss those individuals who are being radicalised, who are being tempted to go to Syria or commit acts of terrorism in the United Kingdom. I think we have to be very careful to make sure that we are tackling the problem where the problem arises rather than simply looking for easy targets because we understand them.

#### **6. Councillor Morris**

Cut to transport funding - Parents and children do have a right in this country to a fair, equal and just access to education. Do you agree the intended cut in funding could affect that right if they can't get to a central pickup point or they are unable to access public transport for anyone of a myriad of reasons? Do the Executive not recognise the dangers that some of these children will be put in if the existing arrangements are changed (at present a taxi with a driver that has been vetted to ensure they are of good character, are competent and sympathetic to the needs of passengers are provided to ensure that these children and young persons reach their destination and are returned home safely is provided)? Can the portfolio holder guarantee these changes to a system will not lead to children with speech, mobility, and hearing in some cases mental illnesses being left to their own devices in some cases placed in environments not encountered before without a friendly and known carer with them. I challenge any member of the Council's Executive to guarantee no harm will befall any of these children because of this decision. I ask the Executive to think again before implementing this decision.

#### **Answer**

The Executive has already given a guarantee that the changes will be implemented on a case by case basis ensuring that individual needs are met.

The only way we can ensure that all vulnerable children and young adults continue to receive the transport support they need to get to school, is by reforming the current system. In its current state and at its current cost, the system is unsustainable given the scale of ongoing Government cuts to Council funding. At present the Council transports 5% of the School population to school and spends £2.2 million on 2680 pupils travelling by bus and £7.5 million on 1500 pupils travelling by minibus or contract taxi. The Council is implementing new policies in a variety of ways to make sure we have a more efficient system, for example, by helping promote independence for those students who can be travel trained. This will have the added advantage that in adulthood young people can lead more independent lives.

Naturally any change can cause concern for parents. With this in mind the Council will be discussing how the policies are implemented with representatives of parents to ensure the implementation reflects their needs. At all times the Safeguarding of Children will remain paramount as indeed it has to due to the Council's statutory duty. A forum to engage with representatives of parents to discuss the implementation of the changes is currently being set up, having been agreed as an action at June's Executive and, to reiterate, any changes will be made on a case by case basis according to individual needs.

## **7. Councillor Warburton**

What are the implications for the District and regional economies of the Government's announcement of indefinite delays to Trans-Pennine rail electrification and does this demonstrate that the "northern powerhouse" is little more than pre-election rhetoric?

### **Answer**

The Trans-Pennine corridor is vital to the economy of the North of England connecting city regions with a Gross Value Added contribution to the economy of £240bn and a population of 12.4 million.

The transformation of rail services to deal with severe overcrowding and slow journey times on Trans-Pennine routes is essential in order to ensure that the economy of the North becomes more competitive. Putting the Trans-Pennine electrification on hold will restrict the opportunities and potential for sustainable economic growth across the North.

Delays to the Trans-Pennine electrification also means that the potential electrification of the Calder Valley line is also on hold and it is not clear how this will impact on other rail enhancements such as new signalling which was planned for the Calder Valley line to allow it to be used as a diversionary route during the Trans-Pennine corridor electrification works.

Since the election we have also discovered that a large proportions of the funding announced to deliver the "northern powerhouse" is in existing funding for local transport schemes and every day road maintenance and as important as these are they will not deliver the step change in economic growth that we need to see.

It is imperative for the key elements of the "northern powerhouse" to be delivered as promised if it is to represent anything beyond Government pre-election spin.

Both the leader of the Council and West Yorkshire Combined Authority have requested an urgent meeting with Government to discuss the matter.

### **Supplementary Question**

I thank the Leader for his response. I would ask the Leader if in his opinion that the "northern powerhouse" pause will ever get back on track under this current Government and what alternatives, if any, are envisaged?

### **Councillor Green**

Thank you for that. I spent several months out of my life that I will never get back in a smoke free room in the Department for Transport looking at electrification priorities across the North of England. The committee was chaired by the Member of Parliament for Harrogate who is now as I recall the Minister of State responsible for this pause in the electrification. I think that it does call into question real commitment of this Government in delivering the transport aims of the "northern powerhouse" but more importantly for me in terms of Bradford and West Yorkshire and the infrastructure links we need to develop but more importantly it does confirm, and I am being fair to the Government here for once, that it does confirm my view of those many meetings in stuffy rooms in the Department for Transport that somebody needs to get hold of Network Rail and give them a good shaking, both in terms of the way they procure and deliver schemes but also in the sense of where their priorities lay because our priorities see infrastructure as a way of increasing our economy, allowing people to act as employment, allowing people to move goods. I am afraid that railway policy wants seem to regard railways as an end in themselves. I

think we have got to change that, all of us, change the perception of the infrastructure is a means to an end, not an end in itself.

## 8. **Councillor Ferriby**

What evidence do we have that the Council's efforts to regenerate the City Centre and wider District are succeeding?

### **Answer**

There is a significant body of evidence to suggest that the Council's approach to the delivery of regeneration across the District is working. However we are not complacent and will continue to work with others to do all we can with the resources we have available to deliver growth and prosperity right across the District.

### **City Centre**

- City Centre footfall – Darley Street has seen a 7% increase over the last year
- City Centre Growth Scheme has supported 191 businesses to either move in to or expand within the City Centre (47 of which are new start businesses)
- Number of vacant units down by 1%
- Key buildings brought back into use, including The Old Bank on Market Street and Barry Buildings (the former Natasha's uniform shop on Barry St)
- Over 20 new cafes, bars and restaurants opened in the City Centre
- Broadway shopping centre and Sunbridge Wells development both due to open this Autumn.
- Events and festivals are generating significant economic benefits through increased visitor spend. Since 2012 City park events have attracted over half a million visitors and generated over £7 million of additional spend.
- Anchor Housing signed a lease taking most of the Aldermanbury building assisted by a City Centre Growth Zone grant offer. This has retained 200 existing jobs and attracted 150 new jobs into the centre.

### **District**

- Unemployment fell by 6,800 over the year to December 2014.
- There was an increase of 530 in the number of businesses over the year to December 2014
- The value of investment on site in the District in 2014 amounted to an estimated £725 million of which £525m was in the city centre.
- Between April 2014 and March 2015, 262 planning applications and 123 building control applications received. This is a 58% increase on the previous year.
- Bradford beat off national competition to secure a new Jet 2 training centre near the M606 creating 30 new jobs.
- Buck Lane High Technology Business Park work began in 2013. A number of companies are in the process of moving into premises onto the site including Produmax – an engineering company who supply components to the Aerospace industry
- A partnership bid led by the University of Bradford has won £3.8M to establish a University Enterprise Zone in digital health innovation in the city, one of only 4 bids to be selected for funding across the UK.

- The Digital Health Enterprise Zone has been strengthened by a further successful bid to host the Digital Catapult Centre Yorkshire in Bradford, one of only three national catapults.
- The new £50 million Bradford College Campus building opened in 2014.
- Work is also nearly complete on Bradford College's new £10 million advanced technology building, which should be ready to take students in September 2015. The Advanced Technology Centre will accommodate 700 students.
- House building across the district has increased since Westfield went on site in 2013. There were approximately 720 net additions to the housing stock over the year to April 2013, and approximately 825 net additions over the year to April 2014.
- There is also increasing developer interest in creating more housing in the city centre. In the last 10 months 35 new homes have received planning permission for conversion from unused office and retail units in Darley Street and Piccadilly alone and some are already on site.
- The proposed redevelopment of Arndale House next to the Broadway Shopping Centre will include 98 one and two bedroom apartments as well as new restaurants and a gym.
- Bradford Planning report increased interest in a number of planned large scale residential schemes halted during the recession that could see a substantial increase in city centre housing numbers.
- The Council has supported Incommunities in the delivery of two housing projects in Goitside. The first involved the remodelling of two blocks of empty walk up flats to create 17 family properties. The second development involving two private sector partners is due for completion late summer early autumn this year and comprises 13 affordable rented properties, 10 market rented properties and 10 sale properties.
- *Get Bradford Working* is a £13.5m Employment Investment Programme for the Bradford District backed by Bradford Council and Partners that has supported 1385 individuals into employment.

## 9. **Councillor Whiteley**

At the Core Strategy Examination, in public, officers of the Council affirmed their intention to prevent the villages of Menston and Burley in Wharfedale becoming joined, due to the piecemeal infilling of local fields with housing. Can the Portfolio Holder for Transportation, Housing & Planning please confirm how this will be prevented, along with details of the timescale for the implementation of the relevant policy?

### **Answer**

The settlements of Menston and Burley in Wharfedale are surrounded by Green Belt as defined in the current Replacement Unitary Development Plan. One of the current functions of green belt in this location is to prevent coalescence of the two settlements. At the recent Examination into the Core Strategy, presided over by a Government appointed Planning Inspector, Council officers made it clear although green belt releases would be required, there was sufficient potential land supply and a sufficient range of site options to meet these targets without causing or requiring the merging of the two settlements of Menston and Burley in Wharfedale.

The National planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires Council's to plan positively to meet in full it's objectively assessed needs for new homes and jobs and thus allows for green belt boundaries to be changed through the preparation of a Local Plan where exceptional circumstances are demonstrated (paragraphs 83-84). The first document as part of the new Local Plan is the Core strategy which was submitted by the Council in



December 2014 to government for independent examination. This sets out the high level planning policies to guide development to 2030. It also sets out the need under exceptional circumstances to revise the Green belt boundary in order to meet the District's needs for homes and jobs in full. While the focus of the Core strategy is to support the use of brownfield land and support regeneration it is clear that these needs cannot be met without the need for significant change to the green belt.

The appointed Inspector held hearings in March 2015. This examined the soundness of the Core Strategy as submitted. Several sessions at the hearings examined both the scale and distribution of development proposed but also the exceptional circumstances which justify green belt change. Policy SC7 of the Core Strategy sets out the high level policy which commits the Council to a review of the green belt as part of the Local Plan. This sets out the key considerations when undertaking the review which will be implemented via the production of the subsequent more detailed Local Plan documents which allocate land and consider other designations including Green Belt. The Core Strategy makes clear that any changes to green belt land and boundaries will be assessed against the purposes of including land in green belt as set out in NPPF.

The Core Strategy does not itself allocate land or define the detailed extent of the Green belt. This will be undertaken as part of the Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) . The Local Development Scheme (LDS) approved by Executive July 2014 sets out detailed information on the different Local Plan documents the Council is committed to produce including their anticipated content and relationship with one another as well as timetable for their preparation.

The main task of the Allocations DPD is to allocate new land for both homes and jobs to meet the districts needs in full up to 2030 in line with the development strategy and associated policies set out in the Core Strategy. It will also undertake the detailed review of the green belt in line with Policy SC7. Work will commence in the next couple of months on the Allocations DPD. The first stage in its preparation will be the informal consultation with the public on several background documents, including the proposed methodologies for the green belt review and for the selection and appraisal of development sites . Following consultation on these documents the Council will undertake the site appraisals and review of the Green Belt. The public will then be consulted at key stages as the Council develops the Allocations DPD prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate for examination. These are anticipated to take place through 2016/2017 with adoption in 2018.

#### **10. Councillor Jabar**

With the shortage of school places in the district, what strategies have we in place to improve and give people places in schools of their choice?

#### **Answer**

The number of school places is continuously monitored to ensure that we are able to place all children and plan for the future.

- Parents/carers when applying for school places are now able to state up to 5 preferences, (this was previously 3) to guard against being allocated to a school that is not easily accessible for them.
- Information is provided to help parents/carers to make informed preferences.

- Admissions officers are available for advice at school open/transition evenings.

Some schools are more popular than others and therefore significantly oversubscribed but cannot admit more children even though many have been expanded to meet the demand. Our ambition for schools in the district is for all to be good or outstanding. When we achieve this ambition, parents will feel that they have a wider choice of high achieving schools to send their children to.

### **Primary schools**

The number of primary school places available for reception children has been increased by nearly 1,200 since 2010 to meet the demand due to the growing population. A further 4 are to be expanded in 2016 with consultation on the expansion of 2 others is currently underway. Regular meetings are also held with Schools to ensure that in year applications for children moving into the District can be placed.

### **Secondary schools**

To date all year 7 pupils have been placed into secondary schools. A number of free schools and academies have opened which has helped with the demand for secondary school places; however the pupil forecast shows that more expansion will be required as from September 2016. A series of meeting with Heads or representatives of secondary schools are currently being held to discuss possible expansions or options to ensure that all pupils can be placed in the future.

Underpinning the pressure on school places are the rapidly increasing numbers of children and young people requiring places combined with the Government's failure to recognise the District's needs and provide appropriate levels of resources.

### **11. Councillor Jabar**

Could the Portfolio Holder update me on the troubled families programme and what pieces of work have been developed to work with these families? Which focus on lasting change?

### **Answer**

Bradford's Families First programme Phase 1 aimed to identify and deliver interventions to 1,760 families by March 2015. 93 % (1632) families have met the Payment by Results targets

- 64% reduction in youth crime.
- 37% reduction in families involved in anti social behaviour
- 640 children have improved their attendance at school.
- 276 adults in the families have made progress to work by attending a course to help gain employment.
- 258 adults have found work and come off benefits.
- 78% of Families (1268) who have met the payment by results and have no further youth crime or anti social behaviour recorded and no further problems with school attendance.

Bradford has started phase 2 of the programme with funding available for 2015/16 which is expected to run to 2020 which will deliver interventions to 5990 families to improve against locally agreed targets. The programme delivers support to the whole family which aims to help them cope on their own. This includes looking into what is really happening

in the lives of the families – and trying to understand what problems they face and how they may have become so entrenched in such difficulties.

Traditionally services deal with individuals – not families – and worked on a ‘presenting’ or dominating problem, not the interconnected and layered problems and dynamics which means the unit as a whole and the individuals within it are struggling. Work is underway to make this approach more the norm by the implementation of the Directors 5 simple questions for staff working with families. This includes a question “do you want help getting a job or some training?” along with the implementation of a targeted Early Help offer, this will deliver improved outcomes and move families out of a cycle of despair and give their children a better chance in the future.

## 12. **Councillor Davies**

Could the Portfolio Holder for Transportation, Housing & Planning, confirm whether any thought has been given to the impact that travellers setting up camp in Esholt Public Car Park, has on tourists visiting the area and can anything be done to prevent this happening yet again?

### **Answer**

Consideration has been given by officers to the impact of travellers setting up camp in Esholt car park, a site that is used by coaches delivering tourists to the village. Regrettably, it has not been possible to design or identify a solution that permits access to coaches, whilst restricting access to travellers, the conventional approach being to install height restrictive barriers. In the event of travellers illegally settling on any Council owned land, officers work hard to regain possession of the land and ensure that it is tidied up as quickly as possible in order to try and reduce the impact.

### **Supplementary Question**

Given the costs of cleaning up after travellers have been on and all the legal costs has any consideration been given to the CCTV at the site?

## **Councillor Arshad Hussain**

I will check up on that and I will hopefully get back to you.

## 13. **Councillor Wainwright**

Is it possible to explain why the numbers of people on the Electoral Register in Tong Ward declined by 1,000 in 2014-15 compared to the previous year and what is being done to improve voter registration in all wards across the District?

### **Answer**

The number of people registered to vote in the Tong Ward at the May 2014 local election was 11,638, and the number of people registered to vote at the May 2015 election was 10,638.

The reason for the decrease in numbers was that following the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration, a data matching exercise with Council Tax records was undertaken. This enabled the compilation of a more accurate Register of Electors, as the updated register did not include electors who had moved out of the properties at which they had previously been registered to vote and who might have stayed on the Register under the previous system.

The steps taken by the Electoral Services team to maximise voter registration across the District included:

- Writing to all properties in the Bradford district to confirm the elector details were correct and asking for any names of people not included.
- Working closely with the Youth Service to increase voter registration amongst young people.
- Working with Bradford University and Bradford College Students Unions to encourage students to register to vote.
- Data matching with Council Tax records to confirm residency.
- Enclosing leaflets with Council Tax bills for new occupiers, telling them how to register to vote.
- Distributing leaflets to libraries and advice centres.
- Providing a link to the government's on-line registration page on the Council's mobile app
- Providing the Council's neighbourhood teams with details of how people can register to vote.
- Using a digi van to travel around each of the 5 Parliamentary constituencies to encourage registration.
- Setting up a stall at the Oastler Centre to encourage voter registration.

The Electoral Services team continue to work to encourage voter registration throughout the Bradford district including visiting properties where an application for registration has been received but there is a problem with verifying the information.

### **Supplementary Question**

We are now five months into the new electoral register. Can the officers, or whoever put this report together, tell us have the reasons indicated that the electoral register will go back to what it was or probably above that in Tong next year?

### **Councillor Green**

I would love to be able to tell you what the electoral register in Tong or any other part of this district is going to be but I think what is clear and one of the discussions I will be having with the Director of Legal Services and our Elections Unit, one thing is clear is that for the benefit of democracy we need as many people on the electoral register be it in Tong or any other part of this district to make sure that they can exercise their right to vote and equally importantly is given the Government's stated intentions of changing the parliamentary boundaries we need to make sure that our records by December are as up to date as possible so that we can argue to make sure that this district gets a representation that it deserves to stand in parliament rather than allowing any gerrymandering, and I am sure that no politician anyway else in this room would believe that any Government is capable of gerrymandering parliamentary boundaries, but we need to make sure that we have as close to 100% on our electoral registers as we possibly can get. That may mean that we have to make some investments in making sure that people are registered, that we get round to speak to them, that we make sure that the registers are up to date. If we need to do that, that is certainly something that we will consider doing.

### **14. Councillor Rachel Sunderland**

To the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills & Culture - In November 2014, following the well publicised dispute about school uniform at Hanson School, concerns were raised by parents about the safeguarding of children at the school. Hanson's most recent OFSTED

report of February 2015 confirms that the schools arrangements for safeguarding students did not meet statutory requirements and was of serious concern. Can you advise what actions the Local Authority took between November 2014 and the time of the inspection to address this issue?

**Answer**

Since the Ofsted inspection, safeguarding training has taken place across the school and the arrangements are much improved. All staff have received level 1 training and staff with specific safeguarding responsibilities have received level 3 training. Pastoral leaders are in place and a member of the Interim Executive Board (IEB) is responsible for Safeguarding from a Governance perspective. New policies for Safeguarding have been introduced and agreed with the IEB. Within the school, safeguarding arrangements have been significantly improved and strengthened through leadership arrangements. The school is working with the LA and other agencies to ensure that all safeguarding duties are met.

The Local authority received three concerns from parents regarding the school's strict application of their uniform policy in November 2014 but these complaints did not raise safeguarding as their issue.

**15. Councillor Whiteley**

In the absence of the Community Infrastructure Levy can the Portfolio Holder for Transportation, Housing & Planning confirm that monies from the new homes bonus will be distributed in the ward or for the benefit of the ward in which it is collected?

**Answer**

Debate around the use of the New Homes Bonus (NHB) needs to recognise that this funding has been top sliced by Government from its Revenue Support Grant to Councils and re-distributed according to housing growth rather than need. This is a regressive move favouring Districts where property prices and Council tax are high and had NHB not been introduced then Bradford would have had more resources with which to provide services in all parts of the District. Further, there is no requirement to ring-fence the New Homes Bonus for investment in any specific service or geographic area.

Nevertheless, in June 2014 the Executive resolved that relevant sums from the New Homes Bonus be diverted to help fund Council capital infrastructure projects not covered by Section 106 contributions due to developer scheme viability issues. The New Homes Bonus award for 2014/15 from Central Government has now been made and a report will be presented to Executive in September identifying the appropriate sum of money to be utilised from the New Homes Bonus, which areas of capital infrastructure have not received funding by Section 106 contributions and where the money was derived from. The Executive can then assess the appropriate priorities for the spending of this money based on the demands placed on local infrastructure by the new houses delivered across the district.

**16. Councillor Ahmed**

Will the Portfolio Holder please outline (if any) measures to ensure that there is an acceptable level of mixed ethnicity in our schools in Bradford therefore promoting cohesion, integration and tolerance from a young age and to prevent schools being either all 98% white or all 98% BME?

## **Answer**

Bradford Council does not have any policies or desire to artificially manipulate the ethnic profile of schools and to try to do so in order to obtain an "acceptable" mix would be likely to be discriminatory.

Parents express their preferences for which school they wish their child to attend and places are allocated based on a number of criteria. Parents are strongly advised to include their nearest school or where applicable, the school in whose priority admission area they live as one of their preferences. As a result the school population emerges through the admission criteria and allocation of school places.

All schools have a responsibility for promoting community cohesion and through the Equality Act 2010 a responsibility for fostering good relations between people from different backgrounds. To this end the local authority supports a range of activity:

- SACRE - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, has a Religious Education Syllabus that educates children of the 6 major world religions. This is not exclusive and can include for example Humanism. Faith Tutors from Diversity and Cohesion Services Interfaith Education Centre provide opportunities for local schools in Bradford, to interact with people from a range of faith communities in an educational context which promotes understanding of religious diversity, develops religious literacy and promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural
- The Diversity and Cohesion Service peer education programme, Stand up, Speak out, Make a Difference! (SUSOMAD!) has been running for over 6 years. This is a full year programme aimed at developing emotional intelligence and critical thinking skills, increasing confidence in young people to challenge controversial issues on human rights issues.
- During Black History Month pupils were able to explore concepts of rights and responsibilities through the story of Rosa Parks and the American Civil Rights Campaign and gained a first hand experience of prejudice and discrimination which led to a discussion about contemporary issues.
- Over 10000 children from Bradford schools benefit from visits to places of worship each year. These interactions take place in places of worship or in a school, as part of RE, collective worship or the broader curriculum. Faith tutors use stories from the different faith and developed a range of story telling strategies which are designed to develop an understanding of common human values which complement the concept of 'British values'.
- Bradford Council has also supported the work of the Schools Linking Project which later became a social enterprise funded by the DfE and Pears Foundation. This was extremely successful and for over 12 years helped link schools with very different school pupil profiles where children come together from all over the District to share in each others cultural experiences. Over 100 schools were involved on an annual basis at its height. Unfortunately, funding is no longer available and the School Linking Network will officially close at the end of July though some its work will continue.
- Schools themselves also have a duty to promote cohesion and carry out a range of related activities.

## **17. Councillor Davies**

Would the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Transportation agree that income generated by the imposition of fines on utility companies etc, who overrun the timescales

for road-works, should wherever possible be spent on transport projects in the area affected by the disruption?

**Answer**

No.

**Supplementary Question**

Can you tell me your reasons for the very short answer? It is good to get a short answer but....

**Councillor Val Slater**

My reasons for the short answer was I thought I would not waste the paper. If you want me to verbally tell you the monies that we get from the overrunning of the permit scheme, the strict rules, it can be used for administration of the excess so it does cost money. Then it says it can also be used to develop and implement safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport facilities distributed across the district as determined in our budget setting processes and also as determined by local area committees. The other thing I would say is that it is not always local people that are using local roads. I know it was a particular issue in Baildon but I myself very occasionally went up and down that road, got held up. Well I do not live locally. I live in Bingley. So if we followed your suggestion I think Councillor Pennington would be arguing with you that some of it should be spent in Bingley to balance my inconvenience.

**18. Councillor Fear**

To the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety - What steps are the Council taking to help reduce the number of attacks on fire fighters across the district?

**Answer**

In the year 2014/15 36 attacks on fire fighters occurred in Bradford District. Of the 36 cases last year, 26 involved some kind of missile (stones, fireworks etc) being thrown at staff. Nine of the cases involved verbal abuse and one involved aggressive behaviour towards a member of the Fire & Rescue Service. The peak of these problems occur around bonfire night.

When it is known that problems are likely to occur, a multi agency approach is adopted. This generally involves West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Officers meeting with the Police and Area Co-ordinator to put plans in place to reduce the likelihood of attacks through shared intelligence and diversionary activities.

All verbal attacks and reports of missiles being thrown are reported to the Police.

**Supplementary Question**

Thank you for the answer. I just want to ask do we have a plan for Bonfire Night seeing as that is when most of the attacks seem to happen? Have we got or will we be committing extra resources to the removal of dumped rubbish which is often used for unplanned bonfires?

**Councillor Arshad Hussain**

Yes we are working on that and we are committed to cutting down on the attacks on the fire-fighters and the fire engines. Can I also say that we have had 36 attacks on our fire service. Now that is 36 too many. Even if it was one that would be one too many and I think the pattern across West Yorkshire that we have got to look at is that it is around

Bonfire Night so it is October/November time that is when most of our attacks have been. We have been working quite hard with the relevant agencies as well as the fire service, police and so on including area co-ordinators in those areas where we have had problems. We are taking a very robust approach towards it.

**19. Councillor Cooke**

The Council has received formal legal advice regarding the potential of conflicts of interest arising from the Council acting as a Trustee, which states: "if there is any member of the Regulatory and Appeals Committee who is also a member of the Executive, the Committee should consider whether such a person should properly take part in the decision." Does the Leader of Council consider that this advice is equally appropriate to members of other Committees with delegated decision-making powers including planning committees?

**Answer**

The Council's Standing Orders require the agendas for both Council meetings and all committee and sub-committee meetings to include an item on disclosure of interests and all agendas include the following note under that item.

Members may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or an interest which the Member feels would call into question their compliance with the wider principles set out in the Code of Conduct. Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.

Members should always consider whether taking part in a particular decision is compliant with the Members' Code of Conduct and if relevant the Members' and Officer Planning Code of Conduct and should seek advice from the City Solicitor where necessary.

Where the same matter, or different aspects of the same matter, come before different committees for decisions it is important that members who have already participated in decision making consider whether it is reasonable to participate in further decision making, particularly if it could create a perception of a conflict of interest.

In any individual case it is ultimately a matter for the Standards Committee's procedures to determine whether a member has made the correct decision in deciding to participate in a decision. It is not for me to comment on what Standards Committee should do in a particular case.

**Supplementary Question**

Thank you for the answer and the statement of the rules. There is a broader issue here which is not really about individual councillors and whether or not the matter of interest but where the Council acts as both trustee, and it could be planning authority or it could be some other role licensing or other, it is how the Council's reputation is presented to the public and whether the public perceives that the Council is being both judge and jury in making decisions about what could be important or controversial issues. So it is a question of how we are going to address that issue as well as the issue relating to individual members which is picked up in the Council's Code of Practices.

**Councillor Green**

I have to say when I first read your written question I was confused. Now I have heard your supplementary question I am totally and absolutely baffled. I do think if there is



some individual which clearly has raised this issue with you, if there is an individual instance then I will quite happily look into it but I am struggling to find and I have asked an example of where your concerns have come up so if you would care to write to me I will have it looked at and hopefully I will be able to resolve the matter so that you can sleep peacefully in your bed.

**20. Councillor Mallinson**

In view of the nearly 3,000 new homes, predicted to be built across the Craven Ward, can the Leader of the Council confirm that a bypass is still planned for Silsden?

**Answer**

The requirements for a new by-pass for Silsden will need to be fully addressed as part of the assessment work when new sites are considered for housing allocation as part of the forthcoming Local Plan process. However, in the event of significant planning applications being submitted for housing in the Silsden area on either previously developed land or sites allocated as "safeguarded land" on the current development plan then it will be necessary to consider all highway implications including potential implications for a by-pass. If large scale new housing schemes are to be submitted before the Local Plan allocation process takes place then it may be necessary for the Assistant Director, Planning, Transportation and Highways to engage with developers with a view to carrying out feasibility work for a by-pass at an earlier stage.

**Supplementary Question**

I would like to thank the Leader for not answering my question. It is quite clear in my question is a bypass still planned for Silsden? You have put in here that it may be necessary for the Assistant Director to have discussions with the developers. Can I just inform the Leader that even this evening there is another public meeting where a developer is considering 190 new homes for Silsden as well as we have just successfully turned down a supermarket in Silsden. Silsden is a haven at the moment for developers coming forward. This needs intervention at an early stage. Can the Leader give me assurance that early intervention will start now and not when the horses have bolted and we have just the cart?

**Councillor Val Slater**

I was aware of those recent planning applications and the one that is in the pipeline. I agree that we need to have a fresh look. It is a long time since that original suggestion about a bypass being required was put forward so we are having a fresh look. We shortly will be commissioning a report into this. We did meet with the developers that you are referring to and suggested they might like to contribute to that. Their answer you can well imagine.

**21. Councillor Mike Pollard**

I understand that notice has been / is about to be served on Network Rail, under a provision of the Highways Act 1980, to repair the collapsed wall on Otley Road, Shipley. If the clear statutory liability falls upon Network Rail regardless of any subsidiary leasehold contracts, could the Portfolio Holder for Transportation, Housing & Planning explain why adoption of this course of action has been so long delayed?

**Answer**

Following the collapse, Council Engineers had engaged with representatives from the lease holder (Crossley Evans Ltd) who initially accepted maintenance responsibility for

the wall and indicated that they would be carrying out the repair work. Crossley Evans Ltd later changed their position after legal advice suggesting that the wall collapse had been caused by activities of the highway authority that should carry out the repair.

The long term lease agreements which exist between the various parties (landowner Network Rail, and the leaseholders DB Schenker and Crossley Evans) all transferred maintenance responsibility to the next.

CBMDC tried to collaborate with the landowner and leaseholders to reach a speedy and acceptable resolution. However, when parties failed to reach agreement on the way forward CBMDC decided to follow the legal route and serve notice on Network Rail as a last resort.

### **Supplementary Question**

I would like to thank the Portfolio Holder for a detailed response in terms of the course of events regarding the collapsed wall on Otley Road. I note that the Council tried a collaborative approach to reach a “speedy and acceptable solution”. In a situation where a key strategic route is subject to severe and damaging congestion could the Portfolio Holder perhaps define for me the words “speedy” for resolution in such cases?

### **Councillor Val Slater**

Obviously I cannot define it. On that I think each needs to be judged on its merits but we do generally want to take an approach where the people responsible do step forward and put the money up front and pay for those repairs. It is better if we can try and negotiate and get people voluntarily to do that. I think if you go in straightaway with a big stick then that is when people dig their heels in. Unfortunately in these circumstances the sub contractor first agreed they were going to pay for it, and I think it was their legal representatives or their insurers that kind of put a hold on that, and then we are into further negotiations but really the Council is very much at arm’s lengths on this. It is down legally to the landowners and their sub-contractors to repair that wall.

### **22. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland**

To the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport & Sustainability - The Portfolio Holder will know about the 41 tonnes of what was commercial waste removed from Apperley Bridge Playing Fields following the removal of illegally encamped travellers in June of this year. Can the portfolio holder advise as to how much more waste has been removed as a result of the activities of this group of travellers, how much has it cost the Council to remove this commercial waste and what legal action has been taken against those that left the waste?

### **Answer**

During 2014, the core group of travellers referred to in this question occupied 17 separate sites, although the occupiers varied from site to site. The majority of the occupied sites were Council owned assets and the land owning departments have estimated the costs of waste removal at £23,000. Since April 2015 that core group have occupied 7 sites and of the sites where we have secured vacant possession, clean up costs have totalled £3,100. The land owning departments do not routinely record the tonnage of waste that is removed, but it is frequently fly tip waste, litter and excrement that is removed.

Where there is sufficient evidence to identify a perpetrator for any criminal activity, and there is a realistic prospect of securing a prosecution and recovering associated costs, the Council would pursue that individual in accordance with the Environmental Health Enforcement policy. A pre-requisite of a successful formal action however is unequivocal

evidence of the identity of the perpetrator and, due to their transient nature, it is frequently difficult to gather this evidence and pursue this course of action. The Council's approach is to secure a rapid response to any unauthorised sites, seeking vacant possession as quickly as practicable to minimise these types of offences, in addition to the investigation of possible criminal proceedings.

### **Supplementary Question**

Thank you for your answer. I do not know who I am directing this to. What occurred was centrally a group of people who are operating a business and using public land both to live on and to dispose of their trade waste which is a huge amount of unfair competition for other people in this trade. I just wonder what steps can be taken and I wonder something to do with the restriction of commercial waste or something like that. Because if we have a group of seven people who are moving around the district using public land for disposal of trade waste we need to do something with it.

### **Councillor Imran Khan**

I agree with what you are saying. The competition is very strong and again I think it is something I need to chase up and come back to you.

### **23. Councillor Cooke**

What actions are being taken to reduce the negative impact of anti-social street drinking on town centre businesses especially those at Oastler Centre, John Street and North Parade?

### **Answer**

Like most city centres, Bradford experiences anti-social behaviour (ASB) linked to alcohol at times and in June 2014 Bradford District Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Partnership established a working group to try and tackle the issue of street drinking in Bradford City Centre. The group meet on a monthly basis and includes key partners.

An action plan is in place that focuses on all aspects of the issue, including enforcement and the powers available to partners. The plan includes provision for reassuring businesses and retailers and improving public confidence with a strong communication strategy. Work is also taking place to share good practice with other cities experiencing similar problems to learn what more could be done in Bradford.

The partnership has strengthened relationships with key partners, shared intelligence and information, combining patrols and daily operational briefings with Wardens, Police Teams and Support Workers. A more collaborative approach to enforcement action has meant that there have been a number of interventions available to enable partners to share powers, including Criminal Behaviour Orders, Dispersal Orders and the impending Public Space Protection Order which will be in place early 2016.

Six weekly Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) surgeries are established and well attended which provide businesses with the opportunity to report information and speak to key services to play a role in working together to tackle some of the issues.

Days of Actions are scheduled on a regular basis. These involve Licensing Teams from the Council and Police, speaking to Off Licenses, reminding retailers of their responsibilities and taking necessary enforcement action, as well as environmental audits and joint patrols with Council Wardens and City Centre Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT).

“Reach out Bradford” aims to highlight the support offered on a daily basis to vulnerable people who are affected by housing, drug and alcohol issues in the City Centre. Partners include NPT staff, Bradford Council ASB Team, Horton Housing, Change Agents, Bradford Day Shelter, ARCH futures, West Yorkshire Finding Independence, and Council Wardens.

As a result of this partnership “Reach out Bradford” is going from strength to strength and is extremely successful in dealing with some of the alcohol and legal high related ASB. The success of this approach has been adapted for both Shipley and Keighley Town Centres, which at times have also experienced similar alcohol related issues.

### **Supplementary Question**

Thank you for the comprehensive answer and obviously it is quite an important issue to anyone who uses the City Centre. Given that we are in the process as you know reviewing the work we do around drugs and alcohol and in part with our partners that includes the provision of pharmacy services to drug users. Part of the problem is that the City Centre is created by that very function. Can you assure us that as part of that process we will look at whether it is possible to relocate those services to a more appropriate location?

### **Councillor Green**

The question covers a gamut of the portfolio but in that particular question my view on the positioning of that particular facility has not changed since the original planning application was made ten years ago I think it was, possibly even longer. Certainly the review of the whole service is underway and there will be a full discussion and options given about how that service can be provided because I think it is important to recognise that anything that will deal with anti social behaviour, either drug related or drink related, needs both a carrot and a stick and the trick is to make sure that it is a balanced approach but also one that does not affect the commercial businesses in the City Centre or in any of the other district centres.

### **24. Councillor Miller**

How much has been received via Section 106 monies towards education over the last 5 years?

### **Answer**

Section 106 (S106) Agreements are legal agreements between Local Authorities and developers; these are linked to planning permissions and can also be known as planning obligations. Section 106 agreements are drafted when it is considered that a development will have significant impact on the local area that cannot be moderated by means of conditions attached to a planning decision. The agreements will vary depending on the nature of the development and will place obligations on the developer to either make certain provision (e.g. plant number of trees) or make financial contribution towards services (Education, Housing, Highways etc) in the area.

The amount of Section 106 monies received for Education in the last five years is £1,952,230.65.

**25. Councillor Davies**

Does the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport and Sustainability agree that making dog foul bags available free of charge in libraries and other appropriate public buildings, as in some other councils' districts, would be a low cost contribution to efforts to tackle the problem of dog fouling?

**Answer**

Ideally it should not be the Council's job to subsidise dog ownership. The responsibility to clean up after dogs rests with the dog owners the majority of whom take that responsibility seriously.

The Council does however encourage responsibility by providing free dog foul bags to voluntary groups that run Green Dog Walker schemes. The Green Dog Walkers specifically target fellow dog walkers by approaching them in a friendly, non-confrontational manner and offer bags if the person doesn't carry any. This approach ensures that any free bags are given to dog owners along with guidance and support about responsible dog ownership.

The provision of free dog foul bags at libraries and other public venues is likely to be a more costly and inefficient solution that may have little impact on dog fouling offences.

**Supplementary Question**

Thanks for the reply. I was not suggesting it was instead of any current initiatives. I meant as well as and it mentions it could be a costly thing to do. I suspect it will cost a few pence. I just thought it might be an additional thing that might help in this situation.

**Councillor Imran Khan**

I am not sure there is a question here. It is more of a statement. I think people need to take responsibilities for their own pets and if you are going to treat dogs as members of the family then the question is do you start providing bog rolls to people at home. I think we have got to draw the line somewhere. I think people do need to take responsibility as most of them do.

**26. Councillor Fear**

To the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport and Sustainability - How many littering fines were issued by Council Wardens in 2014?

**Answer**

In 2014 a total of 62 Fixed Penalty Notices for littering were issued by Council Wardens. From January 2015 to end of April 2015 Council Wardens carried out a number of 'litter days of action' focussing in key locations which has resulted in Council Wardens using 30 Fixed Penalty Notices in a 4 months reporting period.

**27. Councillor Dale Smith**

Can the Leader identify those Councillors who have been appointed in a mini-Executive role to assist the Portfolio Holders and explain their responsibilities?

**Answer**

The Executive Assistants are as follows:

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Executive Assistant</b>
Health & Social Care	Cllr Naveeda Ikram
Education, Skills & Culture	Cllr Nussrat Mohammed
Neighbourhoods & Community Safety	Cllr Michelle Swallow
Environment, Sport & Sustainability	Cllr Richard Dunbar
Corporate	Cllr Nazam Azam
Housing Planning & Transport	Cllr Mohammed Shafiq

The position of Executive Assistant is a developmental role providing members with direct experience of working with the executive and assisting portfolio holders in developing and delivering strategic policy and informing decision making.

Executive Assistants will support Portfolio Holders to pro-actively review performance and resources and develop policy in specific areas identified by the Portfolio Holder. The work will require Executive Assistants to attend policy briefings in their areas of responsibility, deputise for the Portfolio Holder at meetings as appropriate, develop relationships with relevant local and regional partners, attend public meetings as appropriate and keep abreast of local and national developments in those policy areas related to their responsibilities.

**28. Councillor Whiteley**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Transportation, Housing & Planning please provide details of the basis on which government funding for potholes is distributed across the district, along with a breakdown of monies distributed to each area?

**Answer**

Pothole type highway repairs are revenue funded and the budget was devolved to Area Committee control in July 2013. Information relating to the operation of Local Highway Maintenance is reported to the Area Committees on a regular basis. Specific repair timescales are defined that are dependant on the severity of defect, much of the work is also reactive and the network length differs in the various districts, hence the spend may vary at times across the area, however over time this would tend to average out.

During the last 12 months the spend on potholes and patching by district has been: -

- Bradford South - £119k
- Bradford West - £133k
- Bradford East - £123k
- Shipley - £137k
- Keighley - £123k

**29. Councillor Fear**

To the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport & Sustainability - How many enquiries did the Council's pest control team receive in 2014 and how many times did the pest control team attend a job for which the pest control fees for domestic clients were charged?

**Answer**

In 2014 the Pest Control Team received 3,607 requests for service. The Environmental Health ICT system does not enable the differentiation of chargeable services between commercial and domestic clients. However, 2,459 were the types of treatments that are chargeable when delivered in either domestic or commercial premises and all those clients were charged in accordance with the departments published fees and charges.

The remaining service requests would have received advice on how to deal with their pest problem themselves. Some of the clients pay for the service when they initially contact us to arrange a treatment and the others are invoiced at the completion of the treatment programme. The latter option includes a facility to pay in instalments if required.

The Council took the decision to end free and subsidised pest control treatments at the beginning of the financial year 2011/12.

**30. Councillor Pennington**

Can the Leader of the Council inform colleagues of the number of jobs created by the City Centre Growth Zone, during the twelve months since the June 2014 forecast of 381?

**Answer**

As at 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 the number of jobs created and sustained beyond 12 months stands at 357. The current pipeline suggests an additional 300 jobs will be created in the next 12 months as a result of the capital investments that are just beginning to realise their job potential and the ongoing Business Rate Rebate Scheme.

**31. Councillor Davies**

Given that only 52% of Council employees are members of Trades Unions, does the Leader of the Council think it appropriate and proportionate, that they retain the level of power that they currently wield, when it comes to decision making by the Council? Further, what actions are taken to ensure those employees who aren't members of unions are adequately consulted?

**Answer**

The Trade Unions do not "wield" decision making powers, these lie with the Council.

The Trade Unions do however have a statutory right to be consulted before decisions are made on a number of issues e.g. Section 188 budget reductions that have the potential for redundancies, TUPE, changes to employment contracts etc. In the case of Section 188 consultations, the Council is statutorily required to undertake meaningful consultation with the recognised Trade Unions 'with a view to reaching agreement' although an agreement does not have to be reached.

The Trade Unions have played an important and constructive part in helping the Council to improve efficiency and deliver change over the last five years while protecting frontline services and jobs as far as is possible in the face of £170m of Government cuts and the prospect of many more to come.

The Council includes all employees in communications not just those who are members of Trade Unions. Good example of consultation and engagement with all employees is the Council's New Deal initiative which has engaged significant numbers of staff to date in a variety of ways.

**Supplementary Question**

Are the unions consulted before the employees? It says that you consult with employees as well as unions but are the unions consulted before the general employees of the Council and if so how far before they are?

### **Councillor Green**

I think the answer to your question is it depends in what sense. If it is a formal negotiation we formally negotiate with the trade unions as laid down by the agreements that this Council has followed every year since I have been on Council which is now a quarter of a century. But we consult with individual employees. We consult collectively with employees about various changes that we are considering. I think the answer is it depends and if you would care to give me some more specific examples I will give you the appropriate response.

### **32. Councillor Ahmed**

Will the Leader please tell us how many child sexual exploitation cases are currently under investigation across the district and what steps are being put in place to prevent future incidents?

#### **Answer**

On July 6th 2015, West Yorkshire Police and colleagues in the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Hub were investigating 44 current investigations of child sexual exploitation in the Bradford District. There are 36 potential victims recorded by these investigations, 5 of whom are now over the age of 18.

This Council is working closely with the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board and our partners in West Yorkshire Police, Schools, Health, the voluntary sector and other agencies to ensure that there is a comprehensive plan for preventing CSE, protecting potential victims and bringing perpetrators to justice. We are also working with the Police and Crime Commissioner, West Yorkshire Police and the other West Yorkshire Local Authorities to make sure that our responses are joined up and consistent across the sub region.

The Safeguarding Children Board is leading our work, the approach which was endorsed by the Council Executive in January 2015. This response emphasises the importance of all council services, partner agencies and communities working together to make Bradford a hostile environment for those people who wish to harm our child through CSE, by either on-street or on-line grooming.

Members of Council do have the opportunity to learn more about CSE and how partners in this District are working to tackle by completing on line training and attending events such as the special performance of "Somebody's Sister, Somebody's Daughter" on July 22<sup>nd</sup> in Bingley.

### **33. Councillor Davies**

How much will be saved by closing the one day a week facility to register births, marriages and deaths at Ilkley and Shipley and did any residents suggest this as part of the "New Deal" consultation?

#### **Answer**

The withdrawal of the registration service at Ilkley and Shipley took effect from 1 April 2015 and is the result of the reductions in staff numbers in the Registration Service due to implementation of budget savings of £140,000 p.a. agreed at Council in February 2014 and previously subject to public consultation as part of the Council's overall budget consultation process.



As Cllr Davies will be aware those savings were required as a result of unfair and disproportionate Government cuts to the Council's funding which have demanded savings of £170m to be made since 2011 with the prospect of many more to come.

It is inevitable that all parts of the District will be affected by cuts on this scale however no complaints have been received by the Registrars Service from members of the public since the new arrangements began.

The New Deal consultation did not commence until October 2014 but this issue was not raised as a matter of concern or priority at the events held in Ilkley or Shipley. Some participants did however, express dismay at the scale of the Government's cuts to the District.

**34. Councillor Davies**

Could the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Transport, quantify for colleagues what actual difference is the new policy on travellers making?

**Answer**

The policy in question is a joint policy statement introduced in early 2015 and its aim is to formalise the working partnership of the Council and West Yorkshire Police in the management of unauthorised encampments. It is designed to ensure the accountability and transparency of our actions, but the legislation that is available to both agencies to manage such encampments remains unchanged. The Council holds the view that the policy principles have been successfully applied to the management of each of the encampments that we have had in the district and that vacant possession has been secured as expediently as possible on each occasion.

**Supplementary Question**

It does not make any difference. That is the answer to the question is that right?

**Councillor Val Slater**

I think it would be unfair to Arshad to ask him to answer that one seeing as I was involved in the policy. No one said it was a new policy Debbie, that was when you released it to the press. They said it was a new policy. All it was, was a tightening up of the existing policy so it is the rules that we have already had and, apart from the group that Councillor Sunderland mentioned before, it generally works and if people are moved on within a reasonable period of time that we often have specific problems with, a specific group, and it has not made much difference to that group.

**35. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland**

To the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Culture - What is the current level of vacancies for fully qualified maths teachers in Bradford Secondary Schools? Please supply the information both in number and % of total number of maths teacher jobs.

**Answer**

The Local Authority does not appoint Maths teachers or hold this information; every endeavour is made by the Leadership Team of each and every school to ensure all vacancies are filled. There are national shortages of English and Maths Secondary Teachers. However, schools will be in the process of concluding their recruitment for the start of the new Academic year.

**36. Councillor Davies**

Would the Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care inform members of any lessons learned, from the significant amount of negative publicity earlier in the year, bringing into question the effectiveness of Bradford's Children's Trust Board?

**Answer**

The Telegraph and Argus article that appeared on 15<sup>th</sup> April followed a report to Overview and Scrutiny on 14<sup>th</sup> April which referred to the Children's Trust Board survey that took place earlier in the year. All members of the Trust were given an opportunity to give feedback about the Board arrangements.

On the 31 October 2010 the Department for Education withdrew its statutory guidance on Children's Trusts, but the requirement for local authorities and partners to have a Children's Trust Board (CTB) and the wider duty to cooperate to improve children's wellbeing, as set out in section 10 of the Children's Act 2004, remains in force. Local authorities and partners are at liberty therefore to shape and develop their CTB arrangements to suit local requirements and ensuring the "duty to cooperate" to improve the wellbeing of children and young people is met.

The survey has provided an opportunity to explore function and effectiveness in light of the changes. As a result the CTB will review and redefine its role, in the context of the New Deal for Bradford, across a number of key areas: membership and frequency of meetings, refreshing the terms of reference and governance, driving change, its strategic approach; performance management, decision making, participation and engagement with children and young people, roles and responsibilities of members and the development of clearly defined task and finish groups. This process is underway following the most recent CTB meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

**37. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland**

To the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Culture - In how many secondary schools in the district is Maths being taught by teachers who are not qualified to teach Maths?

**Answer**

The Local Authority does not appoint Maths teachers and does not hold this information as it is for the Leadership Team to determine the most appropriate and best staffing structure for the students in their schools. Every school will work to ensure that the highest quality of teaching and learning is offered to the students.

**38. Councillor Davies**

Would the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Culture inform members of how the effectiveness of employing a Recruitment and Retention Strategy Manager for Teaching, will be measured?

**Answer**

The Recruitment and Retention Strategy Manager is working both within Bradford and external to Bradford to promote the District as a great place to come and live and work. It is fully expected that this work will increase the available school workforce in the District. Ultimately as a result of the increase in the high quality workforce, the impact will be on the supporting of the raising of standards across the District.

**Supplementary Question**

It says “ultimately” in the answer. I just wonder if there is a date for that? It mentions “ultimately”, it will be the standards how they improve, but is there a sort of date for that?

**Councillor Hinchcliffe**

Obviously it is a new project so it is the first of three years. What we are doing is establishing a base line at the moment. So once we establish that base line there are some indicators like vacancy rates and the number of applications for the district and we will be in a better position to ask questions on measurement. Obviously it is something we need to put in place and I am happy to share that with you as we go along.

**39. Councillor Morris**

When and why did the Council dispose of the Clerk of Works position in Keighley?

**Answer**

There has never been a specific Clerk of Works role in the Keighley Area Team’s structure. Historically, supervision of traffic works were carried out by officers from the Major Maintenance team or Area Teams as required.