



13. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR COUNCIL

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This document contains the following –

Agenda Item 4 – Lord Mayor’s Announcements

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, 14 MARCH 2023

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- Agenda Item 4** Lord Mayor's Announcements
- 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 (Green)

Committee Secretariat
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CITY OF BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF COUNCIL – TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2023

ITEM 4 WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR

THE CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING AND HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN CONSORT

I am sure that we are joined by a great many people across our district in looking forward, with much anticipation, to the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort on 6 May 2023.

This will be celebrated across the country and the Commonwealth and marked with a three-day Bank Holiday weekend from Saturday 6 May to Monday 8 May 2023.

Their Majesties are keen to encourage people to spend the Coronation Weekend celebrating with friends, families and their communities.

Locally, the joyous event is certain to be well-marked throughout our area and the Council will be encouraging people from right across the district to get involved in organising and attending events and taking part in activities to celebrate this significant occasion.

City and key town centres, including Bingley, Ilkley, Shipley and Keighley, will be decorated and there will be grant funding support available for organisations and residents who want to run their own events.

I feel certain the Coronation Weekend will generate a great feeling of community spirit and will be doubtless celebrated in distinctive Bradford style.

38TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRADFORD CITY FIRE DISASTER

On Thursday 11 May 2023, we will mark one of the most poignant dates in the district's calendar, as we commemorate the 38th anniversary of the devastating fire at Bradford City Football Club's ground on 11 May 1985.

Fifty six people died and countless others were injured. Many people were dreadfully affected, and continue to be so, by the awful events of that day. It is extremely moving to come together on the anniversary of the disaster to reflect upon, and to pay tribute to, all those who were lost and injured and the effect it had on our community.

At 1100, the annual memorial service will take place at the Bradford City Fire Disaster sculpture, in Centenary Square and I do hope that many of you will be able to join me on that sad morning.

CIVIC SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

The Lady Mayoress and I will attend a Civic Service of Thanksgiving, marking our year in office, at Bradford Cathedral, Stott Hill, Bradford, BD1 4EH on Monday 20 March 2023 at 1730.

I do hope that you have received your invitation and that many of you will be able to join us, first confirming your attendance to Farzana Mughal, Acting Civic Affairs Manager. You are welcome to bring along your family and friends, should you wish.

Please arrive at the Cathedral by no later than 1715 ready for the start of the Service at 1730. The Lady Mayoress and I look forward to seeing you on the day.

GIFT TO THE CITY

I would like to inform Members and Senior Officers that, during this meeting's short adjournment, I will announce details of my gift to the City, which will be given as a memento of our year in Civic office. I shall also announce the gift which I intend to buy with the money you kindly collected in order to mark the year.

All are invited to join me in the Banqueting Hall for this short announcement during the break.

ELECTIONS

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

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

May I also wish 'Good Luck' at the Polls to those Councillors who are seeking re-election on 4 May.

Distribution:

Lord Mayor (Cllr Martin Love)

Chief Executive (Kersten England)

Director of Legal and Governance (Asif Ibrahim)

Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Jason Field)

Head of Governance (Mandy Hill)

Acting Civic Affairs Manager (Farzana Mughal)

Governance, Scrutiny and 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, 14 MARCH 2023

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

The following membership changes have been submitted:

- Standards Committee – That Town Councillor James Roberts (ShIPLEY Town Council) be appointed as a non-voting co-opted member for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year. The position had become vacant due to Parish Councillor Caroline Whitaker stepping down from the role, having been elected as a District Councillor at the 2022 Local Elections.

Agenda item 9 – Leader’s Report (March 2023)

Bus Recovery Grant

In my January Leader’s report I reported on the concerns expressed across West Yorkshire about the Government’s Bus Recovery Grant finishing at the end of March. At the very last minute on 17th February Government advised they were extending the grant for a further three months. This is the second time they have done this in this manner. If they had left it an hour longer then more routes across West Yorkshire would have been taken away. Such unstable funding of a vital public service is terrible for bus users and for the economy of West Yorkshire. The Mayor and myself are calling for a London-style funding package for buses in West Yorkshire which is sustained over a longer period of time.

In spite of the last minute Government u-turn First Bus made it clear that there were still a smaller number of routes which they could not run anymore because they were significantly loss-making. These are mainly in Leeds. June is obviously not very far away and it is unclear whether Government will find more money for buses.

Wherever you live in the district they are a vital part of our economy and social infrastructure. The Combined Authority has been successful in securing Bus Service Improvement money for new bus routes which obviously will now be essential if we are to retain good bus service coverage across the district. However, this is time limited and is meant to be for new routes, not supporting existing ones. The CA is continuing its work on developing a West Yorkshire bus network which will inform decision-making going forward.

Trains

After the disruption to this service last year, there was significant lobbying from myself and the West Yorkshire Mayor to reinstate this service. This was done in December 22 however the new timetable from May shows a reduction in daytime services.

I have been regularly engaging with Northern to ensure that they understand the important role that local services play in Bradford. I have made it clear that these services serve an important role, but note that the peak time and school service levels have been protected (in contrast to the situation during 2022). I understand Northern has agreed this change with the Rail North Partnership to create a larger pool of spare drivers to help reduce cancellations whilst staff absence remains higher than expected. Cancellation rates have risen since December as Northern attempts to run the full timetable. Northern anticipates staff absence rates will reduce to normal levels during the year, alongside a reduced level turnover and ongoing training of new drivers continues, so expects the position to recover.

Northern are committed to working with me to ensure the services are reinstated during 2024, and ahead of UK City of Culture 2025 in Bradford, but this will require financial commitment from Government who dictate the terms of their contract. Our work around pushing for further improvements in our rail connectivity continues. Network Rail are working on improvements to Forster Square to enable more trains to use the station. And our conversations with Department of Transport around Bradford and the importance of our connectivity to support our regeneration plans continue.

We continue to push for the Skipton Colne line to be reinstated to support Keighley's economy. I note a Keighley councillor has asked a question about this subject elsewhere in this meeting where there is a detailed response.

West Yorkshire Investment Zone

The announcement has been made today from Government that eight places in England have been shortlisted to host Investment Zones, with the intention to agree plans with local partners by the end of the year. The eight places include us in West Yorkshire:

- The proposed East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority
- Greater Manchester Mayoral Combined Authority
- Liverpool City Region Mayoral Combined Authority
- The proposed North East Mayoral Combined Authority
- South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
- Tees Valley Mayoral Combined Authority
- West Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority
- West Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority

It's good to see that West Yorkshire has been shortlisted although there does need to be more detail. Jeremy Hunt is expected to announce plans in the budget tomorrow to enter discussions with these places to host high growth Investment Zones, each backed with £80 million over five years including tax incentives. Investment Zones will be clustered around research Institutions such as universities and will be focused on driving growth in one of the UK's key sectors: Technology, Creative industries, Life Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing and the Green sector. As well as for tax reliefs, funding can be used to improve skills, provide specialist business support, improve the planning system, or for local infrastructure.

Children's Trust

The establishment of the Children's Trust is going to plan and is on track to start on 1st April. We have been pleased to welcome Charlotte Ramsden in February as the new Chief Executive of the Trust. She has been busy meeting staff and planning for the transition. Systems are set up ready for the new Trust and staff are being issued with new ID cards. No children's trust has been set up in less than 18 months before, so this will be the first time it has been achieved so quickly. The Council and the Trust Board have worked very hard to get to this point. Our thanks to all involved.

COUNCIL

Tuesday 14 March 2023

MEMBER QUESTION TIME – PART 1

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. Councillor Simon Cunningham

Would the Portfolio Holder join me in welcoming the news that £100,000 will be invested in new play facilities at Peel Park, and in thanking Friends of Peel Park for their contribution to the project and involvement in its development?

Response

As part of the District-wide Playable Spaces Refurbishment Programme it is indeed good news. I would like to thank the Friends of Group for their support and collaboration on this exciting project to provide improved and better play and fitness opportunities for local children and young people in the Bolton and Undercliffe ward and wider District.

2. Councillor Paul Sullivan

Would the Leader of the Council reassure local retailers that Bradford Council does not agree with the view of Alison Lowe OBE, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, that theft should not always result in the arrest of the suspected perpetrator?

Response

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime did not condone theft or suggest that it should not always result in arrest. She acknowledged that the Police must do their job though advised that she would not personally judge someone who stole bread if they could not afford to feed themselves.

“Stealing bread is theft, however, as a human being, I personally feel compassion toward those who find themselves in such desperate situations.”

West Yorkshire Police have advised that it is broadly acknowledged that poverty and deprivation can be a factor affecting crime rates and it is important that all agencies work together to provide help and support to members of our communities who are in need.

West Yorkshire Police is committed to investigating reports of theft and taking appropriate action where suspects are identified. The Force also offers advice to businesses to help them prevent crime and our Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) work with retailers across the county to tackle issues when they arise.

3. Councillor Susan Knox

Anti-Social Behaviour has been a huge issue for residents in the BD2 and BD10 areas of the district in recent years. The recent acknowledgement by the West Yorkshire that there was a net reduction of 50 PCSO's over the past years is troubling in this context.

Will the portfolio holder join me in calling for the West Yorkshire Mayor and her deputy to ensure that the recruitment of PCSO's in West Yorkshire is increased to offset the numbers retiring and leaving the force? So that residents can be assured that local neighbourhood policing teams are not being left short-handed in the fight against crime.

Response

In BD2 and BD10 a joint Anti-Social Behaviour Task and Finish group is chaired by the Council bringing together Police, Youth Services, Breaking the Cycle, schools, Incommunities, the Fire Service and a range of other partners. This group has identified the core group of perpetrators and put in a range of enforcement and other measures across agencies to tackle the local problems.

Tackling anti-social behaviour is very much a partnership approach, but, in terms of money for policing, I would direct Councillor Knox to Item 5 at the 3 February West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel. This sets out the challenging medium term budgetary situation which is impacting on decisions of this nature for all 43 Forces nationally because of Government cuts, and provides detailed explanation as to the current recruitment picture: West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel - Friday 3 February (westyorkshire-pcp.gov.uk)

The Mayor is working with WYP to launch an enhanced Safer Travel team across West Yorkshire's bus network, which will see a significant uplift in PCSOs (from 6 to 15) across the network paid for by the Bus Service Improvement Plan. In addition, as part of the uplift pledge of 750 new frontline officers and staff, as at end of Nov 22, Bradford had 32 new frontline officers to keep communities safe.

4. Councillor Matt Edwards

Will the portfolio holder confirm when street lights in Holmewood will be replaced with the new smart street lights and when will other out of scope street lights be replaced? Is there an estimated time I can tell residents on Ashfield off Tong Street (Ref: 0001A) that they will need to wait before their street light is finally replaced - especially as the light was removed over a year ago?

Response

The column in question, 001A Ashfield in the driveway of No.15, was replaced in July 2022, it was fitted with a temporary lantern which may merely be a lamp failure. I have arranged for the repair of this to be expedited. In terms of the out of scope works, this is due to go out to tender for a contractor to undertake the column replacement works starting in summer, the lantern replacement will be done by the in house teams in parallel with this.

5. Councillor Luke Majkowski

Can the portfolio holder clarify whether the council have given any consideration to all vehicles automatically routed to avoid the Clean Air Zone by Sat Nav equipment or due to lack of driver understanding even though the vehicles may comply with the zone restrictions? This is for vehicles registered within Bradford and those travelling to the district, acknowledging the council has already publicised the Clean Air Zone on a wider scale.

Response

The Council is not aware of any significant issues of private cars avoiding the CAZ. The Council has carried out extensive publicity for CAZ to within a one hour drive of the district with strong messaging that private cars are not affected by the CAZ. This greatly reduces the likelihood that people would change their journeys when travelling in private cars.

Separately it's also worth noting that, likewise, there has been no such major shift seen for commercial vehicles either. The council has been undertaking traffic surveys to understand how the CAZ has impacted on traffic flows across the district and the monitoring that took place prior to the CAZ launch and on two occasions after the launch (October and November 2022) indicates that there is no significant increase in the percentage of commercial traffic across all of the displacement monitoring sites.

6. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could the portfolio holder give me an up to date list of activities/services which will take place for people with Learning disabilities over the Easter period, this is additional to Bradford Council Youth Services.

Response

The DfE Funded Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) delivers holiday clubs for benefits related Free School Meal children and SEND. Clubs take place at Easter, Summer and Christmas. The following clubs support children with SEND and other disabilities. The booking platform for parents/carers will be live later this month and will include full location details; dates and times of opening and activities taking place.

Organisation Contact	Ward Area Location Where Beneficiaries Will Come From
All Star Ent	Windhill & Wrose
Bradford PHAB	East Bierley/West Bowling
Friends of Phoenix Special School	Keighley & District Wide
High Park School SEN	District Wide
Moor Time	District Wide
Sedbergh & Endorphins	District Wide
SNOOP	District Wide

7. Councillor Julie Lintern

Airedale Hospital has been making an undeniable case for a rebuild for many years now and I know the Leader has made various representations on the issue. Given the years that have passed when government should have given it the go ahead, does the leader share my concern that patients and hardworking staff should not have been made to put up with this situation which is such a clear example of how this government has so badly underfunded Keighley, the wider Bradford district and the North as a whole?

Response

I do share your concern. The government's mistreatment of Airedale Hospital over so many years is a classic example of how the government has prioritised its austerity project over making sensible and necessary investments for the people of Keighley and the wider district. It was a false economy. The dedicated staff as well as the patients at Airedale should not have had to put up with it for so long and they deserve better.

Structural engineers have advised that Airedale General Hospital should be replaced by no later than 2030 due to a multitude of structural deficiencies present in both the structural frame and the aerated concrete (RAAC) fabric of its building. As the build time takes seven years, a decision from Government is now badly needed.

Airedale is the oldest RAAC hospital and the only hospital in the country to have this unique combination of structural problems. There is no known precedent for the issues affecting the building's main structural concrete frame, leaving structural engineers with additional complexities to overcome when designing structural solutions. The structural issues affect 83% of the hospital site with 50 wards and departments requiring their roofs or ceilings to be structurally supported on a rolling, multi-year programme.

Several incidents have occurred over the last 12 months which have indicated that the building is experiencing "wear-out failures" from age and deterioration as it heads towards the end of its serviceable life.

An Expression of Interest was submitted to the Government's New Hospital Programme (NHP) in July 2021.

The Trust has been working with the NHP and four other RAAC-affected hospitals nationally to scope their risks and new hospital proposals as part of an "optioneering" exercise for the NHP. Whilst this does not indicate that the RAAC hospitals have a place on the Programme, the Trust remains hopeful that it will be included. The New Hospital Programme is currently the only route identified for funding to support a new hospital scheme but as yet, no date has been given for announcement of additional schemes that will form part of the programme. A traditional construction programme of this size and complexity would typically take around 7-10 years to complete so work needs to begin quickly to align with the advice of structural engineers.

The existing hospital will continue to require structural work for its remaining life until a new hospital can open in its place. Some capital funding is provided through the NHS England National RAAC Programme: whilst the Trust has been given an allocation of this, it has recently submitted a request for additional funds to address the significant additional complexities of its structural problems – which exceed those of other RAAC hospitals – and to mitigate rising costs in the construction industry along with inflation.

In the meantime, the Trust continues to do everything reasonably practicable to reduce the risks relating to structural failure. Three wards have been decanted and are currently being structurally supported, and a programme of work is underway to tackle pockets of significant damage or deterioration in wards and departments across the hospital. A comprehensive inspection and monitoring programme is carried out daily on a rolling basis to provide a method for early detection of any changes in the building's structural integrity, and adverse protocols are in place to manage the onset of severe rain, heavy snow or heatwaves that may affect the building.

8. Councillor Debbie Davies

At a recent Corporate Scrutiny meeting the Leader of the Council used Baildon as an example of where Council investment is taking place, but does she acknowledge that the cost of our new library is being predominantly funded by the sale of land in the centre of Baildon and will lead to the loss of a Community Hall and a considerable number of car parking spaces?

Response

Baildon Councillors have been consulted and involved in the scheme for some time now. The former community building in Baildon was life expired and an opportunity has arisen to redevelop the site, to provide much needed residential accommodation in the town centre, whilst retaining approximately 50 car parking spaces for use by the public. The Council has acquired the former Baildon social club, and is going to refurbish it to provide a modern public library, multi-function community space and office for Baildon Town Council. New capital build schemes always need council funding, land and/or sale of assets to fund them, this scheme is no different.

9. Councillor Simon Cunningham

Following Labour's motion to crack down on danger drivers in Bradford, does the Portfolio Holder welcome news West Yorkshire Police will take a more flexible approach to speed camera installation in Bradford, and can he outline how communities across the district can benefit from this policy shift?

Response

The focus of the new deployment strategy for fixed and mobile cameras in West Yorkshire is around people and combating anti-social driver behaviour. The biggest change is the inclusion of smaller mobile vans that can enforce outside the signed camera locations, i.e. on any road in the West Yorkshire district

(where the deployment criteria applies). Communities can make representation to the Council or West Yorkshire Police and report anti-social driving behaviour such as speeding. Surveys will then be undertaken to see if those routes reported meet the new relaxed deployment criteria and if they do, they will be placed on a select list for recurring mobile enforcement. The new strategy is designed to improve safety and liveability in our communities.

10. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could I have an update on New Choices and how this is working since the transition. Also could we have a list of where these services are taking place and what are we paying e.g. rent for premises if any?

Response

The stabilisation, baselining and transformation of services held temporarily by New Choices is progressing well and in line with the update to HSCOSC in December 2022. To date:

- Baselining service provision to confirm the level of need of people supported by project
- Social work reviews
- A new payment and invoicing approach based on the Day Activity Provider List (DAPL) is in place that enables movement away from 'Block' payments in 2023/24.
- The contribution from the ICB towards the service this year has increased by 65% on last financial year at circa £783K.
- There is also a small additional financial benefit to the Council linked to the Traded Service Agreement (TSA) between New Choices and the Council.

Key	Service Name	Post Code	Ward Name
1	New Choices - ACE	BD21 2JZ	Keighley Central
2	New Choices - Age UK	BD18 1HX	Windhill and Wrose
3	New Choices - Cornerstones	BD16 1AH	Bingley
4	New Choices - Culture Fusion	BD1 2EP	City
5	New Choices - Connected Community Support	BD1 2EP	City
6	New Choices - E4	BD10 8EW	Eccleshill
7	New Choices - FAB 1	BD7 2TA	Great Horton
8	New Choices - FAB 2	BD18 2LZ	Windhill and Wrose
9	New Choices - Grange Interlink	BD7 1PX	City
10	New Choices - Lifeworks	BD18 3EU	Shipley
11	New Choices - New Shoots	BD21 1JS	Keighley Central
12	New Choices - North Parade	BD1 3HZ	City
13	New Choices - North Park House	BD7 2TA	Great Horton
14	New Choices - Outcome Adventure @ Park Lane	BD5 0LN	Little Horton

15	New Choices - Piccadilly	BD1 3NU	City
16	New Choices - Radio 119	BD1 3SH	City
17	New Choices - Shipley Resource Centre	BD18 2LZ	Windhill and Wrose
18	New Choices - Springfield	BD4 0DA	Tong
19	New Choices - Strawberry Street	BD21 3BA	Keighley Central
20	New Choices - Supported Employment & Volunteering	Not mapped	service provided at location as directed by each client
21	New Choices - The Gatehouse	BD21 3BG	Keighley Central
22	New Choices - The Learning Zone	BD7 1JP	City
23	New Choices - The Mews	BD16 1AQ	Bingley Rural
24	New Choices - The Oaks	BD21 1QB	Keighley Central
25	New Choices - The Ranch	BD21 5QX	Keighley East
26	New Choices - The Science Park	BD7 1HR	City
27	New Choices - Unique Voices	BD17 5NH	Baildon
28	New Choices - Women's Day Service	BD5 7AS	Little Horton

Buildings are a combination of council owned buildings and commercial arrangements and the rental varies based on size and type of arrangement.

The plan for 2023/24, which is year 2 of the programme, is to transform the provision by a combination of new commissioning and rationalisation of services, in line with the planned move to more locality based choices of the range of services and outcomes wanted by people supported and families.

Coproduction will continue to be an essential tool in progressing the proposals being put forward in this report. Coproduction undertaken as part of the Re-imagining Days programme underpins the Council's aim to modernise the day opportunities offer for individuals with learning disabilities with the New Choices transformation a key element of this.

11. Councillor Geoff Winnard

Would the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places please provide members with details of the options that the Council are now actively considering and when a final decision is likely to be made regarding "Plan B" for the regeneration of the central Bingley area, consisting of the site of Bingley Town Hall, the Market Square and what is the likelihood of the retention of public swimming facilities in Bingley?

Response

We are tremendously disappointed that Government failed to fund our Bingley scheme. Meetings have been scheduled with ward members and Friends of Bingley Pool to discuss and take views on options to secure the future development of the Town Hall and Pool sites within Bingley. There has previously been interest from a developer in the site, that proposed options that included bringing the pool back into use. It is proposed subject to the discussion with the stakeholder mentioned above that we undertake further market testing of both the Town Hall and Pool site to gauge interest from potential developers.

12. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To the portfolio holder for Safer and Stronger Communities - Given the long history of complaints from residents about speeding, and the two recent collisions with parked vehicles on the same day, would the portfolio holder agree that Orchard Grove in Idle and Thackley ward is an 'area of community concern' within the meaning of the new rules from the West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership?

Response

The East Area Traffic Team have already undertaken the necessary surveys to identify if Orchard Grove meets the new criteria for mobile camera enforcement. The outcome was that mean speeds were 26 and 27 mph and 85% of recordings were 31 and 32 mph.

This site has been on the Bradford East Area Committee waiting list for traffic measures for a number of years but has not yet been approved by councillors because of the relatively good safety record when compared with other areas - 1 (slight) recorded collision in the last 5 years.

13. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Will the Leader of Council please clarify (a) whether or not any trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders on the property of 11 Staveley Road have been cut down or had works carried out on them without the necessary consent; (b) if and when the Council first received reports about works on the trees at this property in 2022; and what action has been taken to date?

Response

The local planning authority is aware of allegations regarding unauthorised tree works at this property and officers are investigating these allegations. Local councillors have had correspondence with council officers about this and are aware of the work council officers are doing on this matter. Councillor Warnes will continue to be updated.

14. Councillor Ruth Wood

I am pleased that as a Labour Group we have committed to funding a Clean Schools Programme with CAZ monies to further improve the environment for children around their schools. Can the portfolio holder give detail of how she sees the programme as it takes shape in the coming months?

Response

The Council is currently finalising details of the Clean Schools Programme in consultation with key stakeholders and will be publishing scheme information in June. The Programme is expected to see five additional wardens dedicated to schools, to support School Streets, inform motorists on how they can improve air quality around schools and working with schools to support sustainable travel measures.

The three-year programme will see funding of £500,000 provided via grants to schools to help them reduce emissions and provide green infrastructure to help reduce exposure to air pollution.

15. Councillor Andy Walsh

What is the council doing to get the word out about the new government requirements around voter ID and in particular to ensure young people will not be disenfranchised? I understand young people's travel cards will not be accepted as ID to vote?

Response

This is the Returning Officer's response to the Question to Council.

Requirements for Voter ID at polling stations will come into force at the 4th May 2023 at the Local and Parish Council elections.

Acceptable forms of ID include:

- Passport
- Driving Licence (including provisional driving licences)
- Proof of Age identity card (identity card with PASS mark)
- Biometric Immigration Document
- Defence Identity card
- Certain concessionary travel cards (e.g. older person's bus pass; disabled person's bus pass)

Young people's travel cards are not prescribed in regulations and therefore, cannot be used at polling stations.

The Electoral Commission commenced its national campaign around voter ID requirements on the 9th January, including the use of local buses to advertise.

The Returning Officer also commenced a campaign to highlight the new requirement to residents in the district, including young people and how to apply for free voter ID if needed and this will continue over the coming weeks leading up to polling day. The activity arranged, which incorporates the focus on young people includes:

- Media releases
- Social Media posts
- Voter ID audio advertising arranged, specifically targeting young people (and separately the elderly) via DAX (Digital Audio Exchange)
- Paid for advertising on social media targeting young people in the district
- Radio advertising on the Pulse and Greatest Hits radio stations

- University, colleges and youth teams briefed and agreed to produce youth friendly information to be used on own social channels e.g. Tic Toc, Snapchat etc.
- Bradford Talking Media sharing messages with visually impaired, hard of hearing/deaf community adults and Easy Read information; messages with community networks
- JCD outdoor poster sites
- Digital message boards throughout city centre
- Centenary Square Big Screen to contain voter ID information
- Voter ID information emailed to 166,000 residents via the 'Stay Connected' e-newsletter
- Inclusion emailed to 25k subscribers in Stay Connected Weekly News and Elections bulletins
- Council Tax bills to include information about voter ID and signposting on how to apply for voter ID
- Council website updated to include voter ID information, links and signposting on how to apply for voter ID, online and in person
- Voter ID hubs set up in 9 locations around the district to assist residents who don't have the prescribed ID and who need support with applying for a free voter ID certificate
- Information provided on Bradnet, Managers Express, All Staff Briefing for staff to spread the word
- Voter ID booklets at Council contact points
- Information provided at citizenship ceremonies
- Posters sent and distributed by NSS wardens and ward officers to community centres, libraries, advice centres, faith orgs etc.
- Posters sent to all polling stations
- Poll cards will contain voter ID information including a full list of the accepted forms of ID – to be sent on 23 March 2023.

Voter ID information can be found at <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/voter-id/>

16. Councillor Mike Pollard

In the light of the Labour Council forcing through a Budget in February 2022, which they knew, or should have known, to contain an inaccuracy, in just one element of one Departmental budget, of over £8 million, prior to forcing through a Budget in February 2023 which they knew or should have known to contain an inaccuracy of over £6 million, would the Leader of Council confirm that she fully

understands why many residents suspect that the Labour Council are deliberately approving false figures two months before Council elections, knowing that residents will not see accurate figures until another dramatic 'Quarter 1 Finance Position Statement' duly appears soon after the elections?

Response

I completely reject the basis of the question. I can only assume you are trying to distract from the unprecedented cuts forced on the district by your government which have left us and most other councils in England in an extremely challenging position financially.

Pay in local government is determined by agreements reached between the National Employers; 11 senior elected members nationally from across all political groups, and the Trade Unions. It is simply not accurate or fair to say that Bradford Council have made unrealistic budget assumptions. Bradford Council is not an outlier, we were amongst the majority of local authorities in Yorkshire & Humber, and nationally, that had taken the difficult decision based on affordability and budgeted 4% for the pay award, some local authorities have budgeted less. We all know our staff deserve much much more, they have been outstanding in their work ethic and resilience over the pandemic and since. We are thankful to them. Bradford Council received notification of the offer that the National Employers had made to the trade unions after Full Council had met and set the budget on 23 February 2023.

The National Employers took a number of factors into consideration before making the pay offer: how to meet the challenge of the National Living Wage; tackling recruitment and retention issues; as well as presenting an offer that would hopefully avoid ballots for industrial action – a live issue given the breadth of industrial unrest across the public sector and elsewhere at the moment.

As you know, your Conservative colleagues in government have forced cuts on us totalling some £2.5 billion since 2010. I realise this therefore puts you in a difficult position, given that it's your own party taking away funding from the residents you serve. However I would ask you to join us in lobbying your Conservative government colleagues for a fairer funding deal for the Bradford district, one that matches local needs and resources, and to bring an end once and for all to the vicious cycle of austerity cuts which we can all clearly see have been a false economy for the country given the situation public services and the economy find themselves in. The Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association has said the government must urgently address the national funding crisis.

17. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

Covid had a huge impact on the current cohort of young people going through school. Do we have any indications yet on the extent of that impact in terms of their mental health and what should the NHS be doing about this?

Response

Locally, following the pandemic, there has been and continues to be increased demand across the majority of NHS mental health and emotional wellbeing services for children and young people. Data and insight also suggest an increase in the needs and complexity of children and young people presenting to and being supported by NHS funded services across the statutory and voluntary sector. In particular, there has been significant increases in referrals and caseloads within Specialist NHS CAMHS services: these services are for children and young people with severe and long standing concerns relating to emotional wellbeing and behaviours.

This is a picture which is reflected nationally.

There are a number of programmes of work ongoing within the district across the council and NHS to respond to the increase in needs of local children and young people. These include work to support schools; improvements to the duty team and triage processes for managing referrals into Specialist CAMHS; initiatives to reduce waiting times for mental health services and to provide support for children, young people and families while waiting; increasing the capacity of Mental Health Support Teams to cover more local schools in line with NHSE funding allocations; and the provision of the Education Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner Team for those schools currently without a Mental Health Support Team. Public Health are also currently scoping a dedicated mental health needs assessment which will enable us to develop an up to date and comprehensive picture of mental health needs for local children and young people following the pandemic. Using this analysis, we will consider as a whole system how we can respond in the most appropriate and timely way to children and young people experiencing mental health concerns across the continuum of need, from prevention and early intervention through to more specialist support.

18. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Can the portfolio holder share with me the new housing options system in regards to allocations, how will this be effective and ensure people are allocated suitable housing?

Response

The revised housing allocations system, Bradford Homes, went live on 12 December 2022. It is a Choice Based Lettings System in line with the majority of Local Authorities in the Country. A CBL system enables Registered Provider Partners to reduce waste in the system/process and social homes will be let more quickly. Applicants on the Housing Register are able to decide whether or not the advertised property is suitable before bidding and this will reduce the number of refusals.

Preliminary allocation outcomes are very promising as 69% of 100 social housing allocations have been allocated to priority band 1 applicants since the start of the project. This compares to only 24% of properties during the same period in 2021/22 under the previous allocations system.

19. Councillor Andrew Loy

Following the news that the West Yorkshire Combined Authority will not be proceeding with funding the Ben Rhydding station park and ride at this time, could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport please confirm whether alternative sources of funding have been considered?

Response

The proposed park and ride near Ben Rhydding station is still a priority for the council. It would deliver additional parking capacity for the Wharfedale rail line to enable greater use of public transport along that corridor. The Council will be looking at the options in light of the current decision and will continue to engage with WYCA in light of any possible future funding opportunities which may be relevant to this type of scheme.

20. Councillor Nazam Azam

Statistics can be misused. I understand inaccurate crime statistics have been reported recently in otherwise positive stories about Bradford district in the media – can the portfolio holder for safer communities clarify how the figures came to be so far out?

Response

This was indeed a very unfortunate piece of mis-reporting in a national newspaper article that was, in all other respects, a positive feature about the district. We have seen the same error made in otherwise positive pieces about Bradford's upward trajectory in other newspapers. Police have analysed the data that the media produced advising us that the crime data the newspapers reported was "fundamentally flawed" because it used incorrect population figures for the location being assessed, leading to a greatly over-inflated figure for the number of crimes per thousand of population. The vastly incorrect crime rates they quoted – essentially by mistakenly combining district-wide crime figures with the much smaller population of the city – were 80% higher than they should have been for Bradford.

The PR agency involved in issuing the data on 15th February have acknowledged their error and apologised. They have now sent a data correction with an amendment note round to all media who received and/or featured the original inaccurate report. They have received confirmation from a number of publications that the stories have been or will be corrected.

21. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Can the portfolio holder give an update on recent activities in our ambition to be a child friendly district?

Response

Bradford Council successfully completed our Foundational Year with UNICEF UK in December 2022 and received positive comments from them regarding our

progress to date. The programme is now to be known locally as Child Friendly Bradford District and a logo is being developed based on the winning entry of a children's competition we held.

A launch event was held on 23 November 2022 at Valley Parade, attended by 120 guests. The event was planned and hosted by a group of young people.

Through working with Child Friendly Bradford District and wider partners, our new Children and Young People's Strategy has been created with a great amount of engagement from local children and young people, with over 4,500 voices being represented from within the Youth Service alone.

A community of practice is being established to bring together colleagues across our partnerships whose roles involve giving children and young people a voice and influence. A Child Friendly Bradford District launch film was also developed working with the Healthy Minds apprentices.

A network of school councils from across the District is being established.

Under the umbrella of "Child Friendly", youth voice summit events will be held following the launch of our new Children and Young People's Strategy. These events will bring together local children and young people with decision makers.

As part of recruitment processes, we have also held a number of young people's interview panels within Children's Services when we recruit to new roles.

Our child-friendly values around giving children and young people more voice and influence are written into our Council Plan, the new Children and Young People's Strategy and within the terms of reference for our Children & Young People's Executive Board and the Health & Care Partnerships Children & Young People's Executive Board.

22. Councillor Peter Clarke

Further to comments made at the Budget Council, describing One City Park as "much needed" and the council having stated since day one that it was "in talks with potential tenants", does the Leader of Council have anything that she can share, which might persuade doubters who think that were there genuine demand, private developers would have met it long ago?

Response

The One City Park office development is progressing well and construction is on programme to complete at the end of August 2023 providing 56,400 sq ft of Grade A office accommodation. The Council is in detailed negotiations with an occupier for at least half of the space, and has interest from other occupiers in the remaining space, we aim to have terms agreed shortly with an occupier and to have an agreement for lease and lease completed by June 2023, when a pre-let announcement will be made. Following this there will be a fitting out period before the building is open and operational.

23. Councillor Simon Cunningham

Following the success of our Grass Verge Guardians project to preserve green space in Swain House and other parts of Bolton and Undercliffe, would the Portfolio Holder be willing to look at how we can develop the initiative to ensure that verges and pavements are protected from vehicles?

Response

Highways welcomes any non-invasive public initiatives to protect verges such as localised signing and will work with community groups where possible to enable methods such as low level decorative planting, however the placing of items such as fencing or rocks in verges is not permissible.

I will ask Highways officers to work with Councillor Cunningham's "Grass Verge Guardians" project in the future.

24. Councillor Angela Tait

Whilst UK citizens who live abroad and have done so for many years will continue to have the right to vote in this country, I understand that many EU citizens who make their permanent home in the UK, and moved here after December 2022 will not have the right to vote. Could the Leader explain the changes and what the council can do to advise residents who find themselves in this position?

Response

This is an Electoral Registration Officer response to the Question to Council.

Under the provisions of the Elections Act 2022 the automatic right of European citizens to register to vote, to vote, and to stand in UK elections will be removed.

There are two groups of EU citizens who will retain these rights:

- 'Qualifying EU citizens': these are EU Citizens from countries which have a reciprocal agreement with the UK and who hold any form of leave to remain or do not require such leave. Currently this means Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Spain. A reciprocal agreement means that the same rules apply in both the UK and that country. For example, a Spanish citizen in the UK could vote and stand for election in the UK and a UK citizen could vote and stand for election in Spain. It is feasible that, in future, other countries will be added to this list.
- 'EU citizens with retained rights': These are citizens who were living in the UK before 1 January 2021 (in others words, before the UK left the EU). Such persons are also required to have maintained lawful immigration status.

EU citizens' Voting and Candidacy Rights (EUVCR) statutory instruments are likely to be made in Autumn 2023 and our current understanding is that the change to voting and candidacy rights for EU citizens will take effect after the polls held in May 2024.

EU citizens elected to office before the measures in the Act come into force can remain in office for their full term, irrespective of immigration status, and irrespective of whether they qualify under the new eligibility criteria.

These changes will not affect the rights of Irish citizens: their rights long predate EU membership. Similarly, the rights of citizens of Malta and Cyprus will not be affected since these are both Commonwealth countries, as well as being EU member states.

For EU citizens elected after these measures come into force, the Act provides that the individual must have leave to enter or remain, or not require such leave. Should they lose this status they will no longer qualify to stand as a candidate or serve?

All EU citizens on the electoral register will therefore, need to have their eligibility to be registered reviewed, at a point after the legislation comes into force. Those determined to have become ineligible under the new provisions will be required to be removed from the relevant electoral register. Secondary legislation and full guidance on the changes, process to follow and measures to be taken by the Electoral Registration Officer to inform EU electors will be provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Electoral Commission in due course.

25. Councillor Allison Coates

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport confirm whether it is Bradford Council's intention to work towards a 15-Minute City type planning model?

Response

The aspiration of cities everywhere to make their residents' lives easier and healthier by having great amenities close to where they live is nothing new. Everyone wants to be able to enjoy a better quality of life by having great work and leisure facilities on their doorstep, so they don't have to get into a car and drive every time they need to buy a pint of milk, visit the doctors or go for a coffee. Saltaire is a great example of a place with a strong sense of community and with schools, parks, a train station, shops, cafes, restaurants, sports and culture all within easy walking or cycling distance of good quality homes. Of course, it goes without saying that the people of Saltaire also enjoy travelling to enjoy the range of facilities in the wider district, across the UK and beyond and have easy access to the rail, bus and road network as well.

The ambition to support sustainable development has always been at the heart of the planning system nationally. In this respect all planning documents have sought to ensure communities have access to local facilities, with the aim of supporting balanced neighbourhoods and reducing the cost and frustration of having to travel longer distances to access everyday facilities.

26. Councillor Susan Knox

Can the Portfolio Holder, reassure residents in Eccleshill and the surround areas that the Council is committed to maintaining opening hours and swimming sessions at Eccleshill Pool from April onwards even if the Government reduces or removes support for energy bills at our swimming pools?

Response

The Government's Energy Bill Reduction Scheme finishes at the end of March. As a result, the Council will face rising energy costs for swimming pools.

Although many large energy users are eligible for support from the new replacement scheme, local authority pools will not be eligible. There are however no plans to reduce services from April at Eccleshill Pool, or indeed at any other Council Pool.

27. Councillor Caroline Whitaker

Will the portfolio holder clarify when the issues with the former grounds contractor at Silsden Primary School will be resolved and, following from this, how long it is likely to be before Highways are able to implement the essential internal road changes that the school have requested in the interests of pedestrian/child safety and which neighbouring residents and indeed the whole town would be grateful to see as it would go a long way to alleviate the twice daily gridlock of the A6024?

Response

The Council has been reviewing a number of issues related to the external works with the contractor who built the new Silsden Primary School. However the Council's Highways Team are now preparing for the installation of the line markings on the school site to help with the flow of traffic and these works are targeted to be completed by the end of May.

28. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

The perfect storm of government austerity, pandemic and cost of living crisis continues to have an impact on the most vulnerable. Can I have an update on current numbers rough sleeping in our district and what actions we are taking with partners to support them into permanent homes?

Response

The Council has responded to the issues of rough sleeping by establishing the Homeless Outreach Partnership (HOP), providing a street based response to address the issues of people sleeping rough or those at risk. During 2022, they dealt with 370 clients, preventing or ending rough sleeping by intercepting and engaging with clients in order to direct them into services away from the streets. The Council provides monthly returns to the Government on the number of rough sleepers in Bradford, the figure for January 2023 was 12, the average figure over the past 12 months is 16. The HOP is funded by money from Rough Sleeping Initiative. We have successfully bid for a further three years' funding from DLUHC, Rough Sleeping Initiative, amounting to £1.5m. This will enable the HOP

to continue providing a crucial first stage in getting people into a pathway of services and ultimately away from the streets.

In addition, we have secured funding from the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme bid to provide an additional nine properties in the Bradford District for rough sleepers with complex needs. This was done in partnership with Horton Housing and Homes England, the scheme runs for 30 years, brings old properties back into use and support for residents who have experienced long term rough sleeping. The programme brings over £1m of investment into Bradford providing 36 properties for the most complex of rough sleepers.

The new rough sleeper provision, an addition to existing No Second Night out contract, was fully staffed and running at capacity in early 2022, this has proved invaluable in reducing rough sleeping. Together with existing provision the service has provided emergency accommodation for over 250 people during 2022 and successfully moved over 200 people into settled accommodation. In addition, they have provided in excess of 350 bed nights of emergency accommodation to people when cold weather provision has been activated.

We have also secured additional funding via Public Health for two additional Prevention Workers to be based in the HOP for a period of two years, this will double the existing capacity of Prevention Workers and enable the team to intervene early when somebody is at risk of rough sleeping.

We are currently working on the Single Homeless Accommodation Programme (SHAP), which, if successful will provide an additional 20 properties for rough sleepers by 2025.

On homelessness more widely, the recent mid-year performance report to Executive shows that our work on prevention of homelessness is above regional and national levels. Our rate of successful homelessness preventions has risen to 81%, which means we are significantly outperforming the regional (68.62%) and national (59.86%) performance on this measure.

29. Councillor Julie Lintern

What progress have we made in our efforts to get the Skipton-Colne train line reopened which is yet another example of having to fight for basic services that would benefit our district and wider region?

Response

The Leader and the Combined Authority on behalf of Bradford Council has made regular representations to the Department for Transport on the topic of Skipton-Colne railway reopening, to reiterate the local support for the reopening scheme for its contribution to decarbonisation and levelling up. The Mayor and I (Cllr Hinchcliffe) wrote to Mark Harper, Secretary of State for Transport, in February 2023 to request that his department enables the scheme to progress through the development stages. Representatives from WYCA attended meetings with SELRAP, local MPs, Network Rail and the Department to this effect in the same month. We have offered to work closely with the Department to support the

business case for this scheme, however as we understand it the scheme is yet to progress to the development stage, and does not have any confirmation of funding, with government's continuing preference for reducing costs over investing in Northern transport.

30. Councillor Paul Sullivan

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport please provide members with an update as to whether evidence collected via the pilot of noise cameras is being used to create a strategy to introduce further Public Space Protection Orders and roll out more of the cameras in the parts of the wider Bradford District where people's lives are blighted by loud noise pollution from illegally modified vehicles?

Response

The DfT have not to date released the results of the four camera trials for the UK of which Bradford was one of the chosen sites. The trial was carried out to determine future suitability of enforcement of this type in the UK and to trial the equipment ready for Home Office Approval. If the DfT decide to proceed with this type of enforcement, officers will advise accordingly.

31. Councillor Tariq Hussain

Can the portfolio holder give an update on providing more specialist education places for children with additional or complex needs?

Response

Our Intelligence & Sufficiency Service constantly reviews the sufficiency of specialist places across the district for all children and young people with SEND. There are continual discussions ongoing with numerous schools and academies regarding the development of further specialist places, to ensure that we can meet the needs of all of our children and young people. Once these in-depth discussions reach the necessary point, the plans will be consulted upon and all interested parties will be invited to respond to the proposals.

The following schemes have been approved to deliver additional specialist places across the district and the Intelligence and Sufficiency Service are currently working on their development:

- Appleton Academy - New Provision – Resourced Provision - Primary - 12 places - Communication and Interaction including ASD.
- Bingley Grammar School - New Provision – Resourced Provision - Secondary - 24 places - Communication and Interaction including ASD.
- Co-op Academy Grange - Expansion of Resourced Provision - Secondary - 12 places - Communication and Interaction including ASD.
- Co-op Academy Southfield - Expansion of school - Secondary - 40 places - ASD, SLD and PMLD.

- Ilkley Grammar School - Expansion of Resourced Provision - Secondary - 12 places - Communication and Interaction including ASD.
- Parkside - Expansion of Resourced Provision - Secondary - 12 places - Communication and Interaction including ASD.

Further details can be viewed in our Strategic Plan – Sufficiency of Specialist Places for Children and Young People in Bradford.

<https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/service/1554-strategic-plan-2022--sufficiency-of-specialist-places-for-children-and-young-people-in-bradford>

In addition to the above work to expand existing provision, Bradford applied for a SEND free school in October 2022 in response to the most recent wave of SEND/AP Free schools. However we were bitterly disappointed to be informed last week that our application did not receive the ministerial support we had hoped for, despite the high calibre of the application, and it was not approved by government to go forward. In response we will continue to be creative within the budget constraints and develop/expand provision where we can across the district by working collaboratively with our schools and MATS, to ensure we can continue to meet the complex needs of children and young people with SEND.

32. Councillor Tariq Hussain

Does the Leader share my concern that the national scandal of energy companies gaining entry to people’s homes to fit pre-payment meters by force could happen again in the future, given that at the time of writing Ofgem’s order to stop the practice is only a temporary pause rather than a ban?

Response

Absolutely I do, it’s an extremely concerning state of affairs because, as you say, it is a national scandal that some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged households have been forced to take pre-payment meters. The practice should surely be outlawed not paused. The energy regulator also needs to accelerate and deliver on plans for other measures to support vulnerable and hard-pressed households, such as a social tariff for low-income households, and the pre-payment tariffs should not be any higher than standard tariffs in the first place. Locally we must continue doing all we can to support residents, through our work with partners on cost of living support and our support for the Bradford District Credit Union, but clearly this is also a national crisis demanding a radical response because the situation is not acceptable.

33. Councillor Bob Felstead

In light of the fact that in recent years, we’ve seen companies such Channel 4 and Sky Bet inward invest in Leeds, whilst Bradford District has seen no such flagship investments, could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport please detail Bradford District’s ‘USP’?

Response

It is widely regarded that Bradford provides the youngest, most diverse talent pool outside of London and one of the best opportunities to provide the skilled workers that modern-day employers require. Burberry, Channel 4, Bank of England, and a large concentration of Northern employers are constantly undertaking extensive outreach and education activities in Bradford and recently PWC made the move to open its new Bradford office, which is thriving. The NEC Group is also invested in Bradford through the Bradford Live project, which is on site now. Naturally, Bradford wants to harness the maximum benefits that its labour force provides. Our regeneration plans are already increasing the potential for substantial business and economic clusters to be established, generating greater economic cooperation and productivity. Success for cities is linked to national connectivity but also a plentiful supply of grade A office and modern employment sites. One City Park is our first joint venture in this sector. This agglomeration, expertise and partnerships will be critical to supporting the acceleration of our overall regeneration plans.

34. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

I understand three applications have been submitted by educational institutions for new free schools in our district. Does the portfolio holder know when the government will decide on these applications?

Response

The date for the release of decisions on the Wave 15 applications has not yet been published by the DfE.

35. Councillor Hassan Khan

Can the portfolio holder give an update on progress in our rollout of Smart Street Lights and how much energy and cost savings it will achieve?

Response

Summary of progress as at February 2023 based on the contractors most recent approved payment application:

- 4179 Column Replacements;
- 20,024 Lantern Changes;
- 484 Lantern Change with New Sheet Steel Bracket on Concrete Columns;
- 1 Column Decommissioned and removed;
- 1 Cast Iron Column Refurbished;
- Spend to date on Works £8,535,838.62;

Estimated Load Reduced by 1738.91kW per annum.

Estimated Consumption Reduced by 7,999,385 kWh per annum.

Estimated Cost of Energy Reduced by £1,919,853 per annum.

Estimated CO2 Emissions Reduced by 1547 tonnes per annum.

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 14 MARCH 2023

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

Amendments submitted by political groups

Committee Secretariat
Contact: Guy Close (07811) 503906

12.1 – Support for Care Experienced People

To be moved by: Councillor Sue Duffy

To be seconded by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

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

This Council notes:

The Independent Review of Children’s Social Care headed by Josh MacAlister published in May 2022 had a final report and recommendations that included:

“Government should make care experience a protected characteristic” and “New legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations.”

In Bradford we have a Care Leaver Local Offer co-produced with care leavers and we offer support for care leavers such as:

- Exemption from council tax to the age of 25, which includes our young people moving to other local authority areas
- Priority for social housing to the age of 21
- Support towards the costs of setting up a home
- Support towards the costs of travel to work or training
- Free access to leisure facilities to the age of 25 as part of our local offer
- Joint housing protocol
- Ringfenced apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers within the council
- Mentoring opportunities for care leavers with the council’s senior leadership team
- A children in care and care leavers council.

Ofsted carried out a full ILACS inspection in Bradford between 21st November and 2nd December 2022. The report was published on the Ofsted website on 31st January 2023 and the outcome of the ILACS was the judgement of Inadequate in all areas and overall.

The Council has welcomed the new Bradford Children’s and Families Trust, which is on track to start on 1st April, as part of the plan to deliver the urgent and sustained improvements that are required.

We are continually looking at how we can build on our progress to improve the experience and opportunities for care experienced people in our district.

This Council further notes:

Despite the challenges they face, with the right support care experienced people can fulfil their potential to live full and rewarding lives;

Care experienced people face significant barriers that can impact them throughout their lives;

Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account;

Care experienced people can often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system;

Care experienced people might encounter inconsistent support in different geographical areas;

As corporate parents, councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us as an authority;

All corporate parents should commit to acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to consider their needs in any aspect of council work;

Councillors should be champions of the children in our care and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society;

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.

This Council therefore resolves:

1. To recognise care experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination;
2. To recognise that Councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;
3. To instruct the Chief Executive of the Council to ensure that future decision, services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic;
4. To call upon the Chief Executive of the Children's Trust to ensure that future decisions, services and policies made and adopted by the Children's Trust should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic.
5. To ensure in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment, and call upon the Children's Trust to do the same.
6. To treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic.
7. To formally call upon all other bodies, including those across West Yorkshire who are partners to the Care Covenant, to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.

8. To proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.

12.2 – Defend the right to seek safety from war and persecution

To be moved by: Councillor Kevin Warnes

To be seconded by: Councillor Matt Edwards

That the motion be amended to read as follows.

Council notes that:

- Bradford is proud of our history of welcoming people seeking safety to our district as a City of Sanctuary;
- there are significant problems with the UK asylum system that affect people in Bradford, including a record backlog of cases awaiting a decision, a de facto ban on working, and enforced poverty and homelessness - problems that undermine people's ability to rebuild their lives;
- the backlog in processing asylum cases means that vulnerable adults and children are housed in hotels and other accommodation which is completely inappropriate for long term habitation;
- the government is failing to work with local councils or local partners who are able to provide support for asylum seekers, exposing them to risks from criminal gangs;
- the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 does not address these issues;
- the Act has created a two-tier system that punishes people seeking safety from war and persecution based on the journeys they make;
- the Act threatens them with removal to Rwanda where they will be warehoused in large accommodation centres, segregated from the wider community and denied support;
- the Act also leaves recognised refugees to the UK - some of the most vulnerable people in the world - with a temporary and precarious status.

Council further notes that:

- each claim for asylum should be treated equally and fairly;
- people seeking safety should be housed as our neighbours and as a part of our communities;
- the UK needs an asylum system that empowers people seeking safety to rebuild their lives and enables communities to welcome them;
- 400+ charities, faith groups and local authorities have signed Refugee Action's national pledge to 'Fight the 'Anti-Refugee Laws', including Bradford City of Sanctuary;
- the government's Illegal Immigration Bill, now progressing through its legislative stages in the House of Commons, will (a) not solve the problems referred to above and (b) places the UK in further jeopardy of breaching its international legal obligations.

Council therefore resolves to:

- 1) defend the right to seek safety from war and persecution in the UK and sign Refugee Action's national 'Fight the Anti-Refugee Laws' pledge;
- 2) call on the UK Government to withdraw the UK-Rwanda agreement, repeal the Nationality and Borders Act and withdraw the Illegal Immigration Bill from further consideration by Parliament;
- 3) work with Local Authorities and communities to build a refugee protection system that treats all people with dignity and compassion;
- 4) work with local organisations and people with lived experience of the asylum system to identify ways to mitigate the effects of these measures in Bradford.

12.2 – Defend the right of refugees to seek safety from war and persecution

To be moved by: Councillor Falak Ahmed

To be seconded by: Councillor Geoff Winnard

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

Council notes that:

- The United Kingdom has a much respected reputation for treating each claim for asylum, compassionately, equally and fairly and Bradford MDC has a proud history of welcoming people seeking safety to the District, as a City of Sanctuary.
- United Kingdom resettlement programmes have provided safe and legal routes to better futures for hundreds of thousands of people from across the globe, particularly warzones.
- illegal entry to the United Kingdom should be deterred, not encouraged or rewarded and increasing the appeal of seeking asylum via the legitimate route, whilst reducing the appeal of illegal entry to the United Kingdom is what the British people want to see and have a right to expect.
- there are significant problems associated with and resulting from the abuse of the UK asylum system that affect people in Bradford and other areas, including a record backlog of cases awaiting a decision.
- the British Public are increasingly frustrated with this abuse of their goodwill and are keen to see early action to ensure that only genuine asylum seekers, seeking to enter the UK via legal channels will be allowed the right to settle and organised people traffickers will not profit from the goodwill of the British people.
- the backlog in processing asylum cases means that vulnerable adults and children are housed in hotels and other accommodation which is completely unaffordable for long term habitation and which is widely perceived as treatment preferential to that of other vulnerable groups at risk of homelessness, damaging social cohesion.
- The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 allows the UK to continue to resettle genuine refugees directly from places of danger and to offer refugee family reunions, improves support for refugees to help them build their life in the UK, integrate and become self-sufficient members of society and also introduces a new temporary protection status for those who do not come directly to the UK or claim asylum without delay once here, but who have, in any event, been recognised as requiring protection.
- the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 is a much needed addition to the tools available to tackle the criminal abuse of our goodwill

- Furthermore, the introduction to Parliament on 7 March of the Illegal Migration Bill 2023 will seek properly to address the facilitation of swift removal of those arriving in the UK illegally.

Council resolves:

- to work with government to continue supporting the existing provision of world leading sanctuary from war and persecution, to any refugees who may need it from Bradford, City of Sanctuary.
- to recognise the very legitimate and widely held concerns of the vast majority of UK residents, who wish to see the differential treatment of asylum applications from legal and illegal entrants to the country, in order to incentivise legal entry and disincentivise illegal entry to the country, whilst preventing people traffickers from profiting from the goodwill of the British people.
- to work with local organisations and people with lived experience of the asylum system to identify ways to assist government with supporting genuine asylum seekers who have entered the country legally.
- to instruct the Chief Executive to instigate an urgent investigation into the potential risks to the cultural and economic benefits and legacy of the City of Culture, caused by the knock on effects of the criminal abuse of the asylum system, such as a shortage of hotel rooms etc. for visitors to the event, due to them being required to house asylum seekers due to the backlog in processing applications, due in the main to the activities of people traffickers.

12.2 – Defend the right of refugees to seek safety from war and persecution

To be moved by: Councillor Sunderland

To be seconded by: Councillor Griffiths

After deletion and addition of words the motion to read:

This Council notes the efforts by the Government to deal with small boats crossing the channel which puts the lives at of vulnerable people at risk.

This Council believes that the Illegal Migration Bill will not be effective because it fails to meet the UK's commitment under the European Convention on Human Rights, would remove the right to appeal asylum decisions, would criminalise asylum seekers for exercising their legal rights to seek asylum, would increase delays within the asylum system and leave many people in limbo, would be unworkable and have a huge cost to the taxpayer.

If fails to tackle smuggling gangs, does not address concerns about modern day slavery, leaves people seeking protection at greater risk and does nothing to address the need for faster, more human decision making at the Home Office.

This Council also notes the concerns of many Bradford residents on the impact of these delays on the people seeking asylum living in our District.

This council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to ensure:

1. Vulnerable people particularly women, children and families are supported in safe accommodation.
2. That all children are in safe accommodation, not in hotels, and that every child is accounted for.
3. That an assessment is made of the impact of having single-sex accommodation in hotels and what steps can be taken to minimise any negative impacts.

12.3 – A critical time for our water environment

To be moved by: Councillor Andrew Loy

To be seconded by: Councillor Bob Felstead

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

Council notes that:

- UK watercourses continue to be polluted by sewage due to outdated Victorian infrastructure including 100,000 kilometres of combined sewers (enough pipework to go two and a half times around the Earth), with 15,000 sewage overflows, leaving government and water companies with a mammoth task.
- The modernisation of the sewerage system to safely alleviate sewage overflow discharges will cost over £600bn which is only affordable over a number of years and the only way to rapidly alleviate the problem would be to stop sewage overflows operating as a safety valves without the required modernisation, causing sewage to back up into gardens, streets, businesses and homes.
- Government is facing up to the huge scale of this environmental challenge, with The Environment Act setting out a statutory requirement for water companies to continue the progressive reduction of the adverse impacts of untreated sewage discharges from storm overflows into waterways by delivering the largest infrastructure programme in water company history, with the Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan giving water companies targets to improve or reduce discharge incidents.
- The scale of the challenge is such that progress at the speed which we would all like to see is simply not possible, but steady improvements to ecosystems are bearing fruit, with iconic species, such as seahorses, seals and salmon, returning to our rivers and estuaries.
- The closure of swimming pools during lockdown led to a surge of people enjoying wild swimming and the designated bathing spot at the River Wharfe at Cromwheel in Ilkley unfortunately continues to test positive for maximum contamination levels of faecal bacteria contamination, creating the human health risks associated with exposure to sewage pollution.

Council resolves to:

- Engage with Yorkshire Water, as a local custodian of our natural environment, regarding sewerage modernisation priorities for Bradford District.
- Ensure that residents are aware that swimming in rivers and paddling in streams etc. even in designated bathing spots does come with health risks.

12.3 – A critical time for our water environment

To be moved by: Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To be seconded by: Councillor Alun Griffiths

After deletion and addition of words the motion to read:

This Council notes that:

- Every river in England is now polluted beyond legal limits.
- The Environment Agency rated only 14% of rivers as 'Good' in 2019.
- This chemical pollution is mostly caused by sewage discharges from water companies and the run-offs of nutrients from farms.
- 36% of English rivers have been damaged by water companies.
- In England, water companies released untreated human waste directly into our waterways over 400,000 times for a total of 3 million hours in 2020 alone.
- Government funding to the Environment Agency to monitor river quality, and regulate farms and water companies has dropped 75% since 2010/11.
- In 2020 just 3.6% of pollution complaints made to the Agency resulted in penalties.
- Farms are now almost never inspected, water quality is rarely tested, and water companies can pump raw sewage into rivers with virtual impunity.
- In addition, tyre particles, metals from brake pads, and hydrocarbons from vehicle emissions wash off road surfaces and into rivers introducing potentially carcinogenic material into the water supply.
- That Yorkshire Water Ltd is was found guilty of offences of pollution of Bradford Beck.

This Council commends the work of the Aire Rivers Trust, the Friends of Bradford Becks, partners and the many volunteers who are working hard to meet the Good Water framework Directive status or Good Ecological Potential for all of the Aire Water bodies by 2027.

Council believes that, the UK Government should commit to:

- Restoring Environment Agency budgets to deliver the necessary oversight.
- Increasing inspection regularity of water companies and farms, and rigorously prosecuting offenders through the Environmental Audit Committee and Ofwat.
- Funding local and highways authorities to introduce systems to prevent road pollutants from entering our water courses.

Council resolves to request the Chief Executive write to:

- The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs calling for the Government to make these commitments and to revise down the consents that allow sewerage discharge into our rivers.
- The Chairperson of the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee to advocate for greater enforcement of existing regulatory powers.
- The Chief Executive of Yorkshire Water calling for urgent action to address the impact of waste-water discharges on our local rivers.
- The Regional Director of the National Farmers' Union requesting clarification on the action being taken locally by farmers to prevent nutrient run-off.

- The charities River Action, the Rivers Trust and the Friends of Bradford's Becks expressing this Council's support for their campaign to restore the health of Britain's rivers.

This Council further requests that the Chief Executive produces a report for all councillors detailing the action the Council is to enforce the rules for water protection on its land it owns.

12.4 – Children’s Services

To be moved by: Councillor Matt Edwards

To be seconded by: Councillor Celia Hickson

Council notes:

In September 2018 OFSTED found this Council’s Children’s Services to be inadequate and since that inspection, seven further monitoring visits have been carried out with concerns repeatedly raised about the slow pace of change.

In September 2021 the Secretary of State for Education appointed a Commissioner. In January 2022 the Commissioner recommended that Children’s Social Care could no longer be run by the Council. The process to establish a Trust model was then started.

In November 2022 the latest OFSTED report again found the Council’s Children’s Social Care was inadequate in every category and leaders have consistently failed to understand the scale of improvements needed.

Issues with this Council’s Children’s Services are linked to cuts in government funding to this Council’s budget combined with poor decisions made by the Leadership of the Council.

Nationally, over the ten years between 2010/11 and 2020/21, investment in early intervention support by councils in England fell from £3.8 billion to £1.9 billion.

According to the Children’s Society, these cuts have impacted councils with the highest level of deprivation the most.

Many hard working staff within Children’s services have worked to improve the current situation and need proper support and stability of staff and management in place with strong leadership.

Council resolves:

- To welcome the formation of the Bradford Children’s and Families Trust.
- Call on all Partners across the District to support the work of the Bradford Children’s and Families Trust.
- To call on all our district’s MPs, regardless of political affiliation, to speak up for children and young people in our district and challenge the government to provide a fair and sustainable funding deal for our councils.
- Councillors to be regularly updated on progress of the Trust and the Improvement Journey.
- Council Scrutiny to focus on the Improvement Plan and demanding the highest standards for families across the District.

- As the new Trust starts, to undertake a review of the Senior Management Team of the Council with the new structure in place to ensure it is best placed to deliver for the District.

12.4 – Children’s Services

To be moved by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

To be seconded by: Councillor Sue Duffy

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

Council notes:

In September 2018 Ofsted found this Council’s Children’s Services to be inadequate and since that inspection, seven further monitoring visits have been carried out with concerns repeatedly raised about the slow pace of change.

Ofsted carried out a full ILACS inspection in Bradford between 21st November and 2nd December 2022. The report was published on the Ofsted website on 31st January 2023 and the outcome of the ILACS was the judgement of Inadequate in all areas and overall.

Record funding will be given to support Children’s Services within the new Bradford Children’s and Families Trust.

Councillors will continue to take their corporate parenting responsibilities seriously. Improving services for children is a challenge for us all and depends on effective partnership working with other agencies in the district as well as a constructive partnership between the council and Trust.

The dedication of staff within Children’s services who go above and beyond in their care and support for children and young people. Our staff are key to securing the necessary improvements for the children of the district.

The role of Children’s Overview & Scrutiny within the council’s constitution will not change as the committee continues to fulfil its important remit of scrutinising and holding to account the Bradford Children’s and Families Trust and wider children’s services.

The Council Chief Executive has begun a review of the council’s management structure to ensure it is best able to provide strong support to the Children’s Services team and to ensure that the Council is able to provide the required strong support and challenge for the Trust.

Council resolves:

- To welcome the formation of the Bradford Children’s and Families Trust.
- To call on all Partners across the District to support the work of the Bradford Children’s and Families Trust.
- To support the Children’s Commissioner, as Chair of the Improvement Board, to continue his work in monitoring the implementation of the Children’s Improvement Plan
- To make sure Councillors are regularly updated on progress of the Trust and the Improvement Plan.
- To instruct the Chief Executive to complete the review of the council’s management structure at pace.

12.4 – Children’s Services

To be moved by: Councillor Sunderland

To be seconded by: Councillor Knox

The following to be added to the motion:

Council notes the particularly important role performed by members of the Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Council believes the new role will bring additional responsibilities to members and that members should be supported to both understand the role and deliver effective scrutiny of those services.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to investigate the creation of the office of a Children’s Advocate with specific responsibility to be the unfiltered voice of children in Bradford. Additionally, they will provide the research support to scrutiny and provide a Bi-annual report into progress of the District towards being recognised as a Child Friendly District.

12.5 – Young Carers

To be moved by: Councillor Sue Duffy

To be seconded by: Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

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

Council notes:

- Each year Carers Trust organises Young Carers Action Day (YCAD) to raise public awareness of the challenges faced by young people because of their caring role, and to campaign for greater support for young and young adult carers to meet their needs.
- Young Carers Action Day is 15 March 2023 and this year's theme is 'Make Time for Young Carers'.
- Estimates suggest that as many as one in five schoolchildren could be young carers (University of Nottingham 2018), with this number increasing during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Caring for someone can be very isolating, worrying, and stressful. For young and young adult carers, this can negatively impact on their experiences and outcomes in education, having a lasting effect on their life chances.
- The Young Carers Service is a jointly commissioned service between the Council and NHS West Yorkshire (ICS) Bradford.
- Carers' Resource is commissioned to offer support to carers of all ages in the Bradford district. They work with around 800 young carers aged 5-18 and offer specific support to Young Adult Carers aged 16-25 as they transition to adulthood. The service is designed to increase young carers' well-being and resilience, to help them achieve their potential as successful, happy adults.
- The support for young carers includes respite and peer support through school holiday trips and activities at eight youth clubs around the district. One-to-one support is also offered at times of crisis.
- The theme for YCAD this year is 'Make Time for Young Carers'. As a network partner of Carers Trust, Carers' Resource successfully applied for a grant from them to arrange a treasure hunt task to mark the event, with young carers challenged and supported to use public transport to find their way to a district location with the aim of boosting their confidence and tackling social isolation in a fun way, with the young carers also given travel tickets for a journey in future to encourage them to continue getting out on public transport.

Council resolves:

- To commend the young and young adult carers across our Local Authority area.
- To promote YCAD on an annual basis.
- To continue to promote and work with local care organisations.
- To write to the Government calling on them to urgently publish a national strategy for unpaid carers in 2023 and to develop a national action plan co-produced with young carers and young adult carers, in line with the recommendation of the Carers Trust.

- To write to the local Members of Parliament and ask them to join the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Young Carers and Young Adult Carers.

12.6 – Bradford District and the Chancellor’s Budget

To be moved by: Councillor Mike Pollard

To be seconded by: Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

Council notes:

- The government’s Spring Budget is announced on 15th March 2023.
- The Leader has written to the Chancellor to press for the introduction of “fair funding”.
- Bradford will be UK City of Culture 2025 and has committed to various projects to help unleash the entire District’s potential.
- that Bradford MDC is not and should not expect to be immune to the budgetary constraints which have affected public services throughout the European Continent and beyond since the non-governmentally induced financial crisis commencing in 2008.
- An unprecedented cost of living crisis for residents throughout the planet, which has resulted in UK inflation running at 10% overall, with food inflation at 17%.
- Since 2010 public sector staff have like their counterparts in the private sector endured years of pay restraint due to a worldwide financial reset and alike have experienced significant hardships.
- Government continues to provide an unprecedented package of support for people including, in the 2022/23 Financial Year, an initial £650 cost of living payment for over 8 million of the most needy, £150 Council Tax rebates for Band A to D residents, £400 energy bill discounts for all families. Then in the coming 2023/24 Financial Year, a further £900 cost of living payment for over 8 million of the most needy, an extra £150 for over 6 million disabled people and an additional £300 for over eight million pensioners on top of their Winter Fuel Payments, energy bills increase caps worth £1,400 on average and benefits payments increased by over 10%.

Council resolves:

- Continue to support people in the face of the worldwide financial crisis.
- To engage with all Bradford District MPs (regardless of political affiliation) whose constituencies are to be subject of Round 3 Levelling Up Bids, to work for residents and with government, to ensure that BMDC’s bids in this funding round are fully informed as to the basic criteria and quality required to have some prospect of success.
- Ensure that the council actually applies for all other grant funding potentially available to it and secures available Government investment to help maximise the benefits and impact of UK City of Culture 2025.
- To learn from past mistakes and prioritise the provision of sufficient funding to meet demand and complexity in Children’s and Adult Social Care, rather than less critical services.
- To campaign with partners to see what the Market and Competitions Authority called a dysfunctional market for children’s residential care addressed as a matter of urgency.
- To not undermine the collective channels for communicating with the Chancellor and Secretaries of State etc. such as via the LGA and SIGOMA, regarding financial issues such as local government staff pay awards and also, in specific relation to

staff pay awards, council commits to giving due attention to any ongoing NJC pay discussions, in order that the council never repeats this year's debacle of under-budgeting for staff pay by over £6m.

- To continue to work with central government, towards the introduction of a new methodology for the distribution of the funding package for local authorities.
- To continue to work within and alongside WYCA, with partners to deliver the West Yorkshire devolution opportunities and priorities.