

14. **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR COUNCIL**

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| Agenda Item 10 | Questions to the Leader and Portfolio Holders -
Written questions together with respective
answers |

Amendments to Motions

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COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2022

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- Agenda Item 4** Lord Mayor's Announcements
- Agenda Item 7** Public Questions and Responses
- Agenda Item 8** Membership of Committees and Joint Committees
- Agenda Item 9** Report by the Leader of the Council
- Agenda Item 10** Questions to the Leader and Portfolio Holders -
Written questions together with respective answers

Amendments to Motions (Green)

Council Chamber Seating Plan

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

CITY OF BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF COUNCIL – TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2022

ITEM 4

WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR

STATEMENT ON UKRAINE

At our meeting today a motion backed by all parties will be proposed condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine and offer to welcome any Ukrainian refugees displaced by the conflict.

The events unfolding in Ukraine are deeply concerning to all especially to our Ukrainian community and for those who have family and friends in the Ukraine and Russia. I am sure that Members will wish to join me in condemning the invasion of Ukraine and the unprovoked aggression that we are witnessing on a daily basis.

DEPARTURE OF ASSISTANT CITY SOLICITOR (LEGAL SERVICES), MICHAEL BOWNESS

I am sorry to report that Michael Bowness, Assistant City Solicitor (Legal Services), is leaving us shortly, having joined the Council in June 2016 and that this is his final Council meeting.

We are grateful for the sound and constructive assistance he has provided throughout this period, which has invariably been delivered in his characteristically thoughtful and considered manner.

An interim appointment has been made to replace him, Bryn Roberts who previously worked at North Tyneside Council.

I am sure Members and Officers will wish to join me in thanking Michael and wishing him every happiness and success for the future.

ELECTIONS

As this is the last ordinary meeting of the Council for this municipal year, I am sure that Members will wish to join me in extending every good wish for the future to colleagues who are standing down from the Council at the forthcoming elections. Many years' service will have been given to the work of the Council by those Members who are not standing and their departure will bring with it the loss of a wealth of experience and knowledge which will not be easy to replace.

I would like the Council to place on record its thanks and appreciation for their contribution to the life of the District and the wellbeing of its citizens.

May I also wish 'Good Luck' at the Polls to those Councillors who are seeking re-election on the 5th of May.

Distribution:

Deputy Lord Mayor

Chief Executive

City Solicitor

Civic Affairs Manager/Joanne Gleeson

Committee Services Manager (Guy Close)

Principal Executive Officer, Chief Executive's Office (Nigel Smith)

PA to the Leader of Council

Policy Research Officer, Bradford Labour Group (Simon O'Hare)

AGENDA ITEM 7 – PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

15 MARCH 2022

1.

What is the Council's response to the following statement?

"I live on Broad Dale Close in East Morton; for the last three years, I and my immediate neighbours and a further nearby 192 households have been impacted by the surface water emanating from the field located to the north of the designated public footpath which is behind numbers 1, 3 and 5 Broad Dale Close. Self-evidently the amount of water depends on the rainfall quantity breaching a tributary of How Beck, but it can be a horrendously large amount running for days and weeks. The major issue is the running water eroding gardens and foundations, then when the water freezes this creates a thick heavy deposit of ice for all the residents to cope with on the steep paths & roads. Surely the Council has a legal duty to get the owner of land from which water emanates on to a public footpath to prevent that happening. I am certain that this case is already on a list in the Council's Drainage Department, but urgent action needs to be taken to stop water coming from private land, across a public footpath, and on to residential streets. In February 2021, a member of the public slipped on ice and reportedly fractured their elbow in several places. We certainly don't want a repeat of this incident and urge the Council to take positive and immediate action?"

Response

This is an issue the Council are aware of and have been dealing with from historic events but also from the events of the recent storms.

Over the next few weeks our Land Drainage Officers will be speaking to the tenant and landowner and visiting site to assess the areas that have been drawn to our attention and any additional elements that we feel need investigating. In the first instance we need to fully understand what drainage infrastructure is in place on the land and the extent of damage/failure of those systems.

It is too early to say whether remedial works to existing systems will correct the situation and adequately manage flows from adjoining land. Our investigation may reveal that the systems in place do not have the required capacity to manage the flows and we would therefore need to consider a capital flood risk management scheme to mitigate the issues being raised. A capital scheme is over and above what is required of upstream landowners and as such we would need to determine if Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding from the Environment Agency could be secured to pay for the scheme. This will also require investigations into the downstream culvert to ensure that adequate capacity is available to manage flows.

We will ensure that we get in contact with affected residents once our on-site investigations are complete.

2.

This question is presented on behalf of the unprecedented number of individuals and national organisations objecting to National Highways (NH) planning application to abandon Queensbury Tunnel - to date, 7,795 (with a further 72 whose comments show that they have erroneously ticked the 'support' box), backed by 14,357 signatures on change.org and endorsed by every parish and town council between here and Keighley. Many reasoned comments on the planning portal show how converting Queensbury Tunnel to a cycle/walkway as the centrepiece of a greenway connecting Halifax to Bradford and Keighley can bring economic, social, health and tourism benefits in ways which fully concur with Bradford's Local Plan.

Following NH's iniquitous spend of over £7 million, will Council please explain what measures are being taken to prevent NH's intended destruction of the tunnel and what progress Bradford Council has made, with Calderdale Council and WYCA, to secure a commitment from the Department for Transport to actively support the repurposing of this unique heritage feature of Bradford's proud landscape for the benefit of present and future generations?

Response

Bradford Council has lobbied government strongly over a number of years to provide sufficient funding to restore Queensbury Tunnel as part of a cycle network connecting Bradford, Queensbury and Halifax. We submitted a business plan to Government asking for investment of £27.2 million to restore and regenerate the tunnel, so far our ask of Government has been unanswered.

The campaigners who have raised the issue of the tunnel for so long have done a fantastic job in raising awareness and rallying support.

We secured £1m from government to deliver studies looking at the tunnel from an engineering perspective and also how it can form part of the wider cycle network. This work has been ongoing and we hope to conclude it within the next couple of months. At this point we can engage stakeholders, share the reports and consider next steps in liaison with the Department for Transport.

We are aware of the significant number of objections received to the planning application regarding the closure of the tunnel and high level of support for a cycleway/walkway, which would bring economic, social and health benefits to local communities. The Planning application hasn't been determined as yet but in considering its decision on the proposed closure the Council will take into consideration those issues raised on objection letters in conjunction with policies contained the Bradford Core Strategy and the emerging Bradford Local Plan.

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2022

Agenda Item 8 – Membership of Committees and Joint Committees (Standing Order 4)

Additional membership changes have been submitted as follows:

- Shipley Area Committee – Councillor Debbie Davies to replace a Conservative Councillor as an alternate.
Confirmation of the Councillor being replaced to be reported at the Council meeting.

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

Agenda item 9 – Report of the Leader of the Council

Children's Services

We are pleased to have Steve Walker and Eleanor Brazil confirmed as Government Commissioners supporting Children's Services both with the improvement journey and the progress into a council-owned Children's Company. Both have huge experience in Children's Social Care and their expertise will be invaluable. Monthly cross party briefings are taking place to make sure councillors are consulted and information is disseminated as it arises.

Ukraine

We have all seen the scenes of devastation on our TV screens over the last few weeks. Millions of people are fleeing Ukraine and naturally Bradford, as a long-time City of Sanctuary, will play its full part. This is a fast moving situation and over the weekend the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove, launched a new scheme to encourage UK individuals, charities, community groups and businesses to record their interest in supporting Ukrainians fleeing the war. This can be done through the government's new Homes for Ukraine scheme ahead of Phase One of the scheme opening for applications this Friday.

The Homes for Ukraine scheme will allow individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians to safety – including those with no family ties to the UK.

Phase One of the scheme will allow sponsors in the UK to nominate a named Ukrainian or a named Ukrainian family to stay with them in their home or in a separate property.

COVID – Omicron

7 day infection rates for Bradford District are 206/100,000 of the population compared to the England average of 394/100,000. This is the 304th highest local authority rate in the country. Hospital admissions are up this week being 94; last week 85 people were admitted, with 7 deaths registered. 75.4% of people have had their first dose of vaccine, 69.4% have had their second dose and 47.1% have had their third dose. Clearly there is more work to do in encouraging people to take up the vaccine.

Last day of testing at Centenary Square before the facility is dismantled is 19th March and it will then be vacated by 23rd March. Victoria Hall in Keighley will be vacated by 24th April. These are both red letter days for the district, we have lived with COVID for so long, these facilities have become a constant reminder of the virus in our communities. Even though the testing sites are gone we must remember that the virus is not, and we must protect each other by getting the vaccination when invited to do so. The Government have not made it clear about what their testing strategy is beyond the end of March. Presumably there will be PCR tests available online. Healthcare settings will still need lateral flow tests but the general public may find getting these harder and they may no longer be free of charge.

City of Culture

We anticipate hearing whether Bradford has been shortlisted to go into the last four or five cities next week for the City of Culture competition. The City of Culture team led by Chair, Shanaz Gulzar, has put together a remarkable bid, full of energy and ideas. We really thank them for all they have done and how they have mobilised the vast and varied cultural community all across the Bradford district to get this far. If successful on getting onto the shortlist, there will be visits by the judges to all the shortlisted cities in May. By the end of May the winner should be announced by the Secretary of State.

It was wonderful to wave off 100 young people from across Bradford District to visit Coventry, the current City of Culture recently. The feedback is that it was inspirational to go and see what can be achieved and it's given our young people lots of ideas about how they might contribute to a successful City of Culture in Bradford.

New Chair of Transport for the North

Lord Patrick McLoughlin has been appointed by Government as the new Chair of Transport for the North. He succeeds John Cridland who stood down last year. Before he was elevated to the House of Lords Lord Patrick served from 2012 to 2016 as the Secretary of State for Transport. On one of his early visits he came with Mayor Brabin and Cllr Lewis from Leeds to Bradford for a meeting to hear about our transport priorities. We look forward to working with him in the future.

West Yorkshire Integrated Care System

The new WY ICS is still in shadow form since Government delayed the full implementation of ICSs until July this year. The Bradford model will involve all senior leaders in the health system, rather than one person only being responsible for commissioning. The nominal accountable lead will be Mel Pickup, Chief Executive of Bradford Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust, but Iain MacBeath, the council's Director of Social Care and Therese Pattern, the Chief Executive of Bradford District Care Trust, will also provide leadership in the new health system.

The new Chair of West Yorkshire ICS Partnership Board is Cllr Tim Swift, Leader of Calderdale Council, and the Chair Designate of the new West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board is Cathy Elliott, no stranger to Bradford, she is the outgoing Chair of Bradford District Care Trust.

Levelling Up White Paper

The arrival of the Levelling Up White Paper is welcome, although it was disappointing to see that there was no new investment offered with it. We will continue to make the strongest possible case to Government for the new investment, infrastructure and opportunities that are required to truly level up.

The publication did accompany an announcement that 20 areas in the country would be chosen to be Levelling Up areas. We are keen for Bradford District to be one of these. Recent published research showed that of all the cities in the UK, Bradford has the most potential to level up so we are optimistic about our district's chances. Clearly for the UK to level up, it needs Bradford to level up. We are at the heart of the North.

COUNCIL

15 March 2022

MEMBER QUESTION TIME – PART 1

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. Councillor Simon Cunningham

Following the welcome news that Bradford is to benefit from an £8.1 million investment in a new ultra-low emission bus fleet, supported by this Council, can the Portfolio Holder advise which routes will be served by the new vehicles? And is this environmentally-friendly upgrade evidence that the clean air ambitions of this council are already having a positive impact on our city's air quality?

Response

The Council, in partnership with WYCA, is supporting bus operators to upgrade to zero emission buses through the DfT Zero Emission Bus Fund (ZEBRA). DfT has made clear that the funding is primarily targeted where the Government are introducing CAZ. Bus operator's plans include developing zero emission bus routes in 2023 from Bradford to Keighley, Bradford to Harrogate and Leeds Bradford Airport and Bradford to Wakefield.

We are also in discussion with bus operators about developing hydrogen bus routes.

We have also worked with WYCA to upgrade 317 buses in the district to CAZ standard including new, cleaner diesel buses by First who are introducing the buses on the Bradford to Leeds route. The Council is also working with WYCA to support the Zero Emission Bus Fund (ZEBRA) applications from local bus operators, including Transdev and Arriva, who plan to operate zero emission bus routes in the district from 2023.

2. Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

Slaymaker Lane, Oakworth has been flooded for many weeks despite gullies being cleared and this makes vehicular access difficult and pedestrian access impossible. As this is a direct route to the newly refurbished Oakworth Crematorium that will shortly re-open, could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport confirm what action the Council is taking to ensure the flood issues are resolved prior to re-opening?

Response

The road gullies on Slaymaker Lane keep filling back up once cleared and after investigation there appears to be a blocked culvert on privately owned land adjacent the road. The Land Drainage Service are working with the landowner to get this blockage removed.

There may be further unexpected issues under the road where the gullies connect into, which we will need to discuss with Highways maintenance subject to the outcome of the culvert on private land.

The outcomes of these investigation will be shared with local Councillors and residents.

3. Councillor Brendan Stubbs

To the Portfolio Holder for safer Communities, following a number of attacks on Buses in the Thorpe Edge area leading to a number of suspensions and re-directs what actions are the Council taking alongside the Police and First Buses to ensure the majority of residents of all ages in Thorpe Edge are able to access to a reliable bus service.

Response

There have been several reports of criminal damage of First Buses in the Thorpe Edge area in the last 6 months, with offences predominantly being clustered around November and December time. Although on each occasion, there was no evidence available to identify suspects all but one of these offences occurred around the Idlethorpe Way area - this is an area that has been closely monitored for several months by Police, Incommunities and the Safer Bradford Anti-Social Behaviour Team over a range of local incidents.

There has been a 'Trojan Bus' operation where police and anti-social behaviour staff travel on a bus, purporting to be in service, with a view to apprehending anyone who tries to throw stones or vandalise the vehicle. This operation will be run a number of times to help identify and penalise perpetrators.

FIRST Bus will sometimes stop the buses immediately following an attack for the safety of their staff. It is also hoped it encourages residents to report perpetrators and spread messages across the community that will deter this behaviour – though, of course, this temporarily stops transport for those who need it. Police are trying to obtain any CCTV from the bus and in the community that may help identify perpetrators.

There is a 'problem-solving occurrence' in place and regular foot and mobile patrols are conducted in the area to deter youths from congregating and causing ASB. Multi-agency patrols have also been done with Breaking the Cycle Workers and Youth Workers over the last few months, with the hope of increasing engagement to reduce offending. There are also dedicated patrols by a focussed deterrent car.

Any youths identified in this, or indeed known to be causing ASB in the area generally, are managed robustly with the ASB intervention process. A number of local youths have recently been given Acceptable Behaviour Contracts due to their behaviour in the locality, and one prolific offender is due to be given a Final Warning this week. Court Orders will ultimately be sought against those not adhering to the interventions.

The ASB Team, local Ward Officers and Incommunities conducted 13 joint visits in January 2022 to issue Exclusion Notices to youths banning them from part of the locality. Incommunities, the social landlord also issued a number of formal 'Tenancy Warnings' to households (parents) of those known to be involved. It is hoped these collective efforts are having an impact on the situation and reports have certainly slowed down so far in 2022.

4. Councillor Kevin Warnes

The Leader of Council will be aware that Section 44 of the Children and Families Act 2014 states the obligations of a local education authority with regard to the time limit when reviewing an EHC plan. Specifically: "A local authority must review an EHC plan that it maintains (a) in the period of 12 months starting with the date on which the plan was first made, and (b) in each subsequent period of 12 months starting with the date on which the plan was last reviewed under this section." She will also be aware that Regulation 20 of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 sets out the procedure in detail, making it clear that the review is complete only when the local authority notifies the parent/young person of its decision. Specifically: "The local authority must then decide whether it proposes to (a) continue to maintain the EHC plan in its current form; (b) amend it; or (c) cease to maintain it, and must notify the child's parent ... within four weeks of the review meeting." Bearing this in mind, can the Leader of Council please tell us (1) how many cases of this kind HAVE been dealt with within that four-week window across the district since the beginning of 2021; (2) how many cases of this kind have NOT dealt with within that four week window across the district since the beginning of 2021, and (3) what is being done to ensure that these deadlines will be met in every case in future?

Response

We acknowledge that too many EHC Plans are not amended following an annual review within the required timeframe. In recognition of this, an Annual Review Recovery Team has been put in place for a 6 month period with the aim to amend EHC Plans where the annual review has been completed but the amended Plan is outside of the required timeframe. The data you ask for is not collected in that way, Government stipulate what data we need to collect and these data sets are included in our statutory return to the DfE.

All phase transfer reviews have been completed on time for the past 3 years. This means that every child in year 6 and Foundation stage 2 has either a primary or secondary school named by the 15th February of that academic year.

5. Councillor Joan Clarke

Can the leader give an insight into the projects being considered for the Bradford South Levelling Up funding made available by the Government?

Response

Officers are currently working up a number of proposals for any future rounds of Levelling Up. We are gathering proposals for Bradford South, Keighley, Bingley and Bradford East.

During the first Levelling Up Fund round process we briefed constituency members across the district on schemes that were being considered.

As per that briefing, Bradford South includes assessing options for the development of Odsal Stadium, future potential for the Richard Dunn site and proposals for bringing development land forward adjacent to the M606.

6. Councillor Caroline Firth

Can you advise how we have supported residents affected by the recent flooding in the district?

Response

Due to the storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin a number of properties within the district were flooded.

The impact on some residents of the recent flooding was devastating, and we are doing what we can to support them in what are extremely trying circumstances for them.

Emergency Planning Officers were on site to assist the residents, blue light services and other council colleagues. Following the flooding at Riddlesden we found alternative accommodation for some residents and others went initially to friends and family.

Officers from the council are continuing to work closely with the residents affected and have provided not just immediate practical and emotional support, but also ongoing help to find alternative accommodation and a liaison with their insurance companies.

Assessment of the stability of the land, further risk assessments and geotechnical and other ground surveys are being undertaken. These will continue as will the support provided to residents at this difficult and upsetting time.

7. Councillor Simon Cunningham

What measures is the Council taking to ensure that our fantastic theatres and other civic venues are supporting local breweries, producers, and suppliers within their on-site bars, restaurants, and cafes?

Response

Bradford theatres do work with local suppliers wherever possible within the current guidelines. The supply of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and the supply of ice creams has to be tendered under the Council's financial regulations. Within those contracts wherever possible we do specify local produce. In addition to this, for a number of years the theatres service has used local butchers, fishmongers and delicatessen from Bradford Markets, and local beer and

butchery is also supplied through Lishmans in Ilkley for Kings Hall and Winter Gardens.

8. Councillor Mike Pollard

In view of the relatively mild winter, could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport please indicate the likely Budget outturn for the 2021/22 Financial Year in respect of the Highway Winter Maintenance Service and respond to the suggestion that any underspend be re-directed to helping address Highways drainage/flooding issues?

Response

Whilst the winter season of 2021/22 has not seen the heavy prolonged snow falls of previous years there have been a significant number of days where road surface temperatures have been forecast to fall below freezing. To date the network has been gritted 41 times since the beginning of October. A further 57 days of night patrol treatments have also been required during this period where forecast temperatures were marginal.

This level of action has meant that forecast outturn for the winter maintenance budget for 2021/22 is currently showing an overspend of £207,000 at the end of the current winter season which ends on 1 April. Were any additional treatments required between now and this date this level of overspend would obviously increase. Therefore, to respond to the proposal as to whether the winter maintenance budget could support highway drainage/flooding issues this is something which is not possible.

9. Councillor Paul Godwin

Is there any data on business closures versus new businesses opening since March 2020 in the district?

Response

The table below shows the latest available Business Births and Deaths data from the Office of National Statistics. It shows that over the course of 2020, the number of active businesses in Bradford increased by 420 with 2,055 births and 1,635 deaths. This equates to an increase of 2.6% over the year which was the second highest increase in West Yorkshire and higher than the England increase of 1.6% and a UK increase of 1.5%.

BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHY – 2020					
Enterprise Births, Deaths and Survivals					
	Births	Deaths	Active	Change	% Change
Bradford	2,055	1,635	16,815	420	2.6
Calderdale	880	965	8,680	-85	-1.0
Kirklees	2,085	1,360	15,845	725	4.8
Leeds	3,755	3,350	32,010	405	1.3

Wakefield	1,175	950	10,080	225	2.3
West Yorkshire	9,950	8260	83,430	1,690	2.1
ENGLAND	293,015	253,915	2,438,665	39,100	1.6
UNITED KINGDOM	325,470	283,920	2,753,340	41,550	1.5
Source: Office for National Statistics. Business demography, UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)					

10. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Can the Leader tell us what activities have taken place to mark International Women's Day in the district this year?

Response

Please see below a list of activities that have been supported this year.

Culture Grants: International Women's Day grants 2022

The International Women's Day Grants are an opportunity for artists, community groups and organisations to apply for funding to deliver new, one-off, non-profit arts, cultural and heritage projects connected to international women's day across the Bradford District. We supported projects across the district to support creatively and Women. We wanted to promote the relevance and value of culture and creativity around the theme of International Women's Day through people's lives.

We also ensured that we supported activities across the district that were led by or supported projects for people who are currently underrepresented in the district's cultural sector. This includes people who have experienced discrimination and people living in disadvantaged areas of the district.

For this fund we received 36 applications with 16 successful applications; total funds awarded - £13,555.

Activities are held across the district throughout March 2022 to coincide with International Women's Day on 8th March.

Some of the activities we have supported include:

Womens BollyGood Day

A unique sporting event bringing together women from all walks of life to enjoy the glamour and music of Bollywood combined with Sports. As well as taking part in the activities, keynote speakers from across the district will be invited to inspire and motivate.

Common Wealth Theatre: I Am Perfect As Me Exhibition

I Am Perfect As Me will be an exhibition created by young women from Speakers Corner Collective to coincide with International Women's Day that will feature

different art forms exploring mental health, self-care, and body positivity from the perspective of young women. The exhibition will feature interactive art that will focus on the negative side of stereotypes and mental health and how we can overcome this, a visual film that will include music from young women, poetry and art making workshops. There will also be a callout on our social media platforms to invite other young women to submit work.

Liberty Arts Yorkshire

BD Stories Theatre in a Box will explore inspiring stories of Bradford women, past and present, through theatre, puppetry and play. For children aged 5-11 and their families.

Peace Museum

The Peace Museum is delighted to be running the Breaking Boundaries for Peace project which will co-create a brand new women's peace banner with schools and community groups across Bradford inspired by our museum collection celebrating women peacemakers.

Queer Women on Screen

A series of cinema events showing films by, starring or celebrating the lives and stories of queer women across Bradford in traditional and unusual spaces to create memorable cinema experiences.

Full details are available at <https://www.visitbradford.com/iwd.aspx>

11. Councillor Rebecca Whitaker

Please can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport explain why Silsden is still divided into two separate zones with regard to payments under the Community Infrastructure Levy made by developers and can this now be reviewed?

Response

The adopted Bradford CIL charging zones were informed by viability evidence undertaken by independent consultants as part of the preparation of the CIL and ultimately approved by an independent government inspector. This evidence showed significant variation in market conditions across the District, with different locations having a varied ability to withstand a CIL tariff. Therefore, different CIL rates based on value areas were set across the District, to maximise funding to support infrastructure while ensuring the viability of development is not put at risk.

As the Bradford CIL Charging Schedule is formally adopted then any revisions to the adopted charging schedule must follow the formal processes for the preparation, examination, approval and publication of a CIL charging schedule as specified under the Planning Act 2008. The council are currently undertaking an initial review of the adopted Bradford CIL linked to emerging Local Plan.

12. Councillor Alun Griffiths

In answer to a question at the 12th October Council meeting I was informed that there were 582 cut down lighting columns in the district, 19 in Idle and Thackley ward. 15 weeks later at the January Council meeting I was informed that 4 of these had been replaced, but no figure was given for the totals for the district. Could I please have the current figures for the numbers of columns still awaiting replacement in the district as a whole and in Idle and Thackley Ward specifically.

In addition, how many 'normal' repairs are outstanding more than 4 weeks after the first date reported?

Response

As at 7 March 2022 it is assumed that all priority cut downs have been replaced which leaves 318 column replacements outstanding in total for which we are awaiting a quotation from the contractor to accelerate these works.

6 replacements in total have been installed in Idle and Thackley leaving 13 outstanding (which are included in the 318 above).

There are currently 353 street lighting faults (normal Repairs) which have been issued since 1 January 2022 that are outstanding more than 4 weeks since the reported date.

For wider context we repaired 11,258 street lights in the last calendar year, which is a typical annual figure.

13. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Can you give a summary of all the events that were held in the district for LGBTQ+ History Month?

Response

Well over 100 events ran this year during LGBTQ+ history month, it will be one of the highest number of events during this important month in the country this year. The aim is to showcase the LGBTQ+ community and their significant contribution to the district and beyond. The Council supported and promoted a number of events and initiatives for LGBTQ+ History Month.

This year a special flag produced by Sew Keighley Pride, during lockdown last year, was raised. The community patchwork pride flag project in partnership with ICLS, Keighley Pride and Bradford Council contained over 200 fabric patches. The individual patches were created to celebrate people's LGBTQ+ inspirations and stitched into Daniel Quasar's progress pride flag design by artist Morwenna Catt.

There was a successful communications campaign to support the LGBTQ+ History Month events across the Bradford district, including significant activity on

Twitter and Facebook sharing the LGBTQ+ History Month programme; publicising Keighley LGBTQ+ History Month; sharing video content around Valentine's Day; video content celebrating the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community; promoting Museums and Galleries events; specific posts as part of the #MakeSureItAddsUp campaign, which encourages people to think critically and ask questions around the LGBTQ+ and other communities before sharing information or rumours; and promoting the #SharedValues campaign. Thanks must go to Equity Partnership, Yorkshire Mesmac, Age UK Bradford, 509 Arts, Bradford University and Bradford College and everyone involved in making sure that LGBTQ+ History Month was such a success this year.

14. Councillor Nussrat Mohammed

Residents are being hit hard by rising energy bills and the cost of living crisis. Can we lobby government to do more to support people through it?

Response

Absolutely, this is an extremely significant issue for the residents of the Bradford district. Family budgets face being squeezed by the triple whammy of rising energy prices, the government's increase in national insurance and cut to Universal Credit. It's a real concern that more people will be plunged into food and fuel poverty and the current crisis comes after a decade of austerity that has seen millions of pounds in government funding taken out from our district and of course many others across the country. Recent data from the Institute for Fiscal Studies shows that the Chancellor Rishi Sunak has increased taxes more in two years than Gordon Brown did in 10. Further data from the Office for National Statistics has shown that people are experiencing a real terms cut in their earnings, which are not keeping pace with inflation especially in certain sectors. Nationally wages fell by 1% in real terms in the three months to January - the steepest decline since July 2014. The country needs to make work pay, we need to see faster productivity growth and we need to support households who are at the sharp end. We will continue to support the communities of our district through this challenging period and continue to lobby government on these matters.

15. Councillor Debbie Davies

Although it may not be a statutory requirement would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport agree that it is good practice and more transparent to put planning notices on lamp posts as was done pre-Covid, so that residents have a proper opportunity to comment if they so wish?

Response

It is a statutory requirement for the Council to publicise many types of planning application. The stated methods for publicising applications include by neighbour notification letter and/or site notice. In certain circumstances press notices are required. Many residents in the district, including ward councillors, MPs and parish/town councils, have registered on Public Access so that they automatically receive notification of the submission of applications in their area. Officers use a

protocol agreed some years ago by Regulatory & Appeals Committee that provides instruction on which method or methods to be used. The success of such methods is measured by the thousands of applications that receive representations made by members of the public.

16. Councillor Nussrat Mohammed

What more can be done to tackle the problem of untaxed and uninsured vehicles and getting them quickly towed away and off our roads so that they are not left abandoned and causing a nuisance to residents?

Response

A large percentage of vehicles reported to the council aren't actually abandoned and we remove just under 10% of the total number of reports. The Council serve a 7 day notice on the vehicles reported but within a few days the owner or registered keeper contacts us to say it is not abandoned with all relevant legal paper work.

The removal of the need to display Tax Discs on the windscreen of vehicles hasn't helped the situation. One of the criteria previously used for identifying abandoned cars was expiry dates on tax discs or owners not displaying Discs. The public would previously have seen a lot of valid tax discs and not reported them. We also check with the DVLA website to establish that vehicles are taxed and tested and in some cases write to the registered owner to check that the vehicle is still in their ownership. We will make every attempt to contact the owner before arranging removal unless the vehicle is hazardous or burnt out. We will also, in some instances, liaise with the police to check that the vehicle is of any interest to them.

Also note the number of abandoned vehicles are can increase very quickly particularly if the market for scrap decreases. When this has happened in the past Ancillary services have removed up to 40 vehicles in a single week.

Presently we are removing approximately 4 or 5 vehicles per week and this has remained relatively consistent for the past 5 years.

17. Councillor David Warburton

The storms over recent weeks have been very damaging for our communities across the region. In the district they have affected some communities that have rarely been affected before. Can you advise if Government are listening to West Yorkshire Combined Authority and their pitch for flood alleviation investment in our district?

Response

The Combined Authority worked with partners including the Council to develop a programme of priority schemes for the 6-year national flood risk programme for post 2021 delivery. The financial 'ask' to form the basis of the Combined Authorities engagement with government is now £120m which includes:

- £103.9m to unlock local contributions and private funding to deliver 28 FRM schemes with a total capital value of £176.4m. These schemes will be delivered at catchment scale across the City Region which will deliver significant economic outcomes and inclusive growth benefits.
- £15m City Region Natural Flood Management programme.

The updated Programme was submitted to DEFRA and HM Treasury on 22 December 2021 and forms part of the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan. Requests for a meeting with the Mayor and Government Ministers has been declined at this stage.

The programme is also being fed into the Combined Authority's Single Investment Fund pipeline and will be well placed to engage with Shared Prosperity Fund opportunities in the future due to the strength of the pipeline of schemes and their potential impact.

Updates to the programme will be undertaken as the schemes develop or significant other funding sources become available.

18. Councillor Geoff Winnard

As speeding and dangerous driving on the A650 Bingley Bypass are matters of real concern to local residents, can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport confirm whether he considers strategically placed speed cameras likely to help improve the situation?

Response

Bradford Council officers are working with the West Yorkshire Casualty Prevention Partnership and considering average speed cameras on Bingley Bypass. A camera assessment is taking place, the outcome of which will be made to available elected members.

19. Councillor David Warburton

What new levelling up investments and activities will Government deliver for the Bradford District as a result of its Levelling Up White Paper?

Response

Whilst the arrival of the Levelling Up White Paper is welcomed, it was disappointing to see that there was no new money offered with this White Paper.

The publication did accompany an announcement that 20 areas in the country would be chosen to be Levelling Up areas. We are keen for Bradford district to be one of these. Sheffield and Wolverhampton have already been announced as two of these. Recent published research showed that of all the cities in the UK Bradford district has the most potential to level up so we are optimistic about our district's chances.

We are still waiting for the criteria from Government for the next constituency-based Levelling Up bids. In spite of the lack of guidance we are working up bids

for all four remaining constituencies after being successful in Bradford West with our Squire Lane development in Round 1.

20. Councillor Hassan Khan

Can I have an update on how many Kickstart apprentices we have in the council and how many are now in the district as a whole?

Response

There are currently 259 Kickstart placements in the Council, with a potential of a further 23 starting at the end of the March 2022.

Across the District, through our Gateway there are 364 external placements that the Council has co-ordinated. There will be more across the District that have been directly arranged by Job Centre+ but the Council does not have that figure.

21. Councillor Chris Herd

In light of reports from bereaved families, that the funerals or cremations of their loved ones have been delayed by up to 4 weeks, would the Leader of the Council please clarify the current average length of time for the deceased to be seen / examined and released for burial or cremation by the Coroner's Service, along with details of any planned measures to reduce this, in order to alleviate the further distress being caused to bereaved families?

Response

The responsibility for service response times is a matter for the Coroner's Service which is independent of the Council. The following information has been received from the Coroner's Service.

Unfortunately, the Coroner's Officers who investigate deaths referred to the Coroner have a large backlog of cases which appears to have been made worse by the number of police vacancies in their team (4.5 FTE Coroner's Officers and 2 FTE Coroner's Support Officers) and possibly the impact of the pandemic. This has led to these unacceptable delays of up to 4 weeks. Following a police recruitment process and interviews in December 2021 the 4 full time Coroner Officer vacancies have been filled with two individuals due to start mid- March and two at the beginning of April. The 0.5 role has been re-advertised. The 2 Coroner's Support Officer vacancies are also subject to a recruitment process.

The Senior Coroner is extremely concerned about the impact the situation has had and is continuing to have on the bereaved in the District and he together with Council Officers/ Elected Members has been liaising with West Yorkshire Police to find a solution. In this regard prior to the permanent individuals starting in post, additional resources have been identified from elsewhere within West Yorkshire Police to assist the Coroner's Officers team including 2 individuals recently re-joining the team who have previously helped the team.

22. Councillor Matt Edwards

How many local exemptions for Bradford Clean Air Zone have been applied for, how many have been accepted and how many are currently awaiting a response?

Response

The Clean Air Exemptions programme is scheduled for launch this month. There have been 5,394 expressions of interest in the exemptions programme and these residents and businesses will be contacted directly when the exemptions programme goes live. Passenger cars are not subject to the Clean Air Zone either so no exemption registration is needed for these.

23. Councillor Luke Majkowski

Can the portfolio holder give an update on the efforts the council are making to secure the future of Queensbury Tunnel as an active travel asset, specifically looking at funding opportunities missed, funding opportunities currently available and any future ambitions?

Response

The Council continue work with the Department for Transport (DfT) Active & Sustainable Travel team, colleagues from the Historic Railway Estate and Calderdale Council looking at the potential options for the future of Queensbury Tunnel. You will be aware that in 2019 the Council put together a business plan for Government to invest £27.2 million to restore and regenerate the tunnel. So far this ask of Government has been unfulfilled.

It is important to remember that the tunnel has to form part of a wider cycle network connecting Bradford, Queensbury and Halifax and must always be viewed in this context.

The final report on Sustrans' study regarding the options for a sustainable transport network utilising the tunnel is currently being amended following a request from the DfT for additional work on the quantification of benefits. Officers are confident that this work can be carried out in a relatively short period of time to the satisfaction of the Department's economic appraisal team. In terms of the potential impact of the study delay on funding I can confirm that the opportunities for funding are based on specific government capital grants provided solely for the purpose of protecting the tunnel. It is for this reason that it is essential that the Council ensure that the Department are fully satisfied with the assessment approach and findings presented by Sustrans.

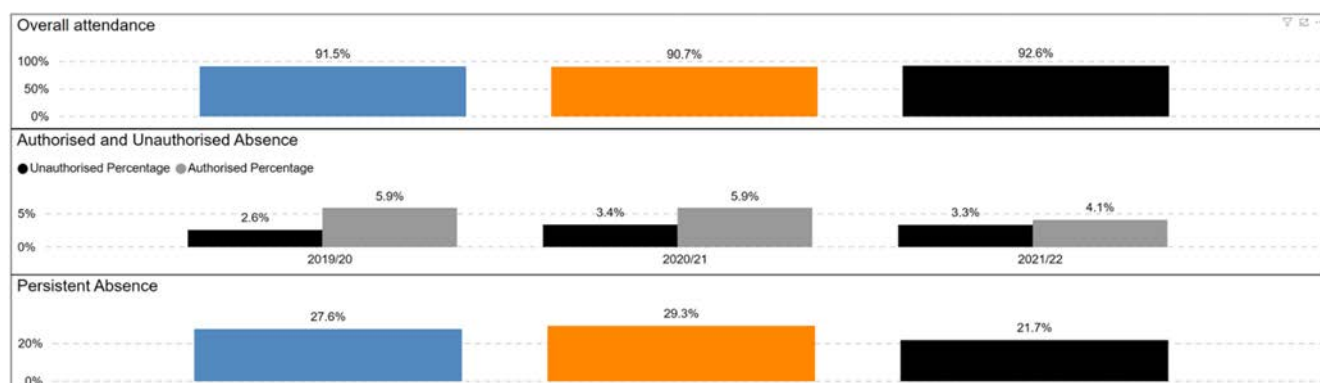
We continue to assess the tunnel and cycle network against all potential funding opportunities and the DfT are well aware of our ambitions for this fantastic heritage asset within our district.

24. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

How do the current attendance levels in the district's primary and secondary schools compare with pre-pandemic, and what support are we giving families and

schools to help children with adapting back to more regular schooling after the disruption they have faced this past two years?

Response



The above is an excerpt showing attendance, absence and persistent absence before and during the pandemic, and as we start to recover from the pandemic. It appears that the situation is improving, however 2021/22 data is not for the full year and has not been cleansed, so there must be caution when drawing direct comparisons.

The LA continues to provide child-centred support to identify the barriers to attendance for the most vulnerable pupils attend via a new Persistent Absence Team. The Education Safeguarding team is improving its offer of information, advice and guidance to all schools and academies in Bradford to provide clear direction and consistency to ensure families benefit from an ethos of early help blended with challenge to improve attendance. Work is ongoing across the city to improve the awareness of the benefits and necessity of excellent attendance with all statutory and voluntary services working with children and families and share information where necessary to improve outcomes. Direct challenge will be provided to schools where concerns exist around high levels of absence and PA, including where vulnerable groups appear to be disproportionately affected.

Work is also currently underway to look at issues linked with anxiety and emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA), which has increased due to the impact of the pandemic on consistent education and child mental health. The aim is to provide a strategy document to support practitioners, schools and families in identifying and resolving EBSA.

25. Councillor Vanda Greenwood

How is our brilliant planting a tree for every child scheme progressing so far?

Response

The initiative has been enthusiastically welcomed by schools, students and families.

- All 171 eligible schools have been contacted with thousands of engagements on the climate emergency.
- Total number of trees planted to date is 28,000, leaving approximately 27,000 to plant 2022/23.
- 20 School Orchards with training sessions have been delivered, 20 more programmed for 2022/23;
- 25 in-school tree, wood and hedge planting events delivered, 20 more programmed for 2022/23.
- 2000 trees have been handed out to schools and families.
- Newhall woodland became a launch event of the Queens Green Canopy; this and Wrose will form part of the White Rose Forest and Northern Forest.
- Deliver partners include Trees for Cities, Bradford Environmental Action Trust (Forest of Bradford), YorGreen CIC, Bradford Environmental Education Service.

26. Councillor Debbie Davies

Please can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, provide an update on any unspent S106 and CIL money per ward and what the process for allocating it is?

Response

Bradford Council produce an Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) each year which is published online, a copy of the 2020/2021 IFS can be found here <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/media/6804/infrastructurefundingstatement2020-21.pdf>. The IFS details the total amount of unspent S106 and CIL monies for the entire District.

In the main, CIL monies are not allocated to the ward in which the CIL development took place. If there is a town or parish council within the ward where a CIL development has commenced and paid a contribution, that town or parish council will receive 15% or 25% of the funds. They are then responsible for using that payment to enhance infrastructure within their town or parish council area. Where a ward does not have a town or parish council and has received a CIL payment, then the 15% is held centrally by Bradford Council and ward councillors are made aware of the deposit. Only £25,918.75 was received in 2020/21 in this way. Ward councillors can then contact the Planning Obligations and CIL Officer to discuss spend of this money on an infrastructure project they believe will support their ward following the development that has occurred.

Following the neighbourhood transfers, 5% of the remaining balance of CIL funds is retained by the Planning Service to help cover costs of administering CIL. The remaining balance after the 5% deduction is then held centrally and the Executive Committee allocate the available funds annually to various infrastructure areas for spending. There is a five-year time period from allocation in which the spend must occur. The 2021 Executive Committee report and minutes can be found here and details the allocations

<https://bradfordintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=7504&Ver=4>

S106 monies are also allocated to infrastructure areas and these are defined within the S106 Agreement along with the terms of spending. These allocations and spending terms are agreed during the consultation period whilst the planning application is being determined. As S106 contributions are secured to mitigate the impact of the development, the Agreement often details the infrastructure the funds are to be spent on. Since the introduction of CIL, the use of S106 Agreements has been limited and as such fewer new Agreements are being entered into. However, we do still hold funds received from pre CIL S106 Agreements and these funds will be spent in accordance with the Agreements. In general terms the allocation and spend will be as follows:

Education contributions – these will be used to help fund school expansions for schools already detailed within the schools' expansion programme approved by the Executive Committee. Often, contributions have to be pooled with other funding to cover the costs of the expansion(s).

Recreation contributions – all unspent S106 recreation contributions are to be allocated to the Playable Spaces Strategy (PSS) as approved by Executive Committee. The contributions when spent, will still adhere to the terms of the S106 Agreement in terms of location of spend but will also adhere to the PSS and assist in delivery of the Strategy.

Affordable housing contributions – where a contribution is received instead of on site delivery of affordable housing units, these contributions will be used to deliver on site affordable housing across the District. As with education contributions, these sums often have to be pooled to ensure enough funding is available for delivery of units.

Highway contributions – contributions made towards the cost of highway works will be spent on specific highway improvements deemed necessary to ensure development do not pose a threat to highway safety.

Habitat mitigation/ biodiversity contributions – contributions received for habitat mitigation and/or biodiversity measures will be used to mitigate the impact of new development on habitats within the vicinity of the new development. As with other contributions, these may sometimes need to be pooled to help deliver a larger piece of infrastructure.

Discussions across departments regarding the spend of S106 monies are ongoing and officers are ensuring plans for spend comply with the terms of the appropriate S106 Agreement.

As with unspent CIL sums, the IFS (link above) details the amount of S106 funds held for the entire Bradford District. Breaking this down into a ward by ward basis is not possible as spend criteria for S106 contributions is often not for the ward of the development only but includes adjacent wards as the impact of the

development will often expand beyond just the ward where the development is taking place.

27. Councillor Susan Knox

Can the Portfolio Holder please explain what steps the Council is taken to ensure that Swim for all sessions are fully restored as soon as possible to ensure that no child is excluded from access to swimming session at Eccleshill Pool.

Furthermore, what work is being done with West Yorkshire Police to ensure those individuals who are causing problems at the pool are both deterred and where necessary punished for their behaviour.

Response

It was necessary to temporarily suspend swim for all sessions after some very serious behavioural incidents at the pool. Although those incidents were associated with a minority of customers, the health and safety risk to staff and customers was very real.

I am pleased to inform Cllr Knox that swim for all sessions will be reintroduced from April on a phased basis. The reintroduction will be following a number of measures, including work with the local police teams, training, increased security presence, and body worn cameras for certain staff.

28. Councillor Doreen Lee

I am heartbroken about Dalton Mills burning down. Do we have more information about this terrible fire and the damage done to the historic building?

Response

I know myself and many people across the whole district share your sense of loss at the terrible fire at Dalton Mills. It has long been one of the architectural and heritage jewels in the crown for Keighley and indeed the wider Bradford district.

As we have recently celebrated International Women's Day it is worth remembering that the forerunner to 'current' mill, Strong Close Mill, was owned by a pioneering businesswoman, Rachael Leach, and the existing name was taken from one of her employees.

By the afternoon of 7th March the fire was out and the fire service had concluded their operations. During the early evening of 7th March the owner of Dalton Mills agreed for one of the tenants to act on his behalf in taking responsibility for securing the site in the short term. Much of the security was in place before Building Control and the Police left site on 7th March. A structural engineer from Historic England has just visited the site on 11th March with Building Control which will input into assessments of whether there is any possible viable future for the remaining building or if it needs to be demolished.

29. Councillor Angela Tait

Can you tell me more about the aims of the Living Well Schools programme and how it will be delivered?

Response

The aim of Living Well Schools is to support schools to transform the health and wellbeing of their pupils for better educational outcomes, as well as living happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. This is achieved through the Living Well Schools website showcasing evidence based, reliable, trusted programmes available, training opportunities for staff, as well as resources for use in schools. These are all within the different strands so schools can navigate quickly and easily what is relevant to their own school. The different strands of Living Well Schools is based on the evidence of need in Bradford, overlayed with what children and young people in Bradford articulated were priorities for improving their lives in the district.

These are:

Physical Health

- Physical activity & healthy diet
- COVID secure schools
- Children's Health and Social Services
- Social, emotional and mental health
- Good emotional wellbeing
- Healthy relationships
- Adversity, Trauma and Resilience in Schools

Classroom inequalities

- Reducing the digital divide
- Poverty proofing the school day
- Tackling discrimination and prejudice

As well as engaging with schools through a newly developed newsletter to highlight the latest and most relevant services, resources and Living Well Schools news, we have a standing agenda item as Living Well Schools with our partners from BIHR on the CAER webinars which has a large reach to school leaders. We also are part of a head teacher reference group, partly funded by Public Health to ensure two-way dialogue between Public Health and education leaders to showcase work, as well as sense check and take feedback. We are engaging with young people to ensure co-production in the Public Health led projects, but are looking to further build on this engagement.

Some examples of projects on the Living Well Schools website are:

- Poverty Proofing the School Day pilot (completed in 6 schools so far)
- Bradford For Everyone: The programme delivers innovative, and well-evidenced initiatives which bring people and communities together in meaningful and sustainable way

- The Linking Network: Linking schools and communities together, and supports work on SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural) development that can form a lever for positive whole school change.
- Shared Spaces survey – currently promoting this research project to schools to gain insight into behaviours and attitudes around shared spaces to help inform social cohesion
- Mental Health Lead training & Mental Health Champions+ training offered by Bradford's Education Psychology team
- Tagtiv8 - Empowers teachers with resources and training to take learning in different subjects beyond the classroom

30. Councillor Rebecca Whitaker

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, please confirm; the annual amount of recyclates that have been rejected across the Bradford District since the reintroduction of “co-mingling”, comparable figures for a similar period when recyclates were separated, the comparable revenues generated and landfill / incineration costs resulting from the sale or disposal of recyclates throughout the aforementioned period of time?

Response

This is a question for the Healthy People & Places Portfolio. Approx. 42,000 tonnes per year of mixed recycling is collected at kerbside. This has risen by approx. 2,000 tonnes annually since comingled collections were brought in. Post-processing, we find that circa 10,500 tonnes of products per year are too highly contaminated to be recycled.

The comingled service is free to all residents (225,000 properties) so is not directly comparable to the segregated optional service which was used by a much smaller number of residents up until 2017. However, contamination rates are clearly higher by providing a free service to all residents as unfortunately, despite education campaigns etc. we continually receive up to 45% contamination (pre-processing) in some areas.

Material sale brings in circa £1m per year (post-processing). However, operational costs to process and clean the materials are circa £2m per year and contamination costs circa £2m per year. This leaves a net cost of £3m exclusive of kerbside collection costs.

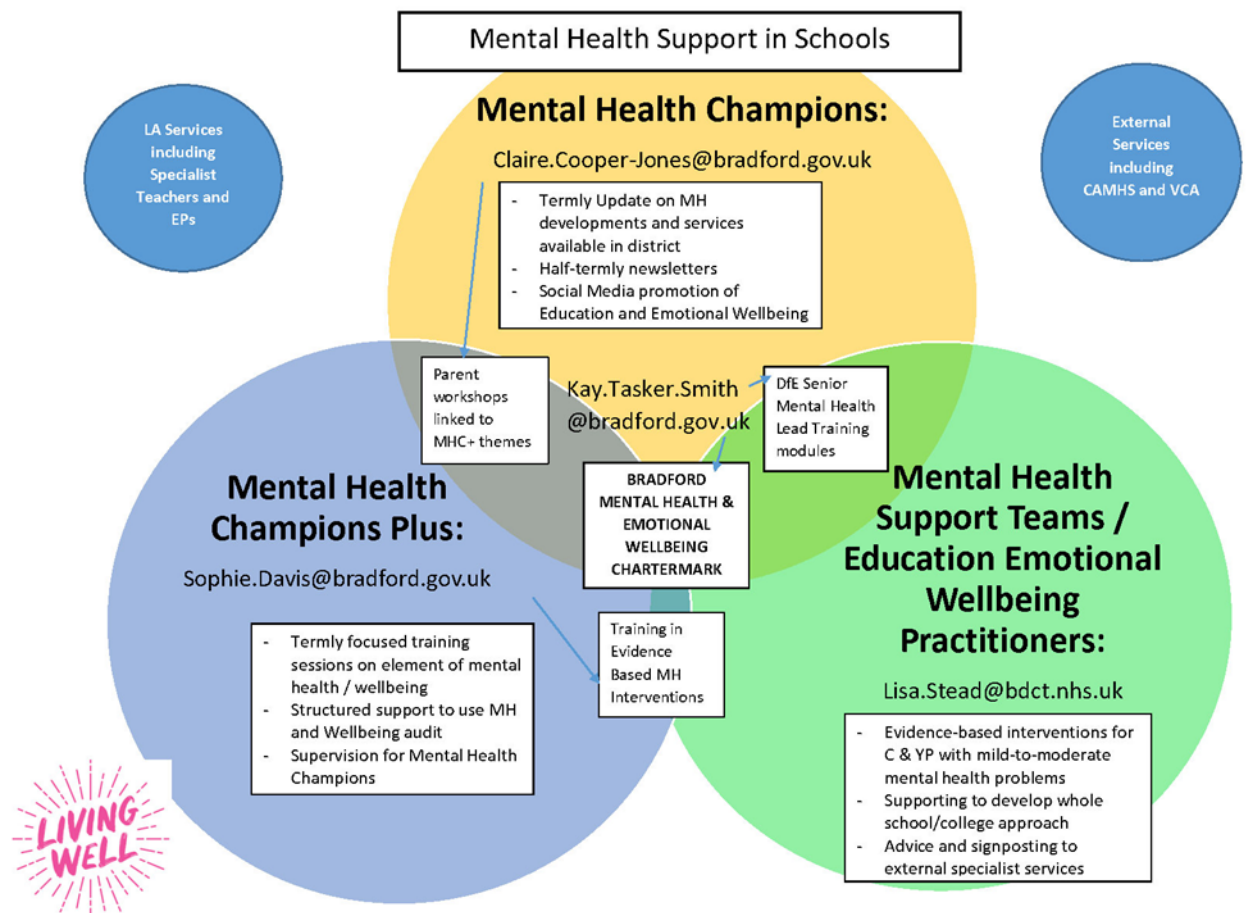
The Covid pandemic has resulted in additional tonnage and contamination so again, we can't show a like-for-like comparison.

31. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

What activities are being undertaken to support children with their mental health coming out of the pandemic, for example by the Educational Psychology team and our other services that work with children and young people?

Response

The diagram below shows the different levels of support available to school staff (to increase capacity) and directly to children and young people to support wellbeing needs.



32. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

What social/recreational activities are there for people with Learning Disabilities and Autism, for children and adults?

Response

There are lots of different social and recreational activities for children and adults with autism and learning disability. These are advertised on the Local Offer which is a publically accessible portal which organisations upload information to (<https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/>). Anyone can search based on level and type of needs, age, location and type of activity.

A number of parent / carer forums and organisations also provide guidance and support to families to enable them to access specialist resources and activities across the district and find suitable activities.

33. Councillor Debbie Davies

Please can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, provide an update on the Draft Local Plan and what the next stages are?

Response

The consultation last year on the draft Local Plan for the Bradford District generated a huge response over the 6-week period with the Council receiving over 31,000 representations from members of the public, stakeholders and organisations on the proposed policies and suggested site allocations and designations.

This was on top of 22 online workshop events which provided the opportunity for people to learn more about the plan and ask questions.

The Council has now published summaries of the representations received which can now be viewed online via the Opus Consult consultation system - City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council - Opus Consult (oc2.uk)

The comments have been analysed and have shaped some further technical work and content of the next version of the Local Plan.

Alongside the recording and analysis of the representations further technical and evidence work has been undertaken and commissioned. This includes further work on site options and new sites put forward, infrastructure impacts and mitigation including transport (which is also looking at air quality and carbon), environmental (ecology, flood risk, landscape, carbon, heritage, Green Belt and biodiversity), housing (needs and land supply capacity/deliverability), economic (employment needs and land supply as well as retail and leisure update), Local Infrastructure Plan, viability and delivery (masterplans and delivery frameworks). Further work on a number of assessments is also running alongside the work which pick up sustainability, equalities and health impacts and benefits. The Local Plan is also being linked closely with work progressing on clean growth.

In line with the recent resolution of Council a cross-member Group has been set up to provide a forum to share progress and engage in the process in shaping the next version of the Local Plan.

The next version of the Local Plan will be shaped over the next 6 months informed by the further technical evidence and responding to representations as well as local circumstances and any changes in national policy. The next version of the local plan is known as the publication version which will be issued for formal representations before being submitted to Government for independent examination. The Publication draft will be taken to executive and Full Council for approval before it is issued for representations. The Local Plan will be supported by the evidence and appraisals together with the Statement of Consultation report which documents the engagement in developing the local land and issues raised together with how the Council has responded to the issues and considered them in developing the document.

At present it is anticipated that the publication draft will be doing to Council towards the end of the year with the document being issued for a formal 6-week period for representations followed by submission to government in 2023 and public examination.

34. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

The Council has invested additional money for children with SEND and I understand that this has resulted in an increase in the number of children getting an EHCP plan in the correct timeframe. Once a child has an EHCP, how can we be sure that the plan is properly implemented by the school and that the support for that child is not affected if there is a high turnover of staff in the school?

Response

Training has been provided to schools around the graduated approach ensuring that they are aware of their statutory obligations to continually monitor the progress towards the outcomes of a child or young person's EHC plan. Integral to this approach is a cycle of assess, plan, do and review.

Schools must implement the provision within the EHC plan and feedback to parents (as part of the review process) at least 3 times per year. At these review points parents and carers have the opportunity to feedback and raise challenge to the school about the provision being implemented.

The LA also has support services (Educational Psychology and Specialist Teachers) who can offer training, support and guidance to schools when required and in the event they are struggling to implement certain provisions.

Once per year is a statutory review point (the Annual Review) where a representative from the LA can be invited and concerns can be raised by the parents or carers. To note, a statutory review can be called at any stage following an EHC plan being made final in the event a parent would like to raise concerns through a statutory process.

Parents, carers and young people also have access to SENDIASS who are able to offer support and advice.

35. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could the Portfolio Holder outline how many landlords are part of the Council's Private Sector Lettings Scheme?

Response

We have created 119 tenancies so far this year, and approximately 350 in the past 3 years. We currently have 70 separate active landlords who we have placed clients into properties with during the last 12 months. Some of these have multiple properties, and for some the current tenancy is the latest in a line of tenancies with the scheme. We have a further 29 landlords where we placed clients between 12 and 18 months ago that are still in residence. We would expect these landlords to approach us for a fresh listing of property should the current tenancy end. We are working with a further 46 landlords coming onto the scheme where their properties have had H30 (Housing Standards) inspections

and work needs completing, or that are waiting for an H30 inspection to take place.

36. Councillor Debbie Davies

Given the recent news that Welcome to Yorkshire has gone into administration, would the Leader of the Council confirm how much funding has been provided to this organisation by Bradford Council?

Response

We are aware of the news that Welcome to Yorkshire has recently gone into administration. In the current year we have given £23,413 as the Welcome to Yorkshire Annual Membership Fee, which is for the Council to be a member of Welcome to Yorkshire, which then includes Bradford in the regional and national campaigns to promote Yorkshire as a tourism destination.

37. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could the portfolio holder share how many Priority band residents across the district have been allocated a property within the last 3 years?

Response

The band designations changed from March 2020, from word designations to Band numbers.

Level of Need		19/20	20/21	21/22
VBL to March 20	Civica from March 20			
Statutory Need	Band 1	176	340	302
Urgent Need	Band 2	520	205	216
Reasonable Preference Need	Band 3	217	367	383
General Need	Bradford Property Shop	457	298	319
Grand Total		1,370	1,210	*1,220

The star in the 21/22 figs highlighting not full year's figures yet.

38. Councillor David Heseltine

As we have had yet more flooding in the district, would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, please confirm what measures are being taken by the council and its partners, to ensure the future risk is minimised at the flood prone Castlefields, Old Main Street, Ferrands Lane and the Rugby Club in Bingley?

Response

Recognising the need for a long term strategic approach to managing flood risk across our district, the Council have worked with the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water to scope and develop a Bradford Flood Programme Board ('the Board'). The Board progresses ongoing flood risk management scheme development and prioritises on identifying and delivering cost-beneficial solutions for communities at risk of flooding within the district. The Council is progressing our capital flood risk management programme focussing on schemes that look to draw down Flood Defence Grant in Aid from DEFRA, which is the main source of funding provided by Government, to tackle flood risk. This programme of projects, to be complemented by a catchment approach, supported and enabled by community projects and river stewardship work. The programme includes flood risk alleviation and resilient projects within all the river catchments of the district, with a focus on studies being undertaken in high risk areas.

Within this programme the Board has investigated the use of direct interventions and more catchment wide solutions to reduce flood risk for communities along the River Aire including Keighley, Bingley, Baildon, Shipley and Apperley Bridge. The study has investigated the use of upstream storage solutions within Craven and the western parts of the district at reducing flood levels along the River Aire. The results show levels can be reduced however the cost of implementing these measures are proportionally high and therefore current funding pots from DEFRA do not fully fund any of the measures as cost benefit ratios are very low. This is because of the dispersed nature of the communities at risk and the relatively significant works required to protect these small numbers of properties. Further catchment wide discussion is now taking place with the Environment Agency to see where multi benefit schemes across the catchment could help fill the funding gaps.

Where traditional measures to reduce risk are not immediately viable, Property level protection (PLP) can be implemented and this involves reducing the risk of flood water entering a property. Property level protection cannot reduce flood risk for more severe events. This work has not been funded to date, as it would limit eligibility for Flood Defence Grant in Aid for any wider scheme but it may now be time to move to PLP as the best available option.

One of the last major flood events was in February 2020 from Storm Ciara and Dennis. Following this flood, the Department of Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) issued guidance for Local Authorities to facilitate the delivery of the Property Flood Resilience Recovery Support Scheme 2020 (PFR 2020).

The purpose of the scheme was to assist flood impacted property owners to improve the flood resilience of their individual properties when they repair them after a flood. The outcome from the funding should be that if flooding were to reoccur, damage levels would be considerably lower and householders and businesses could return to their properties much more quickly. This scheme closes in July 2022 (it has been extended a couple of times due to the COVID pandemic).

If any of your constituent's property was impacted by the floods in February 2020 they can apply for a property level flood grant. Should your constituent consider this grant appropriate, please advise them to email their interest to plrgrant@bradford.gov.uk

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2022

Agenda Item 12 – Notices of Motion (Standing Order 17)

Amendments submitted by political groups

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

Motion 12.2 - Clean Air Zone

To be moved by Councillor Sarah Ferriby

Seconded by Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

That with the addition of the following words the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

- Government's Plans to Tackle Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide in the UK (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/633270/air-quality-plan-detail.pdf) – this was followed by the UK Clean Air Zone Framework, including requirements of local areas to meet legal limits for nitrogen dioxide in the shortest possible timeframe.
- The Government's failure to tackle this national issue with national action, instead preferring to impose a variety of different Clean Air Zones in different cities, dodging their own national obligations on clean air for which they are being sued by Client Earth.
- There was never a go live date of October 2021. January 2022 was published as the go live date. The CAZ will be introduced at the earliest opportunity this year once Government has provided a date. There will then be no further delays.
- There is a clear health imperative to clean up our air. More than one in five children in Bradford has a wheezing disorder. Research has shown that air pollution can affect children even before they are born and latest data shows that Bradford is still nowhere near legal limits on air quality.
- Bradford NHS estimates that the CAZ will achieve a step change in emergency admissions for respiratory, COPD and heart disease in the district – there are 370 such admissions every week.
- As a result Government has developed Clean Air Zones (CAZ) across the country to help meet their national commitment. Bath, Birmingham and Portsmouth now have CAZ; Oxford has a zero emission zone; and new CAZ are being developed in many other local authority areas. Every Clean Air Zone is different, so Manchester cannot be compared with Bradford which has secured a more generous grants regime from Government. Bradford also has an exemption programme, Manchester does not.
- The Government's legislation entitled Environment Act 1995 (City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council) Air Quality Direction 2020 legally directs Bradford Council to provide a charging CAZ to improve air quality *in the shortest possible timeframe*.
- We asked Government if we could revert to a non-charging clean air zone, and the Government's clear answer was no because a non-charging CAZ would not achieve compliance with legal levels of pollution, even if every bus in the district was electric.

- The Bradford CAZ will not charge residents' privately owned vehicles or motorbikes and these do not need to be registered with the Clean Air Zone.
- When the CAZ is introduced businesses in Bradford will be able to have three vehicles which are non compliant as well as access to grants if they want to change any of their vehicles to be compliant.
- Where a new compliant vehicle is on order, the old vehicle will not be charged in the Clean Air Zone, no matter how long the delivery of the new, compliant vehicle takes. This is termed a sunset clause.
- The Council has consulted widely with residents, businesses and other organisations on the CAZ and *wrote directly to 17,000 businesses as part of the consultation*
- Bradford has secured the highest value grants from Government for businesses to upgrade their vehicles to CAZ standard of anywhere in the UK.
- We have one of the best and cleanest taxi fleets in the country with over 84% of Bradford taxis now meeting CAZ standard. 317 buses are being upgraded to CAZ standard.
- We have secured a reduction from Government in the CAZ charge for non-compliant taxis, down from £12.50 to £7.

Council resolves to:

- Open the exemptions process for vehicles at the beginning of April. Businesses are encouraged to register for an exemption, it's possible to do this from now and over 5000 have already done so. Passenger cars don't have to do this.
- To press Government to provide a date when they are starting the Bradford CAZ.
- To increase the amount of communication the council is doing around the CAZ to counter people spreading incorrect rumours as fact. Press the Government for an answer to our request for a national communication strategy around Clean Air Zones.
- To press the Government to own its responsibilities for reducing emissions across the country. Air pollution knows no borders
- Continue to work closely with government and with residents and businesses to support them throughout the introduction of the CAZ and beyond.

Motion 12.3 - Levelling up Bradford District

To be moved by Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Seconded by Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

That with the addition of the following words the motion be amended to read as follows:

This council notes:

- As Councillors we represent all of Bradford District as well as our own wards where we are elected and held directly accountable
- Between 2010 and 2020 the government has cut funding to Local Authorities by £15bn with no regard for the impact on local communities
- Central government set many of the processes local government must follow when bidding for funding
- Many of these processes are announced at short notice within extremely tight timescales, leaving little time for Local Authorities to be able to fully engage with communities on potential projects or proposals
- On Business Improvement Districts (BIDs):
 - It is great for Bradford to have three BIDs across our district, in Bradford city centre, Keighley and Ilkley. This is among the highest in Yorkshire and shows businesses taking a lead in improving their communities
 - BIDs are private sector bodies led and made up of businesses within a local area who have come together for the betterment of their local area. They are not public sector or council bodies and their priorities are set and agreed upon by the business community
- On Towns Funds:
 - The funding awards of £33m for Keighley and £25m for Shipley represent a fantastic success for those towns and for the wider district and should rightly be celebrated
 - Bradford Council provided significant support including direct funding for the Towns Fund process, incorporating strategic plans such as our Business Development Zones (BDZ) in Keighley and Shipley, with a further BDZ in Barkerend
 - The Towns Fund process was set up by central government and is spearheaded by a private-sector led board. The Council acts as the Accountable Body for the Towns Fund Board and therefore has a single political representative on the board to reflect this and maintain the private sector as the primary lead sector for the boards
 - Briefing sessions have been and continue to be held for ward members in the Towns Fund areas
- On the Levelling Up Fund:
 - The award of £20m to deliver the Squire Lane pool and leisure centre is fantastic news for Toller ward and Bradford West constituency but also the whole district as many people will use and benefit from the facility from outside of the local area

- Bradford Council has repeatedly and publicly committed to submitting a bid for every constituency in Bradford District
- It was made clear by central government from the outset that there would be multiple funding rounds so bids could be spread over a number of years. Ward members in every constituency were engaged on potential projects in their area during the first bidding round process
- At the time of writing government has refused to set out the process or criteria for the second round of the Levelling Up Fund
- Unlike other Local Authorities, Bradford Council used nearly £2m from the Additional Restrictions Grant funding to distribute via Area Committees to support high street improvements and the VCS sector
- Locality work in every constituency has been strengthened with 15 additional Assistant Ward Officer roles being hired

Council resolves to:

- Continue developing potential Levelling Up Fund bids for each remaining constituency while demanding government speed up their announcement of the next phase
- Ask the district's MPs to write to government asking for clarity on the next phase of the Levelling Up Fund process
- Lobby Government with the aim of the whole of Bradford district getting its fair allocation of the long-awaited Shared Prosperity Fund from Government.
- Encourage members to attend the briefing sessions set up for ward members in Towns Fund areas and future briefings for the Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity Funds.

Motion 12.4 - Respecting our Rivers

To be moved by Councillor Kyle Green

Seconded by Councillor Mike Pollard

With the addition and removal of the appropriate words, the Motion be amended to read as follows:

This Council notes that:

In England, water companies released untreated human waste directly into our waterways over 400,000 times for a total of 3 million hours in 2020 alone.

That Yorkshire Water Ltd is due to appear at Leeds Magistrates' Court on 15 March charged with offences relating to a pollution incident which happened at Bradford Beck between September 2017 and August 2018.

The Environment Agency is implementing a more proactive approach to inspection. EA inspections on farms in England are set to increase following a £1.2m recruitment drive to expand regulatory inspector numbers from 28 to 78.

For the first time, the Government will be telling the industry's economic regulator that we expect water companies to take steps to 'significantly reduce storm overflows' and that the government expect funding to be approved for them to do so.

This Council commends the work of the Aire Rivers Trust, the Friends of Bradford Becks, Ilkley Clean River campaign and the many volunteers who are working hard to improve the health of rivers across the Bradford District.

Between 2020 and 2025, water companies have a legal direction to invest £7.1 billion on environmental improvements in England. Of this, £3.1 billion will be invested in storm overflows directly.

Council resolves to:

Work to invest in proper facility and site management for sites already granted bathing status, including ensuring on site facilities such as toilets and life-saving equipment are available.

Support the work of the government in reducing storm overflows that have been enshrined in law in the 2021 Environment Act.

Continue to work with the Aire Rivers Trust, the Friends of Bradford Becks, Ilkley Clean River campaign and the many volunteers who are working hard to improve the health of rivers across the Bradford District.

Motion 12.5 - 0-19 Public Health Service

To be moved by Councillor Sarah Ferriby

Seconded by Councillor Sue Duffy

That with the addition of the following words the motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

That the 0-19 Public Health service contract ends in April 2023 and is about to be recommissioned.

That the model advocated by our Director of Public Health for health visiting and school nursing is one that is replicated across the country to deliver the mandated healthy child programme and other core responsibilities.

The recommissioning, with an increased budget, represents an opportunity to build on best practice of ensuring that children and families receive more seamless services across both primary care and social care so that they receive the early help and safeguarding support they need.

The challenging national context around recruitment and retention, including the shortage of public health nurses, depletion in specialist community public health nursing training places and an ageing workforce.

The valuable development of GP Primary Care Networks and the ongoing discussion about how much these can be encouraged to involve community based solutions, not just medical ones.

The Government's cut to Bradford's public health grant allocation by £6.8m between 2015/16 and 2019/20.

Council commits to working with partners to:

Ensure the recommissioned contract puts the best outcomes for children and young people at its heart, and includes effective partnership working between primary care and social care to deliver prevention and early help services.

Develop innovative approaches to ensure the Bradford District is an attractive prospect for training and career development for public health nurses.

Ask Government to commit to further investment into public health to improve the outcomes for children and young people and their families, to train more specialist public health nurses and to facilitate more innovative ways of delivering more 0-19 services.

Motion 12.7 - Cost of Living Crisis

To be moved by Councillor Mike Pollard

Seconded by Councillor Geoff Winnard

With the addition and removal of the appropriate words, the Motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

Rising energy bills and the cost of living crisis are hitting those on lowest incomes the hardest.

Energy bills are likely to increase by an average of 54% to roughly £2,000 a year

The Government's Covid 19 Pandemic response was one of the most generous in the world and continues to place pressures upon the nation's finances

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is due to make a spring statement within 10 days, incorporating measures to mitigate the hardships faced by the public.

Council resolves:

To await the Spring Statement, then work with Government and other partners to provide as comprehensive and co-ordinated a response as is feasible, to mitigate / alleviate the financial challenges faced by families at this moment in time.

To work with Government to make Bradford a Levelling Up area, with significant access to funding for regeneration and to plan proactively to actually use the funds made available, rather than fail to do so, as exemplified by the lack of any evident move to use project feasibility funding received in respect of the potential Shipley Eastern Bypass.

To pause for the time being the sealing of exploratory gas fracking wells and halt the unnecessarily accelerated decline in the exploitation of the UK's North Sea hydrocarbons asset base.

Motion 12.7 - Cost of Living Crisis

To be moved by Councillor Brendan Stubbs
Seconded by Councillor Alun Griffiths

Add the following at the end of the motion:

This Council also resolves to:

Make available additional funding to extend the support provided by Council
commissioned Debt, Benefit and financial advice services for residents across the district.

Amendment G

Motion 12.8 - Supporting Children and Families to thrive post pandemic

To be moved by Councillor Kyle Green

Seconded by Councillor Debbie Davies

With the addition and removal of the appropriate words, the Motion be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

Young people are among those hardest hit by the effects of the pandemic and the response thereto, missing out on education and experiencing acute social isolation.

The pandemic lockdowns saw increases in children's mental health issues, obesity levels and the number of families experiencing domestic violence.

The council is investing to develop and deliver services which support our young people going through difficult times, though there is still much to do.

The significant ongoing Children's Services developments affecting the workload and immediate and pressing priorities of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Council resolves:

To work with our young people and appropriate partners to develop a Post Pandemic Children and Young People's Plan and invest in the future of our young people, via Levelling Up and any other appropriate initiatives.

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