

Public Document Pack



15. **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR COUNCIL**

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Written questions together with respective answers

Amendments to Motions

THIS AGENDA AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER

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COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 12 JULY 2022

This document contains the following –

- Agenda Item 4** Lord Mayor's Announcements
- Agenda Item 7** Public Question Time
- 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)

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

CITY OF BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF COUNCIL – TUESDAY 12 JULY 2022

ITEM 4 WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR

CITY OF CULTURE 2025 WINNING BID

Our winning the competition to become the country's City of Culture 2025 has delighted everyone across the district and I am immensely proud of the hard work and the creative, inspired thinking which helped us to take the crown in the face of fierce opposition.

Naturally, more intense hard work begins now to ensure we make the very most of this unique opportunity and I know that we Bradfordians are equal to the task, and then some. Our ambition, our passion and our authenticity will resonate throughout that year and beyond.

Our district has long been a seedbed of creativity and the opportunity to shine a national, even international, spotlight on what makes us uniquely distinctive is a rare honour indeed; it will be a source of immense pride and pleasure to do so throughout our year wearing the crown.

My limitless gratitude goes to all those who worked so hard to get us where we are today, and to those who power us forward from here. Our time is most definitely now and it is thrilling to be seizing that opportunity with eager hands.

DEATH OF FORMER LORD MAYOR, GORDON MITCHELL

It is with much sorrow that I must report the death, at the beginning of this month, of former Lord Mayor, Gordon Mitchell, at the age of 91 years.

Gordon first served as a Councillor for the Odsal Ward in 1981-1982, before serving as a Councillor in the Clayton Ward from 1986 to 2000. Gordon's open and congenial nature were especially valuable attributes as a Ward Councillor, enabling him to very readily connect with, and help, his constituents. His sound common sense, practical outlook and problem-solving skills earned him much respect in his Ward and farther afield.

Many across the district will remember the year he served as Lord Mayor, alongside his wife Peggy as Lady Mayoress, in 1996-1997. It was a year in which we marked the centenary of Bradford having been granted City status in 1897 on the occasion Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. The opening of Centenary Square by the present Queen, marking this anniversary, took place in March 1997 and Gordon and Peggy hosted Her Majesty's visit, with grace and warmth, an event which was surely the highpoint of their year in office.

I have written to his widow, Peggy, and family to convey my sympathy. Members and Officers will doubtless wish to join me in expressing our sadness at his loss and to place on record our gratitude for his time and hard work on this Council.

**DEATH OF FORMER COUNCILLOR AND FORMER DEPUTY LORD MAYOR,
ELAINE BYROM**

I am also saddened to report the death, on 9 July 2022, of former Councillor, Elaine Byrom.

Elaine served the Clayton Ward from 1999 to 2004, and Clayton & Fairweather Green Ward from 2004 until 2012.

A spirited and hard-working Councillor, Elaine was highly regarded for her devoted, diligent service to those whom she represented.

She was Conservative Group Assistant Whip from 2001 until 2012 and she served as Deputy Lord Mayor, alongside her late husband David, in 2007-2008, a role which she undertook with her characteristic verve.

Elaine took a keen interest in education matters and was actively involved with the care of Looked-After children and was Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel for a number of years. I will be writing to Elaine's family to express my sympathy in their loss.

Members will doubtless wish to join me in placing on record our sorrow at Elaine's passing and our appreciation for her years of service on this Council.

**A WELCOME TO THE NEW DEAN OF BRADFORD, THE VERY REVEREND
ANDY BOWERMAN**

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the Very Reverend Andy Bowerman, who returned to the Cathedral in which he was ordained in 2001, to become the new Dean of Bradford on 19 June 2022.

The new Dean began his ministry as a Curate at St Augustine's in Undercliffe and, during his time here, was also Chaplain to Bradford City Football Club from 2004 until 2009.

The Dean has spoken with pride of returning to the Bradford he loves and the "sense of wonder" which has filled him at the prospect of being back in Bradford among, and working with, our diverse and dynamic community.

For him, Bradford is – above all – a place of welcome. Given that he and his wife Ali once ran the popular Vicar's Café Bistro in Saltaire, it is perhaps unsurprising that he is placing his emphasis firmly on hospitality and on helping lead a community dedicated to ensuring that all people in the city and district can flourish.

The Dean brings his considerable talents and wide experience back to Bradford, having latterly led the Dubai-based Mission to Seafarers team, offering help and welfare to people in ports across three continents from Egypt to India.

I know that all in this chamber and further afield will wish to join me in wishing the Dean, his wife and family a heartfelt welcome back to Bradford and to wish him every success in his new role.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

I am pleased to report that the District celebrated Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in great style.

In the city centre an event was held with entertainment, food, music and cake, which culminated in the lighting of one of a great chain of celebratory beacons across the country. A number of Eco-friendly electric beacons also lit up the Bradford skyline across the district.

At community level many people grasped the chance to mark this once-in-a-lifetime occasion with street parties and gatherings of all kinds across the district and the Lady Mayoress and I were delighted to be involved in some of them.

I wish to pay tribute to all those who worked so very hard to ensure the occasion was a very memorable one for people of all ages.

DEATH OF BROADCASTER AND JOURNALIST, HARRY GRATION, MBE

Many people across the district, county and country were saddened to learn of the sudden death of Bradford-born broadcast and journalist, Harry Gration, MBE which occurred on 24 June 2020 at the age of 71.

The former Look North anchor, who retired in the autumn of 2020, was a much-loved local personality and a committed supporter of Bradford and its community.

He was born in a back-to-back house in the city in 1950 and his father was a chemist who managed a Boots store on Darley Street. His love of Bradford never left him and he remained a familiar face in the district where, among other things, he acted as compère at a number of Council awards events.

Harry never shied away from a challenge, particularly if funds could be raised for charity by way of it, and he also became a patron of a number of worthy causes. In 2013 his services to broadcasting were recognised when he was awarded the MBE in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours.

He was a Yorkshire broadcasting legend and his loss will be felt keenly, especially in this, his home city.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

I am very pleased to report that a number of noteworthy local people have been recognised in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours List.

It is also gratifying that, again, this includes some people whose work in the response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been recognised in this highly significant way.

I have written to these recipients in our district to congratulate them on their signal achievement and to thank them for their hard work and dedication to their communities.

<i>Honour recipient</i>	<i>Honour</i>	<i>In recognition of</i>
Dr Manoj Joshi	Member of the Order of the British Empire	Voluntary Services to the Community during Covid-19
Mrs Stephanie Lawrence	Member of the Order of the British Empire	Services to District Nursing
Ms Nancy O'Neill	Member of the Order of the British Empire	Services to the NHS, particularly during Covid-19
Mr Ibrar Ali	Medallist of the Order of the British Empire	Voluntary Services to the Community in Bradford
Mr Amjid Hussain	Medallist of the Order of the British Empire	Voluntary Services to the Community in Bradford
Mrs Rukeya Khanom Miah	Medallist of the Order of the British Empire	Services to Maternity and Healthcare Education, particularly during Covid-19
Mr Douglas Herbert Threlfall	Medallist of the Order of the British Empire	Services to the Community in Bingley

MARKING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT, ARMED FORCES' WEEK AND THE SACRIFICE AND SERVICE OF THE BRADFORD PALS.

On 14 June, I was joined in the cenotaph memorial gardens by Falklands conflict veterans and their families, at a short service of thanksgiving and remembrance, together with a wreath-laying ceremony, marking the 40th anniversary of the war in the South Atlantic. The moving service was led by the then Acting Dean, Canon Paul Maybury, and was followed by a Civic reception in City Hall.

A flag-raising ceremony in Centenary Square heralded the start of Armed Forces' week in the district, on 20 June.

We were pleased to be able to return to gathering physically, and it was also heartening to host the Veterans' Civic lunch in City Hall on 24 June.

On Saturday 25 June we held the annual Drumhead service and parade of standards in the Norfolk Gardens Park at the rear of City Hall. The service was kindly led by Canon Paul Maybury from Bradford Cathedral and was graced by the presence of Deputy-Lieutenant Robin Wright, who delivered a reflection, and the High Sheriff, Susan Baker.

A poignant ceremony and laying of wreaths took place on Friday 1 July at the Bradford Pals' stone in the cenotaph memorial gardens, to commemorate the anniversary of the Pals' tragic loss of life in battle on the Somme in 1916.

The service was again led by Canon Paul Maybury and we welcomed Deputy-Lieutenant Balbir Panesar, who gave the commendation, and also the High Sheriff.

Sam Westerman, of the City of Leeds Pipe Band, provided a musical introduction and we were grateful for the stalwart support which was, once again, given by members of the Bradford Branch of the Royal British Legion. A thought-provoking address was delivered by Tricia Restorick, President of the Bradford WW1 Group, whose members were also present in support.

This touching service was well-attended and provided a fitting tribute to the flower of Bradford's youth lost in the carnage of that dreadful war.

Distribution:

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PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

12 JULY 2022

1.

Can the council leadership provide an update on the outcome of the report it commissioned Sport England to carry out on swimming pools in Bradford, specifically in relation to the future of Queensbury Pool? As a former Queensbury Ward councillor, an active community campaigner and a frustrated resident with a keen interest in the future of the site, it is disappointing that the council has been sitting on this information since the middle of December and that it's officers refuse to make an announcement despite previous promises made.

Response

The Council commissioned a supply and demand study through Sport England to examine the District's swimming provision.

The Supply and Demand study looks at the number of pools available and considers the needs of residents based on a model used throughout the UK. The study also considers the supply and demand for swimming in neighbouring local authority areas.

The model tests a number of differing potential supply scenarios which include new pools provided in differing locations.

At the request of the Queensbury Pool group one scenario test included the provision of a new 25m pool in Queensbury. The group had said that they would seek to fund this new facility and the Council will offer officer time to support this endeavour.

The study strongly supported the provision of a new pool at Squire Lane, but it did not support the need for a new swimming pool in Queensbury, based on the Facilities Planning Model report.

The Council made a decision that Queensbury Pool along with the Richard Dunn Sports Centre would close as a Council operated facility when the new Sedbergh Sports Centre opened. Queensbury Pool closed in October/November 2019.

We recognise the ambitions of local residents to consider a community-led project to run this localised small pool in Queensbury which would be separate from the main council operated pools. Community-led models are in operation elsewhere in the country but do need significant funding and ongoing revenue to sustain them.

Sport England have made it clear that there is currently no funding stream available that would support a pool in Queensbury

I accept that many people in the area will be disappointed at the current time. Whilst no new pool will be built by the Council in Queensbury, we will ask officers to continue to support the Queensbury Pool group to consider every avenue possible in securing the future of the pool and the building it is located in.

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 12 JULY 2022

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

The following membership changes have been submitted:

- Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Brendan Stubbs to replace Councillor Jeanette Sunderland. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland to replace Councillor Susan Knox as an alternate.
- Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Aneela Ahmed to replace Councillor Karen Regan.
- Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny – Councillor Joe Wheatley to replace Councillor Aneela Ahmed as an alternate.
- Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Karen Regan to replace Councillor Hassan Khan as an alternate.
- Regulatory and Appeals Committee – Councillor Shabir Hussain to replace Councillor Marcus Dearden as an alternate.
- Area Planning Panel (Keighley and Shipley) – Councillor Mohammed Shafiq to replace Councillor Ralph Berry as an alternate.

Committee Secretariat

Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

Agenda item 9 - Report of the Leader of the Council

Rising Covid infections

Infection rates are continuing to rise across the country, being driven by the new Omicron variants and more social mixing. Bradford District's infection rate is following the trend seen nationally, with cases increasing to around the level seen in April this year.

The 7-day rolling COVID-19 infection rate for Bradford District is 171.4 cases per 100,000 with on average 132 confirmed cases per day. This is currently lower than the England average (7-day infection rate of 246.3 per 100,000) and when compared to other local authorities we rate 304th out of 315. In terms of hospitalisations, as cases are rising so are numbers in hospital, with 50 patients admitted per day in BRI and 20 in AGH.

However, projections show that Yorkshire and Humber are slightly behind the epidemic curve; this means we **anticipate a further increase in infection levels over the coming weeks**. Action taken now will make a difference, as we want to keep people healthy and prevent passing the virus onto others.

The Public Health advice for residents is that:

- If you feel unwell, especially if you have a temperature – try to stay at home and avoid contact with others
- Let fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meet outside
- Consider wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces
- Practise good hygiene (wash your hands, cover your coughs and sneezes, clean your surroundings frequently)
- It's never too late to get vaccinated

City of Culture 2025

Bradford will be City of Culture 2025. The announcement that the District had been chosen from a shortlist that also included Durham, Southampton and Wrexham, was made live on BBC1's The One Show and marks the culmination of nearly three years' hard work on Bradford's bid. That process has engaged thousands of people, organisations and businesses and has generated a groundswell of local pride and creativity that will form the platform for delivery of City of Culture.

The bidding process alone has secured a return of £5.2m on an initial investment of £1.4m. More is set to come – 2025 will see Bradford District host over 1,000 new performances and events including major arts festivals and national and international collaborations. City of Culture status could see the District bring in an extra £700m, create 3,000 jobs and attract over a million visitors as well as building new skills and capturing the social and well-being benefits of culture and cultural participation.

Youth, diversity and our rich cultural heritage formed the core of the Bradford bid and will continue to be at the heart of our year of culture. The search has now begun to recruit Creative and Managing Directors to lead the delivery of the Bradford bid.

A big thank you to the City of Culture team led by Rick Shaw for leading this winning bid team for us to become the City of Culture for 2025. I also thank our councillor colleagues across all parties in the Chamber for supporting the bid. It has the potential to be transformational for the district.

Children's Trust

The name of the new Trust will be the Children and Families Trust for Bradford District. Eileen Milner has been appointed the Chair of the Trust and is working hard to establish the organisation, with our support, in the shortest possible timeframe.

Until October 2021, Eileen was Chief Executive Officer of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

The ESFA is an executive agency of the Department for Education and, in this role, Eileen was the accounting officer responsible for a budget of over £60bn, as well as having significant policy and delivery responsibilities across the education and skills landscape.

Prior to this she was an Executive Director at the Care Quality Commission, the regulator of health and adult social care in England.

Bus Service Improvement Plan and Bus Recovery Grant in West Yorkshire

At West Yorkshire Combined Authority we were pleased to secure £70 million over three years to improve our bus services in West Yorkshire through the national Bus Service Improvement Plan. Mayor Brabin announced, as a result of this funding, that our Enhanced Partnership will allow us to cap single bus fares for the coming year from September to a maximum of £2, as well as reduce the multi-operator, multi-journey WY DaySaver from £5.50 to £4.50 when bought with the MCard app or smartcard.

The money will also be used to invest over £25m to develop new bus routes to reconnect those communities left isolated by recent service changes, particularly in towns and villages across the region, to help people reach health and leisure services, work and learning opportunities, and to see family and friends. Consultations on which new and existing routes to support will begin next month.

Contrasting with this good news is the announcement by Government that the Bus Recovery Grant will cease from October this year. This grant was designed to support bus services during the pandemic but will now cease even though bus revenue from passengers is not yet back to pre-Covid levels. The Government have ordered every Transport Authority to do a review of services of how they will be impacted. In West Yorkshire the work has shown that there could be a 11% reduction in all services with 62 services being cut. This is very concerning and flies in the face of the Government's stated Bus Back Better ambitions and the Bus Service Improvement Plan.

Northern Rail Airedale/Wharfedale lines

Residents were understandably outraged by the decision by Northern Rail to cut services on the Airedale and Wharfedale lines because of driver shortage. After significant lobbying by the West Yorkshire Mayor and myself, we are pleased that Northern have given a commitment to restore rail services by December 2022. Obviously it's disappointing that this won't be for another five months as Northern works through its driver training backlog but having a commitment to restore the services will be a relief for many. I will press Government to make sure that Northern Rail's commitment to restore services is backed up by a commitment from Government to continue their vital funding for these services.

It is vital that our communities are served by a decent, affordable and reliable train service – stripping back public transport has significantly limited the ability of people to get to work, school and other leisure opportunities along the Airedale and Wharfedale lines.

COUNCIL

Tuesday 12 July 2022

MEMBER QUESTION TIME – PART 1

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. Councillor Angela Tait

Would the leader join me in congratulating the organisers of the Bradford Dragon Boat Festival for delivering a wonderful event for the district to be proud of and raising much needed funds for The Lord Mayor's Charities and multiple other charities.

Response

The Bradford Dragonboat Festival is the UK's largest such festival. It is award winning and is recognised by the International Dragonboat Federation, European Dragonboat Federation and British Dragonboat Association. This means that it is global reaching. It holds many firsts, including delivering the very first Youth Dragonboat Championships, which have been split into double events (schools in the morning and afternoon and Youth Associations and Scouts of an evening).

There are many contributors, sponsors, traders and volunteers who come together to make this festival what it is and we truly cannot thank each of them enough. This includes all the participants and many more who come together to show what can be done by collaboration in the district and beyond.

Delivered by the community, for the community and bringing all together. Special thanks must go to Cllr Dale Smith, Cllr Joanne Dodds and Cllr Angela Tait, plus various members of the 2014/15 LMAC.

Since then we have seen some amazing attendances including approximately 65,000 people in 2019 across the three days. Looking across the six years that we have delivered the festival we must have enjoyed seeing approximately 250,000 people attend. We have also raised huge sums of money for numerous local good causes and enjoyed celebrating each Lord Mayor and their appeals since 2014. We have also had more than 500 teams take part and what must be close to 10,000 participants in that time. We have promoted local businesses, organisations and delivered awareness campaigns. We have continually helped the local economy and showcased local talent, as well as providing much support for traders and commercial operators. We have also spawned four local Dragonboat Clubs, who do much work throughout the year in the district and have even trained up several individuals who have gone on to represent Great Britain. We had an estimated global reach (due to our partnerships and media) of approximately 7.5 million people in 2019.

2. Councillor Sally Birch

How many Council owned residential class properties have been empty/unoccupied for over a year and what are the criteria for managing these in light of the housing demands in the district?

Response

Four properties that have been empty for over a year are currently owned by the Council having been purchased by the Empty Homes Team as part of the Empty Homes Strategy (either through compulsory purchase or purchase by agreement). Whilst the properties have been empty for a considerable time, they have only been recently acquired by the Council and will be disposed of very shortly on the open market. This is a well-established strategy and process and properties acquired through the Empty Homes Team do not remain in Council ownership for a long period (weeks) and are disposed of as quickly as possible, usually through auction or direct to partners such as Incommunities. Properties are sold with a condition that they are renovated within 12 months or the Council can exercise a buy back clause.

There are 17 apartments empty at Fletcher Court in Oakworth, Keighley. Fletcher Court provides 69 independent living apartments (36 x 1 Bedroom and 33 x 2 Bedroom) for older people but with access to care and support when needed and a range of communal facilities to help prevent social isolation.

The Fletcher Court scheme completion coincided with the onset of Covid in March 2020 and Government guidance at that time required the suspension of any lettings. When Government restrictions were eased, given the vulnerability of the client group and in light of the fact that many prospective tenants were shielding, allocations and lettings started on a phased basis. We have experienced reduced demand for the 2 bedroom properties. This is largely on the basis of affordability as some occupants, even those in receipt of housing benefit, are subject to the spare room subsidy, also referred to as the "bedroom tax". This reduces their housing benefit entitlement meaning they have to find the shortfall from other sources of income. With the current cost of living crisis, many prospective tenants are understandably not prepared to consider a 2-bedroom property in those circumstances.

Estates, in conjunction with the Parks & Greenspaces service currently hold 10 residential properties which have been vacant for more than 12 months, two of which have recently been acquired for demolition and highway improvements, and the majority of the remainder are either held for strategic purposes or are non-viable for rental and are in the disposal process, a number of these are held in Trust by the Council.

3. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

At the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 30th June 2022 the issue of apparently hundreds of computers bought for staff in Children's Services remaining unused was raised. Can the Leader assure us that the Council knows how many devices

there are, exactly where they are now and can she confirm that there is no information about Bradford's most vulnerable children left on those devices?

Response

At the onset of COVID, the Council had no Video Conference Solution and many staff computers did not have cameras.

Cisco WebEx was purchased to provide Video Conference Services, which many used their phones initially to access these meetings. To support Children's Services a large number of "Basic Tablet Devices" were purchased to support Children's Services for Video Conferences or training on a larger screen than a phone, until the Teams and device upgrade project was completed. These units were not "PCs" and only had access to Video Conference and e-mail, and had no access to the network, or any applications used by Children's so had no data on them.

These devices were provided to Children's Services direct and they rolled them out to staff (as these were non-IT support units), just a peripheral device to help with Video Conference.

4. Councillor Matt Edwards

Can the leader of the Council tell us what Bradford Council have done to make sure: a) every individual and small business that is eligible for an exemption for the Clean Air Zone has been made aware of the options; b) ensure the website is accurate and up to date with all the relevant information; and c) The Council has in place information and process to assist residents who don't have access to the internet.

Response

a) Alongside the opening of exemptions on 8th April the Council has written to all businesses and every household in the district to advise of exemptions. This was accompanied by a concerted communications campaign which included radio adverts, Stay Connected letters and updates, posters, billboards, bus backs adverts, social media (geofenced to reach those who entered the zone). The Federation of Small Business, The Road Haulage Association and the Confederation for Passenger Transport have also been involved, including Council hosted webinars, leaflets and newsletter to stakeholders. In addition in the run up to the launch of the zone the DVLA will send out two rounds of early notice letters to drivers who enter the zone with a non-compliant vehicle. These letters will advise on exemption eligibility and encourage further applications. To date over 3,500 exemptions have been awarded and fully completed applications are processed within 10 working days.

b) The website is reviewed on a weekly basis at a scheduled communications meeting of the team to ensure it is accurate and up to date. During changes to the programme this may change to daily reviews and updates to ensure the most up to date information is on the website. The Clean Air Programme team have the benefit of dedicated internal communications resource with a full time officer

to ensure that the website and all aspects of communications are timely, accurate and up to date.

c) The Council has provided a dedicated CAZ phonenumber where staff are available to populate exemptions applications with the ability to post in documents at a later date to support the application. This phonenumber goes out routinely in our communications and this facility is documented on our website as below:

Make your application

Please submit your application including all required evidence as soon as possible to ensure we can process your exemption prior to the CAZ launch date.

If you have any questions regarding your exemption application or need help completing the form please call our Clean Air Zone team on 01274 435533.

The team are happy to provide advice and can complete the form on your behalf if required.

Start your application here:

5. Councillor Luke Majkowski

Can the portfolio holder finally provide feedback for members, as well as for the very hardworking and dedicated Queensbury Tunnel Society, on the studies carried out on Queensbury Tunnel? This information has been in the hands of the council for a significant amount of time now. Also, do recent events at Cumbria's Great Musgrave Bridge, in his opinion, have any impact on the in filling of Queensbury Tunnel?

Response

The Council received funding for two studies into the options for retaining Queensbury Tunnel and converting it into a leisure and commuting cycling facility from the Department for Transport. This funding has been used to procure a technical assessment of the works necessary to stabilise and dewater the tunnel as well as to look at the economic case for the creation of a leisure and commuting cycling facility.

As the current asset owner, and the potential funder for any stabilisation of the tunnel, the Department for Transport are ultimately responsible for considering the findings from both these reports before determining if a case has been made for funding. Bradford Council are working closely with the Department's officials and the appointed technical specialists to ensure that a fair assessment of the viability of retaining the Queensbury Tunnel is undertaken.

Work on the tunnel stability assessment has been completed and the report has been independently validated by the Council in terms of the scope of works which

are identified and the likely cost of these. This report also considers measures necessary to address the removal of the temporary stabilisation works carried out by Historic Railways Estate in terms of reopening the tunnel.

The economic assessment, carried out by Sustrans, has similarly been reviewed by both the Council and DfT officials who have asked a number of questions and have asked Sustrans to undertake further work. The exact scope and timescales for this work is currently being agreed and will most likely be completed after the summer. In the meantime, Sustrans have prepared a stakeholder engagement document based on their work to date which will be issued for comments to stakeholders, including the Queensbury Tunnel Society, over the next couple of weeks.

The recent press coverage of the infilling of Cumbria's Great Musgrave Bridge by the Historic Railways Estate (HRE) and the rejection of a retrospective planning application by Eden District Council has drawn an understandable comparison, not least over the use of 'emergency powers' by HRE.

I was pleased to see HRE make a commitment that in future they intend to get full planning permission before undertaking similar works in the future, and that infill will only be undertaken if there is 'absolutely no alternative'. The biggest difference between the two situations is that the cost of 'making good' Great Musgrave Bridge are expected to be less than £450,000, whereas the works to Queensbury Tunnel will cost millions of pounds and obviously require much greater ongoing maintenance. Further, we have ongoing active work on feasibility studies regarding the future of the tunnel and therefore the focus of all parties is understandably on delivering those studies.

6. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Can the leader join me in congratulating Bradford District in securing the City of Culture 2025. This is an amazing achievement for our city. Please could the leader assure this money will be used to reflect and support all communities through regeneration, heritage and cultural opportunities, and advise what are the plans for the next steps.

Response

Winning the UK City of Culture title will be a game-changer for Bradford, putting the district firmly on the national and international stage. A City of Culture designation brings considerable long-term benefits including increased employment, new investment, enhanced skills, renewed pride, greater cultural capacity and more opportunities to participate in arts and cultural activities.

An absolutely tremendous result from the BD25 Bid Team, the Council's Culture & Events Team and the thousands of people, community organisations, businesses and the creative community across the Bradford district who have thrown their support behind the campaign and helped us shape the winning bid. We now have an outstanding opportunity for the whole Bradford District.

The programme will be reflective of our diverse communities right across our district which will involve regeneration, cultural activities and the celebration of our heritage past and lived.

In terms of next steps, we are currently recruiting two new principal leadership roles, Creative Director and Executive Director to the Culture Trust. Additionally, we are engaging with past City of Culture destinations to deliver a readiness workshop to begin preparing the council's Senior Leadership Team. Further information will be shared with Elected Members in due course.

7. Councillor Angela Tait

Could the portfolio holder provide an update on progress of the domestic violence pilots across the district.

Response

Operation Encompass Pilot Schools

Operation Encompass aims to ensure that all children experiencing domestic abuse have timely support in their school, that schools have timely information and that staff understand how to support children.

We continue to work with the two Operational Encompass flagship primary schools. All schools registered on roll in Bradford receive operation encompass notifications which come via police and the contact centre. For notifications that are deemed high risk the notification will also go via the integrated front door. We are working with our pilot schools to roll out system changes that can then be extended across the district.

The Bradford Operation Encompass partnership group meets to steer the wider Operation Encompass work. We are currently focusing on developing a data-sharing agreement with the local authority and police to allow an increase in the content of Operation Encompass notifications. Once the notification content is increased we then plan to bolster the support offer available to schools, so they can refer families directly into Early Help or the SDAPs pilot for additional support that provides a whole family approach.

The partnership steering group are also working on a CPOMS project, CPOMS is an online database that schools use to update information on children. It is planned that CPOMS would be then used as the platform for information sharing, each child's file would be updated directly and the email notifications would cease. We intend to run this CPOMS project out with the pilot schools first before rolling it out across the district.

Alongside this we have been designing and developing a training toolkit for schools, this is nearly completed and will be offered to all of the Operation Encompass schools. The toolkit will increase the school staff's awareness of Operational Encompass's processes and referral pathways available to provide increased support to both the children and their wider families Going forward we

hope to encourage other schools locally to become flagship schools and commit to safeguarding children through Operation Encompass.

- Buttershaw Domestic Abuse Pilot

The Buttershaw pilot reached its 6-month mark in February. The footprints family centre hosted a 6-month review event of the pilot in which we explored the successes so far and how we plan to go forward. In the 6 months of the pilot we have had 19 referrals and 15 women fully engage with IDVA support (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor). Of these 15, none chose to reconcile with their abuser. The IDVA also engaged with all local drop in provisions and schools, and they have spent a lot of time building relationships with community members and organisations. The project is a partnership with Incommunities Housing Association and most of the referrals from the pilot came from Incommunities. Incommunities found it really valuable in being able to relocate specific cases of individuals who are fleeing domestic abuse (DA) into Buttershaw and the support that the pilot offers. A key case study for the pilot saw a young woman with many complex needs alongside DA relocate to Buttershaw and engage with our IDVA. Due to the increased level of support she received from Incommunities and from the Buttershaw pilot she was able to resettle successfully and see many of her unmet needs met. The Pilot is seeing high success rates with those who are seeking to resettle after abuse, as they find community and longer term support in Buttershaw.

Following the 6-month showcase event, the IDVA who was based in the footprints centre who is no longer working for the project shared their successes and learning. We have been able to capture key learning from her for the next person who will take on the role, including ensuring the IDVA has working days at Staying Put, and changing the job profile to include community engagement and pilot development work. We are currently still recruiting for the role. All cases that are referred in are still provided with IDVA support via Staying Put, and we are monitoring the referral levels through a post code allocation system. Alongside this the Staying Put recovery and resilience team are attending local drop ins and are providing community DA training to local professionals, most recently, a cohort of local PCO's. We look forward to being able to relaunch the pilot once we have recruited for the role. There is a lot of interest from other ward officers, youth service staff and housing associations to see the pilot roles out in other areas and we are keen to look to expand this model once we have achieved another 6 months of progress.

- Specialist Domestic Abuse Practitioner (SDAP) Early Help Pilot

The SDAP pilot has been running for 12 months and has recently received 2nd year funding to continue until March 2023. The pilot has faced some challenges due to staff changes and issues with GDPR. However, to mitigate this we are in the process of recruiting and bringing the SDAP Pilot in house within the local authority to overcome barriers linked to GDPR. There have been some very positive outcomes in the first 12 months of the pilot. For cases that have previously been referred into the SDAP pilot we have seen excellent evidence

based outcomes for families where domestic abuse has been problematic and previous services have not met their needs. The trauma informed, whole family approach for delivering interventions has made a positive impact for victims, perpetrators and children, in particular when families have remained together.

The pilot has made links with the Operation Encompass response and the Early Help hubs to create a support offer for schools who receive Operation Encompass notifications dependant on need and risk. The pilot has also been working towards a tiered pathway framework which will allow for awareness and referral pathways from statutory and non-statutory service into the SDAP service, therefore taking the pressure from Early Help and Children's Social Care. SDAP staff have a varying and broad skill set within domestic abuse, working with perpetrators, risk, working with children and safety planning. The framework will also enable a consistent approach to be delivered to families and additionally, through consultation to upskill any professional across the Bradford District.

The SDAPs have recently received domestic abuse and situation couple's violence facilitator training. So are now equipped to roll this out across the district, inclusive of the new ASYE Academy in Children's Social Care. This will support health and social care staff to safely challenge abusive behaviours perpetrators display, identifying unmet needs and risk escalations/safeguarding. There will also be further work to be carried out with Children's Social Care to enable SDAPs to hold riskier and more complex cases going forward.

- Health Independent Domestic Violence Advocate

The Health IDVA pilot has been running for 12 months and has received 2nd year funding to continue until March 2023. The hospital IDVAs have been able to identify victims at early stages of domestic abuse and intervene to provide multi-agency support. They have also seen a number of hospital staff coming forward to seek advice around domestic abuse at home, as they offering training to staff teams on how to recognise and respond to domestic abuse. Airedale are also trialling an approach for out of hours' attendances at A&E, whereby patients are offered a follow up clinic with the IDVA.

Strategically the partnership has decided to collate all health based domestic abuse pilots into one strategic meeting, this will in future include any domestic abuse GP work and any work around mental health support. Staying put are also currently in the process of recruiting a 2nd HIDVA staff member for the pilot.

Moving forward we hope to build a business case for the Hospital base IDVAs to be provided as part of the main stream provision. We are also working with a Primary Care Network to see if it could be funded within a group and rolled out across the district using that model. We hope to deliver further training to health professionals, and establish safe spots in district GP's.

- MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) Navigators

The project was launched on the 1 April 2020 and has had 44 referrals to the service to date. Funding has been secured to continue the project until March

2023 and we are currently taking on additional new referrals as we have been successfully closing cases. The cases that are received within the project are those who are disengaged from services, have been a repeat referral to MARAC, have the highest level of police involvement and are individuals with complex needs.

There are currently three MARAC Navigators who are directly managed by The Bridge Project and supported by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Team within Bradford Council and we are recruiting an additional MARAC Navigator to support the increased need. The MARAC Navigator Project is making a significant difference in terms of reducing repeat incidents of domestic abuse, contacts to the police and has evidenced that a perceived lack of willingness to engage can be overcome through a different tailored type of approach.

The project has now developed a process for stepping down and closing cases from the project. On average cases are requiring around 12 months of support before they can be considered for closure.

A recent review of MARAC cases found that around 4 cases (8 individuals) each month would be assessed as needing the type of support provided by the MARAC navigators. To meet this level of need the current team which is now increasing to 4 could only meet less than half of the current demand.

- **Safe Spots Scheme**

The Safe spot scheme is being rolled out with partner organisations district wide. The fire stations in Bradford all launched as safe spots in February this year. We continue to work with our colleagues in the fire service to ensure safe spots scheme is safe and effective. As an emergency service the fire services often have individuals with complex needs seeking support, so we have worked with them to ensure the domestic abuse safe spot scheme is accessible for domestic abuse victims and they have safeguarding procedures in place to support other complex needs individuals that may present.

Since launching with fire stations we have been supporting local partner organisations to become safe spots and attend our free awareness session. We hope to launch a new cohort of safe spots in the coming months. We are supporting all local authority libraries to become safe spots and have a number of localities that have also committed to multiple locations.

8. Councillor Mike Pollard

Further to the airing of “Bradford on Duty”, does the Leader of the Council believe that contributing to the programme was a good idea, conducive to promoting to the reputation and perception of Bradford District?

Response

What is seen on TV is typical of every city in the UK, Bradford is no different. We are one of the biggest cities in the UK, bigger than Newcastle, Bristol and Liverpool. Inevitably therefore good and bad things happen here.

We are extremely proud of our staff who are profiled and feel that this programme shows the impact that 12 years of austerity has left on communities across the district, and also the country. Our staff step up and put 100% into all they do to support our residents.

The documentary shows just a few aspects of life for people in the district – not all of the filming made it into the final edit by the producers of the show and we'd have liked to have seen more of the positive filming they did, included. However people who live and work here know there is also so much more to us, which we showcase in other ways.

9. Councillor Paul Godwin

How much are Keighley Town Council spending on their referendum? Including sending a letter to voters to explain the arrangements? What proportion of Town Council's annual precept would this represent?

Response

As elections are a Returning Officer function and not a Council matter, this question falls outside the scope of questions which may be put to Executive Members.

Notwithstanding this, the Returning Officer is cognisant of the unusual nature of the request for a Parish Poll, and considers that it would be helpful to provide some information on the subject, in the interests of openness and transparency. However, this is solely due to the exceptional circumstances of the parish poll, which the principal authority is statutorily obliged to run once validly called.

Parish polls are conducted under Rules made pursuant to the provisions of Section 36 of the Representation of the People Act 1983; more particularly, The Parish and Community Meetings (Polls) Rules 1987. Unfortunately, these rules have not been updated nationally, and consequently a number of more recent additions to electoral practice are excluded from the conduct of the poll.

In particular, the 1983 Act and the 1987 Rules contain no provisions for poll cards, postal voting, proxy voting, assistance for disabled voters (other than blind voters), queues, or for more modern ballot papers. In addition, the hours of polling are significantly different to those of other elections (parish polls are open between 4pm and 9pm on the appointed day). It is therefore essential that all eligible electors understand that they must vote in person, between the hours of 4pm and 9pm (the hours of poll), and that the poll must close at 9pm, irrespective of any queues.

In light of this, the Returning Officer intends to write to all eligible electors, explaining the arrangements for voting in the poll (i.e. the appointed day of 21 July 2022, the hours of polling, the location of their polling station, and the need for in-person voting). This will ensure that, so far as is possible, all eligible electors are aware of, and can take part in, the poll.

It is also important to note that the costs of the parish poll are chargeable to the Parish Council (in this case Keighley Town Council). The current estimate we have for the conduct of the poll (not including the above proposed polling letters) is approximately £40,000. Once the costs of the polling letters are added, the cost rises to between £65,000 and £75,000, depending on the availability of a bulk discount from Royal Mail. This would represent between 8.9% and 10.3% of the 2022-23 precept receipt for Keighley Town Council.

These figures are, of course, an estimate, and may change depending on circumstances; once the poll is concluded the actual cost will be recharged to Keighley Town Council.

As a final point, it must be noted that the result of any parish poll is not binding on either the parish council or on Bradford Council.

10. Councillor Paul Godwin

In the event of development not going ahead on the old Keighley College site, what would be the financial implications for the Council in terms of 'clawback' of the funding provided for the site preparation?

Response

The Council entered into a legally binding grant agreement with Yorkshire Forward in 2006, and the purpose of that was to allow for the release of Government funding via the Yorkshire Forward Agency (Now Homes England (HE)), that facilitated the development of the new Keighley College campus. The grant provided under the Agreement paid for the acquisition of the former Keighley college buildings on the North St and Cavendish St sites, to ensure that their future development, and the grants provided, would fulfil the statutory obligations of the Agency, which are:

1. To further the economic development and regeneration of Yorkshire and the Humber;
2. To promote business efficiency, investment and competitiveness in the area;
3. To promote employment in the area;
4. To enhance the development application of skills relevant to employment in the area;
5. To contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom.

The Agreement further sets out amongst other things that: The Council has requested grant funding from Yorkshire Forward for the Acquisition which will be used and/or developed as part of the Airedale Masterplan and other projects falling within one or more of the objectives referred to above.

Please note that the remedies available to Homes England under the Grant Agreement include clawback of part or all of the grant funding or alternatively HE

can direct the Council to sell the land to HE for £1 (and the Council will be responsible for any SDLT payable). The amount of funding provided to the Council under Agreement was £4,114,000, so if HE required clawback of the entire amount of the grant the cost would be considerable for the Council. Alternatively, if HE directed that the land is sold to them for £1, the Council will have little control over the future use of the sites.

It should also be noted that should the Health & Wellbeing Centre not progress on this site it is almost certain that the £3.4m secured through the Towns Fund process would also be forfeit as the timescales could not be met if a third party site was sought at this late stage.

Therefore, the overall liability of not progressing the centre on this site could exceed £7.5m.

11. Councillor Zafar Ali

In light of residents' confusion regarding the responsibility for the clearance of leaves on public footpaths etc, they now often report problems to Ward Councillors as a first port of call and when advised to ring the generic Bradford 01274,431000, as this is what the Council advises members to pass on, they sometimes respond with disappointment and sometimes hostility towards elected members, would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Transport, Planning and Housing, please advise as to how the council proposes to improve / streamline this situation?

Response

The 431000 telephone number is generally very busy, so the website and council App were developed as alternatives for people to help increase the ways that people can contact the Council and hopefully spread the contact across these three solutions. Customer services is in the process of moving onto a new system that will improve the current approach and looking at it been rolled out by end of September. The new system includes a customer portal where residents can register for an account and report issues or request services. These requests/reports will bypass the customer services team and go straight to the service who will respond and it is hoped that this will improve the access to reporting and the speed of response as customers will also be able to log into their account and track the progress of any requests that they have submitted.

Whilst we will always maintain a face to face and telephone service, moving towards self-service approaches helps to save money and provide more cost effective solutions that provides customers with 24/7 access.

Staff will still be available to take calls from those who are unable to use a device to log requests and the service is also looking to introduce a call back facility so that customers can chose to leave the queue and request that somebody calls them.

12. Councillor Brendon Stubbs

Following the freedom of information request from the Times newspaper that revealed that Bradford Council still has around 90% of office space unused due to continued home working of staff, can the leader please detail the current occupancy levels and the steps being taken to ensure that unused office space is not becoming a financial burden and ensure that staff are encouraged to return to the workplace.

Response

We have been monitoring attendance in our city centre office buildings since early into the COVID pandemic. At the present time, there are 450-600 staff in the city centre office estate, which reflect an occupancy rate of about 20-25%. The data provided to the Times showed how many office based staff we had in total across the district but by contrast showed the occupancy of our city centre buildings only, so it is not correct to say that 90% of our city centre office space is unused.

An outcome of the COVID pandemic is that the way in which our office based staff work has changed significantly and in common with many other businesses and public sector organisations, we are adopting hybrid working patterns. We are currently working to ensure our office estate is suitable for such working and that any surplus estate is dealt with efficiently, either made available for other users to occupy/share with or disposed of. We are doing this alongside other public sector partners to take a 'place based' approach.

13. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Can the Leader of Council reassure the Shipley ward councillors that officers implementing the Active Travel Neighbourhood in Saltaire will make sure that (a) local Town and District councillors are kept fully informed about its performance on a regular basis; (b) residents are similarly updated about the impacts on traffic in their community; and (c) the Executive undertakes to respond fully to any concerns that residents and councillors may have about this scheme?

Response

Of course officers will keep councillors informed about the performance of the ATN and are already committed to reviewing the scheme fully after six months to consider the impact and what changes, if any, may be made. To inform all residents regularly would be expensive (e.g. leaflets for every household) but updates to stakeholders should help ensure feedback can be disseminated to the wider community when there are updates to provide. As with all schemes there will need to be a period of settling down before valid evidence can be provided, and therefore firm conclusions will not be available in the immediate aftermath of implementation, though of course informal conversations can and will be held with ward members about early impacts.

14. Councillor Nazam Azam

With the cost of living crisis is there an opportunity to do more to support the roll out of Citizen Coin?

Response

Bradford is currently the national lead for Citizen Coin and has evidenced over £350,000 of Social Value to the district. Active discussions are ongoing with the leadership to assess options for the further expansion of Citizen Coin across the Council and across the district, leveraging the Council's relationships, networks and data to further expand its use. The leadership of Citizen Coin have been invited to the Chief Executive's management team in August to present areas for further potential expansion of Citizen Coin.

15. Councillor Marcus Dearden

It's good to see the council investing in the Doe Park centre – please could the portfolio holder outline what are the recent improvements to the building and the expected benefits. Are there discounts in place for disadvantaged young people?

Response

Doe Park facility improvements include:

- A new build with 3 multi-purpose rooms (can be used as changing, training, classroom or social rooms) plus toilets, kitchenette and small office. This build was the most cost effective way of being able to accommodate an additional large group (30 people or class size) or several smaller groups. The build was funded by grants from Sport England (150k) and HPCF (sugar tax fund 120k).
- Refurbishment and Energy saving improvements in the existing clubhouse; includes cladding, replacement doors and windows, lighting, water heating system and redecoration. This has been funded through grants secured by the Energy Unit
- A large paved concourse overlooking the reservoir and connecting the two buildings providing fine weather outdoor meeting, briefing, social and wash down areas. Funded through grants as above
- Essential replacement of septic tank. Funded by Council Capital scheme through PAG (35k)

This work follows externally funded improvements to the site and the addition of new activities over the last 5-10 years: High Ropes Course with Climbing wall; Archery and Nature Areas; Disability Access path, pontoons and access sailing dinghies; Dragon boating. Stand Up Paddle boarding has been added in 2022. Traditional Activities include Sailing and Canoeing

The activities on site had easily outstripped the capacity and condition of the facilities. Customer feedback highlighted the need for improvements and will now enhance the overall customer experience at Doe Park.

Whilst charges are applied to ensure that the centre is financially viable, many disadvantaged young people come to Doe Park with school, youth and community groups, funded or subsidised through a variety of means such as Pupil Premium and Holiday Activity funding. Bradford Leisure Card discounts are applied to all Holiday Activity and Leisure Courses. The Doe Park team endeavour to ensure that the activities and facilities are accessible to all through working with a variety of organisations and individuals.

16. Councillor Geoff Winnard

In view of the Bradford's success in being named 2025 City of Culture, can the leader confirm that the Council's culture policy is supportive of artistic freedom of expression, whether through books, paintings, films, sculpture etc. (unless illegal) and in opposition to censorship?

Response

Culture is our Plan – the Cultural Strategy for Bradford District 2021-2031 sets out ten ambitions and 10 targets to achieve our vision:

'Bradford will offer a new definition of art, culture and heritage that reimagines our District as a place that is knowingly different and radically alternative.

A place to realise new creativity is celebrated in every home and on every street corner and where we will prove the positive impact of culture in everyone's lives.'

It is crucial that we are therefore supportive of artistic freedom of expression throughout the programme. The Culture Trust and the new leadership team will play a pivotal role in ensuring all artistic voices are heard.

17. Councillor Julie Lintern

Can the portfolio holder advise what events are planned for the Holiday Activities and Food programme in the school summer holidays for children throughout the district?

Response

The DfE funded Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) funds holiday clubs for Free School Meal children. There are 106 providers across the district delivering holiday clubs during the summer holidays. All are working directly with schools to ensure eligible children are registered with a provider. Each child attending receives a healthy meal.

As part of HAF delivery, the community sports and activities team working with Living Well and JU-MP, are holding an event in each ward across the summer holiday period (see attached schedule). These are open access sessions and all children can attend. Children will have access to a range of activities including multi sports, giant games, dance, arts and craft, climbing tower, bouncy castle and adventure play. All children attending these sessions will receive a healthy meal.

18. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

How many electric or low emission buses do we now have in the Bradford district?

Response

As of 5th July 2022, there were over 317 buses operating scheduled services that have been upgraded to the CAZ-compliant low emission standard, which is Euro 6 or better. Approximately a further 20 buses owned by local bus operators already met this standard.

There are currently no electric buses operating scheduled services in Bradford. Transdev completed a trial of an electric bus in June 2022, and is preparing for a roll-out of electric buses on the Shuttle route 662 in early 2023. Funded through ZEBRA funding from the Department for Transport, Transdev and Arriva jointly plan to introduce approximately 40 new electric buses from next year.

19. Councillor Debbie Davies

A report that went to scrutiny in the spring stated “getting office workers back into our city and centres is the key remaining element to recovering to pre-pandemic footfall levels” – could we have an update on council office workers and what the current working arrangements are working from home and the office?

Response

As highlighted in my answer to Councillor Stubbs earlier, the Council is adopting a hybrid working pattern for our office workers. How this works varies from service to service with some services in the office all of the time and others working from home more frequently. Clearly a return to the pre-pandemic status quo is not possible nor even desirable for many people who benefit from a more flexible, hybrid working approach. However, it is still important for us to grow our economy with more businesses and workers in our urban centres and as a significant employer in the district we recognise our own role in that alongside the delivery of key regeneration projects such as One City Park and the Keighley Health & Wellbeing Centre.

20. Councillor Taj Salam

The recent finance report to Executive predicts the council will face an additional £20m cost from rising inflation, with transport fuel costs already up 25% and an estimated doubling of energy unit prices. The report also predicts a continuing impact from Covid yet our Covid funding from government has ended. Does the Leader share my concern, how will the government put its levelling up rhetoric into practice given councils across the country are facing such immense budget shortfalls for the coming year?

Response

I am concerned that after a decade of government cuts and sluggish UK economic growth, this is now compounded by an inflation crisis that's going to

have a severe impact on the budgets of local authorities across the country. Meanwhile we have a Conservative party diverted by its own internal wrangling over who will lead it whilst everyone in the country faces these very real problems of a rapidly rising cost of living and strained public services. We have not yet heard anything from the Tory leadership candidates about a positive vision for levelling up and investment, only yet more promises of public spending cuts to continue an economic plan that has failed the people and businesses of our district. We will be making a strong pitch for levelling up our towns and city to whoever makes up the new government and we will also be lobbying them for fairer and more sustainable council funding alongside other local authorities through the Local Government Association.

21. Councillor Rizwana Jamil

Can I have an update on our planting a tree for every child project?

Response

26,000 trees have been planted to date out of a 55,000 ambition. There continues to be active engagement with schools and 20 school orchards have been planted within the 26,000 figure. Whilst identification of suitable sites has been a challenge, there is now sufficient land to aim for completion in 2024.

22. Councillor Mike Pollard

Would the Leader concede that Government merely endorsed the CAZ charging structure proposed by Council, it did not mandate the charging structure to be adopted.

Response

No. The Conservatives are trying to have their cake and eat it. The Council has been issued with three Ministerial Directions. The Direction received at the end of 2018 stipulated that the Council was required to prepare and implement a scheme that would achieve compliance with legal limits for air quality within 3 years of the Direction. In order that the Government could evaluate the key principle that compliance should be achieved in the shortest possible timeframe, the Council was Directed by Government to benchmark any proposals against a CAZ D, which would have meant that all passenger cars would have been charged too.

The Government were clear from the outset of the process that, due to levels of NO₂ in the District (up to 50% above legal limits at key locations) that a charging CAZ would be required.

The Government told us that other proposals, such as park and ride and electric bus routes, made a minimal impact on NO₂ levels. The only plans that the Government was prepared to accept and fund were a CAZ C plus additional measures or a CAZ D.

The Council has been required to follow extensive Government guidance that has since been withdrawn from the Government Sharepoint system.

The 2017 national CAZ Framework stipulates that the level of charging in a CAZ is determined by the Government, who set the upper and lower levels.

The Government has also made it clear that they will be the authority that determines when a CAZ can be decommissioned.

The Government introduced regulations in 2020 to levy a £2 fee on any payment made to enter a CAZ in the UK. The Government has estimated that this will generate revenue in excess of £77m for the Government.

23. Councillor Hassan Khan

Can the portfolio holder explain the Vision Zero initiative to reduce road casualties and what more we can do with police and partners to make our roads safer for everyone?

Response

The principle of Vision Zero is accepting that human beings do make mistakes but shouldn't be killed or seriously injured in the process. A whole systems approach to Casualty Prevention on the road network will ensure every service where there is an influence on infrastructure, behaviour or enforcement is involved and integrated into the process of delivering safe roads for Bradford. Meetings have already started at a high level with West Yorkshire Police and will build on our strong foundation of Partnership Working over the next 12 months to deliver a five-year programme of Vision Zero. The programme will eventually move away from the historic post-collision response and work towards a more proactive process of casualty prevention.

24. Councillor Kamran Hussain

Can the Portfolio Holder for Housing outline the steps taken by the Council's Homelessness teams to reduce the number of people in temporary accommodation and support them into secure, permanent accommodation of a decent standard?

Response

In accordance with the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 the priority for Local Authorities is to prevent homelessness. Over the last 12 months and with the backdrop of COVID-19, the service has provided support and assistance to nearly 9,300 residents with an 81% success rate (unaudited) at preventing households from becoming homeless. The success of Bradford's interventions is above both the national and the regional average for Yorkshire & Humber, reflecting the hard work and dedication of the team to achieve long term sustainable accommodation for as many of our residents as possible.

As a result, we are one of the very few Local Authorities in England not to use B&B or nightly paid accommodation as temporary accommodation and record a 14% decrease in the number of households in temporary accommodation between Q2 and Q3 2021/22.

At an operational level the Housing Options team supports households in temporary accommodation, in line with legislation, to access long term suitable accommodation in the private rented and social housing sectors. This includes working closely with our commissioned support providers to remove barriers to securing accommodation such as lack of affordability, rent arrears, budgeting and anti-social behaviour.

At a strategic level, the Access to Housing and Housing Options teams lead on a transformation project to review the allocations and lettings processes. The Allocations Project Team has been established and involves the main Registered Providers in the District to improve nominations and lettings for households in housing need.

25. Councillor Andrew Loy

What funding, if any, has been allocated to Backstone Way playground in Ilkley for new and replacement equipment?’

Response

This play area together with the others presenting in the same condition across the district are identified for refurbishment works in the third and final phase of the Playable Spaces Refurbishment Programme which will commence when the current phase completes at the end of this year. The total budget for the works at this site (which will include the remaining £8k Section 106 monies allocated to the ward) will be able to be circulated to the ward members when the Parks Technical Officer has been allocated to develop and prepare cost estimates for the refurbishment works necessary.

26. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

There have been a number of incidents in local woodlands and parks where members of the public have felt scared or intimidated or even experienced a dog-on-dog attack from dogs being walked by professional dog walkers. Does the Portfolio Holder agree it is essential that dog walkers comply with the requirements of the law and local bylaws relating to dog walking and will she consider implementing a scheme to licence professional dog walkers which also limits the number of dogs that can be walked, restricts the meeting up of professional dog-walkers and ensures standards of welfare for the dog, respect for other walkers or riders, the environment and peace of mind for the dog-owners.

Response

Dogs that are not under proper control can be really frightening and I would always encourage dog walkers using Council land across the district to comply with the law and local byelaws relating to dogs and dog control. It is against the law to allow dogs to be dangerously out of control, so it is important people maintain control of their animals at all times. The Council Dog Control Public Space Protection order provides additional safeguards for users of parks and green spaces.

Officers are currently considering what options are available to the Council to bring in a licensing scheme, which would allow additional control over professional dog walkers who use parks, countryside sites and woodlands for business use. Officers are reviewing the challenges such a scheme poses around both the administration and the subsequent enforcement of any licence scheme.

27. Councillor Celia Hickson

Will the leader of the Council and officers agree to meet ward councillors and representatives from Tong Leadership Academy to discuss the ongoing situation at the former Yorkshire Martyr's Site? Given the location of the site and the limited possible uses, would the Council consider purchasing the site to ensure this eyesore is finally demolished?

Response

Cllr Kauser Mukhtar has already made extensive representations to the Council Leader on this issue. As a result council officers are focused on doing all they can to remedy the situation. Whilst the Council is not in a position to buy the building a previous prosecution has been made against the building owners by the Council. On 3 July and 20 August 2018, Community Protection Notices were served under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 on the owners. The Notices required that works were undertaken to protect the site or buildings from unauthorised access. The Notices also required that the site be monitored on a regular basis and that a demolition plan be submitted to the Department by 17 September 2018. There has been non-compliance with the Notices. Failure to comply with such a Notice is an offence under Section 48 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The owners were prosecuted in October 2019 and received £21,840 in fines, costs and compensation.

I am aware that officers are currently looking at further enforcement action in relation to the site to hopefully resolve the on-going issue with this building.

28. Councillor Kamran Hussain

Can the portfolio holder tell me what provisions have been put in place to support grassroots organisations in deprived areas post-pandemic?

Response

The Council allocated £300,000 for post Covid recovery work to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. £60,000 granted to each of the 5 areas supported VCS organisations to restart activities, run new groups and offer new services to help people struggling with rising prices. These included the provision of food and hot meals for vulnerable people and families. Mental health support was also available as well as events and fun days. Improvements to facilities and running costs, including staffing costs, were allocated funding.

£1 million Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) enabled VCS organisations to fund solutions to ensure the longer-term viability of their organisations. They obtained money for business planning, including exploring diversifying income, developing new leadership roles, board development and staff costs. New or improved services such as community cafes, facilities to enable disengaged young people to gain new practical skills are being set up in addition to existing services being extended. Funding for surveyor's fees and other site investigation work is allowing the development of buildings to extend their use. The digital transformation of VCS organisations will be achieved through the funding of software licences, IT equipment, on line platforms and staff training and development.

Other support available currently is the Local Access Programme which provides support for social entrepreneurs.

Local Access Bradford District (LABD) has brought together a diverse partnership of social and business leaders to imagine and create a social investment loan fund to support the VCSE sector and improve the lives of people in Bradford. Organisations representing social investment, enterprise support, corporates, social enterprises and local communities – including Impact Hub Bradford CIC, Key Fund, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, University of Bradford, Inspired Neighbourhoods, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Airedale Enterprises and OnTrak – have pooled their talents to create an inclusive and collaborative partnership with the district's citizens to tackle its biggest challenges and create a culture of social innovation.

In 2019 Access (The Foundation for Social Investment) and Big Society Capital invited twelve cities to submit proposals to their ten-year £33m programme of support for charities and social enterprises. Together, a consortium of Bradford organisations led by Impact Hub Bradford CIC developed a concept and proposal that led to the city's selection, unlocking £6.6m of funding to build resilience and provoke social innovation. This initiative is now launching as Local Access Bradford District, providing a foundation for social innovation in Bradford in the coming decade.

The partnership will be focussing on supporting organisations, which have investable ideas, to move along the pathway to investment with three main interventions:

- Introductory workshops - Presenting potential investees and VCSEs with the investment products on offer.
- Training programmes - Business support & equipping organisations with the skills to grow and build their ideas.
- Grants - Resources for organisations needing support to take the final steps on their investment journey.

There will also be the forthcoming UK Shared Prosperity Fund to replace ESIF and ERDF funding, following Brexit. At present we have no further information

as details of the funding/support available have yet to be finalised. The Fund's main priorities are communities & place, local businesses and people & skills. Local authorities have been invited to submit their plans to Government.

29. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

Can the portfolio holder give an update on our investment in skills and supporting people into work post-Covid?

Response

Bradford's strategic response to the legacy of Covid, and the underlying employment challenges that the pandemic amplified, has been through the Skills House partnership. As a Council we are making a significant investment into this approach, more than £4m over a three-and-a-half-year period (implemented from September 2020).

Skills House is a partnership that integrates the early help, information, advice and the delivery of employment, skills and wider support offer, to enable businesses source talent locally and support all our communities to benefit from economic opportunities.

Our additional investment has meant that we have been able to accelerate the implementation of the approach in line with our strategic plan for the district, creating delivered through a localities based, multi-agency model.

We now co-locate our coaches in each of the job centres in the district, in each of our three FE colleges, as well as with Incommunities and the University. We also have community engagement workers based with five VCS organisations with a range of organisational specialisms, enabling a community based service to support residents with multiple barriers to enter the labour market.

Through our community based officers we are also linking to community organisations to support events that they are running and we also have a further ten settings we are linking with to hold drop-in days and provide guidance clinics.

The impact has been considerable. Since September 2020: 20,720 adults have enrolled on education or training; 8,200 people have had careers support; 3,280 residents have been supported into work.

We have also been successful in reaching groups that were disadvantaged in the Labour Market prior to the pandemic: 45% of participants have been women, 47% from an ethnic minority and 20% have declared a disability.

As part of this we ran one of the largest Kickstart programmes in the country with 813 participants either through our own employer gateway or with the Council as an employer. Presently around 60% of our Kickstart participants have entered a sustained employment destination upon completion of our programme (we still have people on placement).

30. Councillor Geoff Winnard

On Sunday, 15 May a section of the northbound A650 Bingley Bypass was closed to motorists to allow filming for a BBC television programme. This caused widespread disruption for local residents, most of whom were unaware of the planned road closure, with significant congestion on routes through the town. What assessment of the likely traffic impact was made by the Council before deciding to whether to agree to the road closure? How much did the Council charge the filming company for use of the highway throughout the day?

Response

The impact of the closure was assessed based on officers' experience of previous closures for events and other traffic/road maintenance related closures in and around the Bingley area.

Local councillors were informed of the closure by email on 19 April 2022 and the event was advertised in local press (Telegraph and Argus) 10 days in advance of the event.

Advanced warning signs of the closure were in place on site at the entrances to Bingley Bypass at least 7 days before the event.

We are aware that despite this many people felt that they had not been made aware of the planned closure and officers have been asked to consider how we can go beyond our statutory duties in advertising such closures in the future.

The BBC will be invoiced to cover legal costs for arranging and advertising the road closure (£2,557.78) and for the cost of staff time arranging traffic management on the day and administrative fees (up to £5,000).

Bradford City of Film are looking to implement a film permit system in the coming year. This will enable the Council to implement a charging policy based on the scale of the production. It will also allow for charges to be introduced for lower level film and TV productions that still require some administrative support but don't have location budgets.

More generally, being the world's first UNESCO City of Film has brought Bradford international profile and raised awareness of Bradford as a great location for the TV and film industry. Filming of this type enhances Bradford's reputation as a place of fantastic heritage and wonderful landscapes. More practically, it supports the local economy with hotels (in the case the Mercure Hotel at Cottingley and the Vivo apartments at Saltaire generating business as a result), restaurants and other businesses all benefiting from the knock-on impact of film productions taking place across the district. The production in question has also employed a good number of local crew. In the longer term it can boost tourism as locations become synonymous with a film or TV show, such as the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, which has just celebrated the launch of The Railway Children Return with Jenny Agutter.

Being a City of Film is a huge positive for the district, but we will look at how we can further minimise the impact on residents where possible, particularly for sensitive locations such as the one in question.

31. Councillor Mohsin Hussain

Can the portfolio holder give an update on the Towns Fund plans for Keighley and which projects are likely to be delivered most quickly?

Response

In June last year, Keighley received a Towns Fund investment offer of £33.6m – this represents the highest investment offer in West Yorkshire and the fifth highest Town Deal investment offer nationally. This is fantastic news. The investment is designed to revitalise Keighley; creating jobs and training opportunities by supporting the expansion of manufacturing and engineering sectors through development of brownfield sites. It will also regenerate our High Street, promote arts and culture, improve walking/cycling links and public spaces and support some of the most vulnerable in our town by reducing health inequalities and social exclusion.

Since June 2021, alongside the Town Deal Boards, we have been developing business cases for each of the 10 projects. So far, the Government has formally approved five of the 10 projects – projects approved amount to £9.9m of investment. For some of the approved projects, delivery has started. As an example, Keighley Creative secured an injection of funding from the Towns Fund to support the Keighley Arts and Film Festival; enabling them to employ a small core team year-round to ensure a high-impact series of events to build on the experience and interest generated from its two pilots. This investment is vital, it will support Keighley's creative industries, widen opportunities for local engagement in arts and culture as well as raise the profile of the town and region in preparation for the City of Culture 2025.

Another example of a project that is gearing up for delivery includes funding to support businesses to grow. Through our engagement with local businesses over the last few years, we know they have been operating in a changing market and know many are have identified a need to modernise or diversify to be more successful or competitive – both to increase their productivity as well as to retain and safeguard existing jobs. We have secured almost £2m to support this – this could include grant funding to:

- invest in new premises or equipment to provide new opportunities / build capacity and expand their skills base;
- invest in technology to facilitating businesses to evolve and modernise as they grow; and
- assist businesses to move to premises that are better suited to their needs.

We also have a Community Grant Scheme that will provide capital funding to organisations and businesses that are rooted in the local communities including

grass roots and community organisations – to invest in premises or support organisations to expand or strengthen their offer to the local community. We are currently working with the 11 organisations who submitted their bids as part of the scheme to develop their proposals.

32. Councillor Liz Rowe

Can I have an update from the portfolio holder for regeneration on our investments with our partners in Shipley constituency, including the latest on the Towns Fund schemes?

Response

Last June, Shipley received a Towns Fund investment offer of £25m to deliver a transformational programme of activity; driving and sustainable economic growth through investment in town and high street regeneration. The Towns Fund investment is designed to revitalise the town centre of Shipley. The funding will transform Shipley's outdoor marketplace, providing a new public square for events to support a thriving town centre and increasing footfall for local shops, businesses and market stall holders. This will be supplemented by wider health, well-being and leisure infrastructure improvements such as improving walking and cycling routes to the wider town centre, local amenities, Saltaire and the railway stations to create an environment that feels greener, safe and attractive.

Like Keighley, we have secured funding to support businesses to grow and innovate through investment in premises, equipment and technology or skills development. Investment will also seek to address health inequalities and social exclusion through two key projects:

- Health and Wellbeing Community Campus – an innovative health and wellbeing facility which brings together the voluntary sector, social enterprise and public sector to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Shipley. It will create an inclusive, welcoming, accessible space for a range of health and wellbeing activity suitable for all ages; to support efforts to tackle inequality with a focus on health inclusion and targeted support for vulnerable groups.
- Sustainable Community Hub – through the refurbishment of the Former Church School building in the centre of Shipley, this investment will grow the skills, arts and cultural services on offer to the local community - providing access to volunteering, social community events, wellbeing and personal development opportunities.

33. Councillor Debbie Davies

Culture is our plan' target is "by 2031 50% of Bradford District creative workforce, audiences and cultural leadership will be drawn from people currently underrepresented in Culture and Creative Industries sector." Could you explain which people are underrepresented?

Response

This is one of 10 targets set out in Culture is our Plan – the Cultural Strategy for Bradford District 2021-2031.

In developing Culture is our Plan, alongside Bradford's City of Culture bid we consulted with thousands of people across the district and have started the job of assembling a picture of engagement and employment with culture that will continue to be developed and will provide us with ways to measure change and success through to 2031.

Culture is our Plan is an agile working strategy that will be regularly monitored and targets/outcomes reviewed as we work towards achieving our 2031 goals.

Some examples of current underrepresentation:

The lack of opportunity and barriers to access are profound. When we look at our current cultural workforce, only 25% of people come from working class backgrounds and communities when over 50% of our population are from these socio-economic groups. So addressing opportunity for more working class residents to access the cultural and creative industries will be a priority and clearly aligns with the Culture Minister's ambitions.

Our current cultural workforce is more ethnically diverse than the UK average but we still have room to improve. 11% of workers have diverse heritage and 23% of creative freelancers but that compares to over 30% of our population.

The young population of our district is one of our greatest assets but currently this group are underrepresented in our cultural and creative workforce at just 2% compared to 7% nationally. The cultural plan and 2025 are huge opportunities for younger people.

2% of our cultural workforce say their disability affects their day-to-day activities a lot compared to 8% of our district population.

34. Councillor Julie Humphreys

An LGA survey found 98% of councils do not have confidence that the funding from the government's adult social care reforms will be enough to meet need – does the portfolio holder share that concern?

Response

The Government is proposing reforms to the way people who use adult social care are charged for their services. A means-tested financial assessment system has applied since 1948 and more recently means that anyone with more than £23,250 in savings will fully fund their care (people's main property is only taken into account when they live in a care home, not in their own home). The Government intends to raise this threshold to £100,000. The Government also intends to apply a lifetime cap such that no one person will contribute more than £86,000 towards the cost of their care in their lifetime. Finally, it is widely known that people who fund their own care in care homes generally pay higher fees than

the local authority. The Government intends to equalise the fees paid by providing more money to local authorities to pay a 'fair cost of care'. This is a more generous system than at present, though many people do not know that social care is not free at the point of need like the NHS and are disappointed when they find out they must contribute. The Government has set aside £4.6bn of the monies to be raised through the increase in National Insurance contributions to fund this policy change. The County Council's Network recently published a report which estimates that the costs of these reforms in the nine years from when they are introduced to 2032 could be a minimum of £10bn higher than currently estimated by the Government and could create a further workforce crisis in social care, with over 5,000 extra staff projected to be required to carry out extra care and financial assessments for those seeking to benefit from the reforms. As the portfolio holder I do share these concerns and the council is lobbying through political and officer routes to influence the Government to switch more funding from National Insurance from the NHS to adult social care to fund reforms.

35. Councillor Kyle Green

What projects are being considered for the Keighley Constituency for the Government's Levelling up Funding and what consultation will take place with local ward Councillors regarding this funding?

Response

The proposal for Keighley is to expand on the Advanced Manufacturing hub for post school qualifications in the Towns Fund bid by providing an additional facility for the College & Bradford University on the reconfigured Stockbridge Depot site. It will provide a facility to support research & development in areas such as advanced robotics and provide some incubation & 'grow on' space for emerging business.

The bid includes support to unlock six stalled employment sites in/around both Business Development Zones in Keighley, which would then be developed out by the private sector to provide further capacity to the market.

There is also funding for key capacity generating projects on Keighley Worth Valley Railway to promote mobility and migration of workers into Keighley and increased employment opportunities.

The proposals were developed in part based on feedback from previous engagement with members and stakeholders, such as the through Towns Fund process. A direct engagement session took place with members on Monday 4 July and the draft bid will be shared once complete. Further engagement will take place once the outcome of the bids is known later in the year.

36. Councillor Debbie Davies

It states in the Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020/2021 that there was £9.52m unspent Section 106 contributions – what is the current figure and when

is this money going to be spent on the important items it has been allocated towards such as affordable housing, highway works and recreation?

Response

The next Infrastructure Funding Statement is due to be published later this year and members will be provided with the latest figures in due course.

Given the nature of S106 contributions it is not uncommon for an amount to be 'unspent' while the schemes they relate to are developed. For instance, a complex infrastructure project that includes S106 money as part of the funding mix, like the recently completed Harrogate Road/New Line highways scheme, will take years to develop and deliver.

Officers continue to work with services to firm up spending plans and understand any constraints on spend so that unspent S106 contributions can be delivered.

Recreation will be using both Section 106 as well as the recent CIL funding allocation for Parks & Green Spaces projects to address the impact of developments upon existing recreational facilities and open space amenities primarily to address any shortfall in provision created by the developments and to support the Playable Spaces Strategy agreed by Executive 7th January 2020.

Affordable housing delivery is currently being looked at as part of wider work to boost housing deliver linked to a new enabling strategy and work with WYCA to support affordable housing delivery in line with the Mayors pledge.

Delivery of transport infrastructure works have more recently been impacted by the Covid19 pandemic which saw many engineering resources directed towards delivery of measures supporting social distancing and maintaining the safety of residents. These resources are now resuming work on the identified schemes funded via S106 contributions which will be brought forward over the coming months.

37. Councillor Alun Griffiths

Does the leader agree that this council should be standing up for fair and responsible tax conduct, and as such will she commit to supporting the "Councils for Fair Tax declaration"?

Response

The Labour Group has already tasked the Council's Procurement Team to proactively look at this to assess how it could practically be implemented.

38. Councillor Anna Watson

Now that we have secured our forthcoming City of Culture status, will the Leader of Council please (a) write to Network Rail to press them to invest more resources in clearing away the refuse/litter from the approaches to Bradford's railways stations and (b) share Network Rail's response with councillor colleagues?

Response

We don't need City of Culture status to have this conversation and indeed it is something we have already asked them to do. The most recent correspondence on this issue was shared with Cllr Warnes. We will continue to challenge them on the issue if it is not resolved.

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 12 JULY 2022

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

Amendments submitted by political groups

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

Amendment A

12.1 - Eliminating the use of pesticides in our community

To be moved by: Councillor Sally Birch

To be seconded by: Councillor Kyle Green

With the addition and deletion of appropriate words, the recommendation be amended to read as follows:

Council notes that:

- some residents across the District are concerned about the use of many chemicals and the impact of these on humans, animals, insects and the health of the environment in general;
- these concerns are in many instances supported by scientific evidence that shows potential links between some chemicals and a wide range of detriments to living things
- the European Food Safety Authority stated in May 2022 that “classifying glyphosate as a carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic substance is not justified”
- there is scientific evidence that the use of many chemicals, is likely causing a decline in insect populations including key pollinators such as bees, wasps and butterflies;
- the European Commission published proposals in June 2022 that will “ban all pesticides in sensitive areas”, prohibiting their use “in places such as urban green areas, including public parks or gardens, playgrounds, schools, recreation or sports grounds, public paths and...any ecologically sensitive area to be preserved for threatened pollinators”, with the intention of removing chemical pesticides “from our proximity in our everyday lives”;
- many towns and cities across the UK have recently begun reducing, or eradicating, the use of pesticides in urban spaces and switching to non-chemical methods of weed control;
- however, Brighton Council started its pesticide free journey in 2019, but by August 2021, some Councillors considered the pros of the policy to be significantly outweighed by the cons (including safety issues)
- a Brighton City Councillor noted that amongst the negatives of the pesticide free journey, was that it took “less than two years to become a state” (a mess), whilst Wadebridge Town Council (pesticide free for six years) state that “new techniques can require more time and more staff” and Bradford District can ill afford to disregard these outcomes in the run up to its 2025 City of Culture status
- the Sustainable Development Action Plan states that the principle of “Living Within Environmental Limits” should “inform action across the Council”, and that “The Council, with the powers, resources and influence at its disposal, will seek to ensure effective climate action and a safe and high quality local environment, actively working to have a positive impact on the rest of the world. Respecting the limits of

our environment, resources and biodiversity and ensuring that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations”;

- the Biodiversity Action Plan does not include bumblebees or other pollinators, in the list of species that have action plans to protect and enhance their status across the District.

Council resolves:

- to produce an action plan for the Council to review all options for pesticide and weed control, taking into account effectiveness, cost and resources with the intention of implementing the most appropriate measures at a time, when the full facts are known.
- support our key partners to follow suit in exploring all options
- review the Biodiversity action plan to give consideration for inclusion of pollinators such as bumble bees

Amendment B

12.1 - Eliminating the use of pesticides in our community

To be moved by: Councillor Sarah Ferriby

To be seconded by Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw

Council notes:

The debate concerning the possible harmful effects of glyphosate is continuing to take place within organisations, including councils and governmental bodies, across the world.

The motion approved by full council on 16th July 2019 titled 'Use of glyphosate herbicides by CBMDC' requested that the Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee commission and publish a report covering these issues, the steps taken to protect both staff and the public from harm and examine alternative measures for weed control with a view to making recommendations for the reduction or cessation of glyphosate use.

Council therefore requests:

That the Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee, which has recently completed work on climate emergency, green space, water management, biodiversity and single-use plastics, progress the report, which was inevitably delayed by the Covid pandemic, at its earliest opportunity.

That the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which is under development and incorporates the existing Strategic Action Plan for bumblebees, be sent to the Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee for review and feedback by members before it is adopted.

12.2 - Woodlands and trees

To be moved by: Councillor Sarah Ferriby

To be seconded by: Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Council notes that:

Bradford Council currently manages around 30,000 street trees and 860 hectares of woodland across the district.

In January 2019, Bradford Council passed a motion that declared a Climate Emergency and on our website commits to “improve green space” across the district.

Bradford Council has also pledged to plant one tree for every primary school child across the district. This equates to 55,000 trees of which around 26,000 have already been planted including 10,000 planted as part of the Queen’s Canopy (QGC). A further 29,000 will be planted up to 2024.

Bradford Council was awarded ‘Tree City of the World’ for its commitment to urban tree forestry.

Bradford District is part of the Northern Forest Project - an ambitious plan to plant 50 million trees across the North of England before 2032.

Bradford Council is achieving all of the above despite the unprecedented level of Conservative government funding cuts over the past 12 years which continue to put incredible strain on all council services for people throughout the district.

With regard to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), an individual tree is the responsibility of the land owner, who has the responsibility to regularly risk assess them.

Council resolves to:

Achieve the ambitious targets we have set ourselves to plant new trees whilst maintaining and improving our substantial existing woodlands, street trees, parks and green spaces

Continue to work with schools, volunteers and Friends groups in our new planting and management of existing trees, parks and green spaces and acknowledge the leading role our parks services have played in facilitating and supporting new Friends groups

Support the planned introduction of a new Customer Relationship Management system by the Customer Contact Centre which is intended to bring a number of improvements including giving residents direct access to the trees service to report issues and to be able to track the progress of their service requests.

Continue to invest in keeping all our trees and woodlands safe and environmentally friendly and to respond quickly to reports of any dangerous or damaging trees through efficient communications with residents, whilst ensuring any future budget decisions relating to trees and woodlands are properly considered as part of the council’s wider budget process.

12.3 - Supporting all road users

To be moved by: Councillor Kevin Warnes

To be seconded by: Councillor Celia Hickson

That the motion be amended to read as follows.

Council notes that:

- a) Decades of government transport policy failure – especially over the last 12 years - has meant that car ownership for many people is either an aspiration or a necessity.
- b) Across the world, millions of people choose to make their journeys on public transport or cycle in all weathers – even with children or pets (sometimes both!).
- c) Instead of seizing the opportunity to invest in high quality, reliable and affordable public transport, the current government has instigated an ideologically-driven conflict with the trade unions, leaving union members with no choice but to exercise their legal right to strike.
- d) 21 million Germans – nearly a quarter of the entire population - have recently taken up a heavily discounted nationwide travel pass allowing ticket-holders to use the country's public transport network for one calendar month for just €9. This shows that, even in a country with a higher percentage of car ownership than the UK, sensible government policies can be delivered to ensure that more people use public transport.
- e) The idea of 'a war on motorists' has been a feature of right-wing mythology for decades.
- f) The most effective way to create a sustainable transport network, reduce traffic congestion and improve urban air quality is to provide motorists with viable low carbon alternatives to using their cars.

Council therefore resolves:

- 1) To lobby the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to (a) ensure new highways schemes are focused on improving active travel options and (b) intensify the development of low carbon mass transit travel networks.
- 2) To ensure that cyclists are safely segregated from motorists and pedestrians by exploring options to expand the segregated cycleway network and ensuring that all new schemes meet the standards laid out in the Department for Transport's LTN 1/20 Cycle Infrastructure Design guidance.

12.3 - Supporting all road users

To be moved by: Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

To be seconded by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Council notes that:

- The cost of filling a typical family car has increased 20% in the last six months, exacerbating the cost of living crisis. While car ownership is an aspiration or necessity for some people, many others cannot afford one. Whatever their reason, residents should not have to rely on owning a car to get around
- This Council has invested extensively in infrastructure for electric vehicles while the Government has told the motorist there will be no further sales of new petrol and diesel cars beyond 2030
- The Highway Code has been updated by The Department of Transport to incorporate a 'Hierarchy of Road Users' with the following order of importance: Pedestrians, Cyclists, Horse Riders, Motorbikes, Cars/Taxis, Vans/Minibuses, HGVs
- Public transport is a public good and any public transport unreliability is due in no small part to the failure of government to resolve sector disputes and properly fund services
- Provision of bus lanes and quality, segregated cycle facilities encourages a switch to potentially cheaper, more sustainable modes of transport. Government has said it expects West Yorkshire to increase the kilometres of bus lanes we have in the recent City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) negotiations.
- Road safety remains an overwhelming concern when considering any highways scheme

Council resolves:

- To continue thinking of all road users when planning transport and public realm schemes in line with The Highway Code, Bus Back Better, the West Yorkshire EV charging ambitions and cycle regulations LTN1/20
- To continue developing a network of bus lanes and segregated cycleways across the district to add to existing routes between Leeds and Bradford, Bradford and Shipley and the Leeds-Liverpool canal towpath
- To implement Vision Zero for road safety across the district, working with partners across the council and externally, to drastically reduce the number of people hurt or killed on our roads.

12.4 – Rental Auctions Amendment

To be moved by: Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

To be seconded by: Councillor Mike Pollard

With the addition and deletion of appropriate words, the recommendation be amended to read as follows:

This council notes:

- the provisions in the Levelling Up Bill currently before parliament pertaining to powers for Local Authorities to require “Rental Auctions”, where high street properties have been left empty for more than a year.
- Many businesses have struggled during Covid19 and with the current increase in the cost of living.
- This council believe that such empty properties can be a blight on our City and Town Centres and have a damaging knock on effect on neighbouring businesses and the areas as a whole.

This council resolves to:

- Ensure the Council focuses on working with businesses and landlords to ensure premises are not left unoccupied and vibrant high streets are supported. All options including conversion to suitable residential properties should be considered.
- To provide support with issues such as anti-social behaviour, access, parking, and public realm to encourage businesses to open and remain viable.
- To use any future powers under the Levelling Up Bill as a last resort once other support has been offered
- Write to our District’s Members of Parliament requesting that they support the Levelling Up Bill.

12.5 - A Council Structure to meet future needs

To be moved by: Councillor Mike Pollard

To be seconded by: Councillor Peter Clarke

With the addition and deletion of appropriate words, the recommendation be amended to read as follows:

Council notes that:

- Bradford is the fifth largest Metropolitan District Council with the youngest population in the country.
- The proportion of the Council budget invested in Children's Services is approximately 34.5%, a percentage understated to a considerable extent via an obvious emerging error, leading to a Q1 update which, had it been realistically modelled and presented at the outset, i.e. at Budget Council in February, would have been approximately 43%.
- The Children's Services staff will and the bulk of the annual budget for the service will likely, transfer to the new arms-length company, significantly reducing the day to day Children's Services responsibilities of the Council, with Bradford remaining the 5th largest Metropolitan District in terms of demography, but not in terms of functional responsibility.
- A significant portion of Education Services have been externalised in recent years, by the academisation of many schools.
- In order to carry out its responsibilities, the new Children's Services company will require its own senior management team, with salaries at a level required to attract the calibre of candidates capable to bring about rapid, sustainable improvements and this will not be cheap.
- in light of the ongoing increases in the cost of living, the residents of Bradford do not need the burden of paying for additional managers and the council should not expect them to pay extra tax indefinitely, for its repeated serious failings in Children's Services.
- the current spate of CMT departures presents the perfect opportunity re-evaluate the council's senior management structure

Council resolves:

- To request that the Chief Executive, in her role as Head of the Paid Service, instigate an external review to identify the most suitable senior management structure (the top four tiers) of the paid service of the Council, along with appropriate pay scales, for the foreseeable future, given the numerous changes in responsibility levels of recent years.

12.5 – A Council Structure to meet future needs

To be moved by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

To be seconded by: Councillor Sue Duffy

This Council notes:

There is nothing more important than improving services for the thousands of children who need us in the Bradford district.

The Council is setting up a Children's Trust which will be a wholly owned subsidiary of the council.

The Council will still have responsibility for all children in the Bradford district and will hold the Children's Trust to account for excellent delivery of services.

It is vital we retain and recruit the best staff available to run the Children's Trust, notwithstanding a national shortage of children's social workers including a national 16.7% vacancy rate.

The Council will always have a legal responsibility for Children and therefore has to have a Director of Children's Services (DCS) in the Council who can work well with the Children's Trust.

A significant number of staff including senior leaders will TUPE across to the Children's Trust when it is established.

The Council, together with the NHS, will continue to have responsibility for delivering SEND services. The responsibility for school admissions, working with schools to improve absenteeism, education safeguarding and other key areas of work will still remain in the Council. The DCS will have responsibility for a significant budget.

The Council is facing significant financial challenges in managing the budget in the face of rising demand and costs. This is in common with many other authorities in the country. Placement costs alone have increased by 30% since April this year, these are unprecedented. Significant work is continuing to mitigate these financial pressures.

There has been a considerable amount of work done by the Government Commissioners and legal counsel to set up the Children's Trust and to advise the Council on the correct structures to support the new organisation. This legal counsel is paid for by the Government through general taxation.

The Council should continue the regular briefings with councillors across party so that they are sighted on and involved in the establishment of the Children's Trust. We should follow advice and experience of how best to manage the development of the Trust, including structures, in the best interests of the children of Bradford district.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive as the Head of the Paid Service to ensure:

- That in the establishment of the Trust an appropriate senior management structure is developed.

- That as required by employment legislation these roles are filled via TUPE transfer up to the date at which the Trust becomes operational.
- That appropriate roles are filled in the council's structure to discharge our abiding statutory responsibilities for Children's services including education support services, SEND services and the client management function for delivery of Children's social care
- Regular cross party briefings continue with elected members so that they are fully sighted on and involved in the establishment of the Children's Trust.

12.7 - UK cost of living crisis

To be moved by: Councillor Kevin Warnes

To be seconded by: Councillor Caroline Whitaker

That the motion be amended to read as follows:

This Council is concerned that these are extremely difficult times for residents and businesses in our district faced with the national cost of living crisis. UK inflation is at a 40-year high of 9.1%. The Bank of England expects it will reach 11% in October, significantly higher than other similar countries in the G7.

Wages in the UK stagnated between 2010 and 2020 in a decade of government austerity and weak growth. We now have a country where household budgets are under strain, including those of working families who account for over 40%, or 2 million, of Universal Credit claimants. A growing number of families receive no state support and are worried about money.

Two thirds (66%) of respondents to the Office for National Statistics' latest Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) in January said their cost of living had gone up in the last month. Of those, almost 9 in 10 (87%) said the price of their food shop had increased, and 8 in 10 (79%) said gas and electricity prices were a factor.

We now have the added impact of Covid, Brexit and global events like the war in Ukraine, creating a perfect storm for all households and especially the most vulnerable who are disproportionately hit by rising food and energy costs. The government's £20 a week cut in Universal Credit last October takes £66m from the least well-off households in our district over the course of a year.

For families, businesses and public services alike, costs are rising rapidly. Growth is lacking. We as a council will do everything we can to support our residents through this; but the country as a whole needs a transformation, not a sticking plaster. The government needs to invest in sustainable, net-zero carbon growth that everyone can contribute to and share in.

1. This Council resolves to continue to support our most vulnerable residents facing immediate pressures by providing:
 - a. Welfare assistance and advice;
 - b. Council Tax Reduction scheme including for care leavers;
 - c. Discretionary housing payments;
 - d. The Household Support Fund, including support for VCS provision, free school meal families during the summer break, foodbanks, carers, lower-cost white goods and help with fuel costs;
 - e. Holiday activity and food (HAF) programmes;
 - f. Support for social supermarkets and foodbanks;
 - g. Support for the Bradford Credit Union;
 - h. Support for the development of our anti-poverty strategy to meet the growing challenges of the post-covid world and rising cost of living, which will aim to protect people in poverty, prevent people falling into or deeper into poverty,

provide pathways out of poverty and ensure those in poverty can participate in the full life of their communities – economic, social, political and cultural.

2. This Council further resolves to:

- a. Continue to work with the West Yorkshire Mayor who is taking action to tackle the cost of living crisis on a regional level, for example by capping bus fares;
- b. Invest in sustainable, net-zero carbon growth, consistent with our declared need to respond to the Climate Emergency, including building infrastructure for businesses and investing in employment and skills to support people into work;
- c. Call on the government to do more for struggling families – current HAF funding covers only four weeks of the six week holidays and only four days in those weeks;
- d. Call on the government to support more secure and sustainable UK-wide economic development, consistent with our early transition to a net-zero carbon economy, to invest in Bradford to make 'levelling up' a reality;
- e. Lobby the government for fairer council funding.

12.7 – UK cost of living crisis

To be moved by: Councillor Mike Pollard

To be seconded by: Councillor Debbie Davies

With the addition and deletion of appropriate words, the recommendation be amended to read as follows:

Council notes:

- This Council is concerned that these are extremely difficult times for residents and businesses in our district, the nation and internationally, with people throughout the world faced with the international cost of living crisis.
- Wages throughout the world stagnated in the decade following the world banking crisis of 2008 and the unavoidable repercussions of this. Household budgets throughout the world were placed under strain and are so once again, due to Covid related issues and the prices of food and energy, amongst others increasing steeply and rapidly, due to a number of serious international factors.
- International economic growth is lacking, but thankfully in Q1 of this year the UK economy grew faster than any other G7 economy, bar Canada (distorted somewhat favourably by a major hydrocarbons energy asset base) and, taking a longer time frame into consideration, between Q2 of 2016 (the EU Referendum) and Q1 of 2022 has grown by 6.8%, well ahead of other major EU economies such as Spain (4.8%), Germany (4.5%) and Italy (2.8%). This helps everyone, including the most vulnerable and the assistance provided to UK residents during Covid was by far more one of the most generous packages anywhere in the world and the Government continues to prioritise the prosperity of the citizens of the United Kingdom.

This Council resolves to:

- Continue to utilise Government funding, such as the Household Support Fund etc, to support our most vulnerable residents facing immediate pressures by provision of, for example, support for; VCS provision, holiday activity and free school meals for families during the summer break, social supermarkets etc, carers, lower-cost white goods and help with fuel costs
- Continue the provision of; Welfare assistance and advice, Council Tax Reduction scheme including for care leavers, discretionary housing payments and support for the Bradford Credit Union
- Continue the development of the anti-poverty strategy to meet the growing challenges of the post-Covid world and rising cost of living, which will aim to protect people in poverty, prevent people falling into or deeper into poverty, provide pathways out of poverty and ensure those in poverty can participate in the full life of their communities – economic, social, political and cultural.
- Continue to work with the West Yorkshire Mayor as appropriate to benefit the residents of Bradford District

- In targeting assistance to those in need, council be aware of the needs of the “just about managing” amongst our citizens, who have a level of income just above the threshold for those who qualify for the generous central government support measures.

12.7 – UK cost of living crisis

To be moved by: Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To be seconded by: Councillor Alun Griffiths

After “Holiday activity and food (HAF) programmes **add**:

“at a level that ensures all children in struggling families can have a hot meal every day throughout every school holiday”

After “Lobby government for fairer Council funding” **add**:

- Extend free school meals provision to all primary school children and secondary school children of families in receipt of Universal Credit
- Provide free swimming for all primary school age children.

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