

13. **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR COUNCIL**

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This document contains the following –

- Agenda Item 1** Disclosures of Interest
- Agenda Item 4** Lord Mayor's Announcements
- Agenda Item 6** Petitions
- 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 -
Questions together with respective answers

Amendments to Motions

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COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2023

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- Agenda Item 1** Disclosures of Interest
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Amendments to Motions (Green)

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2023

Agenda item 1 – Disclosures of Interest

Recommended –

In relation to agenda item 12.4, Private Rented Housing in Bradford District, that Council:

- 1) Approves the following recommendation from the Monitoring Officer to grant a dispensation to all Members who may have Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, as defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, pertaining to the ownership of property, for this meeting of Council dated 24 January 2023.

- 2) In so far as agenda item 12.4 is concerned, Members may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting on the basis a dispensation has been granted under Section 33(2) of the Localism Act 2011, on the basis that without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business.

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

CITY OF BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF COUNCIL – TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2023

ITEM 4 WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR

HIS MAJESTY THE KING’S NEW YEAR HONOURS

I am delighted that in His Majesty The King’s New Year Honours list, the work and service of a number of very worthy local people has been recognised.

The Leader of the Council and I have written to them to commend their efforts and to offer our congratulations.

<i>Honour recipient</i>	<i>Honour</i>	<i>In recognition of</i>
Ms Helen Webb	Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)	Services to Equality, Inclusion and Wellbeing.
Mr Shadim Hussain	Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)	Services to Equality and to the Foster Care System.
Mr Christopher Kamara	Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)	Services to Association Football, to Anti-Racism and to Charity.
Professor David Nicholas Lerner	Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)	Services to the Environment in Bradford.
Ms Julia Skelton	Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)	Services to Theatre and to the community in Bradford.
Mrs Marjorie Zoe Black	Medallist of the Order of the British Empire (BEM)	Services to Policing and to Charity.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2023

Friday 27 January 2023 marks the 78th Anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi extermination complex at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

May I remind Members that we will commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day with our annual gathering in the Banqueting Hall, City Hall at 10.00 for 10.30am on the day.

This significant and moving gathering takes as its theme this year ‘Ordinary People’. The event will examine how, in acts of genocide across the years, it is ordinary people who are involved. Ordinary people are victims, but ordinary people are also perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers and witnesses.

The event has been organised in partnership with trustees from Bradford Reform Synagogue.

I will welcome those attending and there will be messages from the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and the Director of Bradford Hate Crime Alliance, Charles Dacres.

Poems will be read by pupils from Belle Vue Girls' Academy and Eden Boys' Leadership Academy.

This year's speaker will be Hanneke Dye, who is a Dutch Jewish child survivor and accomplished speaker on the Holocaust who lives in the Craven district near Skipton.

Also speaking will be the Bishop of Bradford, Toby Howarth, Mohammed Amran, CEO of Council of Mosques and Rabbi Anthony Gilbert.

A candle lighting ceremony will bring the event to a close.

This gathering gives us the opportunity to remember those who have died in past genocides and to recognise the suffering of those who are affected by the impact of more recent atrocities across the world.

Anyone wishing to attend should please contact Adiba Rashid, Partnership and Engagement Officer in Place, by either email (Adiba.Rashid@bradford.gov.uk) or by telephone on 07890 642 180.

Distribution:

Lord Mayor (Cllr Martin Love)

Chief Executive (Kersten England)

Director of Legal and Governance (Asif Ibrahim)

Head of Governance (Mandy Hill)

Acting Civic Affairs Manager (Joanne Gleeson)

Governance, Security & Members' Support Manager (Guy Close)

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

PA to the Leader of Council (Majella O'Malley)

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

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2023

Agenda Item 6 – Petitions (Standing Order 11)

Save Keighley Household Waste and Recycling Centre – Keighley
Central Ward

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2023

Agenda Item 7 – Public Question Time (Standing Order 13)

The Leader of the Council has provided the following response to a public question that has been submitted in relation to Steeton and Eastburn Parking Scheme:

Question

On behalf of the residents of Steeton and Eastburn and as Chair of the Parish Council can I please urgently request a meeting with the Leader of the Council to secure a commitment to review the Steeton and Eastburn Parking Scheme (which isn't working)?

Response

Yes, I am happy to meet with you to hear your concerns first-hand and to help find a way forward in addressing them. I would always encourage residents with these types of concerns or requests to please drop me a line direct by email in the first instance and I would be happy to help. In this instance, council officers have your contact details and my office will be in touch shortly to arrange a meeting. I have also asked for an update on the parking scheme from council officers and the portfolio holder, as whilst I understand the scheme's introduction was broadly welcomed by many residents at the outset, it is important that we work to identify and resolve any issues that have since arisen as with any new scheme.

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2023

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

The following membership changes have been submitted:

- Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Caroline Whitaker to replace Councillor Celia Hickson. Councillor Celia Hickson to replace Councillor Caroline Whitaker as an alternate.

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

Leader's Report, January 2023

Bus Recovery Grant

It is a real concern that we have no confirmation of continued bus subsidy from Government. Bus operators' costs are increasing at the same time as the threats from the Government to reduce the subsidy are becoming louder. There is still no news as to whether Government have had a change of heart. As a consequence, bus operators are starting to look at their timetables with a view to deregistering some of their routes. It is getting harder to encourage bus operators to run routes particularly in our rural communities. For a reliable, cost-effective bus network in the UK, we need Government to commit long-term funding to Combined Authorities so that we can support economic growth and deliver their carbon reduction ambitions at the same time.

Levelling Up Bids

We had four Levelling Up bids in with Government being considered for investment:

- Bradford South – a £50m bid to transform the Odsal stadium area.
- Bradford East – a £20m bid to transform three community centres into wellbeing hubs.
- Keighley – a £20m bid to unlock Brownfield sites for industrial development, make improvements to Keighley and Worth Valley Railway and create a new advanced robotics training centre.
- Shipley – a £14.4m bid to re-open Bingley swimming pool, creating a modern leisure facility.

-

We were bitterly disappointed for none to be successful. When we look in the wider West Yorkshire region, only 1 out of 18 bids was successful. Ministers are now saying that no area which had a successful bid in the first round could be successful in the second. Obviously Bradford was successful in the first round in securing funding for Squire Lane pool, but no local authority was told before the second round of bidding that this success would be a barrier to future success in other rounds. I am writing to Ministers to clarify this statement. Regardless of the disappointment this time, we still believe in the four bids we submitted and are keen to see them realised, whether that be through future rounds or through other means of funding.

Visit of City of Culture Minister, Stuart Andrew to the district

We were delighted to welcome Stuart Andrew MP to the district to meet with a whole range of partners involved in the City of Culture plans. Stuart Andrew is the designated Minister for the City of Culture and as such will be making regular visits to the district as we progress the plans. The Minister also donned a hard hat and visited Bradford Live in construction, being very impressed by the vast auditorium

that is taking shape there. He also heard from community groups and young people about how important Bradford 2025 was for them too.

The Leader and Chief Executive of Coventry Council have also met with us recently to pass on hints and tips from their year as the previous holders of City of Culture. They were very generous with their time and ideas and we will benefit from an ongoing exchange going forward.

Winter deaths

With the consequences of the pandemic still uppermost in our mind, we are still acutely aware of viruses and their influence over mortality. Looking at the data we have had more deaths registered in the district than last year over these winter months. Although there is no indication that we are any different to any other area in the UK in this regard.

For comparison:

October 2021 – 390
October 2022 – 452
November 2021 – 465
November 2022 – 484
December 2021 – 424
December 2022 – 496

In discussion with Public Health I understand that there was a surge in Covid, Respiratory Syndrome Virus and Flu all at the same time this year, a unique circumstance which has never happened before. It is too early to say whether these last few months qualify as “Excess deaths”. It could be that in the early part of this year the number of deaths will decrease to below average after this winter increase, and that will bring the total down to the same level as last year over all. This won’t be known until the end of this calendar year when the Office for National Statistics collect and publish the data formally. What’s more, our registrars’ offices can register deaths for anywhere in the country, so the registered deaths don’t accurately reflect a precise picture for Bradford District residents only. For noting, what is recorded on a death certificate is determined nationally, so it is not possible or permitted to collect data on religion or ethnicity for deaths.

Our hospitals are thankfully now reporting a sharp drop off in admissions due to these three illnesses, although Airedale Hospital continues to be higher than the other West Yorkshire hospitals. I would encourage everyone to get their flu and Covid jabs when called. Condolences to all those who have lost a family member or friend. For every statistic, there is a grieving family.

COUNCIL

Tuesday 24 January 2023

MEMBER QUESTION TIME – PART 1

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. Councillor Caroline Firth

As a stakeholder governor at Airedale General Hospital on behalf of this council, I am concerned about the large amount of reinforced autoclaves aerated concrete on the site and back the board's plea to the Government for a rebuild on the site. The hospital staff are working hard to keep patients safe and ensure the Government knows about the issue, including putting in a funding bid for a new state-of-the-art and environmentally friendly hospital. Can you tell us what Bradford Council and the wider Act as One partnership is doing to support Airedale Hospital with this issue?

Response

The Council and the Act as One Partnership of which the council is a constituent part, is doing all it can, lobbying on both a regional and national basis, to support the Airedale Trust to obtain the necessary funding to address the reinforced autoclaves aerated concrete issue. I have written to Government and will do so again to lobby for support to access the necessary funding

2. Debbie Davies

Would the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety confirm how many hate crimes have been reported to each of the various Hate Crime Reporting Centres available across the district and how many have been reported via the app?

Response

There were 28 Hate Crime Reporting Centres in 2019, spreading across the District. The role of the Reporting Centres is to provide a place where people can report hate crimes.

The effectiveness of reporting centres is reliant on the people's knowledge of their existence and them being open. Since 2019, Covid-19 has impacted on hate crime reporting significantly. Many of the centres were not open and today 22 are now functioning again.

Hate Crime Reporting (figures from Bradford Hate Crime Alliance (BHCA))

- May 2021 – March 2022: 22 hate crimes reported

- May 2022 – Dec 2022: 25 hate crimes reported. Five of these have been reported via the new webpage/mobile app, (full launch live date 18/10/22)

The remaining 20 were from the following reporting routes: 3 direct from West Yorkshire Police; 1 direct from Victim Support; 1 direct call to BHCA; 2 from Reporting Centres – via old webpage reporting form; 13 reported via online reporting form in the old BHCA webpage.

From Oct 2022 – Dec 2022 there has been an increase in the number of hits to both the website and the web app, resulting in 407 registered new users.

BHCA Web App Hits 3132

BHCA Webpage Users 407

BHCA Webpage Hits 3932

Since, April 2022 the Stronger Communities Team, at Bradford Council are now helping lead the Hate Crime work

The current list of active Hate Crime Reporting Centres includes:

1. Accent Housing Bradford
2. Bradford City Football Club Bradford
3. Bradford College Bradford
4. Bradford Hate Crime Alliance Bradford
5. Bradford People First Bradford
6. Bradford Talking Media BTM Bradford
7. Central Hall Keighley
8. Equity Partnership Bradford
9. Good Shepherd Centre Keighley
10. Incommunities Shipley
11. KAWACC (Keighley Association Women and Children's Centre Keighley)
12. Keighley Council Customer Service Centre Keighley
13. Khidmat Centre Bradford
14. Mind in Bradford Bradford
15. Manningham Housing Association Bradford
16. Morley Street Resource Centre Bradford
17. Ravenscliffe Community Association Bradford
18. Rockwell Community Association Bradford

19. Shine Project Bradford

20. University of Bradford Reporting

21. Victim Support Shipley

22. MESMAC Bradford

- The Roma community now have their own hub at the Inspire Academy and Equality Together has also become the latest reporting centres for BHCA (both will be added to the list). This is in response to the recognised need to expand provision to ensure an inclusive reporting service as well as covering the needs of service users who would traditionally use Morley Street Resource Centre to report a hate crime. Morley Street is still not fully open and therefore unable to fully function as a hate crime reporting centre.
- In 2022 additional work has been undertaken in specific areas of disability and LGBTQ+ to support and encourage people to come forward and report hate crime. This has resulted in the development of Together Bradford, a group made up of key partner organisations working on the disability agenda. We are particularly encouraged by their work to support and encourage people with disability to report hate crime.

3. Councillor Aislin Naylor

I have recently had a constituent get in touch regarding recycling in schools. This person works in a school and is concerned about the amount of waste that is being thrown out that could be recycled.

I understand that the onus is on the schools to recycle their rubbish and that the Environmental Task Force team is setting up an Eco school programme to be delivered in schools.

My question what else can the council do to encourage schools to recycle their waste, especially kitchen waste such as cardboard, tins and plastic containers?

Response

Schools lead by example and give the next generation the ability to make sound decisions with regard to reducing and recycling waste. Bradford Council Trade Waste Service offer refuse and recycling bins and services to businesses and schools, however schools and academies are free to make their own choices about contracting and can choose their own waste contractors.

4. Councillor Caroline Whitaker

Item 4.7 of the proposed 2023/24 budget ('Reviewing waste services to reduce costs and maximise efficiencies') includes the potential closure of the Keighley Household Waste and Recycling site. Can the Leader please explain: (a) the reasons behind this proposal; and (b) when will the report relating to this proposal be provided to councillors?

Response

No Labour Councillor wants to see any cuts but after 12 years and £300 million of cuts from the Tory Government, it is becoming ever more challenging to balance the budget. Other councils are also having to make extraordinary proposals and have no appetite for such cuts. We would encourage residents to reply to the budget consultation with their concerns. We have a track record of listening to concerns when it comes to budget consultations but I hope that all councillors will join us in asking for more funding for valuable services in the district from Government.

5. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Does the leader join me in placing on record our congratulations and thanks to the brilliant individuals from our district who won Community Stars Awards last month and those who have been recognised for their achievements in the New Year's Honours?

Response

Absolutely I was delighted to hear about the outstanding contributions local people are making during difficult times. The last couple of years have been extremely tough for public services, voluntary organisations and all of us, the stories of the winners and nominees are inspiring.

The Community Stars Awards held on 7th December 2022 at the Bradford Hotel had over 200 nominations from volunteers across the district. Over 13,000 residents voted online showing the tremendous support and appreciation for the nominees and their contribution to supporting local communities. The Community Stars Awards is growing year on year and has become a major event in our civic calendar.

The 2022 winners include:

1. **Joseph Flerin** – Lifetime Achievement Award
2. **Faiz Kader** - Outstanding Student of the Year
3. **Zahra Ahmed** - Young Active Citizen Award
4. **Bowling Park Allotments and Garden Society** - Outstanding Contribution to Earliest Years of Life Award
5. **Shahidur Rahman** - Fundraiser of the Year Award
6. **Regal Bakeries** - Business Making a Difference Award
7. **Abad Hussain** - Good Neighbour of the Year Award
8. **Healthy Minds Apprentices** - Shared Values in Action Award
9. **Friends of Bradford Moor Park** - Voluntary and Community Group Award
10. **Greta & Akbar Khan** - Volunteer of the Year Award

Bradford is also proud of those with strong links to the district who have been awarded an honour in the New Year's Honours list, including:

- **Shadim Hussain** – MBE for services to equality and the foster care system
- **Professor David Lerner** – MBE for services to the environment
- **Julia Skelton** – MBE for services to theatre and to the community
- **Marjorie Zoe Black** – British Empire Medal for services to policing and charity
- **Helen Webb** – OBE for services to equality, inclusion and wellbeing
- **Sandy Needham** - OBE for services to business and the economy
- **Chris Kamara** - MBE for services to football, anti-racism and charity

6. Councillor Tariq Hussain

Can I have the latest stats on how many people we are supporting into employment or upskilling through Skills House?

Response

Skills House is our strategic approach to delivering an inclusive and sustainable economy, ensuring residents from all of our communities can succeed in the local labour market, understand the opportunities available, and can manage their career development.

We are building a demand-led system and shaping the local employment and skills offer to meet local businesses' needs. Our partnership integrates the offer from education, public and anchor organisations, to enable businesses source talent locally and support all our communities to benefit from economic opportunities, delivered through a localities based, multi-agency model.

Council investment into Skills House has enabled the partnership to locate our coaches in each of the job centres in the district, our three FE colleges and the University. We also have community engagement workers based with six VCS organisations with a range of organisational specialisms, to support residents with multiple barriers to enter the labour market.

The Council investment has enabled us to leverage resource into Skills House from local, regional, national and European funds meaning we can develop bespoke solutions for employers and individuals' alike whilst 'hiding the wiring' from the customer.

As was reported to the December Council meeting we have had significant impact, since September 2020 through Skills House: 32,950 adults have enrolled on education or training; 8,400 people have had careers support; 3,280 residents have been supported in or into work.

The Skills House performance data is collated quarterly, so we are in the process of producing the reports for the quarter ending December 2022. Based on our understanding of recent performance, we believe we continue to demonstrate good progress and we anticipate the number of participants through the partnership will increase to over 38,000.

7. Councillor Andrew Loy

How many fixed penalty notices have been issued under the Ilkley riverside PSPO since its introduction?

Response

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) are just one of the tools available under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Act gives councils the authority to draft and implement PSPOs in response to the particular issues affecting their communities, provided certain criteria and legal tests are met.

Following anti-social behaviour over a number of years, Bradford Council has implemented a PSPO for the Ilkley Riverside area. Prohibitions relate to offensive behaviours that cause alarm, harassment or distress. A minority of visitors to Ilkley have engaged in behaviours that sometimes threaten and intimidate others. This includes: abuse of alcohol and/or drugs, excessive noise, using foul or abusive language, threatening behaviour and littering.

Patrolling Wardens and Public Space Protection Order Officers engage widely with members of the public as they patrol the Ilkley Riverside site. In 2022 they had at least 300 conversations with members of the public about the Order and offered advice/warnings to over 50 people about keeping to the terms of the Order.

The key purpose of the PSPO is to deter would be offenders from breaching the Order and to give us a vehicle for engaging with the public to reduce disruption. To date, no fixed penalty notices have been issued by patrolling Council Officers. This is largely down to the public complying with requests from Officers to curb behaviours including deterring many from lighting barbecues. If the PSPO was not in place it would be more difficult to tackle some of the issues such as lighting barbecues and ASB. Without the PSPO there would not be any other deterrent to tackle such activities. By having the PSPO it allows officers to do some early intervention work informing people about the measures that are in force in Ilkley.

During periods of very hot weather, and especially at weekends, the number of visitors to the Riverside area reaches several thousand over the course of a day. Council Officers cover these weekend periods working in partnership with staff from the Neighbourhood Policing Team. In many instances, staff will work together to speak to those at an early stage who are exhibiting risk behaviours and this along with the visible presence of both Police and Council staff has had some impact.

In the vast majority of cases people who are spoken to will comply.

The PSPO is one part of a wider plan to manage the issues presented by very large visitor numbers and our staff will continue to do what they can to make the Order effective.

8. Councillor Caroline Firth

Thwaites Brow Road – known locally as The Twines – was put forward by Keighley East district councillors for refurbishment into the Keighley Towns Fund bid, which was successful. When can we expect work on this road to be carried out?

Response

The planned works for Thwaites Brow are at design stage. Date to start on site is unknown at this stage as sourcing of replacement setts is necessary and subject to sourcing availability. It is expected works will be undertaken later this year but officers from the Landscape, Design & Conservation team will keep ward members updated.

9. Councillor Caroline Firth

How many street lights have been replaced by LED lights in the district by ward and when are the remaining replacements due to take place by ward? Have all the posts that were chopped down for safety reasons now been replaced?

Response

The table below shows the number of LED luminaires installed by Ward based on the latest programme, which was determined by the contractor to maximise the energy and cost savings to the Council. However, it does not provide information about when the remainder will be completed as the details have not been updated – this has been requested for the next updated programme.

With reference to the lamps cut down for safety reasons, out of the 724 that were cut down there are approximately 10 that require replacement which were not replaced as part of the priority works for various reasons. These will be picked up during the column replacements as they progress across the district.

Installation by Ward % Complete	In Scope Work Type	Number Complete	% Complete
Ward	In Scope Work Type	Number Complete	% Complete
Tong	1758	1628	93%
Bowling & Barkerend	2042	1841	90%
Little Horton	1389	1216	88%
Wibsey	1157	1002	87%
Wyke	1534	1452	95%
Royds	1833	1686	92%

Queensbury	1473	1237	84%
Clayton & Fairweather	1258	998	79%
Great Horton	1168	827	71%
City	2364	1623	69%
Bradford Moor	1191	921	77%
Eccleshill	1441	903	63%
Bolton & Undercliffe	1573	999	64%
Manningham	1102	749	68%
Toller	905	457	50%
Thornton & Allerton	1632	1077	66%
Heaton	1074	620	58%
Windhill & Wrose	1161	877	76%
Idle & Thackley	1484	276	19%
Baildon	1600	432	27%
Shipley	1482	423	29%
Bingley	1931	529	27%
Keighley East	1806	293	16%
Keighley Central	1787	377	21%
Keighley West	1403	0	0%
Wharfedale	1409	0	0%
Ilkley	1611	1	0%
Craven	1620	0	0%
Worth Valley	1501	0	0%
Bingley Rural	2188	0	0%

10. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment & Skills please provide an update on how the 'Bradford for Everyone Strategy 2018-2023' is progressing in relation to its aim to "invest in a central unit that will support the way the provision of English language teaching for adults in the district is currently being accessed...we will make sure that all adults have access to high quality English language provision"?

Response

Bradford for Everyone set out a clear vision where everyone feels they belong, that they are understood, that they feel safe and can participate in the opportunities Bradford has to offer. A key enabler for this is clearly being able to communicate and whilst there has been a strong local English language offer this was not equally accessible to all residents.

The central English Language Service was established within Skills House, and despite the challenges of having to engage and collaborate during the pandemic has driven our understanding of the provision landscape, developed collaboration through the District ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) consortium, and secured additional resource through the English for Everyone programme.

The consortium is comprised of VCS partners, the District's three FE Colleges, Housing Associations, DWP and Council services, and is a key driver for greater collaboration and alignment.

The project incorporated ESOL, Information, Advice and Guidance for all participants, integration activities and funding to train community volunteers to grow delivery capacity. Four community based providers were commissioned: Meridian Centre; QED; Women zone; and Safety First, with Shipley College overseeing provision and training the volunteers.

The project was a great success, exceeding its recruitment target – 612 learners against a planned 600. 81% of participants were women, with recruitment from 24 of the District's Wards. Each of the delivery partners achieved their recruitment targets. Despite the Covid challenges, 578 completed their course. Additionally, 71% (against a target of 50%) accessed integration, health and wellbeing, confidence or digital wellbeing provision.

Moving forward and following feedback from the ESOL consortium, a successful pilot of activity (through the Meridian Centre, Velvet Mills, and Connecting Roma), and aligned with the Skills House approach, the service is developing a model whereby each of the five Localities has a mobile Single Point of Contact (SPoC). The SPoC will go to settings where potential learners already attend and feel comfortable, and will support the assessment of residents who have an ESOL need, and refer them to an appropriate provision.

The team continues to work very closely with the Stronger Communities service. The overall community strategy is being refreshed this year and will set the strategic direction through to 2028.

The Department of Housing, Levelling Up and Communities (DHLUC) have been very complimentary around our work on the development of ESOL Hubs and as recently as November 2022 when a senior DHLUC official visited he heard some case studies from participants and was impressed by the impact the courses had had on the women participants in particular who recounted their successful outcomes after the ESOL training.

11. Councillor Aislin Naylor

Recently a cannabis farm was found locally resulting in a large number of police, ambulance and fire crews and others being deployed to deal with it. This led to emergency services being out of action while the services juggled their resources to maintain cover across the rest of the district. Does the Portfolio Holder agree that people who set up cannabis farms are putting others at risk and in his role as

Portfolio Holder for Community Safety advise us of what more can he do to support already stretched partner emergency services?

Response

I absolutely agree.

Criminals are using ever more inventive ways to conceal cannabis grows – not just in rooms or dis-used buildings, but in the back of shops and even underground. With over 2.1 million adults nationally admitting to having used cannabis in 2020 there's been a steady rise in cannabis farming taking place in smaller, residential properties nationally.

West Yorkshire Police have cracked down on cannabis farms in the Bradford district through 'Programme Precision', which targets the issue of drug supply and production. The programme also works to deter and prevent people from being involved in drug crime. Meanwhile, rehabilitation initiatives are in place for those caught up in the cycle of drugs and addiction who want to escape this lifestyle.

The drain on police and other public service resources is significant. The Council work closely with the Police and work with them on disruption and intelligence to keep the public safe. We would encourage all in our communities to discourage use of cannabis Please help us by reporting anything suspicious to West Yorkshire Police on: www.westyorkshire.police.uk/report-it.

Alternatively, you can report anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org

12. Councillor Anna Watson

The government has approved £25 million for projects to regenerate Shipley. However, over the last 12 months, the town has seen the closure of two banks and an anchor retailer (Wilko). Since those funds were agreed, there has been insufficient communication with Shipley's district councillors on the redesign of the town centre (which was last publically consulted about in 2020). Can the Leader therefore provide us with detailed information about: (a) the stage that the redesign of the town centre has reached; and (b) when the local Shipley councillors - town and district - will next be able to formally input suggestions into these proposals?

Response

The Shipley Town Centre and Infrastructure Improvement project is at RIBA Stage 3 - Spatial Coordination. The scheme is being refined based on feedback from the previous consultation, which councillors contributed to. The project team will be in a position to brief councillors and partners, including the Shipley Towns Fund Board, on the latest designs in February and invited to provide feedback and comments. After this we will be looking to move into the delivery phase.

The project leads will be conducting a walk round of the town, with councillors and Towns Fund Board member invited. This will take place before end February 2023.

13. Councillor Caroline Firth

Does the leader share my view that Prime Minister Rishi Sunak taking a private jet to visit Keighley recently makes a mockery of the Government's plans to cut carbon emissions? Does she also agree with my assessment that flying here amplifies the fact that we desperately need a Northern Powerhouse Rail station in Bradford – something the PM has rowed back on despite his predecessor agreeing the city needed one?

Response

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's decision to fly to Leeds and back in an RAF jet would have emitted around 3,000kg of CO2. According to LNER, a journey on the fully electrified London to Keighley route would only emit 13kg of carbon per person each way. Given that Number 10 gave the long journey time as the reason for flying over taking the train, we can conclude that sensible investment in Bradford's rail connections, such as its NPR connection, is long overdue.

The Council continues to put the case to the Government on a NPR station within the Southern Gateway regeneration area as a priority.

14. Councillor Caroline Firth

The budget proposal to close Keighley household waste and recycling centre has generated lots of concern from residents in Keighley East and the wider area. Please can you remind people how they can feed their views into the budget consultation?

Response

We always encourage people to feed their views into the Council's budget consultation. After 12 years of Government cuts on councils, the financial climate we operate in is getting increasingly challenging. We do however have a track record of listening to residents' consultation responses and acting where we can. Residents can respond by website, post or drop-in sessions. All details are published <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/your-council/have-your-say-on-the-proposed-financial-plan-and-budget-proposals/have-your-say-on-the-proposed-financial-plan-and-budget-proposals/>

15. Councillor Mike Pollard

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport please inform council of the annual income currently derived from the £1 evening charge imposed at some of the District's car parks?

Response

This question is difficult to answer as the pay and display income for each site is not broken down by time of day or ticket price. However, we can look at an income prediction for the end of this financial year in comparison to the year prior to when the evening charge was first introduced and estimate % of additional income from these sites.

Therefore, at the end of this financial year (2022-23) we estimate income of £90,000 total from both pay and display and Penalty Charge Notice income which relates to the evening charge at some of the district's car parks.

16. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

It was great to see some of our amazing foster families recognised in the Fostering in Bradford long service awards. Does the portfolio holder join me in thanking them for their service to the children of our district and can she update me on what actions we are taking to recruit and retain more foster carers.

Response

Nationally fostering services are under huge pressure. A recent Ofsted report revealed that the number of available foster placements nationally has decreased by 23% over the last 4 years. At the same time, the number of people enquiring about fostering has decreased. Please see link:
<https://apple.news/AIPlwgjJNcarolineTa2PPORkv9nYfQ>.

Bradford fostering service is working hard to recruit new foster carers and retain existing families and we are beginning to see some success. There are currently 18 prospective foster families in assessment. This is an increase of 4 assessments from November 2022. Of these, 6 will be presented to fostering panel for approval by the end of March 2023.

Recruitment & Retention Activity overview

In addition to promoting fostering online through our website and on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram the fostering service has over the last 6 months been able to return to a number of recruitment tactics that were not available to us during the pandemic. These have included the attendance of the team at a number of community events including the Bradford Dragon Boat Festival, Pride Marches, Park Runs etc. We have attended local village council meetings to highlight and promote fostering. This has been well received with offers of support to advertise and host fostering events in their communities. We have also worked closely with our existing foster carers through the Foster Carers Association (BIFCA) to recruit a number of fostering ambassadors to assist with the recruitment and retention of foster carers.

Current Recruitment Activity.

In December we participated in a joint campaign 'Foster for your council' with other local authorities targeting 24–35 year olds interested in fostering, this generated 4 leads. The fostering service also attended a councillors meeting, to promote fostering amongst councillors to take back to their constituencies.

In January, the fostering service began a radio and street advertising campaign. This includes:

- Outside posters promoting fostering in Bradford using Bradford Foster carer images to maximise interest. This includes 48-page street side signage in 8 locations including 2 digital stands.
- 12 poster sites across train stations in the district.
- 6 sheet roadside signs in the centre of Bradford and 20 digital signs in other prominent positions.

This has been supported by a Radio campaign with 2 radio stations, Pulse 1 and Greatest Hits Yorkshire. These radio adverts also use the voices and words of existing Bradford foster carers encouraging other people to come forward. The Refer a friend scheme has been re-launched (foster carers who refer a friend who goes on to be approved at fostering panel receive £500 for their recommendation) - to date we have had 5 referrals via this route. We are also working to improve relationships with Asian Express and T&A newspaper to support with our recruitment activity/advertising.

Planned Recruitment activity

Over the coming weeks and months, the fostering service plans to undertake the following recruitment activity:

- Shared Care campaign – targeting health venues to provide information sessions this will include video production with carers for promotion.
- Ramadan – Radio campaign to be released to promote fostering in Muslim community.
- LGBT week in March – planning recruitment and retention event in the community which will include local business Cake O’le in Bradford City centre.
- Foster care fortnight - we are working with Northern Rail on an exciting initiative to temporarily rename Forster Square station as ‘Foster Square’ during Foster Care Fortnight in May. It is hoped this will attract extensive media coverage both locally and nationally.

Retention Activity

In addition to the recruitment activity described above the fostering service has been working closely with foster carers and the wider council in order to improve our offer to foster carers. This work has included:

- Improved links with Bradford Independent Foster Carers association (BIFCA). They have been working more closely with the service to engage foster carers with the service. They have created an additional support group in Keighley to complement the existing group in Shipley.
- The service has developed a foster carer ambassador scheme – we have a number of carers interested in this and they will be supporting the service

developments in different areas for example buddy scheme for foster carers and training.

- We have worked with Principles Trust to provide holidays for foster carers and their children. We have also been working with Buckden House activity centre to provide activity days and short stays for foster carers and their children.
- The training officer post has now been agreed and is currently out for advertisement. This will greatly improve the training support available to foster carers.
- The service continues to develop the Mockingbird model and is currently recruiting a second constellation. This will provide additional support to carers.

17. Councillor Liz Rowe

Does the portfolio holder for healthy people and places share my concern about recent comments made by the MP for Shipley to a constituent, when he said that NHS performance is solely down to NHS staff and he implied that government does not have any role in supporting and challenging the health service to deliver for patients?

Response

We are proud of the work all staff across our partnership do - from the NHS, local authorities, voluntary and community sector organisations and the independent care sector. There is no doubt that delivering for people right now is challenging as we experience record demand across all our services. The media headlines and social media commentary has, at times, been unfair and misinformed, failing to recognise that an effective health and care system is reliant upon the dedication and commitment of all its staff. We continue to call upon the Government to provide greater funding for public services to meet the needs of our residents and reforms to our NHS and social care system to deal with our ageing population and health inequalities.

18. Councillor Debbie Davies

As the huge £2.9million figure quoted for the demolition of the NCP car park on Hall Ings has surprised many people, would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport be so kind as to disclose details of the number of quotes received for this work and explain why this contractor was chosen?

Response

The figure 'quoted' for the demolition of the NCP is incorrect. The £2.986m figure is not just for the demolition of the NCP car park and any other demolition works relating to the Interchange scheme, but is inclusive of all necessary works to secure the car park until demolition can commence, statutory approvals including party wall act agreement and agreement with BUZZ bingo to the reconfiguration of their entrance and design of options, together with removal of an electrical sub-station which is covered under the funding provided by the Transforming Cities

Fund programme. The funding also includes professional fees necessary for the completion of the outline business case for the Bradford Interchange Station access.

To deliver its Transforming Cities Fund programme of schemes including:

- City Centre cycling and walking;
- Bradford Interchange Station access;
- Odsal Park & Ride and bus expressway; and
- West Bradford cycle superhighway.

The Council entered into a design and build contract through the national SCAPE framework with Balfour Beatty for all four projects. This contract affords the Council certainty over construction by securing contractor resources from the outset of the project as well as increasing our visibility of the impacts of construction inflation of scheme costs.

This approach is a nationally accepted framework and quite common. It is supported by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the assurance processes put in place by the government to oversee the responsible spend of funding.

19. Councillor Julie Humphreys

Does the Leader agree that the current difficulties being faced by public services and the professionals who provide them are the direct result of chaotic government leadership and austerity over the past decade?

Response

I absolutely agree. Sadly it is becoming clearer by the day the kind of a legacy this government is going to leave as a result of its actions and the chaos they have inflicted on ordinary people, public services and businesses during its long period in power since 2010. They originally told us all that their funding cuts for public services were a necessary short term action for long term economic gain. But then year after year we saw them miss their own targets with sluggish growth, leading to a downward spiral of yet more austerity and a lack of positive reform and investment that the country needed. For councils in particular, we were first in the queue back when this long period of austerity began and therefore we should now be first in the queue for the long-term, sustainable increases in investment to fund the good local services that our communities need and deserve.

20. Councillor Angela Tait

Can the portfolio holder explain how the government's plan to block-book beds in residential care to ease NHS pressures will play out in our district and can you confirm how we perform on this measure of supporting people out of hospital and into more appropriate settings?

Response

Bradford & District perform well when benchmarked regionally and nationally on delayed discharges from hospital. The national average for hospital beds occupied by patients with 'no criteria to reside' (patients no longer in need of an acute hospital bed) was 6% in December and Bradford's equivalent figure was 3.87% (lower is better). This has continued to improve in January. There are a small number of people who will move permanently into nursing care homes after their stay in hospital and this can take time for the family to choose and professionals to organise a placement. We are working with hospital colleagues to see whether these people could have an intermediate stay in an independent care home until these arrangements are made. There are no plans to block-book independent care home places because we do not have the need.

21. Councillor Mike Pollard

Could the Portfolio Holder for Children & Families please give an update on the plans for additional 'small group' homes to be developed, in accordance with Recommendation 5 of the Development Plan for Children's Homes approved at the meeting of the Executive on 7 June 2022?

Response

The strategy was approved in June 2022, since then the detailed investment plan has been developed (in terms of what type and size of homes are required together with the correct staffing complement). This is nearing completion and will go for approval in February for implementation.

22. Councillor Tariq Hussain

To the portfolio holder for healthy people and places, can you update me on how our district's hospitals and health system is coping with the rise in winter viruses and pressures on services we've been seeing across the country.

Response

Early data shows that all health systems across the country appear to have experienced far greater demand for emergency services between Christmas and the new year. Indications are that the emergence of Strep A infection in children and people with Covid before Christmas plus the impact of seasonal influenza immediately after Christmas led to higher demand for ambulances and A&E capacity from 26 December. This led to higher waits in A&E and a poor patient experience in some cases. In Bradford, our health and social care teams worked throughout the holiday period and appear to have performed better than other areas who experienced unprecedented levels of demand. Hospital activity has returned to normal in early January and we are working together to continue to move patients out of hospital and back home as soon as possible.

23. Councillor Nazam Azam

Can the Leader confirm whether the government has been in touch to clarify its policy on investment zones? It was only as recent as mid-October that councils

were encouraged to apply for these zones but now it seems to have been scrapped or scaled back already in another government U-turn.

Response

The Government announced in the Autumn Statement in November 2022 that existing expressions of interest would not be taken forward. This included an Expression of Interest submitted by council for an investment zone in the district via the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Announcements and briefing have confirmed that Investment Zone policy will instead be refocused on a limited number of high potential knowledge-intensive clusters designed to leverage the research strengths of universities with a focus on “left behind areas”.

Further announcements from Government on Investment Zones are expected around the time of the Spring Budget. Officers continue to liaise and work with both the university sector and West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

24. Councillor Debbie Davies

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport confirm when the 79 successful traders for the new Darley Street market, who applied for stalls before the end of August and were due to be confirmed in October, will actually be announced?

Response

Offer letters have been issued to 44 traders for two of the three trading floors in Darley Street Market, which represents 67 out of a total of 80 stalls/shops. To date, 40 traders representing a total of 55 stalls have accepted the Council's terms with further offer letters to be issued to those other applicants that have products that can add value to the proposed retail mix. Details of the successful applicants will start to be announced next month.

Following a recent procurement exercise, the council intends to appoint an operating partner to manage our food and beverage hall located on the top floor. This floor offers 13 kiosk type stalls and the trader selection process for this floor will take place jointly with our operating partner.

We have received strong interest in the new market not just from across Bradford district but also further afield with applications coming from businesses based across Yorkshire, Lancashire and the Midlands. This further strengthens our view that the new market will not only be fully let when it opens but will be one of the best markets in the North of England.

25. Councillor Brendan Stubbs

The Government's commitment to increase funding for schools by £2.3 billion each of the next two years in November, equating to about a 3% increase in the school's budget for the UK. Schools are currently facing inflation of around 7-8%,

this combined with deficits from the 2022/23 financial year is putting many schools in a precarious financial state.

How many schools in the district are planning to cut teaching and classroom support staff? What plans are in place to ensure that class sizes are not allowed to increase and what steps has the portfolio holder taken to guarantee children in the district do not suffer a poor education in the coming years?

Response

The additional £2.3bn results is an average of a 3.4% increase in per pupil funding for mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies in 2023/24. This is allocated in addition to the main core formula funding settlement, which allocates between 0.5% and roughly 2.5% per pupil in 2023/24, depending on the individual characteristics of the school. Maintained schools will submit their 2023/24 budgets, and 3-year budget forecasts, to the Council in May, and, as a result of discussions with schools at that time, we will have a better understanding of the actions that schools are taking to manage their budgets in 2023/24 and going forward. We do not currently hold information on how many schools are planning to reduce staffing. Based on quarter 2 budget monitoring returns for 2022/23, we forecast that 6 (out of 76) maintained schools will hold cumulative deficit balances at 31 March 2023.

26. Councillor Matt Edwards

As we prepare for Bradford 2025, can the portfolio holder please confirm the short and long term plans for the Wakefield Road Cycle route? In addition to this, what will the Council be doing to ensure the subways under Wakefield Road, Tong Street and Rooley Lane are clear and safe for pedestrians?

Response

The active travel measures on Wakefield Road were introduced as part of the Phase 2 tranche of A&ST funding from government during lockdown to encourage greater use of active travel as use of public transport reduced due to social distancing. As traffic returns to pre-pandemic levels the need for the measures on Wakefield Road has been reviewed both within the context of the current road network and future upgrades planned in this area of the district.

In the immediate term there are no plans to remove the measures which remain on Wakefield Road, however when work on the delivery of the Transforming Cities Fund projects commences later this year the extent of the active travel measures will be reviewed to address how traffic movements will change during construction. Repairs to damaged posts will take place as well.

Funding for Wakefield Road to become a Sustainable Transport Corridor has already been secured via the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement and the Council will be working with their WYCA colleagues to bring forward proposals at the earliest possible opportunity. These plans will include measures for bus and cycle priority measures.

The subways on Wakefield Road, Tong Street and Rooley Lane are maintained and if there are any specific issues members can raise them with their local Highways team.

27. Councillor Nazam Azam

I know the Leader has been lobbying ministers to invest in better rail services for our district. Can she give an update on our efforts to get better services locally and to London especially as our year as UK City of Culture moves closer?

Response

The Leader and Council officers have been working closely with the rail industry and DfT colleagues to make the case for a regular and fast rail service to London every 2 hours. Work with Network Rail and LNER is progressing on the infrastructure enhancements needed to make this happen ahead of the City of Culture year in 2025 including delivery of the platform extensions to Forster Square station. We will continue to press Government to provide appropriate funding to support our ambitions.

28. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Does the Leader share my serious concern at Tory MP Andrew Bridgen recently spouting conspiracy theories about the Covid vaccines, and can you tell us what activity is currently taking place in our district to increase take-up of the Covid and flu vaccines in these winter months?

Response

It was unacceptable and inappropriate for an elected representative to give misleading statements about vaccine safety. Vaccine misinformation is a present and growing threat in our communities; the World Health Organisation have acknowledged vaccine misinformation could reverse decades of progress made in tackling preventable diseases. It is good to see that swift action has been taken in regards to MP Andrew Bridgen.

The COVID-19 and Flu vaccination programmes are led locally by our NHS partners, with weekly partnership review meetings, which council officers attend. Local delivery plans are in place, which include regular offer of both vaccines through GPs and pharmacies, onsite-vaccination of care homes residents and school-aged children, and community-based vaccine sites. In the review meetings uptake is monitored to direct action to reduce inequalities. For example recently both vaccines were offered through pop-up clinics in winter wellbeing fairs in the areas with lower uptake.

The council has also worked to tackle misinformation and increase the public's confidence in the vaccines. A joint communications workgroup with NHS partners is in place and has produced messages co-promoting both vaccines and reinforcing the safety of the vaccines for all groups. Vaccination messages have been promoted in innovative ways, such as via traffic light signs and videos on the big screen in City Park featuring pregnant women talking about how safe the

COVID-19 and flu vaccines are. Community champions have been trained to co-promote Flu and COVID-19 vaccines across the district, using evidence based behavioural science principles.

Tackling vaccine misinformation is the responsibility of everyone. Council officers support this by using an evidence-based approach (using what seems to work better to encourage vaccine uptake), using local data to identify areas of good practice and groups needing support, responding to community concerns through carefully crafted communications, and escalating issues to the relevant committees. Misinformation and inequalities go hand-in-hand, and these require on-going and long-term relationship building with communities.

29. Councillor Falak Ahmed

Would the Leader of the Council confirm whether the Council has a Fairtrade Champion and if so who is it and what is involved in their role?

Response

Yes, the council's Fairtrade Champion was Cllr Caroline Firth until recently but she has had to step back from this work. We thank her for all she has done on this agenda. Another Fairtrade Champion will be appointed shortly however in the meantime with Fairtrade month happening in February I would encourage all members to get involved.

30. Councillor Tariq Hussain

Can the portfolio holder reassure me that, in spite of a decade of government austerity, how much of the district's road network we are gritting and how often?

Response

The Council's Winter Operational Plan, which sets out the response of the Council to planned winter weather conditions remains unchanged from previous years. The length of network treated as a Priority 1 precautionary grit remains 62% (or 712 miles) which incorporates most classified roads. Lengths of footways which are treated similarly remain unchanged from previous years. Historically this has been amongst the highest in West Yorkshire.

Gritting is only carried out when the Council's weather forecasting service predicts conditions will lead to freezing road surface temperatures. These forecasts are provided daily to Council officers who have responsibility for determining whether or not a grit is called. Alternatively, where conditions are marginal the Council run a night patrol service which is used to drive the network and make decisions in real-time based on road conditions observed by the driver.

31. Councillor Hassan Khan

How many warm spaces are we providing across the district and is there warm space provision that's easily accessible for all residents who need it?

Response

All constituencies have provision, with 176 warm spaces across the District. There are a range of organisations participating in this initiative including; Libraries; Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and Faith Groups etc. The Warm Spaces directory shows the location, opening times and service offer for each organisation Warm Spaces Directory - Cost of Living Bradford

32. Councillor Mohammed Nazam

As the UK Youth Parliament has 369 members, aged between 11 and 18, elected each year by over 500,000 young people in elections in over 90 percent of constituencies, in order to hold debates and plan campaigns to represent the views of young people in their area, to government and service providers, would the Leader of the Council please inform colleagues how Bradford MDC supports the Youth Parliament?

Response

Historically in Bradford we have had a Bradford and Keighley Youth Parliament, but young people in more recent consultations around youth voice and influence articulated that they wanted to have more local opportunities to take part in decision making in their communities. By not having a distinct youth parliament we are as a district offering a much broader range of youth voice and influence opportunities across our district to a significantly higher number of young people, and across a much broader range of subject matters. This has proven to be successful and engages many young people who have felt unable to participate in the structure of the Youth Parliament.

We do support the identification of the themes of work of the national Youth Parliament by supporting the “Make your Mark” campaign, run by the British Youth Council, this gives opportunity for young people to influence the topics of work for the youth parliament to take forward. This is rolled out across educational establishments and youth provisions across the districts youth sector - ensuring a wide cohort of young people have opportunity to take part. Young people who are keen to be involved in youth voice roles are supported by the Youth Service and its partners to access opportunities locally, regionally and nationally.

33. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

To the Leader – do you agree with Molly Russell’s father, Ian, and Labour’s shadow culture secretary Lucy Powell about the urgent need for tougher laws to keep children safe online than the government was planning to introduce, including the need for legislation on legal but harmful material.

Response

Molly’s family have the answer they deserve thanks to their determination to Meta and Pinterest questioned under oath about the part their platforms played in her tragic death.

The ruling will have undoubtedly sent shockwaves through tech companies who must expect to be held to account when they put the safety of children second to commercial decisions.

This must be a turning point and the Online Safety Bill should be the opportunity to reinforce the preventable abuse of our children.

I absolutely agreed with Molly's father Ian and with the Labour frontbench who pushed incredibly hard for tougher measures to protect children online. It is simply not acceptable for harmful content to have been so freely available and for algorithms to potentially perpetuate the problem as part of a terrible cycle of events which makes it extremely difficult for children to be protected once they become exposed to such content. Regulation had clearly failed to keep pace with the new media landscape and our daily use of digital technologies, this needs to be the beginning of a properly managed online world in which most children like the rest of us now live large parts of their lives.

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2023

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

Amendments submitted by political groups

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

12.1 – Reducing HGV traffic on narrow, unsuitable roads

To be moved by: Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

To be seconded by: Councillor Debbie Davies

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

Council notes:

- Government figures show that HGV traffic nationally is increasing, with the most recent figures (September 2021) showing that whilst car traffic had decreased, there has been an 8.9% increase in HGV traffic in just one year.
- The growth of HGV traffic on many of our local roads generates noise and air pollution and undermines resident health and safety. It can have a real impact on the quality of life of residents living on affected streets, including sleepless nights and mental health problems. It affects cyclists and pedestrians, especially older or vulnerable people and families with small children.
- One significant cause of HGV traffic along unsuitable roads is the use by lorry drivers of Google Maps and / or sat navs that are only intended for car use. In extreme cases, HGVs are routed up narrow, unsuitable routes and become stuck (one example is Mill Carr Hill Road, between Oakenshaw and Bierley).
- Locally, a large volume of HGV traffic is caused by new development and residents frequently report frustration that the appropriate routing of construction traffic is not given sufficient care and attention as part of the planning process, and seems like an afterthought, when from their perspective it should be front and centre. Bradford Council does not require a 'Construction Traffic Management Plan' to be submitted at the same time as a planning application for major development.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport to write to Mark Harper MP, Secretary of State for Transport, expressing this Council's support for the Local Government's Association's call for HGVs to be required to use commercial satnavs and asking for his support.
- Instruct officers to ensure that the 'National and Local Information Requirements – Planning Applications (including Outline, Reserved Matters and Variation of Condition)' document makes the submission of a 'Construction Traffic Management Plan' a mandatory validation requirement for planning applications for major developments. This will allow our officers, councillors and the public to have access to more information when determining the suitability of planning applications.
- Instruct officers to produce a 'Construction Traffic Management Plan' guidance document for developers that highlights the importance of routing construction traffic away from narrow, unsuitable and residential roads in order to ensure that this is an integral feature of any planning applications and is actively considered at the earliest possible stage in the planning process.
- Instruct officers to consult with ward members regarding routes to be considered during development of the Construction Traffic Management Plan.

12.2 – BMDC Supporting Local Businesses

To be moved by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

To be seconded by: Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

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

Council notes that:

- The Council has a target to increase the amount of Council spending on resources locally to 50% of the total by next year and the latest figures published showed this position was actually worsening from 36.8% in 2020/21 to 35.9% in 2021/22 of third party spend with suppliers operating within the Bradford District.
- This target was set pre-pandemic. Much has changed since then including:
 - A far higher proportion of the Council's spend during the pandemic was spent on PPE sourced often from overseas suppliers.
 - The cost of living crisis has meant that energy costs have increased by an estimated 118%, which means that this element of spend now accounts for a greater proportion than it did. There are no local energy suppliers.
 - Brexit
- Much was promised during the Brexit campaign including that the UK would no longer be subject to EU public sector procurement regulations. However, the Government has still not completed the legislative process for the Procurement Bill and when it is completed there will be a six-month transitional period before public bodies can formally utilise any benefits that this may afford, these are not yet clear – in the meantime Public Contract Regulations (PCR 2015) are still applicable.
- In addition to the price-quality ratio, Public Contract Regulations 2015 currently allow for the qualitative, environmental and social aspects, linked to the subject matter of the procurement to be considered when developing the evaluation criteria. This is why the Council Executive adopted the Social Value and Inclusive Growth Procurement Policy in December 2017 which means that we are required to consider Social Value obligations for all activity above £100k where appropriate.
- Cost will always play a role in the fair procurement of goods and services, but through progressive procurement, organisations can take a wider look at the impact of their work and make a conscious choice to support local business and communities where possible.
- Each £1 spent in Bradford District is then spent a further seven times within the district, incentivising the selection of local contractors, in order to get more value for money by retaining wealth in local communities (Community Wealth Building) helping them become more self-sufficient and resilient, strengthening the Bradford District economy

Council resolves to:

Review the Contract Standing Orders and see whether these can be updated to mandate or encourage certain requirements such as, but not restricted to:

- look at how the procurement process can be made simpler for potential local suppliers to bid for opportunities (within the rules and regulations that we have to observe) and placing emphasis on the duty on contracting authorities to have regard to SMEs, via

actions such as breaking bigger contracts down into smaller ones and encouraging cooperatives to tender

- look at how the council's procurement of goods and services can be overhauled to maximise the benefits to local communities, in the form of increased local economic activity, employment, inward investment and attracting and retaining talent etc.
- consider the reduction in carbon footprint and other supply chain sustainability benefits of using local suppliers when awarding contracts
- build two-way relationships with local suppliers and representative organisations to ensure that any contracts awarded locally other than in a lowest bid scenario provide a "something-for-something" approach benefitting communities and citizens

Once Contract Standing Orders are reviewed and agreed:

- publish a guide which clarifies for the council, its contracting partners and potential suppliers, the council's latest procurement policies and the legal requirements for tenders to prioritise local suppliers
- work with other public agencies across the district to develop a new Local Economy Support Strategy focussing on how all public agencies can support the district's economy with how they procure.

Amendment C

12.3 – Transparency and accountability for the Council’s Capital investment Programme (CIP)

To be moved by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

To be seconded by: Councillor Alex Ross Shaw

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

- That the Executive has been open and transparent about the financial challenges the Council is facing. Regular reports have been published and debated at Executive as well as at Full Council to make sure all councillors and members of the public are aware of the rising costs of social care and the impact of the cost of living crisis on the council’s financial position.
- The Executive has already identified a number of capital schemes and taken these out of the Capital investment plan. These were outlined in the 14th December budget proposals. The Council will keep the Capital Plan under review given the ongoing national economic volatility which the Conservative Government continues to preside over.
- The deep disappointment of our residents and businesses that Bradford district was missed out by Government from the current Levelling Up Fund bidding round. This would have given the district £104 million additional capital to support the council’s capital budget for regeneration.
- The Squire Lane project is progressing well. The specification is being finalised and the Council is in ongoing negotiations with partners. With rising inflation, any capital project, either in the public or private sector, is challenging but should there be any significant changes to the delivery model, these would be brought back to Executive in the normal way.
- Not for Publication reports are few and far between. These reports are always available to all 90 elected members to view as are reasonably necessary to enable them to carry out their duties. Opposition members have been in every Executive where these have been discussed. The City Solicitor advises the Council on issues of commercial sensitivity, it would be folly to publish in contradiction to this legal advice. Companies bidding to deliver a project for the Council would know what the top price the Council could stretch to, were the papers public. We have a duty to get the best price for the Bradford district council taxpayer.
- The Council welcomes and actively encourages private sector investment in the district.

The Council resolves to:

- Continue to keep the Capital Investment Plan under review and seek out other forms of finance to deliver capital plans, regeneration ambitions and Levelling Up bids when the Government Levelling Up Funding has failed.
- Offer as much transparency and ability for the public and councillors to scrutinise all capital projects as is reasonably possible and to avoid making these projects subject to ‘Not for publication’ exemption where possible.

Amendment D

12.3 – Transparency and accountability for the Council’s Capital Investment Programme(CIP)

To be moved by: Councillor Mike Pollard

To be seconded by: Councillor Kyle Green

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

Council notes:

- That the Executive has stated that “the Council could consider foregoing some further capital investment and take a revenue saving instead”. Previous analysis of the CIP has indicated that there are a number of schemes that have either not started or have only partially progressed and there is the potential to free up resources in the CIP by either deleting or delaying some of these projects”.
- That all four of Bradford District’s Levelling Up bids (round 2) have been rejected, falling at the first fence, having been screened out without even being placed before Ministers, with feedback from DLUHC stating that the bids lacked the required quality and were not detailed enough.
- The failure of the bids lost the council potentially over £100m of Gov’t funding for capital projects.
- That only 1 bid from a possible 5 was submitted to round 1 of the bids.
- The Squire Lane project can be cited as a relevant example of significant additional borrowing being required to complete a partially funded Levelling Up project. From information which does sit within the public domain (project reference CS0354 contained in Appendix 3 to Doc ‘Z’ presented to Executive 1 November 2022). Council borrowing for this scheme is budgeted at a total of £28.438million.
- That £19.410 million of Council borrowing for the Squire Lane project is stated to be on an ‘Invest to Save’ basis. It is not clear from information within the public domain what revenue budget savings are anticipated to accrue from this project.
- Bradford Council has committed significant resources to projects where covering reports outlining rationale and the essential thrust of the business are covered under ‘Not for publication’ exemption in terms of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and therefore spend taxpayers’ money without Elected Members (with few exceptions) and residents being offered the opportunity to scrutinise these plans.
- That projects such as One City Park have been projected to not make the council additional net revenue upon their completion.

Council resolves:

- to recognise that there is legitimate reason for residents and non-Executive members of council to have serious concerns regarding the Council’s management of its Capital Investment Programme and provide as much transparency and opportunity for the public and back bench councillors to scrutinise all capital projects as is reasonably possible and to avoid making these projects subject to ‘Not for publication’ exemption where possible.
- to publish the Bradford District’s Levelling Up bids submitted for consideration in round two.
- to accept that the scale of the District’s budgetary crisis is such that a wider moratorium on all capital projects, other than those fully funded by central

Government grant, or patently demonstrating an 'invest to save' case, should be imposed until the Council's financial position is seen to have been stabilised.

- That the private sector should be encouraged to lead on capital investment schemes, as in the case for a district heat network in Bradford City Centre now being taken forward by a private developer, reducing call on the capital projects budget by over £12 million.

12.4 – Private Rented Housing in Bradford District

To be moved by: Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

To be seconded by: Councillor Kamran Hussain

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

This Council believes that:

- The people of the Bradford district deserve access to affordable and safe homes which are of a decent standard.
- Constructive and professional relationships with landlords drives up standards in the private rented sector by providing opportunities for effective communication and enables issues to be dealt with quickly without needing to resort to formal enforcement action

This Council notes that:

- A significant number of residents of the district live in homes which are privately rented and that this number has increased in recent years. The private rented housing sector has doubled in size since 2002.
- That most private landlords provide homes of a good standard and they play a vital role in providing homes for residents of the district.
- Local authorities have a duty under Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004 to keep housing conditions under review and identify action needed. Undertaking such reviews and subsequent action is complicated by incomplete data in the sector.
- Much time for enforcement work is spent simply identifying landlords, agents, and properties. This erodes teams' capacity to take enforcement action.
- However, the Housing Standards team implementation of a triage system has dramatically increased the amount of interventions they can make, and over 1,000 improvements are undertaken every year driven by Council intervention.
- Nonetheless poor housing conditions persist in the private rented sector. The most recent English Housing Survey data shows that 23% of private rented sector properties fail to meet the Decent Homes Standard and 13% have category 1 hazards.
- It is estimated up to a third of Local Authorities have implemented selective licensing of Private Rented Properties and focus on areas that have been identified as hotspots for poor housing standards and significant number of rogue or criminal landlords.
- The Council previously applied for funding to develop a business case for selective licensing, but the government refused it.

This Council further notes that:

- The publication of the Government white paper – A fairer deal for renters - in 2022 and the plans to introduce a Renters Reform Bill in 2023 that aid Councils to better regulate and enforce housing standards and poor landlord practices.
- The Social Housing Regulation Bill will introduce new powers and regulations to the social housing sector, some of which may be transferable and relevant to driving up standards in the private rented sector as well.

This Council resolves to:

- Request the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee hold a review of the Private Rented Sector across Bradford and the different ways of managing and improving the quality of housing provision.

12.4 – Private Rented Housing in Bradford District

To be moved by: Councillor Bob Felstead

To be seconded by: Councillor Mike Pollard

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

Council notes:

- The people of the Bradford district should have access to affordable and safe homes which are of a suitable standard.
- It is necessary to be able to identify and contact private landlords with ease, for the purposes of being able to inform private landlords of changes to legislation and to provide a point of contact should complaints be made.
- The number of residents of the district who live in private rented homes has doubled in size since 2002, reflecting the fact that most private landlords provide homes of a good standard and that they play a vital role in providing homes for residents of the district.
- The increasing availability of private rented sector housing will continue to drive up standards and the tragic death of two year old Awaab Ishak, due to living in mould ridden accommodation provided by Rochdale Borough Council, highlighted the fact that poor housing conditions exist in the social housing sector as well as the private rented sector.
- Local authorities already have powers provided by Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004 to keep housing conditions under review and identify action needed and the Government published a white paper – A fairer deal for renters in 2022 and also plans to introduce a Renters Reform Bill in 2023, which will aid Councils to better regulate and enforce housing standards and poor landlord practices.
- Some Local Authorities have implemented selective licensing of Private Rented Properties but these do not prevent poor, even criminally poor, housing standards in the Social Housing Sector.
- Selective Private Landlord Licensing disadvantages Private Sector Landlords and their tenants, as costs such as £825 per property, meaning that a terrace house consisting of four flats would attract costs of £3,300, inevitably increase the cost the tenancy for the accommodation, whilst offering no comparable safety protections for the huge numbers of people living in the Social Rented Sector.
- The perception of the unwarranted preferential treatment of the Social Sector by the Public Sector, is not conducive to engagement with and securing co-operation from Private Sector Landlords who often feel besmirched and disadvantaged by Selective Licensing etc.
- Calderdale MBC has acknowledged that the council is aware that many private sector landlords “may be struggling because of the rising cost of living”, stating that they “do understand that landlords may also be struggling due to higher costs of living and unable to carry out essential repairs needed to tackle poor energy efficiency in the properties they own”.
- It needs to be remembered that many landlords are not wealthy and fund mortgage payments on their rental properties with the rental income and have little left to spare, particularly at present when as an example, some rental mortgages have risen from just over £300 per month to in excess of £800 per month. The fees for Selective Private Landlord Licensing can cause harm to residents’ security of tenure etc. and thus can cause as much harm as good.

- Recognising the problems facing many landlords Calderdale MBC have urged landlords and residents to get in touch to find out more about the support available to carry out necessary and important improvements to the accommodation that they provide, adopting a strategy which offers a carrot before wielding the stick.

Council resolves:

- To avoid the pre-empting of “A fairer deal for renters” and Renters Reform Bill, which will aid Councils to better regulate and enforce housing standards and remedy poor landlord practices, but instead allow time for their benefits to bed in, so that their effectiveness can be thoroughly evaluated, before giving further thought to potentially counterproductive Selective Licensing.

12.5 – Future Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements

To be moved by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

To be seconded by: Councillor Sue Duffy

Council notes:

- The benefits of Scrutiny and the important work it does all year round across the Council and with partners to improve services for residents.
- The benefits of the new Bradford Children's and Families Trust which is on track to start on 1st April. We all welcome the appointment of the Trust's new Chief Executive.
- For clarity that the Director of Children's Services role within the Council and the Lead Portfolio Holder for Children and Families are statutory and remain unchanged as a result of the establishment of the Trust. Outcomes and accountability will remain with the Council, overseen by the Director of Children's Services.
- The purpose of Scrutiny as set out in the Council's constitution, is to look at:
 - The strategies, plans, policies, functions and services directly relevant to the corporate priority about customer services and e-government, that improve the Council's ability to deliver, govern and change, community cohesion and all other corporate matters not falling within the responsibility of any other Overview and Scrutiny committee.
 - The strategies, plans, policies, functions and services directly relevant to the corporate priority about safer and stronger communities.
 - The co-ordination of the discharge of the overview and scrutiny role within the Council and in relation to external bodies.
 - Supporting the Executive through its contribution towards the improvement of the Council's performance.
 - Co-ordinating the development of the overview and scrutiny role within the Council.
 - The annual review of Scrutiny which assesses Councillors' view of Scrutiny and helps inform training requirements for members.
 - The training in place for Elected Members on Scrutiny to make sure the Council is able to discharge its functions appropriately.

The Council resolves that:

- With the establishment of the Bradford Children's and Families Trust, the role of scrutiny as set out in the Council's constitution, will not change.
- Regular briefings will continue to be made available for all elected members on the establishment of the Children's Trust. This is particularly the case for Children's Scrutiny members so they are clear about how Scrutiny will be exercised, to hold the Bradford Children's and Families Trust to account, once established.
- Scrutiny training for members continues to be promoted and developed to deliver continuing improvement across all the council's functions as stated in the council's constitution.
- All members will continue to take their Corporate Parenting responsibilities seriously.

12.5 – Future Overview and Scrutiny arrangements

To be moved by: Councillor Geoff Winnard

To be seconded by: Councillor Mike Pollard

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

Council notes:

- the potential benefits of the intervention of the Secretary of State to remove Children's Services from Council control such as a fresh start, independence from wider issues of concern to the Council, increased speed of decision-making and the potential to attract high calibre staff.
- that to achieve and sustain a successful outcome for all children will be complex without clear lines of accountability, good relationship management across all partners and effective Overview and Scrutiny.
- that effective scrutiny and overview of the delivery of children's social care by the new Children's Organisation must continue to be a priority to ensure that the improvements to services are achieved.

Council resolves:

- to instruct the Chief Executive to arrange a review of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny structure, in consultation with the new Children and Families Trust, in order to ensure effective governance, which reflects the new realities of the division of responsibilities between the Council and the Trust and serves the best interests of our young people.
- To ensure appropriate training is developed for scrutiny committee members which includes but not be limited to; relationship management arrangements, the importance of data both to understanding of the service and its use to inform improvement.

12.6 – New photo ID rules risk disenfranchising legitimate voters

To be moved by: Councillor Matt Edwards

To be seconded by: Councillor Caroline Whitaker

Council notes:

From 4 May 2023, Government have said that voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in local elections, Police and Crime Commissioner elections, UK parliamentary by-elections and recall petitions. From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

- Our democracy is stronger when more people take part in it. The voters should choose their leaders; not the other way around. There should be no gerrymandering or restriction of access to the vote for electoral gain.
- Despite the extremely low level of fraud, the government has estimated it will spend up to £180m over the next decade to introduce ID at polling stations.
- The Electoral Reform Society says elections are generally very well run in the UK with extremely low levels of electoral fraud. In 2019, out of over 58 million votes cast there were only 33 allegations of personation at a polling station.
- Organisations including the Electoral Reform Society and the Good Law Project oppose the government's policy for voter ID, with the ERS saying it is an expensive distraction and we should instead be tackling "the huge challenges that undermine our democracy, not putting up paywalls around polling stations".
- The Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) says the projected timelines are "optimistic at best, undeliverable at worst".
- The Local Government Association also says it should be delayed to give elections staff more time to implement the changes.
- Research shows disadvantaged groups are less likely to have ID. The richer you are, the more likely you are to have an ID.
- The list of approved ID will predominantly be those held by older people. While "Older Person's Bus Passes" and equivalent older people travel cards are on the approved list, equivalent travel passes for young people will not be accepted. This has prompted concern that younger people without ID will find it comparatively harder to vote.

Council resolves to:

- The Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities supporting the LGA's call not to implement this policy for the local elections in May 2023 due to the risks of disenfranchising legitimate voters, and to reconsider its introduction given the long term risks and costs.
- If the government is to push ahead with mandatory voter ID, the Council Leader will request additional on-going funding from the government to reflect the on-going costs to councils to deliver this costly scheme.
- If the scheme goes ahead, instruct officers to utilise all existing channels and means of communication to supplement the publicity campaign by the Electoral Commission to make more voters aware of the need to show photo ID at polling stations in the May 2023 local elections and beyond.
- To consider a *specific* campaign to encourage young people to register for an appropriate ID utilising social media channels and encourage schools and colleges within Bradford District to provide information to students.

12.6 – New photo ID rules risk disenfranchising legitimate voters

To be moved by: Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

To be seconded by: Councillor Falak Ahmed

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

Council notes:

- From 4 May 2023, Government have said that voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in local elections, Police and Crime Commissioner elections, UK parliamentary by-elections and recall petitions. From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.
- Our democracy is stronger when more people take part in it and when only those entitled to vote are able to do so, allowing the electorate to have confidence in the system.
- A House of Commons debate of the Elections Bill, on 17 January 2023 was told that one in five reports of electoral fraud come from West Yorkshire with Postal voting described as an "undeniable problem in Keighley and Ilkley.
- Keighley MP Robbie Moore, made a manifesto commitment in 2019 to finally do something about the situation and has recognised that the new Bill would "make our elections fairer" and "changes to the electoral process had been due for some time".
- Many Bradford District residents have over many years expressed their anger and confusion at how it is so easy to get away with manipulating the electoral process, as it is common knowledge that the area is a hotspot for the manipulation of postal votes during general, local and other elections, with cases of, personation, bribery, false statements and exerting undue influence on voters also of concern.
- The rules governing postal ballots were liberalised in 2000 to boost turn-out. In Birmingham, applications soared from 16,000 in 2001 to more than 70,000 in 2004. In 2005 Richard Mawrey (then QC, now KC), sitting as an electoral commissioner in Birmingham, having been presented with "overwhelming evidence" that thousands of votes had been harvested, convicted 6 Councillors of electoral fraud, describing the election process as "one that would shame a banana republic".
- Richard Mawrey (then QC, now KC) further stated that existing electoral processes were "hopelessly insecure", a "positive assistance to fraud" and that short of writing "steal me" on envelopes containing ballot papers, it was "hard to see what more could be done to increase electoral fraud, as there are no systems to deal realistically with fraud, there never have been and until there are, fraud will continue unabated".
- The Liberal Party stated that "Changes in electoral law are clearly required" and the Conservatives said, "We all want to see improved turnout at elections but this must not come at the price of electoral fraud", whilst the judge observed that the then Labour Government's claims that "guards against vote-rigging are in place", revealed a "state not simply of complacency but denial".
- In 2010 five Bradford men, including two former Councillors, were sentenced to between 11 and 21 months each for attempting to harvest 900 votes.
- Electoral fraud is often well organised, very time consuming to investigate and difficult to prove, so low conviction rates significantly understate the problem, particularly postal vote "harvesting" The Electoral Reform Society said "we are

concerned that the cases which have come to public attention so far may be only part of a wider problem”.

- The Election Bill ensures a free voter identity card will be available from councils for people without a suitable form of ID and everyone entitled to vote will be able to arrange to do so.
- In 2018 and 2019, 15 Local authorities took part in a successful pilot study to see whether voter ID would work, as much less than 1% of voters turned up to vote without ID, with most returning with valid ID and casting their vote.
- The Woking example shows that an ID scheme can work, subject to an effective campaign to spread awareness about the ID requirement.

Council resolves:

- In light of the high percentage of proven cases of electoral fraud that originate from West Yorkshire along with the past convictions of Bradford political activists etc and parts of the District being deemed at high risk of this type of offence, that the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities welcoming the introduction of the long overdue Election Bill.
- Require that the Chief Executive instruct officers to utilise all existing channels and means of communication (including ensuring that all frontline staff with the Council Contact Centre are fully aware of the need for Photo ID and are able to assist residents), in order to supplement the publicity campaign by the Electoral Commission.

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