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Agenda Item 10 – Part two questions to the Leader and Portfolio Holders and respective answers.

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## COUNCIL

Tuesday 12 July 2022

### MEMBER QUESTION TIME – Part 2

#### Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

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**39. Councillor Kyle Green**

How are current and future 20mph schemes across the district being funded?

**Response**

20mph schemes have generally been funded through the Council's Integrated Transport Block (ITB) allocation for Safer Roads, which formed part of the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan. These have either been prioritised by the five constituency-based Area Committees or as part of the Safe Roads Strategic budget. Following completion of the last Local Transport Plan Implementation plan programme funding for Safe Roads projects from the 2022/23 financial year onwards is now provided via the (Leeds) City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS). It is expected that this new arrangement will continue to enable similar potential for 20mph schemes. On occasion 20mph schemes are also promoted via alternative funding sources such as from developers as a result of planning conditions. Our Homes & Neighbourhoods Design Guide recommends new housing developments are designed for 20mph speed limits as the default for residential areas and these are funded by the developer under their s38 agreement with the Council.

**40. Councillor Debbie Davies**

Given the recent news that proposals for a new market in Huddersfield is unlikely to go ahead because the lack of traders would make it financially unviable, how confident are you that Bradford's new market at Darley Street will be a success and how many traders have so far been confirmed?

**Response**

The new market in Darley Street will replace two of our existing markets in the city centre, Oastler & Kirkgate Market, and as such we expect demand for taking a stall in the new market to be strong. Over 250 responses have been received from potential retailers who have registered their interest which is a positive sign of retailer confidence in the new market.

We have recently announced the launch of our stall application process so those retailers that have expressed an interest as well as any other existing market traders are now able to formally apply online. We expect the application process to close in early September and announce the successful retailers who have been selected for the new market the following month.

**41. Councillor Caroline Whitaker**

Can the Leader of Council please clarify how quickly Council officers are required to respond to, and/or acknowledge receipt of, emails from elected members?

**Response**

A full response should be provided as soon as is possible after receipt. The turnaround time for a full response is of course dependent on the nature of the information being sought, levels of detail required and the availability of personnel with the requisite knowledge to be able to respond. You should work with your ward officer to make sure that information is speedily provided for ward issues from all departments within the council to any queries you might have.

**42. Councillor Debbie Davies**

It's not long since we were told there was increased investment into the street cleansing service but if you look at the amount of litter at the side of Canal Road and other key routes both for visitors to the city and those passing through, it's unclear where this money is being spent – could we have an update please including where the Glutton Electric Vacuums are being used?

**Response**

All five constituency areas received additional investment and as a service that has been devolved to the Area Committees, each has an opportunity to influence how funding on street cleansing should be spent. The money has been used to introduce additional street cleansing teams and also to increase the hours of some of the staff, where this has been a preferred option.

Following the success of the original four Gluttons (electric vacuums) purchased for use in Bradford city centre, a further four units were introduced allowing these to be deployed in the larger town centres Shipley, Bingley, Keighley and Ilkley. These machines are particularly effective when picking up recently dropped litter and particularly smaller items like cigarette ends that can be more difficult to pick up manually.

Canal Road is on a daily gateway route Monday to Friday. If there are any issues with its appearance, then please do raise these with the relevant Neighbourhood teams at Shipley and Bradford East so that the managers can take a look and address the particular problems.

**43. Councillor Zafar Ali**

We are told that street lights will be repaired within 21 days, yet in practice it often seems to take many months to repair faults, so I should be most grateful if the portfolio holder would clarify average repair times and any other information that he feels would serve transparency.

**Response**

In the majority of cases street lights are currently being repaired within 21 days although during the winter period this does increase significantly. Due to global shortages within the electronics market affecting availability of certain lamps and lanterns and other components

we are finding it difficult to repair some faults in these timescales but continue to make every effort to do so.

**44. Councillor Matt Edwards**

Following the excellent news that Bradford has been awarded City of Culture in 2025, will the Council commit to reviewing and improving council street furniture and signs along the A650 (Tong Street / Westgate Hill / Drighlington By-Pass - Bradford Parts) to ensure that visitors arriving in our city get the best first impression of the City on this key road route?

**Response**

There are currently no plans to replace street furniture or road signs on the A650 en-mass at this time. We will continue to effect repairs as and when signs become worn or are damaged.

The fantastic and exciting announcement about Bradford being the UK's City of Culture in 2025 is indeed something to celebrate and gives the district the opportunity to lobby Government for more investment in our transport network across the district so that we can support the success of the events throughout the year.

**45. Councillor Kyle Green**

Will the council join with me in congratulating the Ilkley pride group in running the first pride events in Ilkley and Ben Rhydding?

**Response**

Ilkley's 1st inclusive, family friendly Pride event that took place on the 2nd July was a great success with over a 1000 residents attending. I would happily join my fellow Cllr in congratulating Ilkley pride and the many volunteers and business that contributed to and making it happen. I hope that in future the event becomes established as a major part of the many great programmes in the Ilkley calendar and we can look to compliment and collaborate across all the Pride events happening around the district as we lead up to Bradford City of culture in 2025.

**46. Councillor Debbie Davies**

Calderdale Council recently announced the inclusion of board games to borrow from its libraries – given these are very expensive and many families would not be able to afford to buy them is it something we could introduce here?

**Response**

Bradford Libraries have in the past provided board games as part of library stock, many years ago. However small pieces from the games often got lost and were expensive and/or difficult to replace. As budgets have reduced over time and providing games is not part of the Council's statutory duty these are no longer provided. Our libraries do loan jigsaws which have been donated and if the councillor knows of a source where board games could similarly be donated from, then we could also loan these.

**47. Councillor Kevin Warnes**

Will the Leader of Council please congratulate Andrew Butterworth and his super colleagues for so efficiently cleaning off numerous instances of graffiti from street furniture around Shipley on a regular basis; and encourage our wonderful street wardens to record and report

all incidents of graffiti as they are spotted so that we are able to keep on top of this antisocial behaviour?

### **Response**

I am delighted to join Councillor Warnes in congratulating Andrew Butterworth and the graffiti removal service for the great work that they do daily to remove often offensive and disrespectful graffiti from across the district.

We aim to remove all offensive graffiti within one working day of initial reporting and further graffiti within 5 working days from all elements of council property.

Wardens have graffiti removal wipes with them which work on hard surfaces so they can be effective at removing smaller areas of graffiti whilst on patrol. They also have smart phones and can report incidences direct to the team.

I would encourage anyone that sees graffiti that is offensive to report it through to the Council contact centre on 431000 so that prompt action can be taken.

### **48. Councillor Zafar Ali**

As many of the highways in Central Ward have numerous potholes and many of the roads require re-surfacing, would the Portfolio Holder please confirm how the needs for repairs are monitored, along with the criteria which decide when and to what extent repairs are undertaken?

### **Response**

Roads to be considered for road resurfacing are prioritised on a needs basis using our highway asset management system that categorises road conditions into five bands ranging from defect free to functionally / structurally impaired. This data on levels of deterioration is used by the Highway Maintenance team to identify the treatment that will provide the best longer term solution for repairs, such as patching, a road surface treatment, or full resurfacing. Maintenance schemes are closely monitored to ensure works are carried out to a high standard.

An annual report is sent to Area Committees for councillors to discuss this issue.

### **49. Councillor Kyle Green**

What efforts have been made to reduce staff shortages at Ilkley library and others throughout the district?

### **Response**

Staff shortages at Ilkley have been caused by a vacancy and a staff member on long term sick as well as short term staff sickness and holiday absences. The vacancy has now been recruited to and the member of staff previously on long term sick has now returned to work on a phased return. Similarly, vacancies elsewhere in the service have also now been recruited to and new staff will be starting in the next couple of weeks. The Service has also recruited several additional casual staff to help cover in different locations.

### **50. Councillor Kevin Warnes**

Will the Leader of Council please liaise with the Network Resilience Team to ensure that the foliage obstructing the pavement along part of High Bank Lane, between the top of

Moorhead Lane and the entrance to Northcliffe Park, is quickly and radically cut back for the benefit of pedestrians?

**Response**

The area will be assessed by the Network Resilience Team and appropriate enforcement action will be undertaken as soon as possible, taking into consideration the timescale requirements of the Highways Act (1980).

**51. Councillor Zafar Ali**

There are numerous aging Street Planters in Central Ward, which have deteriorated over the years since installation and many of the residents consider them a health hazard and in need of urgent attention or removal. Would the Portfolio Holder please confirm any proposals to repair or replace them?

**Response**

There are planters of this type throughout the district. The majority of these are associated with the old General Improvement Areas and so have been in situ for many years, hence there has been deterioration in some areas including those identified by the Councillor.

There are no plans to replace them at this time as there is no available funding for improvements of this type. However, we will continue to effect repairs as and when they deteriorate or are damaged.

**52. Councillor Debbie Davies**

How much is currently being spent on the redundant Richard Dunn sports centre and what has been the impact on future plans for this site by its listed status by Historic England?

**Response**

The Council has currently incurred costs in the region of £190,000 as a consequence of the Richard Dunn Centre being listed, these costs being incurred to make both the site and building secure from trespass, break-ins, theft and vandalism; and to stop illegal entry into the building with the potential risk to human life.

The Richard Dunn site, which extends to circa 17 acres, represents a significant economic opportunity to bring much needed regeneration to the South Bradford constituency. However, the recent listing of the building may affect the strategic redevelopment of this site.

**53. Councillor Rebecca Poulsen**

Of the 11 schools selected for the School Streets pilot which ones are still participating and how is success measured?

**Response**

There were nine sites in the initial pilot (as two of the schools withdrew from the scheme prior to implementation). All of these are still subject to the existing experimental School Streets Order, although officers have noted differing degrees of operational effectiveness across the sites. The Council is currently in the process of re-engaging with all schools in the pilot to determine how the scheme can be sustained. As part of the planned evaluation process, success will be measured through a range of metrics including user perception studies and traffic counts/parking surveys.

#### **54. Councillor Debbie Davies**

What proportion of children in the Bradford district are classed as overweight or obese in reception and year 6, how does this compare with the national figures and what is the formula for deciding who is obese /overweight?

#### **Response**

Children are classified as “overweight” if their BMI (measurement of height and weight) is on or above the 85th centile of the British 1990 growth reference charts according to their age and sex. This means that children classified as “overweight” have a higher BMI than 85% of children of their age and sex as per the 1990 data.

The latest figures that we can use for children’s weight measurements are taken from the 2019/20 National Child Measurement Programme. In 2020/21, due to the pandemic only a proportion of children in each local area were measured, and therefore the sample size for individual local authorities is considered to be too small for accuracy. In 2019/20 therefore, 22.3% of reception aged children in Bradford District were classified as either “overweight” or “obese” compared to the England average of 23.0%. For Year 6 aged children, 40.8% were classified as either “overweight” or “obese” compared to the England average of 35.2%

#### **55. Councillor Geoff Winnard**

The reduction in the birth rate across the District is having a growing significant impact on many of Bradford primary schools with falling pupil numbers and resulting financial allocations. Schools will be facing the need to make staffing reductions whilst in some cases still having to meet excess overhead costs for unused space. What is the Council’s strategy to manage the ongoing impact of a lower birth rate on schools across the district?

#### **Response**

The birth rate in Bradford is currently higher than the national average but has decreased year on year. This is not a trend that is isolated to Bradford, but one that has been seen nationally.

School Place Planning is carried out by Planning Areas. The primary schools within planning areas identified as showing a significant amount of surplus places are contacted for a discussion. At the meetings the schools are provided with up to date figures/forecasts and informed of the options available to them, including advising them of the potential impacts if no action is taken.

Discussions are ongoing with individual schools/MATs and groups of schools as appropriate to address the surplus. A number of schools have already taken decision to reduce their Published Admission Number (PAN) and more are consulting in the autumn term to reduce their PAN from September 2024. The I&S Service ensures that schools and trusts are in possession of the most up to date information to assist them in making informed decisions.

There are a number of housing developments awaiting approval, which could potentially increase the demand for school places and this information is shared with schools/MATs as part of the ongoing discussions. The number of surplus places currently forecasted in many planning areas means that demand could be met without the need for further changes.

Secondary numbers continue to increase as the bulge from primary schools moves through to the secondary phase. This increase has been met by the opening of two new free schools, the permanent expansion of a number of secondary schools and some secondary schools admitting additional pupils as a bulge rather than permanent PAN increases. It is



anticipated the current increased number will begin to reduce in secondary from 2024 onwards.

A reduction in PAN can potentially result in unused space within schools. At the meetings held Officers advise schools that they should explore reaching out to their local community in order to identify any potential opportunities for the leasing out of any additional space. In addition, the I&S Service continue to work to ensure the sufficiency of specialist places across the district for children and young people with SEND. Should opportunities present where available space can be used to accommodate SEND provision, then this will always be explored.

The I&S Service will continue to support schools that contact us regarding this issue to provide support and guidance.

#### **56. Councillor Kyle Green**

What charges exist for parking permits, both residential and other?

#### **Response**

There are currently no charges for resident and visitor permits across the district. Councillors parking permits are also provided without charge, as a legitimate expense item.

A charge of £15 per day or £10 with 24 hours' notice is made for 'yellow line waiver' permits, which can be needed when work is taking place on the highway.

Landlord permits (where resident permits are in place for tenants) are charged at £10 a week, enabling a vehicle to be parked outside a property for work etc.

Health visitor permits are charged an administration fee of £10 per annum, allowing Health Visitors to park in permit areas when visiting patients.

A range of car parking permits are in place across the district for both on street and off street. Charges for these range between £10 to £555 per annum and are dependent upon site and nature of the permit etc. Details of the applicable charges are held on the Council website and can be accessed via the following link: [Parking permits | Bradford Council](#).

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