

Department of Legal and Democratic Services

Members of Council

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Your Ref: AT/Council

Date: 5 December 2016

Dear Councillor

MEETING OF COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2016

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford, City Hall, Bradford, on Tuesday, 13 December 2016 at 4.00 pm

The agenda for the meeting is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely

Parveen Akhtar
City Solicitor

Notes:

- ◆ This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format.
- ◆ The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Agenda Contact who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present at the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.



The Council's Fire Bell and Evacuation Procedure requires people to leave the building in an orderly fashion by the nearest exit, should the fire alarm sound. No one will be allowed to stay or return until the building has been checked.

Members are reminded that under the Members' Code of Conduct, they must register within 28 days any changes to their financial and other interests and notify the Monitoring Officer of any gift or hospitality received.

AGENDA

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

(Members Code of Conduct - Part 4A of the Constitution)

To receive disclosures of interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

Notes:

- (1) Members may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or an interest which the Member feels would call into question their compliance with the wider principles set out in the Code of Conduct. Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (2) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*
- (3) Members are also welcome to disclose interests which are not disclosable pecuniary interests but which they consider should be made in the interest of clarity.*
- (4) Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.*



2. MINUTES

Recommended –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2016 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

(Adrian Tumber – 01274 432435)

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4. WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR (Standing Order 4)

(To be circulated before the meeting).

5. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.

Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Strategic Director or Assistant Director whose name is shown on the front page of the report.

If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting.

Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Adrian Tumber - 01274 432435)

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

6. PETITIONS (Standing Order 11)

To consider up to five requests for the Council to receive petitions in accordance with Standing Orders.

Ward

- (i) Kershaw Street, New Lane and Raglan Terrace, Laisterdyke –
Request for closure of side road by means of bollards
Bradford Moor
- (ii) Rowan Avenue, Thornbury – Request for parking permits
and traffic issues
Bradford Moor



- (iii) Objecting to increased car parking charges in the Ian Clough Hall and the Grove car parks **Baildon**
- (iv) Closure of Queensbury Swimming Pool **Queensbury**
- (v) Council support for physical access for people with disabilities **all Wards**

(Palbinder Sandhu – 01274 432269)

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Standing Order 13)

There are no public questions.

(Palbinder Sandhu – 01274 432269)

8. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES (Standing Order 4)

To consider any motions (i) to appoint members to a Committee or a Joint Committee; or (ii) to appoint Chairs or Deputy Chairs of Committees (excluding Area Committees).

9. REPORT BY THE LEADER OF COUNCIL

A written report by the Leader of Council giving an update on key issues will be circulated before the start of the meeting. There shall be a period of up to 15 minutes during which any Member of Council may ask the Leader of the Council (or a Member of the Council nominated by the Leader) a question on any matter arising out of the written report.

10. MEMBER QUESTION TIME (Standing Order 12)

To deal with supplementary questions arising from the attached questions of which written notice has been given.

Notes:

- (i) *Answers to written questions shall be circulated at the commencement of the meeting.*
- (ii) *The Lord Mayor will have regard to the list of questions and the political composition of the Council in calling on Members to put their supplementary question to the Leader of Council and Portfolio Holders.*
- (iii) *A period of up to 30 minutes shall be available for supplementary questions to Members of the Executive.*



QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

1. **Councillor Wainwright**

Bradford Council like many in the former industrial heartlands across northern Britain is faced with massive cuts in funding from the Conservative Government and in particular very severe pressures on social care budgets. What assistance have the two Conservative MPs, Davies and Hopkins, given to this Council by lobbying their government for funding to ease the pressure on the ever decreasing funds available for much needed services?

2. **Councillor Cooke**

How many times since the floods of Boxing Day 2015, has the Leader of Council and/or the relevant Portfolio Holder met with the Environment Agency, to discuss flooding and the mitigation of flood risk in the Bradford District?

3. **Councillor Nicola Pollard**

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Culture - How many Primary Schools in the Bradford District are taking part in the 'Daily Mile Challenge' and what is the Council doing to encourage participation?

4. **Councillor Swallow**

Could the Portfolio Holder please state whether the numbers of homeless people sleeping rough across our District increased significantly over the last 6 years, how many people are currently sleeping rough and what is the strategy or solution to ensure that these people are taken care of and given safe, warm, clean places to stay?

5. **Councillor Farley**

Can the Portfolio Holder advise what the impact of the government's new national schools funding formula is going to be on the Bradford District?

6. **Councillor Davies**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Childrens' Services confirm whether the Council has plans to follow the example of Wirral Council who managed to secure an additional £725,000 in funding for local schools through automating the process for pupil premium registration?

7. **Councillor Swallow**

Could the Leader please advise what the impact of the Chancellor's autumn statement will be on the people of this District? Will we see more jobs and opportunities or more people desperate for help being let down?

8. **Councillor Pullen**

When planning consent is pending certain conditions being met, and the build is completed without the said conditions being met, what



redress does the council undertake to put matters right?

9. **Councillor Poulsen**

Given that long term flood protection and mitigation measures remain under development, can the Leader and/or Portfolio Holder advise what has been done to support and encourage readiness for residents and businesses in places at risk of flooding?

10. **Councillor Engel**

Where there is evidence that a school has failed in its duty to properly support a pupil experiencing emotional or mental health difficulties, what can, does and will this authority do to address the problem, and how is this affected by the fragmented nature of our schools estate?

11. **Councillor Jeanette Sunderland**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety advise Members of the cost to a private organisation of having an individual Police Officer attend an event for 8 hours including evenings and does the Portfolio Holder think that organisers of events on private land should pay these costs?

12. **Councillor Farley**

Will the portfolio holder please give an update on our district's Local Plan Core Strategy which was put on hold by the government due to representations from Philip Davies MP after the plan was approved by the planning inspector?

13. **Councillor Cooke**

As the Environment Agency is consulting on significant changes in demaining rivers has the Council made representations to the Agency's consultation on these changes and what plans are in place to meet the costs of any changes to Bradford as a Local Flood Authority?

14. **Councillor Abid Hussain**

Bradford is a diverse city and we must ensure life opportunities for all whatever their background or circumstances. Is the Leader concerned about recent national reports which refer to community cohesion in Bradford District and can you give an update on our work in this area?

15. **Councillor Swallow**

How many people has Bradford Council prosecuted and imprisoned for non-payment of Council Tax and how many of these were single parents?

16. **Councillor Ellis**

Would the Leader of the Council confirm what measures are being taken by the Council, following the recent unsuccessful appeal by Leeds City Council, in relation to responsibility for the payment of Council Tax, when a tenant has departed but the tenancy has not been formally terminated by either tenant or landlord?



17. Councillor Dunbar

Will the Portfolio Holder explain the importance of this district marking Trans Day of Remembrance (November 20th) each year and assure us that this support will continue in the coming years?

18. Councillor Dunbar

Will the Leader join me in denouncing the persecution of Burma's Rohingya Muslim minority, a plight which is going unnoticed by the world at large?

19. Councillor Stubbs

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety - Can the Portfolio Holder give us brief highlights of the work undertaken to ensure the safety of residents and emergency services in the lead up to and on Bonfire night?

20. Councillor Dunbar

Does the Leader welcome the recent Court of Appeal hearing that has upheld a High Court decision that NHS England has the power to commission HIV prevention treatment PrEP?

21. Councillor Poulsen

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport, please advise members of the stretches of highways that will be affected by the 20% reduction in the number of highways which now fall on gritting routes?

22. Councillor Davies

As, in June Cllr Imran Khan said "we have let down generations of young people" and "I want to do things a different way to how we've done things before" and as part of this he pledged to hold monthly meetings where all councillors would be invited to make suggestions on how to improve education, could he now, six months on, confirm how many of these meetings have been held and what has been learned from them?

23. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Can the Leader please provide an explanation for the strategy proposed in the budget to spend money acquiring assets to create new revenue income and give an approximate cost of acquiring such advice and undertaking due diligence on such projects?

24. Councillor Brown

Given the recently reported multi million pound investment by Leeds City College, in a multi- level campus building, could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport, whether the Council has put in motion any plans to support the Keighley District based engineering and manufacturing industries, should LCC choose to exit from its Keighley campus, taking with it or allowing the decline of, the Industrial Centre of Excellence and the Centre for Excellence in



Engineering?

25. Councillor Rickard

Given the poor reading skills of many children in the Bradford district can the Portfolio Holder for Childrens' Services confirm whether the Council has considered investing in Imagination Libraries, supported by the Dollywood Foundation, which encourage a love of reading from birth, are popular with parents, provide excellent value for money and already run successfully in parts of the district?

26. Councillor Ellis

Can the Leader of the Council tell me what is the current mechanical failure rate of private hire vehicles when being tested at the road side & when having their annual test?

27. Councillor Fear

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety - How many yellow ASB warning letters issued by ward in each of the last 3 years?

28. Councillor Townend

Given that the Council pay the rent annually for the use of the playground at Jenny Lane, Baildon which they lease from the Catholic Church will the Leader of the Council please confirm the actual length, commencement date and expiry date of this?

29. Councillor Davies

Having identified some weaknesses in the current sixth form provision across the district but acknowledging that any changes are up to the individual schools, how does the Portfolio Holder for Childrens' Services propose persuading struggling schools to merge or close their sixth forms and what progress has been achieved so far?

30. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Culture - Can the Portfolio Holder identify the increase in service revenue budgets which are required to provide the additional specialist services needed to support the return of children being cared for outside of the District?

31. Councillor Pennington

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport, please confirm why the City Park lighting spectacular held on 19 November with Cirque Bijou, attended by thousands of people, was displayed on a big screen which came with the event, but not the permanent big screen, which would have benefitted those stood at the back?

32. Councillor Townend

Due to the proposals to commence charging for car parking for the first hour in the Ian Clough Hall and The Grove car parks in Baildon, can



the Leader of the Council provide whatever estimate was used to predict the likely effect that this will have on the Council revenue, due to resultant empty properties and the consequential losses to the Council from rent and rates?

33. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care - Given the advice from the NHS that we should all have less sugar and the recommendations for children is no more than 19g a day for children aged 4 to 6 years old (5 sugar cubes), and no more than 24g (6 sugar cubes) for children aged 7 to 10 years old and that a can of cola can have as much as 9 cubes of added sugar can she advise me of the steps taken to remove these types of drinks from vending machines in Council buildings and replacing them with healthier options?

34. Councillor Rickard

Can the Leader of the Council inform members of what progress has been made on delivering a footbridge to go over the A629 between Silsden & Steeton?

35. Councillor Pennington

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm confidence that should Keighley College become a stand alone facility, it will be able to survive as an independent provider of further education?

36. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care - Can the Portfolio Holder inform members of Council of the number of public toilets that have been closed in the District since May 2010 and how many arrangements have been made for those to be taken over by Parish/Town Councils and how many businesses have signed up to allow the public to access their facilities?

37. Councillor Townend

Given that Baildon Town Council have entered into a Service Level Agreement with Bradford Met District Council, to run Baildon Library in the Ian Clough Hall, what arrangements have been made, with whom and when, for alternative providers due to the proposed closure of the building?

38. Councillor Rickard

Can the Leader of the Council outline what progress has been made in developing a cycle & pedestrian link from the Thornhill Road development & the railway?

39. Councillor Fear

To ask the Leader of the Council - How many procurements over £1 million have started before going to overview and scrutiny committees in each of the last 3 years?



**11. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES
(Standing Order 15)**

11A. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE - ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2015/16 1 - 10

At the meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee on 1 December 2016 consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance (**Governance and Audit Committee Document "Q"**) showing the Council's Treasury Management activities for the year ending 31 March 2016. It was,

Recommended –

**That the Annual Treasury Management Report 2015/16
(Governance and Audit Committee Document "Q") be adopted.**

(David Willis - 01274 432361)

11B. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE - TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW 11 - 22

At the meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee on 1 December 2016 the Director of Finance presented (**Governance and Audit Committee Document "R"**) containing the Council's Treasury Mid Year Review up to 30 September 2016. It was,

Recommended -

**That the changes to the Treasury policy set out in section 2.6.3 of
Governance and Audit Committee Document "R" be adopted.**

(David Willis - 01274 432361)

12. NOTICES OF MOTION (Standing Order 17)

To consider the attached motions of which notice has been given.

12.1 HIGH CALORIE DRINKS

To be moved by Councillor Griffiths
Seconded by Councillor Fear

This council believes that obesity is becoming the most important public health problem in our district.

Council notes that whilst one in five children is obese when they start school, one in three are obese by the time they leave.

Council notes the steps made in using licensing powers to control the availability of high calorie food in the form of takeaways in the vicinity of schools.



Council believes that high calorie drinks are one important cause of obesity and may also contribute to behavioural problems in children.

This Council also notes that high calorie drinks are sold in Council buildings and sports facilities despite it not being possible to burn off the number of calories found in these drinks during a single sports or swimming session.

This Council resolves to:

Take all possible steps to encourage schools to institute a 'water only' policy on school premises.

Explore options for reducing the availability of high calorie drinks in the vicinity of schools including, but not limited to, a voluntary 'scores on the doors' for responsible retailers.

Set up best practice by no longer selling high calorie drinks on Council premises including sports facilities.

Bring a report to Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee outlining action taken

12.2 ONE CITY, ONE DISTRICT

To be moved by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

Council notes the continuing challenges in delivering public services with reducing financial support from government and commends officers on their efforts in maintaining those services under pressure

Council further notes that at least £1.2m has been spent on the now abandoned, swimming pools strategy including land acquisitions, demolition and consultancy charges

Council believes that some of the decisions and proposals made recently will result in further divisions within the City and District including:

1. The cancellation of a new swimming pool for Queensbury with preference given to one in Bradford
2. The closure of the Stocks Bridge Depot at Keighley, risking delays in the distribution of sandbags during floods and grit during snowfall, in the areas which are known to have the greatest need for these.
3. Proposals to close community halls and museums in smaller communities



4. Closing public lavatories in Ilkley, Bingley, Baildon and Shipley while maintaining a fully staffed facility in Bradford
5. Removing periods of free parking and extending on-street parking in village and suburban communities with struggling local shops
6. Plans to close or downgrade Visitor Information Centres in Haworth, Saltaire and Ilkley while maintaining a full service in Bradford

Council commits to a policy of 'One City, One District' and asks the Executive to reconsider its plans so as to give priority to needs wherever they are in the District.

12.3 DEMENTIA FRIENDLY BRADFORD

To be moved by Councillor Shaw
Seconded by Councillor Rickard

Council notes and welcomes the work undertaken alongside health partners to raise awareness of dementia in the community as part of Bradford's Five Year Dementia Strategy

Council asks:

1. That progress on the dementia strategy is reported on a programmed basis to Health & Social Care Scrutiny Committee
2. That efforts are made to involve other partners including housing organisations, business leadership and the police in developing a Dementia Friendly Bradford
3. That work on training staff and volunteers to be dementia friendly is supported and that this is extended to include councillors

12.4 LOOKING AFTER BRADFORD'S HEALTH: THE PUBLIC'S PRIORITIES

To be moved by Councillor Hinchcliffe
Seconded by Councillor Val Slater

This Council notes that:

- The Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for West Yorkshire and Harrogate assumes £1 billion of cuts in health spending over the next four years.
- West Yorkshire leaders and health and wellbeing boards have not been properly involved or consulted on the West Yorkshire STP.
- NHS England has kept the 44 regional STPs confidential. The



West Yorkshire STP was published for the first time on 10 November.

- The Bradford STP has had greater local input but is still only a list of initiatives which may lead to a significant cut in health spending in Bradford.

This Council resolves that:

- Health, care and wellbeing services should be planned and delivered close to local communities, unless planning and delivery on a regional or sub-regional geography is necessary to achieve sustainability or to deliver better clinical outcomes.
- Engagement and consultation with the public on the recently published West Yorkshire and Harrogate Sustainability and Transformation Plan (including Bradford District and Craven) should start as soon as possible to allow the public to review the proposals and have their say on future health and social care services in the District, and on services available outside the District.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board and governance bodies of the Council and partners should be consulted on any new proposals as they are developed in the District or at West Yorkshire level.

This Council requests that:

- The Leader writes to NHS England asking them to let the public have their say on West Yorkshire plans.
- The Leader writes to the Lead on the Bradford & Craven STP to ask that a programme of public consultation is developed to ensure an open dialogue with Bradford District residents.

12.5 MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF WELFARE AND BENEFIT CUTS ON THE POOREST PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT

To be moved by Councillor Bacon

Seconded by Councillor Engel

This Council notes that:

- The Welfare Cap has already affected 220 families in the District. A further 1,000 families will be hit from w/c 16 January 2017.
- Each of these families has at least three children.
- This comes on top of the four-year freeze on working tax credits for working families. In the meantime inflation is expected to rise.
- From April 2017 the two-child limit on entitlement will be introduced which will impact on even more families in the District.
- We are concerned that the cumulative effect of these changes will impact on children to a greater extent than ever before.



This Council requests that:

The Chief Executive brings a paper to the Executive about how we can mitigate the impact of these welfare changes on the poorest families and how we can support parents to access employment.

13. BRADFORD EDUCATION COVENANT

23 - 36

Previous reference: Council Minutes 55 and 89 (2015/16)

The report of the Strategic Director Children's Services (**Document "P"**) provides an update of activity to date on the Bradford Education Covenant together with details of the Education Covenant Conference planned for January 2017.

Recommended –

- (1) That the report be received as a summary of the actions taken to involve stakeholders in further developing the Education Covenant.**
- (2) The appointment of a 'Covenant Champion' to drive forward this innovative and exciting project to become a flagship development for the District.**
- (3) That the Council invites all stakeholders in Education in Bradford to actively pledge their commitment to the Covenant at the Education Covenant Conference.**

(Judith Kirk – 01274 431078)

14. WEST YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND DISINVESTMENT FROM THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY

37 - 50

Previous reference: Council Minute 59 (2015/16)

At the meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 October 2016 the report of the Director, West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF) submitted a report (**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Document "T"**) following the resolution of Council that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Governance and Audit Committee complete a joint review of the scale of the WYPF's investment in the fossil fuel sector and the implications for the Pension Fund, the District and its current and retired public sector workers of any programme of disinvestment. The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved:

That this Committee:



- (1) Notes that West Yorkshire Pension Fund investment decisions are made by the Investment Advisory Panel which includes representatives of all West Yorkshire Districts as well as other interested parties, and not Bradford alone.
- (2) Notes that the Investment Advisory Panel considers the annual report of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum which includes engagement activities with fossil fuel companies.
- (3) Agrees with the policy of positive engagement set by the Investment Advisory Panel.
- (4) Welcomes the progress achieved towards ensuring that the fossil fuel companies revise their business plans to take account of the COP21 agreement.
- (5) Welcomes continuing investment in green energy technology and production as the industry develops.
- (6) That the above decisions be referred to the Governance and Audit Committee and Full Council for information.

Recommended –

That the resolution of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

(Rodney Barton - 01274 432317)

15. ELECTED MEMBER REVIEW

51 - 266

The report of the City Solicitor (**Document “Q”**) indicates the outcome of an independent review into whether any change should be made to the number of Councillors. The outcome is that the public feel there is no case for any change and the conclusion has been endorsed by Sir Rodney Brooke who provided oversight of the review.

Council is recommended to –

Adopt Sir Rodney’s recommendations.

(Parveen Akhtar - 01274 432496)

16. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES FOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS AND ANNUAL UPDATING OF ALLOWANCES

267 -
276

The report of the City Solicitor (**Document “R”**) presents the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) on the SRA (Special Responsibility Allowance) payable to Members who undertake the role of Executive Assistant. The IRP also considered the annual uprating of allowances in accordance with the percentage increase provided for by the local government pay settlement for the year ending October 2015.



Recommended –

That Council consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and resolve as appropriate from the options in paragraph 6 above, two decisions being necessary, one from 6.1 to 6.3 (inserting a figure into 6.2 if that recommendation is supported) and one from 6.4 to 6.5.

(Parveen Akhtar - 01274 432496)

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



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REPORT OF THE LEADER OF COUNCIL

13 December 2016

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

West Yorkshire Combined Authority met on 1st December and approved the latest spending from the Investment Committee. The total investment from the Skills Capital Fund alone is now £79 million. This has funded upgraded FE college infrastructure around the region. It is the largest package of skills capital investment in the country. Shipley College was one of the earlier recipients of this fund. At the beginning of 2015, Leeds City Region was awarded the largest Growth Deal in the country with £1 billion to invest. We are still waiting for the outcome of negotiations with Government on how much we will get in Growth Deal 3 and are expecting an announcement within the next week.

Autumn Statement

The Government's Autumn statement was disappointing particularly on Adult Social Care with no mention of the strains universally being felt by local authorities as they strive to meet increasing demand with less funding. The Local Government Association has made strong representations on the subject. Cllr Izzie Secombe, the Conservative leader of Warwickshire County Council and Chair of the Local Government Association's Community Wellbeing Board said, "Tragically, the human cost of this will be elderly people continuing to face an ever uncertain future where they might no longer receive the dignified care and support they deserve." We await to hear the Government's spending plans on Thursday to see if they have had a change of heart. The indications are that instead of formulating a proper plan for social care, the government might leave it to local authorities to increase council tax. But we are concerned about the burden on local council tax payers and the fact that this could lead to a postcode lottery of care, as wealthier parts of the country have a much higher council tax base than Bradford does.

Meeting with Lord Nash

Last week I was invited to meet with one of the Ministerial Education team, Lord Nash, who listened to me outline what is needed in the Bradford District. Teacher recruitment and retention remains an issue nationally but given our historic league table rankings it is even more of an issue in Bradford. This is particularly true of Maths, English and Science. We pitched a number of ways in which Government could lend support to the Bradford District. We await the outcome of the discussion.

Meeting with Andrew Percy

Along with other West Yorkshire leaders I met with Andrew Percy last week, the Minister in charge of Devolution. The Minister outlined how the Government is handling devolution at the moment. They have a number of deals across the nation which have agreement and which they are pushing to finalise ready for Mayoral Elections next year. There is still an appetite from Government for a deal in our region but it needs to satisfy parliamentary and business interests as well as local authority leaders. I remain keen to get the right devolution deal for the Bradford District and I'm working hard with colleagues to achieve it.

Serious Case Review

The Serious Case Review of "Autumn" was published on 6th December. This report is clear that agencies had been active in working with Autumn throughout her young life. However before 2012 the main agencies were not joined up, and therefore none of them really understood the full scale or the issues Autumn was experiencing. There is no doubt in my mind that we should have done more earlier to support this child and all agencies must learn the lessons. The Chair of the Safeguarding Board acknowledged that the CSE hub has made a significant difference to how this issue is dealt with now. However we cannot be complacent and we are all responsible for making sure crimes are reported. If anyone has any concerns about the safety of a child or a young person they should contact West Yorkshire Police, Crimestoppers (0800 555 111) or Children's Services Initial Contact Point on 01274 437500.

Casey Review on Opportunity and Integration

Dame Louise Casey published her long anticipated review on 5th December. This review was borne out of her visits to a number of cities including Bradford. Given our diversity, Bradford inevitably became the focus for much of the reporting on the subject. There are no quick fixes to any of the issues she raises. Many people in Bradford talk about the fact that there are some areas of the district which are predominantly white and some which are predominantly South Asian. Economics is inevitably a significant factor in where people choose to live, however people in Bradford want to get on with each other. There is an appetite to learn English, which is often frustrated by funding cuts. And I would like to see more opportunities for cohesion programmes where people can come together and build relationships between communities in common social spaces. Bradford is a welcoming city and we must never shy away from tackling issues which run counter to this.

Budget

The Labour Group tabled a budget for consultation on 6th December at Executive. These proposals are now out for consultation until the Full Council budget meeting on 23rd February. We have already taken £250 million out of the budget since 2010. Next we have to take out a further £82 million. The harsh fact is that in four years'

time the council will only have half the spending power it had in 2010. In 2013/14 the Council received £183 million in Revenue Support Grant from the Government. In 2020/2021 it drops to zero. Currently council tax covers only 42% of what Bradford spends on services. Eliminating the Revenue Support Grant represents a reshaping of local government, it will change how councils operate forever.

Tour de Yorkshire

The route for the Tour de Yorkshire was announced on 2nd December at the Impressions Gallery in Bradford. Sir Gary Verity hosted the event with a number of cycling celebrities from yesteryear as well as the here and now in attendance. Bradford is hosting the start of Stage 3 of the race which ends in Sheffield. It will start in City Park on Sunday 30th April next year passing through Saltaire, Burley in Wharfedale, Silsden, Keighley, Haworth and Queensbury before going on to Halifax. The hosting fee will be paid by West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER

Councillor Cooke

Thank you Lord Mayor. Can I thank the Leader for making reference to the Casey Review. The preface to what I say by saying I thought it was extremely disappointing to say the least piece of work which added really nothing to either our understanding of the challenges facing our district or for that matter the challenges facing the country in terms of integration and I hope that for once this piece of work is shelved somewhere to gather dust because I do not think it actually contributed anything at all to the betterment of our nation. Can I ask the Leader though in the context of this just to give us a little bit of background on the work that is being done around here in Bradford and how we are going to take on board things such as the Government's welcome adoption of an internationally recognised definition of anti-Semitism for example and how we are going to use those kind of things to actually improve the way in which we understand some of the things that create division in our society because I think that sometimes we need to say those things a little bit more publicly than we do and be a little bit more critical of people who want to point at division rather than at efforts to reduce it.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

There is quite a lot in there Councillor Cooke so it is a 200 page report is Casey and it is wide ranging and goes from English lessons to cohesion to education to neighbourhoods, different communities etc. So there is quite a lot to take in there. I think we have to be mature about reports like this. This is the third report in three weeks that told us we were divided as a city and I think we have to say look we know that we have some predominately areas which are South Asian, we know we have some areas that are predominately white but the important thing is that we get on

together and we create opportunities for us to mix, to mingle. Just City Park out there is a great space where everybody feels part of and I hope that everybody in Bradford feels that when they come there that they can see different people with different ages, different backgrounds and that they all feel part of that space. So I am keen for more things like that to happen. I am hoping that the Casey Report will lead to more money for cohesion activities just around things that are programmed. We obviously will talk about cuts on this agenda but we have had to cut everything in the Council and therefore some of the cohesion activities that we used to do are not quite as extensive as they were so if this report leads to something like that I would welcome that. Similarly with English language lessons they are quite expensive. There are communities who would welcome that if there is a free provision. I would love free provision in English lessons as well. So as I say let's be mature about it. We are grown up as city. People come here all the time to talk about these issues. We are saying that actually we are willing to talk about difficult issues whenever they occur, wherever they occur and that we want to start taking on board the cohesion agenda and only for Bradford because you are right there is lots of good work that goes on here like with the Jewish community and the Muslim community around the Synagogue and all that really shows us to our best advantage. That message does not always get out. So I think it is time for us to start saying these are the things we do well and show these to the nation. So I am wanting to do more on this agenda just to show how good we are on this because other cities are not as advanced as we are and we need to show off a bit sometimes when we have got something good to say.

Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Given the significant lessons to be learnt from the recent serious case review I would just like her to give us some assurance please about the amount of staffing that we have in order to deal with what seems now to be an ever increasing number of cases coming forward.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Sunderland. Yes we had a presentation at Group yesterday on the findings of the case review and obviously that will be open to all of you to have that detailed examination of it. Clearly that child was let down by actually things not working properly together. Since 2012 we have put in more resource into that area, into the CSE Hub in particular as have other agencies. It is not just us of course, the police have committed to that kind of way of working as well to make sure that the seriousness of these issues is collated and somebody acts on it quickly when they see everything come together. At a time of reducing resource of course we are still having to invest heavily in those areas. Again it is one of those issues that we are talking about a lot. We make sure we talk about it. We know that children are at risk all the time. We can never be complacent at that where there are children, there will be some predator there trying to get to them and we need to

make sure they don't. Therefore we have to make that a priority. I do not want anything like that happening on my watch, none of us do. So we have to be really really mindful of that. Obviously we have done our training as Councillors as well has done that now and that is really important for us to be mindful of what is out there, to watch out for it because you do not always see it if you do not know what to look for. So it is all our responsibility. We will continue to commit resources to that area and I encourage other local authorities to do likewise and yes it is something that we always need to look back on and there will be other cases coming forward as well to make sure that we look at those and historic cases as well investigating. So it is something that we must never lose sight of and we can never think we have sorted it because there are a lot of people and we need to be mindful of all our children's protection.

Councillor Rickard

I wonder if the Leader can elaborate please on the comments that you make about your meeting with Lord Nash where you say you pitched a number of ideas as to how the Government can help but perhaps elaborate on what those are.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Yes so I was pleased to get the meeting with him. I have been trying for a while to get that so I was glad to get that. Councillor Imran Khan and I met together with officers and thought about what the best things are we could ask. We wanted a short list. One I would like to be opportunity areas we have discussed before in this Chamber, I think there is only about four areas left, I would like it to be one of them because that is money and we could do with that for teacher recruitment and retention in particular. I asked him not to do the formula funding for schools, the new formula funding for schools, they are going to do that which is disappointing for Bradford schools so I am concerned about that. So really my conversation was around teacher retention and recruitment and about how we could get the Government to fund us more to do that. Obviously working with the Regional Schools Commissioner and with our own maintained sector regardless of where children go in this district we want them to have an excellent education so it is working across the board, working with the Government, with the RSC to see if we can put something in place to support teacher retention recruitment in particular.

Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Thank you Lord Mayor. It is a question about Adult Social Care. There is lots of noise and mood music now around Councils being allowed to increase the precept again to pay for Adult Social Care. I just wondered whether or not you had given consideration to supporting this and do you want the other one? The other question, the process for this is not very clear. It is a question about the Tour de France, Tour de Yorkshire coming to Bradford and it is just to offer our congratulations to Sir Gary Verity but also to ask that the Leader will ensure that she speaks to, or whoever puts

it altogether, speaks to the parents and grandparents of people who attended the Christmas lights with small people in order that we can improve the view of people that will be watching the event. Thank you.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

So on Adult Social Care yes we will wait to see what is going to be announced. So the Local Government Association has been very clear that actually increasing the Council precept is just not going to do it for authorities like ours which obviously have a low Council tax base. So I would like to see a more significant level of funding coming to areas so it is more equalised otherwise it is going to be a post code lottery is Adult Social Care and I think it should be a service that everybody should be able to use in this country regardless of where they live. We will have to see what comes out and then obviously we will have to consult and go with what people think we can actually sustain but I for one really do not want to put more pressure on people in Bradford who are already struggling to pay bills at this time but naturally we need to make sure we can pay for Adult Social Care that all our citizens can rely on in their hour of need. Regarding your second question did you mean are they going to have a good view, is that what the question was?

Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

If you were very small you did not see it.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Okay so can you a good view of Tour de France going through the district.

Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

If people just ask?

Councillor Hinchcliffe

I am probably not the best person to ask because I always get a fabulous view wherever I am. You are right this is why we have Council Chamber to scrutinise people like me who may be tallest in their approach to make sure that small people also get a good view so it is a good point and we will feed that in and Sarah Ferriby will take that on.

COUNCIL **13 December 2016**

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. Councillor Wainwright

Bradford Council like many in the former industrial heartlands across northern Britain is faced with massive cuts in funding from the Conservative Government and in particular very severe pressures on social care budgets. What assistance have the two Conservative MPs, Davies and Hopkins, given to this Council by lobbying their government for funding to ease the pressure on the ever decreasing funds available for much needed services?

Answer

We always welcome support from MPs of all parties to support the district's call for more investment. I meet with all five MPs on a regular basis and discuss the issues facing us. Bradford District provides the north of England with so many opportunities for growth that, for the country's sake, we need to be united in making the case to Government. Before it's too late, we need all Tory MPs and councillors to lobby on funding for social care and funding for schools. These are universal issues that affect every family in the Bradford District regardless of where they live.

2. Councillor Cooke

How many times since the floods of Boxing Day 2015, has the Leader of Council and/or the relevant Portfolio Holder met with the Environment Agency, to discuss flooding and the mitigation of flood risk in the Bradford District?

Answer

Representatives of Bradford Council from Assistant Director level down to frontline staff have and continue to meet with the Environment Agency (EA) on a regular basis and feed back to the Portfolio Holder and Leader regularly.

Learning from successful flood programme partnerships in the region and to formalise the manner in which Bradford Council, the EA and Yorkshire Water (YW) had been working together, Bradford Council, working closely with the EA, formed the Bradford Flood Programme Board. The board works to identify potential schemes and their possible funding mechanisms, manage community resilience and the impact on Strategic Priority Areas. Meetings are held bi-monthly. In addition, an EA officer works out of Council offices one day a week and regular operational meetings have been and are held between Council staff, the EA and YW to plan and prioritise work in the district. Due to the partnership work in progress these meetings are commonly a weekly occurrence and day to day contact and engagement is both normal and essential. The formation of this board has led to £850k being obtained from the Yorkshire Regional Flood & Coastal Committee's Local Levy Fund to enable detailed assessment of potential schemes to be carried out.

Since January we have built a strong working relationship with the EA and YW and have worked with them to gather information from communities and share data. We held community drop-in events across the District in May and June this year (City Centre, Shipley, Bingley, Keighley and Ilkley (six in total as we held two in Keighley)) to consult on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, answers residents questions and gather data which has been shared in full between partners. Further flood roadshows were conducted in conjunction with the EA in July in Addingham, Keighley, Bingley, Shipley, Saltaire, Baildon and Esholt and all information was fed into studies conducted for Initial assessments of priority areas in the district.

Working in partnership with the EA, YW and the voluntary Flood Resilience group, a flood pack will be mailed to 8,000 residents and businesses in advance of the Christmas period. This will provide details of how residents/businesses can prepare themselves in the event of a flood from any source, who the key contacts and organisations are, where they can get independent advice and what work we have been doing and are progressing in the future. Partnership roadshows are planned for early in the New Year to provide an overview to residents in regard to the Initial Assessments and to reinforce the messages sent before Christmas.

The EA and YW were statutory consultees for the Bradford District Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Their comments on the draft strategy were used alongside residents' feedback to help shape the final document, one of the key components of which is how we engage with, work in partnership with and communicate with the relevant Risk Management Authorities to ensure the most effective working practices. We are also working with the EA, YW and neighbouring Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) in catchment level work for the River Aire and the establishment of a Wharfe Catchment group is in progress.

Our Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) team are also considering a joint natural flood management and water quality project on Clayton Beck with the EA, which has £30,000 indicative funding on the EAs Environment Programme MTP.

In November an Aire River Stewardship group was formed with representatives from the EA and the Council sitting on the project group. This will develop landowner and community engagement with the river and its tributaries to make it more resilient to flooding, cleaner, more attractive and biodiverse. This group has already made links with the Council's Flood Resilience and Community Engagement group (where EA & CROW are also represented), which reports to the Bradford Flood Programme Board. It is envisaged that the river stewardship project will become a key strand in this work also.

CROW has also engaged with EA on specific issues such as assisting with last year's flood aftermath on issues such as riverside clean-ups, and on wider river management issues such as mapping and undertaking control of invasive plants (Himalayan Balsam, Knotweed, Hogweed) on our riverside sites.

Finally, an initial West Yorkshire Resilience Forum telephone conference was held at the end of November following the rain that affected parts of West Yorkshire on Monday 21st November, which caused some surface water flooding. The main thrust of the call was to seek views from members, if a weekly telephone conference call led by either the Met Office or the Environment Agency would assist in a better understanding and preparing for weather incidents. The idea was agreed in principle, with the working arrangements to be organised by the LRF Manager.

This conference call will be on top of the normal Environment Agency conference calls that are made when it is considered necessary by them to update partners on potential flooding issues, taking account of river levels and potential rainfall.

Supplementary Question

Can I thank you for the very long answer telling us that neither you or the Portfolio or indeed the previous Leader or the previous Portfolio Holder had met with the Environment Agency to discuss flooding in Bradford and can I say that is a little bit disappointing and here is why it is a little bit disappointing. In the autumn statement there are £175m worth of flood mitigation investment announced, £35m for Leeds, they did meet with the Environment Agency, £45m for York, they did meet with the Environment Agency, and £35m for Calder Valley and they did meet with the Environment Agency as well. These places took it seriously, when Leader are you going to take seriously?

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Cooke. First of all this is the last six months so obviously Councillor Slater is telling me that she met them obviously at the period of floods when they happened earlier in the year. So I have to say that we have a very good working relationship with the Environment Agency as a Council. If you have issues then let us know and we will escalate them. Also Councillor Ellis is our representative on the Committee that actually meets with the Environment Agency on a regular basis. Now it is my understanding that everybody else in West Yorkshire has a portfolio holder on that. Now obviously we have a cross party approach we feel in terms of flooding across the district. It is not meant to be a political stick to beat us with having the Conservatives represented on that Committee. So if it is going to be so then we need to review that but we value Councillor Ellis's input into that Committee and we would not want that to change but if it is going to be a problem for you I am happy to take more of a lead on that Committee and if that is what you want to see but actually we are working as you will see quite closely with the Environment Agency. If there are any issues we would take them up immediately. Thank you.

3. Councillor Nicola Pollard

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Culture - How many Primary Schools in the Bradford District are taking part in the 'Daily Mile Challenge' and what is the Council doing to encourage participation?

Answer

The "Daily Mile Challenge" aims to encourage the completion of a 1 mile route by every Primary child, every school day (The Daily Mile www.thedailymile.co.uk). We know of two local schools which are currently taking part; Killinghall and St Clare's; and we are aware that there are four other schools looking at implementing it.

The School Governor Service is aware of the 'Daily Mile Challenge' and will publicise the initiative via its regular printed and other channels as part of a concerted local strategy to improve pupils' fitness.

That strategy is the subject of a recent proposal and a planned dialogue between Public Health and Education Employment and Skills Services. The aim is to develop a health-education partnership; a whole systems approach to addressing healthy weight across the district. Public Health has offered management time to present to head teachers and provide officer capacity to help schools implement the initiative.

Development of this intervention is being considered by and will be subject to the governance of the recently formed “Healthy Weight Delivery Board” which reports to the “Health and Wellbeing Board”.

4. Councillor Swallow

Could the Portfolio Holder please state whether the numbers of homeless people sleeping rough across our District increased significantly over the last 6 years, how many people are currently sleeping rough and what is the strategy or solution to ensure that these people are taken care of and given safe, warm, clean places to stay?

Answer

An annual count or estimate of rough sleepers is undertaken in line with Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) requirements. This is just a snapshot for a single night during November. From a high of 26 estimated rough sleepers in 2012, numbers have fallen (2013 – 12, 2014 – 10, 2015 – 16 and 2016 – 10), however only the last two years have been physical counts as opposed to paper-based estimates.

There are many factors which influence the rough sleeper count, including weather on the night, recent initiatives and restrictions on where and when we can count individuals. Most public agencies in Bradford therefore agree that the actual number of rough sleepers is likely to be higher, including those sleeping in disused buildings or hidden locations. It is important, however, to recognise that not all rough sleepers are homeless, and not all people who beg on the streets are rough sleepers.

The Council and its partners are committed to a number of initiatives and services aimed at tackling rough sleeping. The Council has commissioned DISC to provide a ‘No Second Night Out’ service, incorporating an assessment hub for rough sleepers, emergency short-term accommodation and move-on support, and out-reach workers to go out and engage with rough sleepers. DISC also co-ordinate Cold Weather Provision, where partners provide a bed or safe shelter for any rough sleeper on nights when the temperature is predicted to fall below zero. The Council has also commissioned the Salvation Army to continue to provide a Day Shelter service for rough sleepers and other vulnerable people, where a range of support services are provided on a drop-in basis, including advice on accessing a safe place to stay.

In its first full year of operation, the No Second Night Out service accommodated over 300 people, and achieved a successful move-on rate of around 50%. Over last winter (2015/16) the Cold Weather partners provided 137 bedspaces, up from 119 the previous year.

5. Councillor Farley

Can the Portfolio Holder advise what the impact of the government’s new national schools funding formula is going to be on the Bradford District?

Answer

We do not yet have sight of the impact of national funding formula proposals on primary, secondary or high needs provisions in Bradford. The Government’s 1st stage of consultation, in March 2016, did not give figures on which to assess impact. We are now waiting for the Government’s publication of its response and a 2nd stage of consultation, which we expect will provide sufficient detail to enable us to calculate the impact on the Bradford District. We have identified some key watch areas, including the financial

implications for smaller schools, the sufficiency of our High Needs funding resources and the weighting provided for supporting children with additional educational needs. We do expect that the Government will implement its proposals under protection over time. The NUT's estimation based on the F40 schools formula suggests Bradford District will be 7th worst hit in the country losing £43m from schools by 2020.

The Department of Education has on 1 December published final details of the new Early Years National Funding Formula, which will be implemented from April 2017. The result of this, in headline financial terms, is that Bradford's rate of funding for the delivery of the 2 year old free entitlement is set to increase at April 2017 to £5.20 per hour from £4.85 (+7.2%) but Bradford's rate of funding for the delivery of the 3 and 4 year old free entitlement is set to reduce over 2 years from £5.08 per hour to £4.57 (-10%). The latter represents a loss of £3m in cash terms on current pupil numbers; a net total £2.4m loss including the increase in the funding of 2 year olds. The requirement to implement a universal base rate for the 3 and 4 year old free entitlement, as well as a restriction on the spending on support through the deprivation supplement to 10%, will mean that the distribution of early years funding between types of providers in the Bradford District will flatten over time, as well as rates of funding reducing in line with the Government's reduction. The Government has still to confirm its longer term plans for the funding of nursery schools and we await further consultation specifically on the proposals and implications for this sector. Protection of the current funding of nursery schools is provided for the remainder of this parliament.

6. Councillor Davies

Can the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills confirm whether the Council has plans to follow the example of Wirral Council who managed to secure an additional £725,000 in funding for local schools through automating the process for pupil premium registration?

Answer

Wirral Council undertook an exercise to ensure it was maximising free schools meals – the key benefits that triggers the pupil premium - because of a reduction in the number of pupils taking them up following the introduction of Universal Free School Meals for KS1 children. We have not seen such a reduction in Bradford and numbers having free school meals have remained consistent.

However, Officers from Finance and Children's Services are to meet in the very near future to look at any opportunities and processes required to ensure we continue to maximise Pupil Premium Funding to schools.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. I wonder is it possible to be informed of the outcome of that meeting please?

Councillor Imran Khan

Yes happy to do so.

7. Councillor Swallow

Could the Leader please advise what the impact of the Chancellor's autumn statement will be on the people of this District? Will we see more jobs and opportunities or more people desperate for help being let down?

Answer

After so much hype, the Autumn Statement was very disappointing. Local Authorities up and down the country had been anticipating that the Government would heed calls to properly finance Adult Social Care. Until this happens all other services including those to support economic development and jobs growth will be severely constrained in Bradford. The Government signalled that they would be investing in transport infrastructure including roads. The road routes announced did not support Bradford. We are still working on lobbying for Transport for the North funding. The route for Northern Powerhouse Rail will not be announced until Spring next year and will be a decision of Ministers.

8. Councillor Pullen

When planning consent is pending certain conditions being met, and the build is completed without the said conditions being met, what redress does the council undertake to put matters right?

Answer

In those cases where developments have been completed without a number of conditions having been implemented, the Council will enforce against the developer to ensure that the condition is met to the satisfaction of the Council. The Council's planning enforcement team will investigate any issues they are notified of. In the majority of cases the Council will negotiate with the developer to rectify any problems that have occurred with a development, before taking recourse to legal action.

Supplementary Question

Thanks for the answer. I think there has been a bit of a spelling mistake somewhere. It says where the Council will enforce action against the developer perhaps the "will" should be changed to "maybe" and then on that occasion who will make that decision? Thank you.

Councillor Ross-Shaw

I do not know if there is a specific incident you have in mind Councillor Pullen. If you want to send me any details of course we will have a look at it. It will be the planning department and the managers within that department will take a view on what enforcement action is necessary in each specific case.

9. Councillor Poulsen

Given that long term flood protection and mitigation measures remain under development, can the Leader and/or Portfolio Holder advise what has been done to support and encourage readiness for residents and businesses in places at risk of flooding?

Answer

The Council's Emergency Management Team (EMT) have been rolling out a programme of engaging with Town/Parish Councils and community groups to help them produce an Emergency and Flood Plan for each area that will see 'hubs' emerge that are managed by the local Councils and groups during emergency situations with direct communication to a central Emergency Control Room. Local Councils and groups are being supported to write the plan and to be trained in the key roles to be enacted. This training will be carried out annually when the plan will also be reviewed for accuracy and updated.

Although this action will not stop flooding it will lead to a better understanding locally of the risks and the 'triggers'. In effect, it looks to build on the public response shown during the Boxing Day Floods and asks local people to 'self-help' in certain circumstances as emergency services and others mobilise alongside them. It also gives local people the opportunity to self-assess and to be aware of what can possibly happen in their community and to prepare and mitigate those issues that may be foreseen as well as assisting the recovery process at the earliest possible stage.

Residents and businesses in flood affected or "at risk" areas will shortly be receiving a "Flood Pack". It will be sent to those residents and businesses that were impacted by Storms Desmond and Eva in December 2015 as well as those residents/businesses falling within the Environment Agency (EA) flood extents of main rivers and those residents shown to have the highest risk of surface water flooding. This will equate to approximately 8,000 properties. The pack will also be available to view in all public libraries and Contact Centres as well as being available on line on the Council's website, which has been updated to include flooding advice and signposting to relevant websites.

The Flood pack is a partnership piece of work from the Council, Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water (YW) and the voluntary Flood Resilience Group. The pack will contain a leaflet that explains to people what they can do to be prepared and what they as property/business owners need to consider. It provides useful signpost information to relevant organisations such as the National Flood Forum, FloodRe and the Blue Pages. It also contains a checklist of what to do before, during and after a flood event and all the relevant key contacts. A newsletter to update residents and businesses as to the work being conducted across the district by the Council, the EA and YW will also be included.

The Environment Agency's Extended Floodline Service now covers the Bradford area with local information being provided, to enable a single point of contact for help and guidance for Bradford residents about flooding. The Extended Floodline Service is a telephone service which uses agents from the Environment Agency to provide residents with up-to-date local information about what to do before, during and after flooding. This service means that residents have a single point of contact for information about highways, help for vulnerable people, culverts, gullies, groundwater flooding, how to clean up after a flood as well as information about local community flood plans that are in place in their area. Bradford Council has worked with the Environment Agency to provide local information for the service which is also available online. The new service also allows the council to update the information as things change.

The launch of this new service coincided with a national #FloodAwareness campaign from the Environment Agency which ran from the 1-11 November and encourages residents to check their flood risk, sign up for free flood warnings and find out what they can do when flooding occurs.

Finally with respect to helping those residents and businesses who were flooded in the Boxing Day floods protect their premises and improve their preparedness against future flooding, the Council has taken a variety of steps to ensure all those entitled to support have taken it. This includes publicity, both in the press and on social media; letters to all those affected; a road-show in conjunction with the EA and other interested parties. Ward officers have also been proactive in affected areas.

The following payments have been made or are in hand.

Initial grant scheme

Domestic properties £500 – 761 paid

Business properties £2500 – 71 paid

Resilience Grant scheme (up to £5,000) applications

Domestic: 861

Business: 72

Supplementary Question

Can I just ask when this pack goes out and is live on the website can Members be advised so that we can then advise residents?

Councillor Ross-Shaw

Yes that is a good idea and then you can let residents to know to expect it so I will send the information on.

10. Councillor Engel

Where there is evidence that a school has failed in its duty to properly support a pupil experiencing emotional or mental health difficulties, what can, does and will this authority do to address the problem, and how is this affected by the fragmented nature of our schools estate?

Answer

The Local Authority (LA) monitors all children and young people with statements and Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) through the annual review process and this would highlight any Children (C) and Young People (YP) who are experiencing emotional and mental health difficulties alongside special educational needs. Targets set at the previous annual review will be discussed and evaluated to assess if progress is being made. Where there is evidence that young people have not met their targets then it is the school's responsibility to detail this in the annual review report which would then be forwarded to the Special Educational Needs (SEN) team. Schools can then make a request for additional funding to meet needs or to seek a review of the placement to meet need under the child's EHCP. Requests such as these are discussed by Officers and Headteachers at the weekly SEN moderation panel and decisions will be agreed in light of the evidence provided by the school. This panel will challenge the schools to offer additional support/or review support that is being provided to the C or YP where they feel that the school could be more effective in provision they are making.

Primary pupils experiencing emotional and mental health difficulties can be referred through to our Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) Team who offer support and challenge (on a traded basis) to schools to tailor provision and implement strategies to meet social, emotional and mental health needs. Pupils at risk of exclusion without an EHCP/statement can be referred for support at our behaviour centres. Staff in the centres and our specialist teaching team offer targeted support to the children and their host school to improve provision and move towards successful reintegration. The team work closely with the school improvement team where there are concerns around a school's capacity to support children and put in place appropriate provision and support whole school work to develop nurture and improve the climate for learning for children experiencing social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

For secondary YP who do not have a statement or EHCP the LA Inclusion Officers are heavily involved with the Behaviour and Achievement Collaboratives (BACs) which work across all secondary schools and have targeted areas in the South, Central and 3 Valleys (Keighley, Bingley and Ilkley). Inclusion Officers attend the weekly BACs meeting and will discuss young people who are experiencing difficulty. The BACs model is sector led and peers who challenge each other around the support and provision being made for young people. Schools who are struggling to meet need around pupils experiencing emotional and mental health issues can also refer to the SEBD team for whole school or individual support.

Schools who permanently exclude pupils who are experiencing emotional and mental issues are always offered advice and challenge by LA Officers and the most appropriate solutions to support the C, YP and family are sought in collaboration with other professional and agencies involved with the C or YP. The LA Behaviour Support Service will always offer challenge to schools where they feel that permanent exclusion is not appropriate.

The LA works closely with CAMHS through the Future in Mind Group and through the mental health and well-being groups to promote support through schools for children and young people experiencing emotional and mental health difficulties.

Bradford Council is keen to work proactively with schools to promote healthy minds and is launching the Nurturing School Programme with schools on 27 January 2017.

Where a parent complains to the LA about a school's provision to meet emotional and mental health needs officers will always follow up with Headteachers, signpost to available support and ask for the matter to be referred to governors to investigate.

With the development of the academy agenda and the formation of MATs, there is the concern that the education system will become fragmented. The responsibility for academies, apart from the safeguarding function, which lies with the LA, is with regional schools commissioner (RSC) and the DFE. The only way the LA can escalate concerns is to the RSC unless the matter is of safeguarding.

11. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Can the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety advise Members of the cost to a private organisation of having an individual Police Officer attend an event for 8 hours including evenings and does the Portfolio Holder think that organisers of events on private land should pay these costs?

Answer

The Police apply a charging policy in line with national guidance. Applying cost recovery or 'Special Policing Services' is determined by the nature of the event, not necessarily where it is held, or who it is being held by. The costs incurred depend on the resources deployed - it is not affected by the time of day. Discount can be applied for charitable events. Many large events on private land do not request or attract Special Policing Services due to their own expertise and knowledge.

I believe that the Bradford Police Division is right to consider each request on its merit and in accordance with the guidance that is available and do not believe that it is the Council's role to seek to influence such considerations.

Supplementary Question

Thank you very much for your answer. I dread the guidelines, but can I now ask for his support to seek to get support for recharging Coca Cola for the cost of the five police officers for each of up to at least eight hours to police the visit of what was an advertising truck for Coca Cola and the cost incurred by the Council for cleaning up afterwards? Thank you.

Councillor Jabar

I cannot really give you any updates on that because I do not know much about it but I will get back to you.

12. Councillor Farley

Will the portfolio holder please give an update on our district's Local Plan Core Strategy which was put on hold by the government due to representations from Philip Davies MP after the plan was approved by the planning inspector?

Answer

Since receiving the Holding Direction from Housing Minister, Gavin Barwell MP in October, Council officers have been seeking clarification as to the timescales envisaged in resolving the Direction and responding to requests from officials working with the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to provide information and clarification on how the issues raised by Philip Davies MP were considered within the Core Strategy and related evidence base as well as by the Examination held by the government appointed Inspector. This has so far involved:

- A teleconference with DCLG and key Bradford officers in October to clarify process and answer preliminary DCLG questions
- The provision of material to DCLG setting out the council's response to the matters and signposting where key statements and evidence relating to the Examination can be found
- A meeting with DCLG officers led by the Government Chief Planner Steve Quartermain to review the initial key issues
- Provision of further detailed information as requested by Steve Quartermain at the meeting above

DCLG officials indicated that when they had received the required information they would aim to finalise their report and recommendation. They indicated an intention to meet and brief the minister before Christmas with a view to making a decision on whether to withdraw the Direction.

We have also received support for our position from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Leeds Local Enterprise Partnership Planning Board, both of whom have written to the government outlining their concerns regarding the Holding Direction and the potential impact on economic growth for the Leeds City Region and the implications for other Local Authorities developing Local Plans.

At a speech to the National Housing Building Council on 24 November the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government, Sajid Javid MP, emphasised the need nationally to boost housing delivery. In this context he made clear that 'Where local councils come forward with sensible, robust local plans – and are willing to take the tough decisions – I will back them all the way.' In this context he formally withdrew the holding direction on Birmingham City Council's Local Plan. He noted that the plan is supported by

the independent Planning Inspectorate and that Birmingham had looked at all the options and considered all the implications.

In this respect the information provided to DCLG clearly sets out the Council's response to how the issues raised by Philip Davies MP have been considered as part of the local plan. It demonstrates that the Core Strategy has looked at the full range of reasonable options and considered the implications. The Core Strategy has been subject to an extensive formal process at a very significant cost and has been found sound subject to the application of a limited number of modifications by the Government appointed Inspector. It is hoped that the Minister is in a position to withdraw the current Holding Direction based on his recent announcements.

13. Councillor Cooke

As the Environment Agency is consulting on significant changes in demaining rivers has the Council made representations to the Agency's consultation on these changes and what plans are in place to meet the costs of any changes to Bradford as a Local Flood Authority?

Answer

The Environment Agency to date is only asking for expressions of interest from Councils who wish to see watercourses in their district demained from Main River to Ordinary Watercourse status. Currently there are no proposals to enforce demainment and we have not been approached to see if we would be interested; however we are aware that this may become an issue in coming years. The process of demainment would require approval from the Yorkshire Region Flood and Coastal Committee on which Local Authority Members have a simple majority. Should we be approached formally the benefits (if any) and cost would be evaluated for each location; where it would not be seen in our interest a formal objection would be made.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. I am just a little concerned. I just think we need to pay a little bit more attention to this. Currently there are a series of consultations on changes to main rivers being demained by the Environment Agency and it does not include any specific ones in Bradford District at the moment although there are conversations. I just think the answer confuses what the Environment Agency say at least on their website and what we are saying does not seem to match. So I am just a bit concerned that we need to perhaps to take it away and do it. The Environment Agency is very clear that yes it consults with other risk authorities but it is very clear the Environment Agency decides which water courses are main rivers so it is not the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee that makes that decision. It is merely like we are a consultee so I just think we need to do that and importantly if we are going to do that, one, we think about it in the context of our budget but also because it is going to cost us money if it ends up on our plate and something none of us particularly wants but also we begin to have that conversation with local communities that may be infected and where they may be able to do things around that so if you can take that on board because I think this could actually potentially be not only important but also quite costly if we do not keep an eye on it.

Councillor Ross-Shaw

Thank you Councillor Cooke. That I is really useful feedback obviously Councillor Ellis is our representative on the Flood and Coastal Committee and he flagged it up and has given us an early warning so I asked officers to look into it so I will make sure that they are definitely on the same page as what you have suggested and I know I asked them to

liaise with Councillor Ellis to make sure that he was happy with their position in this as well. We will look into it again.

14. Councillor Abid Hussain

Bradford is a diverse city and we must ensure life opportunities for all whatever their background or circumstances. Is the Leader concerned about recent national reports which refer to community cohesion in Bradford District and can you give an update on our work in this area?

Answer

As Leader I am always concerned when reports about Bradford district highlight areas of concern and hope that they are fair and balanced, which allows us to consider and reflect on our approach and to review our actions where necessary.

Our approach to supporting community cohesion focuses on four areas of shared values, promoting active citizenship, equalities and community safety. A great deal of work is done by officers, by individuals and the voluntary sector and indeed by councillors as community leaders within their wards.

Some of our key work takes place in Children's Services, engaging with children and young people across the district and also in the Neighbourhoods teams.

Children's Services continue to support schools with multi faith support and in promoting initiatives such as Stand Up Speak out Make a difference (SUSOMAD) which uses the Anne Frank History for Today, the Anne Frank and (You) and Remembering Srebrenica exhibitions as a focus for peer education which tackles prejudice and discrimination. The Interfaith Education Centre provides schools with the opportunity to visit places of worship and to meet with faith practitioners in order to understand and appreciate the significance of religion and belief in modern society. They also provide training, advice and guidance to supplementary schools and school governors. Schools linking network is co-located with Children's Services and delivers schools linking activities, bringing schools from different parts of the district and children of different backgrounds together through planned activities.

The Neighbourhood Service, through its area offices continues to work with residents on local issues, including joint local action such as community clean ups as a means of bringing people together with common aims. Our Wardens and Ward Officers support local, district and wider initiatives such as the Winter Warmth project, Snow Wardens and Dementia Friendly Communities, which also provide opportunities to bring people together in support of each other and their local community.

Opportunities exist for communities to interact through events and celebratory occasions, be they on local parks and recreation grounds of Christmas Lights, Eid and Diwali. Youth workers, Council and volunteers work on projects across the district that bring young people together from different backgrounds and provide occasion for people to learn about different cultures and backgrounds.

Officers support some of our smaller communities such as our African community, Central and Eastern European and others like the Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgendered (LBGT) community with events and plans that give them opportunity to have voice and influence in the wider life of the district. A great example of this is how the City came together in condemnation of the murders in the Orlando nightclub earlier this year.

The Community Stars event that took place last week, a partnership involving the Telegraph and Argus, celebrates our local heroes from all backgrounds who are making a difference across Bradford and in doing so, profiles some of the great work that is taking place in breaking down barriers.

Our People Can campaign has some excellent examples of where people have got together to work for the common good on a vast range of projects and the Council supports this activity through the management of the website and production of good practice guides to help make sure that people can volunteer safely.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership produced a plan outlining much of the good work that is taking place across the district.

When pressure is brought to our communities, such as English Defence League (EDL) demonstrations or Britain First a reassurance and engagement group is brought together involving Council, Police, partners and key community representatives to respond to emerging community tensions. This group supports a range of actions from low level monitoring and positive messaging on social media to working with the Police and Council as community mediators at demonstrations.

We also have a Hate Crime coordinator, who works with Bradford Hate Crime Alliance, Police and partners to promote our hate crime reporting centres and encourage reporting and to develop and deliver projects that respond to issues linked to hate incidents.

Perhaps the best most recent example of how we bring people together was our world record breaking Love Bradford event that saw over 2,300 people from all backgrounds, ages and parts of the district come together in a show of unity and support for our great district.

Clearly we have work to do and there is always more that can be done. However, we have some solid foundations to build upon and some great work taking place across the district.

15. Councillor Swallow

How many people have Bradford Council prosecuted and imprisoned for non-payment of Council Tax and how many of these were single parents?

Answer

Since October 2014 Bradford Council has taken action, for non payment of Council Tax, resulting in the imprisonment of 34 people. 6 of the 34 people sentenced to prison did not serve the sentence as the debt was paid in full. 7 of the 34 people were single parents and 3 of these did not serve the sentence as the debt was paid in full.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. The supplementary I have I do not think you will have the answers to hand so I would appreciate it if you could get them. Obviously we all want as we heard in this room, we want to everyone to pay their Council Tax because we would be loaded to quote a phrase but there are many people that I know of that I work with in my day job who are desperate and in financial desperation. They are trying to feed their children, they are in financial difficulty through no fault of their own in many cases and one particular person was imprisoned by this Council and the Council were in transient

would not offer any support or anything and I was shocked that Bradford Council would be like that. I deal with Councils right throughout this country and I genuinely thought that we would be more compassionate, more understanding towards people who are in financial difficulty and give them time to pay and up until recently I thought Bradford Council did give people time to pay, did allow them time to get debt counselling, help and assistance so I would really appreciate it if you could find out how many of those people were referred to and given time to get debt counselling, advice and support.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Swallow. None of us want to see people go to prison and go down this route so what we do is we fund a CAB adviser to support everybody who is in this predicament. If they do want to pay we will support them to pay so I am happy to give your more detail on the individual case which is something that is confidential but do rest assured we work with people who want to pay and help them as much as they can so they do not get into this position in the first place.

16. Councillor Ellis

Would the Leader of the Council confirm what measures are being taken by the Council, following the recent unsuccessful appeal by Leeds City Council, in relation to responsibility for the payment of Council Tax, when a tenant has departed but the tenancy has not been formally terminated by either tenant or landlord?

Answer

I am aware of the decision in the recent case involving Leeds. This is a highly complex area of the law and the case has helped to clarify some of this complexity. Prior to this case being decided, Bradford had already made decisions on the specific issues involved and our reasoning has now been supported by this decision.

I am content with the manner in which the Council Tax Department determine who is liable for Council Tax in these cases and no further action is necessary

Supplementary Question

Thank you for your answer. I am just wondering has the Council made any provision for repayment of Council Tax which may have been sort of previously wrongly claimed from whoever? Thank you.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Ellis. It is good to clarify this because actually we have been acting in accordance with the court's decision all along so actually we are not affected by this decision. Leeds had a different opinion to us on it. We have been acting in accordance with this so actually it does not affect us. We are one step ahead is what I am telling you.

17. Councillor Dunbar

Will the Portfolio Holder explain the importance of this district marking Trans Day of Remembrance (20 November) each year and assure us that this support will continue in the coming years?

Answer

The transgender day of remembrance is an International day set aside to memorialise those people who have been murdered because of anti-transphobic hatred. The day

provides an opportunity for the community to raise awareness of the issues that Trans people face.

Bradford Council and its partners have worked hard to support the Trans community. Bradford led the way and hosted the first two West Yorkshire events in 2013 and 2014. It was then agreed that all five local councils that make up the regions authorities would share the responsibility.

The most significant aspect of the Trans Day of Remembrance event is the lighting of candles that symbolises the life of a Trans person who has been killed through hate crime. This practice was started in Bradford and has continued throughout the region. Bradford has also posted the names and images of those who have been murdered on the Big Screen in the City Park as part of the vigil.

A book of remembrance has also been established which now travels with the authority who takes on responsibility for the event for that year. The book is held by the local Trans community in Bradford and is history of the journey Trans people have made.

Bradford flies flags for the community on special occasions such as Trans Day of Remembrance and Gay Pride in recognition of the Trans community and in support of Trans people across the globe.

We have continued to work with the local Trans community and look forward to continuing to support this Group along with our partners at Bradford and Councils across West Yorkshire.

18. Councillor Dunbar

Will the Leader join me in denouncing the persecution of Burma's Rohingya Muslim minority, a plight which is going unnoticed by the world at large?

Answer

This city has supported the Rohingya community for a long time and resettled 199 Rohingya refugees between 2008 and 2010 from refugee camps. I remember well hearing these refugees speak of the persecution they had suffered. I agree their stories should be heard more widely.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Leader for the answer. It is great to hear the support we have been giving the Rohingya Muslim minority community since 2008 but I would just like to ask the Leader is there any more we can do to lobby Government and this Prime Minister who has been strangely silent on this issue at the moment. People have been raped, tortured, murdered, as we speak, this Muslim minority and I think as a community in Bradford, as a region, as a country, we need to stand up and stand for those people who are experiencing these clear cut human rights abuses.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Dunbar. It is perhaps something that Councillor Jabar and I need to revisit in terms of making sure we speak to the Rohingya community now and see what their current concerns are and certainly we will make representations having had spoken to them. Thank you.

19. Councillor Stubbs

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety - Can the Portfolio Holder give us brief highlights of the work undertaken to ensure the safety of residents and emergency services in the lead up to and on Bonfire night?

Answer

Planning for this year's bonfire night period began in early September with an inaugural meeting of all interested parties called by the Emergency Management Team (EMT) to look at and ensure the 'operational plan' was fit for purpose and dovetailed with those plans of the emergency services. By early October the plan was adjusted and agreed as appropriate for the task by a further full meeting of all parties. Problems encountered in previous years were considered and mitigation put in place. Personnel required to be active over this period were identified in all the services, and put in place, and 'roles and responsibilities' were clearly documented and understood.

Closer to the event, all the Council Wardens were briefed 'team by team' as to what to watch for as they went about their work e.g. bonfires that were dangerous either by location, content or structure and how to report their findings. Priority areas were identified and built into the plan for Wardens and Cleansing staff. The Contact Centre was clear about its responsibility in identifying incoming calls and complaints and how to flag those up to EMT who would ensure the tasks were carried through by the most appropriate team. The Highways Service visited all sites which in the previous year saw traffic problems and advised on how this might be resolved.

Over the bonfire night period there were Cleansing staff on-call to respond to requests for service, removing dangerous bonfires, making others safe, removing dangerous materials from bonfires and advising those organisers responsible for the event. Police and Fire Service ran two 'fire cars' which gave a quick response to incoming calls (which were coming in to all services) and advised on best practice through the on-call EMT officer. Police and Fire Services ran Incident Control Rooms into which the Councils EMT were connected.

Overall communications were good and improved by having daily meetings in the week leading up to the bonfire period where incoming intelligence and information could be looked at, scrutinised and acted on. All known 'hot spots' were closely overseen and managed.

The net outcome was that all known areas which gave rise to concern the previous year were effectively managed. All issues that arose this year will be captured in the multi-agency debrief taking place on 7 December 2016, will be analysed and again looked at in the lead up to next year's bonfire period to build on this year's success and continue the upward trend of improved safety, as well as helping to potentially reduce demand on NHS services.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. I would like to ask given that we had the Riot Police brought into the district over Bonfire Night to deal with a number of young people behaving in an anti social manner, throwing fireworks around in the Pollard Lane area of Undercliffe. We also were responsible for 75% of all the attacks on West Yorkshire Fire Authority during the Bonfire period as well. Will the Portfolio Holder be supporting the cuts of £360,000 being proposed for the Youth Services budget this year?

Councillor Jabar

There is a consultation process on the budget proposals.

20. Councillor Dunbar

Does the Leader welcome the recent Court of Appeal hearing that has upheld a High Court decision that NHS England has the power to commission HIV prevention treatment PrEP?

Answer

We welcome the recent Court of Appeal hearing that has upheld a High Court decision that NHS England has the power to commission HIV prevention treatment (PrEP). We also welcome the announcement on 4 December by NHS England to fund a major extension to the national HIV prevention programme led by Public Health England (PHE). We await details of how the programme will work locally.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Leader. Obviously welcome this development and finally NHS England and the Government have been held to account for the lack of action on this issue. I would just ask can the Leader along with the Director of Public Health lobby NHS England and Central Government to ensure Bradford is included in the 10,000 trial numbers that come forth and also thank Yorkshire MESMAC for the fantastic work they do on HIV prevention treatment and care in this district as well.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Dunbar. Certainly willing to join you in thanking MESMAC. I know from a number of Councillors in the Chamber across party they do great work here and we recognise what they do to service that community. I am not aware of the 10,000, probably should be Councillor Slater, probably is, so we need to talk about that and see that is something we should be pitching forth. Thank you for bringing it to our attention.

21. Councillor Poulsen

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport, please advise members of the stretches of highways that will be affected by the 20% reduction in the number of highways which now fall on gritting routes?

Answer

A link will be sent round to members clarifying the roads in question. These are the routes that will not have a precautionary grit anymore although in exceptional circumstances of very severe weather they will be gritted as requested.

Supplementary Question

Can I just say I have had great difficulty trying to get hold of this information. It seems something quite straight forward, which roads are we no longer gritting as a precautionary measure. Although I have requested it for weeks and weeks and weeks from Highways to no success and now we are going to have a link so I presume that means it is on the website somewhere, it is not on the interactive map which shows the pink gritting route. It must be hidden somewhere else and I am just quite disappointed that it is not as easily available.

Councillor Ross-Shaw

I think we have had this before where you have struggled to get stuff from officers so by all means do escalate to me directly when you are in that situation. My understanding is on line, there is a way to view the ones that have gone from one year to the next. You are right, it might not be on that map but yes Members will be sent the full list. I can assure you of that.

22. Councillor Davies

As, in June Cllr Imran Khan said "we have let down generations of young people" and "I want to do things a different way to how we've done things before" and as part of this he pledged to hold monthly meetings where all councillors would be invited to make suggestions on how to improve education, could he now, six months on, confirm how many of these meetings have been held and what has been learned from them?

Answer

A lot of activity has taken place over recent months and Education continues to be a top priority for this Council. 10 years of Serco run Education under a Conservative administration set Bradford back years and I am pleased to report that we are now starting to see the 'green shoots' of recovery. I am under no disillusion, we have a long way to go, but things are improving and will continue to get better.

I have always advocated that Education and improving attainment levels at school are a collective responsibility and indeed this is what the Education Covenant is all about. I have ensured that all members have been kept informed of the ever-changing education landscape and have made information available to anyone who has asked. I note that I have had no such request from Cllr Davies.

At the first meeting of the cross-party forum, it was agreed by those present that this was a fantastic way to ensure all members were able to play their part and have input into the education system, something that had not been done before. Those present also agreed that quarterly meetings would be preferred. A number of points were raised in that meeting and have been fed into the Education Covenant, which was the most appropriate vehicle for bringing matters to the fore. Additionally a number of issues were raised around school involvement and these have been taken on board in our dealings with schools. I found it a valuable meeting and an opportunity to break down political barriers for a common cause. I note again, however, that the Conservative Spokesperson for Education did not attend or send her apologies.

The 2nd meeting was run as a training session for all members around education in general. This involved presentations from a number of officers followed by a Q&A session. Again, this was very well attended by all parties.

The 3rd meeting was again run as a training session at the behest of members, specifically around school appeals and involved officer presentations followed by an in-depth discussion. Again, this was very well attended by all parties, but yet again the Conservative Spokesperson for Education did not attend or send her apologies.

I am currently in the process of arranging the next meeting, which will take place in January 2017 and an invitation will be sent to all members. I sincerely hope Cllr Davies will attend and be constructive; education and the future of our children is too important to play cheap politics with.

Supplementary Question

First of all I would like to make a correction as I sent my apologies in all instances and in fact I had an email exchange with you where you said you would try to avoid meetings clashing with other Council meetings in the future because that is why I could not be there. My question is given you are so keen to involve all Members please will you ensure you do keep us informed. I cannot speak for the whole Chamber but certainly nobody on our side knew there was an Education Covenant Conference planned for next month until we received the papers.

Councillor Imran Khan

I do not remember having the email exchange with you but I will check that and if that is the case then I am sorry for saying that you did not send your apologies. In terms of the Education Covenant Conference we are in the planning stage so the only thing we have actually come up with at the moment is the date and the team are working on it in terms of what we want, what the asks are going to be and what we are going to talk about on the day so you will be invited to that. It is planned for the 1st February so we do have a little bit of time at the moment so you will get an invite to that. I hope you do attend.

23. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Can the Leader please provide an explanation for the strategy proposed in the budget to spend money acquiring assets to create new revenue income and give an approximate cost of acquiring such advice and undertaking due diligence on such projects?

Answer

The proposal to acquire strategic well-located property investments for the purpose of generating income, is borne out of an ambition to bolster the sources of revenue to the Council. The intention is to identify relatively long leases supported by strong covenants, earning annual positive revenue surpluses, taking into account transaction costs such as legal, valuation and Stamp Duty, and the cost of finance, which will be from the Council's normal sources of capital expenditure. Due diligence on specific investments will be conducted internally or externally, depending on the complexity of the transaction. No external costs have been incurred in developing this budget proposal.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer Leader. Having been talking to people about the potential for sites that you might acquire it has been identified to me that you possibly would buy a car park and I thought that given the urgency of the housing crisis in Bradford, would not a most useful spend of £10m a year for each of three years be spent on building houses so that we can heed some of the housing crisis for people who actually have nowhere to live. Thank you.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Sunderland. The point of this exercise is to raise revenue to obviously spend on public services so it is an investment strategy that other Councils already do, that we are going to do as well now to make sure that if we buy something, we know that we are going to make a return on it over the years so then we can put that money back into the Council services so we do not have to cut so much. We need to grow the business revenue base and make sure that actually we are not just reliant on Council Tax or business rates go up as well. That is what the purpose of this exercise is. Obviously we all want affordable housing and we had a meeting in fact with the HCA last week, myself, Councillor Ross-Shaw and Councillor Slater to say how can we work

together better to get what the HCA has got that we want. Some of those grant funding that is coming out of there we want to get our nibs on. So that is a separate element really but I understand your passion for that subject and we are pursuing that but this is about trying to raise revenue so that we do not have to cut as much.

24. Councillor Brown

Given the recently reported multi million pound investment by Leeds City College, in a multi- level campus building, could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport, whether the Council has put in motion any plans to support the Keighley District based engineering and manufacturing industries, should LCC choose to exit from its Keighley campus, taking with it or allowing the decline of, the Industrial Centre of Excellence and the Centre for Excellence in Engineering?

Answer

The Council already supports the Industrial Centre of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME), based at Keighley College, a campus operated by Leeds City College, which also works closely with local schools and businesses. This reflects the long manufacturing/engineering heritage that Keighley has which still represents a mainstay of the local economy today. The work has a strong private sector-led Board and has made good progress shaping the learning offer to meet the sector's skills gaps and in raising the profile of modern manufacturing and engineering with young people. There is strong and growing demand for apprentices recruited through this route to enter local manufacturing opportunities. Leeds City College are fully committed to continue to work in partnership to successfully grow the Centre of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering and absolutely understand the importance of this work to the local business community in Keighley and in supporting young people into local engineering and manufacturing jobs.

We support the proposal for Shipley, Keighley and Craven to be joined as outlined in the Area Review. Keighley College is a terrific asset which would be strengthened with a closer link to Shipley.

This is in keeping with other Industrial Centres of Excellence supported by Children's Services across the Bradford District with specialisms including the built environment, business and financial services and retail, and science and environmental technologies. Engineering/Manufacturing businesses are supported in terms of advice and assistance through staff in the Economic Development service. A report of recent activity was heard at Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Nov 30th. Officers also assist businesses in accessing relevant available funds through Leeds City Region. Activity to bring forward significant new business space off Dalton Lane (Chesham Street) in partnership with local developer Jim Turner was also reported and is underway. This is expected to deliver 130,000 square feet of potential business space when completed from this 8 acre site.

The Airedale Partnership continues to promote the need for future employment sites and has made representations to the developing Core strategy and allocations work.

Supplementary Question

It is a super response but with respect I do not think it quite gives the answer to the question. What will happen if Leeds City College choose to leave given the way that the Keighley Campus has been used as a recruiting centre for the Leeds College. They may well just disappear. The idea that Shipley, Keighley and possibly Craven will join together

has been an option for almost 30 years to my certain knowledge. We just need to know that the asset of Keighley College is secure and will remain there in the town serving the industry that we have there. I am more than happy to work with you but we do need to meet as my colleague down there has suggested. Thank you.

Councillor Ross-Shaw

Thank you Councillor Brown. I can reassure you that I absolutely share your desire to see the IC maintained in a success, obviously it is part of the skills portfolio with Councillor Khan and I kind of stick my neck in every now and then as Airedale Partnership Chair. Yes absolutely any proposed merger is not a threat to the ICE in any way and we do obviously want to see it secured and there is no real risk to that at all but happy to meet with you and officers to show you the thought process behind what is going to happen. Is that alright?

Councillor Brown

Please.

25. Councillor Rickard

Given the poor reading skills of many children in the Bradford district can the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills confirm whether the Council has considered investing in Imagination Libraries, supported by the Dollywood Foundation, which encourage a love of reading from birth, are popular with parents, provide excellent value for money and already run successfully in parts of the district?

Answer

There has been a strong upward trend in outcomes for 5 year-olds in the reading strand of the Early Learning goals since the new assessment framework introduced in 2013 from 62.9% in 2013 to 71.4% in 2016 and a narrowing of the gap to the National averages (77% in 2016); although this is still too wide. Correspondingly phonics outcomes for children aged 6 years-old in year 1 have also improved strongly since 2012 when this measure was introduced by 22% to 79% compared to the national average of 81%, a narrowing of the gap to 2%. There are several reasons for these improvements, and we acknowledge there is still work to be done. There has been an increased focus on reading for children from birth with programmes to encourage the foundations for reading such as Every Child a Talker, Talking Together, Early Development Language programme EDLP (I Can), the Bookstart programme, Sharing Stories together as well as the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in some children's centres. Better Start Bradford is rolling out their version of this programme – Better Start Imagine from January 2017, and as one of the key partners across the district the council we meet with them very regularly and part of these discussions will be about the evaluation of this programme and the impact on improving reading results for our young children. We also have the Early Years Language and Literacy programme which focuses on the foundations for early reading (and writing) which is now in its second year and has produced some very encouraging early results. This is a partnership between the National Literacy Trust Hub in Bradford and St Edmunds nursery school and children's centre and Birth – 19 Teaching School Alliance, the Early Years' Service, Music and Arts service and the Curriculum Innovation service.

26. Councillor Ellis

Can the Leader of the Council tell me what is the current mechanical failure rate of private hire vehicles when being tested at the road side & when having their annual test?

Answer

The mechanical failure rate for private hire vehicle between April 2016 and November 2016 is:

For Random Inspections (i.e. vehicles selected at the roadside or called in on a random basis) - 209 vehicles tested and 91 failed.

For Annual Inspection - 2,405 vehicles tested and 936 failed (this includes Hackney Carriages).

Failure rates show that on average c40% of vehicles scheduled for inspections fail. Of these c20% are for technical non-compliance (e.g. visors missing, seats dirty etc.), 10% for what is classified as minor defects (e.g. defective bulbs/wipers etc.) and c10% for more serious mechanical failures (e.g. bald tyres, broken steering/suspension etc.).

27. Councillor Fear

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety - How many yellow Anti-Social Behaviour warning letters issued by ward in each of the last 3 years?

Answer

The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) yellow warning letter is intended to be a first warning to a perpetrator of an awareness of allegations of ASB and is intended for use in the following situations:

- low level ASB
- early awareness cases
- individuals on the fringe of ASB

The number of yellow letters issued by Ward over the past 3 years is as follows:

<u>NPT AREA</u>	<u>WARD AREA</u>	<u>TOTAL FOR 2016 (TO DATE)</u>	<u>TOTAL FOR 2015</u>	<u>TOTAL FOR 2014</u>
CITY	47A CITY CENTRE	3	18	11
WEST	47b CITY REST	4	2	3
	48 CLAYTON	20	26	15
	52 HEATON	8	8	13
	59 MANNINGHAM	9	11	14
	63 THORNTON	2	17	11
	64 TOLLER	6	7	7
EAST	44 BOLTON	9	13	28
	45 BOWLING	10	34	56
	46 BFD MOOR	7	13	24
	50 ECCLESHILL	34	41	70
	53 IDLE	25	17	12
	58 LITTLE HORTON	1	26	34
SOUTH	51 GREAT HORTON	5	3	4

	60 QUEENSBURY	7	5	5
	61 ROYDS	0	38	12
	65 TONG	16	37	19
	67 WIBSEY	1	13	2
	70 WYKE	3	17	20
SHIPLEY	41 BAILDON	0	2	24
	42 BINGLEY	1	14	25
	43 BINGLEY RURAL	0	10	10
	62 SHIPLEY	4	12	10
	68 WINDHILL	9	0	9
	66 WHARFEDALE	0	0	0
KEIGHLEY	49 CRAVEN	0	3	2
	54 ILKLEY	55	3	21
	55 KEIGHLEY CENTRAL	1	10	20
	56 KEIGHLEY EAST	0	10	22
	57 KEIGHLEY WEST	6	20	11
	69 WORTH VALLEY	2	13	14

NB - Around 18 months ago the order of issuing of interventions changed so this may affect the comparisons for year on year. In 2014 the order would have been yellow letter, red letter, Acceptable Behaviour Contract but is now yellow letter, ABC, final warning (previously red letter).

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the figures. Given the disparity across the different wards across the district some of those numbers are really big. I just want to ask does the Portfolio Holder believe that the yellow letter system for tackling ASB is uniformly applied across all the wards in the district.

Councillor Jabar

Yes I believe that they are.

28. Councillor Townend

Given that the Council pay the rent annually for the use of the playground at Jenny Lane, Baildon which they lease from the Catholic Church will the Leader of the Council please confirm the actual length, commencement date and expiry date of this?

Answer

The Council has a five year tenancy of the playground at Jenny Lane which began 1/10/2014 and expires 30/9/2019. The rent payable is £400 pa.

Supplementary Question

After wishing to spend money on the playground improvements in Jenny Lane we have been continually informed that the reason it was not possible to invest in this playground was because it was on an annual lease. Can you please ensure that everyone concerned is aware of this information so that we can move forward with this now that it is on a five year lease and not on an annual lease.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

It is an issue I am aware of obviously in your ward and we probably need a conversation Councillor Townend to make sure that if it is something blocking we can make sure it is removed so I would ask Councillor Ferriby to have a conversation with you to make sure that anything that is obstructing progress can be removed.

29. Councillor Davies

Having identified some weaknesses in the current sixth form provision across the district but acknowledging that any changes are up to the individual schools, how does the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills propose persuading struggling schools to merge or close their sixth forms and what progress has been achieved so far?

Answer

The role of the Council in planning post-16 provision is clearly defined in the Education Act 2008 and associated statutory guidance. Local Authorities are expected to provide strategic leadership in planning, influencing and commissioning local provision 16-19 (and in some circumstances up to age 25 for young people with SEND). Local Authorities are expected to continue to have a statutory responsibility to secure high quality 16-19 education and training in their areas which 'champions the needs of young people' and the local economy. This gives the Council a clear remit to be engaging in dialogue with schools, colleges and private training providers.

Bradford Council clearly expressed its view on both the need for the reform in the pattern of post-16 provision and how we will work to achieve a high quality and sustainable post-16 offer for our young people in the published 'Post-16 Education and Training and Bradford and the Need for Change'. This document is the Council's response to the review of the future of post-16 in Bradford that forensically examined education, economic, financial and demographic pressures. The member is correct that each institution is ultimately responsible for their 16-19 strategy and senior leadership teams working within their institution's governance arrangements will determine what is right for them, but this document clearly establishes a new collaborative post-16 approach to support and inform those institutional level strategies. A new post-16 partnership has been established to underpin this process and will meet for the first time in January 2017. Discussions between Officers and senior leaders in schools and colleges have been very positive about the report and the concept of the partnership has been universally welcomed.

In terms of recent developments, applications for post-16 free schools have been approved for development from Dixons Academy Trust and New College Pontefract by the Department for Education. The reality is that the Department for Education makes the final decision on the award of new free schools; the Council has a more limited advisory role. Bradford Council considered these applications in the wider context of the new post-16 approach. Given these considerations, Bradford Council has clearly stated that it welcomes the free school applications.

These new larger sixth form colleges will establish a wider range of high quality academic pathways and extra-curricular learning opportunities in areas of identified demographic demand. These two developments are in the main a consolidation of existing smaller sixth form provision that will increase student choice and the greater availability of high quality places and as such are aligned with the direction set out in the document.

These free school developments, the new partnership and the Council's response to the review create a new context for 16-19 provision in the District and as this evolves, the Council will collaborate with and influence local and national stakeholders / providers to deliver the post-16 provision that our young people deserve.

Supplementary Question

Thanks for the very long answer but it does not seem to have answered the question really. Your report says that schools' sixth forms with fewer than 250 pupils are unviable in your view so you clearly want these to close in the future. If these schools did then provide just 11-16 provision are you concerned that they will struggle both in attracting pupils in year 7 and also in recruiting and retaining teachers if they are just 11-16 schools.

Councillor Imran Khan

Let's just be very clear about this. It is your Government that is cutting funding to schools. The Leader has already talked about the national funding formula that will be announced any day soon probably just in time to ruin everyone's Christmas I think and that is also when we are expected to do quite badly out of that. So we have got a big issue around funding in our schools and in our sixth forms as well and in terms of influencing that is effectively the only position we have got left because your Government is taking away what little authority we had to influence some of these things. What we are trying to do is to make sure that we do things better with more limited resources. That is the bottom line for us. Children in Bradford are important, their education is important and where we can get schools to work together and offer better choices for kids doing their A-levels, that is what we are trying to do. In terms of the number, the 250 that you are talking about, that was an indicative figure. Funding to sixth forms has been cut quite considerably and in terms of the list of schools it was not that I did not want to put that in, that was for your Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well.

30. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Culture - Can the Portfolio Holder identify the increase in service revenue budgets which are required to provide the additional specialist services needed to support the return of children being cared for outside of the District?

Answer

The revised placement offer in Bradford is being delivered against existing budget lines, specialist homes are expected to be in place by April 2017. All external placements are being reviewed and where identified young people will return to district. An improved wrap around offer will be in place from the virtual school, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), youth service and Police to support these homes. The staff teams have all received training to support the improved model of care we intend to deliver in the district which builds a trusting relationship with young people through the use of a therapeutic approach.

Supplementary Question

I am extremely disappointed with this answer. It is a question about finances and it should have had some numbers in it and not a few weaselly words. So can you actually provide the answer in numbers in a budget form so that people can actually understand it?

Councillor Val Slater

Actually that comes under my portfolio Councillor Sunderland. I will look at providing you those figures but it is part of what we call our journey to excellence and also we waited for an innovation bid which we have been waiting now for about 12 months which is holding everything up. Hopefully we will get a decision. I understand Justine Greening MP has taken responsibility for the innovation bid so we should get that shortly.

31. Councillor Pennington

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport, please confirm why the City Park lighting spectacular held on 19 November with Cirque Bijou, attended by thousands of people, was displayed on a big screen which came with the event, but not the permanent big screen, which would have benefitted those stood at the back?

Answer

In order to show live footage to this screen it would involve a long length of cable and cover which would cause a trip hazard within a dark and congested area. We have explored the use of using microwave signal but it has proved to be unreliable with most Screen companies advising against this option.

The Christmas lights switch on has grown in popularity and numbers attending are increasing significantly with this year's event bringing the largest crowds so far. With this in mind the team are looking at how to address the issues of both sound and vision for the audience and exploring different options for infrastructure layout.

Supplementary Question

Public enjoyment hampered by health and safety. I can see the day when eventually it will stop anything anywhere in progress, anything, anyway, at any time. But I take your point in paragraph 2 and I thank you for that. But I ask that you agree with me that it should not be beyond the wit of man or woman, a hi-tech man or woman, to obtain a successful transmission. Please keep it away from the Council Chamber gremlins.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

I think what you need is a big screen. It is not as sophisticated as it looks. It is getting quite old now is the big screen. It is not really something which is modern technology focus. We use it to its maximum capacity but really you cannot have massive wires going across the City Park when there are thousands of people there, it is just not feasible. So we use it to the best of our advantage but we could do with some more modern kit if we can ever get hold of it but this is not the time to be spending money on such things I am afraid.

32. Councillor Townend

Due to the proposals to commence charging for car parking for the first hour in the Ian Clough Hall and The Grove car parks in Baildon, can the Leader of the Council provide whatever estimate was used to predict the likely effect that this will have on the Council

revenue, due to resultant empty properties and the consequential losses to the Council from rent and rates?

Answer

The proposed charge of 30p for 1 hour's parking at Ian Clough and The Grove Car Parks in Baildon is the cheapest pay and display parking in the district. It is considered to be reasonable and proportionate to the shopping offer and is not considered to be fundamental in changing the behaviour of shoppers and visitors and therefore there it is not believed that this decision will have any significant wider economic impact.

Supplementary Question

After submitting the petition on the proposed car parking charges at The Grove and the Ian Clough car parks which has been referred to the Executive I do hope we get a favourable outcome. There are one or two points I would like to point out. In Baildon we have a very elderly population and we have two chemists. Lots of people might come to the chemist with a prescription and the chemist does not always have the medication in stock so they have to pay 30p to come to the chemist for the prescription, then they have to come back at a later date, another 30p which is a lot of money to a lot of people. And also the newsagents, are people in Baildon going to pay to go to the newsagents for a newsagents in the centre of Baildon 30p to park. This is what I am really concerned about.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

None of us want to charge for things but we are in a situation as I said the answer to the earlier question that we do have to start increasing the revenue coming into the Council. The other thing to bear in mind is that parking is never free because on a car park you have to pay business rates on a car park and that is a Government who says that we have to charge business rates on a car park. So the Council has to pay money on car parks and therefore it is a cost to the Council so it is trying to recoup some of those costs, the only way that we are going to actually move forward and be able to continue to deliver quality public services. It is all part of trying to adjust how the Council operates and I am afraid in this instance we have had to put that into the consultation but of course you and your residents are obviously free to put in suggestions in the consultation that will be considered. That was a previous decision was it? That is last year's budget is that so actually the decision has been made, you should have petitioned last year. Thank you.

33. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport - Given the advice from the NHS that we should all have less sugar and the recommendations for children is no more than 19g a day for children aged 4 to 6 years old (5 sugar cubes), and no more than 24g (6 sugar cubes) for children aged 7 to 10 years old and that a can of cola can have as much as 9 cubes of added sugar can she advise me of the steps taken to remove these types of drinks from vending machines in Council buildings and replacing them with healthier options?

Answer

The corporate contract for vending is shortly due to go out to tender and a Council officer is currently researching the vending market with a view to including nutritionally balanced alternatives.

Supplementary Question

One of your succinct and snappy answers. So thank you for your answer. However despite being given a similar answer to a similar question a number of years ago satisfactory progress has not been made. Does she not realise that it is not possible for a child to burn off the number of calories in a can of coca cola or Lucozade in a single swimming session and that her failure to remove these items from sale for example at Eccleshill Swimming Baths undermines entirely the prevention work being undertaken to reduce the rates of decayed, missing and filled teeth in Bradford and Bradford remains above the regional and national averages in many places in Bradford. Can she pledge now to do something about removing high sugar and energy drinks from sale in Council buildings and replacing it with a nutritionally balanced alternative that comes out of the tap?

Councillor Val Slater

I do not know about my succinct answers but that was a long question. I did not know that you could not burn off the calories which is one of the questions you asked me but I will be talking to the consultants in Public Health about that. All of this comes under the auspices of the Health and Wellbeing Board, our Partners and looking at the new Healthy Weight Board that we are looking at how we can actually deal with obesity on a bigger scale in Bradford. Now us having sugary drinks in our premises as is in the motion that you put forward before is one element of that and it is an element we are going to be talking about. Councillor Ross-Shaw's asset management have told us that they are re-tendering that contract. I will speak to him about making sure that the contract that we do does not have as far as possible sugary drinks included. But I do not control that contract.

34. Councillor Rickard

Can the Leader of the Council inform members of what progress has been made on delivering a footbridge to go over the A629 between Silsden and Steeton?

Answer

The proposal to deliver a shared cycle/footbridge over the A629 between Silsden and Steeton remains one of the Council's infrastructure investment priorities. Over the past twelve months the profile of this scheme has been raised both in central government by Kris Hopkins MP securing a visit from the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Transport, Andrew Jones MP as well as at the City Region level. However, as with all infrastructure projects a fundamental requirement to enable any development of proposals to progress is funding.

A bridge linking the community to the railway station is a major piece of infrastructure and current feasibility estimates place the cost of delivering a suitable structure in excess of £5m. This is well in excess of any funding available to the Council either internally or externally through the Local Transport Plan. Therefore, the Council's principal activities have concentrated on identifying possible sources of funding which could be used to not only develop the proposals for this project but fund its ultimate delivery.

Based on the experiences of the Manchester Road footbridge initial development costs for the design are likely to run to several hundreds of thousands of pounds and whilst the Council has negotiated two Section 106 contributions towards the delivery of this development work this funding is by no means secured. Both of the schemes subject to Section 106 contributions are only at a very early outline stage and would need a developer to become involved, secure reserved matters consents, discharge planning

conditions, secure the site and then commence development and thereafter reach a trigger point before being required to make any payments under Section 106.

Officers from Planning, Transportation & Highways continue to explore options for securing funding for the project. With the Chancellor's announcement in the Autumn Statement of the Government's desire to invest in delivery of local infrastructure improvements their work is now concentrating on how we can demonstrate sufficient evidence to secure funding for the bridge through this opportunity and we continue to liaise with the local MP on how we can work together to progress this scheme

35. Councillor Pennington

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm confidence that should Keighley College become a stand alone facility, it will be able to survive as an independent provider of further education?

Answer

The Council is not aware of any plans or proposals for Keighley College to become a standalone provider of further education.

36. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing - Can the Portfolio Holder inform members of Council of the number of public toilets that have been closed in the District since May 2010 and how many arrangements have been made for those to be taken over by Parish/Town Councils and how many businesses have signed up to allow the public to access their facilities?

Answer

Since May 2010 five sets of public toilets have closed (at Keighley Market, Cullingworth, the Punchbowl at Silsden, Shipley Market Square and Penistone Hill).

Arrangements are in place with parish councils and community groups to operate public toilets at Kirklands, with the support of Menston Parish Council, White Wells at Ilkley, with the support of Ilkley Parish Council and Northgate at Baildon, supported by Baildon Parish Council. At Addingham the Parish Council employs a litter picker who cleans the toilet and the toilets at Crossroads near Haworth are looked after by the Friends of Crossroads Park took these on

Many businesses across the District informally allow the public use their facilities including, for example, Wetherspoons and Asda in Shipley.

37. Councillor Townend

Given that Baildon Town Council have entered into a Service Level Agreement with Bradford Met District Council, to run Baildon Library in the Ian Clough Hall, what arrangements have been made, with whom and when, for alternative providers due to the proposed closure of the building?

Answer

Libraries have agreed a SLA with Baildon Town Council to deliver library services in a hybrid partnership model until 31 March 2020. Estates have agreed to grant a co-terminus lease to Baildon Town Council. As the budget proposals have only just been announced for consultation no alternative provision for Ian Clough Hall has been

discussed. Initial consultation is to take place with Ward Members and the Town Council to consider the whole site and the options for future service delivery, possibly through a community asset transfer should the budget proposals be implemented.

38. Councillor Rickard

Can the Leader of the Council outline what progress has been made in developing a cycle and pedestrian link from the Thornhill Road development and the railway?

Answer

Issues in relation to the funding and resourcing of a route through the Thornhill Road area as previously identified have not to this point been resolved. With a need to pass through third party land and without the cooperation of said third parties then funding to design and construct a route should be identified before they can be re-approached. Progress in designing a bridge over the railway is being investigated.

39. Councillor Fear

To ask the Leader of the Council - How many procurements over £1 million have started before going to overview and scrutiny committees in each of the last 3 years?

Answer

Whilst Councillor Fear has asked for information relating to contracts worth >£1m that were reported to the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Contracts Standing Orders require contracts worth >£2m to be reported to O&S. The Senior Manager of the Service that will be managing the contract has this responsibility along with responsibility for associated internal governance and reporting (AD/ SD/ DMT Approval; Portfolio Holder briefings; and Scrutiny reports).

We have correlated the number of contracts worth >£2m that were put out to competitive tender (35) with the number of specific reports made to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees (19). In addition though a further (8) contracts worth >£2m are also part of the Council's capital investment programme and will have been considered by the Executive and Full Council as part of the Council's decision making process.

This does leave a gap between the number of contracts put out to tender compared to Overview and Scrutiny Reports and the requirement will be reinforced in training through 2017.

Report of the Director of Finance to the meeting of Governance and Audit Committee to be held on 1 December 2016.

Subject:

Q

Annual Treasury Management Report 2015/2016.

Summary statement:

This report shows the Council's Treasury Management activities for the year ending 31 March 2016.

Stuart McKinnon- Evans
Director of Finance

Portfolio:
Leader

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Corporate



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Annual Treasury Management Report 2015/16

1. Introduction

This Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2015/16. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

During 2015/16 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports:

- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (Council 24/03/2015)
- a mid-year (minimum) treasury update report (Council 08/12/2015)
- an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report)

The regulatory environment places responsibility on members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report is, therefore, important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.

This Council confirms that it has complied with the requirement under the Code to give prior scrutiny to all of the above treasury management reports by the Governance and Audit Committee before they were reported to the full Council.

2.1 The Economy and Interest Rates

Market expectations for the first increase in Bank Rate moved considerably during 2015/16, starting at quarter 3 2015 but soon moving back to quarter 1 2016. However, by the end of the year, market expectations had moved back radically to quarter 2 2018 due to many fears including concerns that China's economic growth could be heading towards a hard landing; the potential destabilisation of some emerging market countries particularly exposed to the Chinese economic slowdown, and the continuation of the collapse in oil prices during 2015 together with continuing Eurozone growth uncertainties.

These concerns have caused sharp market volatility in equity prices during the year with corresponding impacts on bond prices and bond yields due to safe haven flows. Bank Rate, therefore, remained unchanged at 0.5% for the seventh successive year. Economic growth (Gross Domestic Product) in 2015/16 has been disappointing with growth falling steadily from an annual rate of 2.9% in quarter 1 2015 to 2.1% in quarter 4.

The sharp volatility in equity markets during the year was reflected in sharp volatility in bond yields. However, the overall dominant trend in bond yields since

July 2015 has been for yields to fall to historically low levels as forecasts for inflation have repeatedly been revised downwards and expectations of increases in central rates have been pushed back. In addition, a notable trend in the year was that several central banks introduced negative interest rates as a measure to stimulate the creation of credit and hence economic growth.

The European Central Bank commenced a full blown quantitative easing programme of purchases of Eurozone government and other bonds starting in March at €60bn per month. This put downward pressure on Eurozone bond yields. There was a further increase in this programme of QE in December 2015.

As for America, the economy has continued to grow healthily on the back of resilient consumer demand. The first increase in the central rate occurred in December 2015 since when there has been a return to caution as to the speed of further increases due to concerns around the risks to world growth.

The UK elected a majority Conservative Government in May 2015, removing one potential concern but introducing another due to the promise of a referendum on the UK remaining part of the EU. The government maintained its tight fiscal policy stance but the more recent downturn in expectations for economic growth has made it more difficult to return the public sector net borrowing to a balanced annual position within the period of this parliament.

2.2 Overall Treasury Position as at 31 March 2016

At the beginning and the end of 2015/16 the Council's treasury (including borrowing by Public Finance Initiative and finance leases) position was as follows:

TABLE 1	31 March 2015 Principal	31 st March 2016
Total debt	£391m	£336m
PFI & other Finance Leases	204m	£196m
Total Debt	595m	£532m
CFR	£679m	£666m
Over / (under) borrowing	(£84m)	(£134m)
Total investments	£112.3m	£43m
Net debt	£482.7m	£489m

2.3 The Strategy for 2015/16

The expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2015/16 anticipated a low but rising Bank Rate, (starting in quarter 1 of 2016), and gradual rises in medium and longer term fixed borrowing rates during 2016/17. Variable, or short-term rates, were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing over the period. Continued uncertainty in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis promoted a cautious approach, whereby investments would continue to be dominated by low counterparty risk considerations, resulting in relatively low returns compared to borrowing rates.

In this scenario, the treasury strategy was to postpone borrowing to avoid the cost of holding higher levels of investments and to reduce counterparty risk.

The sharp volatility in equity markets during the year was reflected in sharp volatility in bond yields. However, the overall dominant trend in bond yields since July 2015 has been for yields to fall to historically low levels as forecasts for inflation have repeatedly been revised downwards and expectations of increases in central rates have been pushed back.

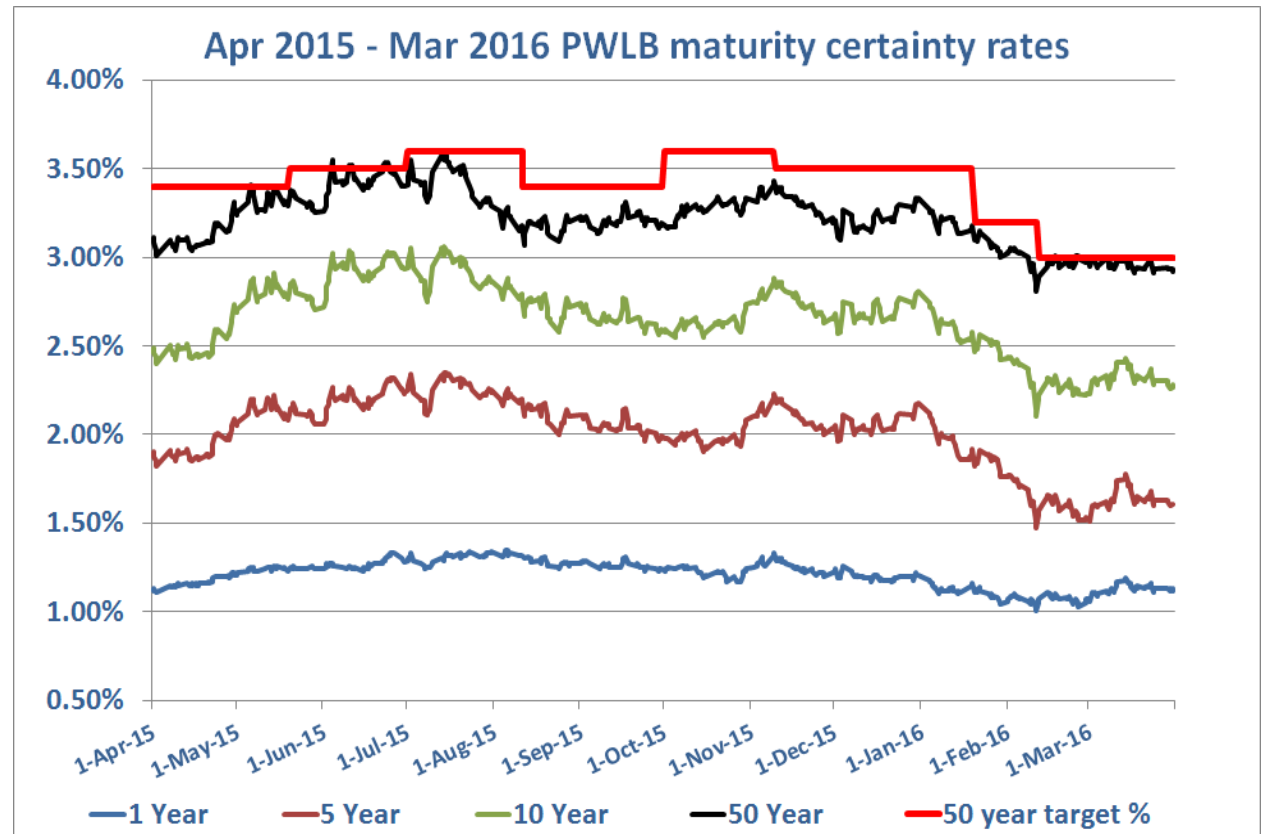
2.4 The Borrowing Requirement and Debt

The Council's underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR represents the sum of historic borrowing required to fund the Council's capital investment less any provision made for the repayment of that debt through the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). This does not necessarily equate to external borrowing as the Council can use its own cash balances to fund its borrowing requirements. Where this occurs it is sometimes referred to as being "under borrowed" as if those cash balances are exhausted the Council would need to go out and borrow externally.

	31 March 2015 Actual	31 March 2016 Budget	31 March 2016 Actual
Capital Financing Requirement	£679m	£696m	£666m

2.5 Borrowing Rates in 2015/16

Public Works Loan Board certainty maturity borrowing rates - the graph below shows how PWLB certainty rates have fallen to historically very low levels during the year. The PWLB is the main source of borrowing for the council.



2.6 Borrowing Outturn for 2015/16

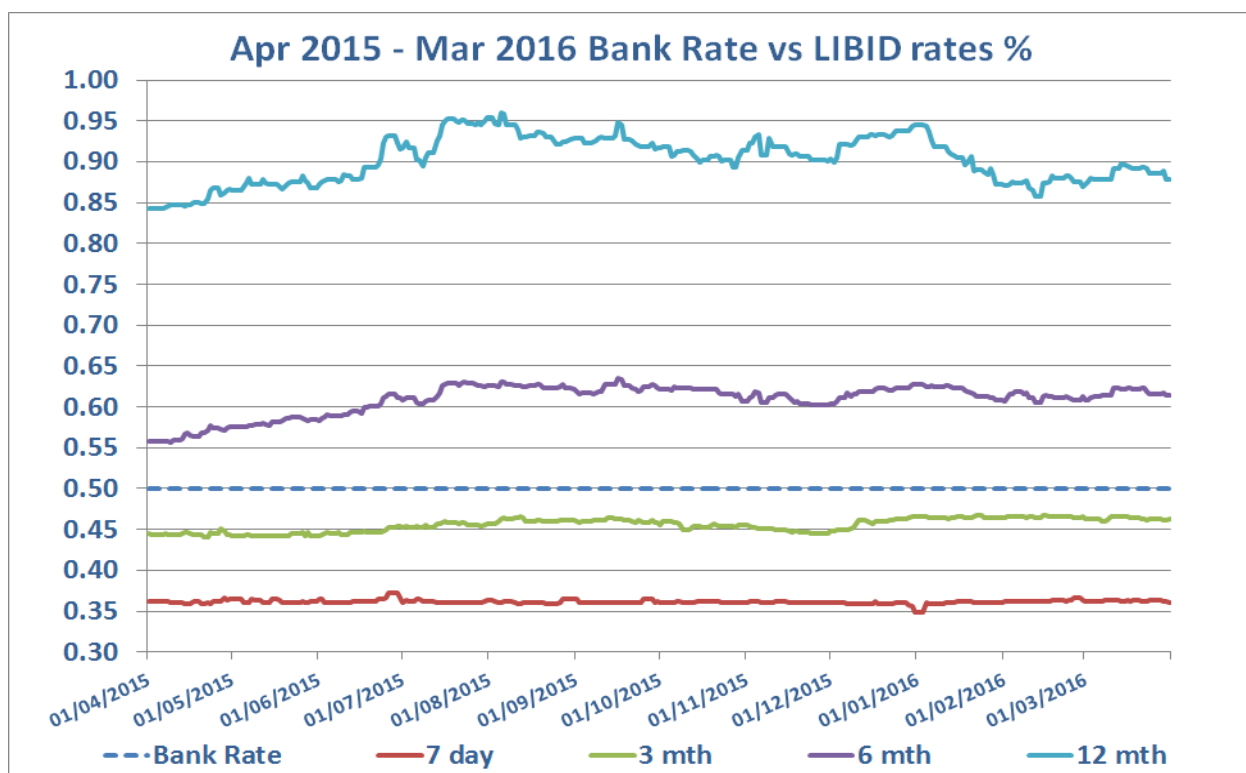
Due to investment concerns, both counterparty risk and low investment returns, no borrowing was undertaken during the year.

No rescheduling was done during the year as the average 1% differential between PWLB new borrowing rates and premature repayment rates made rescheduling unviable.

Repayments

On the 27/04/15 the Council repaid £53.6m of debt which matured on that date. This reduced the debt balance from £384m to £330.4m.

2.7 Investment Rates in 2015/16



Bank Rate remained at its historic low of 0.5% throughout the year; it has now remained unchanged for seven years. Market expectations as to the timing of the start of monetary tightening started the year at quarter 1 2016 but then moved back to around quarter 2 2018 by the end of the year. Deposit rates remained depressed during the whole of the year, primarily due to the effects of the Funding for Lending Scheme and due to the continuing weak expectations as to when Bank Rate would start rising.

2.8 Investment Outturn for 2015/16

Investment Policy – the Council's investment policy is governed by CLG guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on 12th October 2010. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties, and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc)

The centrally held investments complied with the approved strategy, but the schools balances with Barclays and Lloyds were above the Treasury counterparty limits.

Investments held by the Council - the Council maintained an average balance of £94.2m of internally managed funds. The internally managed funds earned an average rate of return of 0.62%. The comparable performance indicator is the average 7-day LIBID rate which was 0.36%.

2.9 Other Issues

None

3. Other considerations

None

4. Financial and Resources Appraisal

The financial implications are set out in section 2 of this report

5. Risk Management and Governance Issues

None

6. Legal Appraisal

Any relevant legal considerations are set out in the report

7. Other Implications

- 7.1 Equal Rights implications – no direct implications
- 7.2 Sustainability implications – no direct implications
- 7.3 Green house Gas Emissions Impact – no direct implications
- 7.4 Community safety implications – no direct implications
- 7.5 Human Rights Act – no direct implications
- 7.6 Trade Unions – no direct implications
- 7.7 Ward Implications – no direct implications

8. Not for publications documents – none

9 Recommendations

9.1. That the report be noted and referred to Council for adoption.

10. Appendices

- 1. Prudential Indicators
- 2. Treasury Management Indicators

11. Background Documents

Treasury Management Practices
Treasury Management Schedules

Appendix 1: Prudential and treasury indicators

1. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS	2014/15	2015/16	2015/16
Extract from budget and rent setting report	actual	original	actual
	£m	£m	£m
Capital Expenditure	£114m	£86m	£70m
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	15.5%	15.4%	14.4%
Gross borrowing requirement General Fund	£391m	£349m	£336m
CFR	£679m	£696m	£666m
Incremental impact of capital investment decisions	£ p	£ p	£ p
Increase in council tax (band D) per annum	£0.00	0.00	0.00

2. TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS	2014/15	2015/16	2015/16
	actual	original	actual
	£m	£m	£m
Authorised Limit for external debt -			
borrowing	£391m	£420m	£336m
other long term liabilities	£204m	£240m	£196m
TOTAL	£595m	£660m	£532m
Operational Boundary for external debt -			
borrowing	£391m	£380m	£336m
other long term liabilities	£204m	£220m	£196m
TOTAL	£595m	£600m	£532m
Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure	+175 %	+175 %	+175%
Upper limit for variable rate exposure			
Upper limit for variable rate exposure	+20 %	+20%	+20%
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days			
(per maturity date)	£40m	£40m	£40m

Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing during 2015/16	upper limit	lower limit
under 12 months	20%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	20%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	50%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	50%	0%
10 years and above	90%	20%

Report of the Director of Finance to the meeting of Governance and Audit Committee to be held on 1 December 2016.

Subject:

R

Treasury Management Mid Year Review up to 30 September 2016.

Summary statement:

This report shows the Council's Treasury Mid Year Review up to 30 September 2016.

Stuart McKinnon- Evans
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Treasury Management Review up to 30 September 2016

1.1 Background

The Council is required to operate a balanced budget, which broadly means that cash raised during the year will meet cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure that this cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Surplus monies are invested in low risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering investment return.

The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending operations. This management of longer term cash may involve arranging long or short term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses. On occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

Accordingly, treasury management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

1.2 Introduction

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2011) was adopted by this Council

The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

1. Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.
2. Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
3. Receipt by the full council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a Mid-year Review Report and an Annual Report covering activities during the previous year.
4. Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.

5. Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. For this Council the delegated body is Governance and Audit Committee:

This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management, and covers the following:

- An economic update for the first part of the 2016/17 financial year;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure (prudential indicators);
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2016/17;
- A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2016/17;
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio, Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2016/17;
- Treasury Policies /Issues

2 Economics and interest rates

2.1 Economics update

UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates in 2013 of 2.2% and 2.9% in 2014 were strong but 2015 was disappointing at 1.8%, though it still remained one of the leading rates among the G7 countries. Growth improved in quarter 4 of 2015 from +0.4% to 0.7% but fell back to +0.4% (2.0% y/y) in quarter 1 of 2016 before bouncing back again to +0.7% (2.1% y/y) in quarter 2. During most of 2015, the economy had faced headwinds for exporters from the appreciation during the year of sterling against the Euro, and weak growth in the European Union, China and emerging markets, plus the dampening effect of the Government's continuing austerity programme. The referendum vote for Brexit in June this year delivered an immediate fall in confidence indicators and business surveys, pointing to an impending sharp slowdown in the economy. However, subsequent surveys have shown a sharp recovery in confidence and business surveys, though it is generally expected that although the economy will now avoid flat lining, growth will be weak through the second half of 2016 and in 2017.

The Bank of England meeting on August 4th addressed this expected slowdown in growth by a package of measures including a cut in Bank Rate from 0.50% to 0.25%. The Inflation Report included an unchanged forecast for growth for 2016 of 2.0% but cut the forecast for 2017 from 2.3% to just 0.8%. The Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, had warned that a vote for Brexit would be likely to cause a slowing in growth, particularly from a reduction in business investment, due to the uncertainty of whether the UK would have continuing full access, (i.e. without tariffs), to the EU single market. He also warned that the Bank could not do all the heavy lifting and suggested that the Government will need to help growth by increasing investment expenditure and possibly by using fiscal policy tools (taxation). The new Chancellor Phillip Hammond announced after the referendum result, that the target of achieving a budget surplus in 2020 will be eased in the Autumn Statement on November 23.

The Inflation Report also included a sharp rise in the forecast for inflation to around 2.4% in 2018 and 2019. The Consumer Price Index has started rising during 2016 as the falls in the price of oil and food twelve months ago fell out of the calculation during the year and, in addition, the post referendum 10% fall in the value of sterling on a trade weighted basis is likely to result in a 3% increase in CPI over a time period of 3-4 years. However, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is expected to look thorough a one off upward blip from this devaluation of sterling in order to support economic growth, especially if pay increases continue to remain subdued and therefore pose little danger of stoking core inflationary price pressures within the UK economy.

The American economy had a patchy 2015 with sharp swings in the growth rate leaving the overall growth for the year at 2.4%. Quarter 1 of 2016 disappointed at +0.8% on an annualised basis while quarter 2 improved, but only to a lacklustre +1.4%. However, forward indicators are pointing towards a pickup in growth in the rest of 2016. The Federal Reserve embarked on its long anticipated first increase in rates at its December 2015 meeting. At that point, confidence was high that there would then be four more increases to come in 2016. Since then, more downbeat news on the international scene and then the Brexit vote, have

caused a delay in the timing of the second increase which is now strongly expected in December this year.

In the Eurozone, the European Central Bank (ECB) commenced in March 2015 its massive €1.1 trillion programme of quantitative easing to buy high credit quality government and other debt of selected Euro Zone countries at a rate of €60bn per month; this was intended to run initially to September 2016 but was extended to March 2017 at its December 2015 meeting. At its December and March meetings it progressively cut its deposit facility rate to reach -0.4% and its main refinancing rate from 0.05% to zero. At its March meeting, it also increased its monthly asset purchases to €80bn. These measures have struggled to make a significant impact in boosting economic growth and in helping inflation to rise from around zero towards the target of 2%. GDP growth rose by 0.6% in quarter 1 2016 (1.7% y/y) but slowed to +0.3% (+1.6% y/y) in quarter 2. This has added to comments from many forecasters that central banks around the world are running out of ammunition to stimulate economic growth and to boost inflation. They stress that national governments will need to do more by way of structural reforms, fiscal measures and direct investment expenditure to support demand in their economies and economic growth.

Japan is still bogged down in anaemic growth and making little progress on fundamental reform of the economy while Chinese economic growth has been weakening and medium term risks have been increasing.

2.2 Interest rate forecasts

The Council's treasury advisor, Capita Asset Services, has provided the following forecast:

	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Sep-17	Dec-17	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Mar-19	Jun-19
Bank rate	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.50%
5yr PWLB rate	1.00%	1.00%	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%	1.30%
10yr PWLB rate	1.50%	1.50%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%	1.80%
25yr PWLB rate	2.30%	2.30%	2.40%	2.40%	2.40%	2.40%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.60%
50yr PWLB rate	2.10%	2.10%	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%	2.30%	2.30%	2.30%	2.30%	2.40%

Capita Asset Services undertook a quarterly review of its interest rate forecasts after the MPC meeting of 4th August cut Bank Rate to 0.25% and gave forward guidance that it expected to cut Bank Rate again to near zero before the year end. The above forecast therefore includes a further cut to 0.10% in November this year and a first increase in May 2018, to 0.25%, but no further increase to 0.50% until a year later. Mark Carney, has repeatedly stated that increases in Bank Rate will be slow and gradual after they do start. The MPC is concerned about the impact of increases on many heavily indebted consumers, especially when the growth in average disposable income is still weak and could well turn

negative when inflation rises during the next two years to exceed average pay increases.

The overall longer run trend is for gilt yields and Public Work Loan Board (PWLB) rates to rise, albeit gently (please see paragraph 2.7). An eventual world economic recovery may also see investors switching from the safe haven of bonds to equities. However, we have been experiencing exceptional levels of volatility in financial markets which have caused significant swings in PWLB rates. Our PWLB rate forecasts are based on the Certainty Rate (minus 20 bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1st November 2012.

The overall balance of risks to economic recovery in the UK remains to the downside. Downside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates currently include:

- Monetary policy action reaching its limit of effectiveness and failing to stimulate significant sustainable growth, combat the threat of deflation and reduce high levels of debt in some major developed economies, combined with a lack of adequate action from national governments to promote growth through structural reforms, fiscal policy and investment expenditure.
- Weak capitalisation of some European banks.
- A resurgence of the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis.
- Geopolitical risks in Europe, the Middle East and Asia, increasing safe haven flows.
- Emerging country economies, currencies and corporates destabilised by falling commodity prices and/ or Fed rate increases, causing a further flight to safe havens (bonds).
- UK economic growth and increases in inflation are weaker than we currently anticipate.
- Weak growth or recession in the UK's main trading partners - the EU and US.

The potential for upside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates, especially for longer term PWLB rates include: -

- The pace and timing of increases in the Fed. funds rate causing a fundamental reassessment by investors of the relative risks of holding bonds as opposed to equities and leading to a major flight from bonds to equities.
- UK inflation returning to significantly higher levels than in the wider EU and US, causing an increase in the inflation premium inherent to gilt yields.
- US election.

2.3 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy update

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2016/17 was approved by this Council on 22nd March. There are no policy changes to the

TMSS; the details in this report update the position in the light of the updated economic position and budgetary changes already approved.

2.4 The Council's Capital Position (Prudential Indicators)

This part of the report is structured to update:

- The Council's capital expenditure plans;
- Limits to Borrowing Activity,
- Borrowing
- Compliance with the limits in place for borrowing activity.

2.4.1 Prudential Indicator for Capital Expenditure

This table shows the revised estimates for capital expenditure and the changes since the capital programme was agreed at the Budget.

Capital Expenditure by Service	2016/17 Original Estimate £m	Current Position £m	2016/17 Revised Estimate £m
Total Capital Expenditure	133	23.4	100.8

2.4.2 Limits to Borrowing Activity

The first key control over the treasury activity is a prudential indicator to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing (borrowings less investments) will only be for a capital purpose. Gross external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of Capital Finance Requirement (CFR) in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2016/17 and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years.

The Director of Finance reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with this prudential indicator.

Below is the Authorised Limit which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited, and needs to be set and revised by members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

Authorised limit for external debt	2016/17 Original Indicator	Current Position
Borrowing	£400m	£336m
Other long term liabilities	£240m	£202m
Total	£640m	£538m

Given the current historically low interest rates, the reduction in the Council's cash balance and the need to finance the commitments in the capital investment plan it is expected that the Council will need to consider additional borrowing before the end of this financial year.

2.4.3 Borrowing

The Council's capital financing requirement (CFR) for 2016/17 is expected to be below the original forecast of £719m, due to slippage in a number of capital schemes. . The CFR denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing) or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions. The Council has borrowings of £336m and last year utilised £53m of cash flow funds in lieu of borrowing. This is a prudent and cost effective approach in the current economic climate but will require ongoing monitoring in the event that upside risk to gilt yields prevails.

It is anticipated that further borrowing be undertaken during this financial year to refinance the loans totally £26m maturing in March 2017.

The graph and table below show the movement in PWLB certainty rates for the first six months of the year to date:

PWLB certainty rates 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2016

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
01/04/16	1.13%	1.62%	2.31%	3.14%	2.95%
30/09/16	0.93%	1.06%	1.58%	2.36%	2.19%
Low	0.78%	0.95%	1.42%	2.08%	1.89%
Date	26.09.2016	10.08.2016	10.08.2016	12.08.2016	12.08.2016
High	1.20%	1.80%	2.51%	3.28%	3.08%
Date	27.04.2016	27.04.2016	27.04.2016	27.04.2016	27.04.2016

2.4.4 Debt Rescheduling

Debt rescheduling opportunities have been very limited in the current economic climate given the consequent structure of interest rates, and following the increase in the margin added to gilt yields which has impacted PWLB new borrowing rates since October 2010. No debt rescheduling has therefore been undertaken to date in the current financial year.

2.5 Investment Portfolio, Treasury and Prudential Limits 2016/17

In accordance with the Code, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity, and to obtain an appropriate level of return which is consistent with the Council's risk appetite. It is a very difficult investment market in terms of earning the level of interest rates commonly seen in previous decades as rates are very low and in line with the current 0.25% Bank Rate. The continuing potential for a re-emergence of a Eurozone sovereign debt crisis, and its impact on banks, prompts a low risk and short term strategy. Given this risk environment, investment returns are likely to remain low.

The Council held £41m of investments as at 30th September 2016 (£43m at 31 March 2016) and the investment portfolio yield for the first 6 months of the year is 0.53% against a benchmark of 0.28 %.

The Director of Finance confirms that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy and prudential limits were not breached in 2016/17. Apart from on the cash investments, where school individual balances for both Lloyds and Barclays were over the set limits.

2.6 Treasury Policies /Issues

2.6.1 Following the closure of the cash offices in 2013, the Council put in place arrangements for residents to pay their Council Tax and other bills through a network of high street retailers and post offices. The only bank approved at the time to offer the necessary cash handling service to support the new arrangement was the Co-op Bank.

Arrangement have now been made to change over the running of this service to Barclays Bank with an expected start date of the middle of January. While this will cause the Treasury limits for Barclays to be breached due to the schools balances held with this bank (please see below). Balances will be kept to a minimum and cleared into the Council main account on a daily basis. It should also be noted that Barclays is a significantly better credit rated bank than the Co-op Bank.

2.6.2 In a previous Treasury report the investment limits for the 4 main UK banks were reduced to the same credit criteria as the other banks/building societies within the policy. This resulted in the Lloyds investment limit reducing to £20m and Barclays to £7m.

This raised the following issue

Bradford schools- The schools have their own individual bank balances with the four main UK banks .At 31/03/16 their overall bank balances with Lloyds was £24.7m and Barclays £8.8m, both exceeding the Treasury Policy investment limits.

Schools changing to Academies

In around the next 18 months most of the Primary and Secondary schools are expected to convert to academies (18 have already converted since April).Once converted to academies their bank balances no longer count towards the Council's Treasury limits.

2.6.3 With the above change in status for the schools and the use of Barclays for cash handling the following alteration to the Council Treasury policy are proposed.

i) That school balances have a temporary exception from the Treasury Policy until the main academy conversion process has been finished.

ii) If Barclays credit rating fall in the future resulting in the bank being outside the Treasury policy. The council can continue to use Barclays for the cash handling service, as long as balances are cleared to the council main bank account on a daily basis.

2.7 Addition to report 14/11/16.

On Wednesday the 9/11/16 the headlines were dominated by news that Donald Trump was the new presidential elect, defying expectations and spurring an initial volatility in financial markets. At first the reaction was for capital to move into safer investments, as many market participants unwound positions based on a Clinton victory. Bonds were then sold off as analyst predicted that Trump's spending on infrastructure would place upward pressure on inflation, but equities rallied, led by sharp rises in pharmaceuticals, miners and defence stocks. While Donald Trump tame post-election speech seemed to calm global markets, participants will be watching closely to see whether he delivers on his campaign promises or whether they are simply pre-election rhetoric. Part of the process will include a close study of the team that he selects between now and his inauguration in January. Markets will continue to monitor any announcement by Donald Trump, as investors look for clarity of his future policy proposals.

The Donald Trump election has also brought into focus other election/referendum taking place in the next year including in Italy, France and Germany. The results from these could have the potential to change the landscape in Europe. This adds another layer of uncertainty going forward.

The PWLB rates (rates the council borrow at) have been increasing and this raises the issue of when the Council needs to borrow. It also means that forecast going forward for borrowing need to be reassessed as rates may go higher quicker than originally expected.

3. Other considerations

None

4. Financial and Resources Appraisal

The financial implications are set out in section 2 of this report

5. Risk Management and Governance Issues

None

6. Legal Appraisal

Any relevant legal considerations are set out in the report

7. Other Implications

- 7.1 Equal Rights implications – no direct implications
- 7.2 Sustainability implications – no direct implications
- 7.3 Green house Gas Emissions Impact – no direct implications
- 7.4 Community safety implications – no direct implications
- 7.5 Human Rights Act – no direct implications
- 7.6 Trade Unions – no direct implications
- 7.7 Ward Implications – no direct implications

8. Not for publications documents – none

9 Recommendations

9.1. That the changes to the Treasury policy set out in section 2.6.3 be noted by the Governance and Audit Committee and referred to Council for adoption.

10. Background Documents

Treasury Management Schedules

Treasury Management Schedules

Treasury Policy

Report of the Strategic Director, Children's Services to the meeting of Full Council to be held on 13 December 2016.

Subject:

P

The Bradford Education Covenant

Summary statement:

Bradford District Plan sets out the aspirations that all partners share for our District. "We want to make Bradford District a great place for everyone - a place where all our children have a great start in life, where businesses are supported to create good jobs and workers have the skills to succeed, a place where people live longer and have healthier lives and all our neighbourhoods are good places to live with decent homes for everyone".

Children and young people are a key priority in making this happen - we want a "Great Start and Good Schools" for all our children. This is not something the Council can do alone - for children and young people in Bradford to achieve their full potential, everyone in the District has an important part to play. We do not yet have the educational outcomes for our children that we aspire to in our plan. The Education Covenant is designed to support this aspiration and to specifically support young people in poverty and who live in areas of deprivation within our District.

The Education Covenant is an exciting partnership development that sets out this aspiration and asks for the help of all partners to deliver the sustained improvement we need in educational outcomes for Bradford children and young people. The Bradford Education Covenant outlines a set of pledges from the Council as well as a set of 'asks' of key stakeholder including - young people, parents, schools, businesses, the community and central government. The Covenant makes clear that children and young people are educated through the experiences they encounter in their young lives both inside and outside the school. It begins at birth and continues for life. The Covenant reinforces the view that for children and young people to get the very best from their education and to fully achieve their potential it has to be a united effort from us all. The Covenant is one element in a wide range of improvement activities which are included in the school improvement action plan. This report provides an update of activity to date together with details of the Education Covenant Conference planned for early 2017.

Michael Jameson
Strategic Director

Portfolio:

Education, Employment and Skills

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Bradford District Plan sets out the aspirations that all partners share for our District. “We want to make Bradford District a great place for everyone - a place where all our children have a great start in life, where businesses are supported to create good jobs and workers have the skills to succeed, a place where people live longer and have healthier lives and all our neighbourhoods are good places to live with decent homes for everyone”.
- 1.2 Children and young people are a key priority in making this happen - we want a “Great Start and Good Schools” for all our children. This is not something the Council can do alone - for children and young people in Bradford to achieve their full potential, everyone in the District has an important part to play. We do not yet have the educational outcomes for our children that we aspire to in our plan. The Education Covenant is designed to support this aspiration and to specifically support young people in poverty and who live in areas of deprivation within our District.
- 1.3 The Education Covenant is an exciting partnership development that sets out this aspiration and asks for the help of all partners to deliver the sustained improvement we need in educational outcomes for Bradford children and young people. The Bradford Education Covenant outlines a set of pledges from the Council as well as a set of ‘asks’ of key stakeholder including - young people, parents, schools, businesses, the community and central government. The Covenant makes clear that children and young people are educated through the experiences they encounter in their young lives both inside and outside the school. It begins at birth and continues for life. The Covenant reinforces the view that for children and young people to get the very best from their education and to fully achieve their potential it has to be a united effort from us all.
- 1.4 The Covenant is one element in a wide range of improvement activities which are included in the school improvement action plan. This report provides an update of activity to date together with details of the Education Covenant Conference planned for early 2017.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following the educational review conducted by Professor David Woods in September 2014, Bradford Council with its strategic educational partners has developed and implemented an education improvement strategy which promotes a school-led system where the local authority, schools (academies and maintained) and the teaching school alliances take on a shared responsibility and accountability for the improvements to educational outcomes that Bradford requires. The Ofsted inspection of Bradford’s school improvement arrangements in June 2015 highlighted the poor educational outcomes achieved and recognised, and supported, the optimism around the school-led improvement strategy. The Ofsted report stated “there is a new direction in the local authority and a cause for optimism. Headteachers, governors and partners speak convincingly about a ‘step-change’ in the authority’s approach and a new rigour and challenge to schools and partnerships.”

- 2.2 In response to the LA's Ofsted inspection a detailed action plan was implemented to help provide the impetus for continued rapid improvement. The action plan replaced a number of previous operational plans.
- 2.3 As part of the strategy the Bradford Education Covenant recognised that all educators and stakeholders have a responsibility to our young people and how they can contribute to our children's overall education. The Covenant is about everyone recognising their role in supporting outcomes for all young people and is an integral part of the Council Plan specifically relating to 'A Great start and good schools for all our children'. A specific focus for the Covenant is on outcomes for vulnerable young people, young people in poverty and young people in areas of deprivation.
- 2.4 The Covenant is in two parts. Part 1 lists 'What the Council will offer' and is broken down into eight pledges. Part 2 includes 'Bradford Council's Education Ask' and seeks to enlist the commitment of key stakeholder groups.
- 2.5 The Council meeting of 20 December 2015 considered the future development of the Covenant at a time when the Covenant was beginning to be shaped by consultation with partners. Extensive consultation took place, including online consultation on the www.bradford.gov.uk website, together with a range of high profile events where the Covenant has been publicised and responses, suggestions and comments sought. These have included many stakeholders listed below, each pledging their support to become actively involved.

Discussion, briefings, and meetings took place with:

School Staff and Pupils
The Children's Trust Board
The Chamber of Commerce
Bradford Breakthrough
Individual Business Leaders
Voluntary and Community Organisations
Senior Magistrates
Bradford Matters
CBI
The National Literacy Trust
Bulls Foundation
Bradford University
Local Colleges
Parents
Headteachers
Governors

- 2.7 Since December 2015 a number of developments have taken place to promote and further develop the Covenant. This includes:-
- a) A Public Forum for Education (PFE) event specifically focussed on the Education Covenant in June 2016. The event was attended by many adults and 58 young people. This gave young people the opportunity to explore how they could contribute to the Covenant. Young people wanted to really understand the Covenant and they welcomed discussions about doing things differently, being

part of the solutions and the opportunity to speak to decision makers. As a result of constructive feedback from both adults and young people programmes such as the Volunteer Reading Programme and improving the pupil voice across the District have been further developed. For example 15 Carlton Bolling College 6th Form students have been recruited and trained to take on the role of volunteer readers in the primary schools in Bradford East and the National Literacy Hub has been focussing on parental engagement in primary schools.

Following on from the PFE a further session with 54 young people took place in the school summer holidays. This session saw young people meeting directly with elected members to have further dialogue about the changing face of education, their experiences and ideas going forward. There was a strong desire to see increased opportunities for wider support in educational settings reaching beyond academic studies. They were keen to see support for study beyond 19 for those who may have had disrupted educational experiences and increased opportunities to undertake work experience placements as part of transitions to adulthood. One outcome of this was the promotion of the Takeover Challenge in November 2016.

A number of initiatives have demonstrated the Education Covenant principles where partners have supported educational attainment in the District. These have included:

- b) The opportunity for young people to have experiences in the workplace were elements of the recent Takeover Challenge where 82 young people took on professionals roles in a variety of settings including within the local authority, health, private sector, voluntary and community organisations. 17 schools registered their interest in the Takeover Challenge and this saw hundreds of younger aged children taking on roles within school settings. It was not only the young people who benefitted from this opportunity but also the workplaces and staff within them, the learning for all was extremely beneficial.
- c) The 'Let's Get Bradford Reading' campaign where a reading pledge has been piloted with two clusters of schools – Shipley and Bradford East (Appendix 2) - is being well received and will help to promote reading, an area for development in our primary schools. It is anticipated that during 2017 the campaign will be rolled out across the District.
- d) Book exchanges are to be piloted in Council buildings, the first will commence in January 2017 in Margaret McMillan Tower. Members of the public visiting the building will be encouraged to participate.
- e) The "Springwood Summer Camp"; is an excellent example of activity that fits within the Covenant. This was an initiative led by a Ward Councillor to respond to the fact that young people in the local area were finding the potential transition into secondary impacting on their attainment levels. The initiative which targeted Year 6 and 7 children on Free School Meals took place during the summer holidays in 2016. The 4 week programme took place in BD10 (Bradford East) and focussed on 40+ children from the 9 primary schools which supply Hanson. The programme

is being assessed in respect of sustainability and the on-going impact for the children involved but demonstrates the positive impact when everyone gets involved.

f) The National Literacy Trust Hub has focussed on 5 projects which fully support the Covenant:-

- Engaging Dads/parental engagement strategies for primary schools.
- Words for Work – an employability and skills programme in Secondary schools. This is a programme in which some of the District's biggest employers have visited secondary schools to explain the importance of skills like communication and team work in their future careers programme.
- Our Stories: a creative writing and performance poetry programme.
- Great poetry through time – supporting and enabling teachers in Bradford. This programme for Year 9 pupils blends contemporary music with traditional poetry and contemporary rap to engage students with the work of Chaucer and Shakespeare.
- Reading packs on the neonatal wards at Bradford Royal Infirmary – wider community literacy approaches linked to health.

An evaluation of each of the projects has been undertaken by independent evaluators resulting in confirmation of many positive outcomes. For example in one school working on the 'Our stories' project, 17% of the students were achieving the expected level for writing for their age. After the programme this figure had increased to 54%, including 14% of students now exceeding expected levels. Another of the projects 'Words for Work' has been very favourably received by young people. Feedback clearly shows an increase in their confidence for example talking with different people and asking questions. The 'Engaging Dads/parental engagement strategies for primary schools' project across 8 target schools along with their linked Children's Centres resulted in an 8.6% increase in pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) with boys increasing by 12%.

- g) The innovative Industrial Centres of Excellence (ICE) programme involves 14 schools, 3 Further Education Colleges, the University of Bradford and 25 lead business partners. At present there are 4 ICE across the District each covering a different economic sector, linking schools to employers' needs. ICE provide an innovative way in which young people can gain skills and qualifications that are planned around the requirements of local businesses with each ICE offering quality learning experiences for students aged 14-19, with clear pathways into work, training and further and higher education. Working closely with the business community, the University and colleges, the Council will provide real opportunities for skill development and jobs when young people leave school, supporting businesses to get the right young person, with the right skills through our Apprenticeships Hub.
- h) Meetings have taken place with Bradford Matters, Bradford Chamber of Commerce and Bradford Breakthrough to develop the Covenant with businesses across the District. This work is ongoing and discussions are taking place to areas where businesses can really support young people through for example work experience.

One of the outcomes so far has been through the recruitment of additional governors through the police.

- i) The Music and Arts Service provide opportunities for young musicians to perform with professionals raising aspirations through cultural opportunities. Working with players from the Southbank Sinfonia Orchestra and Hammond's Saltaire Brass Band members of the Bradford Youth Orchestra and the Bradford Youth Band have had the opportunity to sit side by side with these adults and gain valuable experience.#

In 2016 Factory Street Studios supported by Bradford Music Education Hub set up a week long 'Sound of Bradford' Project giving students a real insight into the music industry. By linking the young people with the Council's events team they could see work on developing and running the 1st day of the Bradford Festival 2017. Young people had real hands on experience of working alongside the sound engineers, lighting crews and performance opportunities.

Working with a professional company, students from across the district were given the opportunity to develop Bradford's very own musical. The work included 14 students developing the script, writing songs and one music student worked alongside a professional composer to write and arrange the band arrangements.

Work from the school improvement team has also supported the Covenant. Examples include:

- j) Project work has been undertaken to support secondary schools and Bradford District PRU to improve their strategy around attendance through tighter strategic management of the area. The improvements are now being recognised in reports by Ofsted. So far improvements in overall attendance for Year 7 to Year 11 and in 6th forms have been between 1% and 3.6%. The reduction in persistent absence (PA) based on the new measure of 90% has been between 0.8% and 14.4%.
- k) School improvement and raising standards across the District is a key area within the Covenant. This is undertaken in many different ways and with partners such as the Regional Schools Commissioner, the Department for Education and Ofsted. A highly targeted approach is taken with schools and settings which has resulted in many positive outcomes across the District, however there is considerable work still to do. Some examples of outcomes include Bradford having one of the largest increases in the proportion of good schools in Yorkshire and the North East in the past 12 months, rising by 9% to 76%. Our results in 2016 show that Bradford schools' ranking nationally is improving at all key stages. In the early years for example, the increase in a Good Level of Development (GLD) increased to 66%, a rise of 4% from 2015 closing the gap on the national figure by 1%.

These are just a few of the many strands of work which are supporting the development of the Education Covenant.

- 2.8 The Education Covenant Conference is being planned for early 2017. This will bring together partners such as schools, businesses and the voluntary sector to further develop the 'offer' and 'ask'. It is anticipated that this will be a highly successful event,

the outcome being greater participation of partners in the 'offer' and 'asks' of the Education Covenant.

2.9 Next steps

- a) To develop an Education Covenant project plan and project group to lead the full implementation of the Covenant.
- b) Key actions within the plan will include the production of a Covenant document in line with the District and Council plan branding and deliver a promotional campaign to key decision makers and influencers across the system including schools, businesses, political and faith leaders and representative groups.
- c) The development of an "Education Covenant challenge" to go to individual s and organisations across the District asking "What can you do for education in Bradford?"
- d) To agree a process of gathering pledges of support and linking these to schools where they relate to practical activity.
- e) To develop a stream of work targeting specific groups within the Covenant, young people, parents, businesses voluntary sector and communities.
- f) To identify Strategic Boards and individuals to lead on each of these strands.
- g) To have three times a year a community forum for education taking place at various venues across the District to focus on the Education Covenant.
- h) Consideration of a range of approaches to encouraging Bradford young people to aspire for example a "Bradford people have..." campaign to highlight Bradford achievers linked to the "people can" approach.
- i) To produce a map of the extensive activity being undertaken to develop the Covenant, providing evaluations and impact of the work.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 It has become clear that there is now a need to coordinate the "offer" and "ask" activities centrally. This will make it easier for schools to take up offers of support, as well as establishing a clear framework for partners to offer specific commitment. The Education Covenant Conference will provide the opportunity for pledges to be matched to specific schools using a more structured approach.
- 3.2 Many stakeholders in education in Bradford have expressed a wish to openly pledge their commitment for the Covenant and have already agreed to engage with schools in order to make a contribution to school activities. The Education Covenant Conference will therefore enhance the links between schools, communities, businesses and all other stakeholders.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

There are no direct financial implications at this stage.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

There are no significant risks arising out of the implications of the recommendations in this report.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

There are no legal issues.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The Bradford Education Covenant as described in this report and the recommendations provided will support an equality of expectations for the educational outcomes of all of Bradford's children and young people.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

See the recommendations below.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the report be received as a summary of the actions taken to involve stakeholders in further developing the Education Covenant.
- 10.2 The appointment of a 'Covenant Champion' to drive forward this innovative and exciting project to become a flagship development for the District.
- 10.3 That the Council invites all stakeholders in Education in Bradford to actively pledge their commitment to the Covenant at the Education Covenant Conference.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - The Bradford Education Covenant.
Appendix 2 – National Literacy Trust – Bradford Literacy Campaign: Schools Reading Pledge, 2016

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

Appendix 1

The Bradford Education Covenant

We believe that every child in the Bradford District should have the chance to realise their full potential and that working together with determination, purpose and ambition we can achieve this.

Improving educational achievement and making sure all children can go to a good school are among the biggest and most important challenges we all face in the Bradford District. Providing young people with the right skills and knowledge within an excellent school system is crucial to their future success and wellbeing and that of the district.

In the past, improvement in education hasn't gone far enough, fast enough. We know we've got to do better, there are no excuses. We need urgent and sustained action to drive up education results.

Things have to change and together we all have to take responsibility to improve educational achievement in our district and give all our children a great start in life. The changes we need can't happen unless we all, public services, schools, parents, business and communities, work together.

We have to make sure that children are ready for school and ready to learn, to accelerate the rate of improvement in achievement and to ensure that young people leave school ready for work and life.

Achieving those outcomes is a joint responsibility with everyone involved having their part to play.

So we are setting out what the Council can offer but we are also asking families, schools, business and employers, the Government and young people themselves to work together with us to do all they can to create the best chance of success for all our children and young people.

The proposed Bradford Education Covenant will outline the action the Council will take along with what it is asking of others to ensure our young people get the best possible start in life.

The Bradford Education Covenant

What the Council will offer

Keeping schools and education as a top priority

Improving schools and educational attainment, so that all our children are able to achieve their potential, will stay at the top of our priorities. We will support all Councillors to be effective champions of children, parents and learning and work with schools and parents to develop a vision for education as we pursue our ambition of making all our schools good by 2018.

Driving school improvement

The Council will work to put schools themselves at the heart of driving improvement. We will challenge schools and governing bodies and hold them to account for their performance, taking rapid and robust action where there are issues that may be preventing a school from making progress, whatever type of school it may be.

Promoting learning from the very best

We already have some outstanding school leaders and teachers. We will work even harder with schools to identify, celebrate, promote and share best practice and support them to assist each other to accelerate improvement.

Attracting, retaining and developing the best school leaders and teachers

We will invest resources in attracting, retaining and developing the best school leaders, teachers and classroom assistants. We've already set aside £660,000 to do this. Part of this commitment will involve promoting Bradford District as an attractive career choice for the best teachers and school leaders. Government policy is to increase the numbers of Academies so we will be proactive in seeking out high quality academy sponsors to attract to the district.

Providing school places by working together with government

The Council will work with the Government to ensure the district gets the money it needs to provide enough school places and keep schools well equipped. We've invested £700,000 to match the Government's money for extra school places but we need more money and more places.

Helping to make sure children are ready for school

Support will be there for families and children through the 'early years' helping to make sure children are ready for school and can do their very best at school from day one.

Supporting children and young people to be ready for work and life

Working closely with the business community, the University and colleges, the Council will provide real opportunities for skill development and jobs when young people leave school. We'll continue, in partnership, to deliver the innovative Industrial Centres of Excellence, each covering a different economic sector, linking schools to employers' needs and we'll support business to get the right young person, with the right skills through our Apprenticeships Hub.

Raising aspirations through cultural opportunities

Providing chances for students to benefit from enriched cultural learning by maximising the District's unique local learning opportunities and facilities - for example, with the National Media Museum and City of Film. This will provide inspiration to our young people and stimulate creativity.

Bradford Council's Education Ask

Parents

- Access a nursery place – 15 hours a week is free and it can make a big difference to your child's development
- Involve yourself in your child's education, encourage and celebrate their learning

- Make learning fun at home, read, count and play every day with your young child
- Make sure your child is at school on time, attends regularly and doesn't take unauthorised absence
- Support your child to get their homework in on time
- Support your child to get involved in out of school activities

Parents need to do this because their involvement in children's education from an early age has a significant effect on educational achievement, and continues to do so into adolescence and adulthood.

Children and young people

- Make the most of opportunities for learning at school and at home
- Take responsibility for your own education, build your skills, ask questions, take notes in class and get your work in on time, discover your talents – it's your life, your future, your choice

Children and young people need to do this because motivated and responsible pupils have a better chance of achieving success.

Schools

- Put yourselves at the heart of driving school improvement, working together in partnership, recognising that all types of school are part of a wider education system and need to share solutions and ideas to raise education attainment
- Be active in the district's networks of schools, assist each other each other to challenge and address failure and support the lowest performing schools to learn from the highest performers
- Share resources and expertise to invest in teaching, learning and facilities
- Take timely and robust action to deal with performance, governance, attendance and any other issues in your school to provide the very best education experience and outcomes for your pupils
- Support students to identify future careers opportunities

All our schools need to do this to help us achieve our shared ambition of making sure every school is 'Good' by 2018.

Business and employers

- Support and become involved with an Industrial Centre of Excellence or Bradford Pathways
- Encourage your employees to volunteer for the reading in schools project and to offer mentoring for young people at school
- Provide meaningful work placements to your local schools and be an active partner in educating young people about potential careers
- Provide apprenticeships for local young people

Businesses need to do this because good education and good skills mean greater growth. In engineering alone the UK needs 1.82 million workers with relevant skills by 2022.

Communities

- Everyone in every community and neighbourhood to play their part in making a positive contribution to the growth, development and wellbeing of young people
- Get involved, for example as a volunteer reader

We need our communities to do this because everyone shares in the social and economic benefits of improving education and everyone can play a part in helping to achieve it.

Government

- Provide the funding for the district to have enough places for all our children
- Provide funding and support to help increase education achievement in the district, for example invest in a local programme to drive rapid and sustainable improvements
- Support us to attract outstanding teachers, leaders and, in line with Government policy, Academy chains to the district
- Trust local education partners and devolve more powers to local authorities to tackle failing schools and hold academies to account

We need the government to do this because we have one of the fastest growing populations of young people in the country and will need extra places equivalent to two new secondary schools by 2018.



Bradford Literacy Campaign: Schools Reading Pledge, 2016

All schools in Bradford are invited to sign the BRADFORD Reading Pledge and undertake these ten actions to put reading at the heart of school strategy, community engagement and the classroom.

Strategic

1. Complete an Annual Review of school reading provision, using the tools on the National Literacy Trust Network
2. Complete the National Literacy Trust's annual Children and Young People Reading Attitudes Survey
3. Use the National Literacy Trust Network to inform school strategy and practice

Signed: (Headteacher)

.....
.....

Name of School:

.....

Community

4. Once per term send information to all parents asking them to read to and alongside their children
5. Have a dedicated page on the school website to encourage reading activities
6. Make reading materials available in public waiting areas in the school

In-school

7. Promote the Summer Reading Challenge and library membership to all eligible pupils
8. Run the Bradford sponsored read
9. Create a school Book Club and invite parents and carers to join
10. Identify a school governor to have special responsibility for reading

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Report of the Director of West Yorkshire Pension Fund to the meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday 19 October 2016.

T

Subject:

West Yorkshire Pension Fund Disinvestment from the Fossil Fuel Industry

Summary statement:

A review of investment in the fossil fuel sector and the implications for the West Yorkshire Pension Fund, the District and its current and retired public sector workers of any programme of disinvestment.

Rodney Barton
Director, West Yorkshire Pension
Fund

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Portfolio:

Leader of Council & Corporate

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Corporate



1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is a review of investment in the fossil fuel sector and the implications for the West Yorkshire Pension Fund, the District and its current and retired public sector workers of any programme of disinvestment.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on Tuesday 20 October 2015, Council agreed that the Governance and Audit Committee and the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee complete a joint review of investment in the fossil fuel sector and the implications for the West Yorkshire Pension Fund, the District and its current and retired public sector workers of any programme of disinvestment and report back to Council.
- 2.2 Climate change is widely recognised as being the result of fossil fuel consumption, and that the reduction of carbon emissions is necessary. This consensus is demonstrated by the Climate Change Act 2008, which established a target for carbon emission reductions of 80% by 2050 against 1990 levels.
- 2.3 A variety of campaigns seeking to influence progress towards achieving this objective are proposing a range of actions, one of which is to simply disinvest from the fossil fuel sector.
- 2.4 Following discussions it was decided to:
- Examine the legal position of the Pension Fund in terms of its powers to invest and dis-invest;
 - Examine the financial consequences of disinvesting from the fossil fuel sector;
 - Consider the risks and positive effects of fossil fuel disinvestment.
- 2.5 The West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF), in common with most other institutional investors, has investments in a portfolio of companies within the fossil fuel sector. While the Fund does not restrict its investment managers, it actively engages with the companies it owns on issues of concern, a very long standing policy. The WYPF philosophy is that while acquiring shares in a company brings with it the rights of ownership it also brings the responsibilities, and these must be taken seriously. Therefore when the Fund owns shares in a company it needs to consider the social and environmental footprint of that company, and exercise the appropriate influence and control over management. To do otherwise, particularly where there are genuine issues to be addressed would be to abdicate its responsibility.
- 2.6 Among many issues, WYPF has been engaging on climate change since the early 1990s, and indeed in the recent AGM season has been a key sponsor of resolutions to companies in the sector requiring them to demonstrate how their business plan is addressing climate change and its inherent risks. The WYPF beliefs are set out in its Statement of Investment Principles (SIP), an extract is attached as Appendix 1.

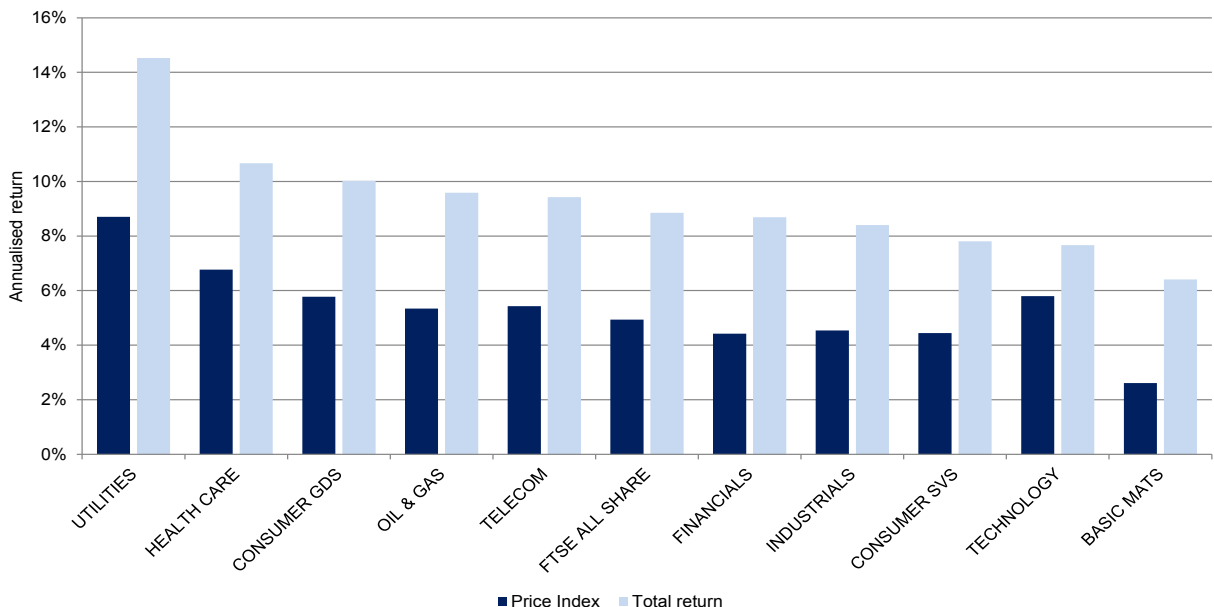


3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

➤ None.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The sources of income for WYPF are employee contributions, employer contributions and investment returns. The employee contributions are fixed by government regulation and are a function of pay. Investment returns are what the Fund achieves on what is actually invested, hence the importance of the decisions made by the Investment Advisory Panel (IAP) consisting of elected Members from the five West Yorkshire District Councils, trade unions and scheme member representatives. Any shortfall to fully fund the scheme is made up by increasing the employer contributions, which has a direct impact on the ability of the councils to provide services to tax payers.
- 4.2 The financial consequences of investment decisions only become evident in the long term, which for a pension fund, which has liabilities potentially over 80 years, is obviously a period to be measured in decades.
- 4.3 The graph below shows the long term performance (1986 to 2015) of the subsectors within the FTSE All Share Index, which shows that three of the five outperforming sectors have been Utilities, Consumer Goods and Oils, three sectors which are dependent on fossil fuels.



- 4.4 During 2014 and 2015, oil and commodity prices fell from a sustained period of strong performance. This was very well publicised in the media, and has been seized on by lobby groups to push the case for disinvestment. More recently oil prices have stabilised and recovered somewhat. The low commodity prices adversely affected performance of resources stocks over the short term. However over the long term, the performance of these shares has been robust, resilient and

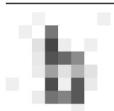


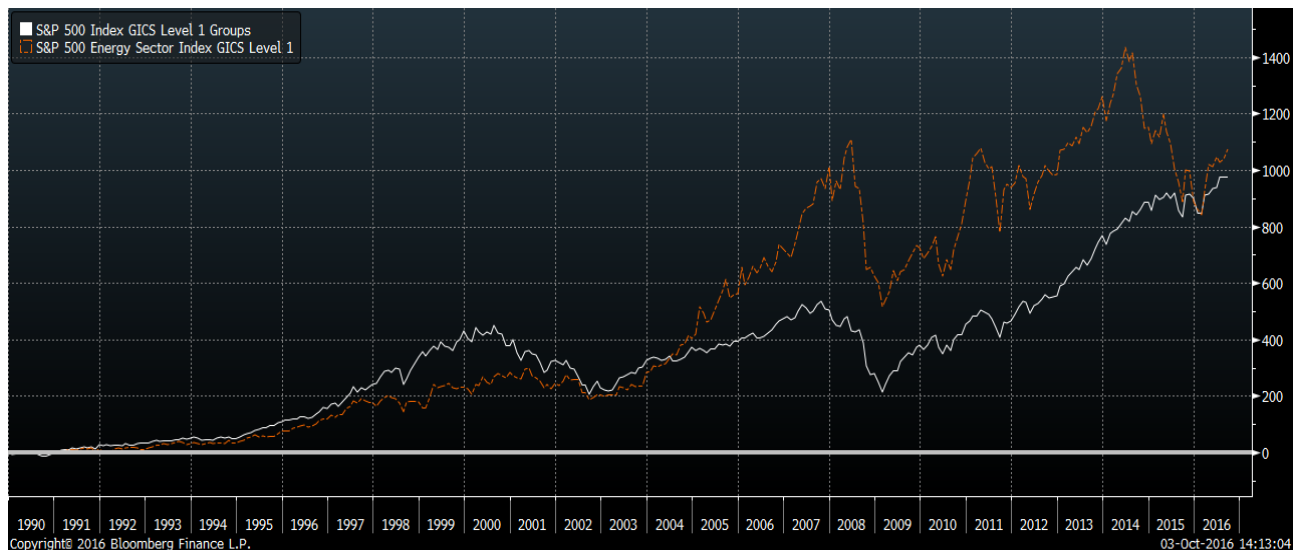
consistently strong. This is demonstrated by the graphs in 5.3 and 5.4 below, which show the sector continues to outperform the market as a whole for the 30 years the end of September 2016.

- 4.5 The Fund is better off as a result of holding these investments for the last 30 years by the equivalent of £4m per annum, much of which has been dividend income. To put this into context, the employers' contribution to the Fund for 2015/16 was £152m. The £4m additional return from holding the Oil and Gas sector alone is almost 3% of employer contributions, which would otherwise have been recovered from employers through a higher contribution. A 3% increase in employer contributions would be unwelcome to employers with budgets under continuing pressure.

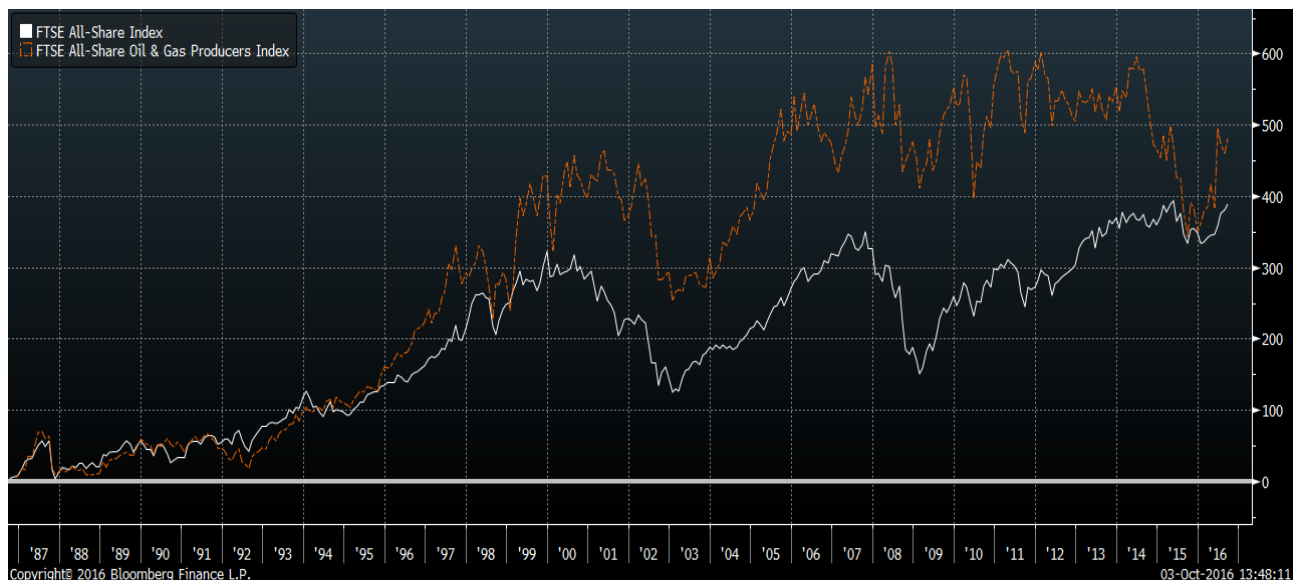
5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 The IAP, as part of its fiduciary duty, has a responsibility to ensure the portfolio is balanced and not taking undue risks against the index. Excluding fossil fuels would result in a significant divergence from the index, introducing a risk into the portfolio, as it represents 11.2% of the index at 30 September 2016. (Oil and Gas, Mining and Utilities sectors together make up almost a fifth of the market). If this decision is made on the grounds of the pressure groups who are lobbying for fossil fuel disinvestment, then there is the consequent risk that other pressure groups lobbying on obesity or public health will expect similar consideration, and very quickly the portfolio would not measure up against the fiduciary duty which is covered in more detail in paragraph 6 of this report.
- 5.2 Following a similar campaign to exclude tobacco stocks, Norfolk Pension Fund commissioned a report on the impact of excluding the Tobacco sector. The report (see Appendix 2) concluded that a portfolio would have been 6% worse off over 10 years.
- 5.3 In the US, the Energy sector index has outperformed the 'Eco' sector index (an index which is designed to represent the economy as a whole) by 0.34% per annum from the beginning of 1990 to 30 September 2016 as the following chart shows, giving a return of 9.63% p.a., even after the significant falls which were a consequence of the drop in oil prices in 2014/15.





- 5.4 This is not dissimilar from the relative performance of the UK Oil Sector against the FT All Share index, where it has outperformed by 0.63% p.a. giving a return of 4.97%.



- 5.5 Divesting of all fossil fuels would mean selling a significant portion of the WYPF global equity portfolio. In the UK alone, selling Oil and Mining stocks would mean sales of over £635 million. The transaction costs of selling almost two thirds of a billion pounds worth of stock would be £1.25 million, while reinvesting the money would be even more costly due to stamp duty at the rate of 0.5% in addition to the commission, money that would be lost to the Fund forever.
- 5.6 Selling significant shareholdings (such as the 38 million BP shares held by WYPF) would push the share price down. Being a 'forced' seller would mean having to accept lower prices in order to complete the sale. So the initial £635m resources market value is likely to be worth considerably less due to an oversupply of stock in the market. There is also an additional risk that if other funds become forced sellers, through a divestment policy, that share prices will fall even further.

- 5.7 The 7.26% yield on the Oil sector is currently the highest in the FTSE All Share. This is partly due to share price falls as a result of the lower oil price, but also the major oil companies are maintaining or increasing dividends. If fossil fuel divestment were pursued as a policy, then WYPF dividend income would fall by a significant amount. In 2015/16, dividend income to the fund from UK oil and mining and companies was £33 million. The yield on the wider FTSE All Share index was significantly lower, equivalent to £18.6 million. This would be a 44% reduction in income and cash flow, cash flow that will be required to pay pensions in due course.
- 5.8 There are reasons to consider carefully before simply parting company with the sector, even from an environmental perspective. Much of the leading edge research into solar and battery technology is being undertaken or funded by these companies.
- 5.9 A strong argument put forward for disinvestment is what has become known as 'stranded assets', that oil in reserves which could never be burned without exceeding agreed climate change targets. However, this takes little account of the fact that close to 75% of reserves are owned by states or state owned oil companies, and not the investable oil companies, and the 'stranded assets' will be those which have not been acquired by investors.
- 5.10 The reality is that the switch from oil and gas to alternative energy sources will take several decades, and that energy companies should be taking account of this in their business plans. Impax Asset Management, a specialist in sustainable investment, in its report 'carbon risk for investors: Building a "Smart Carbon" portfolio puts forward the view that 'climate change risk and policy responses are likely to evolve considerably in the next five to ten years,' confirming the WYPF view that the changes are long term in nature, and that any changes to the portfolio should be implemented gradually over time. They also suggest engagement with companies, seeking further information, which will enable ever better monitoring of the risk, and any mitigating action that may be required, which may indeed include reducing sector exposure. They believe that risk needs to be assessed at the individual asset level, as put forward in a paper from the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, but the detailed information required to do this is not presently available.
- 5.11 They also state that 'At its heart, carbon risk focuses on the potential for consumption of fossil fuels to be materially lower than is implied by today's prices.' There is as yet little evidence that this is a likely short term reality, as demand continues to grow in developing countries. Investment timing is key to success, and the current evidence supports regular review and gradual change in portfolio construction, through the sector changing its business plan or investment in the developing energy efficiency and green energy sectors, as WYPF is doing.
- 5.12 For the reasons above WYPF believes engagement is likely to be far more effective than disinvestment. By requiring the management of the fossil fuel (and mining) companies to present business plans that take account of the international agreements on climate change, by pushing resolutions through company AGMs, WYPF can ensure action is taken. Simply divesting of these stocks would allow those who have no such concern for the environment to acquire the shares at a lower price,



and take the pressure off management to respond positively to this issue.

- 5.13 Obtaining such a positive response from management will be absolutely key to allowing the world economy to continue functioning during the transition to a low carbon economy, as decisions on which reserves are developed can have a significant impact on the carbon footprint. There can be a difference of over 80% in the emissions per barrel between the lowest and highest types of oil.
- 5.14 As part of its engagement through the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) WYPF continues to seek action from the companies with which it engages. To this end on 21 July the LAPFF and the Carbon Tracker Initiative (CTI) are launched a new report 'Engaging for a Low Carbon Transition' which sets out why a 2°C business model for Oil and Gas companies can be less risky than 'business-as-usual'. By putting this report, backed up by professional research, in front of the boards of the major oil companies WYPF expects to achieve real change.
- 5.15 Individual actions to address climate change can demonstrate leadership, but will not provide a total solution. Institutional investors by collaborating can influence their companies to adapt and prepare for a lower carbon future, and engage with policy makers. While this may have short term negative consequences this is ultimately in their long term best interests. This is a collective problem which requires government and international action to achieve a solution.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 As a local authority pension fund, the WYPF has a duty to invest contributions from its members in a way which gives the highest return possible for an acceptable level of risk. Members of the Investment Advisory Panel (IAP), representatives from the five West Yorkshire district employers, union representatives and scheme member representatives are charged with overseeing the function of the Investments department of the WYPF.
- 6.2 The fiduciary duty of the Panel is to maximise returns for the fund, as advised in a Counsels Opinion to the National LGPS Advisory Board in March 2014, which states that maximising fund returns must be the primary motive of LGPS investments, and that the member authorities should not seek to influence the investment process of the funds for any other purpose.
- 6.3 The conclusions of Nigel Giffin QC are:-
- In managing an LGPS fund, the administering authority has both fiduciary duties and public law duties (which are in practice likely to come to much the same thing).
 - The administering authority's power of investment must be exercised for investment purposes, and not for any wider purposes. Investment decisions must



therefore be directed towards achieving a wide variety of suitable investments, and to what is best for the financial position of the fund (balancing risk and return in the normal way).

- However, so long as that remains true, the precise choice of investment may be influenced by wider social, ethical or environmental considerations, so long as that does not risk material financial detriment to the fund. In taking account of any such considerations, the administering authority may not prefer its own particular interests to those of other scheme employers, and should not seek to impose its particular views where those would not be widely shared by scheme employers and members (nor may other scheme employers impose their views upon the administering authority).

The opinion is available at

<http://www.lgpsboard.org/images/PDF/Publications/QCOpinionApril2014>

- 6.4 In summary, after these duties have been discharged it is possible to take other factors into account when making investment decisions. The proviso is that taking other factors into account should not prejudice the expected return, nor increase risk.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- None.

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

- None.

9. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- The sustainability implications are set out in paragraph 5, and will be positive if the recommendations are followed.

10. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

- The greenhouse gas emissions impacts are set out in paragraph 5, and will be positive if the recommendations are followed.

11. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- None.

12. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

- None.



13. TRADE UNION

- None.

14. WARD IMPLICATIONS

- None

15. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

- None.

10. OPTIONS

- None.

11. RECOMMENDATION

Recommended -

That the Committee:-

- *Notes that WYPF investment decisions are made by the Investment Advisory Panel which includes representatives of all West Yorkshire Districts as well as other interested parties, and not Bradford alone,*
- *Notes that the Investment Advisory Panel considers the annual report of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum which includes engagement activities with fossil fuel companies,*
- *Agrees with the policy of positive engagement set by the Investment Advisory Panel,*
- *Welcomes the progress achieved towards ensuring that the fossil fuel companies revise their business plans to take account of the COP21 agreement,*
- *Welcomes continuing investment in green energy technology and production as the industry develops.*

11. APPENDICES

- WYPF SIP extract – Appendix 1
- Extract from Norfolk Pension Fund Report – Appendix 2

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Background documents are documents relating to the subject matter of the report which disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based, and have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report.



Published works are not included.

- All documents referred to in the report must be listed, including exempt documents.
- All documents used in the compilation of the report but not specifically referred to, must be listed.



Socially Responsible Investment (Extract from WYPF Statement of Investment Principles)

- 1 Investment decisions are taken based on financial and commercial considerations so as to yield the best return by way of income and capital appreciation. If it is shown that particular types of social, environmental and ethical investment can produce at least comparable returns, then the Fund will invest in such companies as part of the normal investment process.
- 2 The voting policy of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund is viewed as a fundamental contribution towards socially responsible investment. The Fund is committed to ensuring that the companies in which it has a shareholding adopt sound principles of corporate responsibility, particularly in relation to environmental and employment standards. The Fund will utilise its shareholding wherever possible, through the voting policy and engagement, to exert influence on those companies falling short of acceptable standards.
- 3 The WYPF is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF), a special interest group of the Local Government Association, which comprises over 60 local authority pension funds with combined assets of £150 billion. The Forum exists to promote the investment interests of local authority pension funds, and in particular to maximise their influence as shareholders to promote corporate social responsibility and high standards of corporate governance amongst the companies in which they invest.
- 4 The WYPF is also a member of the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC). The IIGCC seeks to promote a better understanding of the implications of climate change amongst its members and other institutional investors, and to encourage companies and markets in which its members invest to address any material risks and opportunities to their businesses associated with climate change and a shift to a lower carbon economy.
- 5 The WYPF first became a signatory to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) in 2007. The CDP seeks information from over 2,750 companies world-wide on their Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

November 2015

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Tobacco Investment (Extract from a Norfolk Pension Fund Report)

- 1 It is a fact that the historic performance of tobacco investments has been very strong.
- 2 A detailed analysis is provided in the appendix (the full report can be found at <http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/view/pensions250912item6pdf>) but the level of outperformance of tobacco stocks over the last decade is illustrated by the following example. For the purposes of illustration we have ignored the impact of the active management decision (the ability of the manager to favour certain sectors above their index weight and have a lower holding in others).
- 3 If £100 million had been invested in the UK equity index (FTSE all-share) at the same date as the inception of the Baillie Gifford mandate (30 September 2003), the total value at 30 June 2012 would be £6.2 million less if tobacco companies had been excluded from the index at outset (FTSE all share ex-tobacco). This difference arises despite the relatively low weight of tobacco in the index over that period.
- 4 In isolation the cumulative return with dividends reinvested of the UK tobacco sector is over five times than that of the FTSE All Share over the ten year period to 30 June 2012.
- 5 In an extremely difficult environment for equities over the last decade, tobacco companies have delivered solid earnings and dividend growth.

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Report of the City Solicitor to the meeting of Council on 13 December 2016

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Subject:

Elected Member Review

Summary statement:

Arising from the budget discussions at Council in February 2015, the then Leader indicated that an independent review would be undertaken, using a range of consultation techniques, to assess whether any change should be made to the number of Councillors. That review has been completed and the outcome is that the public feel there is no case for any change. That conclusion has been endorsed by Sir Rodney Brooke who provided oversight of the review.

Parveen Akhtar
City Solicitor

Portfolio:

Corporate

Report Contact: Parveen Akhtar
Phone: (01274) 432496
E-mail: parveen.akhtar@bradford.gov.uk

Improvement Area:



1. **Summary**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Council held in February 2015, the then Leader indicated that an independent review would be undertaken to assess whether any change should be made to the number of Councillors. The review has concluded that the public have no appetite for a reduction in the number of Councillors. Sir Rodney Brooke, who oversaw the review, has endorsed that conclusion.

2. **Background**

- 2.1 In 2002, the Local Government Boundary Commission recommended that Bradford should retain 90 Members. The Commission would only review that decision if current ward electorates showed significant deviations from the average. Those deviations have not occurred. In view of the reductions in successive years to the Council's budget, however, some who responded to the budget consultation have argued that the Council's membership should not be immune from the impact of those reductions.
- 2.2 As a result of the review undertaken, the public response has been that they do not believe any change is necessary. Details of the link to the intranet page containing the review documents were sent to all members on 1 November 2016.
- 2.3 The survey comprised questionnaires for the public to complete, interviews and questionnaires with elected members and research into comparative statistics for the number of Councillors on large authorities, electorates and associated literature. Sir Rodney Brooke, Chair of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel, provided independent scrutiny of the survey and he has produced recommendations based on the review findings. Sir Rodney's report is attached as Appendix A to this report. Also attached are Appendices 1 – Public Survey questionnaire, 2 – Public Survey results (full report and summary), 3 - Member questionnaire, 4 - Member Survey results and 5 – Member interview questionnaire.
- 2.4 The design and analysis of the questionnaires and surveys were undertaken by officers. A report summarising the review findings is attached as Appendix 6 to this report
- 2.5 Sir Rodney has concluded that comparators, workloads and future trends (including population growth, devolution and Councillors' increasing need to act as community leaders) present no current case for reducing the number of Bradford Councillors. A reduction would, in any event, have no significant impact on the Council's budget. Perhaps more importantly, the majority of the public who responded to the survey do not support a reduction in the number of Councillors.

2.6 Sir Rodney has also concluded that Members should be supported in their roles, particularly in their engagement with the public through social media and the internet, for example, and their development needs (community leadership, negotiation, mediation and advocacy) should be addressed. Employees should also receive training on political awareness and understanding of the role of Councillor.

3. **Financial and Resource Appraisal**

3.1 There are no financial issues arising from this report.

4. **Risk Management and Governance Issues**

4.1 Implementation of the proposed recommendation will not affect the governance arrangements of the Council in the immediate future. There are no immediate risks arising from the report's recommendation and its implementation.

5. **Legal Appraisal**

5.1 The Council cannot take the decision to reduce the number of members. If a reduction is supported the matter would need to be referred to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

6. **Other Implications**

6.1 There are no equal rights, sustainability, community safety, Human Rights Act or trade union implications arising from this report.

6.2 Ward Implications

6.2.1 There are no immediate ward implications.

7. **Recommendations**

7.1 Council are recommended to:-

7.1.1 - Adopt Sir Rodney's recommendations.

8. **Appendices**

Appendix A – Independent Adviser Recommendations - Sir Rodney's Report
Appendix 1 – Public Survey Questionnaire
Appendix 2 – Public Survey Full Version
Appendix 2 – Public Survey – Summary
Appendix 3 – Elected Members' Questionnaire
Appendix 4 – Elected Members' Survey Responses
Appendix 5 – Member Interview Questionnaire
Appendix 6 - Review Summary Report

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CITY OF BRADFORD MDC**Elected Member Review 2016****Commentary by Sir Rodney Brooke CBE DL, independent adviser****1. Introduction.**

In order to ensure the political independence of the review of elected members the Council asked me to supervise the process of the review and provide a commentary on its results. I was formerly Chief Executive of the West Yorkshire County Council, the City of Westminster and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and have acted as consultant to many local authorities. A Bradford resident for over forty years, I am currently the Chairman of the Bradford Council's Independent Remuneration Panel, which recommends the appropriate level of remuneration of Bradford councillors. Through the Panel and otherwise I have a good knowledge of the working of the authority. I am not and have never been a member of any political party.

As well as discussions with Council officers, I have met a number of members including the Leaders of the political parties. I have examined the questionnaires completed by members of the Council, the results of the semi-structured interviews with elected members and the results of the survey of the public. I have suggested areas of further enquiry now pursued and included in the report. I have commented on the draft of the final report and my comments have been taken into consideration.

2. Overseas experience.

The report makes no reference to overseas experience. I do not think that this is a serious problem. The different practice, responsibilities and areas of overseas local authorities make comparisons unhelpful. The UK has fewer and larger local authorities than almost any other Western country. Average council sizes vary from relatively small councils in France, Italy and Spain to councils of over a hundred members in Sweden. The number of electors per councillor in France and Sweden varies from 256 to 118,209 people per councillor. I do not think that research into overseas comparators would be helpful.

3. The Local Government Boundary Commission

In terms of number of councillors per elector, Bradford is not out-of-line with other similar authorities in the UK. In 2002 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England recommended that Bradford should retain 90 members. The current ward electorates do not reveal deviations from the average which would prompt a Commission review. Moreover, the Bradford population is growing. It is of considerable ethnic diversity and includes a number of very distinct communities. As a local comparator, the Commission recently reviewed the membership of Leeds City Council and confirmed the existing membership of 99 councillors. A review of the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies is scheduled to be completed by 2018.

4. Financial considerations

Like most metropolitan authorities, Bradford faces acute financial pressures which have necessitated substantial cut-backs in services. Over the last five years the search for savings has prompted the council to constrain the overall total of members' allowances and expenses. One of the reasons which prompted the current review was the result of public consultation on budget proposals, when members of the public proposed savings by reducing the number of councillors. This is an understandable reaction. However, the annual cost of members' allowances and expenses is £1.8m, less than ½% of the council's budget of over £400m. While it is absolutely right that every penny of public spending should be justified, reducing the number of councillors would have only a minuscule effect on the Council's financial requirements. It would also increase councillor workloads, which would make it more difficult for many to serve as councillors.

Reducing the level of individual allowances would make it more difficult for those without independent means to serve on the Council. As the 2007 Government appointed Councillors' Commission said: 'If it is important that there are no financial incentives to being a councillor, it is equally important that there should not be a financial disincentive.' It is clearly desirable that service as a councillor should not be confined to retired people or to those with independent means. Councillors are far from over-rewarded for the time they spend on council business. The result is that the national average age of councillors is 61. Bradford is

fortunate in that its councillors have a much lower age profile. A reduction in the quantum of members' allowances would be likely to make councillors less representative of the electorate as a whole. Moreover, reductions in individual allowances would barely have a perceptible impact on the Council's budget.

5. The role of councillors

The council has a responsibility for the overall welfare of the city. It must promote the well-being of the community, its economy and its citizens. Bradford has suffered a period of economic decline and has experienced racial tensions. But the city benefits from its multi-cultural community, its international links, the youth of its residents and its location in the West Yorkshire sub-region.

All councillors play some part in the running of the council or the scrutiny of its activities. As well as overall responsibility for the city's welfare, the council runs services crucial to its residents. The responsibilities placed on local authorities continue to increase. The Localism Act 2011 devolved services to local authorities. The Council has assumed major new responsibility for health and wellbeing and has to relate to the organisational complexity of the local health service. Financial austerity brings substantial and unwelcome challenges to councillors. They are faced with unenviable choices. Demand for local authority services continues to grow. In particular there is exponential growth in the number of old people and a corresponding increase in demand for social care. There is understandable reluctance to reduce significantly spending on children's social care given the current public concerns. The strain on and competition for resources increase the demands made of elected members.

The traditional media created a sense of place and a civic consciousness. The decline of the printed media brings to the fore the community role of councillors. They are a key link between the electorate and the council. They must be available and accountable to their constituents. They are increasingly expected to use social media. As well as the council meetings which they attend, 69% of Bradford councillors are appointed by the council to serve on other bodies, such as school governors. The council appoints members to 61 external bodies; councillors may serve on as many as eight external bodies. The

position of councillor also prompts other appointments. Councillors are expected to show up at local meetings. They must have a relationship with parish councils in their constituency. The public survey makes clear that the electorate expects councillors to hold non-council services to account as well as to help individual constituents to resolve problems with public services and to represent their community to the council. 28% of those responding to the public survey contacted a councillor in the previous five years, some more than once. Evidence shows that casework continues to increase.

National research shows that the average councillor spends 25 hours a week on the role. The local research shows that Bradford councillors conform to the national average. They work more than half-time on the role. Members with portfolios or other positions of authority on the council spend proportionately more time on their role as a councillor.

6. Ward representation

Like many local authorities, Bradford is divided electorally into wards which each return three members. Councillors' periods of office end after four years' service. Only one-third of councillors are required to seek re-election annually. This has the advantage of avoiding cataclysmic changes in Council membership, when all the experienced councillors might lose their seats. It has the disadvantage that the wishes of the electorate may take four years before they are fully gratified.

One way to reduce the number of councillors without changing the council constituencies would be to reduce the number of councillors for each ward. This would preserve the present geography of representation. However (as well as continuity), there are distinct advantages in the three-member ward. It does permit a sharing of workload, so that, for example, a member of the council whose time is consumed by service on the executive may be able to leave the bulk of constituency work to a ward colleague. Equally a similar arrangement may permit a councillor to continue in employment. Councillors should be reasonably representative of the people they serve. It is clearly undesirable that only retired people can serve as councillors.

7. The future workload of councillors

At a time of substantial change, it is difficult to predict the future. However, there is no reason to suppose that the workload of councillors will diminish and several reasons for believing that it will increase. The workload of councillors has almost doubled in the last fifty years and the survey of members shows that almost all Bradford councillors think that their workloads will continue to increase.

The population of Bradford is increasing. Members face a more demanding and informed electorate, which has higher expectations at a time of sharp decline in the Council's resources. The increased ease of communications, in particular email, adds to the councillors' workload. They are increasingly expected to use social media to communicate with their constituents. The devolution agenda and the formation of regional and sub-regional bodies may prompt the movement of some powers to regional or sub-regional level. Attendance on such bodies can be expected to demand a greater time commitment from leading members without necessarily reducing the time commitment of other councillors. Moreover as the council is obliged to shed services, councillors may be expected to take a community leadership role in prompting volunteering and in organising replacement services within their constituencies. A reduction in the number of councillors would diminish the connection between the council and the electorate and increase the workload of those remaining, which might prompt a consequent and counter-productive increase in remuneration.

8. Conclusion

There is no definitive answer to the question 'what is the correct number of councillors for Bradford?' But it is clear that comparators, workloads and future trends present no current case for reducing the number of Bradford councillors. A reduction in the number of councillors would have no significant impact on the council's budget. Moreover the public survey shows that the overwhelming majority of the Bradford electorate does not support a reduction in the number of councillors.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 Given the view of the majority of the electorate, demographic growth, the growth in councillor workloads and the current uncertainties there should be no change in the number of Bradford City elected members.
- 9.2 In view of the increasing demands on elected members, the Council should continue to support councillors in using a range of methods to engage with the public, including social media and online communications.
- 9.3 The Council's development programmes should address the developing roles of councillors in community leadership, negotiation, mediation and advocacy.
- 9.4 Development programmes for Council employees should develop their political awareness and their understanding of the role of councillors.

Rodney Brooke

17 October 2016.

Appendix 1 Public Survey



Title Forename Surname
Address 1
Address 2
Address 3
Address 4
Address 5
Address 6

Unique ID: xxxxxxxxx

Please mark your answers with a ✓

I WOULD LIKE MY NAME TO BE ENTERED INTO THE PRIZE DRAW ☐ YES ☐ NO

Q1 Thinking back over the last 5 years, have you contacted a Bradford District Councillor?

☐ Yes **Go to Q2** ☐ No **Go to Q4**

Q2 How many times?

☐ 1-2 times ☐ 3-4 times ☐ 5 times or more

Q3 What did you contact them about?

Available and responsive Councillors

Q4 If you needed to contact a District Councillor, how likely would you be to use the following methods?

	Highly unlikely	Likely	Seldom	Very likely	Highly likely
Councillors' surgeries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Email	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Phone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Letter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social media eg Facebook, Twitter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In person by making an appointment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Go to Q4a	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q4a Please specify:

Q5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
It is important to have locally elected Councillors who are directly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

accountable to people in the ward I live in

Keeping in touch

Q6 How important do you think it is for local Councillors to keep in touch with their constituents by doing the following:

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Very important	Extremely important
Holding regular surgeries in their ward	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Issuing regular newsletters to keep local people updated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Running a web site	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using social media eg Facebook, Twitter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organising public meetings to discuss local issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attend public meetings organised by other local people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carrying out surveys to find out what local people think	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Go to Q6a	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q6a Please specify:

Representing local people

Q7 How important do you think it is for your local Councillors to do each of the following activities when representing their ward:

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Very important	Extremely important
Represent the community to the Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Represent the community to other services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help people to resolve individual issues with public services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide relevant information to local people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Get public services to respond to local issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Belong to a political party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help people out with planning issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Secure resources for their ward	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Run local campaigns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop plans to improve the whole of their ward	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Represent everyone in the local community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Raise local issues with the Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Go to Q7a	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q7a Please specify:

Working with local people

Q8 How important do you think it is for your local Councillors to do the following things in their ward?

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Very important	Extremely important
Talk regularly to local people about issues affecting their ward	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help people access funding for specific projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work with groups of local people to help find solutions to local issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Get people involved in volunteering in the local community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Challenge people in their local communities to change their behaviour	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consult local people before decisions are made that affect the area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Go to Q8a	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q8a Please specify:

Working for the whole District

Q9 How important do you think it is for your local Councillors to do the following things affecting the whole District?

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Very important	Extremely important
Work with other Councillors to improve the whole District	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hold the Council's top decision makers to account	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work with politicians from other political parties	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serve on Committees that take decisions about the whole of Bradford District	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work with other Councillors and Council Officers to develop policies for the whole of Bradford District	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Go to Q9a	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q9a Please specify:

Q10 What other important matters do you think Councillors should do, in your local area or across the whole District?

Q11 Given what you know about Councillors and the work they carry out, do you think that three Councillors for your ward is about right or too many?

- ☐ About right ☐ Too many ☐ Not enough

About you - you do not have to complete these questions but it would be appreciated if you did

Q12 Are you?

- ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say

Q13 What is your age?

- ☐ 18-24 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 75-84 ☐ Prefer not to say
☐ 25-34 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 65-74 ☐ 84+

Q14 Which of the following options best describes your race, ethnic or cultural origin?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British | <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British Kashmiri |
| <input type="radio"/> White Irish | <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British Other |
| <input type="radio"/> White East European | <input type="radio"/> Black or Black British Caribbean |
| <input type="radio"/> White Other | <input type="radio"/> Black or Black British African |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed White / Black Caribbean | <input type="radio"/> Black or Black British Other |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed White / Black African | <input type="radio"/> Chinese |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed White / Asian | <input type="radio"/> Roma |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed Other | <input type="radio"/> Arab |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British Indian | <input type="radio"/> Gypsy /Traveller |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British Pakistani | <input type="radio"/> Other |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi | <input type="radio"/> Don't Know |
| | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |

Privacy Notice

The Council is committed to compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998, as well as your rights to confidentiality and respect for privacy. The Council will ensure that it keeps your personal information accurate and secure to provide you with efficient services.

The Council will only use the information it holds about you in accordance with the Data Protection Act. The Council will also only collect the minimum information necessary, and when it no longer has a need to keep information about you, that information will be disposed of in a secure manner.

The information you provide here will only be used for the purposes of this survey. Please note, however, that the Council is required to share your information on occasion with third parties, such as agencies that help reduce crime or investigate fraud. The council may also share your information for consultation purposes.

For full details of Bradford Council's Privacy Notice, please see our website.

Would you be prepared to take part in any future discussions the Council may have?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Thank you for completing this survey please return this survey form using the **freepost** envelope provided.

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Appendix 2

**Elected Members
Review**

Public Consultation

2015-16

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Responses

The survey was sent to 6,000 randomly selected people from the Bradford Electoral List. 30 names were selected from each ward. Returns were as follows:

- 1,349 Completed responses
(22.48% completion rate – in line with expectations)
- 36 Returns due to person moving property
- 24 Late responses received but not entered
- 13 Returns due to person not feeling that they could contribute due to ill health or being too old
- 5 Returns due to person not wishing to participate
- 3 Returns due to person being deceased

Responses received by Ward

Ward	Count
Ilkley	64
Wharfedale	64
Bingley	62
Baildon	61
Craven	61
Bingley Rural	59
Worth Valley	58
Thornton & Allerton	56
Queensbury	50
Shipley	50
Idle & Thackley	48
Wyke	47
Clayton & Fairweather Green	46
Wibsey	46
Royds	45
Keighley East	44
Eccleshill	43
Tong	42
Bowling & Barkerend	41
Windhill & Wrose	40
Great Horton	38
Heaton	38
Bolton & Undercliffe	37
Keighley Central	37
Keighley West	34
Little Horton	31

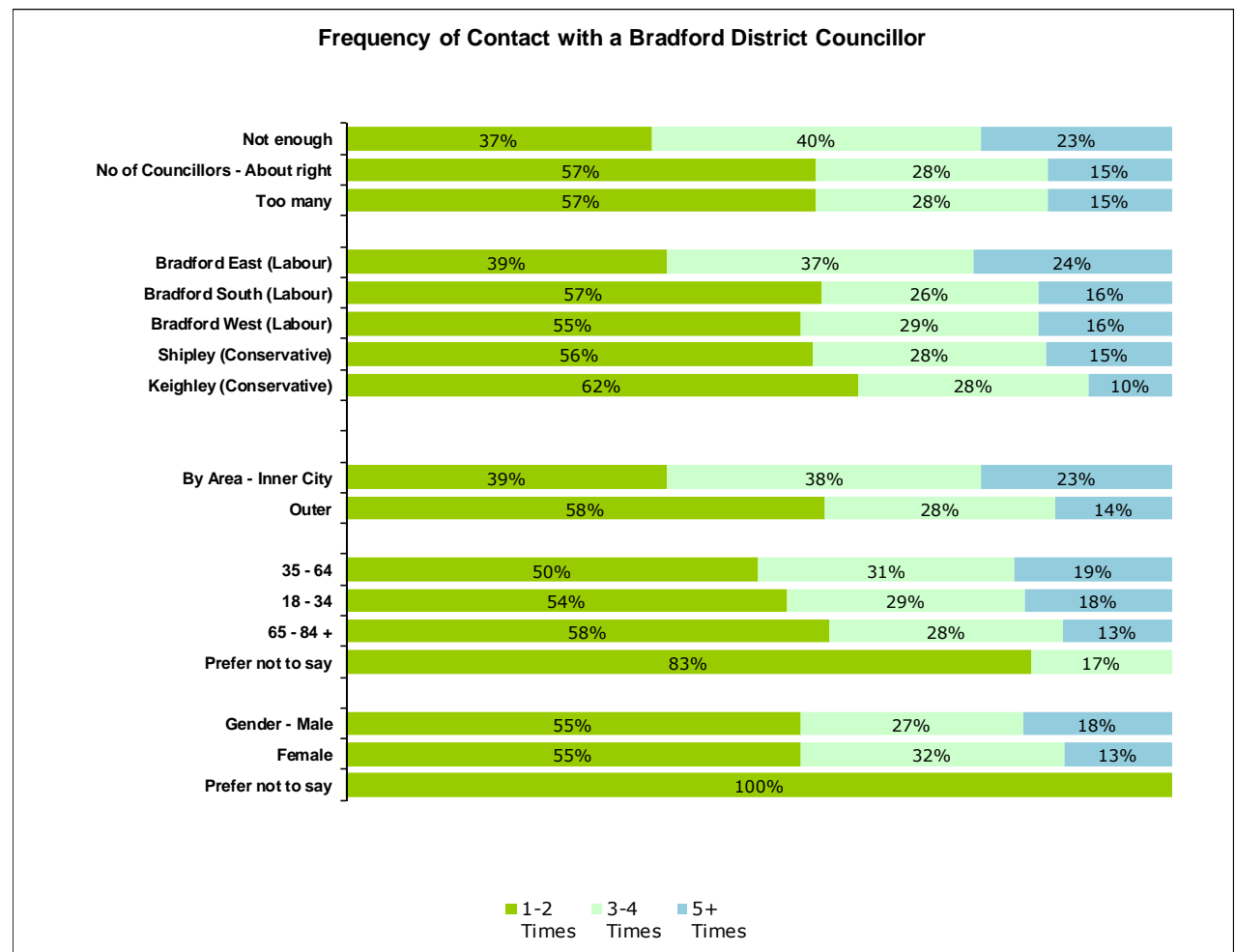
City	30
Toller	29
Bradford Moor	24
Manningham	24

Responses received by Parliamentary Constituency

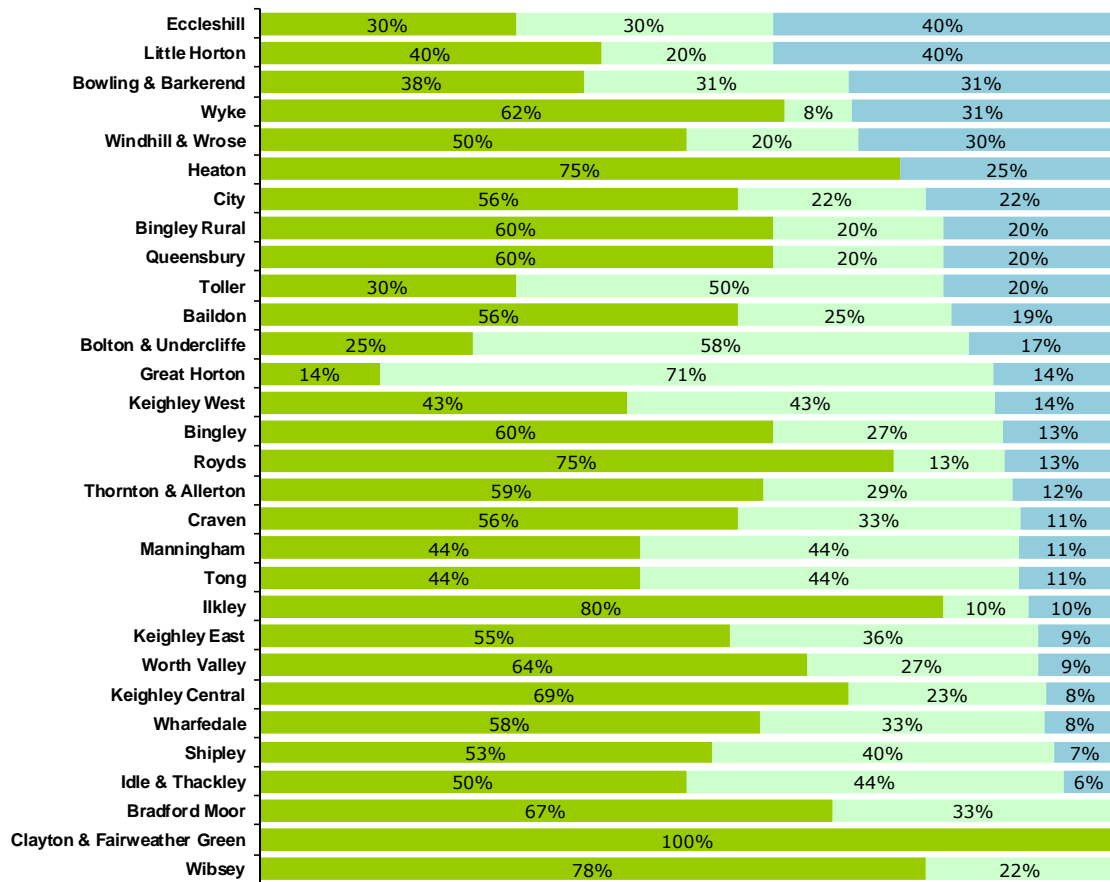
Parliamentary Constituency	Count
Shipley (Conservative)	336
Keighley (Conservative)	298
Bradford South (Labour)	268
Bradford East (Labour)	224
Bradford West (Labour)	223

Contact with a Bradford District Councillor over the last 5 years:

The top 3 reasons for contacting a Bradford District Councillor were issues relating to Highways, Waste Services and Planning.

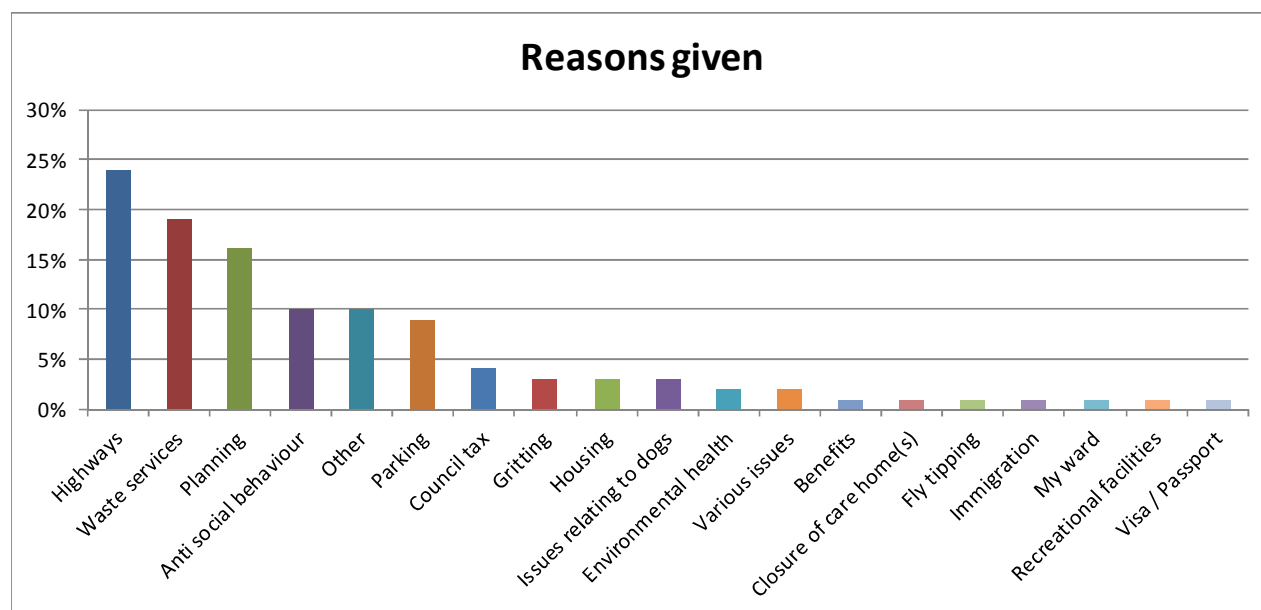


Contact details by ward over the last 5 years



1-2 Times 3-4 Times 5+ Times

Reasons for contacting a Bradford District Councillor



Other reasons given for contacting a Bradford district Councillor

About local area issues.

About local schools, college and university.

Addingham Library

Allotment services Heritage/Buildings

Attending functions and charity events. Re awards submissions (?) Re outside interests on which the Council is represented.

Bereavement services

Community projects.

Concerning the right to life bill.

Electoral register

Enquired about a grant towards a new (safe) shower but made own arrangement.

For advice and assistance with private related problems.

For information about canvassing for a political party.

Getting my paper signed

I contacted them about a community project I wanted to run in the area

Job application

Keighley

Leeds City College, Keighley campus community activities - I was a LCC curriculum Outreach & Development Worker.

Library service

Local area.

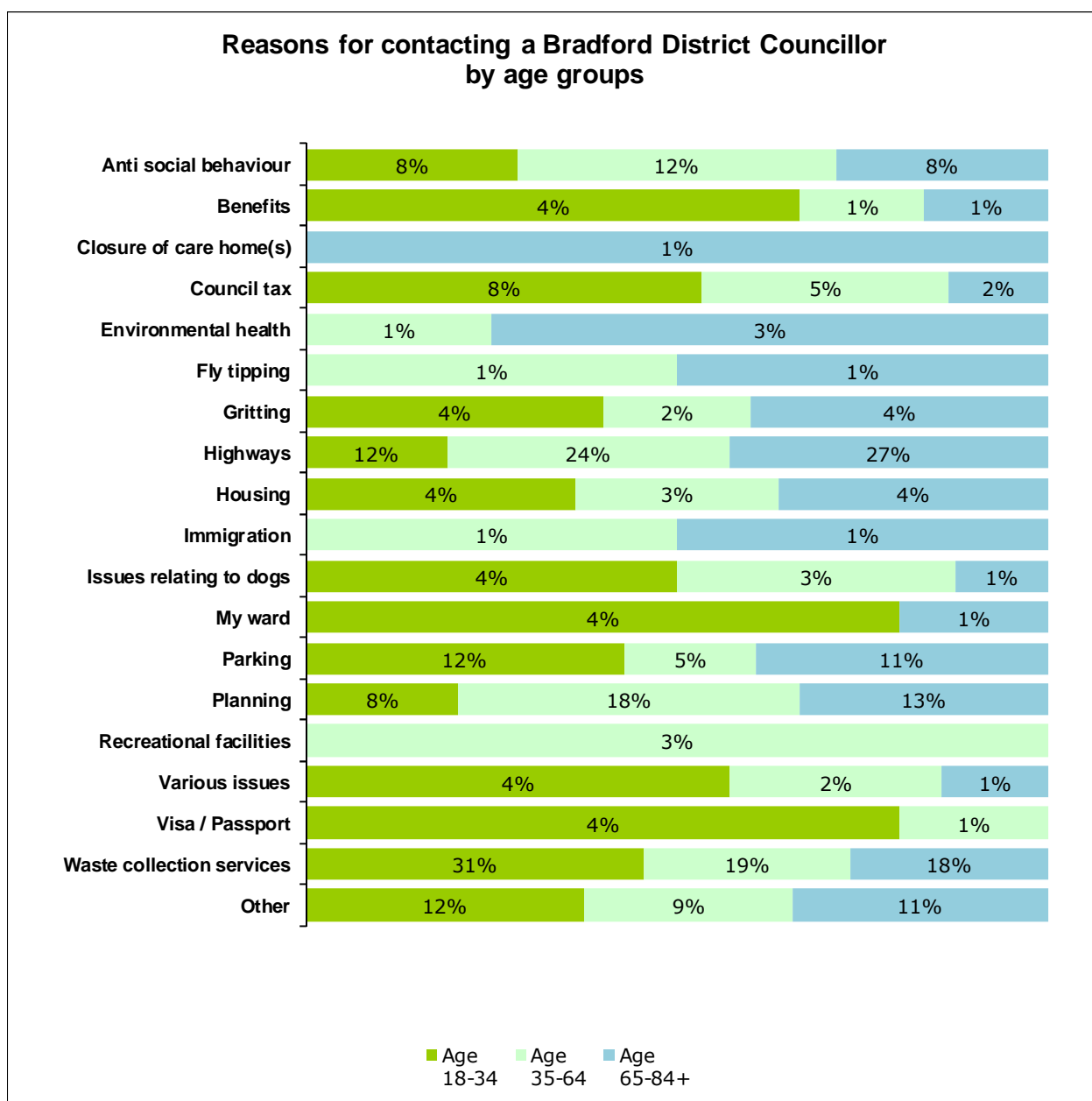
Local issue

Persecution of Christians worldwide

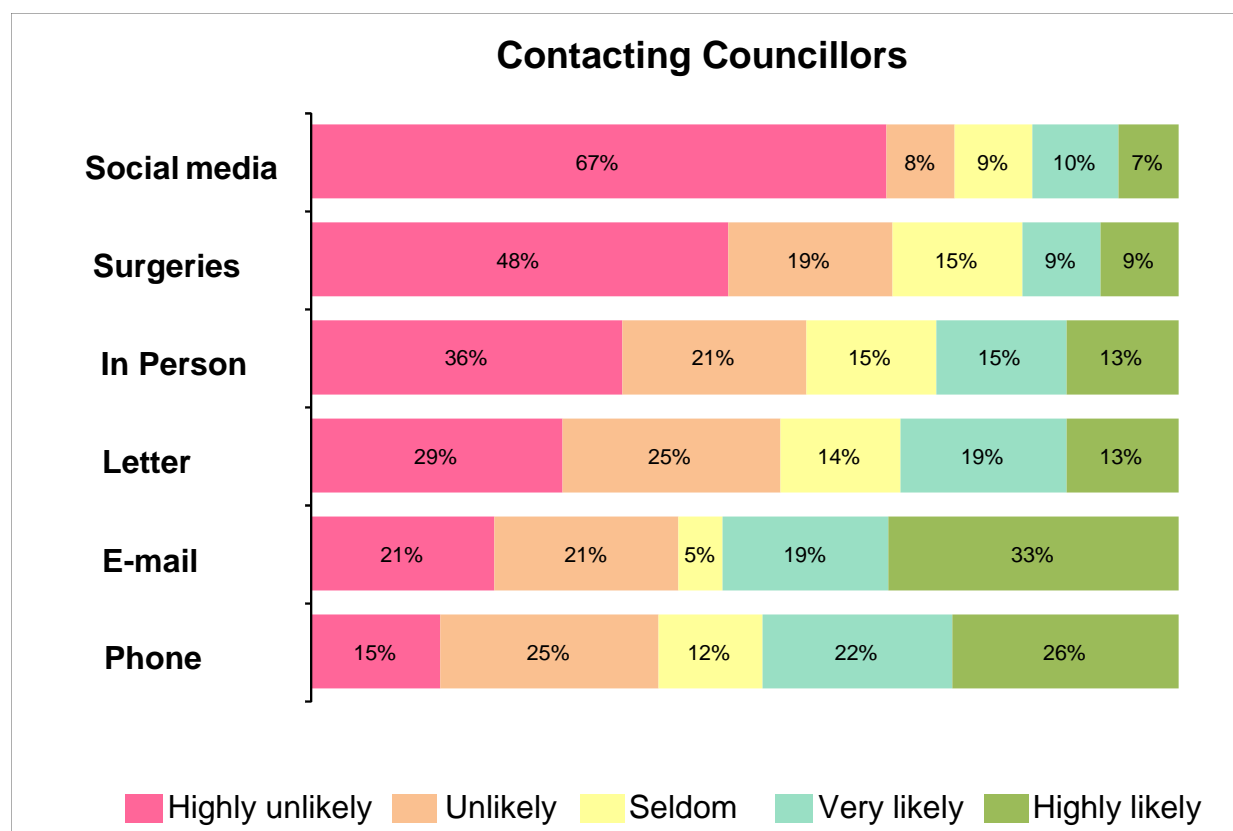
Problems with area

Public transport

Schools
Security
Staff complaint
Support with a holiday claim
The councillor cam to us and talked to us abut health and safety in the home and the community . He came to deliver the leaflet about voting and politics
The environment
The possibility of metal detecting in the district.
To state my opinion on a subject to hope he carries my viewpoint to the vote.
Trees
Water problems.



Methods people used when contacting a Bradford District Councillor



Alternative methods of contact suggested:

- At a Council Office
- Council website
- Home visit
- Local meeting
- Local supermarket
- Newsletter
- Text message

Other unlikely methods of contact mentioned:

- Home visit
- Local meeting
- Skype / Facetime
- Text message
- Via council Website

Key comments made regarding selections made:

- Problem dependant and depends on urgency.
- Email is an easy and rapid and efficient way of communication for those with access
- Phone calls are generally faster and enable us to obtain further details if we are unable to get a hold of the person we wish to speak with.
- When speaking in person you know you have got your grievance across.
- Would depend on the urgency and importance of the matter. Email and telephone would elicit a rapid response, whereas waiting for a surgery or appointment could take longer.
- Think more notice is taken by letter.
- Ideally I would make an appointment and visit their surgery office, but saying that my wife has in the past and the Councillor was never there.
- If the councillors surgery was convenient , I would probably go if I needed to. Otherwise phoning, emailing or writing a letter are good alternatives.

Other comments made which need to be considered:

- No email or Facebook.
- I do not have access to internet and do not want it either.

All Comments relating to: Available and responsive Councillors

Email or phone would be the initial contact then maybe face to face

Calling at an office

I don't have a computer and I don't get out very often

I find it difficult to get about as I am in a wheelchair so rely on letters or phone

Email is very convenient

No email or facebook.

I have no complaints at all and only put no for two as I dont use either ever.

I would attend their designated shop or place like the Liberal Democrats have an office on Killinghall Road.

Problem dependant and depends on urgency

Email is an easy and rapid and efficient way of communication for those with access

If I wanted to contact district councillors I would like to make an appointment have a one to one chat

Phone calls are generally faster and enable us to obtain further details if we are unable to get a hold of the person we wish to speak with.

When speaking in person you know you have got your grievance across.

At present only use phone.

You should email/text people to save money for the Council. The letter sattes completing the survey online will save money but it is wasted due to people not using the printed forms

posted to them.

Usually emailed.

Would depend on the urgency and importance of the matter. Email and telephone would elicit a rapid response, whereas waiting for a surgery or appointment could take longer.

Speaking to a Councillor - door to door visits. Helping improve local area working alongside a Councillor. Chatting to a Councillor when they're involved with local projects. Speaking to one when they're meeting parents whilst waiting for their children a

By chance meetings in the usual course of life.

I have no contact address so would google Bradford Councillors.

As we are not online I think by phone is the best way.

Think more notice is taken by letter.

Ideally I would make an appointment and visit their surgery office, but saying that my wife has in the past and the Councillor was never there.

Filling in newsletter.

I'm deaf, can't hear on phones, etc. No laptop.

In person at their offices or telephone them

Face to face appointment!

Most likely to be taken seriously.

I have no access to social media, email, unable to phone.

I have found my local cllr will react quickly to my emails and phone calls

If the councillors surgery was convenient , I would probably go if I needed to . Otherwise phoning , emailing or writing a letter are good alternatives

I usually see at least one of them by chance when I'm out

Personally I think that my initial communication would be by phone. I would like to speak to the Councillor directly to hear the person's voice and get to know them.

For them to come to the house/flat.

Councillor came out to see us and to see my sister in her home to see how she managed climbing stairs.

Face to face

Public meeting Councillors were attending.

Have telephoned and visited Council offices in Bradford.

It is easy for me to talk on phone.

Email or phone is direct and should gain a quick response.

Email or letter.

More convenient

Letter - best.

Office in area.

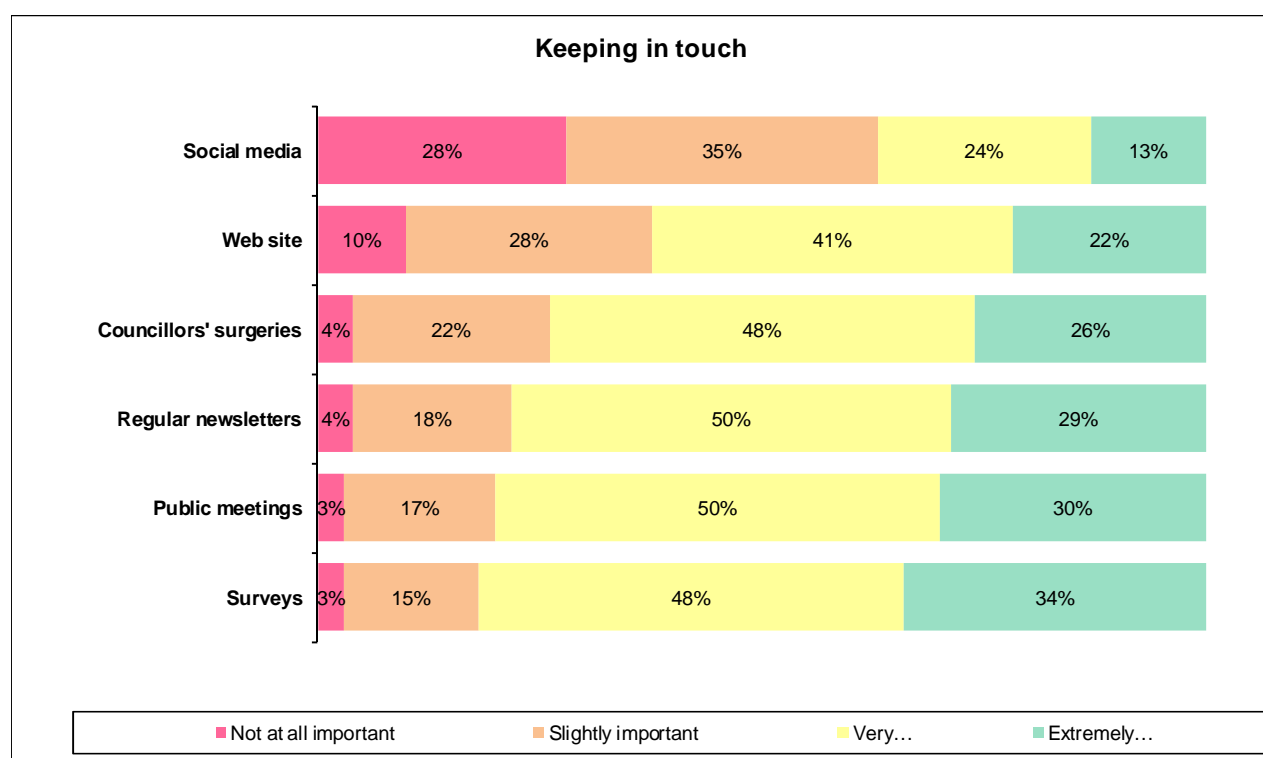
Going to the surgery, hopefully I will make my point, stronger, face to face.

Require everything in writing.

It is a quick method of communication.

If I need to contact Bradford Council I would ring or send a letter.
Writing will be more appropriate.
Have no computer so many things wouldn't be available but I have no idea who the local Councillor is.
Depends on the reason.
Phone is more inter reacting with your Councillor's views.
It would be good to write a letter concerning to the District Councillor by email. In person to take an appointment would be difficult as they have so many problems to look into.
1. Family email 2. Phone 3. Letter
Local surgeries would be better.
Speaking over telephone initially explaining problem.
I do not have access to internet and do not want it either.
Always by phone or letter.
If I needed a local Councillor I would go to see him.
Kind and helpful visits to my home.
Do not use social media but would use the other methods depending on the circumstances.
While working alongside in a joint community project.
Would not depend on urgency of needing to contact Council.
I usually see them myself or ring up to speak to them. Should I wish to contact them again I will do so.
Call in at the Town Hall.
Email first.
By letter for a legal "answer".
Prefer to speak directly.
Particularly using local meetings arranged by local Councillors.
Do not have a computer or facilities to send email.
I would probably phone or write a letter
We would email first then see what happens . Maybe make an appointment to see them in person
At local supermarket
I have found the councillors at Girlington very approachable and seem to help out with a lot of projects in the community, so I tend to speak to them there.
Will contact a councillor via their telephone contact number

How important it is for Bradford District Councillors to keep in touch with their constituents



Alternative methods of keeping in touch suggested:

- Canvassing
- Local newspaper
- Making home or community centre visits
- Meeting at the Keighley campus
- Neighbourhood forums
- Skype / Facetime
- Telephone
- Text message

Reasons for their selections:

- At the moment I don't feel this is happening at all therefore improvement is needed in this area.
- Just let people know that they can keep up with local issues by contacting the Council and let them know that it's no problem and they don't feel like they are bothering you.
- The public should be more aware of what's going on around the area.
- As constituents have voted for councillors it is essential that councillors are aware of their concerns.
- Get involved in issues remember the government works for us not the other way . we are the employer, they are the employee.

- Whilst using social media seems the more logical choice as many young people access these more than ever, it is the older age group who often prefer face to face encounters. Text language is also different from verbal language and is probably the most effective way of communicating even today.
- When you get older we want to know where to contact our local Councillor - someone to get help from.
- Speak to people from the WHOLE community. Including those on council estates, etc as their views are as important as everyone else's.
- Hold local get together meetings every 3 months so people get to know their neighbours/service providers.

We have to consider these comments:

We always read the Focus news. letter but never go to any meetings as we feel councils just do what they want to do anyway.

All Comments Relating to Keeping in touch

Surveys are useful as long as they are openly worded and give the opportunity for comments as opposed to blanket yes/no agree/disagree responses.

Be seen and "walk the talk" in the neighbourhoods.

No email, facebook or twitter.

Very important

At the moment I don't feel this is happening at all therefore improvement is needed in this area.

Just let people know that they can keep up with local issues by contacting the Council and let them know that it's no problem and they don't feel like they are bothering you.

Use the social media

Email subscription / e newsletter . Newsletters do not have to be printed

Regular newsletters may possibly appear in local papers if editors are willing

Regular newsletters may possibly appear in local papers if editors are willing

The public should be more aware of whats going on around the area

Keeping involved is very important

As constituents have voted for councillors it is essential that councillors are aware of their concerns

Get involved in issues remember the government works for us not the other way . we are the employer , they are the employee

It is important that residents know what is going on in the community/ town

right what I think from my point of view is you should hold regular surgeries in the area . ward leaflets hand out give them the address time days or sometime visiting people at home if they have any views so who you are make yourself known

Have one to ones

Whilst using social media seems the more logical choice as many young people access these more than ever, it is the older age group who often prefer face to face encounters. Text language is also different from verbal language and is probably the most eff

When you get older we want to know where to contact our local Councillor - someone to get help from.

Speaking to people in their area, getting to know people and keeping up with what's important to them.

I think to be in touch with modern technology like Facebook is a good idea. However, lots of people aren't on Facebook so one size does not fit all. I would not go to a surgery but would send an email.

People now communicate via many different formats, it needs to cover all age groups.

Website to include complaint section, suggestions, surveys, email addresses and phone numbers - include name of contact person, all emails acknowledged.

Communication is vital for success!

Important for them to be involved with issues constituents care about.

Issuing newsletters - best way to gather public opinion and have constructive discussions, social media reveals opinions but doesn't provide the same opportunity for true discussion. Public meetings - Not sure I've ever seen one! Are there ?? at or made a

They need to keep in touch, this way people will understand what's going on. In other words do your job.

I think it's very important, however I am unsure as to how my local Councillors keep in touch.

When there is something directly affecting us a local Councillor should establish our views/opinions.

Very important covers all the questions.

Must listen more to local people.

Although I'm not on social media because of my job I think this is very important to engage the next generation.

Regular local surgeries would be ideal where people have the chance to call in especially elderly people who do not have email/internet etc.

Not everyone knows how to access the internet.

A person elected must have an interest in the area regardless of political party so therefore should visit the area with surgeries and all the above.

Speak to people from the WHOLE community. Including those on council estates, etc as their views are as important as everyone else's.

It shows results of specific problems.

Face to face discussions best for getting a point over and understood.

Cllrs should be in contact with local people in person if possible , head up local meetings , take an active role in the community and lead by example

Asking people on the street in their area

I think that it's crucial for local Councillors to hold regular surgeries in their ward and that these are extensively publicised. Everyone must know where to acquire information about their Councillor and a regular newsletter is very important to keep th

To be able to be contactable at all times.

To help people with genuine complaints. To meet Councillors face to face.

Specifically an online blog where people can freely discuss topics and post questions/have discussions and receive online answers and feedback. This can also be used to provide information about events, meetings, etc.

Make themselves known in the local community and be easily accessible.

By Councillors going personally to local meetings they would be able to answer any questions and give an honest opinion of the subjects given to them by the persons involved at the meeting or meetings.

That people can discuss issues and tell them what they need.

Surveys are only important and respected if action is taken and communication on that action is delivered.

Very important to keep people updated and this would be the most likely to be efficient and cost effective.

Newsletters very important.

We can exchange our views face to face.

Important to stay in touch if you need.

Thinking of the elderly, most don't have access or can work a computer, etc.

Don't have a computer.

Letting people keep up with thing about Bradford as a whole and local news.

It is important to have a contact between the Councillor and the constituents. Councillor will better understand the problems, issues of the local people. By carrying out different ways is a good way of knowing the constituents in a better way and to deal

Important to be seen and known by locals.

Personal contact of local (ie of the place) Councillors VITAL.

Do not use a computer.

Important that Councillors are contactable and visible.

All requests made should be public and their response or effectiveness in it public also.

Hold local get together meetings every 3 months so people get to knw their neighbours/service providers.

They need to do all the above.

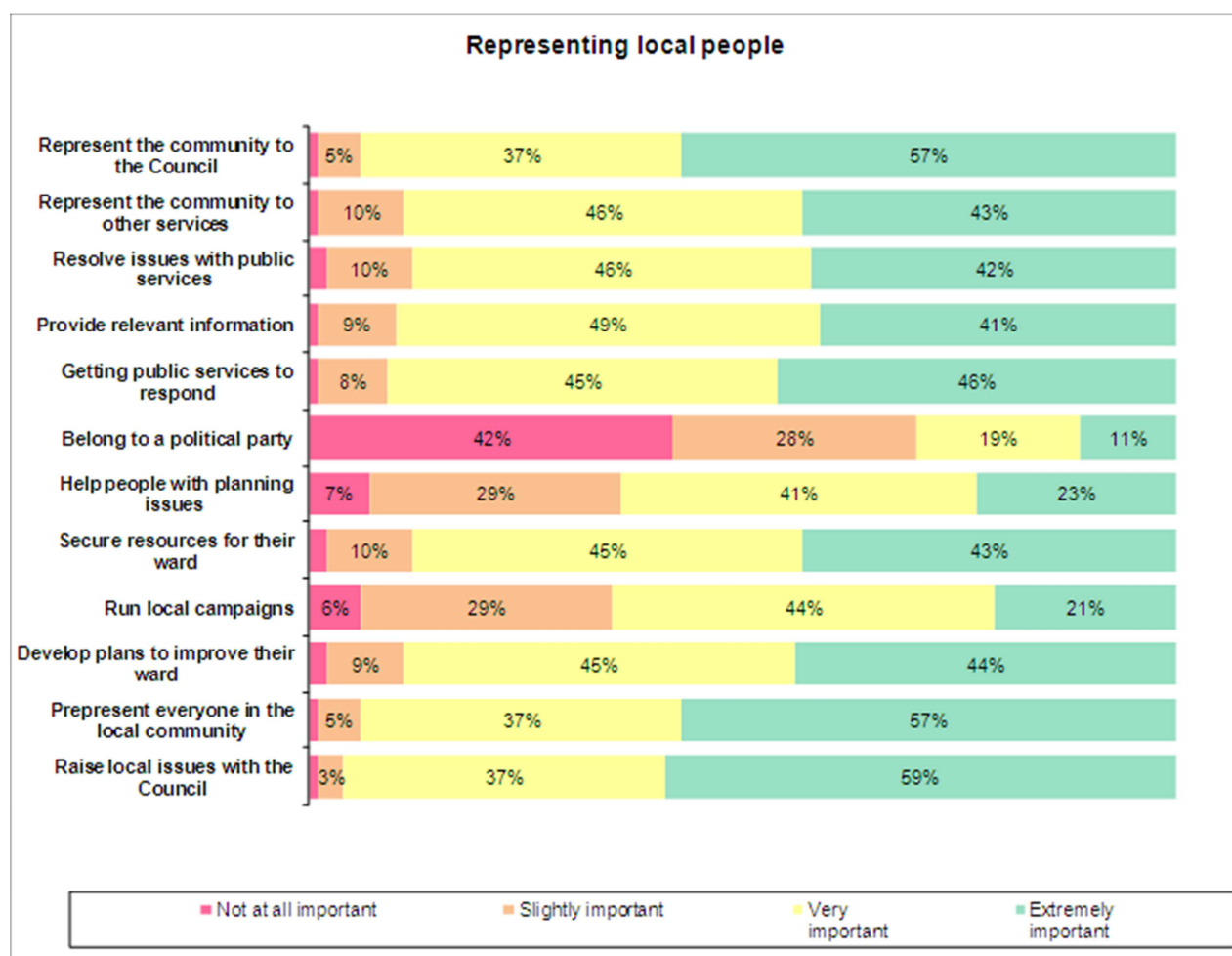
No newsletter sent out at all.

We always read the Focus news. letter but never go to any meetings as we feel councils just do what they want to do anyway

I think all three ticks are important. Sending news letters, reminders people who there Local Councillors are

Representing local people

How important it is for Bradford District Councillors to do each of the following activities when representing their ward?



Alternative methods suggested on how to represent local people in their ward:

- Be accountable
- Communicate
- Create local charities
- Have a free vote - no ties to a political party
- Have creative solutions to problems
- Invite the community to Council meetings
- Liaise with the Police
- Listen to the community
- Live in the ward they represent
- Walkabouts

Reasons for their selections:

- Politics as like religion is competitive. The representatives should work together for the common good of those who live in their ward and beyond!
- Councillors should represent the ward they have been elected in, but also represent important issues for the city, regardless of their political persuasion.
- By definition a Councillor could aim to do each of the above statements. To represent and act following the community. Political affiliation is less important. They should act for the people not for politics as well.
- I think local people should be invited to a council and MP meeting to discuss what is happening in our areas.
- A Councillor is an ENABLER, a channel for the local individuals to get important issues, to them, to be proactively communicated to the appropriate Council department officials. So that a quick, speedy effective response be provided. Then processed to a positive outcome as quickly as possible.
- Listen to people's concerns on issues, ie flooding and un adopted roads and not accept decisions because of no funds but look for alternatives to solve problems.
- They should notify the public if there's any local grants available. We personally have requested our previous local Councillors to have play areas for children in their ward, but unfortunately no action has been taken. There are empty fields around Iqra Academy School which are of no use at the moment, but could be very useful for parking area for Iqra Academy or even for play area for children. In my opinion the Councillors only want vote for their wage. They should be on voluntary basis.

We have to consider these comments:

- It would be more useful if the local councillor was more pro active . I don t know who my local councillor is obviously he / she is not pro active enough.

All Comments - Representing local people

Politics as like religion is competitive. The representatives should work together for the common good of those who live in their ward and beyond!

Actually live in the ward.

Being in a political party doesn't necessarily matter

Again, liaise with local police - have community officers knocking on doors to find out what's happening in the immediate vicinity.

They should be out in the community doing walkabouts with the community.

Create a network of locally based charities , co ordinating / publicising their strategic projects and helping them to join us with funding bodies and major donors in the community

They are elected to represent the ward in all aspects

Represent different political viewpoints in each ward not multiple councillors of the same political party

It would be more useful if the local councillor was more pro active . I don t know why my local councillor is , obviously he / she is not pro active enough

Must hold minimum number of meetings to update the wards
Right the councillor could highlight in what they do and ask the public if they have any issues or you can pop in the surgery when you need them , weekdays or make an appointment . like the doctor do in surgery have a receptionist make big sign board and
Once again the simply represent a political party not people
Door to door visits
Councillors should represent the ward they have been elected in, but also represent important issues for the city, regardless of their political persuasion.
Doing things for the Easter that is need for all ages as there is nothing to do for all ages of children.
Check and report response times of various services problems.
Help people to resolve individual/families issues with housing.
Councillors are "carers" for their wards, so they should represent them well.
Work with and in the community to find out what views they should represent.
By definition a Councillor could aim to do each of the above statements. To represent and act following the community. Political affiliation is less important. They should act for the people not for politics aswell.
Think local people should have a voice on very important local issues.
LISTEN to the thoughts and opinions of all the local community.
I think local people should be invited to a council and MP meeting to discuss what is happening in our areas
All persons in ward would benefit.
Some issues where slightly important is indicated is due to being realistic with time.
A Councillor is an ENABLER, a channel for the local individuals to get important issues, to them, to be proactively communicated to the appropriate Council department officials. So that a quick, speedy effective response be provided. Then processed to a p
I don't think local Councillors should have political party affiliations.
The Councillor does not need to belong to any political party. They represent the people who live in this area and not any political party.
To ensure the elderly are covered in their decisions.
The Councillors represent party political issues rather than local ward or street level issues which are not political!
Again good communication needed.
We have a planning department to deal with planning issues.
Listen to people's concerns on issues, ie flooding and unadopted roads and not accept decisions because of no funds but look for alternatives to solve problems.
I think that the Councillor convey our message to the Council and resolve our problem.
Representing everyone in the local community is very important.
To make all our reasonable problem heard and solved in the Council.
Residents need Councillors to raise our concerns.
Important to stay in touch.
Be discreet on confidential issues raised with them.
This all will help in gaining the support from their constituents to develop a healthy and plan issues and respond to them.

Accountability is very important.

Be involved with a variety of groups within the ward.

Represent minority communities and promote them. More cohesion within the community.

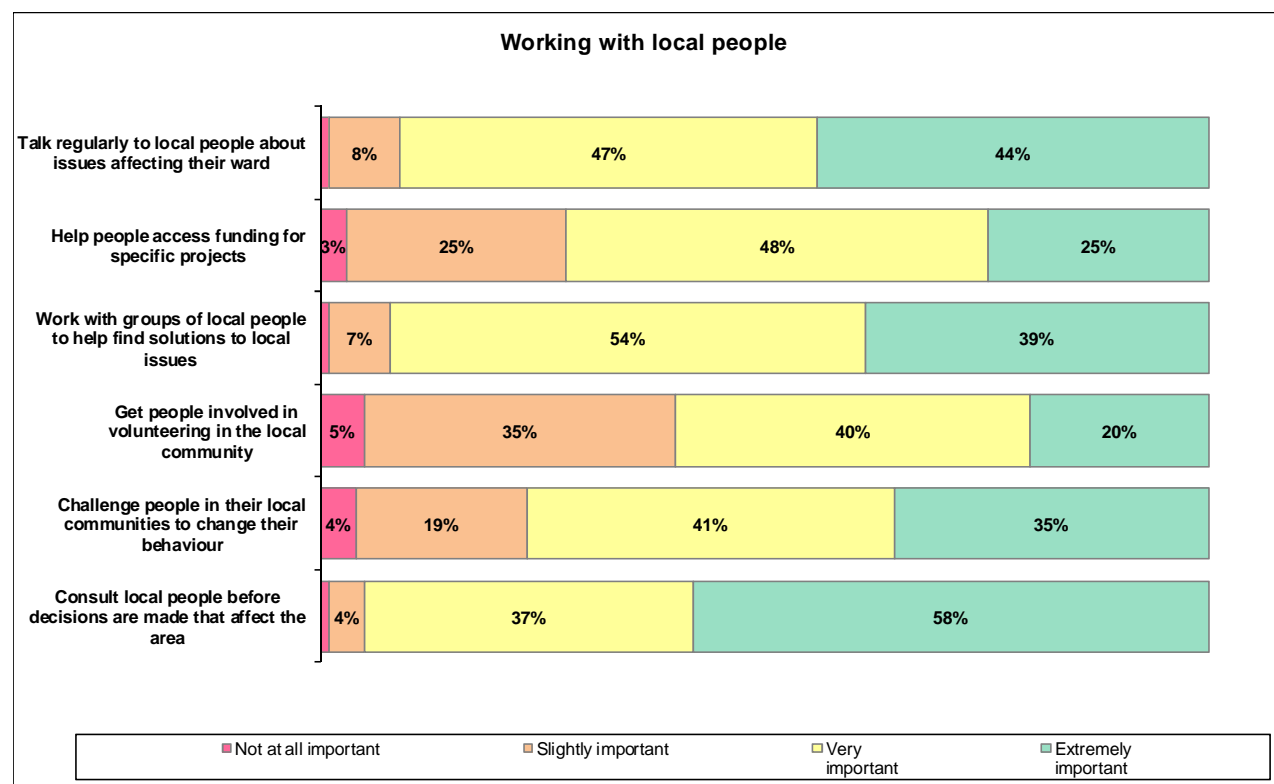
We pay Council Tax so it is important our money is spent in good use.

They should notify the public if there's any local grants available. We personally have requested our previous local Councillors to have play areas for children in their ward, but unfortunately no action has been taken. There are empty fields around Iqra A

To relate equally to all colour race , religion etc that live within their ward

Working with local people

Importance of Bradford District Councillors carrying out the following functions within their ward



Other methods suggested of how to work with local people:

- Attract investment
- Be capable of doing the job
- Be creative and have innovative solutions
- Be local
- Be multi lingual
- Engage with Partners
- Engage with the public
- Involve community with decision making
- Keep expenses to a minimum
- Promote good values and traditions
- Put constituents first
- Respond to queries / problems

- Tackle anti social behaviour
- Use social media
- Whistle blow on malpractice
- Work with Parish Councils

Reasons for their selections:

- Have the calibre to bring forth creative/innovative solutions based on regional developments and where the ward and council can benefit from wider issues.
- Help bring in investment into the local area, to create jobs and improve the local economy.
- Local people MUST have a say about issues affecting their ward.
- This is not only the job of Councillors but police/social workers etc working as a team (Challenge people in their local communities to change their behaviour).
- Acknowledging some members of the community work full time and more and although willing do not have time (Get people involved in volunteering in the local community).
- They need to work with Parish Councils and seek joint understanding and actions.
- Serve the residents needs and you will find everyone really appreciates the Councillor's efforts.
- I think more publicity should be given to volunteering options.
- Work closely with locals to identify issues and overcome them whilst meeting the needs of the community. See the impact, effectiveness or bad effect changes have on the local communities.
- Councillors contact details should be sent to everyone's address every 3 years.

We have to consider these comments:

- Watch their spending of public money especially on expenses, dinners, travel, etc.
- Be an educated and articulate person capable of making fair decisions and not favouring one section of the community.

All Comments - Working with local people

Watch their spending of public money especially on expenses, dinners, travel, etc.

Have the calibre to bring forth creative/innovative solutions based on regional developments and where the ward and council can benefit from wider issues.

Help bring in investment into the local area, to create jobs and improve the local economy.

Give more ASBO out to young bullying thugs.

Answer emails

They should use the social media facebook and twitter more often

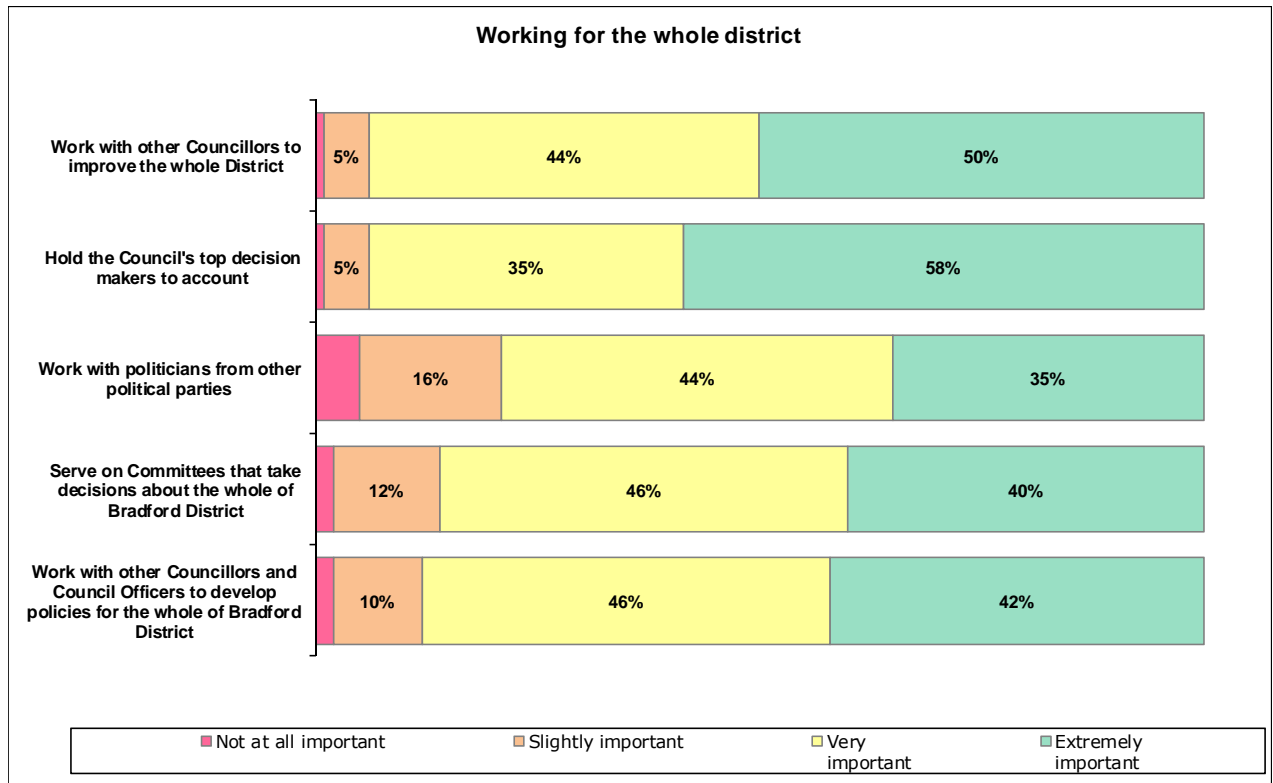
The community should be more involved in the decisions which are made and should have a positive outcome from all

Local councillors not only represent but are ideally placed to understand local issues
Behaviour of young people and some minorities particularly in the city centre
If they do what locals want and it is what they should do , then there will be no need to consult after a decision as what they (locals) wanted is what they will get
Talking regular on issues and when you decide on a issue you should call a public ward meeting to suggest the matter and opinions working with the public give you that you care and helping on views of the public important see what the public have to say
Respond personally to requests made by constituents
Consultation is key to any success as it creates opportunities to put forward lots of ideas. To truly know what's happening in a community or what it's needs might be can only be achieved through consultations.
Discuss local issues. Gangs of youths causing trouble.
For people in their local communities to have an opportunity to think and address their behaviour through learning correctly and understanding values and traditions so they may foster goodness.
Different issues affect local people, sometimes in a way that other sections fo the city wouldn't understand.
If possible get Councillors who speak multi-languages such as Dari/Farsi.
Working together will ensure effective communication to create and develop a helpful and successful community.
Contact and time spent with the community are very important. Most have a true understanding of the true issues and people affected whom they represent.
Funding - depending on the importance and overall impact of the project. Decisions affecting wards should be consulted to it's community.
Look more into what people are doing in good areas. Consulting people more about what is going on in area. Keeping the area cleaned.
Representing the views of people in their ward before the District Council.
Local people MUST have a say about issues affecting their ward.
There is no community centre. Local people are not consulted about anything that affects the area. Sending an email is not good enough.
To understand deaf people's opinions and their views on communities in Bradford.
Each area needs different things, Bingley needs more shops so encouraging this with lower Council tax. Other areas might not so each Councillor will have to get involved. Volunteering in each area is a good way to get communities together.
This is not only the job of Councillors but police/social workers etc working as a team (Challenge people in their local communities to change their behaviour)
Local people have local knowledge so their opinions are essential.
Acknowledging some members of the community work full time and more and although willing do not have time (Get people involved in volunteering in the local community).
I think that ALL the above issues are very important ROLES that Councillors must be seen to be fulfilling effectively.
More community engagement to get people back in to work.
Keep local people informed about goings on in the district and be open and approachable.
They need to work with Parish Councils and seek joint understanding and actions.
Put the needs of their constituents above party politics.

It is very important that we all change our behaviour and our understanding.
Funding for future projects.
Councillors do not put in enough time in working with local people in my area.
Keep people updated about changes.
Keeping people updated.
To keep people informed about what was going on.
Serve the residents needs and you will find everyone really appreciates the Councillor's efforts.
Because he must be capable to view raise our issues.
Work with groups of local people to help find solutions to local issues and this is extremely important.
In Bradford very important.
Speak up to make the area better and know what residents concerns are - especially the elderly.
Important to stay in touch.
Be an educated and articulate person capable of making fair decisions and not favouring one section of the community.
I think more publicity should be given to volunteering options.
Councillors are middle men, much better to ask local officers who will respond.
Its important for them to meet people often about the affected issues.
Employed to help the people so they should help and be proactive rather than reactive.
Challenge people to change their behaviour - dependent on the behaviour. Anti social - yes, but not to infringe on people's human rights.
Work closely with locals to identify issues and overcome them whilst meeting the needs of the community. See the impact, effectiveness or bad effect changes have on the local communities.
But maybe respect the needs of people who are not able to volunteer because of age and other issues, but who have done much in the past and still do a little now.
Councillors contact details should be sent to everyone's address every 3 years.
Parish councils do all of the above

Working for the whole District

Importance of how the following things affect the whole District



Other ideas for working for the whole District:

- Attract investment
- Be sensitive to wider issues
- Don't forget the wards
- Financial accountability
- Good communication
- Work with Partners

Reasons for their selections:

- Lever in regional developments for the good of the district and the ward eg on transport issues.
- It is extremely important to attract investment into Bradford District.
- Wards are simply segments of a district and without putting these together you cannot have a fully functioning District. Working with other politicians would or could improve matters as they all have different proposals. I feel it would generate a better Bradford District.
- Councillors cannot work in isolation. Must work with other individuals and bodies to achieve results.
- It's my opinion that Councillors should be elected on a non-political platform.

- There must be effective methods of communication between ALL Councillors for the benefit of the whole district. Language, background, religion and politics ethics must ALL be overcome when eliciting the most effective method of communications for the whole district to benefit. This must be seen to be paramount.
- I think the Council need to look at remapping whilst Councillors have an important job we have too many. We should be clustering them in order to save a substantial amount of money.

We have to consider these comments:

- Well as I've said before if you are present when Councillors and Council Officers are at meetings all the better. If people are debating matters on their own isn't it better to have several people debating matters than just one person. Remember it's better in numbers than alone!!!
- From area to area, street to street issues are not the same, Bradford is a big place, making choices for the whole of Bradford may benefit one small area - but be at the expense of another.

All Comments - Working for the whole District

Especially serve and look after the indigenous community who have worked hard, raised families and helped to create a happy, clean, functioning environment for each generation by example!!

Lever in regional developments for the good of the district and the ward eg on transport issues.

As above. It is extremely important to attract investment into Bradford District.

Challenge the executive committee who stop things going through when it or they are not democratic.

It is important that Councillors work and adopt policies, which will benefit the whole district - and not just confine their efforts to their own local areas.

They should get involved with policing of the area and get more involved with partner agencies to help them with their work for example police have ASB issues the Councillor should help.

I think its very important to prevent any future problems early and to have all the policies in place

Local councillors must of course be sensitive to wider issues in the district to understand where local issues fit in

Every area has its own needs and issues . You cant make decisions for the whole of Bradford .

They need to work for the people not follow their own agenda

I would like to say that you should work with your own party about ideas on how to improve or work with other councillors from the same party of your own or views from the public because we vote and elect get the public involved in your ward area .

Wards are simply segments of a district and without putting these together you cannot have a fully functioning District. Working with other politicians would or could improve matters as they all have different proposals. I feel it would generate a better

Working together can only rectify problems.

Decisions ought to be balanced, unbiased and clear in vision. Learning from past decisions made is important.

Report back at surgeries

Sometimes politics play a big role, rather than looking at benefits for the whole of the city.

Again very important questions but I am very saddened I do not know what to say.

Councillors cannot work in isolation. Must work with other individuals and bodies to achieve results.

Keep the local people regularly informed through local media, booklets, posters, post offices, shops and for highly important issues have meetings in local halls, meeting rooms, etc.

Be aware of their use of money. I used to work at Grattan and when things were going badly things like serving tea to visitors and having floral displays were stopped. Nobody died! First class travel was banned too and yes that included the CEO. Fact find

Vital that LOCAL Councillors secure a fair deal for their local area. ALL areas deserve investment of resources.

It's my opinion that Councillors should be elected on a non-political platform.

To make sure their ward is considered when decisions are made concerning the whole District.

Should all work together for the whole of Bradford District.

Yes all the above, some areas in the Bradford area are needing attention so a Councillor from another area might have a good idea to improve things.

I think like I said each resident from each area get involved and have discussions what's happening in their area off resident

Any decisions made should be explained in full, giving reasons for same.

Until recently we have local shopping area opened, we have had to go to Leeds. Hope will continue in fighting to keeping it stays for the local residents.

There must be effective methods of communication between ALL Councillors for the benefit of the whole district. Language, background, religion and politics ethics must ALL be overcome when eliciting the most effective method of communications for the whole

We need a joined up approach by Councillors, MPs and other stakeholders to develop the city as a whole.

Well as I've said before if you are present when Councillors and Council Officers are at meetings all the better. If people are debating matters on their own isn't it better to have several people debating matters than just one person. Remember it's better

From area to area, street to street issues are not the same, Bradford is a big place, making choices for the whole of Bradford may benefit one small area - but be at the expense of another.

I think the Council need to look at remapping whilst Councillors have an important job we have too many. We should be clustering them in order to save a substantial amount of money.

I have always believed that when voting for a local Councillor one should look at the person NOT political party. The general election is when I look at what the political party offers.

Work to improve the whole district.

Although it is important to work to improve whole district matters it is equally important to work towards improving local areas and not to agree to all funds going to district and neglecting local areas leading to deterioration.

Keep in touch as much as you can and the people will always remember the particular Councillor.

Work with other Councillors and Officers to develop policies for the whole of Bradford district. And serve on Committees that take decisions about the whole of Bradford district.

It is necessary to develop the policies which will benefit of the ward.

This is the reason they have been voted in, so why not.

Voice their opinions if policies do not fit in and are not effective to local communities.

I think if people see big improvements in their area then it will improve the district

Something for the kids to do

Key comments received regarding 'Other important matters Bradford District Councillors should be working on, either in their local area or across the whole District'

Anti Social behaviour

- Take actions to reduce anti social behaviour by liaising closely with the local police. Take interest in getting assistance to rectify problematic road conditions (potholes etc). Be more proactive in promoting what the Council actually does for the whole district.
- Tackle the problem of dangerous drivers . People driving recklessly on quad bikes and dirt bikes and help with the problem of anti social behaviour.
- Tackle the drug dealing issue and keep the streets clean . In my area there are dog fouling problems , dogs poo everywhere its very disappointing . also councillors should look into street matters such as rowdy neighbours making other peoples lives a living hell.
- Combat the growing discontent towards certain religions. Proactively challenge the "racist" behaviours of certain groups. Create a Bradford which is tolerant and peaceful.
- Ensure Council policy - ie letter issued by Council a couple of years ago - is upheld re parking on grass verges. Fines should be imposed. On the spot fines for those dropping litter should also be enforced.
- They should put pressure on the Council and other agencies to ensure the conditions their community members are improved and enhanced. For instance, elimination of anti social behaviour, improvement to core public services such as street cleaning, improved public transport, more police presence on the streets.

Benefits

- We are very pleased with the way waste disposal is handled in our area - thank you. We are very concerned about the way the Disability Benefit changes are being handled but we understand this is a government issue so have contacted our MP (we are very worried about our severely disabled daughter). Could a local Councillor have been of help?

Central Government

- Try and fight for better resources from Central Government. Protect public services. Protest to get the bankers to face the responsibilities as they have brought the country to its knees and are still getting their bonuses; other countries jail them.

Children and Young People

- Be more involved going into schools, engaging young and teen people to encourage them to develop an interest in their local community. Work on "bringing back" community as an idea.
- Get involved with issues that matter to local residents ensuring that positive impression is created of the area they represent, for example helping to drive up standards of education in their local primary schools, improving the environment, ensuring people are aware of how to dispose of unwanted items rather than littering the environment, arranging regular cleaning of gullies and road sweeping. Getting people to take pride in their neighbourhoods.
- More support for the younger generation. I used to attend neighbourhood forums but I can't seem to find out if they still happen. If not I think they should be resumed. If they do still happen they need to be better advertised.
- Provide local schools for local children instead of bussing children from outside the local community and having cars parked on roadsides from parents dropping off and picking up children that live too far away to walk to school.

Communication

- Involve MPs where appropriate in local issues where the Government is involved.
- Do think they should advertise more who they are and what they are doing. I believe there is a general apathy and sometimes mistrust of politicians (as per media) and it's up to them to sell themselves in a positive light so that the public have confidence in them.
- They need to be consistent; be clear about their aim, how they are going to achieve it. But also to show to the rest of the District the end result to enhance awareness of Councillors and the people they support within the community.
- Create an information leaflet to inform people of the various ways to make contact with them so it's all in one place. Try and have a project no matter how small to achieve in each area of the ward they cover which shows working on everyone's behalf fairly. One of the GP's surgeries in my area works with a voluntary services to provide affordable transport to appointments including hospital ones would be great if more practices in the area/ward provide and open it up to people on low incomes not just elderly. Bring back mobile and housebound services, many people lost a lifeline when it stopped.
- Not sure not having seen or heard from any councillor for years it is difficult to assess what they are capable of , maybe a newsletter to educate people like me who do not know what they have done or are proposing to do in the future.
- Deliver regular reports to households on what they are doing and have done for the district. Inspect the district and report to the appropriate organisation on misbehaviour - rubbish, untidy gardens and trees. Excessive traffic and speeding (in their opinion) act as a help and watchdog for/to the district without fear or favour to anyone. Be honest and truly earn your payment.
- During recent tragic events of the flooding, I was very disappointed to find that nobody from the Council had been out to offer help or support with regards to rehoming/support in the Haworth area and I'm sure this happened in other areas too, along with the lack of resources (sandbags) available in this situation.

- They should provide an annual report for the community to state exactly what they have achieved over the year. Currently they have no apparent accountability. Can get away with doing very little.
- To be honest I have no idea who my local Councillor is. I don't receive newsletters and have no idea about what is being done in my area, so having 3 Councillors is perhaps too many. Maybe less Councillors may work harder with local people.
- Councillors should definitely keep in touch with local residents and ask for any issues they can help but they never do. Councillors only come out to people's homes at local elections when they want to be voted and backed up by us and they want our full support and courage. After they get elected they just hide and never to be seen until the next elections.
- Councillors should make more of point of attending public meetings of already established groups rather than holding separate forum meetings.
- Would be nice to see a list of issues that councillors are dealing with, the results of the task and what actions they are taking/took to solve the problem.

Should live locally

- It is important that the Councillors should live nearby so that they can see what's happening to village that we live in.

Gritting

- Sort out a trigger for snow clearing in Mountain so that people can report the problem that is local to Mountain 1200 above sea level . Bradford centre is normally clear of snow but Queensbury mountain stuffed with snow clearing paths is a joke

Highways

- Clean grates out twice a year. 2. Sweep roads round islands and clean road signs, street/road names (some can't be read) and bus stop shelters, they are so dirty. Cut back overgrown trees which are everywhere. Generally sweep gutters more regularly. Put traffic lights at Harrogate Road/Leeds Road junction (very dangerous).
- Forewarn motorists more about any major upcoming road works. Clean up litter around the city centre. Take a more specific survey with regard to how people feel about crime, safety, public transport, pedestrians, motorists, religion, shopping habits, current affairs, etc, etc. Ask people how they really feel and do something about it.
- Address people's safety eg evening transport, lighting, empty properties. More focus on individual actual needs; creative activities in all areas, safe transport (people without cars). If people are not responsible re rubbish, leaves, etc ensure that someone in the Council deals with this, as a danger to elderly/disabled. Also overflowing drains.

Housing

- Help find affordable housing for young people in the village that they have always lived.
- Be active in deciding of housing developments are for the good of the community or the good of the developers . strongly promote brownfield sites for housing and commercial

development and protect green field sites Ensure the council is following environmentally positive policies and encourage residents to support the same.

Listen to the public

- Give local people time. If you make an appointment they need to make sure they are there themselves so you don't need to explain the situation again and again to other members. And if they have given you a date to chase something up you would expect it, don't like fake promises.
- Just to understand some things might seem nothing to the Councillor but to that person it could be causing a lot of stress and worry.
- Should take time out and show a little effort to ask the community about local councillors should take more time out to make contact with the local community . To make a change not to impress when its election time.

Look after the vulnerable

- Raise awareness of local charities, so people who need extra help/support are aware of what is available to them. Be role models - encourage young people to be more aware of what you do, how the system works as I think most people especially younger generation wouldn't know what you do/how they could be involved or seek help.
- Help those who can not help themselves. But not to "mollycoddle" folks. Help them to stand on their own two feet.

Look after the whole community

- Be there for all not just a few. Be unbiased of religion, wealth or creed. Be as visible all times not just at election times. Make sure people they represent are aware of any problems and remain resolute of local issues.

Planning

- Ensure there are adequate places for the local people in our schools and doctors before further housing developments are approved - also consider the roads and public transport, ie think about the whole infrastructure.
- Support brownfield development above greenfield. Focus on city/town centres to improve the heart of a community. Support marginalised sectors who have less of a voice/ability to represent themselves. Support local community initiatives/recognise individuals building community.
- The building of new homes but no schools to accommodate future children in these areas. Councillors should be able to speak about this in government debates in order to represent local areas concerned.

Regeneration

- Give maximum support to new start-up of businesses especially if the business is starting up from home. We need business coaches, mentors, access to funding and grants, support from planning, environmental health, trading standards, etc.
- Who is the body that attracts businesses to Bradford ? In the 1960s Bradford was in the top 5 of shopping centres . All those empty buildings in the town centre can be occupied

which will bring people into the centre and flourish the town . Buses and trains could start before 06 30 and run till midnight would improve services.

Safer Community

- Think of ways in which crime could be cut down, neighbourhood watch seems to have phased out now but something along those lines or even a security patrol car.
- Making sure that people feel safe when in the city centre by having police and wardens on patrols, eg mothers with young children and the elderly in City Park being bothered by drunks and beggars walking to them asking for money and swearing.

Central Government

- be aware of national issues which could potentially affect local policies.

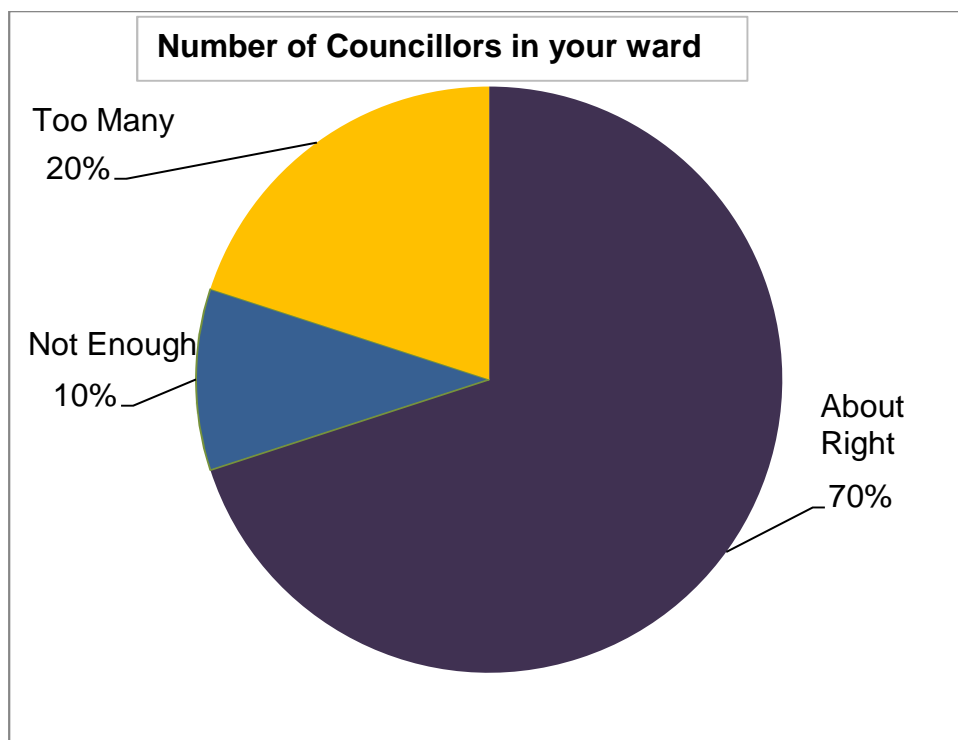
Visibility / be more accessible

- Make themselves known to as many local residents as possible and to be very clear about their responsibilities and duties. Also do not make promises they cannot achieve.
- Make themselves known as I do not know who my Councillors are.
- It would be helpful if Councillors could make themselves more visible within the district perhaps by leaving their contact details in local shops and businesses.
- I think the Councillors need to have more of a presence in the local community - I don't know who mine are or what they do for my local area. They need to respond to what the local people want and need, not what they think is best for the area based on what the central government decide.

Waste collection services

- Encourage better recycling and green methods for households and more importantly businesses.
- Keep streets tidy and clean and free from leaves and rubbish . un block gutters . these issues remain unattended to . I also complained about street lights which were out for around 4 months , this issue was resolved after someone was injured as a result of there being no street lights.
- The Council needs to provide regular street cleaners, street is filthy with litter, neighbours throw food, rice, lentils on road. It smells and unhygienic makes flies all over.

Numbers of Councillors - Is three elected members the right number for your ward?



Comments on elected member numbers

- How to save money like the rest of us! Reduce the number of Councillors by at least one third. Cut allowances paid to Councillors. Disband the waste of time and money Wrose Parish Council. Do these Councillors go round with their eyes closed? Some gullies on the Welwyn estate have been blocked solid for over two years.
- I do not believe we need so many wards. I think money could be saved by having all out elections every four years rather than in thirds.
- Three Councillors in every ward are not needed or wanted at all. Get rid of them and spend that money in public services instead. This survey should have been carried out 10 years ago and these Councillors should never have been elected - what a waste of money!!!
- I think there are far too many Councillors - and it could be condensed into larger wards, therefore saving money for more important things. We need very good active Councillors who get on with things. Too many of them just play at being on the Council.
- Try to be apolitical in making decisions regarding the city and district, Bradford has unique problems which need concerted efforts. Given I said too many, in our ward one Councillor attends Westminster 5 days a week. How can they truly carry out a full function?

General comments - negative

A number of replies were received which did not relate directly to this consultation and were classified as 'negative comments which related to the Council and / or Councillors'

Complaints received

Some respondents used this survey to detail complaints they had either with the Council and / or Councillors

Litter, dog fouling, easier free parking, police protection. I am still involved with Baildon even though I moved to be nearer the motorway. Getting out of the (now town not village) is very difficult at peak times.

Get more cameras all over to make us feel safe and have more speed bumps on estate (Crossley Wood)

Nothing ever happens about complaints. Person in Council office about brown bin was very rude.

We've had trouble with youths on bikes using our local roads as off roads - bad driving down Gain Lane area and you get sick of reporting this so I think it's extremely important to liaise with the police.

Could I just say I love the new shopping centre but how do you get them to put plenty of seats in for older people and invalids / no one thinks about the effort it is for us to get around without space to sit down. Need more seats in Broadway shopping centre for elderly and infirm.

They may talk but do they listen. What is happening to Bingley Pool, Closure is not acceptable . I for one wont be using the new pool in the city centre or squire lane. They also didn't listen about the new housing in Wilsden .

Unable to get to the hub at Steeton to cross busy road with no pedestrian crossing only at Steeton Top or Thornhill Road

As I live in Wibsey, we seem to be overlooked as an area, like Wibsey Park was in another area of Bradford it wouldn't look so shabby. We got new half-hearted new playground but the pond and other areas need lots of work done to bring in to the standard of ie Manningham Park.

As a Bradford resident I have seen an increase in the approval of planning applications via individual Councillors acting on behalf of applicants. There is often much bias in this so feel that these decisions should be left to a panel which is neutral and does not personally know the applicant. This would be a much more fair and just process.

Roads not getting swept because of school parking 8.00am to 3.00pm. Drains not cleaned out. Continuous parking problems. Blocking driveway.

Save money and stop sending this crap through our doors.

Had to ask to intervene with the bins because I got no response after a lot of complaining to the bin men section.

The gutters on the street around the back have not been unblocked . I have contacted the council over a year ago and it has not been solved . the gutters still haven't been cleaned . the issue is not just about the councillor but the council itself . Undercliffe still remains with blocked gutters a year after I have constantly been asking for a solution to this problem

To limit the planning in any more mosques that now spring up all over the city.

Lots of extensions to houses and certain businesses take place without planning permission Retro planning applications should be totally rejected . Its an abuse of the system by certain communities. Specially these days lots of uninsured drivers extremely bad driver in certain community needs to be addressed.

Folkestone Street (terraced through houses) we have a lot of issues with the bin collection day, people in the street park their cars blocking the bin lorry because of one person the whole street gets affected. You should put fines and find out who the person is and put a stop but nobody comes. Sort out the problem with Rochester Street breaking their walls and using Folkestone Street. We didn't share the street, that street is separate, some one come out and see the problems that we have, plus bins with parking cars.

Cllrs are normally accessible that can not be said for council officers who often fail to return calls or fail to take any action see my enforcement enquiry . 12/00508/ENFADV dated 29 June 2012 . Still waiting for action from enforcement team offending adverts are attached to a Grade 2 listed building within Queensbury conservation area !!

Get all public WCs in our district open again. Ask any 50+!! Shipley, Bingley, Saltaire.

I'm very disappointed with local Councillor attitude, East Bowling area is totally neglected. The Councillors are to address and solve issues but instead they are looking their own.

I have been living on this address 36 years and it's got bad to very worse. No it's very dangerous to go out when it's raining, wet or snowing and black ice. I am scared to go out or get out of my house. Please help if you can, thank you.

Do something to stop idiot drivers parking in baby spaces at supermarkets when they don't have any kids!

Neighbours property plans for 2 storey side extension - objections. Planning applications. Vehicle parking - excessive number of cars per household without sufficient off road parking. Help - especially where planning applications have been made and numerous objections made - how much more can residents take when 1 homeowner has had numerous applications refused and still they keep trying! We need help!!

I do not understand these questions or the reasons for them. Councillors should supervise all the Council employees in their work serving the citizens of Menston and Wharfedale. Evidence is emerging that from the Clerk to the Council or his assistants malfeasance may have occurred.

I think the whole Bradford district is too large. Keighley could benefit from being solo, we seem to get the short straw. This Christmas proved it with the lights.

With regard to the ex Morrison's premises on Idle Road I do not think enough attention has been paid to parking. Bolton Road junction is already very busy and to add to the congestion would be stupid.

I don't think postal votes should be used. It's open to abuse in Bradford.

Place Keighley area at the top of their agenda and vote to separate from Bradford.

Open meeting to discuss things that seem to have been decided already! ie the proposed closing of the Appleton Library - which is WELL supported by the local community. WHY?!?

I do feel that Daisy Hill is somewhat forgotten. Councillors need to be more responsive to the elderly and especially to those without a family. Also, treat people with respect.

All the new houses being built in Thackley and Idle and schools full to the brim, roads congested too. Too many levels of authority, too many committees, none of the truly accountable.

Too many levels of authority, too many committees, none of the truly accountable

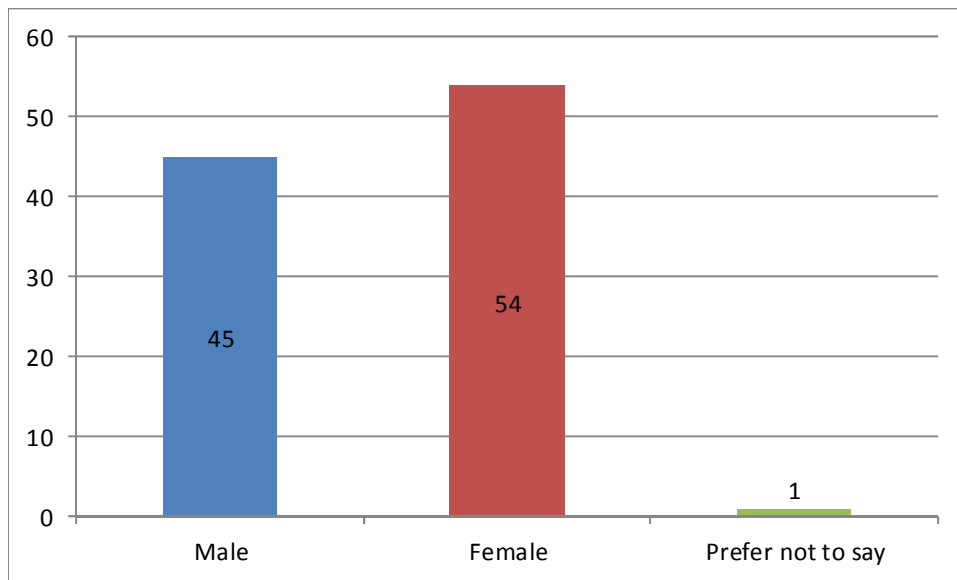
General Comments - Positive

Besides the negative comments and complaints we received the following positive messages / compliments

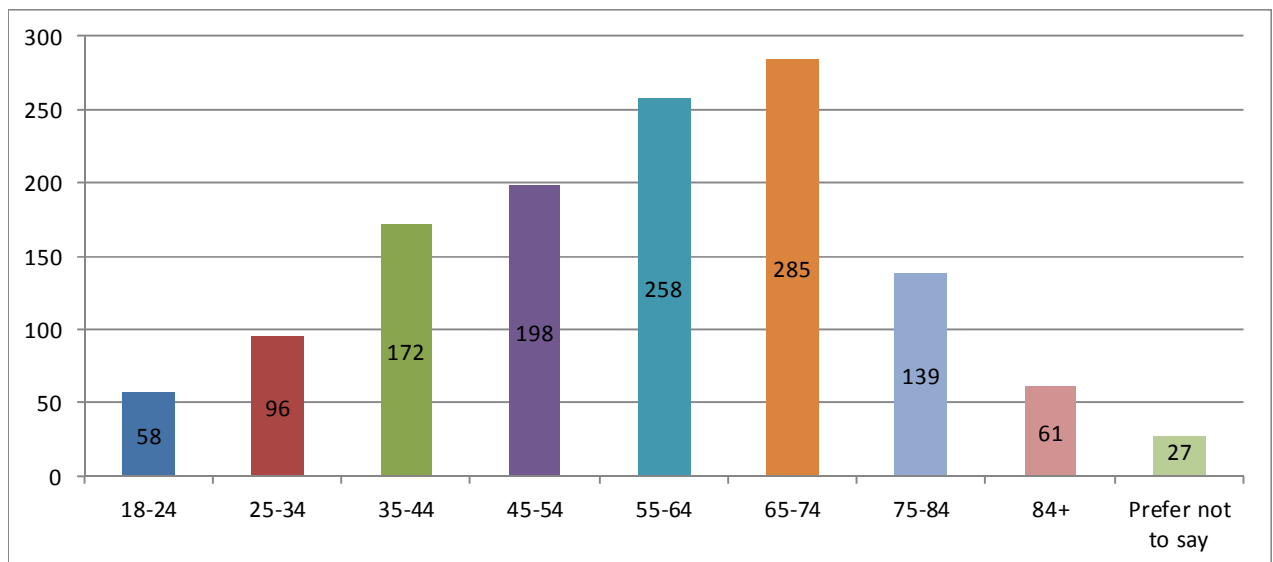
They are unable to manage matters already, why increase them.
Our local councillors have worked hard to represent the views of Menston residents as regards planned housing development
On the whole I think do most things that's needed, they don't need to be burdened with more work.
Can't think of anything else to do but to excellently carry on representing the local area and perhaps have more power in decision making.
When I think all these things are required by the Councillors, I do not think it is a part time job to be a Councillors and this is a full time job. When we want all these things from our Councillors, this person to be a extremely good all rounder and this job is not for light hearted person. Councillors job is full time, they do not have time for a family life or any thing else other than devoted to their full time job, their family to be fully supportive for Councillors to do there job most effectively. Finally Councillors should be paid to do the job and through this council will attract very high calibre persons for the Councillors jobs.
I think the Councillors in my area do a good job. They need to continue to be the face of the community and be accessible as much as possible being out there in the community they serve.
Doing a good job.
All three Clayton Councillors appear to take an active part not only in Clayton but also in Fairweather Green. Although not of their political persuasion I am very happy with their work.
Ward Councillors cannot do everything. Those that genuinely give a lot to their communities and are passionate about local issues will get my vote every time. We need less bureaucracy and Councillors should spend less of their time at City Hall.
Overall Councillors are hard working, they deserve a lot of credit. I wish to thank all of them for their service to everyone. Concentrate on the essentials of the people. 1. Living conditions, health matters, etc, etc. 2. Thank you for everything.
I think they are doing the best they can in the present climate as are all the Councillors.
I have always been satisfied with what the Councillors do good work. Very helpful.
I am very happy with my local Councillors, if only all of them work as hard to get things done for the good of the local people.
Liberal have been very good in our ward. They have kept people involved in our area. They listened to local people and funded a local bus when First pulled out. This is exactly the things local councillors should be doing, responding to community needs the community highlight and resolve in a way local people can not due to limited resources and collective voice.

Demographic profile

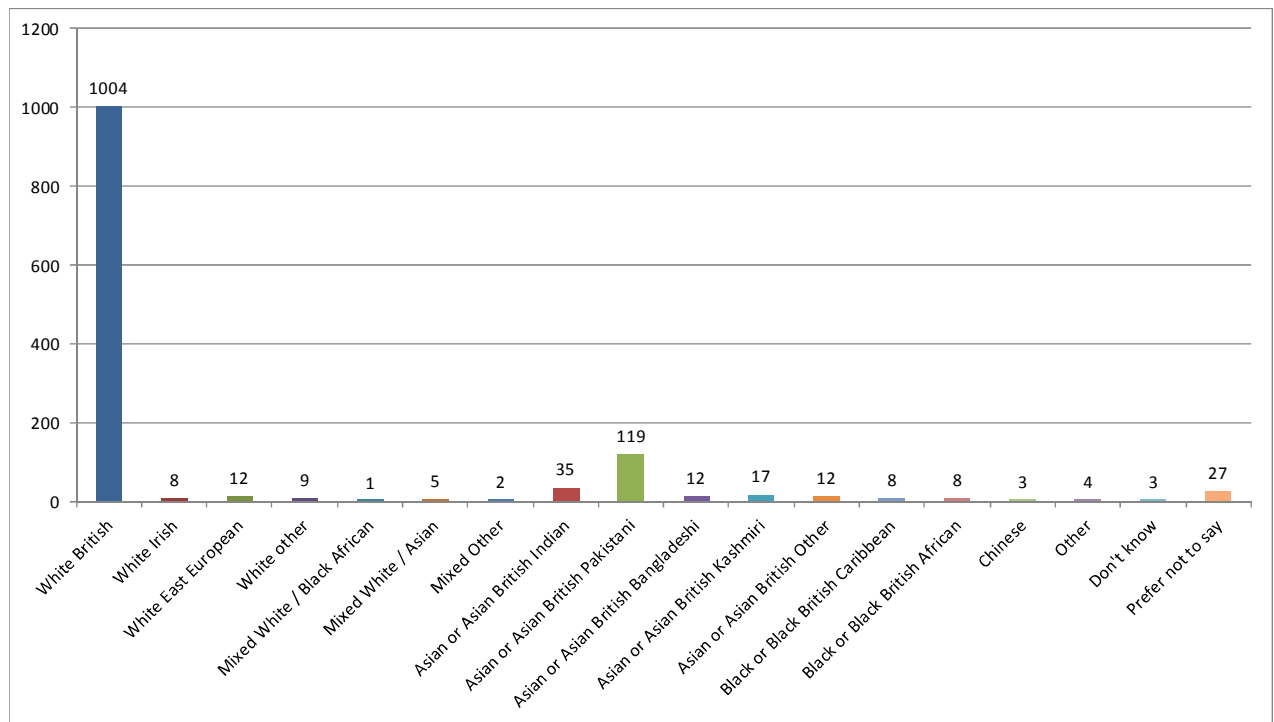
Gender of respondents



Age of respondents



Ethnicity of respondents

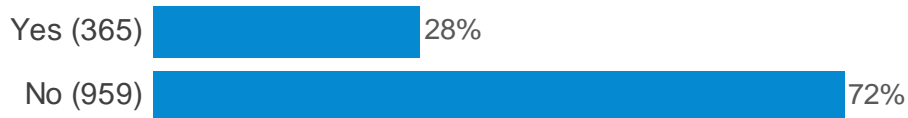


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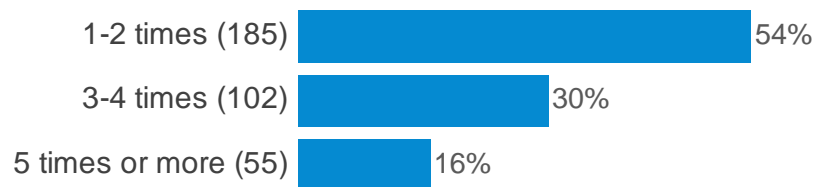
Appendix 2 - Public Survey - Overall Summary Report

This report was generated on 05 April 2016. Overall 1349 respondents completed this questionnaire.

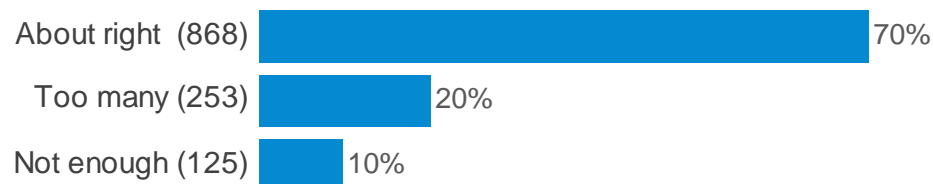
Thinking back over the last 5 years, have you contacted a Bradford District Councillor? (Q2)



How many times? (Q3)



Given what you know about Councillors and the work they carry out, do you think that three Councillors for your ward is about right or too many? (Q12)



Comments relating to the number of Elected Members (Q12a)

How to save money like the rest of us! Reduce the number of Councillors by at least one third. Cut allowances paid to Councillors. Disband the waste of time and money Wrose Parish Council. Do these Councillors go round with their eyes closed? Some gulleys on the Welwyn estate have been blocked solid for over two years.

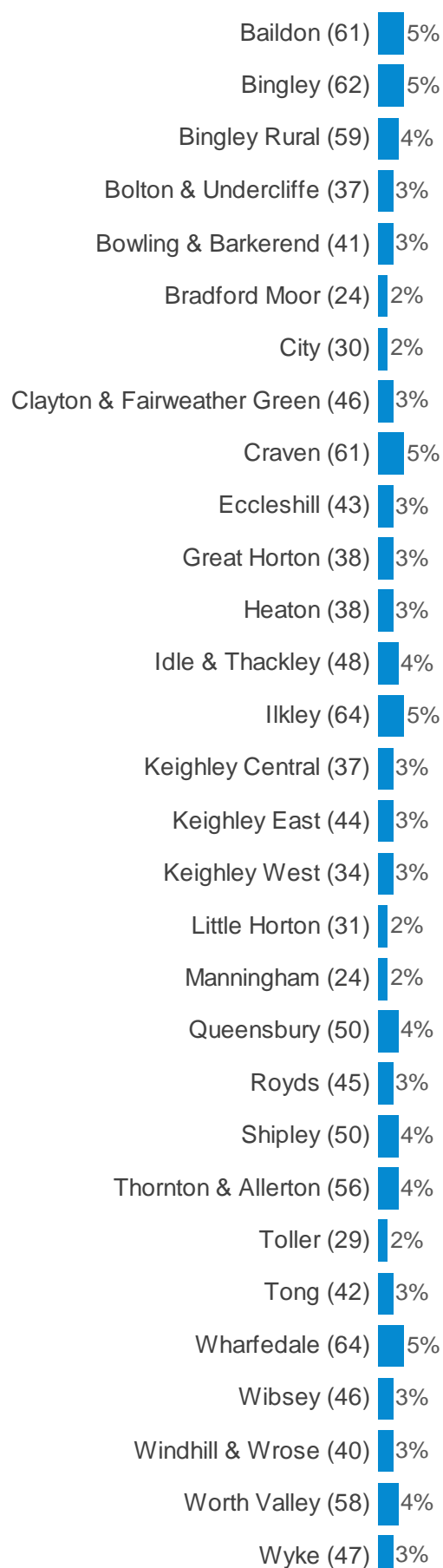
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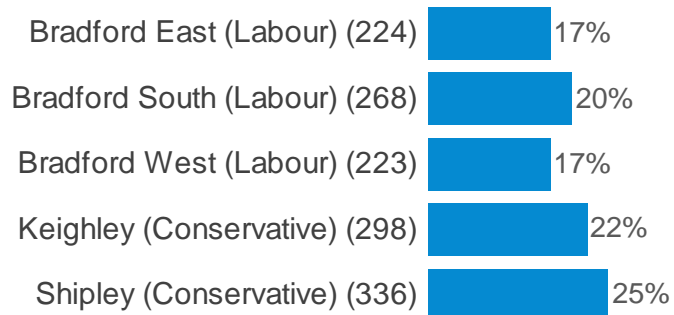
Ward (Q17)



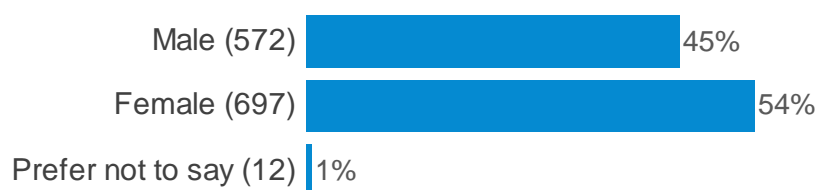
Inner City area (Q18)



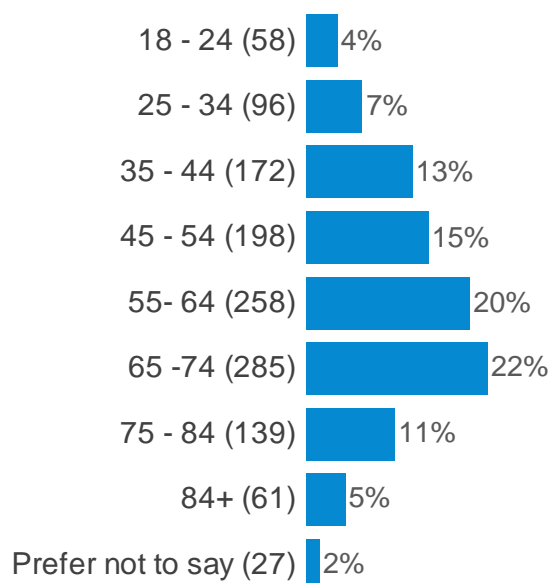
Constituency (Q19)



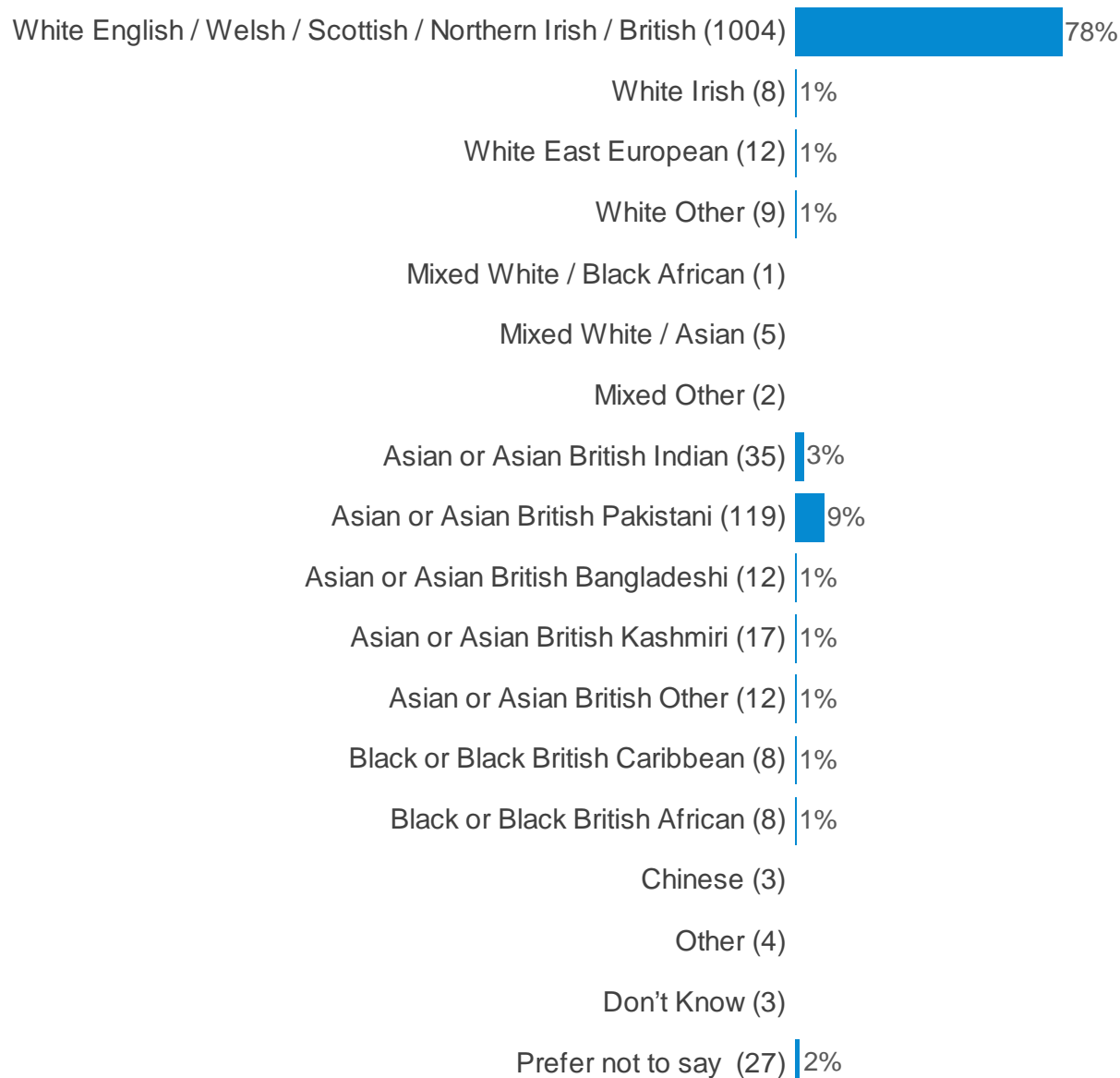
Are you? (Q13)



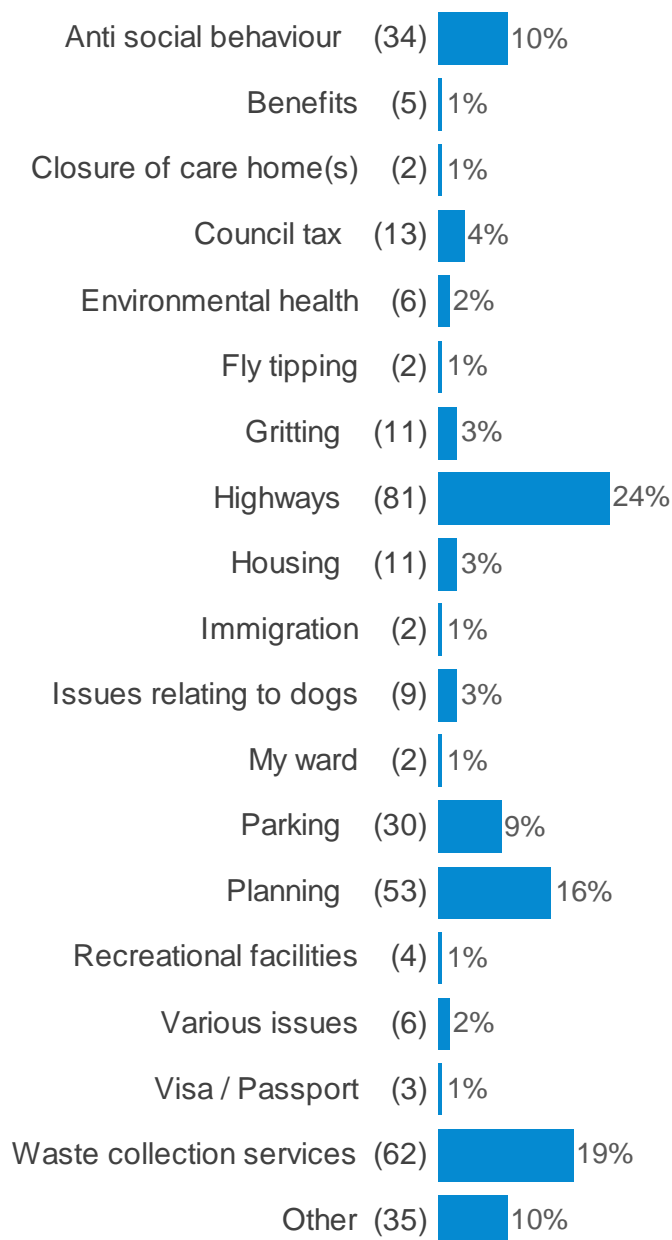
What is your age? (Q14)



Which of the following options best describes your race, ethnic or cultural origin? (Q15)



Reasons for contacting a Bradford District Councillor (Q4a):



Other reasons given for contacting a Bradford district Councillor (Q4b):

Problems with area

Attending functions and charity events. Re awards submissions (?) Re outside interests on which the Council is represented.

Local issue

getting my paper signed

I contacted them about a community project I wanted to run in the area

Trees

Persecution of Christians worldwide

Allotment services Heritage/Buildings

Electoral register

Other reasons given for contacting a Bradford district Councillor (Q4b):

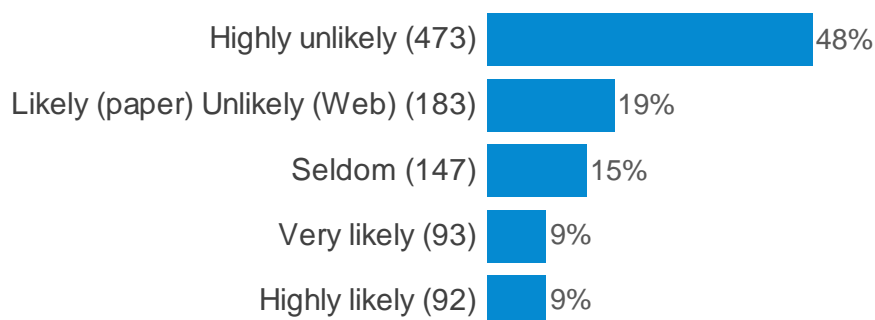
For information about canvassing for a political party.
The possibility of metal detecting in the district.
Schools
To state my opinion on a subject to hope he carries my viewpoint to the vote.
Water problems.
Staff complaint
Keighley
Concerning the right to life bill.
About local area issues.
Addingham Library
For advice and assistance with private related problems.
About local schools, college and university.
Security
Job application
Library service
Enquired about a grant towards a new (safe) shower but made own arrangement.
Bereavement services
Local area.
Community projects.
Public transport
Leeds City College, Keighley campus community activities - I was a LCC curriculum Outreach & Development Worker.
Support with a holiday claim
The environment
The councillor cam to us and talked to us abut health and safety in the home and the community . He came to deliver the leaflet about voting and politics

Section 1

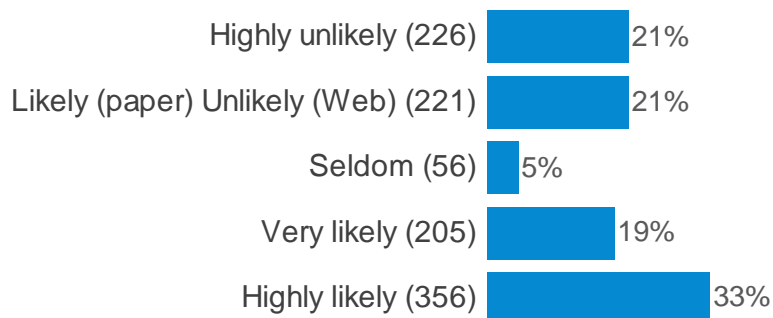
Available and responsive Councillors - (Q5)

If you needed to contact a District Councillor how likely would you be to use the following methods?

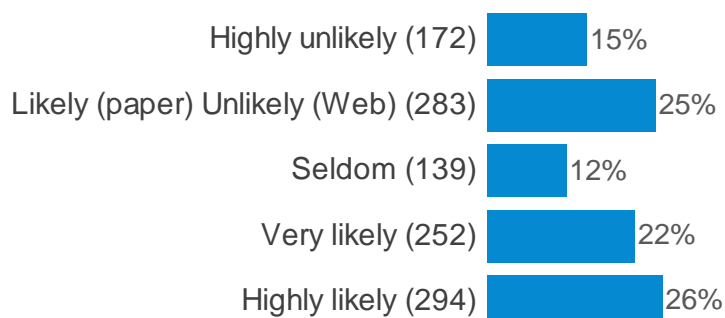
(Councillors' surgeries)



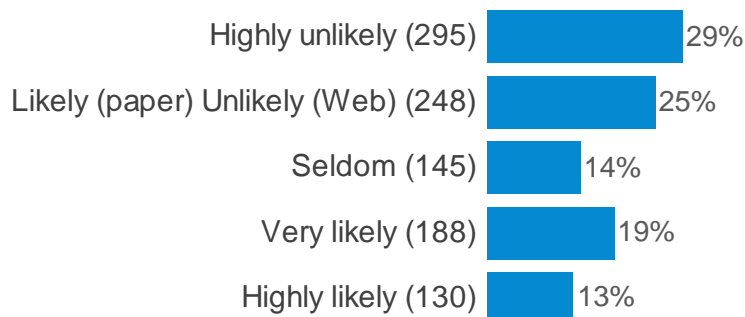
(Email)



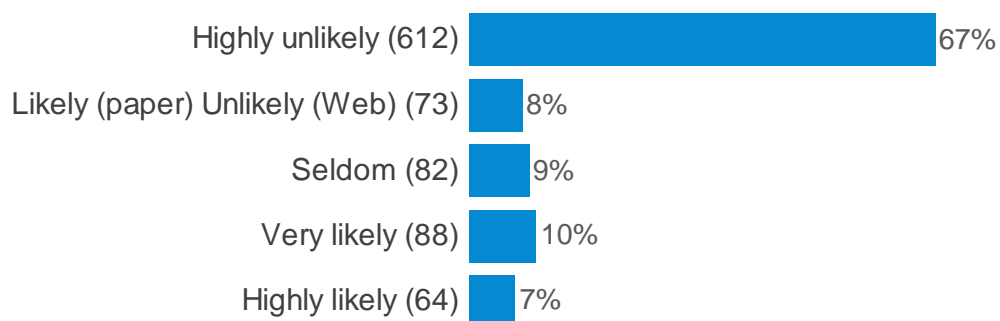
(Phone)



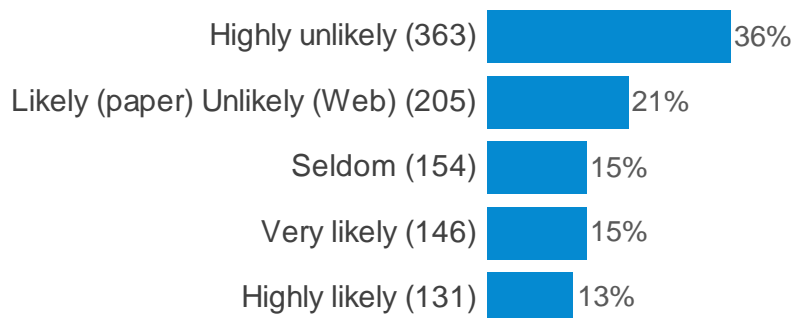
(Letter)



(Social media eg Facebook, Twitter)



(In person by making an appointment)



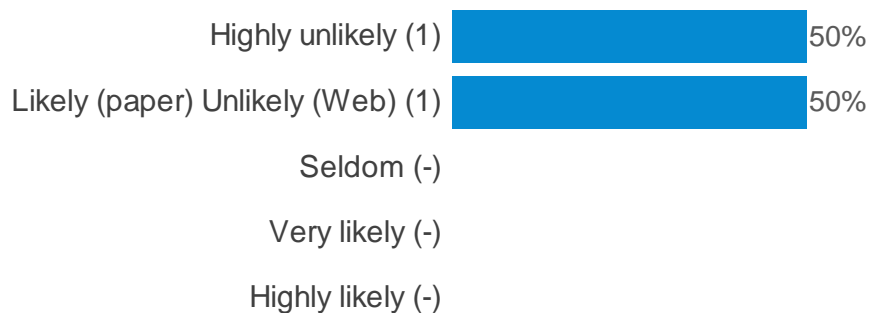
(At a Council office)



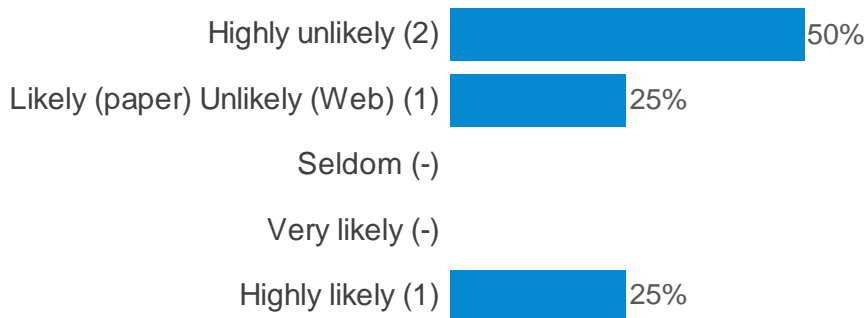
(At a local supermarket)



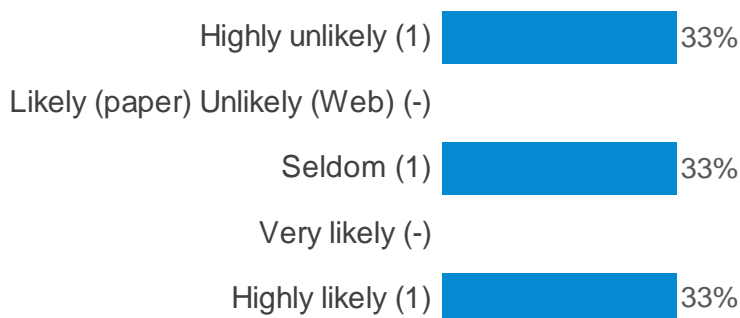
(Via Council website)



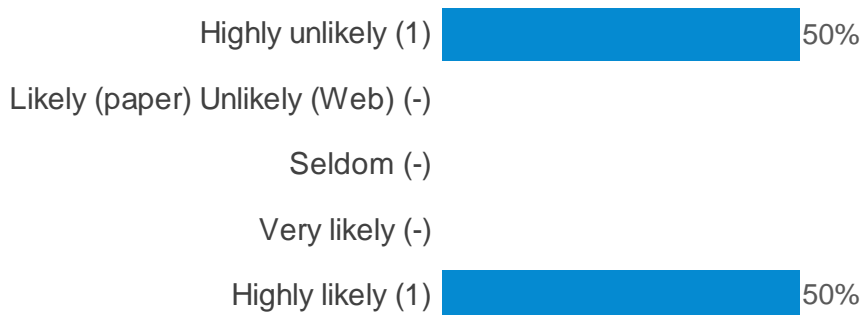
(Home visit)



(Text message)



(Local meeting)



(Newsletter)



(Skype / Facetime)

Highly unlikely (1)  100%

Likely (paper) Unlikely (Web) (-)

Seldom (-)

Very likely (-)

Highly likely (-)

Question 5r - Key comments given for options selected:

Problem dependant and depends on urgency

Email is an easy and rapid and efficient way of communication for those with access

Phone calls are generally faster and enable us to obtain further details if we are unable to get a hold of the person we wish to speak with.

When speaking in person you know you have got your grievance across.

Would depend on the urgency and importance of the matter. Email and telephone would elicit a rapid response, whereas waiting for a surgery or appointment could take longer.

Think more notice is taken by letter.

Ideally I would make an appointment and visit their surgery office, but saying that my wife has in the past and the Councillor was never there.

If the councillors surgery was convenient , I would probably go if I needed to . Otherwise phoning , emailing or writing a letter are good alternatives

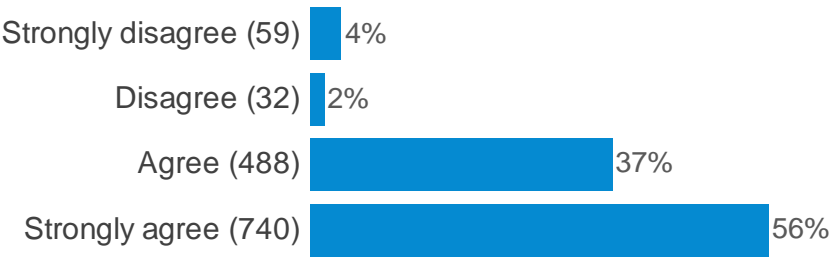
Question 5s - Other comments made which need to be considered:

No email or facebook.

I do not have access to internet and do not want it either.

QUESTION 6

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: (It is important to have locally elected Councillors who are directly accountable to people in the ward I live in)

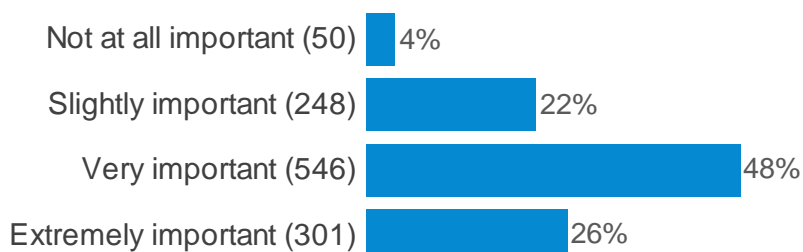


Section 2

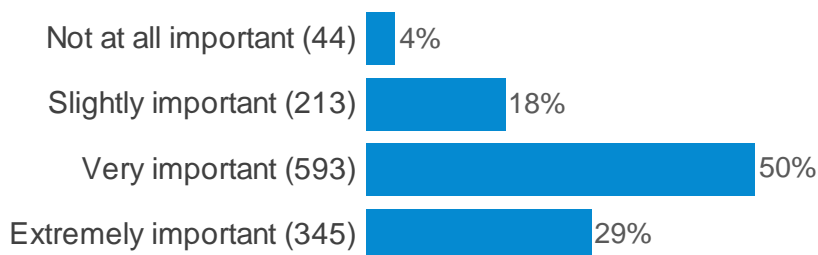
Keeping in touch - (Q7)

How important do you think it is for local Councillors to keep in touch with their constituents by doing the following?

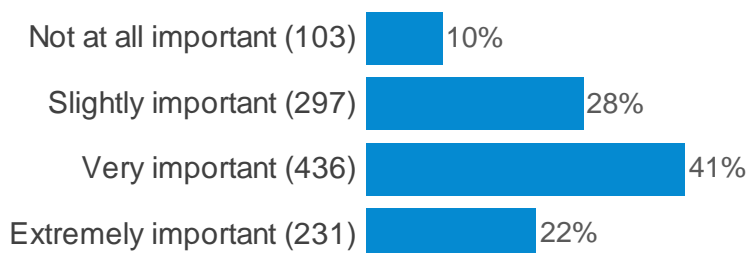
(Holding regular surgeries in their ward)



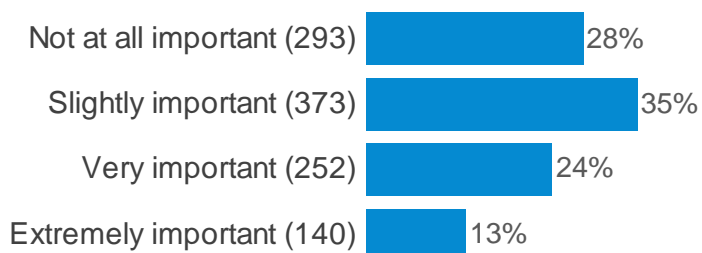
(Issuing regular newsletters to keep local people updated)



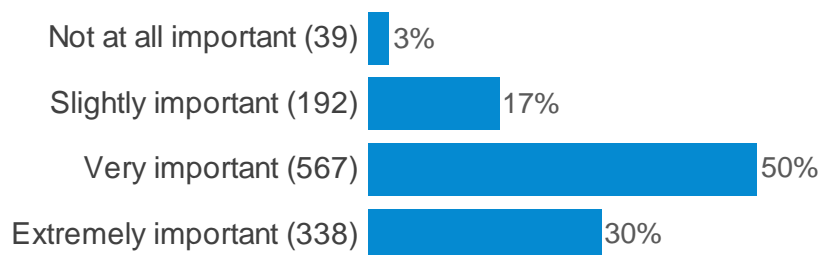
(Running a web site)



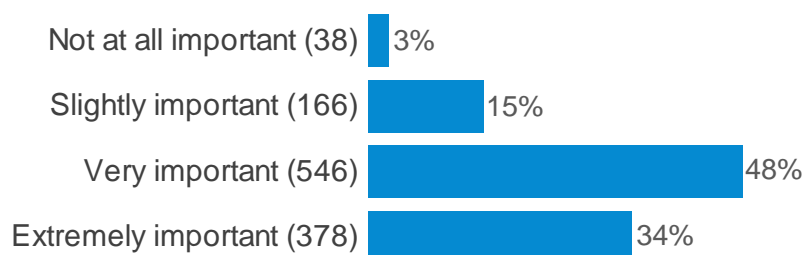
(Using social media eg Facebook, Twitter)



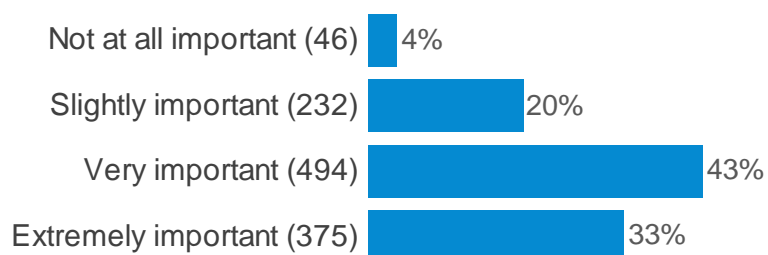
(Organising public meetings to discuss local issues)



(Attend public meetings organised by other local people)



(Carrying out surveys to find out what local people think)



(Home visit / Community Centre visit)



(Canvassing)



(Telephone)



(Neighbourhood forums)



(Local newspaper)



(Text message)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

(Skype / Facetime)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

(Keighley Campus)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

Question 7s - Key comments given for options selected:

At the moment I don't feel this is happening at all therefore improvement is needed in this area.

Just let people know that they can keep up with local issues by contacting the Council and let them know that it's no problem and they don't feel like they are bothering you.

The public should be more aware of whats going on around the area

As constituents have voted for councillors it is essential that councillors are aware of their concerns

Get involved in issues remember the government works for us not the other way . we are the employer , they are the employee

Whilst using social media seems the more logical choice as many young people access these more than ever, it is the older age group who often prefer face to face encounters. Text language is also different from verbal language and is probably the most effective way of communicating even today.

When you get older we want to know where to contact our local Councillor - someone to get help from.

Speak to people from the WHOLE community. Including those on council estates, etc as their views are as important as everyone else's.

Hold local get together meetings every 3 months so people get to knw their neighbours/service providers.

Question 7t - Other comments made which need to be considered:

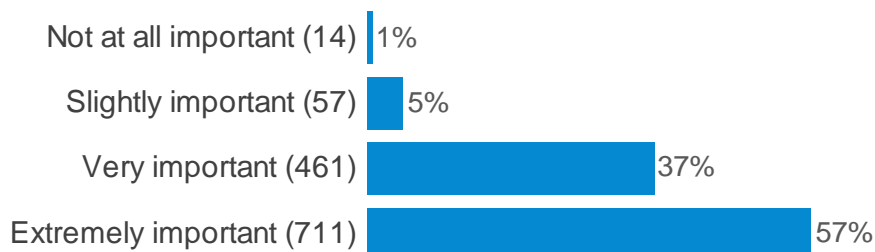
We always read the Focus news. letter but never go to any meetings as we feel councils just do what they want to do anyway

Section 3

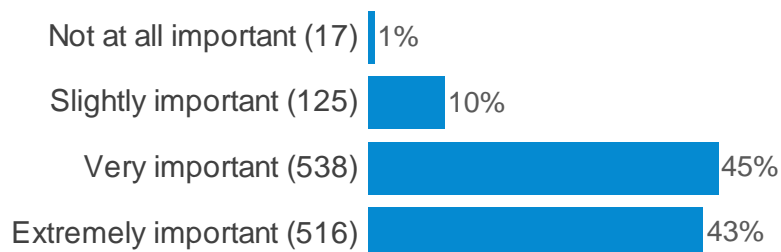
Representing local people - (Q8)

How important do you think it is for your local Councillors to do each of the following activities when representing their ward?

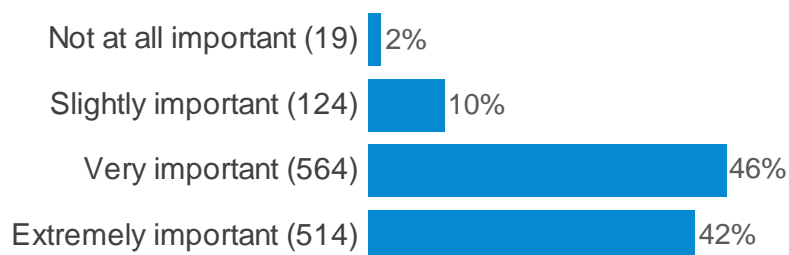
(Represent the community to the Council)



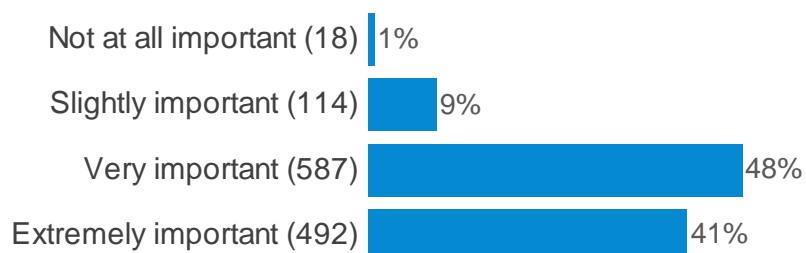
(Represent the community to other services)



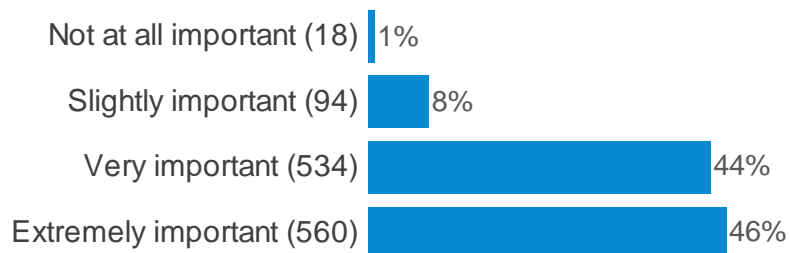
(Help people to resolve individual issues with public services)



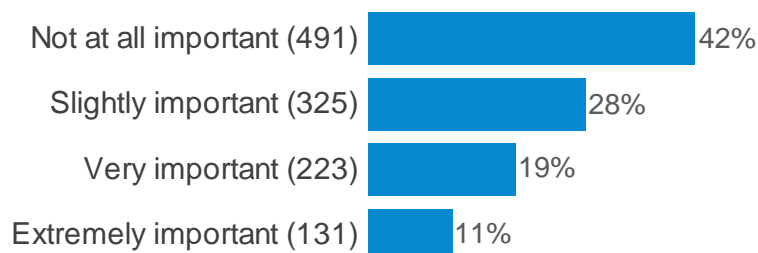
(Provide relevant information to local people)



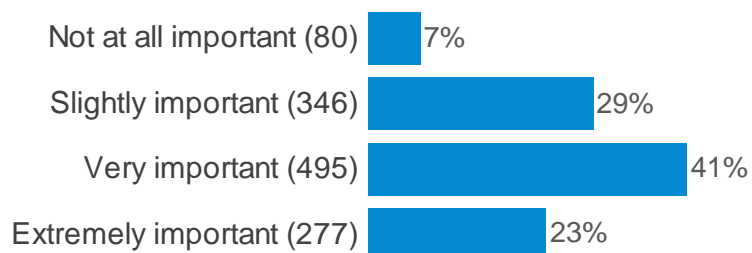
(Get public services to respond to local issues)



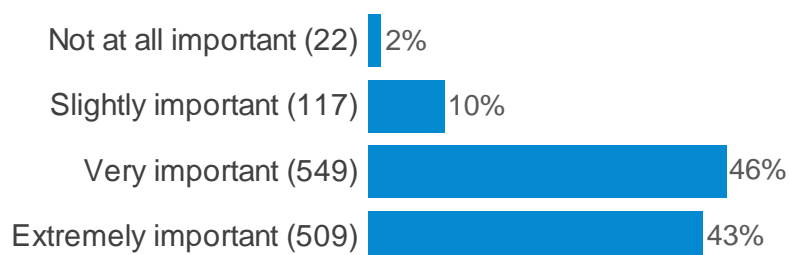
(Belong to a political party)



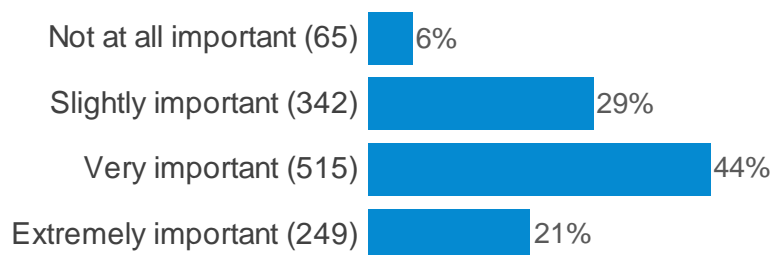
(Help people out with planning issues)



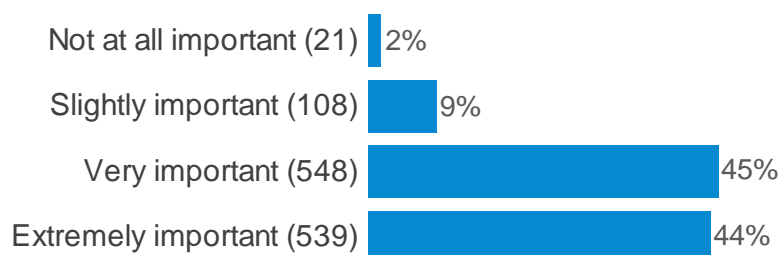
(Secure resources for their ward)



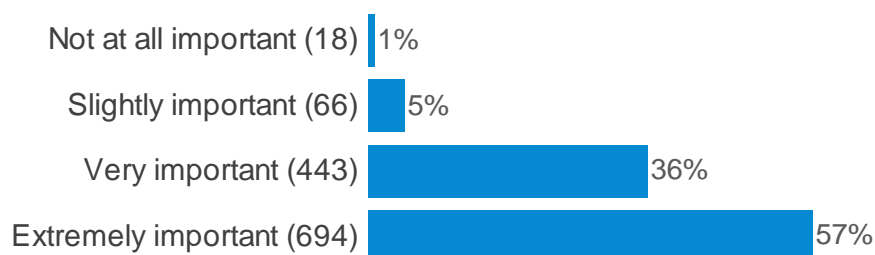
(Run local campaigns)



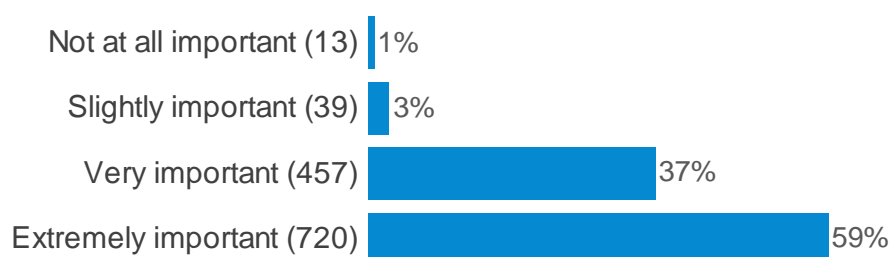
(Develop plans to improve the whole of their ward)



(Represent everyone in the local community)



(Raise local issues with the Council)



(Live in the Ward they represent)



(Liaise with the Police)



(Walkabout)



(Create local charities)



(Have a free vote - no ties to Political Parties)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

(Listen to the community)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (4)  100%

(Invite the community to Council Meetings)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

(Communicate)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

(Have creative solutions to problems)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

(Be accountable)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

Question 8z - Key comments given for options selected:

Politics as like religion is competitive. The representatives should work together for the common good of those who live in their ward and beyond!

Councillors should represent the ward they have been elected in, but also represent important issues for the city, regardless of their political persuasion.

By definition a Councillor could aim to do each of the above statements. To represent and act following the community. Political affiliation is less important. They should act for the people not for politics aswell.

I think local people should be invited to a council and MP meeting to discuss what is happening in our areas

A Councillor is an ENABLER, a channel for the local individuals to get important issues, to them, to be proactively communicated to the appropriate Council department officials. So that a quick, speedy effective response be provided. Then processed to a positive outcome as quickly as possible.

Listen to people's concerns on issues, ie flooding and unadopted roads and not accept decisions because of no funds but look for alternatives to solve problems.

They should notify the public if there's any local grants available. We personally have requested our previous local Councillors to have play areas for children in their ward, but unfortunately no action has been taken. There are empty fields around Iqra Academy School which are of no use at the moment, but could be very useful for parking area for Iqra Academy or even for play area for children. In my opinion the Councillors only want vote for their wage. They should be on voluntary basis.

Question 8aa - Other comments made which need to be considered:

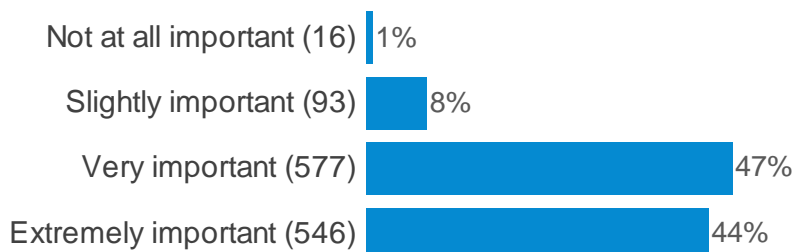
It would be more useful if the local councillor was more pro active . I don t know why my local councillor is , obviously he / she is not pro active enough

Section 4

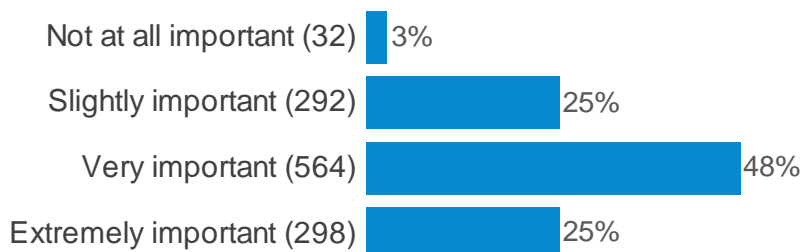
Working with local people - (Q9)

How important do you think it is for your local Councillors to do the following things in their ward?

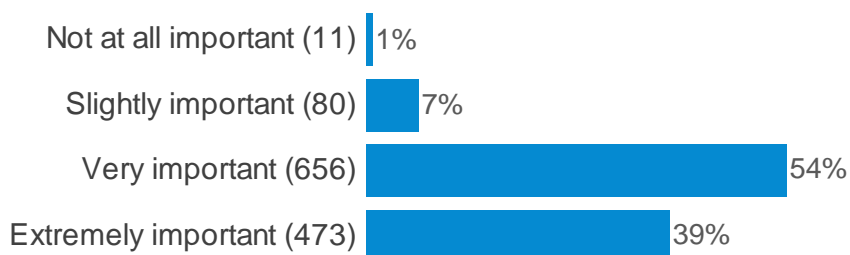
(Talk regularly to local people about issues affecting the ward)



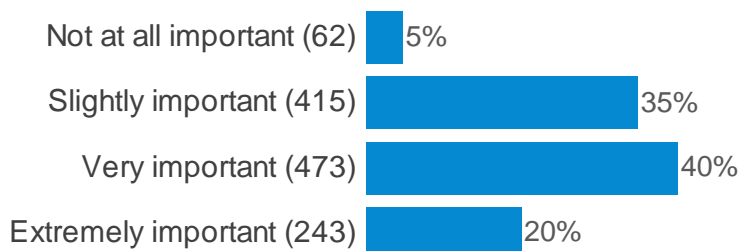
(Help people access funding for specific projects)



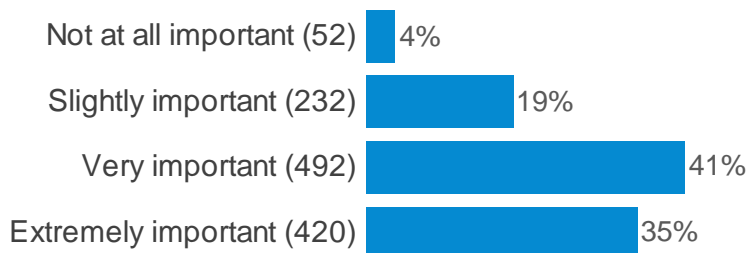
(Work with groups of local people to help find solutions to local issues)



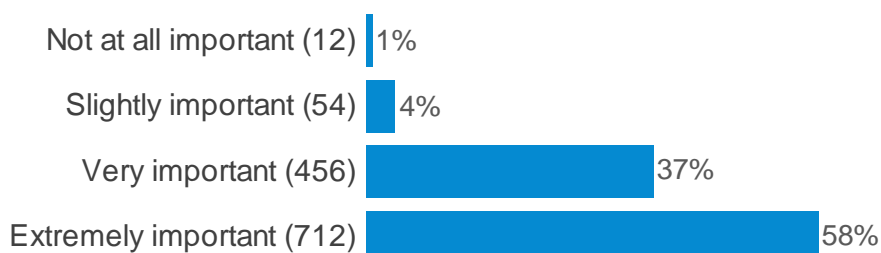
(Get people involved in volunteering in the local community)



(Challenge people in their local communities to change their behaviour)



(Consult local people before decisions are made that affect the area)



(Attract investment)



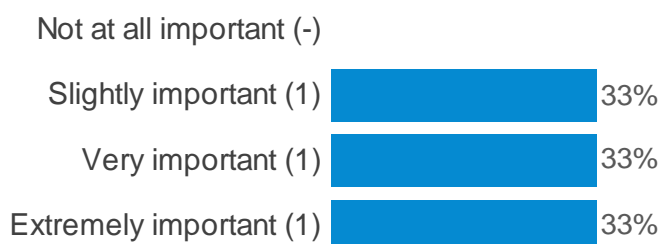
(Be capable of doing the job)



(Be creative and have innovative solutions)



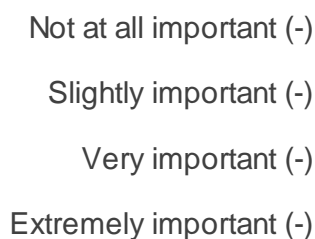
(Be local)



(Be multi lingual)



(Engage Council Officers)



(Engage with Partners)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

(Engage with the public)

Not at all important (1)  5%

Slightly important (1)  5%

Very important (8)  38%

Extremely important (11)  52%

(Involve community with decision making)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (1)  100%

Extremely important (-)

(Keep expenses to a minimum)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

(Promote good values and traditions)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (1)  100%

Extremely important (-)

(Put constituents first)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

(Respond to queries / problems)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (2)  100%

(Tackle anti social behaviour)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (1)  25%

Extremely important (3)  75%

(Use social media)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (1)  100%

Extremely important (-)

(Whistle blow on malpractice)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (1)  100%

Very important (-)

Extremely important (-)

(Work with Parish Councils)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

Question 9aa - Key comments given for options selected:

Have the calibre to bring forth creative/innovative solutions based on regional developments and where the ward and council can benefit from wider issues.

Help bring in investment into the local area, to create jobs and improve the local economy.

Local people MUST have a say about issues affecting their ward.

This is not only the job of Councillors but police/social workers etc working as a team (Challenge people in their local communities to change their behaviour)

Acknowledging some members of the community work full time and more and although willing do not have time (Get people involved in volunteering in the local community).

They need to work with Parish Councils and seek joint understanding and actions.

Serve the residents needs and you will find everyone really appreciates the Councillor's efforts.

I think more publicity should be given to volunteering options.

Work closely with locals to identify issues and overcome them whilst meeting the needs of the community. See the impact, effectiveness or bad effect changes have on the local communities.

Councillors contact details should be sent to everyone's address every 3 years.

Question 9ab - Other comments made which need to be considered:

Watch their spending of public money especially on expenses, dinners, travel, etc.

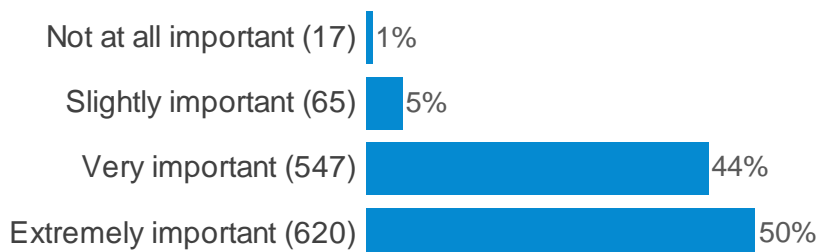
Be an educated and articulate person capable of making fair decisions and not favouring one section of the community.

Section 5

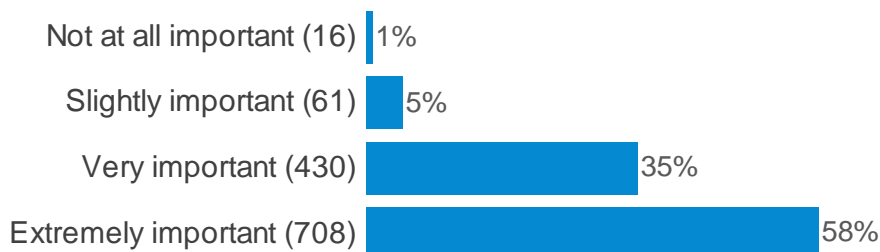
Working for the whole District - (Q10)

How important do you think it is for your local Councillors to do the following things affecting the whole District?

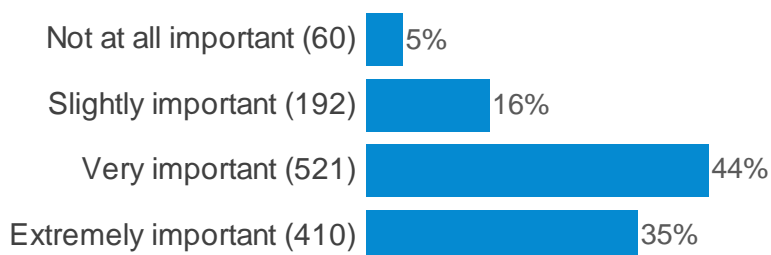
(Work with other Councillors to improve the whole District)



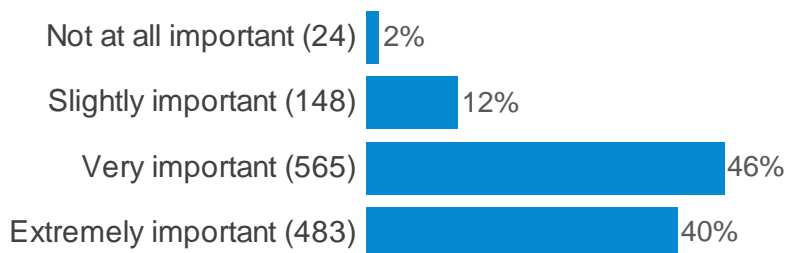
(Hold the Council's top decision makers to account)



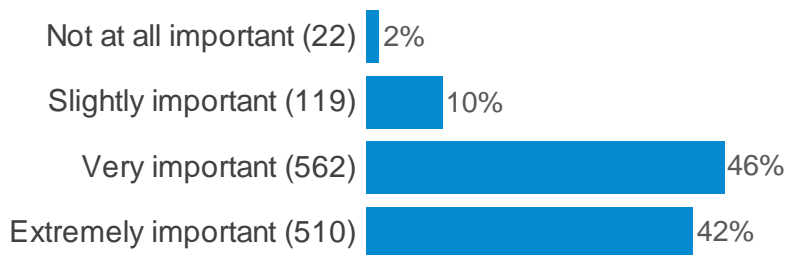
(Work with politicians from other political parties)



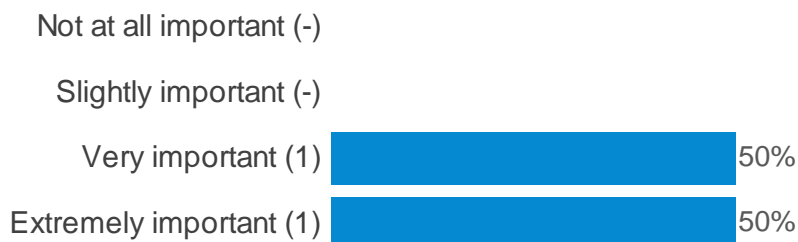
(Serve on Committees that take decisions about the whole of Bradford District)



(Work with other Councillors and Council Officers to develop policies for the whole of Bradford District)



(Attract investment)



(Don't forget the Wards)



(Financial accountability)



(Good communication)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

(Work with partners)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

(Be sensitive to wider issues)

Not at all important (-)

Slightly important (-)

Very important (-)

Extremely important (1)  100%

Question 10o - Key comments given for options selected:

Lever in regional developments for the good of the district and the ward eg on transport issues.

It is extremely important to attract investment into Bradford District.

Wards are simply segments of a district and without putting these together you cannot have a fully functioning District. Working with other politicians would or could improve matters as they all have different proposals. I feel it would generate a better Bradford District.

Councillors cannot work in isolation. Must work with other individuals and bodies to achieve results.

It's my opinion that Councillors should be elected on a non-political platform.

There must be effective methods of communication between ALL Councillors for the benefit of the whole district. Language, background, religion and politics ethics must ALL be overcome when eliciting the most effective method of communications for the whole district to benefit. This must be seen to be paramount.

I think the Council need to look at remapping whilst Councillors have an important job we have too many. We should be clustering them in order to save a substantial amount of money.

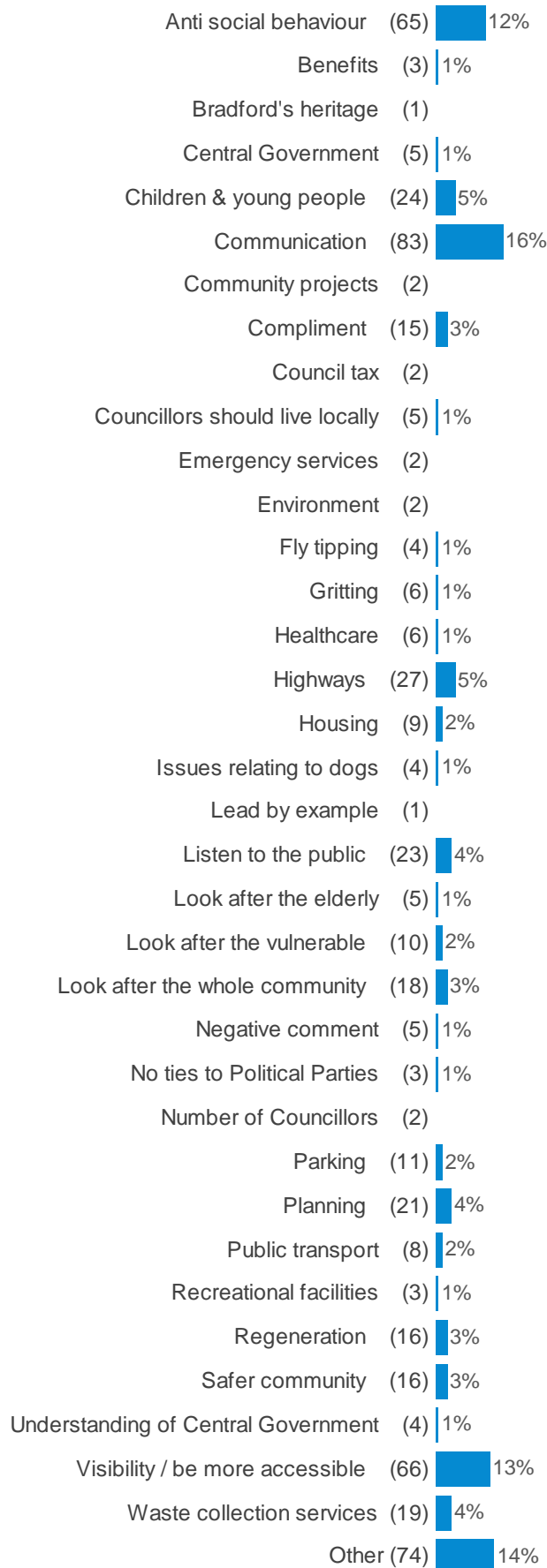
Question 10p - Other comments made which need to be considered:

Well as I've said before if you are present when Councillors and Council Officers are at meetings all the better. If people are debating matters on their own isn't it better to have several people debating matters than just one person. Remember it's better in numbers than alone!!!

From area to area, street to street issues are not the same, Bradford is a big place, making choices for the whole of Bradford may benefit one small area - but be at the expense of another.

Other comments - (Q11)

Other important matters Councillors should work on in either in their local area or across the whole district (Q11a):



Q11 - Other key comments by theme

Anti Social Behaviour (Q11c)

Take actions to reduce anti social behaviour by liaising closely with the local police. Take interest in getting assistance to rectify problematic road conditions (potholes etc). Be more proactive in promoting what the Council actually does for the whole district.

Tackle the problem of dangerous drivers . People driving recklessly on quad bikes and dirt bikes and help with the problem of anti social behaviour

Tackle the drug dealing issue and keep the streets clean. In my area there are dog fouling problems, dogs poo everywhere its very disappointing. Also councillors should look into street matters such as rowdy neighbours making other peoples lifes a living hell

Combat the growing discontent towards certain religions. Proactively challenge the "racist" behaviours of certain groups. Create a Bradford which is tolerant and peaceful.

Ensure Council policy - ie letter issued by Council a couple of years ago - is upheld re parking on grass verges. Fines should be imposed. On the spot fines for those dropping litter should also be enforced.

They should put pressure on the Council and other agencies to ensure the conditions their community members are improved and enhanced. For instance, elimination of anti social behaviour, improvement to core public services such as street cleaning, improved public transport, more police presence on the streets.

Benefits (Q11d)

We are very pleased with the way waste disposal is handled in our area - thank you. We are very concerned about the way the Disability Benefit changes are being handled but we understand this is a government issue so have contacted our MP (we are very worried about our severely disabled daughter). Could a local Councillor have been of help?

Central Government (Q11e)

Try and fight for better resources from Central Government. Protect public services. Protest to get the bankers to face the responsibilities as they have brought the country to its knees and are still getting their bonuses; other countries jail them.

Children and Young People (Q11f)

Be more involved going into schools, engaging young and teen people to encourage them to develop an interest in their local community. Work on "bringing back" community as an idea.

Get involved with issues that matter to local residents ensuring that positive impression is created of the area they represent, for example helping to drive up standards of education in their local primary schools.

More support for the younger generation. I used to attend neighbourhood forums but I can't seem to find out if they still happen. If not I think they should be resumed. If they do still happen they need to be better advertised.

Provide local schools for local children instead of bussing children from outside the local community and having cars parked on roadsides from parents dropping off and picking up children that live too far away to walk to school.

Communication (Q11g)

Involve MPs where appropriate in local issues where the Government is involved.

Do think they should advertise more who they are and what they are doing. I believe there is a general apathy and sometimes mistrust of politicians (as per media) and it's up to them to sell themselves in a positive light so that the public have confidence in them.

They need to be consistent; be clear about their aim, how they are going to achieve it. But also to show to the rest of the District the end result to enhance awareness of Councillors and the people they support within the community.

Create an information leaflet to inform people of the various ways to make contact with them so it's all in one place. Try and have a project no matter how small to achieve in each area of the ward they cover which shows working on everyone's behalf fairly. One of the GP's surgeries in my area works with a voluntary services to provide affordable transport to appointments including hospital ones would be great if more practices in the area/ward provide and open it up to people on low incomes not just elderly. Bring back mobile and housebound services, many people lost a lifeline when it stopped.

Not sure not having seen or heard from any councillor for years it is difficult to assess what they are capable of , maybe a newsletter to educate people like me who do not know what they have done or are proposing to do in the future

Deliver regular reports to households on what they are doing and have done for the district. Inspect the district and report to the appropriate organisation on misbehaviour - rubbish, untidy gardens and trees. Excessive traffic and speeding (in their opinion) act as a help and watchdog for/to the district without fear or favour to anyone. Be honest and truly earn your payment.

During recent tragic events of the flooding, I was very disappointed to find that nobody from the Council had been out to offer help or support with regards to rehoming/support in the Haworth area and I'm sure this happened in other areas too, along with the lack of resources (sandbags) available in this situation.

They should provide an annual report for the community to state exactly what they have achieved over the year. Currently they have no apparent accountability. Can get away with doing very little.

To be honest I have no idea who my local Councillor is. I don't receive newsletters and have no idea about what is being done in my area, so having 3 Councillors is perhaps too many. Maybe less Councillors may work harder with local people.

Councillors should definitely keep in touch with local residents and ask for any issues they can help but they never do. Councillors only come out to people's homes at local elections when they want to be voted and backed up by us and they want our full support and courage. After they get elected they just hide and never to be seen until the next elections.

Councillors should make more of point of attending public meetings of already established groups rather than holding separate forum meetings.

Would be nice to see a list of issues that councillors are dealing with, the results of the task and what actions they are taking/took to solve the problem.

Residence (Q11h)

It is important that the Councillors should live nearby so that they can see what's happening to village that we live in.

Gritting (Q11i)

Sort out a trigger for snow clearing in Mountain so that people can report the problem that is local to Mountain 1200 above sea level . Bradford centre is normally clear of snow but Queensbury mountain stuffed with snow clearing paths is a joke.

Highways (Q11j)

1. Clean grates out twice a year. 2. Sweep roads round islands and clean road signs, street/road names (some can't be read) and bus stop shelters, they are so dirty. Cut back overgrown trees which are everywhere. Generally sweep gutters more regularly. Put traffic lights at Harrogate Road/Leeds Road junction (very dangerous).

Forewarn motorists more about any major upcoming roadworks. Clean up litter around the city centre. Take a more specific survey with regard to how people feel about crime, safety, public transport, pedestrians, motorists, religion, shopping habits, current affairs, etc, etc. Ask people how they really feel and do something about it.

Address people's safety eg evening transport, lighting, empty properties. More focus on individual actual needs; creative activities in all areas, safe transport (people without cars). If people are not responsible re rubbish, leaves, etc ensure that someone in the Council deals with this, as a danger to elderly/disabled. Also overflowing drains.

Housing (Q11k)

Help find affordable housing for young people in the village that they have always lived.

Be active in deciding of housing developments are for the good of the community or the good of the developers. strongly promote brownfield sites for housing and commercial development and protect green field sites Ensure the council is following environmentally positive policies and encourage residents to support the same.

Listen to the Public (Q11l)

Give local people time. If you make an appointment they need to make sure they are there themselves so you don't need to explain the situation again and again to other members. And if they have given you a date to chase something up you would expect it, don't like fake promises.

Just to understand some things might seem nothing to the Councillor but to that person it could be causing a lot of stress and worry.

Should take time out and show a little effort to ask the community about local councillors should take more time out to make contact with the local community . To make a change not to impress when its election time.

Look after the Vulnerable (Q11m)

Raise awareness of local charities, so people who need extra help/support are aware of what is available to them. Be role models - encourage young people to be more aware of what you do, how the system works as I think most people especially younger generation wouldn't know what you do/how they could be involved or seek help.

Help those who can not help themselves. But not to "mollycoddle" folks. Help them to stand on their own two feet.

Look after the Whole Community (Q11n)

Be there for all not just a few. Be unbiased of religion, wealth or creed. Be as visible all times not just at election times. Make sure people they represent are aware of any problems and remain resolute of local issues.

Planning (Q11o)

Ensure there are adequate places for the local people in our schools and doctors before further housing developments are approved - also consider the roads and public transport, ie think about the whole infrastructure.

Support brownfield development above greenfield. Focus on city/town centres to improve the heart of a community. Support marginalised sectors who have less of a voice/ability to represent themselves. Support local community initiatives/recognise individuals building community.

The building of new homes but no schools to accommodate future children in these areas. Councillors should be able to speak about this in government debates in order to represent local areas concerned.

Other Comments - Regeneration (Q11p)

Give maximum support to new start-up of businesses especially if the business is starting up from home. We need business coaches, mentors, access to funding and grants, support from planning, environmental health, trading standards, etc.

Who is the body that attracts businesses to Bradford ? In the 1960s Bradford was in the top 5 of shopping centres . All those empty buildings in the town centre can be occupied which will bring people into the centre and flourish the town . Buses and trains could start before 06 30 and run till midnight would improve services.

Safer Community (Q11q)

Think of ways in which crime could be cut down, neighbourhood watch seems to have phased out now but something along those lines or even a security patrol car.

Making sure that people feel safe when in the city centre by having police and wardens on patrols, eg mothers with young children and the elderly in City Park being bothered by drunks and beggars walking to them asking for money and swearing.

Central Government (Q11r)

Be aware of national issues which could potentially affect local policies.

Visibility / be more accessible (Q11s)

Make themselves known not only for advertising to vote for them. Listen to the community more and not make their own decisions because not their own opinion.

Make themselves known as I do not know who my Councillors are.

It would be helpful if Councillors could make themselves more visible within the district perhaps by leaving their contact details in local shops and businesses.

I think the Councillors need to have more of a presence in the local community - I don't know who mine are or what they do for my local area. They need to respond to what the local people want and need, not what they think is best for the area based on what the central government decide.

Waste Collection Services (Q11t)

Encourage better recycling and green methods for households and more importantly businesses.

Keep streets tidy and clean and free from leaves and rubbish . un block gutters . these issues remain unattended to . I also complained about street lights which were out for around 4 months , this issue was resolved after someone was injured as a result of there being no street lights.

The Council needs to provide regular street cleaners, street is filthy with litter, neighbours throw food, rice, lentils on road. It smells and unhygienic makes flies all over.

Any Other Comments - (Q11u)

Councillors have no power or influence and are irrelevant. Central government imposes statutory duties on councils which have to be carried out. Within the council the leader of the ruling party and perhaps a small cabal of others, including the central office of the party, make all the decisions the others just toe the party line. It is only common sense to replace all of them with an elected mayor and save a fortune to be used to reduce council tax bills.

In my local area I would like to see councillors involved with local businesses to develop strategies to boost local economy and promote my area in new and innovative ways. This has been done with some success in the past by some local businesses but I think council involvement has traditionally been fairly lacklustre. If the Bradford district is to capitalise on recent highly publicised investments and regeneration then it's council need to look at the District as a whole, as opposed to focusing exclusively on the city centre. Local councillors should be instrumental in this.

Be more outward looking to lock in regional and national opportunities at a local level.

Survey depends on the issues.

We have been well served by the Councillors we have had in this area. It is good to know they are there and available to discuss any problems or worries with.

Difficult for old people to use technology, phone difficult for hearing.

Well if the people have any issues who better to face them with the problematic issues than your local Councillor face to face?

Follow through - don't make promises that they can't or don't keep. One Councillor is enough if they do the job. Three of them is not enough if they do nothing!

Witness conditions at regular intervals, so the Councillor understands any issue which may arise. In this case the people of Cliffe Gardens. Ask residents how content they are living in Cliffe Gardens.

I think his work can be affected on the whole district.

Greater integration, increasing attention to the problem of neighbourhood, support of other districts in crisis situation - leading morals, better information, eg I wanted to help the flood victims but I don't know where and how. I was thinking about volunteering.

Ensure local issues get considered rather than just Bradford items. Argue for Bradford city to be merged with Leeds city to concentrate on city issues and a new rural Council set up for Keighley/Ilkley etc.

I did not or never need to call or contact any of the following.

Important issues, eg building on green belt. A lot of people, myself included.

Try to be apolitical in making decisions regarding the city and district, Bradford has unique problems which need concerted efforts. Q11. Given I said too many, in our ward one Councillor attends Westminster 5 days a week. How can they truly carry out a full function?

Work closely with locals. See the impact decisions have on communities. Take action actively to improve community. Identify issues and work accordingly. Proudly represent the wards.

Not overdo meetings and committees but want man "on the ground".

I think it's important for Councillors in the local area to support organisations within the community, these organisations being sports teams, eg West Bowling ARLFC, Scouts and many other groups set up to help children develop skills and enjoy certain activities with the community spirit. It also prevents children wandering streets through boredom.

If I had issues with the Council I would contact them direct. If I had problems after that, I may contact a Councillor.

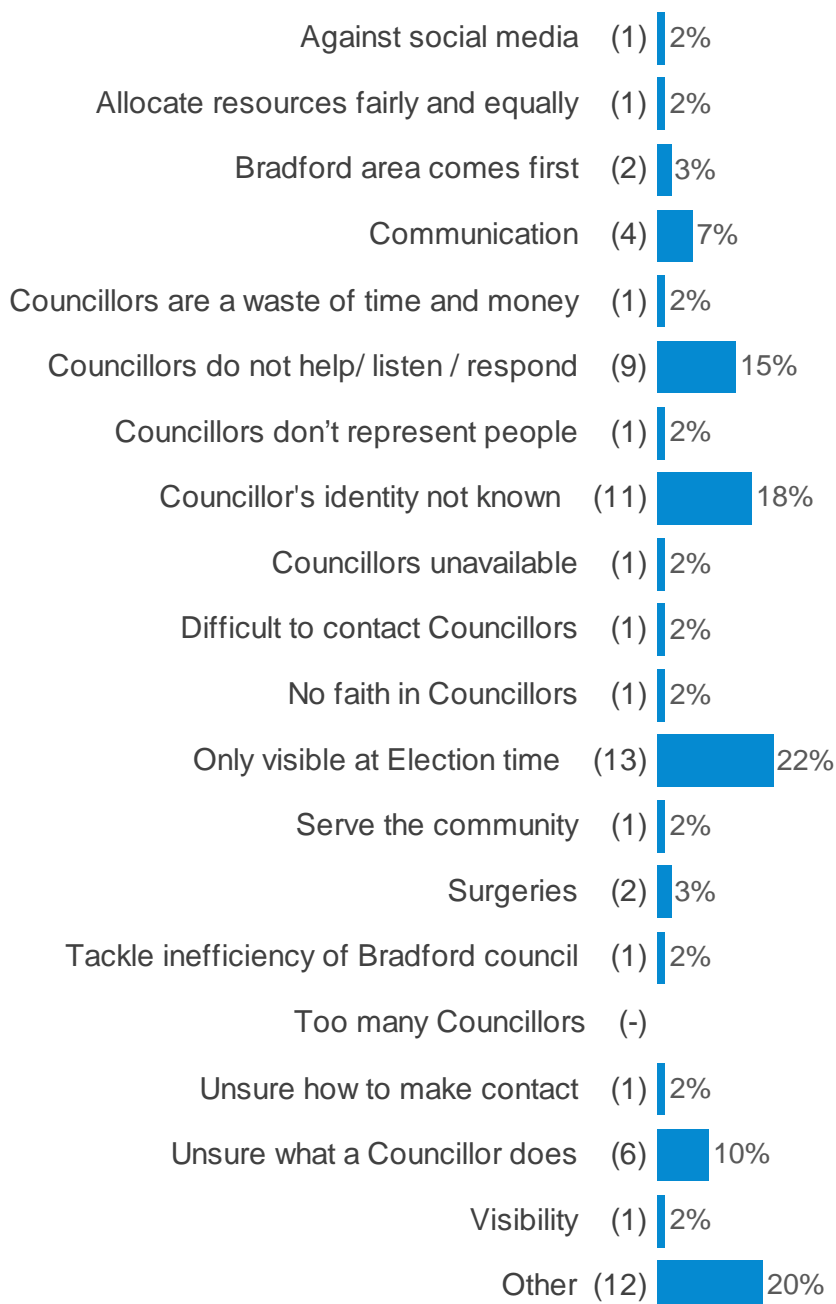
I would like to see Councillors do more for immigrants/migrants arriving into UK. They need to help them to know about the British way of life and provide or direct them to courses to enable them to integrate into our British culture and way of living.

Be a leading example for the community both in what they represent and how they conduct themselves

I am sick of people dropping litter and dog dirt.

A number of replies received which did not relate directly to this survey which could be classified as 'negative comments relating to the Council and/or Councillors'.

Negative comments (received against Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and the 'Any other Comments section): Q11v



Negative comments (received against Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and the 'Any other Comments section): Q11w

I was not aware of any councillors surgeries

I think that the Councillors surgeries are not advertised so a lot of people miss out. I think a week before the surgery there should be leaflets sent out in that area stating where and when the surgery is.

Serve for the community and not their expenses

Negative comments (received against Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and the 'Any other Comments section): Q11w

Stop twinning and trips abroad - monies would be better spent across the whole district of Bradford. Allocate resources fairly and equally between all districts as each district has its own problems peculiar to the area.

Dont care for people who put the party first

Not sure what else they do. Have met councillors on Governing bodies they turned up and went early or came late if they attended at all . I later discovered they were paid expenses for attendances . left a nasty taste when the rest of us had worked all day had families and other responsibilities and stayed for the full meeting and didnt get any recognition this needs addressing.

The only issue you should address is the absolute inefficiency of Bradford Council and its services. Talk about fiddling while Rome burns

Would not know how to get in touch as I dont know who my councillor is

They give small info

Councillors represent policial parties not people. A total waste of time - no one is interested (sorry silent majority)

The only time I ever see our Councillor is if I happen to catch him sticking me election bump through my letter plate!!

No idea - don't know enough about the role. I don't think most people will know enough about the role to have a view and also actions depends on current issues.

Do not see him unless he comes round.

I have lived on this address 30 years. One one Councillor Mr King showed his face locally and met people and discussed some issues. Other so called Elected Councillors just knock doors before elections with their friends and once Elected we hardly hear or see them, just waste of money. All questions above are very important but none of our Councillors ever do that, maybe just look after themselves or their friends. They need to be educated for their duties to their constituents. Very important questions but unfortunately our Councillors just show at election time for week or ten days. Then it seems they go away for until election time.

I have very little faith in our local Councillors, either in Keighley or the BMDC. I feel that Keighley is badly neglected by BMDC although it is a highly rated area and it is not my privilege to pay for Bradford's problems. I have only seen two Council Members in the 39 years I have lived here. One gentleman asked me if I would attend a planning meeting which I did. You only see people when they want you to vote. The calibre of many of the candidates is poor. As a resident of Keighley I am interested in the things that affect Keighley. I believe that the BMDC is only interested in Bradford and I would like to see Keighley governed by people who have the interests of the residents of Keighley at heart.

Bradford Council out of date useless waste of time. How much has this cost to send out of our rates? Jobs for the boys.

I never thought I needed to.

What is the point they do not listen and do nothing. Seems nobody knows what one or another is doing.

Councillors are a waste of time and money. Get shut and save money and not us workers. Not interested in Councillor.

Only one Councillor represented or got in touch with residents of Bolton Road. Most events or meetings are held in Undercliffe, which is not part of Bolton Road. Residents of Bolton area are ignored by Councillors. I don't feel represented by Councillors at all. We have not been contacted by local Councillors! If Councillors are doing any of the above, we are not aware of this. I don't think that the present system is working. It is not inclusive. Replacing people with social media contacts will make things worse!! I have emailed Councillors who have ignored my emails. I have attended meetings in person.

Never been able to speak to actual Councillor. Always unavailable.

Negative comments (received against Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and the 'Any other Comments section): Q11w

Agree with the above. The problem will be most areas do their very best to look after their neighbourhoods - some areas do not tend to have money and attention spent on them so Councillors will spend more time arguing.

I think the community from the council should be for all religions cultures, sexuality . I feel its one sided in Bradford

I recently spoke to Bradford Council regarding some contruction work on my street two doors away . This construction is a huge obstacle for my daily activities as it blocks my street view as the extension has over rode onto the street. I have not received a solution from the council I would appreciate if my claims could be addressed

Not sure how involved my local councillors are within my area . Only see or hear about them at election time

Not really sure how to contact in any event

Bradford Councillors are not able to help, because they have instructions by the Council how they can help and not only the Bradford Councillors only help their own family members and close friends not the whole community. But Councillors don't do anything they are not available when you need help. I dont even know who they Councillor is for us. Folkestone Street people have problems with Rochester residents breaking down walls, uses the street for rubbish, parking, putting bins out, nobody comes.

What they supposed to do, please send me the list. What would you think they will do, they are only interested to be elected to draw wages and that is only time we see them with 4085 people come to your door for the vote. What are they supposed to do?

I don't know who my Councillor is. If I need him I will have to get to him with my friend. She knows about him/her and that will be the only way.

I don't really know anything about what our Councillors do or the issues they are dealing with. If I was presented with information asking for my opinion I would be pleased to provide it.

To be honest, I don't know who is our Councillor, only time I see them before the local elections.

Councillors need to be not just representatives but active in supporting and doing things that the communities want. We don't want passive Councillors that lack vision and passion.

I did phone and spoke to people who came on my doorstep for vote and spoke to in person with lady to do something for our street but no one came back and did nothing. Councillors only show their face when they need vote and then you never see their face and they always promise that they wil get done our street if we give them vote. Our street is very very bad in Bradford, it's very very dangerous in winter and snow and black ice. Old people very scared to come out in winter. In my area I do not know who is a Councillor.

Don't know who Councillors are.

We rarely see a Councillor in this area, even at election time.

Very difficult to answer any of your questions as I do not really know what Councillors do. I do not know who my Councillors are or how to get in touch.

Councillors simply do not keep in touch after elections.

I can't understand that what is the actual duty of Councillor because after election I don't see in our area. All the time my garden and street full of rubbish.

If you mean by making an appointment like at the doctors you'd be waiting for 2 weeks (maybe?).

Make people aware of their existence and promote the things they are following up and/or solving.

So they know what they are talking about.

Knocking on doors in between election times not just when they want our vote.

Outlying districts feel BRADFORD comes first!

They are a waste of time.

Won't contact one due to previous experience.

Negative comments (received against Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and the 'Any other Comments section): Q11w

Paid to do a job so they need not to be hiding.

I wouldn't know who they are, where to contact them or even what they do and how or what they could do for me. Don't know anything about them. What is this the role of a Councillor?

More accountability in completing requests by constituents.

I don't know of any of these, it's only when elections some people will knock on my door about voting so apart from that I don't know much about these things and is not a problem to me. I do get newsletters which I read about what the Council will be doing.

Being 90 and not mobile, strangely you appear to have no office apart from Shipley or Bradford. As there is no link and these do NOT respond I am cut off!!!

Most people only see Councillors active when it's election time.

1. Only the Lib Dems keep in touch (monthly without fail by pamphlet). 2. I've never met a Councillor or prospective Tory Councillor. 3. The Labour party came one at general election time. Our excellent Lib Dem Councillor David Ward (though out voted at the last general election) and now Howard Middleton and the Lib Dems are seen in this area regularly unlike any other Councillors. The latest Councillor for my ward is NEVER seen.

Have now given up writing letters to Councillors. Stanley King was about the last one to have replied.

I would prefer to have a conscientious Councillor.

Be active in the community not just when it's the election time.

How effective are these, do you get enough response to warrant the expenditure? (Surveys)

I would not know how plus I don't need to.

It is very hard to get in touch with local Councillors. They should be visiting their local communities, to ask local people if they have any issues. We do not get to see them until their next campaigning for their next election.

I don't believe they have a useful role anymore too much talking and not enough action

You never see the councillors until its voting time

Some respondents used this survey to detail complaints they had either with the Council or Councillors

List of Complaints Received: (Q20)

Litter, dog fouling, easier free parking, police protection. I am still involved with Baildon even though I moved to be nearer the motorway. Getting out of the (now town not village) is very difficult at peak times.

Get more cameras all over to make us feel safe and have more speed bumps on estate (Crossley Wood)

Nothing ever happens about complaints. Person in Council office about brown bin was very rude.

We've had trouble with youths on bikes using our local roads as off roads - bad driving down Gain Lane area and you get sick of reporting this so I think it's extremely important to liaise with the police.

Could I just say I love the new shopping centre but how do you get them to put plenty of seats in for older people and invalids / no one thinks about the effort it is for us to get around without space to sit down. Need more seats in Broadway shopping centre for elderly and infirm.

They may talk but do they listen. What is happening to Bingley Pool, Closure is not acceptable . I for one wont be using the new pool in the city centre or squire lane. They also didnt listen about the new housing in Wilsden .

Unable to get to the hub at Steeton to cross busy road with no pedestrian crossing only at Steeton Top or Thornhill Road

As I live in Wibsey, we seem to be overlooked as an area, like Wibsey Park was in another area of Bradford it wouldn't look so shabby. We got new half-hearted new playground but the pond and other areas need lots of work done to bring in to the standard of ie Manningham Park.

As a Bradford resident I have seen an increase in the approval of planning applications via individual Councillors acting on behalf of applicants. There is often much bias in this so feel that these decisions should be left to a panel which is neutral and does not personally know the applicant. This would be a much more fair and just process.

Roads not getting swept because of school parking 8.00am to 3.00pm. Drains not cleaned out. Continuous parking problems. Blocking driveway.

Save money and stop sending this crap through our doors.

Had to ask to intervene with the bins because I got no response after a lot of complaining to the binmen section.

The gutters on the street around the back have not been unblocked . I have contacted the council over a year ago and it has not been solved . the gutters still havent been cleaned . the issue is not just about the councillor but the council itself . Undercliffe st remains with blocked gutters a year after I have constantly been asking for a solution to this problem

To limit the planning in any more mosques that now spring up all over the city.

Lots of extensions to houses and certain businesses take place without planning permission Retro planning applications should be totally rejected . Its an abuse of the system by certain communities. Specially these days lots of uninsured drivers extremely bad driver in certain community needs to be addressed.

Folkestone Street (terraced through houses) we have a lot of issues with the bin collection day, people in the street park their cars blocking the bin lorry because of one person the whole street gets affected. You should put fines and find out who the person is and put a stop but nobody comes. Sort out the problem with Rochester Street breaking their walls and using Folkestone Street. We didn't share the street, that street is separate, some one come out and see the problems that we have, plus bins with parking cars.

Cllrs are normally accessible that can not be said for council officers who often fail to return calls or fail to take any action see my enforcement enquiry . 12/00508/ENFADV dated 29 June 2012 . Still waiting for action from enforcement team offending adverts are attached to a Grade 2 listed building within Queensbury conservation area !!

List of Complaints Received: (Q20)

Get all public WCs in our district open again. Ask any 50+!! Shipley, Bingley, Saltaire.

I'm very disappointed with local Councillor attitude, East Bowling area is totally neglected. The Councillors are to address and solve issues but instead they are looking their own.

I have been living on this address 36 years and it's got bad to very worse. No it's very dangerous to go out when it's raining, wet or snowing and black ice. I am scared to go out or get out of my house. Please help if you can, thank you.

Do something to stop idiot drivers parking in baby spaces at supermarkets when they don't have any kids!

Neighbours property plans for 2 storey side extension - objections. Planning applications. Vehicle parking - excessive number of cars per household without sufficient off road parking. Help - especially where planning applications have been made and numerous objections made - how much more can residents take when 1 homeowner has had numerous applications refused and still they keep trying! We need help!!

I do not understand these questions or the reasons for them. Councillors should supervise all the Council employees in their work serving the citizens of Menston and Wharfedale. Evidence is emerging that from the Clerk to the Council or his assistants malfeasance may have occurred.

I think the whole Bradford district is too large. Keighley could benefit from being solo, we seem to get the short straw. This Christmas proved it with the lights.

With regard to the ex Morrison's premises on Idle Road I do not think enough attention has been paid to parking. Bolton Road junction is already very busy and to add to the congestion would be stupid.

I don't think postal votes should be used. It's open to abuse in Bradford.

Place Keighley area at the top of their agenda and vote to separate from Bradford.

Open meeting to discuss things that seem to have been decided already! ie the proposed closing of the Appleton Library - which is WELL supported by the local community. WHY?!?

I do feel that Daisy Hill is somewhat forgotten. Councillors need to be more responsive to the elderly and especially to those without a family. Also, treat people with respect.

All the new houses being built in Thackley and Idle and schools full to the brim, roads congested too. Too many levels of authority, too many committees, none of the truly accountable.

Too many levels of authority, too many committees, none of the truly accountable

Besides the negative comments and complaints we received the following positive messages / compliments

Compliments: (Q11x)

They are unable to manage matters already, why increase them.

Our local councillors have worked hard to represent the views of Menston residents as regards planned housing development

Am full of praise for all the hard work and time given . Mike Gibbons Greg Mullholland Abid Hussain Adrian Naylor Anne Hawkesworth Jack Rickard Barry Anderson Val Slater Andrew mallinson Michael O Dwyer Catherine Coates Chris Atkinson

On the whole I think do most things thats needed, they don't need to be burdened with more work.

Can't think of anything else to do but to excellently carry on representing the local area and perhaps have more power in decision making.

I feel Valerie Binney was an amazing Councillor and showed great example/role model of how an outstanding Councillor should work with the local people/constituents. Regularly involved and extremely proactive in the local community. Encouraging local people to be involved with projects, etc.

When I think all these things are required by the Councillors, I do not think it is a part time job to be a Councillors and this is a full time job. When we want all these things from our Councillors, this person to be a extremely good all rounder and this job is not for light hearted person. Councillors job is full time, they do not have time for a family life or any thing else other than devoted to their full time job, their family to be fully supportive for Councillors to do there job most effectively. Finally Councillors should be paid to do the job and through this council will attract very high calibre persons for the Councillors jobs.

I think the Councillors in my area do a good job. They need to continue to be the face of the community and be accessible as much as possible being out there in the community they serve.

Doing a good job.

All three Clayton Councillors appear to take an active part not only in Clayton but also in Fairweather Green. Although not of their political persuasion I am very happy with their work.

Ward Councillors cannot do everything. Those that genuinely give a lot to thier communities and are passionate about local issues will get my vote every time. We need less bureaucracy and Councillors should spend less of their time at City Hall.

Had quite a few dealings with our last Councillor, John Ruding, don't know who has taken his place. I do believe it's a lady - was she at the last meeting about the new development in Oakenshaw which concerns us aswell as Kirklees? Just a short note to say thank you to Mr Brian Dobson who has been very helpful with our fight to keep Woodlands Farm Park in a good clean order. When we had a problem gone straight to the Council and very satisfied with a good job done.

Overall Councillors are hard working, they deserve a lot of credit. I wish to thank all of them for their service to everyone. Concentrate on the essentials of the people. 1. Living conditions, health matters, etc, etc. 2. Thank you for everything.

I think they are doing the best they can in the present climate as are all the Councillors.

I have always been satisfied with what the Councillors do good work. Very helpful.

I am very happy with my local Councillors, if only all of them work as hard to get things done for the good of the local people.

Liberal have been very good in our ward. They have kept people involved in our area.

They listened to local people and funded a local bus when First pulled out. This is exactly the things local councillors should be doing, responding to community needs the community highlight and resolve in a way local people can not due to limited resources and collective voice.

Our excellent Lib Dem Councillor David Ward (though out voted at the last general election) and now Howard Middleton and the Lib Dems are seen in this area regularly unlike any other Councillors. The latest Councilor fo rmy ward is NEVER seen.

The following comments are ones which did not relate to this survey or could be grouped in any of the previous sections of this report

Other comments: (Q21)

I have had 2 replacement knees and one hip and use a walking stick , and do not own a computer

Doesnt found problems in my norves system

Easier

No other way than the above proposal.

Rent

For anything which affects people over 90 years of age. There is always a need to sort out priorities (particularly of life).

About holidays, time off from work for personal things, eg family funeral and weddings.

Council tax

When see the Councillor for 3 years and 11 months.

Asked Mum to email.

Short walk from my house to his.

OPEN RESPONSES RECEIVED - General list

The following list of all the open responses received against Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5:

Q5q - Comments relating to selections made:

Email or phone would be the initial contact then maybe face to face
Calling at an office
I don't have a computer and I don't get out very often
I find it difficult to get about as I am in a wheelchair so rely on letters or phone
Email is very convenient
No email or facebook.
I have no complaints at all and only put no for two as I dont use either ever.
I would attend their designated shop or place like the Liberal Democrats have an office on Killinghall Road.
Problem dependant and depends on urgency
Email is an easy and rapid and efficient way of communication for those with access
If I wanted to contact district councillors I would like to make an appointment have a one to one chat
Phone calls are generally faster and enable us to obtain further details if we are unable to get a hold of the person we wish to speak with.
When speaking in person you know you have got your grievance across.
At present only use phone.
You should email/text people to save money for the Council. The letter sattes completing the survey online will save money but it is wasted due to people not using the printed forms posted to them.
Usually emailed.
Would depend on the urgency and importance of the matter. Email and telephone would elicit a rapid response, whereas waiting for a surgery or appointment could take longer.
Speaking to a Councillor - door to door visits. Helping improve local area working alongside a Councillor. Chatting to a Councillor when they're involved with local projects. Speaking to one when they're meeting parents whilst waiting for their children a
By chance meetings in the usual course of life.
I have no contact address so would google Bradford Councillors.
As we are not online I think by phone is the best way.
Think more notice is taken by letter.
Ideally I would make an appointment and visit their surgery office, but saying that my wife has in the past and the Councillor was never there.
Filling in newsletter.
I'm deaf, can't hear on phones, etc. No laptop.
In person at their offices or telephone them
Face to face appointment!
Most likely to be taken seriously.
I have no access to social media, email, unable to phone.
I have found my local cllr will react quickly to my emails and phone calls
If the councillors surgery was convenient , I would probably go if I needed to . Otherwise phoning , emailing or writing a letter are good alternatives
I usually see at least one of them by chance when I'm out

Q5q - Comments relating to selections made:

Personally I think that my initial communication would be by phone. I would like to speak to the Councillor directly to hear the person's voice and get to know them.

For them to come to the house/flat.

Councillor came out to see us and to see my sister in her home to see how she managed climbing stairs.

Face to face

Public meeting Councillors were attending.

Have telephoned and visited Council offices in Bradford.

It is easy for me to talk on phone.

Email or phone is direct and should gain a quick response.

Email or letter.

More convenient

Letter - best.

Office in area.

Going to the surgery, hopefully I will make my point, stronger, face to face.

Require everything in writing.

It is a quick method of communication.

If I need to contact Bradford Council I would ring or send a letter.

Writing will be more appropriate.

Have no computer so many things wouldn't be available but I have no idea who the local Councillor is.

Depends on the reason.

Phone is more inter reacting with your Councillor's views.

It would be good to write a letter concerning to the District Councillor by email. In person to take an appointment would be difficult as they have so many problems to look into.

1. Family email 2. Phone 3. Letter

Local surgeries would be better.

Speaking over telephone initially explaining problem.

I do not have access to internet and do not want it either.

Always by phone or letter.

If I needed a local Councillor I would go to see him.

Kind and helpful visits to my home.

Do not use social media but would use the other methods depending on the circumstances.

While working alongside in a joint community project.

Would not depend on urgency of needing to contact Council.

I usually see them myself or ring up to speak to them. Should I wish to contact them again I will do so.

Call in at the Town Hall.

Email first.

By letter for a legal "answer".

Prefer to speak directly.

Particularly using local meetings arranged by local Councillors.

Do not have a computer or facilities to send email.

I would probably phone or write a letter

Q5q - Comments relating to selections made:

We would email first then see what happens . Maybe make an appointment to see them in person

At local supermarket

I have found the councillors at Gillington very approachable and seem to help out with a lot of projects in the community, so I tend to speak to them there.

Will contact a councillor via their telephone contact number

Q7r - Comments relating to selections made:

Surveys are useful as long as they are openly worded and give the opportunity for comments as opposed to blanket yes/no agree/disagree responses.

Be seen and "walk the talk" in the neighbourhoods.

No email, facebook or twitter.

Very important

At the moment I don't feel this is happening at all therefore improvement is needed in this area.

Just let people know that they can keep up with local issues by contacting the Council and let them know that it's no problem and they don't feel like they are bothering you.

Use the social media

Email subscription / e newsletter . Newsletters do not have to be printed

Regular newsletters may possibly appear in local papers if editors are willing

Regular newsletters may possibly appear in local papers if editors are willing

The public should be more aware of whats going on around the area

Keeping involved is very important

As constituents have voted for councillors it is essential that councillors are aware of their concerns

Get involved in issues remember the government works for us not the other way . we are the employer , they are the employee

It is important that residents know what is going on in the community/ town

right what I think from my point of view is you should hold regular surgeries in the area . ward leaflets handout give them the address time days or sometime visiting people at home if they have any views so who you are make your self known

Have one to ones

Whilst using social media seems the more logical choice as many young people access these more than ever, it is the older age group who often prefer face to face encounters. Text language is also different from verbal language and is probably the most eff

When you get older we want to know where to contact our local Councillor - someone to get help from.

I think attending meetings is a good idea- outreach, makes ????? known rather than expecting people to come to them.

Speaking to people in their area, getting to know people and keeping up with what's important to them.

I think to be in touch with modern technology like Facebook is a good idea. However, lots of people aren't on Facebook so one size does not fit all. I would not go to a surgery but would send an email.

People now communicate via many different formats, it needs to cover all age groups.

Website to include complaint section, suggestions, surveys, email addresses and phone numbers - include name of contact person, all emails acknowledged.

Communication is vital for success!

Important for them to be involved with issues constituents care about.

Q7r - Comments relating to selections made:

Issuing newsletters - best way to gather public opinion and have constructive discussions, social media reveals opinions but doesn't provide the same opportunity for true discussion. Public meetings - Not sure I've ever seen one! Are there ?? at or made a

They need to keep in touch, this way people will understand what's going on. In other words do your job.

I think it's very important, however I am unsure as to how my local Councillors keep in touch.

When there is something directly affecting us a local Councillor should establish our views/opinions.

Very important covers all the questions.

Must listen more to local people.

Although I'm not on social media because of my job I think this is very important to engage the next generation.

Regular local surgeries would be ideal where people have the chance to call in especially elderly people who do not have email/internet etc.

Not everyone knows how to access the internet.

A person elected must have an interest in the area regardless of political party so therefore should visit the area with surgeries and all the above.

Speak to people from the WHOLE community. Including those on council estates, etc as their views are as important as everyone else's.

It shows results of specific problems.

Face to face discussions best for getting a point over and understood.

Cllrs should be in contact with local people in person if possible , head up local meetings , take an active role into the community and lead by example

Asking people on the street in their area

I think that it's crucial for local Councillors to hold regular surgeries in their ward and that these are extensively publicised. Everyone must know where to acquire information about their Councillor and a regular newsletter is very important to keep th

To be able to be contactable at all times.

To help people with genuine complaints. To meet Councillors face to face.

Specifically an online blog where people can freely discuss topics and post questions/have discussions and receive online answers and feedback. This can also be used to provide information about events, meetings, etc.

Make themselves known in the local community and be easily accessible.

By Councillors going personally to local meetings they would be able to answer any questions and give an honest opinion of the subjects given to them by the persons involved at the meeting or meetings.

That people can discuss issues and tell them what they need.

Surveys are only important and respected if action is taken and communication on that action is delivered.

Very important to keep people updated and this would be the most likely to be efficient and cost effective.

Newsletters very important.

We can exchange our views face to face.

I think to get to know people they should meet often to create a kind of sense of belonging and by so doing you can know what is going on in each community. Sorry, I'm mentally imbalanced at moment if I'm not answering properly.

Important to stay in touch if you need.

Thinking of the elderly, most don't have access or can work a computer, etc.

Q7r - Comments relating to selections made:

Don't have a computer.

Letting people keep up with thing about Bradford as a whole and local news.

It is important to have a contact between the Councillor and the constituents. Councillor will better understand the problems, issues of the local people. By carrying out different ways is a good way of knowing the constituents in a better way and to deal

Important to be seen and known by locals.

Personal contact of local (ie of the place) Councillors VITAL.

Do not use a computer.

Important that Councillors are contactable and visible.

All requests made should be public and their response or effectiveness in it public also.

Hold local get together meetings every 3 months so people get to knw their neighbours/service providers.

They need to do all the above.

No newsletter sent out at all.

We always read the Focus news. letter but never go to any meetings as we feel councils just do what they want to do anyway

I think all three ticks are important. Sending news letters, reminders people who there Local Councillors are

Q8y - Comments relating to selections made:

Politics as like religion is competitive. The representatives should work together for the common good of those who live in their ward and beyond!

Actually live in the ward.

Being in a political party doesn't necessarily matter

Again, liaise with local police - have community officers knocking on doors to find out what's happening in the immediate vicinity.

They should be out in the community doing walkabouts with the community.

Create a network of locally based charities , co ordinating / publicising their strategic projects and helping them to join us with funding bodies and major donors in the community

They are elected to represent the ward in all aspects

Represent different political viewpoints in each ward not multiple councillors of the same political party

It would be more useful if the local councillor was more pro active . I don t know why my local councillor is , obviously he / she is not pro active enough

Must hold minimum number of meetings to update the wards

Right the councillor could highlight in what they do and ask the public if they have any issues or you can pop in the surgery when you need them , weekdays or make an appointment . like the doctor do in surgery have a receptionist make big sign board and

Once again the simply represent a political party not people

Door to door visits

Councillors should represent the ward they have been elected in, but also represent important issues for the city, regardless of their political persuasion.

Doing things for the Easter that is need for all ages as there is nothing to do for all ages of children.

Check and report response times of various services problems.

Help people to resolve individual/families issues with housing.

Councillors are "carers" for their wards, so they should represent them well.

Q8y - Comments relating to selections made:

Work with and in the community to find out what views they should represent.

By definition a Councillor could aim to do each of the above statements. To represent and act following the community. Political affiliation is less important. They should act for the people not for politics aswell.

Think local people should have a voice on very important local issues.

LISTEN to the thoughts and opinions of all the local community.

I think local people should be invited to a council and MP meeting to discuss what is happening in our areas

All persons in ward would benefit.

Some issues where slightly important is indicated is due to being realistic with time.

A Councillor is an ENABLER, a channel for the local individuals to get important issues, to them, to be proactively communicated to the appropriate Council department officials. So that a quick, speedy effective response be provided. Then processed to a p

I don't think local Councillors should have political party affiliations.

The Councillor does not need to belong to any political party. They represent the people who live in this area and not any political party.

To ensure the elderly are covered in their decisions.

The Councillors represent party political issues rather than local ward or street level issues which are not political!

Again good communication needed.

We have a planning department to deal with planning issues.

Listen to people's concerns on issues, ie flooding and unadopted roads and not accept decisions because of no funds but look for alternatives to solve problems.

I think that the Councillor convey our message to the Council and resolve our problem.

Representing everyone in the local community is very important.

To make all our reasonable problem heard and solved in the Council.

Residents need Councillors to raise our concerns.

Important to stay in touch.

Be discreet on confidential issues raised with them.

This all will help in gaining the support from their constituents to develop a healthy and plan issues and respond to them.

Accountability is very important.

Be involved with a variety of groups within the ward.

Represent minority communities and promote them. More cohesion within the community.

We pay Council Tax so it is important our money is spent in good use.

They should notify the public if there's any local grants available. We personally have requested our previous local Councillors to have play areas for children in their ward, but unfortunately no action has been taken. There are empty fields around Iqra A

To relate equally to all colour race , religion etc that live within their ward

Q9z - Comments relating to selections made:

Watch their spending of public money especially on expenses, dinners, travel, etc.

Have the calibre to bring forth creative/innovative solutions based on regional developments and where the ward and council can benefit from wider issues.

Help bring in investment into the local area, to create jobs and improve the local economy.

Give more ASBO out to young bullying thugs.

Answer emails

They should use the social media facebook and twitter more often

The community should be more involved in the decisions which are made and should have a positive outcome from all

Local councillors not only represent but are ideally placed to understand local issues

Question or challenge people re behaviour . This can be interpreted in a number of ways what are you trying to obtain? They are not the police but if it is an issue by a group which is going to affect the Community as an whole (ie Anne Cryer) that needs

Behaviour of young people and some minorities particularly in the city centre

If they do what locals want and it is what they should do , then there will be no need to consult after a decision as what they (locals) wanted is what they will get

Talking regular on issues and when you decide on a issue you should call a public ward meeting to suggest the mattter and opinions working with the public give you that you care and helping on views of the public important see what the public have to say

Respond personally to requests made by constituents

Consultation is key to any success as it creates opportunities to put forward lots of ideas. To truly know what's happening in a community or what it's needs might be can only be achieved through consultations.

Discuss local issues. Gangs of youths causing trouble.

For people in their local communities to have an opportunity to think and address their behaviour through learning correctly and understanding values and traditions so they may foster goodness.

Get into media - report back.

Different issues affect local people, sometimes in a way that other sections fo the city wouldn't understand.

If possible get Councillors who speak multi-languages such as Dari/Farsi.

Working together will ensure effective communication to create and develop a helpful and successful community.

Contact and time spent with the community are very important. Most have a true understanding of the true issues and people affected whom they represent.

Funding - depending on the importance and overall impact of the project. Decisions affecting wards should be consulted to it's community.

Look more into what people are doing in good areas. Consulting people more about what is going on in area. Keeping the area cleaned.

Representing the views of people in their ward before the District Council.

Local people MUST have a say about issues affecting their ward.

There is no community centre. Loccal people are not consulted about anything that affects the area. Sending an email is not good enough.

To understand deaf people's opinions and their views on communities in Bradford.

Each area needs different things, Bingley needs more shops so encouraging this with lower Council tax. Other areas might not so each Councillor will have to get involved. Volunteering in each area is a good way to get communities together.

Q9z - Comments relating to selections made:

This is not only the job of Councillors but police/social workers etc working as a team (Challenge people in their local communities to change their behaviour)

Local people have local knowledge so their opinions are essential.

Acknowledging some members of the community work full time and more and although willing do not have time (Get people involved in volunteering in the local community).

I think that ALL the above issues are very important ROLES that Councillors must be seen to be fulfilling effectively.

More community engagement to get people back in to work.

Keep local people informed about goings on in the district and be open and approachable.

They need to work with Parish Councils and seek joint understanding and actions.

Put the needs of their constituents above party politics.

It is very important that we all change our behaviour and our understanding.

Funding for future projects.

Councillors do not put in enough time in working with local people in my area.

Keep people updated about changes.

Keeping people updated.

To keep people informed about what was going on.

Serve the residents needs and you will find everyone really appreciates the Councillor's efforts.

Because he must be capable to view raise our issues.

Work with groups of local people to help find solutions to local issues and this is extremely important.

In Bradford very important.

Speak up to make the area better and know what residents concerns are - especially the elderly.

Important to stay in touch.

Be an educated and articulate person capable of making fair decisions and not favouring one section of the community.

I think more publicity should be given to volunteering options.

Councillors are middle men, much better to ask local officers who will respond.

Its important for them to meet people often about the affected issues.

Employed to help the people so they should help and be proactive rather than reactive.

Challenge people to change their behaviour - dependent on the behaviour. Anti social - yes, but not to infringe on people's human rights.

Work closely with locals to identify issues and overcome them whilst meeting the needs of the community. See the impact, effectiveness or bad effect changes have on the local communities.

But maybe respect the needs of people who are not able to volunteer because of age and other issues, but who have done much in the past and still do a little now.

Councillors contact details should be sent to everyone's address every 3 years.

Parish councils do all of the above

Q10n - Comments relating to selections made:

Especially serve and look after the indigenous community who have worked hard, raised families and helped to creat a happy, clean, functioning environment for each generation by example!!

Lever in regional developments for the good of the district and the ward eg on transport issues.

As above. It is extremely important to attract investment into Bradford District.

Q10n - Comments relating to selections made:

Challenge the executive committee who stop things going through when it or they are not democratic.

It is important that Councillors work and adopt policies, which will benefit the whole district - and not just confine their efforts to their own local areas.

They should get involved with policing of the area and get more involved with partner agencies to help them with their work for example police have ASB issues the Councillor should help.

I think its very important to prevent any future problems early and to have all the policies in place

Local councillors must of course be sensitive to wider issues in the district to understand where local issues fit in

Every area has its own needs and issues . You cant make decisions for the whole of Bradford .

They need to work for the people not follow their own agenda

I would like to say that you should work with your own party about ideas on how to improve or work with other councillors from the same party of your own or views from the public because we vote and elect get the public involved in your ward area .

Wards are simply segments of a district and without putting these together you cannot have a fully functioning District. Working with other politicians would or could improve matters as they all have different proposals. I feel it would generate a better

Working together can only rectify problems.

Decisions ought to be balanced, unbiased and clear in vision. Learning from past decisions made is important.

Report back at surgeries

Sometimes politics play a big role, rather than looking at benefits for the whole of the city.

Again very important questions but I am very saddened I do not know what to say.

Councillors cannot work in isolation. Must work with other individuals and bodies to achieve results.

Keep the local people regularly informed through local media, booklets, posters, post offices, shops and for highly important issues have meetings in local halls, meeting rooms, etc.

Be aware of their use of money. I used to work at Grattan and when things were going badly things like serving tea to visitors and having floral displays were stopped. Nobody died! First class travel was banned too and yes that included the CEO. Fact find

Vital that LOCAL Councillors secure a fair deal for their local area. ALL areas deserve investment of resources.

It's my opinion that Councillors shold be elected on a non-politicial platform.

To make sure their ward is considered when decisions are made concerning the whole District.

Should all work together for the whole of Bradford District.

Yes all the above, some areas in the Bradford area are needing attention so a Councillor from another area might have a good idea to improve things.

I think like I said each resident from each area get involved and have discussions whats happening in there area off resident

Any decisions made should be explained in full, giving reasons for same.

Until recently we have local shopping area opened, we have had to go to Leeds. Hope will continue in fighting to keeping it stays for the local residents.

There must be effective methods of communication between ALL Councillors for the benefit of the whole district. Language, background, religion and politics ethics must ALL be overcome when eliciting the most effective method of communications for the whol

We need a joined up approach by Councillors, MPs and other stakeholders to develop the city as a whole.

Q10n - Comments relating to selections made:

Well as I've said before if you are present when Councillors and Council Officers are at meetings all the better. If people are debating matters on their own isn't it better to have several people debating matters than just one person. Remember it's better

From area to area, street to street issues are not the same, Bradford is a big place, making choices for the whole of Bradford may benefit one small area - but be at the expense of another.

I think the Council need to look at remapping whilst Councillors have an important job we have too many. We should be clustering them in order to save a substantial amount of money.

I have always believed that when voting for a local Councillor one should look at the person NOT political party. The general election is when I look at what the political party offers.

Work to improve the whole district.

Although it is important to work to improve whole district matters it is equally important to work towards improving local areas and not to agree to all funds going to district and neglecting local areas leading to deterioration.

Keep in touch as much as you can and the people will always remember the particular Councillor.

Work with other Councillors and Officers to develop policies for the whole of Bradford district. And serve on Committees that take decisions about the whole of Bradford district.

It is necessary to develop the policies which will benefit of the ward.

This is the reason they have been voted in, so why not.

Voice their opinions if policies do not fit in and are not effective to local communities.

I think if people see big improvements in their area then it will improve the district

Something for the kids to do

All other responses received against Question 11 - 'What other important matters do you think Councillors should do, in your local area or across the whole district?'

This list includes 'other' comments received against Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 which did not relate to the questions in those Sections.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Councillors have no power or influence and are irrelevant. Central government imposes statutory duties on councils which have to be carried out. Within the council the leader of the ruling party and perhaps a small cabal of others, including the central office of the party, make all the decisions the others just toe the party line. It is only common sense to replace all of them with an elected mayor and save a fortune to be used to reduce council tax bills.

In my local area I would like to see councillors involved with local businesses to develop strategies to boost local economy and promote my area in new and innovative ways. This has been done with some success in the past by some local businesses but I think council involvement has traditionally been fairly lacklustre. If the Bradford district is to capitalise on recent highly publicised investments and regeneration then it's council need to look at the District as a whole, as opposed to focusing exclusively on the city centre. Local councillors should be instrumental in this.

Understand and articulate evidence behind options in an impartial manner.

Be accountable!

Look after the whole community not certain sections

They should explain the thinking behind Council decisions - even, or probably especially, when the decisions are unpopular with their constituents.

Involve MPs where appropriate in local issues where the Government is involved.

I think the questions have covered all the main issues. Consulting with the locals is key so we are informed of future developments and can voice our opinions. A website would be great so locals can keep up to date with current issues/services etc

Have an overall view of budget spend and look to gain the correct percentage for their ward. Have a view of everything that is happening within their ward such as new road layouts (which cause disruption to local traffic) and utilities (who invariably start work once the roadworks have finished - creating even more disruption). A joined up assembly of people who actually know what they are doing helps. Councillors should have 'real world' experience and not be institutionalised by being a politician or council worker all their lives.

Too many Councillors would increase all our Council taxes, create arguments and make for competitive motives rather than keep them busy with the job they chose to do!

Liaise with the Town Council to benefit the local community

Advise names of Councillors and which areas they represent

I don't think they need to do more but there does need to be more "publicity" over all aspects which affect the district or individuals in the district.

Do think they should advertise more who they are and what they are doing. I believe there is a general apathy and sometimes mistrust of politicians (as per media) and it's up to them to sell themselves in a positive light so that the public have confidence in them.

Help people with issues that they are unable to resolve by their own means and to help people move into better homes by making things simpler and easy access.

Need to be strong and accessible representative for their local community. A link between local people and the city councillors.

Top priority - reduce crime

They need to be consistent; be clear about their aim, how they are going to achieve it. But also to show to the rest of the District the end result to enhance awareness of Councillors and the people they support within the community.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Keep in touch with their local issues and local people

Would be nice to have our homes more modernized. Homes fitted with better, stronger windows and door locks. Would help all of us residents feel safer in our own homes, make sure all street lights are working.

Raise awareness of local charities, so people who need extra help/support are aware of what is available to them. Be role models - encourage young people to be more aware of what you do, how the system works as I think most people especially younger generation wouldn't know what you do/how they could be involved or seek help.

1. Clean grates out twice a year. 2. Sweep roads round islands and clean road signs, street/road names (some can't be read) and bus stop shelters, they are so dirty. Cut back overgrown trees which are everywhere. Generally sweep gutters more regularly. Put traffic lights at Harrogate Road/Leeds Road junction (very dangerous).

Install more speed cameras to reduce fatal injuries and accidents

I think Councillors should live in the area they represent.

Safety awareness - especially in local area there has been goods theft from homes. (home alarms - suggested to people to put in place). Getting young offenders to pass time with local activities.

Sort out the Council tax issue!

Ensure sufficient funding is provided to run schools, health centres, libraries and recreational facilities (eg swimming pools) adequately.

Be more outward looking to look in regional and national opportunities at a local level.

Keep in touch.

Press for more visible police and actual police on the ground especially in the evenings and not brush aside people's input, and be more contactable. Also push for wardens to monitor littering (especially teenagers) and dog walkers (fouling) and enforcing fines for both.

Councillors should make an effort to listen to people in their ward. Make more public awareness meetings.

help preserve the town (e.g if places are closing down such as Ilkley museum/manor house). Also help ensure the appropriate shops and restaurants are opened in the town and do what they can to ensure shops aren't left empty (e.g Dorothy Perkins closing down).

Tell us what they do!

Just representing the community And being available

It's important for people to know and understand that they exist and that local residents see that they are taking an active role with the issues that we face. Many people aren't aware of their local Councillor and how to get in contact with them and that's something that needs to be improved - access to such councillors who play an active role all year round.

Help develop businesses, to secure investment into the district.

1) Liaise with the police on youth behaviour. 2) Work with responsible authorities to help the homeless. 3) Help ethnic minorities integrate through cultural activities, (i) attending (ii) inviting

Take the constituents seriously. Follow things through. Listen and not patronise when dealing with issues raised. Ask for feedback prior to 2 years after the events were raised. The M&S lorries are still parking illegally and still polluting the environment in which we live!!!

They are unable to manage matters already, why increase them.

How to save money like the rest of us! Reduce the number of Councillors by at least one third. Cut allowances paid to Councillors. Disband the waste of time and money Wrose Parish Council. Do these Councillors go round with their eyes closed? Some gulleys on the Welwyn estate have been blocked solid for over two years.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Create an information leaflet to inform people of the various ways to make contact with them so it's all in one place. Try and have a project no matter how small to achieve in each area of the ward they cover which shows working on everyone's behalf fairly. One of the GP's surgeries in my area works with a voluntary services to provide affordable transport to appointments including hospital ones would be great if more practices in the area/ward provide and open it up to people on low incomes not just elderly. Bring back mobile and housebound services, many people lost a lifeline when it stopped.

Just more speed bumps, mend all the broken street lights, more bins.

Help Bradford integrate better by addressing ignorance and poverty.

Consult locals, eg electric points in Ian Clough car park for electric cars - waste of our money.

Improve BD2 & BD3

Improve parking spaces outside schools, hospitals and surgeries

Be out and about more and visit people with problems and not just when they want electing.

Support the people and be their voice

Look into traffic speed through the village. Sort out more rubbish bins for litter. Put up dog fouling notices. Get the bin men to put wheelie bins back in drives or pathways so they don't blow onto the road to be a hazard for cars. Thank you for using double sided paper and providing a free envelope.

Free gym access should be introduced for disabled people. There should be more free learning for the people on certain benefits.

Take actions to reduce anti social behaviour by liaising closely with the local police. Take interest in getting assistance to rectify problematic road conditions (potholes etc). Be more proactive in promoting what the Council actually does for the whole district.

I think that Councillors should prioritise issues across the whole district, especially health and welfare, and not restrict their thinking to issues in their local area.

Help vulnerable and elderly in our communities. Provide safe living for everyone. Street lighting!!

Serve for the community and not their expenses

To be available. By face known to their constituents.

Again and again liaise with police - let us know the outcomes and advice for residents if we see something suspicious or idiots on off road bikes who would potentially kill or hurt a child/adult very badly.

Stop twinning and trips abroad - monies would be better spent across the whole district of Bradford. Allocate resources fairly and equally between all districts as each district has its own problems peculiar to the area.

Enforce littering laws more strongly

Keep local community up to date with Council affairs and decisions.

Give people chance to speak to give opinion Arrange meetings Contact facilities easily accessible.

Local issues should be resolved, pot holes in road, street lighting in local areas, rubbish tipping.

They should actively get involved in community projects in the area.

I think many people dont connect with their councillors unless a problem arises . We need to know our councillors so if time permitting being around to chat to people in places would be good eg Bingley Market place .

Be independent and not follow political party policies .

Need to be known and visible . Fight for Bradford , address bad driving including measures to reduce it and fight for speed cameras/ cctv . ensure racial inclusion no separation or sharia law .

Should live in the area they represent and hold council employees accountable for their actions or lack of actions

Ban the parking of vehicles on public footpathes , stoe the payment of a salary to councillors it should be voluntary .

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Improve public transport more gp appts , more sweeping of the districts streets

Never come into contact with any councillors for about 20 years

One councillor is enough for each ward

Safety of children

Communicate more about their activities and policies nad initiatives that could help improve the local area and district. Helping people in Need of support or suffering hardship . Improving economic prospects for the city and community with meaningful investment

I think my local councillors have always taken interest and given attention to all important matters in this area . Albeit not always effectively . Dog fouling never seems to be resolved in Westfield Lane

Improve Keighley

I think local council should help the younger generations put some funding in youth clubs get them to stay off the streets and make a future . Try to encourage schools to provide extra support and activities for children

All councillors must be active and understnad central government policies and target to implement and challenge at local level. Protect and provide for older people who are living in isolation and suffering alone

Be able to take matters up with local police regarding unsociable behaviour throughout the estate and not to shy away if the issues involve problems from our ethnic community as I stated earlier .

Be more visible introduce themselves in leaflets etc

Not knowing enough about what councillors do or whats within their remit I feel unable to answer

Attend all council meetings and committee meetings that affect them

Challenge the status quo of tired political rhetoric that the labour council trot out every time a decisions is to be made

Overall be more involved with residents of their allocated area by phone , email , letter or in person

Take notice of peoples opinions which are far more important than political affections

If there are very major issues eg the impact of planning on the environment they should (and presently already do) work closely with MPs , regardless of party to make representations into central govt

Be seen , be recognisable , be available be interested and have time to get involved

Represent the community and individuals regardless of political following , beliefs.

Look after elderly persons services and steer improvements or resolution of issue as identified

be aware of national issues which could potentially affect local policies.

Be more involved with schools , health centres and hospitals

The only issue you should address is the absolute inefficiency of Bradford Council and its services . Talk about fiddling while Rome burns

Improve road infrastructure

Parking on parts of Rooley Lane Parking on Footpaths Litter around Asda Rooley Lane Animal welfare , particularly for tethered horses near Bowling Cemetery (lack of shelter)

Tackle the problem of dangerous drivers . People driving recklessly on quad bikes and dirt bikes and help with the problem of anti social behaviour.

Road works Cleaning areas

Local - just be in touch and listen . Most I have known go along with somehow getting donations (funds) from governments regardless on result . Just listen and do

Sort out swimming pools properly

Planning issues and making sure everyone who will be affected knows about them

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Councillors should set an example to their constituents and encourage said constituents to also set a good example

Keep up to date on what is happening around our areas

Make sure that people in villages like Addingham have their views taken into account by Bradford Council . Help to solve potential school places shortages

I get a taxi or lift by car to Keighley and return by bus to bottom of Queen St , Steeton . but find the foot path from the bus stop to burley court very bad and dangerous also would appreciate a bin with salt in the winter for our roads

Help people to resolve their individual issues about public services

Am full of praise for all the hard work and time given . Mike Gibbons Greg Mullholland Abid Hussain Adrian Naylor Anne Hawkesworth Jack Rickard Barry Anderson Val Slater Andrew mallinson Michael O Dwyer Catherine Coates Chris Atkinson

Work with local business to improve the area . ie incentives to re open unused shops . 50 villages are not just filled with takeaways

Contact local people about the development of new housing estates and act on their views as how it is going to affect them . ie the Simpson Green development and the knock on effect of traffic down Hemmingway Road and the canal swing bridge .

Make themselves known not only for advertising to vote for them. Listen to the community more and not make their own decisions because not their own opinion

Notify people of more changes

When I have wanted to be represented by my local councillor in the past I have only been able to see one of their staff

Not sure not having seen or heard from any councillor for years it is difficult to assess what they are capable of , maybe a newsletter to educate people like me who do not know what they have done or are proposing to do in the future

Tackle the drug dealing issue and keep the streets clean . In my area there are dog fouling problems , dogs poo everywhere its very disappointing . also councillors should look into street matters such as rowdy neighbours making other peoples lifes a living hell.

Support communities on housing , crime prevention , youth engagement , jobs and promote harmony between different cultures. Most councillors are not articulate or able to communicate with the community

They should make sure everyone knows whats going on and not just a few people

People who are unemployed need other things to occupy their time

Come together for meetings on more things to do for children in preventing crime

Keep closer contact with the emergency services

Enforce penalties for and policing of littering and dog fouling . Campaign to have dangerous driving ie speeding , talking on mobile , ignoring road safety made a priority in Bradford

Improve access to mental health services

Have a tea/ cake party once a week and get to know the people in the ward and get to know you have a questions and answer things we ask the questions you answer and you write down the points and next time same again once a month see how it progresses and what you can to to improve things and take it further

Know their constituents

Ensure they are seen to be involved in local issues and keeping up to date with these especially if they do not even reside in the ward they represent

Help residents in areas suffering from anti social behaviour by putting them in touch with people in authority who can help deal with the situation . Look at development plans for the area and make sure they are not to the detriment of local green spaces - traffic congestion etc

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Raise the negative profile that people outside Bradford associate with the city through positive media and publicity

Work with private providers to establish strong services eg childrens nurseries

Should represent people politics should have nothing to do with that representation

Listen to voters then act on whats being said and not what they believe in

Ensure the police , fireservice and hospitals have the money they need to provide servies to the public
To ensure pensioners have enough to maintain a reasonable standard of life not just an existence
Provide a good standard of schooling for children as they are the countrys future

Live in the area and have a good back-up team providing specialist knowledge to aid problem solving for constituents.

Sometimes take a step back and look at things at a higher level to get an overall long term view. This may change some right here right now decisions.

Be more involved going into schools, engaging young and teen people to encourage them to develop an interest in their local community. Work on "bringing back" community as an idea.

Visit schools

Represent residents to the local MP as well as the Council. Encourage sustainable living and working practices within the local community eg more recycling facilities, more bike parking facilities for cyclists, bike lanes on roads, car-share facilities for commuters and support environmental conservation projects (local ones!) thanks.

Visit schools to make themselves known and increase an awareness at an early age of their purpose and standing in the community.

Be more accessible. 50% of people do not know who their local Councillors are.

They should keep an eye on time scale of applications of any sorts, such as planning or facilitation grants or any such things, and make sure everyone is getting help on time, making sure no one is waiting too long for important works getting done.

Just listen to matters to other people what they say. Give plenty advice to them, just notify people what you are going to do.

Keep the streets clean and safe

Deliver regular reports to households on what they are doing and have done for the district. Inspect the district and report to the appropriate organisation on misbehaviour - rubbish, untidy gardens and trees. Excessive traffic and speeding (in their opinion) act as a help and watchdog for/to the district without fear or favour to anyone. Be honest and truly earn your payment.

Listen to people needs.

I feel that Councillors should engage with members of the community who traditionally do not engage much due to a lack of knowledge. More women need to be encouraged to participate so that we have a balanced set of views and ideas.

Get public services to respond to local issues as not enough is being done to put local public views across.

Vandalism. Parking problems daily (school). Blocking entrance to drive (abuse). We are pensioners.

I was devastated to see Darley Street in Bradford town centre appear abandoned after the new opening of the shopping centre. My Bradford town centre is very important to me, it holds memories, emotions, and lots of experience and dreams. Is this issue being addressed?

Inform and respond. A personal blog might be useful, with links to relevant Council decisions.

On the whole I think do most things thats needed, they don't need to be burdened with more work.

Pressure police to cut down on drug dealing and anti social behaviour. Encourage residents not to litter, it must cost a fortune following lazy people and picking up after them.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Tell main government to stop taking more immigrants and stand up to bureaucrats telling us what we should do, there's no need for it.

Ensure there are adequate places for the local people in our schools and doctors before further housing developments are approved - also consider the roads and public transport, ie think about the whole infrastructure.

Look at the housing proposals - and defend against them if appropriate. Improve public transport.

Talk to people more, do something about issues!!! Work for their money.

Make sure all places outside Bradford are as important as Bradford.

Leaflet residents on important issues, ie crime prevention, advertising Councillor surgeries, other.

Get involved with personal projects for disabled people. Show their faces more often apart from when elections are taking place. People only see them around election time.

Regularly visit local services (GP's, schools, etc) and consult with employees who work there to identify local issues and engage with the community. Promote key values/activities (eg community cohesion, recycling).

Send out newsletters, let us know what is happening in and around our area. Not everyone has the internet!

Employment issues. Lack of apprenticeships in Bradford area. Job centres do not help young people find work. Its soul destroying.

Unemployment for the young people. Get 18+ into full time work.

Think of ways in which crime could be cut down, neighbourhood watch seems to have phased out now but something along those lines or even a security patrol car.

Provide a strong and loud voice in Parliament to address issues here so that people can see improvements in all areas locally and quickly, eg anti social behaviour, tighter control of gypsy/traveller camps, put more money/provision into care for the elderly, do more to attract business - jobs for our city.

Publicise exactly what they do and what they have achieved. I suspect most people do not know how many Councillors represent them - let alone who they are.

Clean the street regular and take the bins regular.

Relate to national office/HQs of national political parties

Regular reports back to surgeries. Door to door visits.

During recent tragic events of the flooding, I was very disappointed to find that nobody from the Council had been out to offer help or support with regards to rehoming/support in the Haworth area and I'm sure this happened in other areas too, along with the lack of resources (sandbags) available in this situation.

Ensure that extra revenue (ie car parking charges) raised in local areas should be used for the benefit of those areas only.

Try and fight for better resources from Central Government. Protect public services. Protest to get the bankers to face the responsibilities as they have brought the country to its knees and are still getting their bonuses; other countries jail them.

Keep everybody informed at all times.

Can't think of anything else to do but to excellently carry on representing the local area and perhaps have more power in decision making.

Ensure people are fully consulted before giving planning permission to any public building, waste incineration or housing project/development! To be open about Bradford Council planning development strategies!

Check on plans for building work, making sure the relevant offiver makes sure that all conditions are fulfilled properly.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Sort out the ongoing issues of potholes and getting people's bin regularly emptied.

Listen.

Councillors should be visible and approachable within the community.

Should my Bradford somewhere people like to come and for BD9 area have the money but the parent have to do the work and why should we? Why should people on the Eastex go round and get name for thing that should be needed on her for all the kids of all ages.

Combat the growing discontent towards certain religions. Proactively challenge the "racist" behaviours of certain groups. Create a Bradford which is tolerant and peaceful.

Give local people time. If you make an appointment they need to make sure they are there themselves so you don't need to explain the situation again and again to other members. And if they have given you a date to chase something up you would expect it, don't like fake promises.

Vandalism, drugs, tackle unemployment and fly tipping. I have not seen any improvement in eradicating the above issues in our area during the last 5 years.

Hold meetings, discuss local issues, make people aware about Council decisions.

Make themselves known to as many local residents as possible and to be very clear about their responsibilities and duties. Also do not make promises they cannot achieve.

Apart from those detailed in this survey, just to listen and communicate in a non-political way for the greater good and wellbeing of the community they serve (via Community Council, etc). Note:- I could not access the online survey with the address provided?

Hold Council Executive meetings to examine policy is being carried out according to Council agreements.

To be prepared and able to take a balanced view and not just respond to those who shout longest and loudest.

Give some urgent attention to sorting out the on-street parking at Burley in Wharfedale station (the dangerous bends on Prospect Road).

When the leader of Bradford Council can generate some enthusiasm for the BMDC area when he is speaking on Look North or to the press things may improve. It appears that local party politics are more important to them than the people they are supposed to represent.

Making it safer on public transport. Employment issues. Getting schools nearer to home (school places). Courses for people in the community. Training people for jobs eg apprenticeship age 18+

They should visit their wards more often and ask residents about the area they live in eg any improvements that need to be made.

Streets should be clear. Parking issues (sometime people park on the footpath which is very unsafe). More lights at the back gardens. GP's to give appointments on time.

I believe Councillors should pull together due to diversity as they have different backgrounds and interests. Also to represent and accept the interests of the whole community and to understand the needs of different people within the community.

Help reduce crime, help businesses grow, and help the local people.

Make themselves known in their ward so people know who they are, and how to contact them. Be aware of local issues, local projects and plans. Have communication with local schools to help in any way possible. Help create jobs. I am returning this by post as it has been printed, therefore if not used it will be a waste. It states that completing the survey online will save the Council money but the survey has already been printed and posted so will be a waste if not used.

Should they do all the work marked. We think they should be busy.

Preserve the best of "Old Bradford" especially the buildings.

Make themselves known as I do not know who my Councillors are.

Report to every household what they have done each year.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Get involved with services and campaigns that further the needs of the most social disadvantaged eg Food banks, homeless projects.

Give maximum support to new start-up of businesses especially if the business is starting up from home. We need business coaches, mentors, access to funding and grants, support from planning, environmental health, trading standards, etc.

Keep their promises.

Get involved with issues that matter to local residents ensuring that positive impression is created of the area they represent, for example helping to drive up standards of education in their local primary schools, improving the environment, ensuring people are aware of how to dispose of unwanted items rather than littering the environment, arranging regular cleaning of gullies and road sweeping. Getting people to take pride in their neighbourhoods.

I feel Valerie Binney was an amazing Councillor and showed great example/role model of how an outstanding Councillor should work with the local people/constituents. Regularly involved and extremely proactive in the local community. Encouraging local people to be involved with projects, etc.

They should listen to and support the people in their ward - for example the open space at the top of Allerton Road - given to the people of Allerton should never be threatened by builders. Councillors should remember that they are employed by voters - not the other way around.

They should appoint a non-paid ward on each estate or district to gather questions from their neighbourhood to be collected and discussed with said ward once every 2 weeks so that the ward would be given written answers to relay to their neighbours. This would give people an alternative avenue of approaching their Councillor, even when they are at work or otherwise busy.

Inform us who our local Councillors are in area/district.

Be seen. Be heard and to effect positive change for the benefit of the whole community.

Unless residents are informed and kept up to date there can be no discussion or agreement. Information is vital.

If planning say "no" then they should stick to it, no "retrospective" decisions. Improve roads and especially road safety - get rid of idiot drivers. Improve parking and enforcing illegal parking. Increase wardens and planning enforcers - improve area from dog muck.

Provide support and advice to vulnerable constituents to improve their quality of life.

Hold more surgeries.

See about the old people, and see what they're doing. I don't think the Councillors know about any more like the old ones did. My Dad died when 58 in December 5 1954.

The whole area of Bradford is filthy. Born here and I am so disgusted with all the mess and filth that is accumulating on side streets and snickets.

Be resident in the local area they represent.

Come to the door to talk to you face to face like they used to do when it comes to voting time. I know they have lots to do but when you get to be a pensioner you have not got the energy to get to them or problems with yourself.

Fund important issues, not waste money on bridges, silly bus shelters, bus lanes that don't work.

When I think all these things are required by the Councillors, I do not think it is a part time job to be a Councillors and this is a full time job. When we want all these things from our Councillors, this person to be a extremely good all rounder and this job is not for light hearted person. Councillors job is full time, they do not have time for a family life or any thing else other than devoted to their full time job, their family to be fully supportive for Councillors to do there job most effectively. Finally Councillors should be paid to do the job and through this council will attract very high calibre persons for the Councillors jobs.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

I believe local Councillors should be available to the people who live in their local area, whether it be by electronic means such as email or for an appointment or drop-in surgery perhaps for people who aren't so comfortable with technology. Councillors should be elected to address concerns local people have, and to take those concerns to the relevant committee/council. There isn't much point having a local Councillor if no action is taken.

Be available, be accountable, be honest, treat everyone same and not just certain groups of individuals within the community.

Fund projects to help teenagers/young adults. Make librarians more friendly towards this group. Dog poo bins would be helpful - none in Burley in Wharfedale.

1. Be much more prudent when allowing significant house building in Burley in Wharfedale, Menston, Ben Rhydding and Ilkley. Areas such as this should have their "niceness" protected and not be spoiled by excessive building. Moreover: Council needs to consider much more carefully the impact on local services notably school places and roads. 2. Protect and improve community spaces like libraries.

Generally be more proactive.

Hold surgeries in local high school to make students aware of what is happening in the community and discuss politics and get the next generation's opinion.

Respond and represent the community on issues such as traffic and crime.

Get themselves out and about so people know who they are!!

Local park, Lund Park, needs to be looked into because childrens play areas are very bad, the slide and swings and the ground is not safe for children to play. Now all the tree leaves have fallen they need to be cleaned up. And all the gutters are all blocked with leaves, they need to be cleaned.

Be visible. Don't wait till a big issue drives residents to object.

I think my answers (previous) covers this one.

Make sure they understand local issues.

Keep Keighley clean and tidy. If leaves had been removed drains would work and water might drain away. Small things do matter. Uniform name signs on North Street premises.

Encourage better recycling and green methods for households and more importantly businesses.

Get more involved with local issues.

In my local area I would like to see a serious attempt to make the Nab Wood area safe from speeding traffic. Although it is a 20 mph zone this is rarely adhered to. The 'sleeping policemen' are useless - too small and not a deterrent. I have even been overtaken by cars whilst I was observing the speed limit. I am afraid the area is just used as a 'rat run'. People come off the bi-pass who want to go up the hill past Cottingley but it is too busy so they use Nab Wood as short cut. If you want to make some money put a speed camera up Bankfield Drive because there are no signs apart from the ones actually painted on the road itself. This also applies to Avondale Road which is another short cut and also a 'rat run'.

Help the vulnerable eg the homeless to access housing and/or other relevant services, and to make sure relevant services exist even if not necessarily provided by the Council. Ensure good standards in and provision of public services eg education, libraries, social care.

Keeping local amenities like police station (must), tax office, job centre, etc in towns to serve them and local villages.

I think the Councillors in my area do a good job. They need to continue to be the face of the community and be accessible as much as possible being out there in the community they serve.

Housing, environment, planning, employment, street cleaning.

Respond to emails/letters. Some are good, eg Councillor Eaton, others hopeless eg Councillors Ellis & Cooke.

Engage a sense of community. Make people feel part of where they live and feel proud of their community. Set priorities for the community.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

I would like Councillors to tackle speeding issues on Bolton Road and the continual dumping of waste materials near Queens Road/Studley Road and Bolton Road.

Doing a good job.

Keep the district clean and free from drug dealing.

Help campaign to reduce vehicle speeding on minor roads. Speed cameras/humps, etc.

Take more care of the environment/wildlife issues.

Hold to their word and principles and ensure proposals/solutions/actions are actioned.

Ensure the safety of residents, protection and improving the environment.

Have more of a say on local planning decisions and then be able to publicise more the outcome of decisions in their area.

Keep unadopted areas clean and tidy, more dog patrols for owners that leave mess behind.

All Councillors should work for the districts they have under their wings regardless of political parties. Each district should only have one Councillor. Each Council area should be under control of government not a political party. Many issues in wards are sorted without Councillors intervention. In many years in this area I have never seen any Councillor in person, not even near elections.

Help those who can not help themselves. But not to "mollycoddle" folks. Help them to stand on their own two feet.

It would be helpful if Councillors could make themselves more visible within the district perhaps by leaving their contact details in local shops and businesses.

Improve roads and ensure decisions that are made are accessible and made using opinions of locals.

They should provide an annual report for the community to state exactly what they have achieved over the year. Currently they have no apparent accountability. Can get away with doing very little.

My concerns are as we live in a tourist area the access for disabled people isnt good to the park. I have complained many times about the entrance on Bridge House Lane - stones had fallen on to footpath.

If you want better use of Councillors, you need to communicate better and in laymen's terms about Council structure, where local Councillors fit in, who they are, what matters they address and how to get in touch with them. I have a number of concerns - lack of grit bins on a dangerous side road, failure to provide a green recycling bin despite 2 emails to Bradford Council and the lack of waste bins on Stanbury Moor, Penistone Hill - fly tipping there latterly. I have no idea who or how to contact so before this you need to communicate so that people feel comfortable they are approaching someone who may be able to assist their concerns. Also, please note there is a dangerous failure of a weight bearing wall in the derelict barn/house at "Top Withens" - danger to public.

Just be more in tune with what people want for their community.

Challenge governments who neglect our district in favour of others in the south east.

Support brownfield development above greenfield. Focus on city/town centres to improve the heart of a community. Support marginalised sectors who have less of a voice/ability to represent themselves. Support local community initiatives/recognise individuals building community.

More support for the younger generation. I used to attend neighbourhood forums but I can't seem to find out if they still happen. If not I think they should be resumed. If they do still happen they need to be better advertised.

More hands on involvement in getting things done and interacting with Bradford and also be put on a more national level.

To be seen locally in the street shops etc where people could stop and ask questions about local matters

Work with young people - give them youth clubs and sporting activities - get people to take a pride in their areas - ie keep Britain tidy - this might rub off on parents.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

I dont think the councillors do enough for certain communities and ignore our concerns and when theres planning going on most residents dont see the planning letter and no letters come through residents door

Make themselves more visible , communicate to the local area , tell us whats happening and how we can support local & district issues

Who is the body that attracts businesses to Bradford ? In the 1960s Bradford was in the top 5 of shopping centres . All those empty buildings in the town centre can be occupied which will bring people into the centre and flourish the town . Buses and trains could start before 06 30 and run till midnight would improve services.

Make sure enough police on the streets.

I think anti social behaviour should be a priority across the whole district.

Manage spending effectively by focussing on meaningful issues for the community and cutting waste from local spending budgets - remove bureaucratic waste.

Be seen walking around more and visit the streets, villages. Take a real look at what's going on.

Keep streets tidy and clean and free from leaves and rubbish . un block gutters . these issues remain unattended to . I also complained about street lights which were out for around 4 months , this issue was resolved after someone was injured as a result of there being no street lights.

Meet with police on a regular basis to tackle anti social behaviour and drug dealing

Sort out fly tipping . Its getting a considerable problem int he countryside locally

Access streets, find out what is happening in the neighbourhood, who's breaking walls communing from one street, ignoring us folks.

I know little about what Councillors do. I do know litter, blocked road drains need attention in the BD3 area. Needs attention from Councillors on DRUGS in the area.

Sort out a trigger for snow clearing in Mountain so that people can report the problem that is local to Moutain 1200 above sea level . Bradford centre is normally clear of snow but Queensbury mountain stuffed with snow clearing paths is a joke

I think there is a lack of understanding in terms of what councillors do. Reconfirmation of this would help understand

Local councillors that actually live in the area and not out side of the area or city

To help people and run partys for people and give money to the people

Open more activities centres for young children and youth, keeping them off the streets. Drug awareness courses across the district. Home improvement grants for low income families.

Meet people, have regular meetings with local people, go around have a look if roads, streets are clean, talk to elderly ask them what they think area requires.

To be honest I have no idea who my local Councillor is. I don't receive newsletters and have no idea about what is being done in my area, so having 3 Councillors is perhaps too many. Maybe less Councillors may work harder with local people.

Creation of jobs - to reduce unemployment. Boost funding to businesses - there use to be local Council grants to set up new businesses. Social care and the cost to fund it should be publicised to the whole community. Most people are unaware that the capital in their homes will be used to fund any care.

The gatehouse at Peel Park entrance on Bolton Road has been empty for two years. What a waste. Surely it could be offered to people on the housing list or even as a "private" rent.

Work with the area youths ie clubs, play groups etc.

When I moved here 10 years ago it was a clean and tidy area. Just lately is has become a less nice place to live in. The grass needs cutting regular/properly during summer months. So they need to improve on area matters. Holmewood had a revamp, its now time Swain House had one too.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Councillors should definitely keep in touch with local residents and ask for any issues they can help but they never do. Councillors only come out to people's homes at local elections when they want to be voted and backed up by us and they want our full support and courage. After they get elected they just hide and never to be seen until the next elections.

They should look around for all major issues that public is talking like education and the health

They don't do anything.

All three Clayton Councillors appear to take an active part not only in Clayton but also in Fairweather Green. Although not of their political persuasion I am very happy with their work.

We have been well served by the Councillors we have had in this area. It is good to know they are there and available to discuss any problems or worries with.

I do not believe we need so many wards. I think money could be saved by having all out elections every four years rather than in thirds.

Take an interest in maintained schools. Be innovative within education.

Very difficult because decisions are always made at the top of the chain - no effect on the administration - sadly no effect just the ILLUSION of democracy. Watch Yes Minister - it says it all!!

To help in support of local services which are being lost due to cuts ie offices and buildings in some wards which have been closed causing older people and less advantaged to have to travel out of their area for advice and assistance.

Anti social behaviour. Illegal bikes.

Need to get involvement from local people on issues that affect this area prior to their implementation.

Knock at doors during their term of office instead of just election time.

Audit Council spending to make sure they do not spend up to budget (wasteful) and spend down to cost (like many businesses).

Increase and improve street cleaning!

More clean up areas.

They should communicate with people to ask what people need and want in their area, also if they need help with anything like burglary and nuisance or peadophile in the area.

Facilities for young and old people ie support a holistic approach.

Give their ward a voice. Bradford is a very diverse area. Campaign for equality for all wards. Keep historic buildings for future generations.

Liaise much more closely with Parish Councils and report regularly to Parish Council meetings on any proposals which MAY affect the local area.

Car parking is becoming VERY congested - more legitimate spaces needed.

Take a keen interest in the education and travel sectors in order to improve these services. Raise awareness of their role as a Councillor and that their position exists and is there to help and inform the public. Raise awareness and keep younger generations involved with the community.

Make meetings and issues appealing and encourage young people to take part and go along to meetings and ensure it is relevant to them.

Look at the diversity of business in an area and the general image the area needs to present.

Share views, expertise and knowledge across the whole district in order to ensure that social care and support is delivered to those who most need it, particularly in the light of current budget restrictions.

Put pressure where needed to stop building in green belt areas. The excessive building programme is ruining the area. Use more inner city brown belt sites.

Parkings issues, speeding issues, street cleaning issues.

Free tuition (Maths, English) (GCSE levels) centres in BD3 Crime prevention, burglaries in BD3 So, working with Education Authorities to get this done and police, youth workers, etc.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

1. Regular clean up of back alleyways - flytipping problems. 2. Speeding by youths - reckless driving. Too many accidents BD3. 3. Nuisance parking - double parking in streets. 4. Better street lighting - need neon lights as current street lights are too dull and dark. It will reduce crime. 5. Regular police or community support patrol at night.

They should speak loudly about keeping or improving public services and to understand the effects of cuts in finance. They need to work with Parish Councils to set out annual targets about improvements that will be made, perhaps through volunteers and some funding.

Talk regularly to local people about issues in their area. Help people to change their behaviour and help people access funding for specific projects.

Ensure Council policy - ie letter issued by Council a couple of years ago - is upheld re parking on grass verges. Fines should be imposed. On the spot fines for those dropping litter should also be enforced.

They should meet people and find out what people need in their area what sort of problems they have in their area. Most of the people after voting and when they become Councillors we never see their face. You ask for 3 Councillors, never seen one's face.

They should put pressure on the Council and other agencies to ensure the conditions their community members are improved and enhanced. For instance, elimination of anti social behaviour, improvement to core public services such as street cleaning, improved public transport, more police presence on the streets.

Take into consideration that a lot of local people find the meadow (so called) in Northcliffe where many people enjoyed recreation previously an intrusion in their enjoyment which has forced many people to play football, cricket, etc on the bowling greens.

Fund raising Raising awareness safety Possible problems/crimes in the area

To ensure that Worth Valley villages gets a fair share of Council funding.

Use social media, not leaflets or letters. I get so much junk mail and unfortunately it ends up in the same pile. Social media/internet is quick and easy to read/use.

Traffic

Go out and meet/thank the people who voted for them and get their views about how they should best serve the area and those who voted and put them in this position.

Just to understand some things might seem nothing to the Councillor but to that person it could be causing a lot of stress and worry.

As I am 90 I am afraid I feel somewhat detached from these matters.

Forewarn motorists more about any major upcoming roadworks. Clean up litter around the city centre. Take a more specific survey with regard to how people feel about crime, safety, public transport, pedestrians, motorists, religion, shopping habits, current affairs, etc, etc. Ask people how they really feel and do something about it.

Had quite a few dealings with our last Councillor, John Ruding, don't know who has taken his place. I do believe it's a lady - was she at the last meeting about the new development in Oakenshaw which concerns us aswell as Kirklees? Just a short note to say thank you to Mr Brian Dobson who has been very helpful with our fight to keep Woodlands Farm Park in a good clean order. When we had a problem gone straight to the Council and very satisfied with a good job done.

Currently Councillors do not spend as much time in community and seem not to be responsive to local ward issues but more inclined to national party political issues. They need to concern themselves with local issues at ward level.

Speak to most of the community - find out what problems are in the area.

Be accountable, particularly in the local area.

Be fully aware of regional and national policies - even international matters (TTIP, refugees, etc) and their possible effects on the Bradford area.

More communication in person ie by maybe random calls on people in their own properties.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

But I didn't see Councillor in my area for a work, mean resolve problems, eg they did not contact any time but we can see them just election period.

Monitor cuts to services to see what effect they will have on the local community. Improve the image of the community - litter, there appears to be a litter problem, perhaps more bins/emptied more. Councillors should also work closely with elected MP's.

What do they do?

Actually stick to the manifesto in their campaign. As opposed to high level of promise.

Report to government about local issues.

You should make tenants clean up their gardens of old cars and vans. They could do more fence off grass in centre of Freshfield Gardens so as when children are playing out it would stop bikes and cars going on the grass, it would be safe for the children.

The more the merrier.

Hospital parking - hard to park cars while appointments in hospital.

Be visible.

Contactable.

Litter Recycling Clear drains

Highway safety Bradford centre area has it's own rules, double yellow parking ok, poor driving standards and speed.

Liaise with all services to help get issues sorted and problems resolved.

Be aware of all the problems in an area and not focus on 1.

Follow through - don't make promises that they can't or don't keep. One Councillor is enough if they do the job. Three of them is not enough if they do nothing!

Enforce parking at Dowley Gap. Prevent Milner Farm development. Put traffic lights at Dowley Gap bridge as this is so dangerous. Change from Bankfield roundabout - Saltaire bus lane into +2 lane to relieve traffic congestion.

Reinstate Neighbourhood Forums in the Daisy Hill area.

They should get funding for the properties that haven't had a facelift, for example the odd numbers on Kensington Street including 283 and they should help young people in getting employment. There should be more centres for that.

Just help people and consider their needs sincerely and passionately.

I think most areas are covered. Although I do feel it would be beneficial for them to physically walk around the area sometimes to appreciate the state of some areas. If the Council needs to make savings it seriously needs to consider significantly reducing it's number. That money could be put back into local services, this could be very positive for the Council.

We are very pleased with the way waste disposal is handled in our area - thank you. We are very concerned about the way the Disability Benefit changes are being handled but we understand this is a government issue so have contacted our MP (we are very worried about our severely disabled daughter). Could a local Councillor have been of help?

Just to listen to the local community and act on local people's issues.

Work with other Councillors.

Focus on ensuring adequate facilities/services to meet changing demographic trends within the local area.

Stop asking us to fill out surveys and asking how you should be working. Just do the job you are paid to do!!

Clear gypsies off site back of east ward also when we ring for collection of large items not to be told to take it to the tip ourself. Why do we pay Council tax so much fly tipping and that's why.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

1. Anti social behaviour 2. Drugs 3. Activity for young 4. Neighbourhood Watch 5. Theft 6. Cleaning litter

Overall Councillors are hard working, they deserve a lot of credit. I wish to thank all of them for their service to everyone. Concentrate on the essentials of the people. 1. Living conditions, health matters, etc, etc. 2. Thank you for everything.

Be accessible to the people who voted them in/who they represent. Be transparent, even if they deliver a negative response to an issue, better than pay lip service.

Recognise the contribution via Council Tax that their area covers and ensure proportionate funds are reinvested in the area of origin.

Make more use of brown field sites rather than green field sites when planning to build new houses. Provide more support for people to buy/let existing vacant properties before building new.

My mother is 87 years old and is unable to give proper answers to your questions. She has recently moved to private sheltered housing as we had no help from Incommunities whatsoever when arranging a move. We were disgusted with the service.

Visibility - more information about what they do and what they are currently doing. Accountability if things don't go to plan. Research find out what people want.

I think they are doing the best they can in the present climate as are all the Councillors.

Clamp down on illegal driving. Speeding, noise levels, parking on footpaths and grass verges - spoiling areas of residents with no apparent action being taken!!

Be very careful where they allow new housing to be built.

I think he should get in touch with the communities and resolve their problems on the priorities basis.

Three Councillors in every ward are not needed or wanted at all. Get rid of them and spend that money in public services instead. This survey should have been carried out 10 years ago and these Councillors should never have been elected - what a waste of money!!!

Be there for all not just a few. Be unbiased of religion, wealth or creed. Be as visible all times not just at election times. Make sure people they represent are aware of any problems and remain resolute of local issues.

Priorities are schools, jobs, roads and transport links. Ensure we are kept up to date and people are able to do well economically and people including visitors can travel easily.

Reduce number of Councillors, do we really need 90 Councillors?

They should make people to be free so that they can have their say. I mean individually. Sorry if I'm not answering well, is because I'm highly depressed at moment.

Clean up, show their faces.

The gutters on our roads and back roads are blocked when a lot of rain falls our cellars get flooded clear, all gutters regularly! All back roads are sinking in cobbles broken should be fixed.

I need the noise on my street at 1am til late sorting out plus parking, drugs getting sold outside my street, drinking alcohol, all day and night cars going up and down with loud music, shop times open til late.

I am satisfied what work they do now. Very helpful.

Make sure their details of contact are visibly displayed for all to access, ie letters, library, local group windows. Re Q12-14 since you know my name and address and have sent this twice not much need to fill it in!!!

I am very happy with my local Councillors, if only all of them work as hard to get things done for the good of the local people.

They should try to maintain community and public services to the whole district.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

It is important that Councillors should be very familiar with the whole of the area which they represent. I do not know how often they actually walk in different areas of their representation but driving through occasionally I would consider to be not enough, especially away from the immediate areas in which they live, ie even simple things like overgrown hedges which force people to walk at the edge of pavements (on main roads) are only noticeable when they affect you personally.

Hopefully you should be able to approach them with any problem you think they can help you with which would be important to you in any aspect.

Campaign for cheaper train fares - especially for students. To get into Leeds is ridiculous!

Liberal have been very good in our ward. They have kept people involved in our area.

Anything in relation to planning especially new estates.

They should consider congestion after giving planning building so many new houses in this area. I believe have passed planning for 500. There is no room on a road such as Harrogate Road for the amount of traffic we already have.

Be accessible to anyone needing help. We are lucky to have good Councillors in this area, I think it is important for them to live in the area they represent.

Not sure what you do in my local community!

They listened to local people and funded a local bus when First pulled out. This is exactly the things local councillors should be doing, responding to community needs the community highlight and resolve in a way local people can not due to limited resources and collective voice.

Cars parked on pavements causing obstructions for people with disabilities and mothers with prams. Also cars parked on double yellow lines and white lines for dropped kerbs. The pavement sweeper cannot sweep because of pavement parking. In this area, crossing the road can take several minutes - on a rainy day getting splashed by the traffic especially the big "smelly" lorries. Road drains not cleaned regularly causing blocked drains and the roadside banking of Whinswood Park is overgrown and needs attention.

Lobby MPs to make sure local money is use don local things, ie Council and Road taxes.

Rubbish left on area and footpaths.

Get them to run the libraries you are planning on shutting.

Make sure roads are gritted and kept clean.

Seek people's opinions before following a path towards changes.

In my local area I would like Councillors to solve the problem of fly-tipping and lighting in alleyways. Across the whole district I would like them to address the problem of rough sleeping around the CBD. Places near the Forster Square and the market are areas most affected.

In Q7 I have ticked "help people out with planning issues" as slightly important. I take this to mean an individual's planning issues. I think it is Extremely Important for our Councillors to represent the ward's view as a whole on issues such as using green belt land for housing. BMDC should not use green belt for housing - it is green belt for a reason.

Possible closure of Wyke Library - important!

Keep local library open and fully staffed.

Establish person contact with people in the ward. I saw my Councillor before election and never seen her again, might seen her before next election.

In winter more path gritting, not certain areas, we are all one, we all pay and contribute to the Council. More speed cameras around.

Parking bays is a problem.

Traffic lights at junction of Elliot Street and Kirkgate.

Greater integration, increasing attention to the problem of neighbourhood, support of other districts in crisis situation - leading morals, better information, eg I wanted to help the flood victims but I don't know where and how. I was thinking about volunteering.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Keep traffic moving faster in Great Horton Road. Road repairs done at night when the roads are less busy.

They should help and benefit the people from all different communities. Help making resources for new jobs.

Ensure local issues get considered rather than just Bradford items. Argue for Bradford city to be merged with Leeds city to concentrate on city issues and a new rural Council set up for Keighley/Ilkley etc.

The Council needs to provide regular street cleaners, street is filthy with litter, neighbours throw food, rice, lentils on road. It smells and unhygienic makes flies all over.

Clear up/make better the areas we have rather than spend the budget on new facilities and just leave the old ones to become derelict.

Be accountable for spending, ie expenses claimed, etc.

Residents should be forced to restrict overflowing trees and bushes from gardens, making it very difficult for pedestrians to walk on the pavement often having to walk on main traffic road. Also try to clean up very dirty and clustered areas ie bus stop opposite Bingley Rail Station.

Help us when needed. Easy to access. Keep our street clean and tidy. Anti-social behaviour.

Ensure laws maintain. Keep village clean tidy.

Provide local schools for local children instead of bussing children from outside the local community and having cars parked on roadsides from parents dropping off and picking up children that live too far away to walk to school.

More police walking about.

Look at safety in the area including the parks and also drugs. Make it a lot safer during the day especially at night.

A free service for help with accounts, debt, etc and rights.

Gutters always blocked. Streets covered litter. Parking problems.

Councillors should make more of point of attending public meetings of already established groups rather than holding separate forum meetings.

They should strongly lobby the Council to ensure that their local ward is properly resourced. Queensbury is seeing huge increases in new housing. The road network is already over-stretched - no new schools, doctors or other necessary infrastructure.

Be more visible, outside of local elections we rarely hear or see them unless they think it is good PR to be seen on TV/in paper when there are problems.

I can't say I don't know they work or what work to be done.

Litter, parks, library.

Re-open toilets in Shipley Market Square. If there were less Councillors the money saved would fund this.

Look into recycling. In America people get paid to recycle their papers, letters, etc. Also their plastics and bottle bins. In this country more people would recycle.

Sort out cars or vans parking on pathways on the estate.

Just keep in touch and make sure worries and issues are sorted out.

Help the homeless.

Matters that may arise and all other important issues. Can't think of anything else at the moment.

Local employees of the citizens should carry out their duties with care and diligence. The outstanding library in Menston I have recommended not only to people in the United Kingdom but also to those in other parts of the world. Congratulations. It is exemplary. If only Bradford could emulate Menston, it might regain it's world renown! Menston needs it's own Council; it runs everything very well indeed.

Upkeep of roads Gritting of roads

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Not to take sides.

Plan more schools. Tighter traffic regs.

Provide means for reusing aswell as recycling. Bingley needs better signage to places like 5-Rise Locks and Prince of Wales Park to name but 2 attractions that need them. Oppose development of Milner Fields or any green belt land until all appropriate Brownfield sites are used. Have a "shop" at local rubbish tips where appropriate articles taken to the tip can be sold by charities instead of putting into landfill!

Help the flood area. Also not to build on flood sites in future.

Schooling with locals!

There needs to be less meetings, more involvement, less trips and dinners on expenses. That would save money.

Local power & a better distribution of funds to outer city towns & villages

More publicity via email/websites directly.

Publicise more in social media Twitter etc so the local people know who they are. Put a name to a face.

They should be more visible, and campaign more, during elections. I have never had a local Councillor knock on my door, and I believe this is one reason why turnout at local elections is so low.

The important matters appear to be covered.

Just look around Bradford!

Campaign to reduce immigration both legal and illegal.

Keeping people informed about plans, the District Council plans for the whole of Bradford.

Clean all areas including streets, roads, alleyways, back streets. In severe weather salt in streets due to snow. Be more approachable.

Try to be apolitical in making decisions regarding the city and district, Bradford has unique problems which need concerted efforts. Q11. Given I said too many, in our ward one Councillor attends Westminster 5 days a week. How can they truly carry out a full function?

To think twice before laying down traffic calming and have speed cameras which would bring in revenue.

Larger print would be appreciated

In the case of the Councillor for this ward he should show his face and interest in our particular locality now and again.

Speak to the local people in the local area, to identify issues that are affecting them and ensure that these issues are rectified.

Make Bradford Council aware of any major issues within the Keighley areas and fight for our corner.

Try to cut down on the number of food outlets that are killing Eccleshill village.

Sort out litter and rubbish in all side streets and roads. Southfield Lane is a disgrace sometimes, as other areas.

Disruptive behaviour especially youth. Drug trafficking. Dangerous driving. Tackling crime/burglaries/more policing.

I would like the Councillors in this area to be far more visible - I haven't seen them since the elections.

They should help local people with local issues that concerns them.

Work together to achieve a closer community.

Councillors should challenge ALL decisions that affect the district in an adverse manner, ie the library situation which I'm sure would be down to money. The "older end" of our community would have no wish to travel to Bradford to use the library!

Answering emails may be a start.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Hold more meetings with the community.

Why does Silsden get treated badly? You've closed the public toilets in town and the park, the paper recycling has been taken away, the library has been moved to a pokey little room and the DVDs removed, no doubt taken to Bradford.

I believe more local community police should be visible on the streets and engage more in community cohesion.

Find out the views of the whole of the local community not just that of a particular political party.

Put more cameras in streets to protect people.

They should hold regular local meetings to ask people's issues.

Hold open forums/district open days at least once every 3 months and inform the Bradfordians of any future plans and past projects update and provide light refreshments and local level get together parties.

Improve public roads and safety on roads.

Work with young and elderly people who are struggling to find jobs.

They need to help the communities resolve the issues they have.

Work closely with locals. See the impact decisions have on communities. Take action actively to improve community. Identify issues and work accordingly. Proudly represent the wards.

Hold occasional local meetings across their ward.

Reply to emails and enforce local speed limits.

Extend the 626 bus (3 per hour) to Higher Coach Road (1 per hour).

The building of new homes but no schools to accommodate future children in these areas. Councillors should be able to speak about this in government debates in order to represent local areas concerned.

Check and find out why Daisy Hill area is one large car park for BRI when car parks are only half full? Trying to get in and out of junctions is so dangerous due to parked cars. Time to resolve the status of Sunny Brow Lane.

Address people's safety eg evening transport, lighting, empty properties. More focus on individual actual needs; creative activities in all areas, safe transport (people without cars). If people are not responsible re rubbish, leaves, etc ensure that someone in the Council deals with this, as a danger to elderly/disabled. Also overflowing drains.

Some Councillors put their own interests before their constituents.

Help people with their concerns in their district and most important of all - listen.

As a District they should work towards a better future for our young people by prioritising young people at every stage.

Where do I start love. I live in Holmewood estate BD4. Things are bad in Holmewood love, OK I live on outskirts but now its even getting bad here. Just go door to door and ask questions, it just might open your eyes as to just what does go off here love.

I think it's important for Councillors in the local area to support organisations within the community, these organisations being sports teams, eg West Bowling ARLFC, Scouts and many other groups set up to help children develop skills and enjoy certain activities with the community spirit. It also prevents children wandering streets through boredom.

Making sure that people feel safe when in the city centre by having police and wardens on patrols, eg mothers with young children and the elderly in City Park being bothered by drunks and beggars walking to them asking for money and swearing.

More parking for locals in their own villages. Put forward for more schools - all over subscribed.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Be seen taking interest in Menston where I live. I have great concern re the Kirklands library that I use regularly. Also concern re the bad parking in Ling Court (LS29 6QJ) by parents taking children to school. They even use our designated parking spaces. Emergency vehicles would find it difficult to get through.

Prune trees and keep road lights lit! Can only speak for Oxenhope.

All of the above but also maybe go into the town and talk to people.

Take notice of local people's issues and act on them and not just do what they think is best.

The lack of parking in Haworth for residents especially up Victoria Road. I don't think it's fair that somebody that lives in Haworth has to pay in a car park while other people who do not live there park outside your house for free. There should be residents only parking.

Councillors should hold responsible people who spend huge amounts of money often unwisely.

Work with other public servants to help tackle poor driving standards across district of Bradford. I travel UK wide and it saddens me to report that I feel we (Bradford) have some of the worst driving in Yorkshire.

Walk around. Take notice of litter/rubbish on main roads into city - Manchester Road and bus lane; M606 exit/Mayo Avenue. Keep town centre clean and tidy and swept. Help homeless and community care people with somewhere to go/stay.

Bin collecting should be left is it, why do recycling when you don't collect. It is very poor service.

Recover more Car Road Tax money from central government to help repair the roads.

Be heard, be visible.

Help find affordable housing for young people in the village that they have always lived.

I think the Councillors need to have more of a presence in the local community - I don't know who mine are or what they do for my local area. They need to respond to what the local people want and need, not what they think is best for the area based on what the central government decide.

Look at hospital provision for emergency and in-patient facilities (Wharfedale has no facilities, Airedale at least five in Bradford district alone, not counting Leeds). Building more houses in Wharfedale without more school and hospital facilities is totally ridiculous - look at the way Bradford has taken over locally given land, buildings, etc and sold them off.

Keep in touch with the medic.

Be aware of and involved in local issues.

I think they should be more visible and more accessible. If they do surgeries they should be in the village not a couple of miles away.

Walk/cycle the area and talk to people.

Stop people putting up fences when feeling like it, also people shouldn't have to pay for bins when they are stolen or damaged by other people. Bins should be included in Council Tax.

Surveys may not represent majority - not everyone fills in a survey but may hold strong opinions.

I would like to see Councillors do more for immigrants/migrants arriving into UK. They need to help them to know about the British way of life and provide or direct them to courses to enable them to integrate into our British culture and way of living.

Get your priorities right.

There is not enough done to represent the people of Clayton.

Make the most of tax payers money - not squandering it on unnecessary, minority, lacking in common sense, ideas. Be fine, upstanding, honest, hard working members of society, doing their best for their constituents and working with integrity to achieve this. Restoring the balance and not discriminating against local white British people!! Acting with common sense for the benefit of local people.

It is important that the Councillors should live nearby so that they can see what's happening to village that we live in.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

Key issues are policing, acces to health and social care services and in particular all matters relating to young people including employment and housing.

Go round the ward and see the state of houses and the area. People should be shamed into keeping their communities tidy and safe.

Get back to basics. Listen and not talk down to people.

Open up a centre so local people can have meetings, about what is going on to help locals get a better understanding. A lot don't understand jargon. Most lose interest and can't be bothered.

Would be nice to see a list of issues that councillors are dealing with, the results of the task and what actions they are taking/took to solve the problem.

Be active in deciding of housing developments are for the good of the community or the good of the developers . strongly promote brownfield sites for houseing and commercial development and protect green field sites Ensure the council is following environmentallyly positive policies and encourse residents to support the same.

I live in BD9 3AB all the restaurants i need you guys to enforce penalties for litter waking up to mahmoods , lahore mess is not nice .

Housing and local transport

Have a presence be accessible

Needs improving in the community behaviour

Hold a forum or Internet brainstorm and deal with issues raised

Responded to local concerns without regard to political agendas either locally or national People need to feel their worries and problems are important ie reducing crime and challenging unsocialbe behaviou

Involve local people with local transport decisions , bus services , rail, community transport not just leaving it to operators or WYCA In Burley represent village in Leeds Bradford airport re noise and traffic issues

Be a leading example for the community both in what the represent and how they conduct themselves.

I'm not sure what to say here on this one. cut backs on our police across the country not just our local area. Police stations being closed too. That is a strong matter for most people I'm sure. We always read the Focus news letter but never go to any meetings as we feel councils just do what they want to do anyway.

Should take time out and show a little effort to ask the community about local councillors should take more time out to make contact with the local community . To make a change not to impress when its election time.

Liase with local community police /pcos

Listen to the older end

Make sure senior citizens and partially disabled persons are able to get about during the icy winter months ie people that live in cul de sacs that are cut off from doing daily things

Tackle Anti social behaviour Drinking alcohol in public areas streets etc Keep people safe

Councillors are faces of a community who must be professional and approachable by anyone regardless of race or background.. They shouldn't just be turning up to projects to have their faces in a photo, they should be helping and encouraging others to get involved.

Let it be known they will listen to us , or assign someone to help the persons needs

Make themselves more known and accessable

Visit me more regular never visited me once and help local community back streets need cleaningand no councillor cares

I think its important to clamp down. Keep the area clean. there is too muych litter and dog fowling. Not enough bins for dog poo. Not enough litter pickers. People out of work could be keeping the area clean also in bad weather keeping pavements clear.

Q11 - All 'other' Comments:

I think they should get more involved with the peoples needs . by holding meeting for the people to voice their views on things

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Appendix 3

Elected Member Survey Review of the role of Councillors

The council decided that a review of the role of Councillors should be undertaken with the results to be used to determine whether the Local Government Boundary Commission for England should be invited to undertake a full review of the District's democratic arrangements.

As part of that work we are asking you to take a few minutes to complete this survey which asks about the jobs you do, the time you spend on council business, how your ward work in particular might change and whether the Council is providing you with the support that you need.

Your privacy will be respected and all your responses will be treated confidentially and combined with those of the other people who reply.

Q1 How long have you been a Councillor?

- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1-2 years
- ☐ 3-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ More than 10 years

Q2 Which of the following internal positions within the Council do you hold?
(Tick all that apply)

- ☐ Executive Member
- ☐ Executive Assistant
- ☐ Opposition Leader / Deputy Leader / Opposition Shadow Executive Member
- ☐ Scrutiny Chair or Deputy Chair
- ☐ Area Committee Chair or Deputy Chair
- ☐ Other Committee Chair or other Deputy Chair
- ☐ I don't hold any of the above positions

Q3 Do you hold any internal positions not listed above?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Other internal positions held:

--

Q4 Do you represent the Council on any external bodies?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q5 In a typical week how many hours do you spend on Council activities and Duties? *(please include all activity, ward business, internal Council business and external business)*

- ☐ Up to 5 hours
- ☐ 6-10 hours
- ☐ 11-15 hours
- ☐ 16-20 hours
- ☐ Over 20 hours

Q6 During a typical week how much time do you spend on the following Council activities and duties? Please express this as a percentage of your total time (example below)

Example (no % sign necessary - digits only):

Constituency business	50
Internal Council business	25
External business	25
Total	100

Constituency business

--

Internal Council business (overseeing management of the Council)

--

External business (representing the Council on external bodies and partnerships)

--

Total % *(answers must add up to 100%)*

--

Q7 During a typical calendar month how much time do you spend on the following Ward business? Please express this as a percentage of your total time?

Dealing with individual constituents' case work

Meetings / telephone contact with constituents

Dealing with local groups and organisations

Attending public meetings

Travelling to and from meetings

Other business

Total % (answers must total 100%)

Q8 Over the next two years do you expect your ward work to involve you doing less or more or about the same of the following activities?

	Less	Stay about the same as it is now	More
Dealing with individual constituents' case work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helping people to bid for funding for specific projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work with groups of local people to help find solutions to local issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Getting people involved in volunteering in the local community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Challenging people in their local communities to change their behaviour	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dealing with planning issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consulting local people before decisions are made that affect the area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify which activities and if you expect to do less, about the same or more for each additional activity:

Q9 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

	Disagree Strongly	Disagree	Agree	Agree Strongly
I expect my overall Council workload to increase over the next two years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q10 Over the next two years do you expect the following skills to become less or more important to the work of ward Councillors?

	Less important	Neither less nor more important	More important
Negotiating / persuading	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social media eg Facebook, Twitter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Influencing decision makers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developing local partnerships	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chairing meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please give details of any skills not listed and if you expect them to become less or more important:

Q11 How do you envisage the role of ward councillors changing over the next two years?

Q12 Over the next two years do you think that you will need more or less support from the Council to perform your role as a ward Councillor effectively?

- ☐ I will need less Council support
- ☐ I will need about the same level of Council support
- ☐ I will need more Council support
- ☐ Unsure

Q13 Please briefly explain your reasons for your answer to the previous question:

Thank you for completing this survey.

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Appendix 4 - Role of Councillors Review 2015-16

Summary Report – Elected Members Survey

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1. Introduction

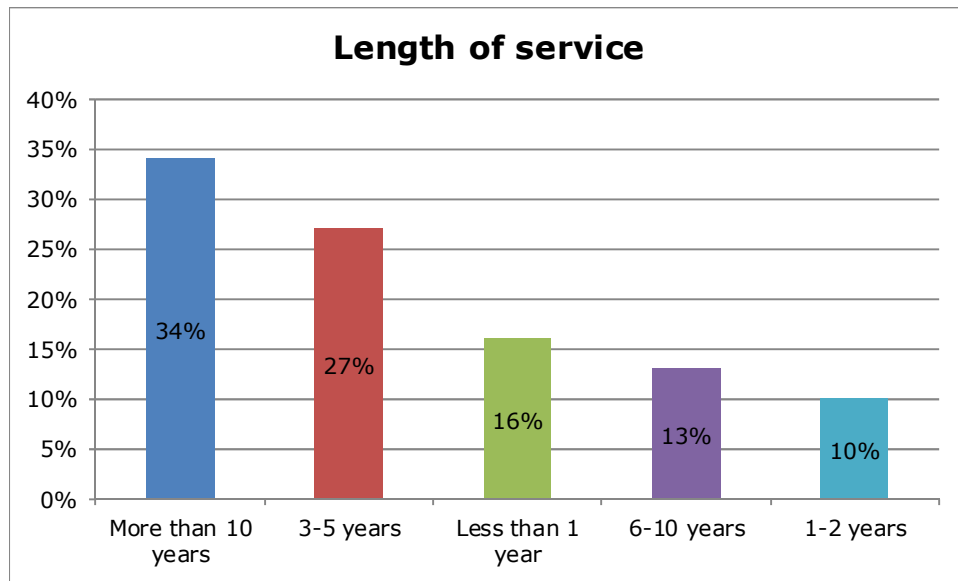
The survey was sent to all 90 Bradford District Councillors and 65 responses were received. 5 of which were partial responses.

At the time the survey was carried out Bradford District Councillors represented the following political parties:

Labour	46
Conservative	23
Liberal Democrat	9
Bradford Independent Group	4
Green	3
The Independents	2
The Queensbury Ward Independent	1
Independent	1
UKIP	1

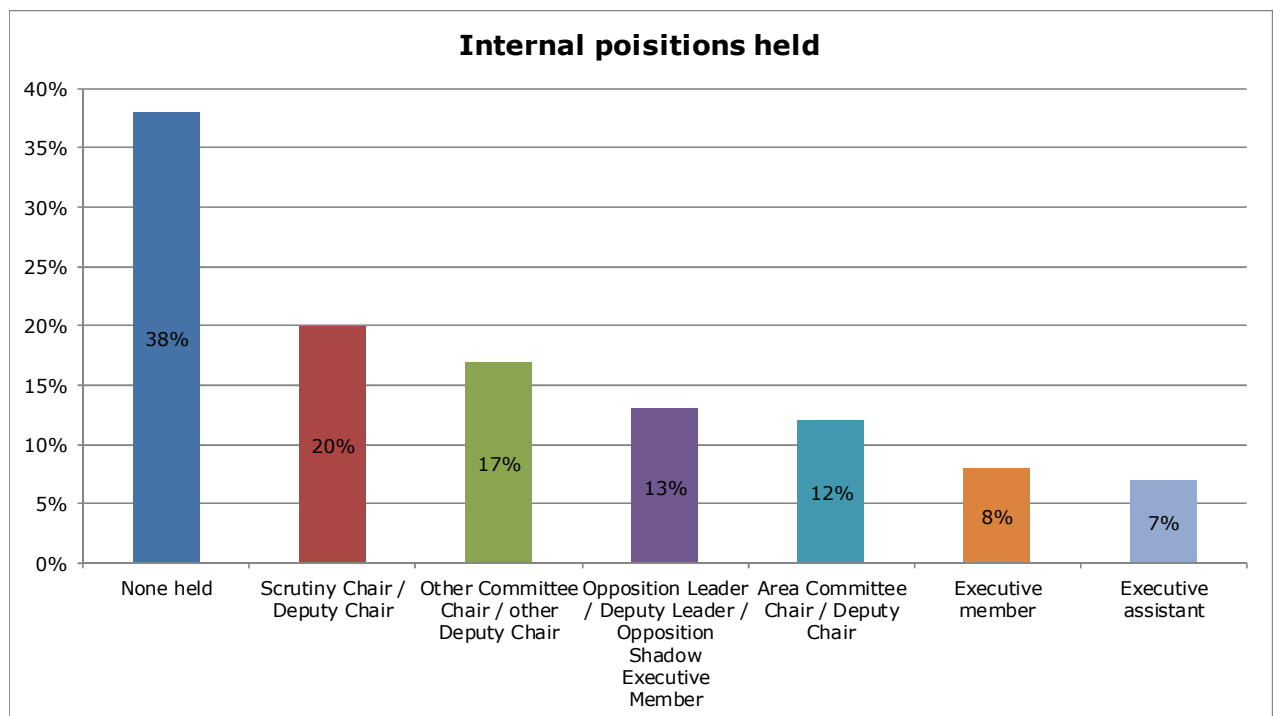
2. Q1 - Length of Service

62 responses were received



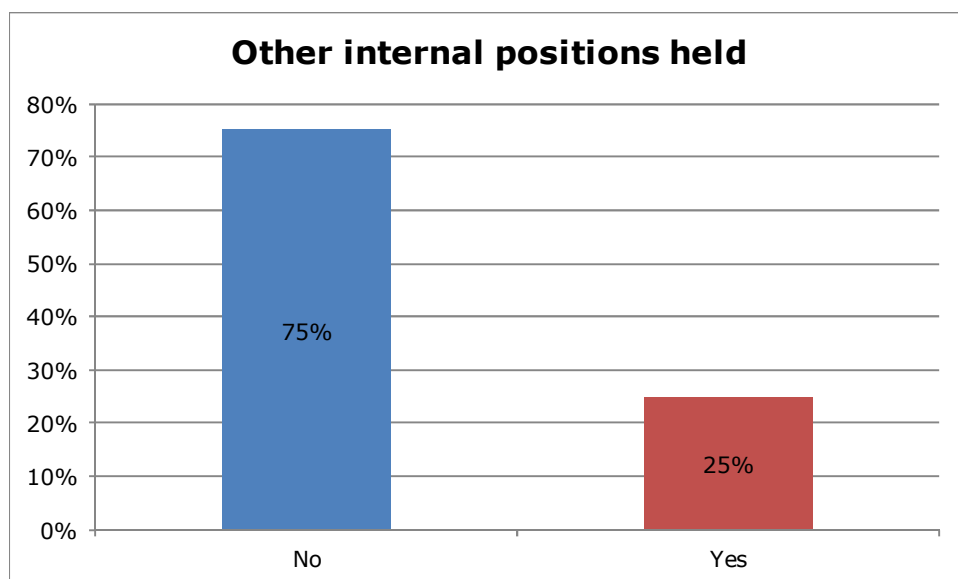
3. Q2 Internal positions held

60 responses were received



4. Q3 and Q3a Other internal positions held

51 responses were received



Area Committee Member Planning Panel (Alternate)

Alternate Environment and Waste Alternate Planning (Bradford)

Alternate Member on Planning and Regulatory & Appeals

Alternate Shipley Area Committee

Appeals Panel Corporate Parenting Panel

Area Planning Panel (Keighley and Shipley)

Assistant Whip

Bradford District Play Champion

Bradford West Area Committee Member

Chair of WYCA Bradford District Transport Consultative Sub-Committee

Chief whip

Corporate overview and scrutiny Area committee

Deputy Chair Housing and Non-Domestic Rates Appeals

Employee Appeals Fostering and Adoption

Employee Appeals Panel Member

Environment and Waste Area Committee

Group Chair

Group Whip

Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Panel

Housing and Non-Domestic Rates Appeals Panel

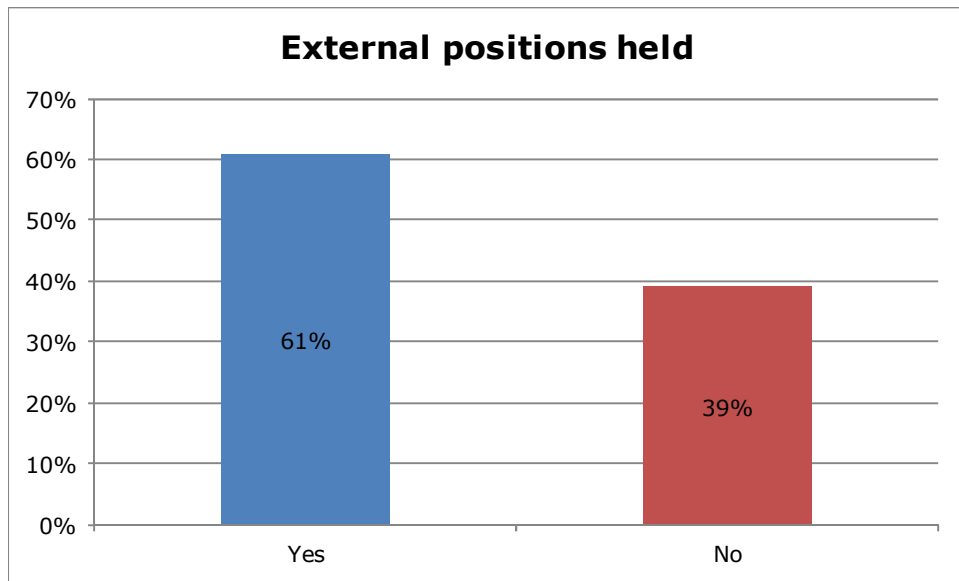
Licensing Committee Social Services

Miscellaneous Licenses Panel Member

Scrutiny member

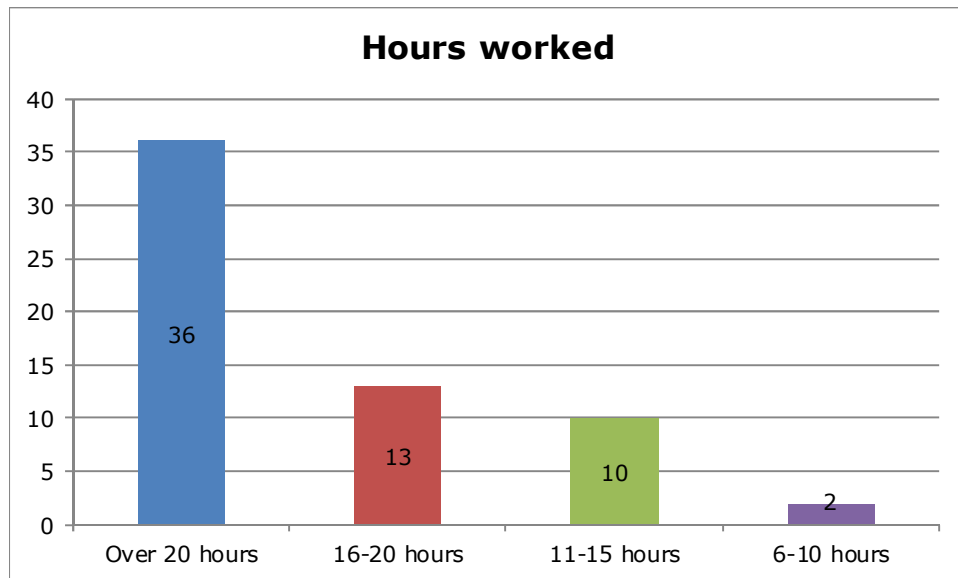
5. Q4 External positions held

61 responses were received



6. Q5 Hours worked

61 responses received



7. Q6 Typical week – breakdown of activities

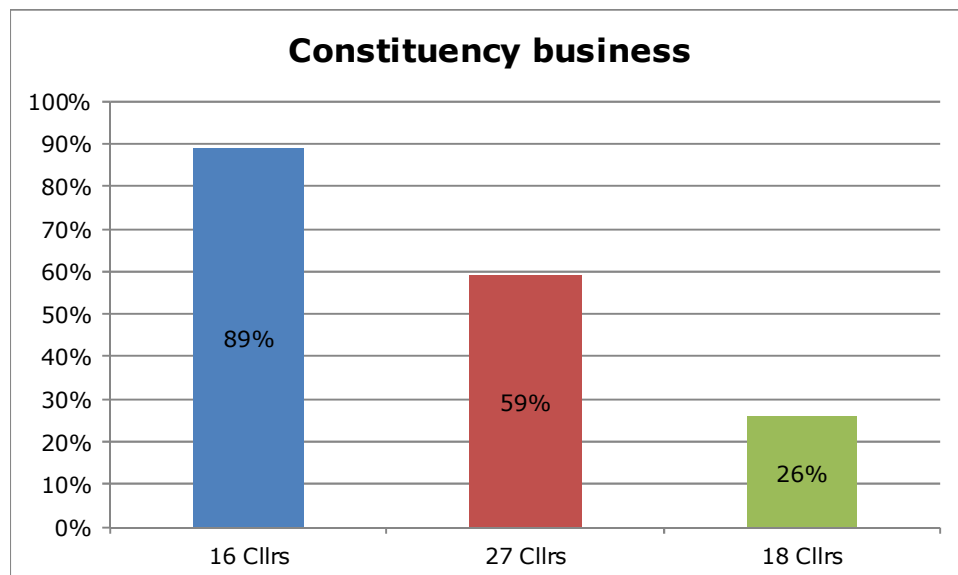
a) Constituency business – breakdown of time spent on this activity

61 Councillors responded

16 Councillors spent an average of 89% of their time on this activity

27 Councillors spent an average of 59% of their time on this activity

18 Councillors spent an average of 25% of their time on this activity



b) Internal Council business

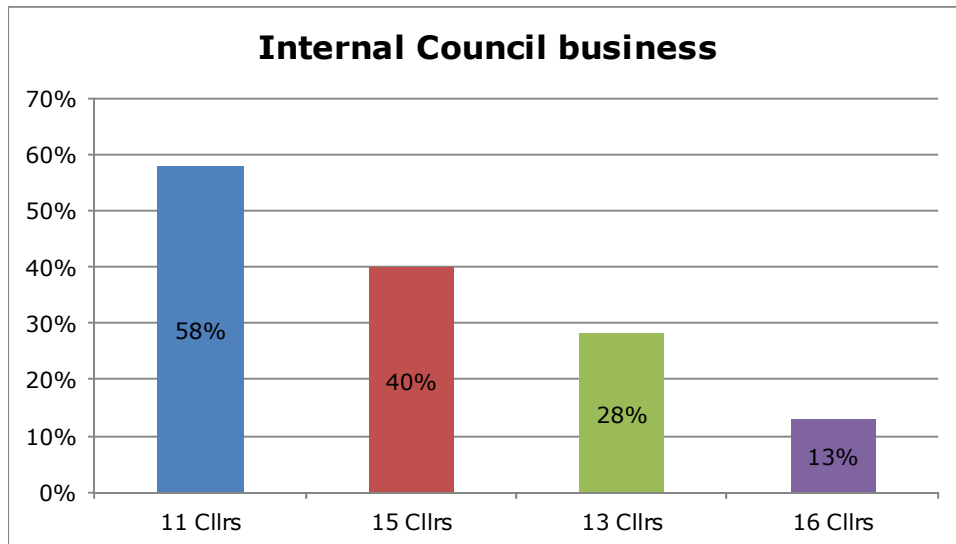
55 Councillors responded

11 Councillors spent an average of 58% of their time on this activity

15 Councillors spent an average of 40% of their time on this activity

13 Councillors spent an average of 28% of their time on this activity

16 Councillors spent an average of 13% of their time on this activity



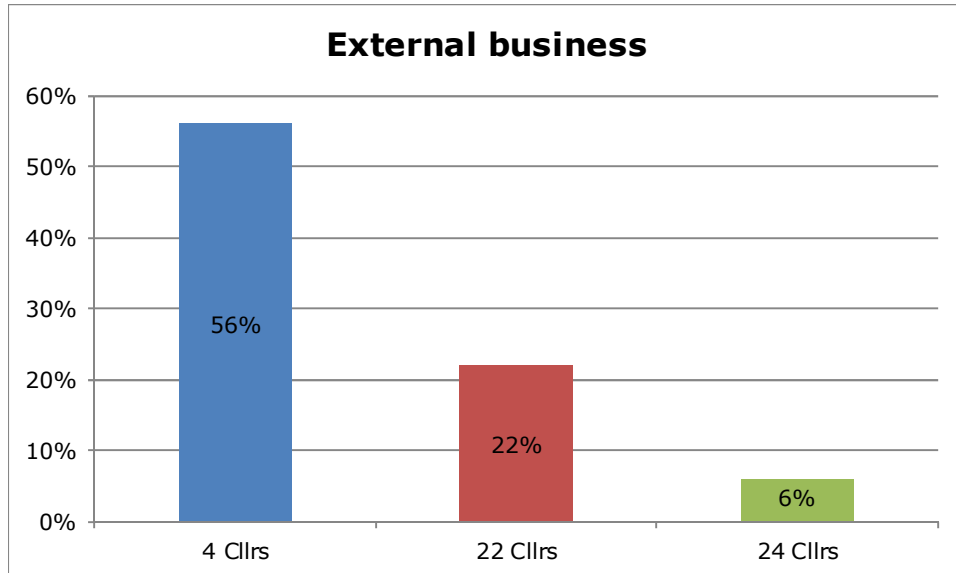
c) External Council business

50 Councillors

4 Councillors spent an average of 56% of their time on this activity

22 Councillors spent an average of 22% of their time on this activity

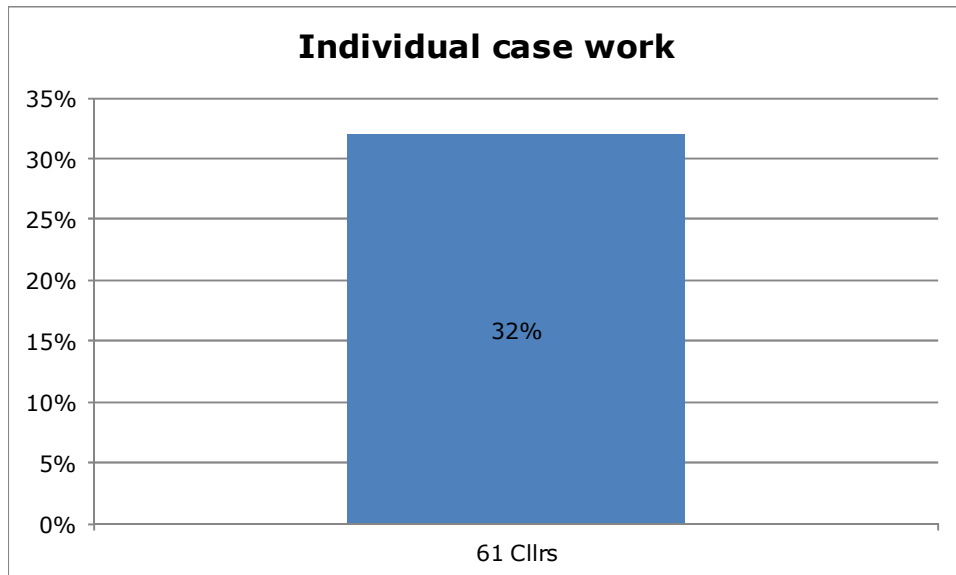
24 Councillors spent an average of 6% of their time on this activity



8. Q7 Typical calendar month – breakdown of activities

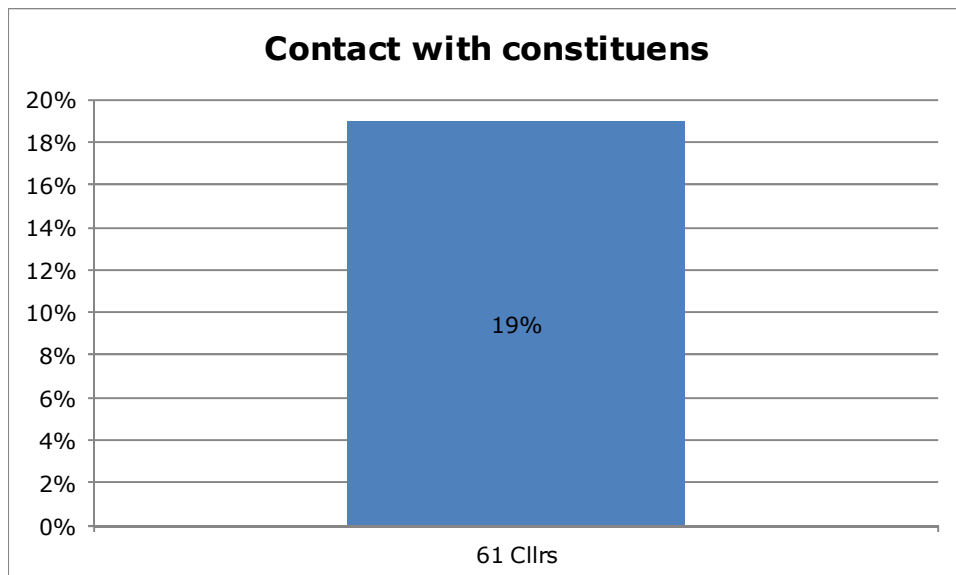
a) Individual case work

61 Councillors responded and they all spent an average of 32% of their time on this activity



b) Meetings / telephone contact with constituents

61 Councillors responded and they all spent an average of 19% of their time on this activity



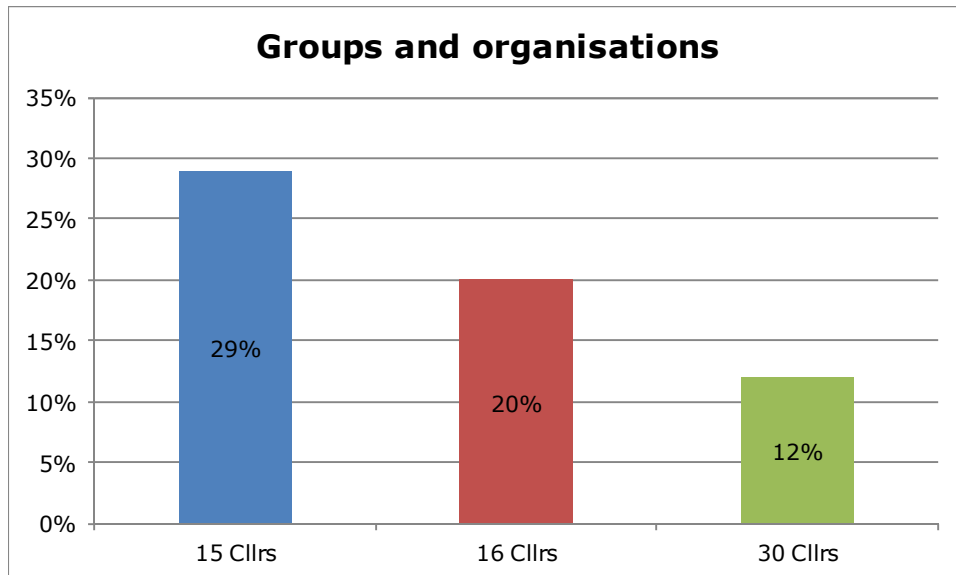
c) Dealing with local groups and organisations

61 Councillors responded

15 Councillors spent an average of 29% of their time on this activity

16 Councillors spent an average of 20% of their time on this activity

30 Councillors spent an average of 12% of their time on this activity



d) Attending public meetings

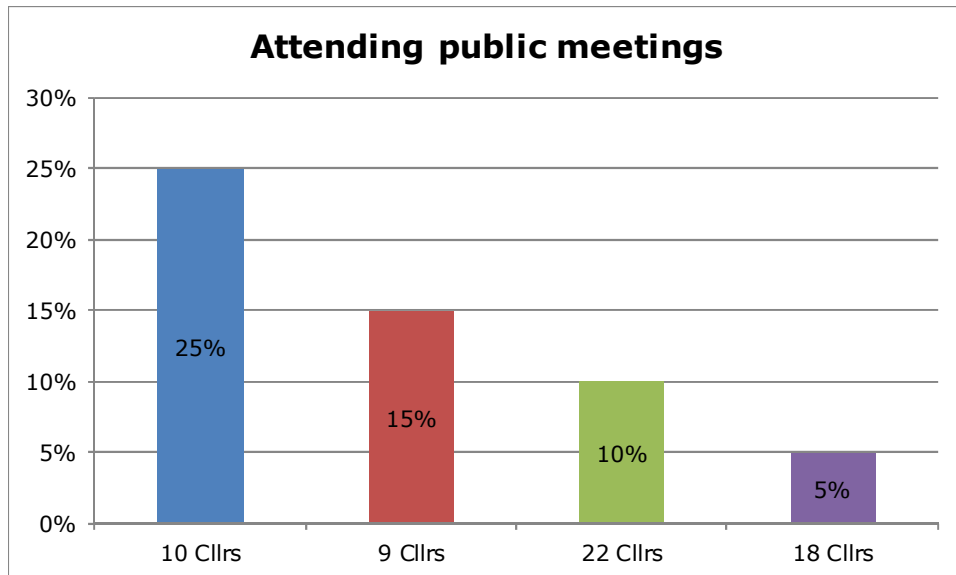
59 Councillors responded

10 Councillors spent an average of 25% of their time on this activity

9 Councillors spent an average of 15% of their time on this activity

22 Councillors spent an average of 10% of their time on this activity

18 Councillors spent an average of 5% of their time on this activity



e) Travelling to and from meetings

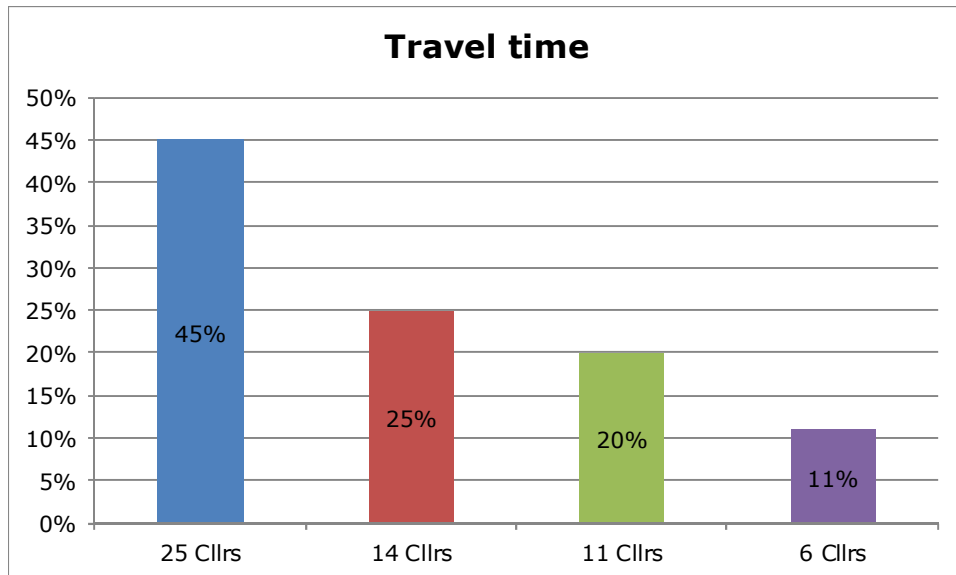
56 Councillors responded

25 Councillors spent an average of 45% of their time on this activity

14 Councillors spent an average of 25% of their time on this activity

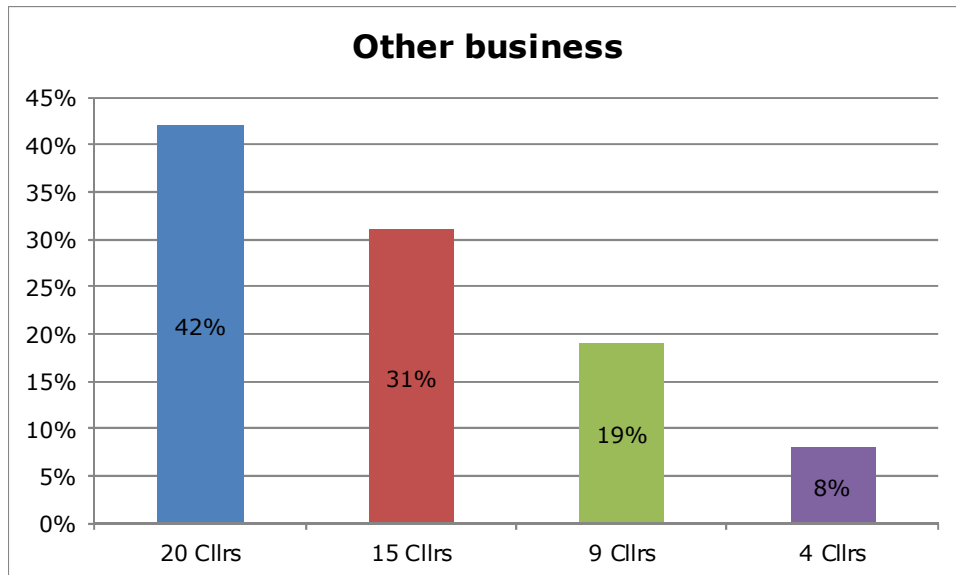
11 Councillors spent an average of 20% of their time on this activity

6 Councillors spent an average of 11% of their time on this activity



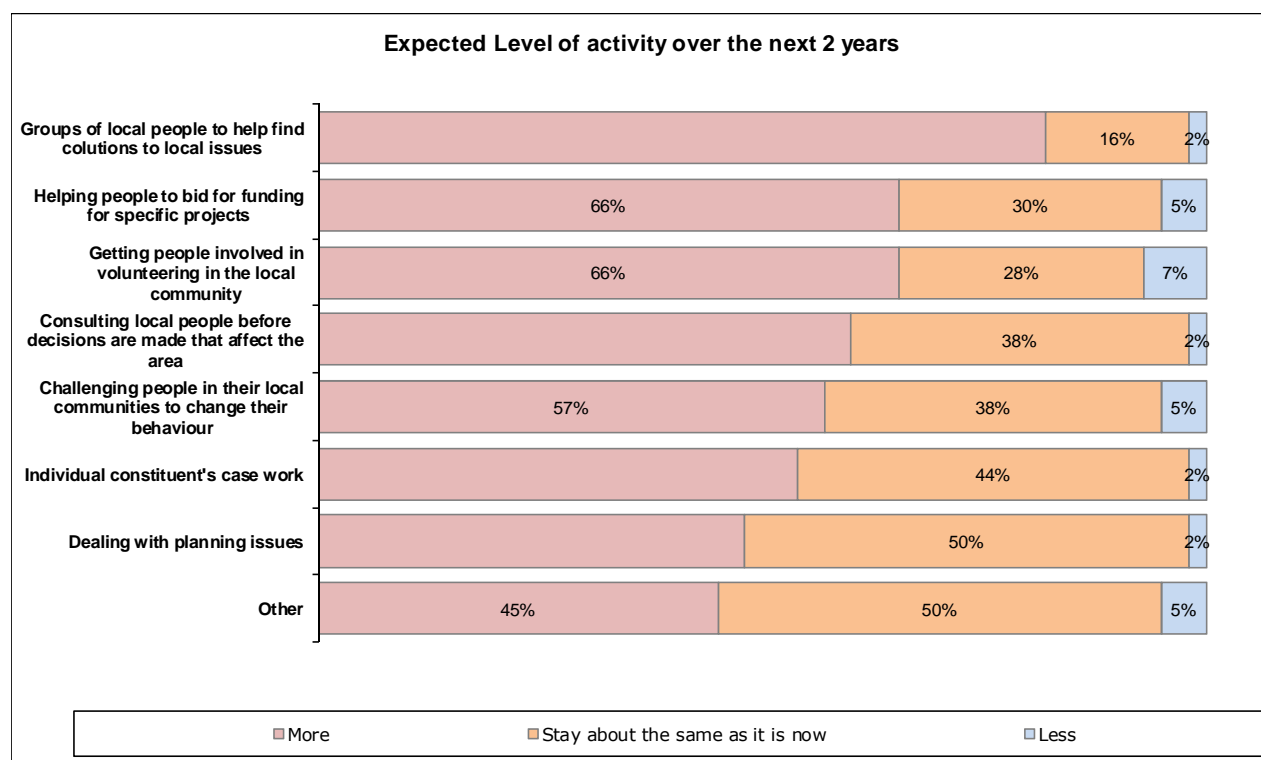
f) Other business
48 Councillors responded

20 Councillors spent an average of 42% of their time on this activity
15 Councillors spent an average of 31% of their time on this activity
9 Councillors spent an average of 19% of their time on this activity
4 Councillors spent an average of 8% of their time on this activity



9. Q8 Ward work

Expected changes in the level of activity over the next 2 years



Q8i

Other activities you expect to do less, about the same or more of:

Really don't see how you can ask the last question. Opposition Councillors are generally the last people to know about what happens in their wards.

The nature of the role means we have to spend more time engineering co production, engaging voluntary commitment and working with local people in the struggle to retain facilities and deal with ground level solutions as the ability to get things done for people is less and less available. This means bid building, mediation, closer ward based inter-agency liaison and the advocacy and voice role grows , this is time consuming and requires a range of skills and as less and less council staff have any real memory of the area we are increasingly needed as advisors

Commuting to meetings and outside bodies.

Due to budget cuts, the councillors will be busier with all aspects of work across the board.

I am a relatively new councillor still and I expect my casework to increase anyway as I become more and more established within the local community but I also expect that work load will increase due to the changes we face and the challenges ahead,

My role as chair of council committee is likely to have greater demands due to reducing resources and changes resulting from devolution.

Work with schools as a school governor

As funding and service provision reduces the role of the Councillor will have to change to supporting groups in providing services in different ways such as community ownership. This means that we will have to help in funding bids and the organisation of formal groups and organisations.

My phone and email just get busier and busier even Christmas day

"Challenging people to change their behaviour" - really none of my business is it.

We have a good ward team and all partners are happy to try to help each other out where reasonably possible so that should stay the same I am very keen to help develop education locally I hope I am able to do more in this area I have done a lot of work across the district with CSA and am hopeful, as groups become more trusting of the Council and Police this will tail off over time

I am the Lord Mayor Designate so for 2016-17 that will take me out of "normal activities". In 2017-18 the only change from 2015-16 will probably be an increase in helping with funding bids.

Shla Idf

Attending meetings of community groups, forums etc. Writing to residents on local issues that affect them etc.

All activities in Ward work will increase as since becoming a Councillor 9 years ago casework has increased year on year and an average week can easily be over 50 hours and more often 60 plus, the numbers of issues have increased ie more Health, benefits, poverty, housing, education just to mention a few as well as planning, policing, environmental etc. I can see that casework and the diversity of issues will not only increase by change in their complexity.

Already answered above

As stated above

note I do not get involved with planning as I am a member of the planning and regulatory appeals committee

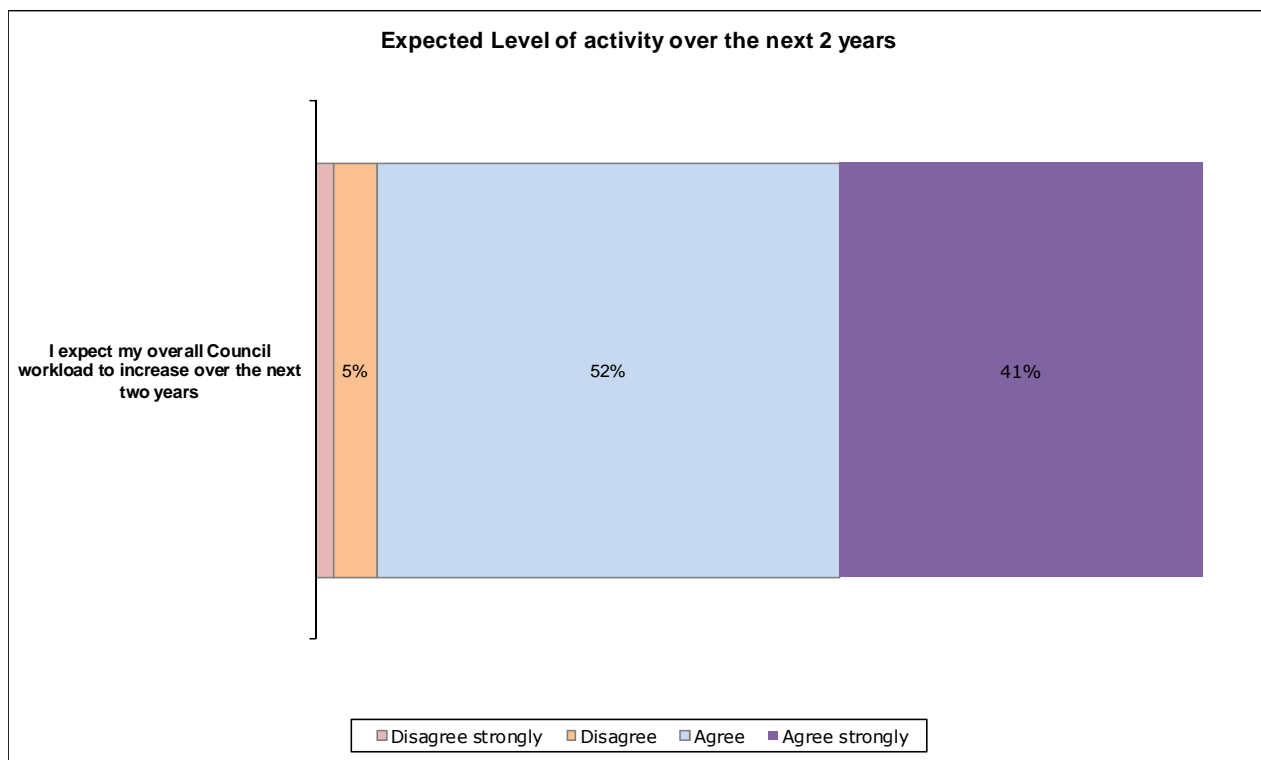
liasing on the changes of council funding and benefits issues.

As the funding is being cut more issues will arise which have to be dealt with hence the case work will increase, as money is tight the funding applications may stay the same or reduce because people or groups will still be needing money to run their projects, there is one contact point for volunteering via Better start Bradford project who hold a data base for volunteering in my ward I point people in that direction, as the council is about to decide on the weekly bin collections and move it to two weekly, the challenge will be to get people to use the recycling bins more tackle fly tipping car parking issues and anti social behaviour is another and businesses to also use the proper method of disposing their rubbish by having proper bins and mesh baskets for card boards and other recyclable rubbish, I have advised people on planning but have not had too much to do with representation at planning panel or officer levels as yet, key issue is to understand the local issues and to involve the local people before decisions are made as the impact will be on the local people if wrong decisions are made and could be waste of money if the local authority has to change what may already has been implemented via wrong decisions. Others can be anything from school admissions, pot holes, blocked drains or gritting the roads in winter.

Communicating with residents of my ward - more Providing guidance to individuals and organisations about the workings of the Council - more Setting up community engagement events so people can become aware of and involved in what is going on locally - about the same

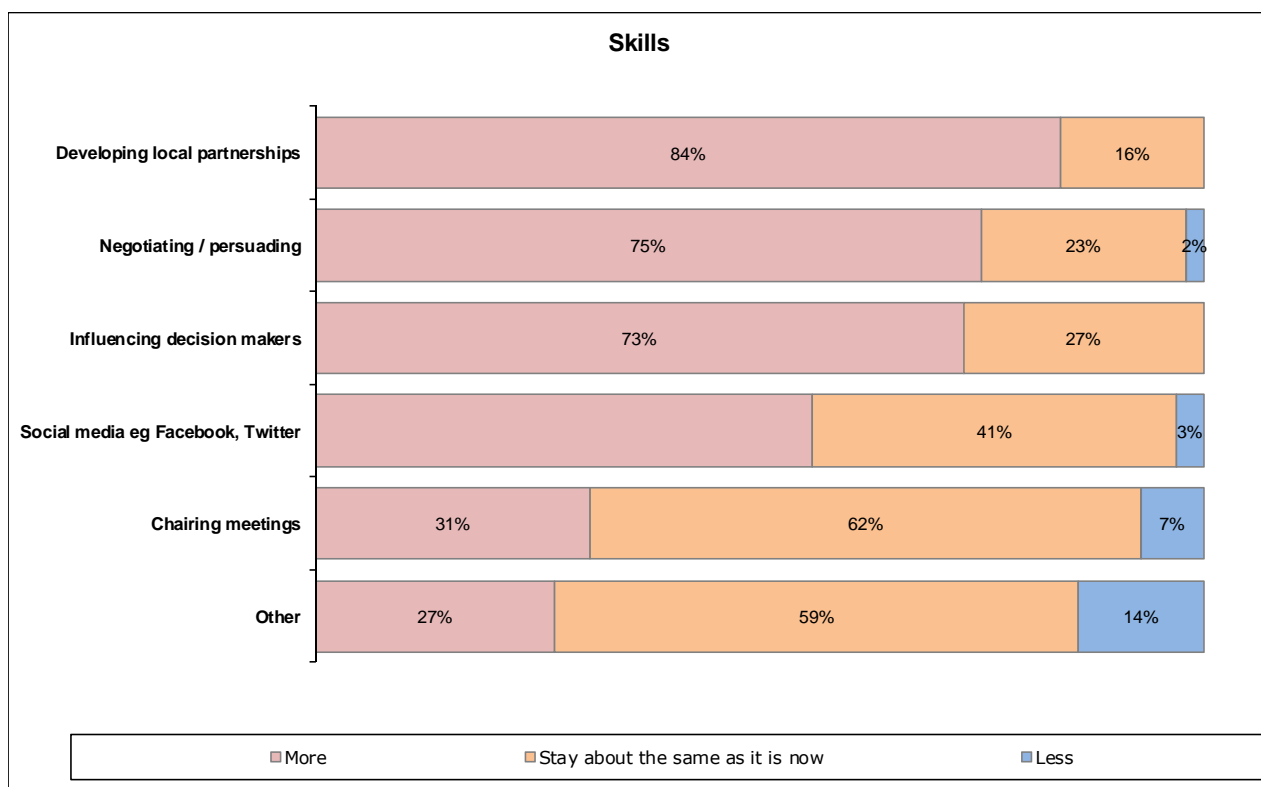
10. Q9 Workload

Expected changed in the level of activity over the next 2 years



11. Q10 Skills

Expected changes in the level of importance over the next 2 years



12. Q10g Expected changes to the role of a ward Councillor over the next 2 years

Detective work to find out what the Council does / is planning to do in the ward.

Mediation skills

Problem solving/finding alternative solution I expect to become more important.

Negotiating with outside bodies from all sectors

Explaining the new reality of Council finances to the public in order to manage expectations will become ever more important.

As the relationship between council and community changes local members will have to support and enable communities more and help support local groups and establish new ones

Dealing with unaccountable, distant and opaque bodies like combined authority, PCC, NHS etc.

What is other? This is an impossible question because there is a multitude of skills essential to being an effective ward councillor

This question is quite difficult as there are numerous skills required to be an effective Ward Cllr

Community development

Negotiating and persuading will be more important as front line services could suffer under current cut backs and people or council officers have to be mindful what can be done and what can not be done, Decision making may not change as the whole of the district will be kept in mind and all issues will have to be dealt with on their merit, local or neighbourhood groups will be more important than ever where people may have to take on some of the issues for example if there is grass verges in front of people's home they may take small areas in front of their houses and cut the grass if the council can not get to it, charring meeting may at times be difficult but that is always the case if there is a hot issue to deal with.

13.Q11 How a ward Councillor's role is expected to change over the next 2 years

Parish Councils will play a greater role and therefore it will be necessary to work as a team in the local area complimenting the work of both parties. The use of emails lessens dependency on support services. Via members support.

Becoming much busier.

We'll be needed to help people more than ever as cuts bite harder, especially with council service and staff reductions, reduced funding to voluntary sector, benefit cuts and greater need in the community we serve.

Growing community development, and advocacy role, to develop local voluntary sector, lead and co design not to commissioning, challenge the increasingly fragmented range of services from all agencies and build further on the close ward level partnerships as welfare reform and housing and social cohesion issues require local leadership support and intervention.

For a start I like many of my constituents would like to see local councillors not being politically motivated (independent) I am also mindful that from time to time it has been suggested that there are too many councillors in each ward and the numbers should be cut to save money. I can't see anything affecting the way I conduct my work load changing namely community counselling and I can't speak for the decision making exec etc.

I believe the role of an elected member will change and develop. The role of a councillor has moved on from someone who just oversees replacing streetlights and gritting. More emphasis will be on partnership working and influencing decisions. More time will be spent with outside bodies and stakeholders. As more demand for housing is placed upon the Council more resident meeting and constituency meetings will be necessary.

with the changes and cuts in government funding not only to the council but other bodies the role will become expanded. leading, supporting and encouraging individuals and groups to find different ways of working and funding. Explaining more about how the council will have to operate and the effects cuts will have on local services, but showing constituents how these will be achieved and looking to find alternate ways to limit these effects. working with more partners than at present to provide information and services to communities..

Yes, it will involve more work. Due to savage budget cuts.

We are community leaders anyway and I expect that we will have to do more and more of this. We will need to do more facilitating, strengthening our role as enablers and then nourishing - helping the community to grow.

reducing resources will inevitably result in greater demands for individual casework. In addition, holding the Executive to account will be increasingly important. Monitoring performance and value for money will be crucial. It is too early to predict what impact devolution will have as powers move from direct local control.

Due to less funding Parish Councils, Voluntary bodies ect may well wish to take over or manage certain activities at present carried out by the Council and will require assistance in legal issues, obtaining funding etc.

Much more involvement with local voluntary groups. Have to more active in order to get communities to be more active. Will have to work with community groups and individuals in order to find alternate ways of delivering services.

Managing expectations with reduced funding.

Councillors are best placed to work with and in their wards to help communities take more ownership of their area, more volunteering, more pride and stronger partnership working between the public, private and community & voluntary sector. My ward has become an inner city ward with many challenges, deprivation & poverty. Society has to change, people need to take more responsibility for their areas and lifestyles. Councillors will really need to know their communities and I think the roles and responsibilities are changing and there seems to be more of an expectation on councillors to do more and be more involved in their communities. The general public do seem to be more aware of politics and there is an assumption that councillors know everything and it can be difficult to live up to that so councillors do need to be informed and up to date with current changes, policies etc.

Ward Councillors will need to become better able to enable the partnerships, made up of local residents and serious resident groups, so that more of the delivery of local impacts can be borne by residents. This will necessarily require WCs who have a strategic grasp rather than one that is focussed on "hanging baskets" and "cracks in the pavement". That is not to say the latter are unimportant, but the role of a WC will be less tactical and more strategic.

As the result of reduced Council Grants the importance of the NEW DEAL will really emerge and challenge Local Councillors to fully engage with Local Residents to ensure the continuation of services which may have to be delivered in a different way to now.

We will have to be far more hands-on with local groups as well as individuals as the Council has far less resources to provide services. We will have to become experts at manipulating funding streams from beyond the Council.

Changes in the workload will increase as funding is reduced, all councillors will be expected to have viable answers for members of the public who are suffering due to lack of financial aid.

As more is passed from Bradford to Local groups to run, more time is taken supporting these groups. Individual case work is increasing with different solutions having to be sort to issues

For the past 8 years I was the only ward councillor who served on council committees the other 2 former BP now independent have never done so. I am the one people come to for planning representation As we have now got another conservative councillor that will mean 2 proper councillor's who serve the community

less work

Given recent trends, we will need to be more visible on social media platforms. We will also need to more proactively support community groups as the Council cuts back on its own activities.

Being requested to become more involved in local issues as financial governance becomes more of an issue for resolving problems.

As the Council delivers less services local members will need to be more proactive in working with people to find new ways of working with local people to find innovative ways of other ways of delivering. At the same time people will remain expectant of the Council so the maount of individual casework will continue.

Busier and busier trying to take over from full time job .just can't afford it to

Not much except that technology makes it much easier to deal with casework, manage relationships with local organisations and conduct general council business.

There will be more demand from the public who 'expect' what they have always had in a financially difficult period. In the past the Council has done too much for too many - as a Country we must learn to 'help ourselves again'

I think we will spend more time explaining our role in local government Representing a large ward with a range of different types of people /groups in it I dont forsee a significant change, but dealing with schools and older residents will move up the chart

As more decisions are taken away to the unelected combined authority, councillors will have an increased role as advocates for their constituents on matters where they have no direct

influence

There will be more cuts and more people e.g migrant moving in and around Bradford who will require hands on help an support.

Fewer councillors but with some increase in hours and a modest increase in shared support services.

More advocacy skills will be required as the council becomes less of a provider and more of a facilitator. There will be more organisations and providers to be involved with. There will be more need for councillors to be the lead voice for their communities and to communicate more regularly with local groups and organisations

Additional work load with shla and ldf plus repercussions of flooding

It depends on the nature of the devolution packages that are being agreed at a regional level. As some services reduce, or even stop, others may be created or devolved and these will require democratic oversight. It may be that in addition to ward work, Councillors end up with extra meetings to provide oversight to new external bodies, e.g. Combined Authorities. In wards, reductions to back office staff in Area Offices may lead to a higher caseload for Councillors as problems are not resolved 'at source' by wardens, officers, etc, and as the Council withdraws from some levels of service, casework increases. This can already be seen in areas like Neighbourhoods, where complaints to Councillors on verge cutting, bin collections and so on are all on the increase. As funding continues to become ever more scarce, Councillors need to work more closely with community groups to help them apply for what funding streams continue to be available. Community Development work is likely to reduce significantly and again there will be a role of community leadership Councillors will need to fulfil to help these groups continue to function. Likewise, potential devolution out of the Council to the next tier of government e.g. Parish and Town Councils, will need a role from Councillors to help midwife and also help with a certain amount of oversight from elected ward members (as many Parish Cllrs are elected unopposed with no electoral mandate). Due to a lack of funding and withdrawal of Council services over the coming years, Councillors will need to become more effective at working with external bodies and organisations at bringing in additional services and functions, e.g. working with charities to extend programmes into their area and making the case for the local area.

More complex caseworks requiring more time, busier and more diverse issues in Wards

More influencing and setting up and working with community groups

With fewer resources, we're going to become brokers and facilitators, brokering partnerships and solutions which don't need money. This takes lots of time and relationship building to achieve a positive result though. Also we are increasingly having to deal with people who are very vulnerable and frustrated because of Government cuts. You have to give a lot of time to these people to support them as well as you can and make sure they don't feel left behind. Anger and frustration leads to a divided society.

Answered in question 8

More challenging and more difficult. There is a lack of experience in the system. There is a real problem of people's perception of our role, not helped by too many politicians of all parties and at all levels jumping on band-wagons and telling people what it is thought that they want to hear - and then backtracking when reality kicks in!

Please see question 8

More focus on voluntary engagement to affect change

Ward. Councillors are at the sharp end if the cuts, it is Difficult to explain to a group that they're funding has been cut when our council is wasting millions

more work as the cuts to local government funding affect constituents.

What I have found is, in previous years Council was able to provide residents with a lot more than it is able to do at present. They contacted a Councillor for example to have a back street cleaned, in the past there was funding and therefore more staff so there were resources available to do this. So unadopted roads may have been cleaned but now this service is only available if Voluntary groups come forward. Residents were used to the old ways and now find it difficult to accept when a service is no longer available. So its going to be hard in terms of asking residents to take on some tasks and responsibility for land not owned by Council, due to funding a lot has changed and will continue to do so.

More pressure from local community as they loose vital services and changes that affect the community as a result if the budget cuts.

yes

Having to do more with less money

To become more demanding with the cuts local government are implementing

Everyone looks at the role of the councillor to get things done and deal with day to day issues, in the past money was available to do things even if it took longer now things are different and people will demand the same but council will not be able to fulfil those demands therefore the explanation has to be given by the councillors. Councillors also have to be more involved in the local area to make sure that people do change their habits and take on more responsibility for their area and not let it get run down.

Twice has much work

I expect it to become more community focused with cuts to basic services and initiatives like new deal, be neighbourly and people can I see the councillors role to be part of the leadership of these and implementing them in to communities

I feel that in addition to the bread and butter work of a councillors role such as dealing with issues where constituents have a problem with the council which needs resolving and representing constituents by being on committees and such like there will be a increase in the relationship building and bringing groups and communities together.

We will need to change the way that we engage with other authorities, such as the combined authority and the Police and Fire authorities as their role has significantly altered. The combined authority is playing an increasingly important role in our district as well as taking increasing resources from the Council. Changes in Council budgets mean that ward Cllrs must become much better at creating, facilitating and engaging with volunteer groups who are being increasingly relied upon to carry out functions which were previously held by the Council.

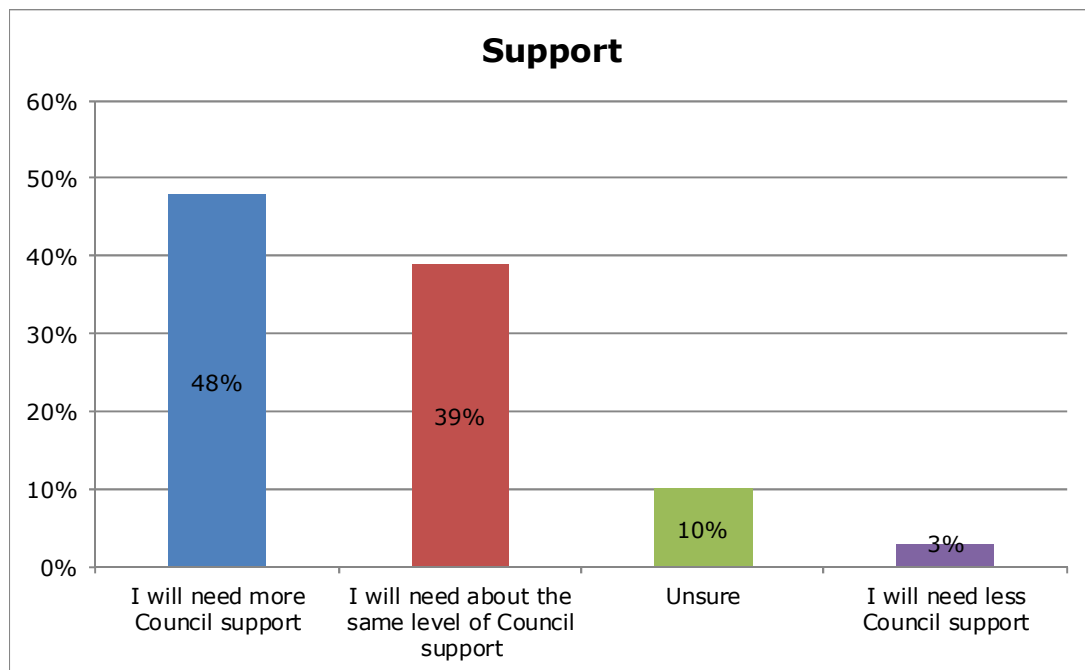
More interaction and accessibility via social media/Skype

Due to the savage cuts I think that more and more casework will be dealing with all kinds of benefits, EIA, housing etc. Dealing with more bedroom tax issues, health and social care problems and possibly planning.

dealing with more public due to cuts in services

Increasing involvement with local groups to address 'New Deal' issues.

14. Q12 Expected changes to the support needed over the next 2 years



15. Reasons for the answers given in the previous question

I expect to need the support of officers in their different departments in so far as they deal with issues affecting residents in my ward.

I have to spend lots of time trying to find out about what is happening in the ward a proper process for communicating with Members would be welcome. The Council needs to recognise that Councillors who are not members of the Labour group have significant roles in their wards and be prepared to support them. The current retrenchment of officers to provide support only to Labour Councillors is to the detriment of the Council as a whole. I expect I will need more support to broker meetings, manage my diary, facilitate communications with the Council itself and provide support to communicate with constituents.

The support I receive is good and helps. The support received from ward colleagues and more experienced Cllrs is also invaluable, especially when newly elected.

I believe the skills needed will need refreshing and the elected member may need to demonstrate in a more transparent way their development of skills and capabilities as well as ensuring the concerns about probity which stubbornly remain are addressed

I am rarely see in city hall my work is in my ward with the people who elected me. I am always available 24/7. I do however thank members support for their help and all council officers who I have contacted especially my ward officer who is "gold dust"

I feel more administrative support is needed now and this will only increase in the future. I believe communication is important and when residents make contact that they should be replied to in a timely fashion. The more work that is required the more support is needed.

by working with partners and the current staff especially in neighbourhoods and member support, i feel it is possible to cover the increased expected workload.

More support if budgets allow.

I am a relatively new councillor but as time goes on I meet more people and find out who best to contact on specific issues.

Difficult to answer - I am expecting my role to become more challenging and demanding so I expect I would need more council support along the way. In reality, I know the council support is also shrinking as they too face challenges ahead. I am still a developing councillor so I do sometimes need support to assist me or point me in the right direction in order to fulfil my role.

There is a balance to be drawn allocating resources to support elected members in times of fiscal pressure. We should not risk impact on frontline services this is likely to be a vicious circle.

I will require training on legal issues, funding advice etc.to be able to support volunteer organizations who may want to consider providing services

Will not to build on existing partnerships and there will be a need to establish further partnerships. Guidance and support from council will be needed much more than before.

To deal with issues arising from the cuts to services and to support residents in taking on some services such as the local library. The demand of the Council's Neighbourhood Service of Ward Officer and Wardens is likely to increase.

There needs to be a change, communities need strengthening and we really do need to change behaviours. The council officers are best placed to help with this transition. Also I think as more and more is expected of councillors having that support from the council helps tremendously.

This support will be in the form of: 1. better quality information so that better quality decisions can be made; 2. support identifying and enabling appropriate relationship building with key stakeholders; 3. strategic level support in terms of vision and purpose.

The Council will have to deliver services in a changing & challenging environment and local councillors will continue to expect at least the same level of support as it currently provides

The depth of the workload seems to increase at the same level as my experience.
Councillors know what's wanted they should be listened to
As explained in Q11
Because that is my assessment council officers are fine doing what is required as a rule with the exemption of poor enforcement generally
more will be encompassed in regional control
I am a very experienced councillor. I have the support that I need.
I do not anticipate the Council directing any more financial support to my Ward than at present and, probably, less.
It will be a new role needing new skills and information so the council will need to be able to support the changing role of members whilst continuing to react to constituents demands. What the level and type of support will be is unclear at the moment
We don't get much
Depends what you mean by support - we'll need better IT and IT support so we can use the technology that residents have access to but other support will become less significant as the technology picks up the load.
Support can usually be found BUT getting a result is often not so easy. 'We would like to but it's the cuts you know' an all too weathered phrase.
I feel that ward officers and councillors have a good working relationship, changes are going to happen but at this time we are as well placed as any to deal with them
Next year will be untypical. The above answer relates to the following year when I would expect some changes in the nature of support provided.
It is increasingly difficult to ascertain who and which department is responsible for services provided by the council. There appears regularly to be an attitude from some departments that councillors are an obstruction ,not a valued part of the democratic organisation. Requests frequently disappear into a black hole. Too often the Councillor needs to chase up the status of an enquiry. A good level of service seems to be available to front bench councillors only. There are of course some exceptions. Changes in legislation that will have an impact on communities is not disseminated to councillors in a regular and understandable form It does not appear that staff members receive a full and useful induction highlighting the role of members and officers in the council. These omissions make the work of the elected member more difficult and frustrating.
Would need less if we had good functional IT not old slow outdated we have to contend with. Key is proper functional integrated case/contact management I've been waiting 14 years and still no sign
The definition of Council support is vague. Does that mean Council services being delivered? Does it mean Area Officers continuing in their role? As services are devolved by it's very nature the Area Offices will become more powerful. The role of Area Committees that inherit these powers has not been redefined in light of the increased powers, e.g. the governance process remains the same even with increased powers of councillors and local officers. In this respect, Councillors will continue to need 'Council support' in administering the localised services and overseeing continued devolution. Support from ward officers continues to be vital as they provide additional staff time in dealing with constituent problems and working on the same objectives for the ward.
As an experienced Councillor the support I need may remain the same however saying that the support of Council Officers and or external partners may increase dependent on issues and casework that needs to be resolved or and supported
More groups to work with -need help with coordination

Given the direction of travel I don't expect to receive any more support than I'm getting. The cuts dictate that we're going to shrink still more. However I will need other organisations to have a better understanding of the elected members role. GPs now control huge budget and how they spend them affects my residents' lives. We need to make sure that local council services are therefore working with local GP services and other organisations to make sure public money has the biggest positive impact. We'll be doing more knitting together of public services at the very local level.

The level of support required will be dependent on the background and skills of the individual elected member. Coming from a community development background I envisage the level of support will be about the same in terms of our work in communities. However, in light of changes to planning processes additional support will be required for all elected members. Moreover, as more services are devolved and regionalised the role of the elected member it representing the views of local people will become even more important. At several points through out this survey I found some of the questions and statements rather ambiguous and therefore difficult to answer.

People are getting more demanding and have higher expectations. also see answer to Q11

This is dependant on peoples previous experiences given the nature of community work the changes in Cllr role should be less of an issue re the level of support needed

The support at the moment is adequate

With funding being cut we will need better skills and more. Knowledge

I am fairly experienced and attend the excellent training sessions organised for members but i would need the updates to legislation. Newer members need more training.

I am not sure yet as its only my first year.

We will have less officers with I the council and less services to facilitate the ward work we undertake.

opps portfolio holders need deputies also

Amalgamating services etc will lead to more involvement of both cllrs and officers

Due to restructuring services I will need more guidance from council officers

More training on resolving conflicts, better information on decisions and what money is available for local groups.

The nature of our work will change because of gov cuts . The voluntary sector will need more support to enable them to carry out what should be council run tasks.

some departments within the council are difficult to work with- some are excellent. I think some officers in some departments need to work better with their councillors

Council officers need to be on the ball in supporting relationship building that councillors are trying to achieve for the good of the District.

I would need more Council support but of a different nature to that which is available at the moment. The support offered to Cllrs is very insular, so mostly in engaging with what the Council do and what in the provision of Council services. The reduction in services of the Council and in resources mean that resources need to be managed better, but we must also become much better at engaging with members of the public, particularly when they are being expected to take on roles previously fulfilled by the Council.

Due to the potential increase in casework that is under the control of the council, such as public health, council tax and environmental problems with waste/recycling we will need experienced officers to help and advise us

Again 'New Deal' issues will probably mean getting involved with matters currently outside my experience.

Appendix 5 - Review of Elected Member Roles

Interview Questionnaire

Interviewer: _____

Date:

Interviewee: _____

The purpose of this review is to describe and understand the views of elected members like yourself on the role of Councillors in a changing environment and on what they think is the right number of Councillors to represent the District in future and why.

All individual views will be anonymous.

Role(s) on Council:

Roles in Group:

Roles on external bodies:

How long have you been a Bradford District Councillor?

Changes Facing the Council

1. What are the main challenges facing the Council, and how are these affecting its role and the way it operates
(Probe for budget, devolution (regional and local), engagement with residents; how we exercise leadership, etc)

(If the following aren't covered in the above, probe on what the impact on the Council might be of:

2. ...changes in policy areas?(health and social care; education; community safety; culture/sport)
3. ...changes in LCR/CA sub-regional devolution
4. ...changes in the role/scope of parish and town councils
5. ...changes in other local public service partners
6. ...changes in our relationship with the community and voluntary sector
7. ...changes in our relationship with the private sector
8. Do you expect members to take the lead in community asset transfer or in leading voluntary sector efforts to replace council services?

Number of Councillors on Bradford Council:

9. Some people have said that the Council should cut the numbers of elected members, would you agree with this view?
10. How many Councillors do you think Bradford District needs?
11. What are the main things that lead you to take these views?

If they agree that numbers should reduce ask:

12. How would you achieve this change? e.g reduce numbers of wards, reduce numbers of members per ward?
13. Do you think that every ward should have the same number of Councillors or do some areas need more than others?
14. So would you support the Council inviting the Boundary Commission to undertake a full review of local democratic arrangements?

Elections:

15. How often do you think elections to Bradford council should be held, for example, do you think we should continue to have elections three years out of four, move to all out elections every four years or adopt another system?
16. Do you have any specific reasons for your views?

Role of elected members

17. How do you think that changes to the role and functions of the Council will affect the job of District Councillors and the skills needed to do it? (Prompt for types of skills; leadership roles, etc.)
18. Do you think the average workloads of Councillors will increase or decrease or stay about the same?
19. Do you think that the Council offers the right support to Councillors to represent their wards effectively in a changing environment?
20. What could it change or improve on?
21. Do you think social media is having an impact on local democracy? If so, how?
22. How should the Council respond?

What else do you want to say about how the Council should change so it maintains or improves its effectiveness, despite the loss of resources and changes in the landscape of governance and control recently and in the next few years:

23. ...in terms of the political, democratic role of councillors
24. ...in terms of the leadership of the District
25. Is there anything more that you want to add about the future of local leadership, governance and the role of Councillors?

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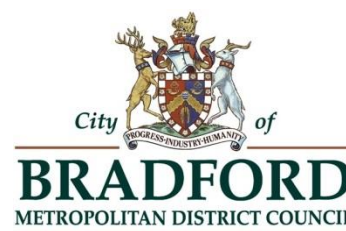


APPENDIX 6

CBMDC Member Review

City of Bradford MDC

Elected Member Review 2016



Executive Summary

Background & Approach. The Council's budget resolution of February 2015 committed it to undertaking a review of the role of elected members including the numbers required by Bradford MDC. The review included desk research and surveys of the public and of elected members. Independent scrutiny of the review has been carried out by Sir Rodney Brooke.

Bradford is not currently on the timetable for review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England nor do any of its wards currently meet the criteria that would trigger a review.

Context. The number of Councillors per elector is 3,705 in Bradford – higher than national averages; the local electorate is growing and demographic growth will continue to increase it. Bradford District is diverse and includes areas of high deprivation.

Public Survey. Surveys were completed by 1349 members of the local electorate.

- Locally accountable representation is highly valued – 93% of respondents agreed that it is important to have locally elected Councillors who are directly accountable to people in the ward.
- Respondents were asked, given what they know about the role of Councillors, whether they think that three Councillors is the right number for their ward, not enough or too many. In response, 80% of people said three Councillors was about right or not enough with 20% saying that it was too many.

Elected Member Survey. 65 Councillors completed an online survey.

- More than 80% of Councillors surveyed spent at least 16 hours a week on Council activity with 59% indicating that they spent over 20 hours a week. Dealing with constituency issues tends to form the largest proportion of the workload for most Councillors. Workloads are broadly consistent with national profiles.
- 93% of respondents expected their workload to increase over the next two years and most believe that partnership working, influencing and negotiation will become increasingly important skills for ward Councillors. Almost half of respondents agreed that they would need more support to undertake their ward role in future.

Elected member interviews. Interviews were undertaken with several Councillors holding senior positions on the Council.

- Views on the appropriate numbers of Councillors were mixed – some advocated a reduction in numbers while others urged caution given the changing nature of the role, increasing workloads and uncertainty around devolution.
- Most interviewees believed that Councillors' workloads will increase and there was general consensus that Councillors would increasingly need to be skilled in brokerage, influencing, partnership and advocacy and "future proofing" communities against budget reductions through bringing different groups, resources and opportunities together.
- There was some support for moving to four yearly elections although this was not universal.
- Views on support from the Council were mixed and Councillors understand that staff are often stretched. Political awareness was seen by some as an area for improvement.

Councillor Profile. The average age of Bradford Councillors at 52 is lower than national averages nevertheless the age profile of local Councillors is older than that of the 18+ population. Bradford has relatively high proportions of female Councillors but women are still under-represented. The proportion of Councillors from non-white ethnic groups is higher than in the 18+ population.

Conclusions.

- Bradford is a place where people attach high levels of importance to local democratic accountability and expect elected representatives to work closely with local communities.
- Very high proportions of electors believe that 3 Councillors is either about right or not enough for their local ward.
- Councillor workloads are in line with national averages and are expected to increase. Councillors anticipate that the "community leadership" aspects of the role will assume increasing importance; some members question whether the Council provides sufficient support for the development of the related skills.
- A growing population and electorate will increase demands on Councillors; high levels of deprivation in some parts of the District also impact on workloads.
- The District is diverse and reduced numbers of Councillors could affect the Council's ability to represent properly all its different communities.
- As a growing and ambitious District Bradford needs Councillors who can work at a strategic and regional level as well as within their wards.
- Comparisons with other local authorities suggest that Councillors' numbers in Bradford are not unusually high given the size and nature of the District.

City of Bradford MDC

Elected Member Review 2016



1 Background

- 1.1 The 2015-16 Budget Recommendation approved by Full Council on 24 February 2015 committed the Council to undertaking a politically independent review of the role of elected members including consideration of the numbers required by the Council.
- 1.2 The commitment to a review was made in response to the changing local government environment and in particular to the impact of national austerity measures on the scope of Council activity and on the need to reduce costs. In making this commitment the Council was also responding to the fact that for several years public consultation on budget proposals had included suggestions from some people that savings should be made by reducing the numbers of Councillors.
- 1.3 In particular the brief from the Council's leadership was to focus on the ward role of Councillors and on the appropriate numbers of Councillors at ward level.
- 1.4 Changes to key Council personnel have led to delays in the analysis and publication of the review findings.

2 Approach

- 2.1 The review was undertaken in-house by Council officers and comprised a number of elements:
 - **Public Survey** – 1349 electors completed a questionnaire.
 - **Survey of Elected Members.** A questionnaire was circulated to all 90 Members of the Council via email and they were requested to respond online. In total 65 (72%) questionnaires were returned.
 - **Interviews with elected members.** Semi structured interviews were undertaken with leaders of the Council's political groups and with Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
 - **Desk research.** Analysis of comparative statistics and local electorate; review of relevant literature.
- 2.2 Sir Rodney Brooke, Chair of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel has provided independent scrutiny and input and produced a commentary making recommendations based on the review findings.

3 Context

- 3.1 **Councillor Numbers and Electorate.** Bradford Council has 90 elected members representing 30 electoral wards with three members per ward. Councillors are elected in thirds with elections in every three years out of four.

Bradford's electorate is growing and rose by over 1,200 between December 2014 and December 2015 from 333,475 to 334,590 with the number of electors per Councillor increasing from 3,705 to 3,718.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) last reviewed Bradford's arrangements in 2002 recommending that it should retain 90 elected members. The Commission undertakes electoral reviews for two reasons:

1. At the request of the local authority
2. If the local authority meets the Commission's intervention criteria
 - a. If one ward has an electorate of +/-30% from the average electorate for the authority
 - b. If 30% of all wards have an electorate of +/-10% from the average electorate for the authority.

The latest available figures demonstrate that Bradford does not currently meet either of these criteria – no wards deviate by +/-30% from the average electorate and just 5 wards (17%) have an electorate that is +/-10% from the average.

Bradford is not currently on the Commission's timetable for review so any review would have to be undertaken at the Council's request.

- 3.2 **Comparative Figures.** The most recently available comparative data published on the web site of the LGBCE provides figures on local electorates at 1/12/2014. These figures show that of 91 English upper tier authorities Bradford's growing electorate was the 8th largest and, along with Liverpool, it had the 9th highest number of Councillors.

The number of Bradford electors per Councillor was 3,705 - significantly higher (23%) than the national average for upper tier councils of 3,004. Of the ten Upper tier authorities with the largest electorates Bradford had the 6th highest number of electors to Councillors. Overall, the ratios of electors to councillors range from 1,219 in Rutland to 6,073 in Birmingham.

Looking only at Metropolitan Districts, Bradford had the 5th biggest electorate and the joint 5th highest number of Councillors. The District's number of electors per Councillor was 9th highest of 36 authorities and 12.5% higher than the average of 3,292.

Of the Metropolitan Districts with the ten largest electorates, Bradford had lower numbers of electors per Councillor than Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Kirklees, Wakefield and Manchester and a higher number than Wirral, Liverpool and Dudley.

Across West Yorkshire, Bradford had a relatively low number of electors per Councillor with only Calderdale having a lower ratio.

Table 1. Average Numbers of Electors per Councillor – 1/12/2014

	Number of Electors per Councillor
All Upper Tier Councils	3,004
Metropolitan Districts	3,292
West Yorkshire Met Districts	4,063
Bradford	3,705

Table 2 provides comparative data between Bradford and selected other authorities sorted by the number of electors per councillor and demonstrating the spectrum of Council size and the local democratic representation.

- 3.3 **External Bodies.** In addition to Council Committees the Council makes appointments to outside bodies. In total there are 119 Council appointments to external bodies involving 62 (69%) different Councillors. The frequency with which external bodies meet varies between one and twelve times a year.
- 3.4 **Demographic Growth.** Bradford District is big and growing; it is the fourth most populous Metropolitan Authority in England with a population of 528,200 that is expected to increase by 32,000 by 2025. In particular, rapid growth is anticipated among younger and older age groups. Bradford is the youngest city in the UK with nearly a quarter of its population aged under 16.

Table 2 Comparative Electoral Data.

Authority Name	Electorate 1/12/2014	No. Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Authority Type
Birmingham	728,732	120	6,073	Metropolitan District
Leeds	533,384	99	5,388	Metropolitan District
Sheffield	392,741	84	4,675	Metropolitan District
Bristol	318,957	70	4,557	Unitary District
Kirklees	300,519	69	4,355	Metropolitan District
Stoke-on-Trent	185,994	44	4,227	Unitary District
Coventry	225,689	54	4,179	Metropolitan District
Leicester	223,534	54	4,140	Unitary District
Wakefield	253,659	63	4,026	Metropolitan District
Manchester	368,265	96	3,836	Metropolitan District
Doncaster	210,826	55	3,833	Metropolitan District
Bradford	333,475	90	3,705	Metropolitan District
Nottingham	190,852	55	3,470	Unitary District
Southampton	164,907	48	3,436	Unitary District
Derby	173,518	51	3,402	Unitary District
Liverpool	305,705	90	3,397	Metropolitan District
Dudley	239,233	72	3,323	Metropolitan District
Bolton	199,134	60	3,319	Metropolitan District
Rotherham	197,888	63	3,141	Metropolitan District
York	146,322	47	3,113	Unitary District
Kingston upon Hull	180,740	59	3,063	Unitary District
Wolverhampton	178,640	60	2,977	Metropolitan District
Barnsley	178,948	63	2,840	Metropolitan District
Calderdale	144,775	51	2,839	Metropolitan District
Sunderland	209,689	75	2,796	Metropolitan District
Oldham	157,997	60	2,633	Metropolitan District
Trafford	161,766	63	2,568	Metropolitan District
Newcastle Upon Tyne	184,401	78	2,364	Metropolitan District
Blackburn with Darwen	104,166	64	1,628	Unitary District

3.5 Financial Pressures. Since 2016 a combination of national reductions in public spending, increasing demand for services, particularly in social care, and rising costs have led the Council to set budgets requiring total savings and increased income, including increases in Council tax, of almost £270m. Current forecasts estimate that by 2020 the Council's revenue budget will have reduced from £400m in 2016-17 to £300m.

The financial challenges facing the Council have meant some difficult decisions about service provision, activity and investment having to be made and this is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

When consulting on its budget proposals over recent years the Council has consistently received comments from some individuals calling for the numbers of Councillors to be cut in order to make savings. While cuts in the number of Councillors would lead only to very modest savings relative to the scale of what is required some people have suggested that this would indicate that Councillors are prepared to share the burden of cost reductions along with other Council services.

As part of its cost reduction measures the Council has taken action to cut costs associated with Elected Members and local democracy but has maintained the number of Councillors at 90.

In December 2011 the Independent Remuneration Panel recommended, and Full Council approved, the removal of the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for the Chair of the Miscellaneous Licenses Panel resulting in a saving of £12,564 pa.

A further recommendation from that report saw Members motor car rates for travelling expenses being brought in line with the HMRC travelling allowances bringing a reduction to the previous allowance of up to 20p a mile.

The number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees were consolidated from seven to five and the Keighley and Shipley Area Planning Panels were merged following a meeting of Full Council in May 2012. This resulted in savings with regard to three SRAs, of which the cumulative total in 2011 was £44,872.84.

The Council has also reduced the SRA of Chairs on a number of Committees, including Overview and Scrutiny Committees following recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel. Overall there has been a reduction of £50,000 in SRA's paid to Overview and Scrutiny Chairs between 2011 and 2016.

- 3.4 **Sub-regional Devolution.** The substantive work on the review was undertaken before the 2016 referendum on UK membership of the EU and the subsequent change in Prime Minister and key ministerial appointments and against a backdrop of devolution deals to City Regions and other sub-regional geographies. During this period Yorkshire local authorities were in negotiation with HM Treasury and with each other over the details and geography of a potential devolution deal in which powers and resources would be devolved from Westminster. The Government's approach at the time was to require the majority of sub-regions to elect a mayor in return for devolved powers. A devolution deal that incorporated Bradford District had not been achieved.

Proposals for sub-regional devolution and governance implying greater working and decision making across local authority boundaries and mayoral models of governance could see some decisions that are currently within the remit of District Councils moving up to sub-regional level and within the remit of the mayor. This possibility has led some people to take the view that fewer District responsibilities and decision making will mean that fewer District Councillors will be needed.

Under the new Prime Minister, the Government has indicated that devolution remains a key policy to drive regional economic growth and arrangements for Bradford and West Yorkshire remain subject to negotiation. Recent Ministerial statements have made clear the Government's view that devolution deals with urban areas will be dependent upon those areas agreeing to have an elected mayor. The 2016 Autumn Statement is expected to indicate any revisions to the Government's position on devolution.

- 3.5 **Diversity.** Bradford is home to diverse communities and settlements. While the largest ethnic group is made up of people who identify themselves as being White British, two thirds of people are from ethnic minorities including the largest proportion of people of Pakistani ethnic origin (20.3%) in England. Over 150 languages are spoken in the District.

In addition to the city of Bradford itself the District includes the towns of Keighley, Shipley, Bingley and Ilkley, each with their own identities and histories, and many smaller villages and settlements; large parts of the District are rural or semi-rural.

- 3.6 **Deprivation.** The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 places Bradford as the 19th most deprived of 326 local authorities in England and 2nd most deprived in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Over a third (34%) of the District's population live in the most deprived 10% of small areas in England. The District wide economy is worth £9.2 billion but economic participation rates are lower than in other parts of the country. There are wide inequalities in health with life expectancy for a boy born in the poorest parts of the District being ten years less than that in the most affluent, for a girl this gap in life expectancy is seven years.

- 3.7 **Review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries.** The Boundary Commission for England is undertaking a review of Parliamentary Constituency boundaries that is due to report to Government in September 2018 recommending any changes to the size, shape, name or designation of constituencies. The review is intended to lead to a reduction in the numbers of Parliamentary Constituencies and therefore

to a reduction in the numbers of MP's. The initial proposals for Bradford District would see its number of Parliamentary Constituencies reduce from five to four.

- 3.8 **National Trends & Developments.** Recent research by the Local Government Chronicle indicates that since 2010, the numbers of Councillors nationally has reduced by almost 500 as a result of 111 boundary reviews undertaken by the LGBCE, 41 of which were requested by local authorities. On average, the reviews have led to a 9% reduction in Councillors, some have led to reductions of up to 30% while others, for example, in Sheffield, have made no changes to the number of Councillors.

Looking beyond England, the Scottish Parliament voted on the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's (LGBCS) 5th Electoral Review of all Local Authority Boundaries in September 2016. Councillor's numbers increased in key Local Authorities including the principal cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The LGBCS concluded that Edinburgh with an electorate of 345,401 in 2013 and forecast to grow should ideally be represented by 91 Councillors which would increase numbers by 33. Similarly the Commission's formula would increase Councillor's numbers' in Glasgow from 79 to 166 serving an electorate of 464,193. The Commission however, imposed a 10% limit on change and Councillor's numbers therefore increased by just 5 in Edinburgh and 6 in Glasgow providing ratios of electors to Councillors of 5,482 and 5,461 respectively.

The roles, powers, contribution and relevance of Councillors are currently subject to a national review being carried out by a Councillor Commission launched by the Local Government Research Unit at De Montfort University with the objective of providing policy makers with a better understanding of the work of Councillors and the support they receive from their Councils. It will complete its final report in December 2016 which it will submit to the Chair of the Commons Communities and Local Government Committee.

4 Public Survey

- 4.1 A questionnaire was posted to a total of 6,000 local electors - 200 per ward - selected at random from the electoral register. A covering letter gave a brief summary of what Councillors do and how many there are.

1349 people returned questionnaires – a response rate of 22.48% which is in line with expectation for a postal survey.

Response rates ranged from 28% across Shipley Constituency to 18.6% in Bradford West. The highest response rate in any ward was 32% in Ilkley and in Wharfedale; the lowest was 12% in Bradford Moor and in Manningham.

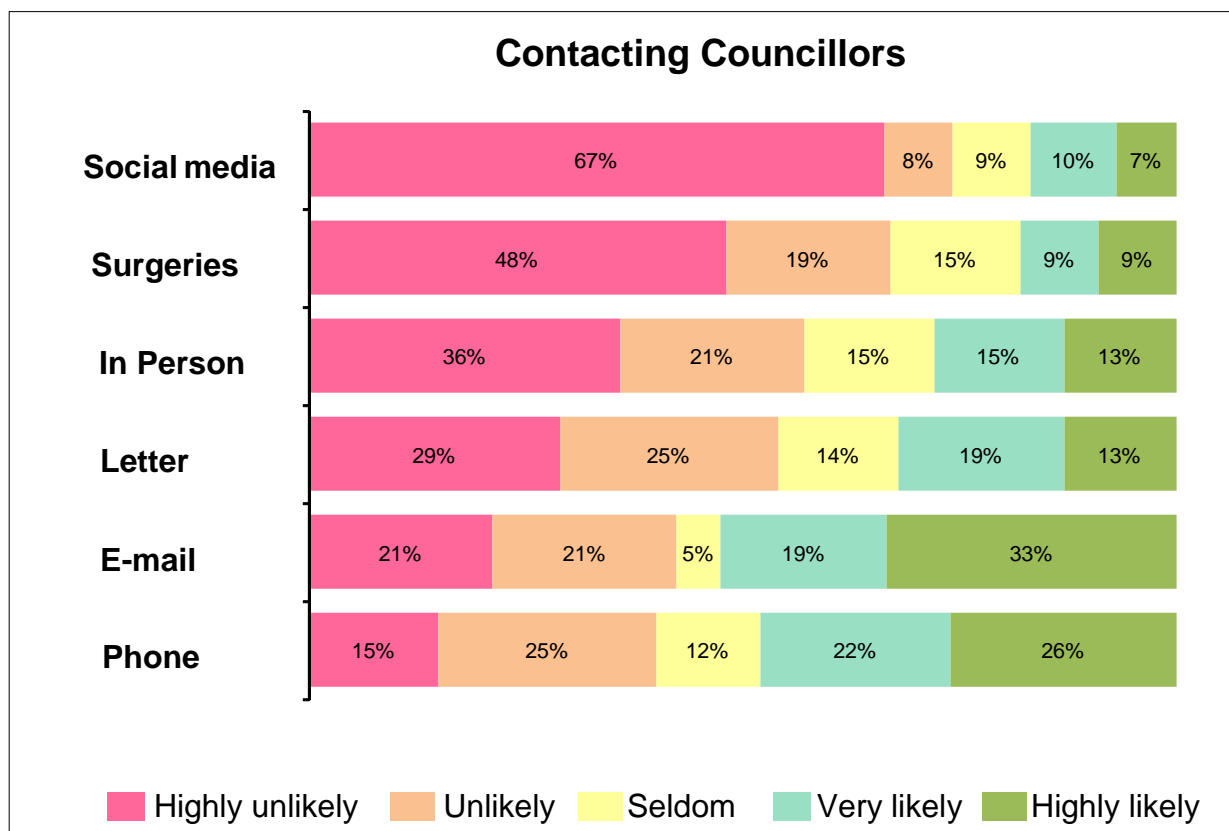
Participants were provided with the option of completing and returning the survey online or by post.

- 4.2 The sample of electors were asked a range of questions about their contact with CBMDC Councillors, the importance that they attach to local representation, their expectations of Councillors and the jobs that they do and their views on how many Councillors there should be to represent their ward. A copy of the questionnaire can be found at Appendix 1 and a summary analysis of the results at Appendix 2.

The analysis in this report rounds all percentages to the nearest whole number.

- 4.3 **Contact with Councillors.** Only 28% of respondents had contacted a Bradford Councillor over the previous 5 years and of these just over half had contacted a Councillor only 1-2 times. The prevalence of contact with Councillors was greatest among older age groups with about a third of over 65's and 35-54 year olds having contacted a Councillor in the last five years compared to 18% of under 35's and just 10% of 18-24 year olds.
- 4.4 The most commonly cited reasons for having contacted a Councillor were issues related to highways, waste collection, planning, anti-social behaviour and parking. Relatively few people indicated that they had contacted their Councillor(s) about developing local projects and activities.
- 4.5 People were asked if they were to contact a councillor to indicate how likely they would be to use a range of different methods. The most popular method of contact was via email with 52% of people answering the question saying they would be very or highly likely to use it. Nearly half of respondents said that they would be likely to contact a Councillor by phone. People were least likely to contact a Councillor by using social media or by attending a surgery. These responses were mirrored among people who had previously contacted a Councillor.
- 4.6 Analysis of responses by the age of respondents shows that the top preferences for contacting Councillors were fairly uniform across all age groups and were via email, phone or letter. While social media ranked fourth preference among people under 35 it was the least likely method

of contact for every other age group but one. Although older age groups were more likely to contact Councillors through local surgeries this option had a relatively low ranking across all age groups.



4.7 Alternative methods of contact suggested included:

- At a Council Office
- Council website
- Home visit
- Local meeting
- Local supermarket
- Newsletter
- Text message

4.8 **Local Accountability.** Locally accountable representation is highly valued – 93% of respondents agreed that it is important to have locally elected Councillors who are directly accountable to people in the ward. Similarly high levels of agreement were found across all age and ethnic groups and across different parts of the District.

4.9 **Communications and staying in touch.** Fairly traditional approaches to communications were regarded as being more important for Councillors to maintain than for example, the use of social media or web sites. Organising and attending public meetings were seen as very or extremely important by 80% or more of respondents; regular newsletters

by 79%, local surveys 76%.

Digital approaches to staying in touch scored less highly but nevertheless a significant majority of people thought it very or extremely important that Councillors run a web site (63%). Greater importance was attached to web based communications by younger people with 80% of under 35's saying it was very or extremely important compared to 48% of over 65's. Proportionately more people from BME groups thought running a web site was very or extremely important compared to white groups.

Only 37% of respondents attached a high level of importance to the use of social media although among under 35's the proportion was far higher at 63%. Some 28% of respondents said that social media wasn't important at all rising to 82% among the over 65's. Higher proportions of under 35's also attached greater importance to producing newsletters (83%) and undertaking surveys (83%) than other age groups.

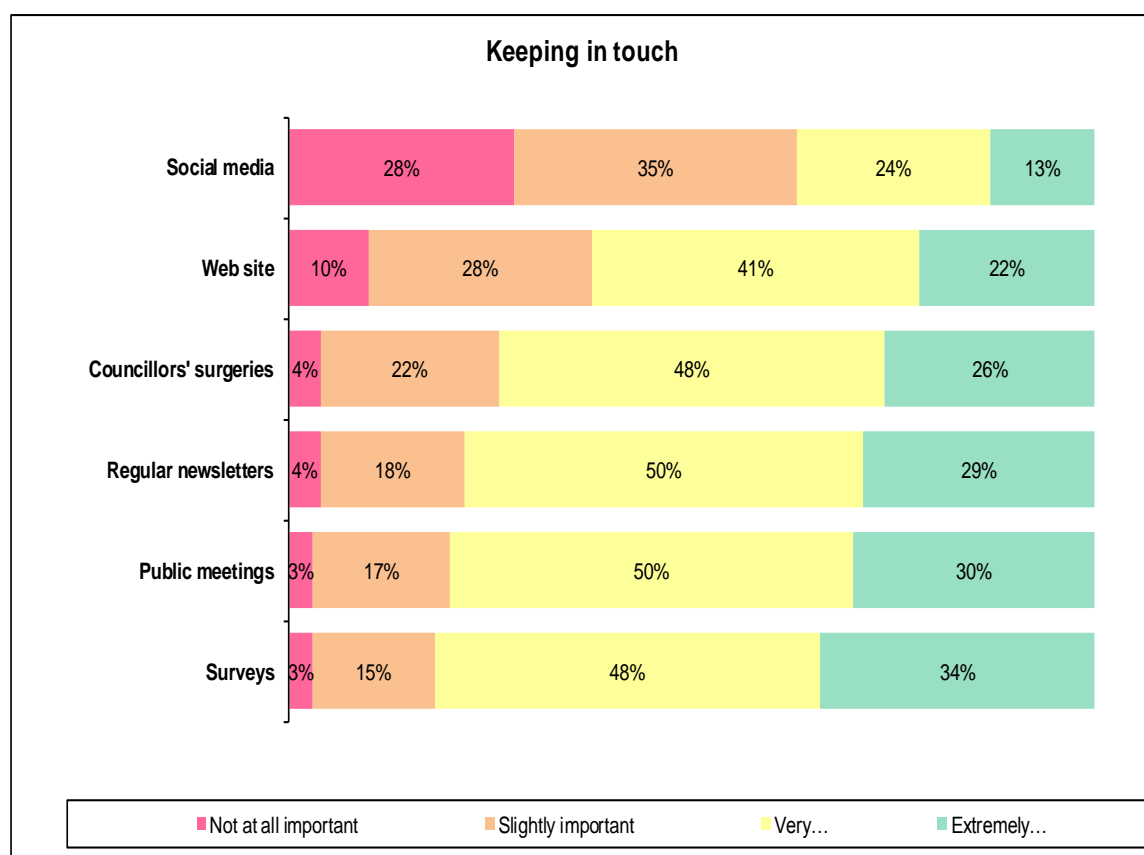
BME groups attached higher than average importance to the use of social media with 51% of Asian and British Asian respondents, 46% of black people and 69% of other ethnic groups saying its use by Councillors is very or extremely important.

- 4.10 Although two thirds of people said they were unlikely to use a surgery 75% who answered the question believed that it is a very or extremely important way of Councillors staying in touch with their community.
- 4.11 Analysis by Parliamentary Constituency shows a consistent pattern in which respondents from Bradford East attached greater importance to almost all forms of keeping in touch identified by the survey than other constituencies. In particular, respondents in Bradford East attached far higher importance to holding surgeries, running web sites, organising and attending public meetings and undertaking surveys than in other constituencies.

People in Bradford South tended to have the lowest proportions of people to regard any of the methods identified as being very or extremely important.

Along with Bradford West, Bradford East had the highest percentage of respondents who said that using social media and running web sites were very or extremely important ways of Councillors keeping in touch with local people. In all constituencies the use of social media was the method most likely to be regarded as not important at all with the proportion holding this view reaching 34% in Shipley.

Respondents in Bradford South attached relatively low importance to organising and attending meetings, social media, web sites and surgeries. Newsletters and local surveys were the methods of communication regarded as having the highest levels of importance.



4.12 Other methods of keeping in touch suggested by respondents included:

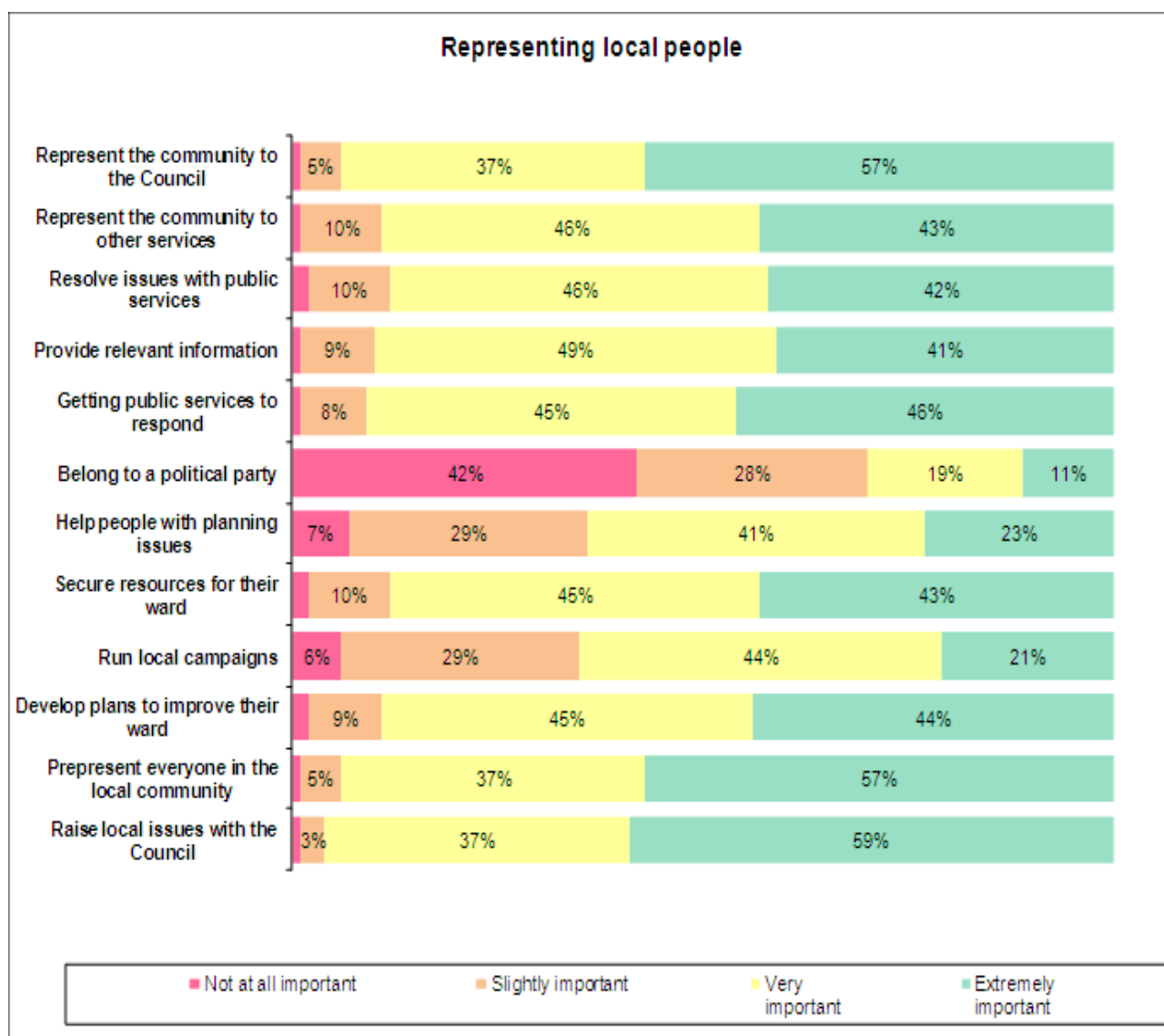
- Canvassing
- Local newspaper
- Making home or community centre visits
- Meeting at the Keighley campus
- Neighbourhood forums
- Skype / Facetime
- Telephone
- Text message

4.13 **Representing local people.** The survey asked people to express their views on how important they feel different activities are to the Councillors representational role at the local ward level.

4.14 Raising local issues with the Council (96% said it was very or extremely important), working on plans to improve the whole ward (89%), securing resources for the ward (89%) and representing everyone in the community (93%) were key elements of the Councillors job regarded as being among the most important.

The emphasis on Councillors working on behalf of everyone irrespective of the community the Councillor is from or their political party overrides by far the importance attached to being a member of a political party. Only 30% of people believed it to be important for Councillors to be members of political parties – 70% felt this to be unimportant. Several people who gave reasons for their answers said that people should work together regardless of political persuasion. The importance attached to membership of a political party was highest in Bradford West (46% very or extremely important) and lowest in Shipley (20%) and Keighley (22%). People aged under 35 attached more importance to party membership than any other age group with 43% saying it was very or extremely important. Analysis by ethnic group shows that the proportion of Asian and British Asians who think being in a political party is very or extremely important (56% is more than twice that of white British people (25%).

- 4.15 The role that Councillors play in holding non Council services to account was also recognised as being important by a very high proportion of people (88% very or extremely important), this view was particularly pronounced among people under 35 (94%) and even higher among people aged 18-24 (97%) compared to other age groups. Getting public services to respond to local issues (90%) and helping people to resolve individual issues with public services (88%) also ranked highly in importance.
- 4.16 Dealing with planning issues and running local campaigns were regarded as less important activities but nonetheless over two thirds of respondents saw them as being very or extremely important. The proportions of people who believed dealing with planning to be very or extremely important varied from 74% in Bradford South to 59% in Shipley.
- 4.17 Alternative methods suggested on how to represent local people in their wards:
- Be accountable
 - Communicate
 - Create local charities
 - Have a free vote - no ties to a political party
 - Have creative solutions to problems
 - Invite the community to Council meetings
 - Liaise with the Police
 - Listen to the community
 - Live in the ward they represent
 - Walkabouts



- 4.18 **Working with local people.** A series of questions were asked that were designed to explore views on how Councillors should work together with local people. The highest ranking activity was to ensure that local people are consulted before decisions are taken that affect the local area (95% very or extremely important).
- 4.19 Working with local people to help find solutions to local issues also ranked highly so, while talking regularly and directly to residents was seen as being very or extremely important by over 90% of respondents an even higher proportion (93%) recognised the importance of local people sharing responsibility with Councillors for securing solutions to local issues, among people aged 18-24 the proportion rose to 98%.
- 4.20 Although lower importance was attached to Councillors challenging individuals and communities to change their behaviour, more than three quarters of respondents believed that this was a very or extremely important aspect of the role including 88% of 18-24 year olds.

Higher proportions of respondents from Bradford East (87%), South (81%) and West (84%) said that Councillors' challenging people to change their behaviour was very or extremely important than in Keighley (67%) and Shipley (68%).

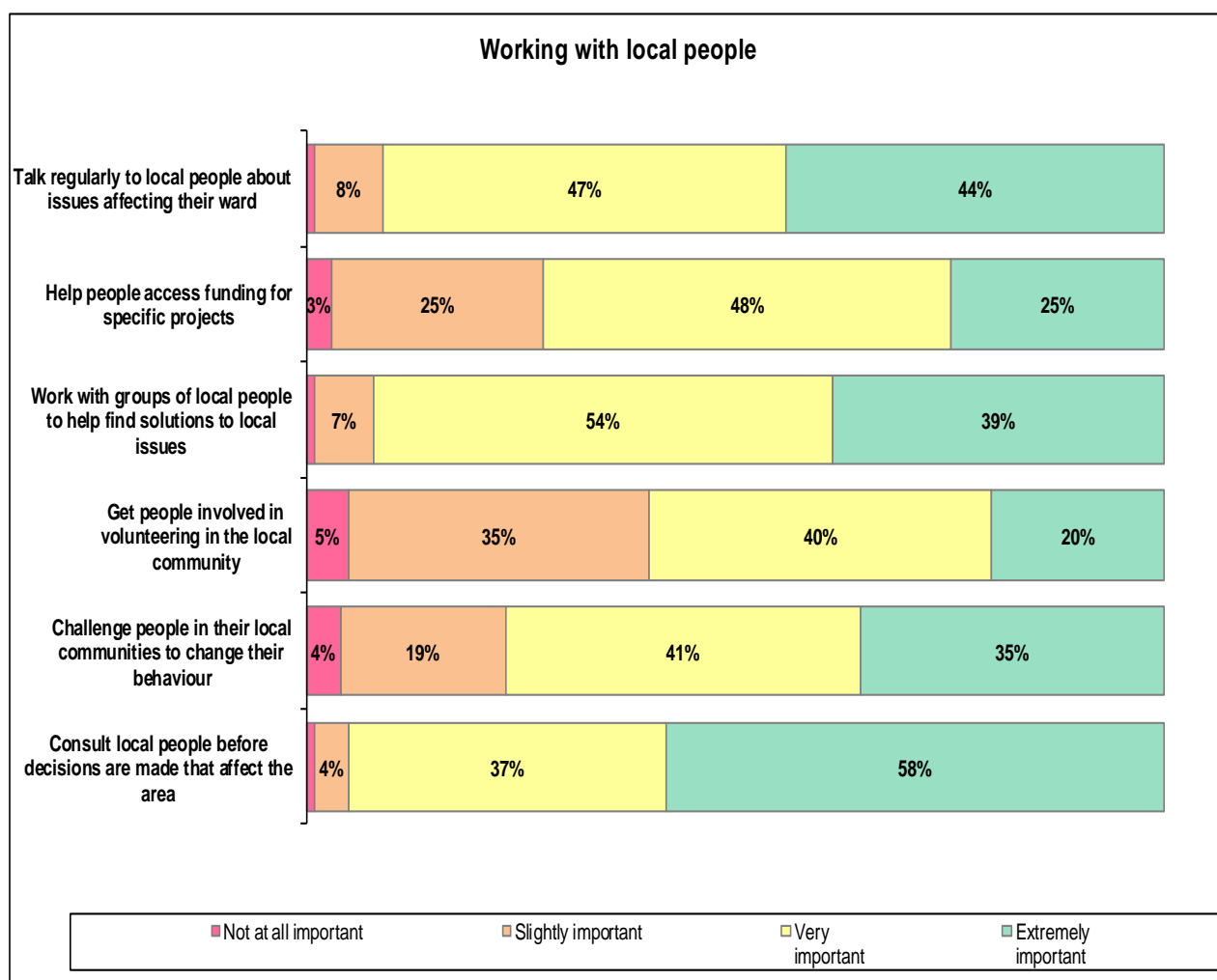
Among British Asian and Asian respondents 89% believed challenging behaviour to be very or extremely important compared to 73% of white British people.

- 4.21 Promoting volunteering was seen as less important than other activities but was nevertheless regarded as being important by 60% of people responding although in Keighley and Shipley this figure dropped to 51% and 55% respectively. Women were more likely to regard this activity as important or very important (65%) than men (54%). Younger people were also more likely to regard this as a very or extremely important part of the job, 79% of under 35's expressed this view and 86% of 18-24 year olds.

Higher than average proportions of Asian and British Asian people (82%) thought that encouraging volunteers was very or extremely important, only 56% of white British people agreed.

- 4.22 Other methods suggested of how to work with local people:

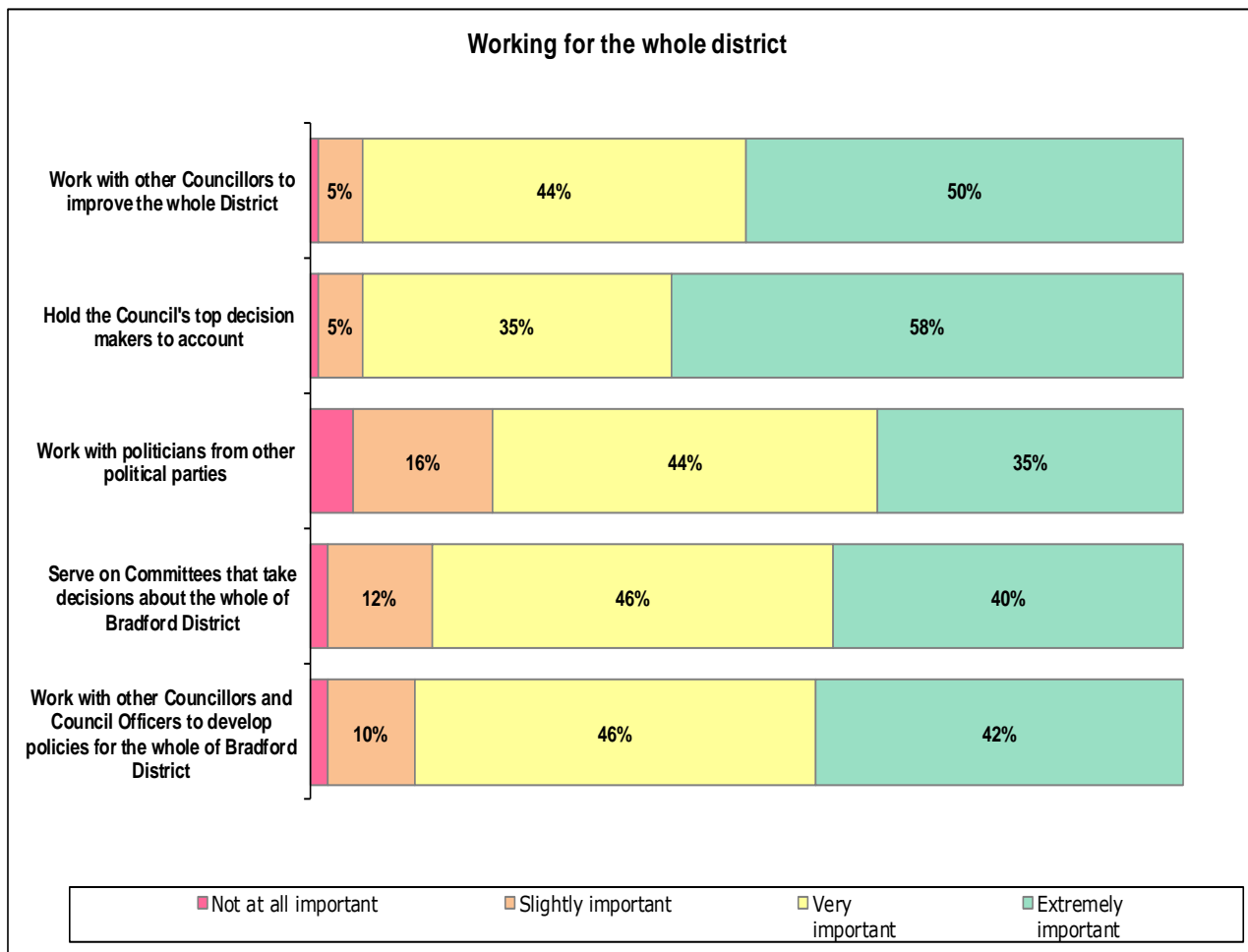
- Attract investment
- Be capable of doing the job
- Be creative and have innovative solutions
- Be local
- Be multi lingual
- Engage with Partners
- Engage with the public
- Involve community with decision making
- Keep expenses to a minimum
- Promote good values and traditions
- Put constituents first
- Respond to queries / problems
- Tackle anti-social behaviour
- Use social media
- Whistle blow on malpractice
- Work with Parish Councils



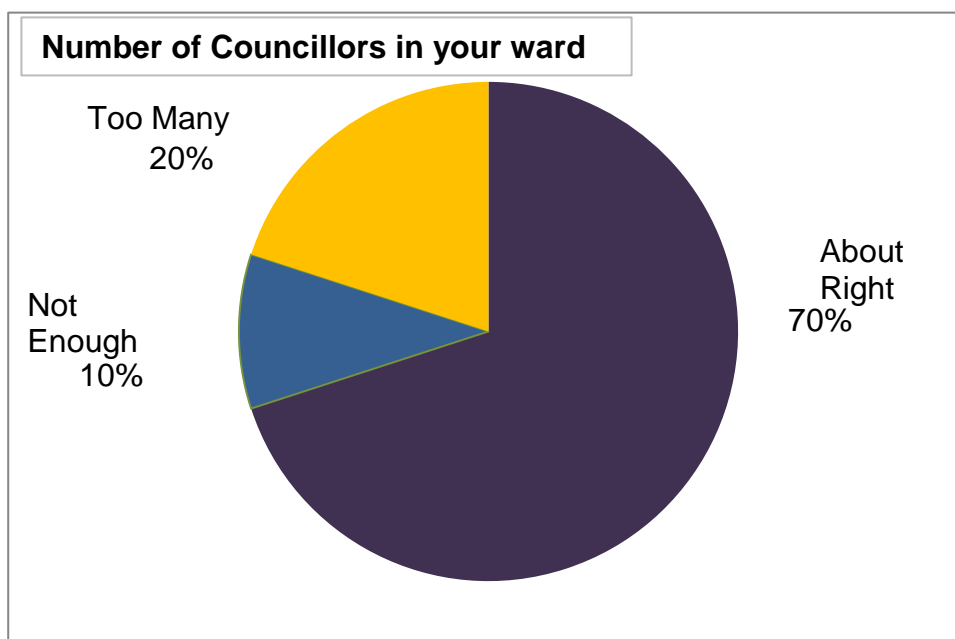
4.23 **Working for the whole District.** People recognise the work that Councillors need to do to hold Council decision makers to account (93% see this as very or extremely important) and in working with other Councillors to improve the whole District (94%). These figures were fairly uniform across all Parliamentary Constituencies.

4.24 District wide activities such as serving on committees taking decisions about the whole District (86% very or extremely important) and working with others to develop District wide policies (86%) were seen as being more important aspects of the job than some of the local ward activities that people were asked about although the proportions expressing this view were lower in Keighley and Shipley than in the Bradford constituencies.

4.25 People clearly expect Councillors to work with politicians from other political parties to get things done with 79% of people believing this to be very or extremely important.



4.26 Councillor Numbers. Respondents were asked, given what they know about the role of Councillors, whether they think that three Councillors is the right number for their ward, not enough or too many. In response, 80% of people said three Councillors was about right or not enough with 20% saying that it was too many.



- 4.27 Views on Councillors' numbers were broadly uniform across the District with between 78% and 84% of respondents in each Parliamentary Constituency indicating that Councillor numbers were either about right or not enough in their local ward. The proportions of respondents in different Parliamentary Constituencies who thought that there were too many Councillors for their ward were within one or two percentage points of each other at just over 20% with the exception of Keighley where only 16% thought there were too many.

**Table 3 – Is three Councillors the right number for your ward?
Analysis by Constituency**

Constituency	About Right	Not Enough	Too Many
Bradford East	64%	13%	23%
Bradford South	69%	10%	21%
Bradford West	63%	16%	21%
Keighley	78%	7%	16%
Shipley	71%	7%	22%
Bradford District	70%	10%	20%

- 4.28 Across all age groups two thirds or more of people thought that three Councillors was the right number for their ward - the highest proportion holding this view were among people aged 65 or over. The 18-34 age group had the lowest proportion of people who thought three Councillors was the right number but by far the highest percentage of people who believed it wasn't enough (20%). Younger people were less likely to believe that three Councillors were too many.

**Table 4 - Is three Councillors the right number for your ward?
Analysis by age**

Age Group	About Right	Not Enough	Too Many
18-34	66%	20%	14%
35-54	67%	12%	21%
55-64	70%	10%	20%
65+	74%	5%	21%

- 4.29 Women were more likely than men to believe that three Councillors was about right with 72% holding this view compared to 67% of men. Over a quarter (26%) of men believed that three Councillors were too many with 26% holding this view compared to 16% of female respondents. Nevertheless almost three-quarters of men (74%) thought three Councillors were either about right or not enough.

- 4.30 Respondents from Asian and British Asian ethnic groups were less likely to believe that three Councillors in their ward was the right number than other ethnic groups with just 60% holding this view compared for example, to 72% of white British respondents. This is accounted for in part by the fact that Asian and British Asian people were also more likely to believe that three is too many Councillors (24%) and, conversely, that it is not enough (16%).

**Table 5 - Is three Councillors the right number for your ward?
Analysis by ethnic group**

Ethnic Group	About Right	Not Enough	Too Many
White British (n=949)	72%	8%	20%
Other White (n=28)	75%	11%	14%
Asian & British Asian (n=185)	60%	16. %	24%
Black (n=16)	75%	13%	13%
Other (n=15)	67%	20%	13%

- 4.31 A small number of people (5) provided written comments on their views about the number of Councillors all of which supported a reduction. It was suggested that numbers and associated costs could be reduced by having fewer wards and elections every four years instead of every year.
- 4.32 **Written Comments.** Several questions attracted written comments from respondents. Common themes included references to visibility and the need for Councillors to represent all parts of their ward and all communities and all parts of the District. Some people expressed the belief that certain areas or communities are treated preferentially by Councillors while others are overlooked or that Councillors only act in party political interests representing the Party more than the community. Others perceived a bias towards the city of Bradford compared to outer towns and villages.

While it was generally understood that Councillors have District wide responsibilities and that each ward is part of a greater whole a number of comments referred to the need to ensure that local areas and neighbourhoods are not lost in the bigger picture.

A number of respondents held the view that Councillors are not sufficiently visible and active and that they are only seen at election time. Suggestions for raising awareness of Councillors and their activities

included publication and circulation of annual reports detailing the issues elected representatives are working on and the actions they are taking to deal with them.

Responses about communications and keeping in touch reflected a need for Councillors to maintain a variety of techniques and media; several people referred to not having access to the internet or electronic forms of communication.

Some people said that it should be a given that all the roles and activities asked about in the survey are part and parcel of all elected members' jobs.

Important issues that people said Councillors should be working on included anti-social behaviour, promoting education and the idea of "community", lobbying government for resources, highways issues, gritting, planning and housing. Other comments referred to specific issues relating to Council services including some complaints. A number of comments were made that were positive and complimentary about the work of District Councillors.

Written comments are published in full in Appendix 2.

5 Elected Member Survey

- 5.1 All 90 of the Council's elected members were invited to complete an online questionnaire between December 2015 and January 2016. The questionnaire sought to gather information on the time devoted to working as a Councillor and views on the future role and its support needs. A copy of the questionnaire is provided at Appendix 3.
- 5.2 In total 65 Councillors completed the questionnaire representing a response rate of 72%.
- 5.3 **Length of service.** Of the Councillors responding to the survey over a third (34%) had been in the job for ten years or more while over a quarter had been Councillors for two years or less.
- 5.4 **Positions held.** About two thirds of responding Councillors (62%) held a position at the time as a member of the Executive or an Executive Assistant, opposition leader, deputy leader or shadow cabinet member or as a committee chair or deputy chair. 61% represented the Council on external bodies.

- 5.5 **Time spent on Council activities.** Councillors were asked to estimate how much time in a typical week they spend on Council activities and duties. All Councillors spent at least 6 hours a week on Council work with 80% spending over 16 hours on it and 59% indicating that they spent in excess of 20 hours a week on Council activities. This is broadly consistent with Local Government Association research indicating that nationally Councillors spend an average of 25 hours a week on Council related business.

All members of the Executive who responded said they worked 20 hours or more on Council activities and 75% of opposition leaders, deputies and members holding shadow portfolios. Just under half (48%) of the Councillors who didn't hold any Executive, shadow, or committee chair/deputy chair positions said that they spent over 20 hours a week on Council activities with 43% spending between 11 and 20 hours a week.

Members were asked to estimate the percentage of the total time they spent on Council related activities that they spend on constituency business, internal council business and external Council business. Constituency business accounted for 50% or more of the time of 70% of councillors answering the question. On average the proportion of time spent on constituency business was 57%.

In contrast only 17% of respondents spent half their time or more on internal Council activities although 36% spend 30% or more of their time on this aspect of their work.

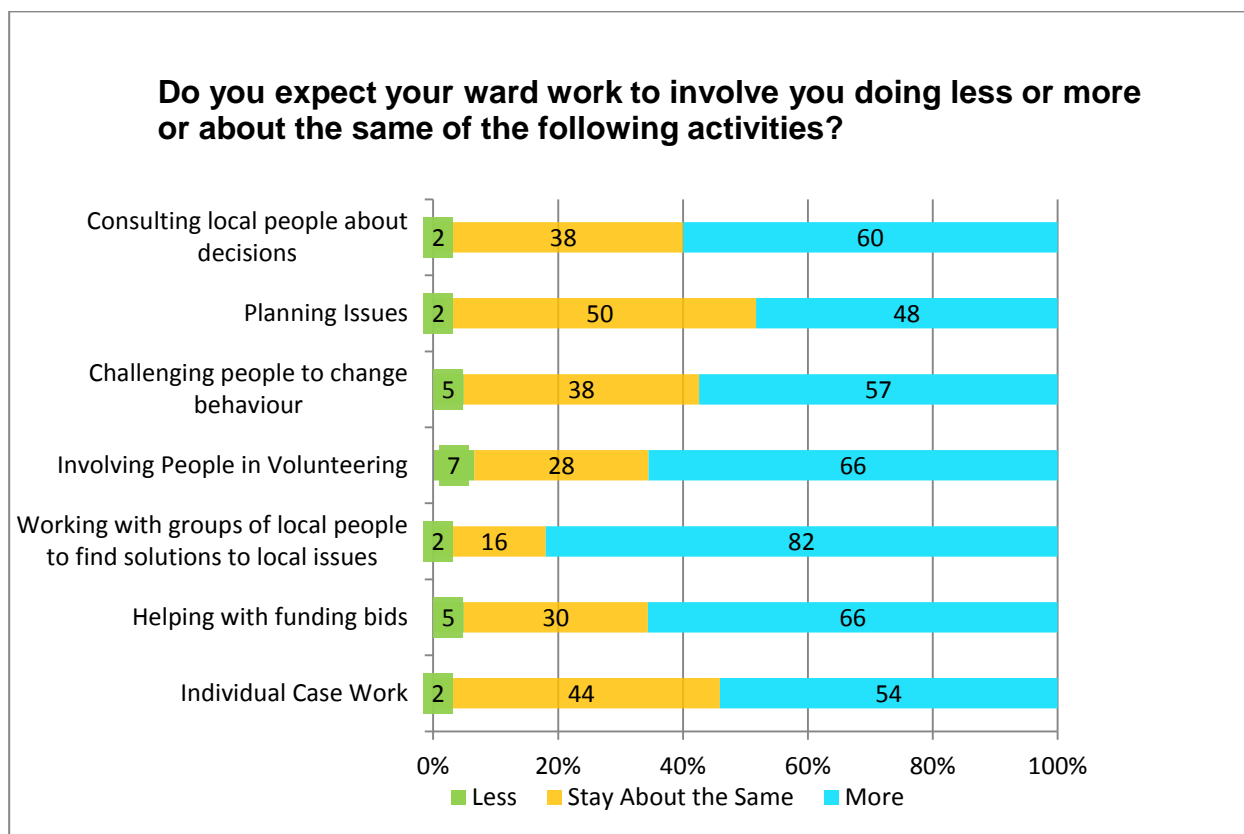
Just 5% of Councillors spent 50% or more of their time on external business just over a third of Councillors (36%) spent 10% or more of their time on external activities.

- 5.6 Looking at ward based work Councillors were asked to estimate the percentage of time spent on Council business that was spent on particular activities such as dealing with case work or attending meeting over a typical month. More than half (55%) of respondents said that they spent up to 30% of their time on individual casework with 8% indicating that they spent more than half the time spent on ward activity dealing with case work. Proportionately less time was spent on meetings and working with local groups
- 5.7 Councillors were asked about various activities associated with their work and whether or not they expected to be doing more, less or about the same over the next two years.

On all but one of the activities identified in the question a majority of councillors responding believed that they would be doing more over the next two years. Working with groups of local people to develop local solutions to issues was the area in which the highest proportion (82%) of Councillors anticipated a growing workload. Two thirds (66%) of Councillors expected to be doing more work to help local people develop funding bids and to promote volunteering. Consultation with local people was expected to increase by 60% of Councillors answering the question and challenging people to change behaviours by 57%. Few Councillors anticipated workloads reducing in any of the areas identified by the questionnaire although it was suggested that “challenging people to change their behaviours” was none of Councillors’ business.

Some Councillors quoted mounting case loads and several said that reductions in Council budgets would increase the amount of time they spend on working with local people to develop solutions without recourse to Council services or budgets, assisting with funding bids and connecting local people to volunteering opportunities.

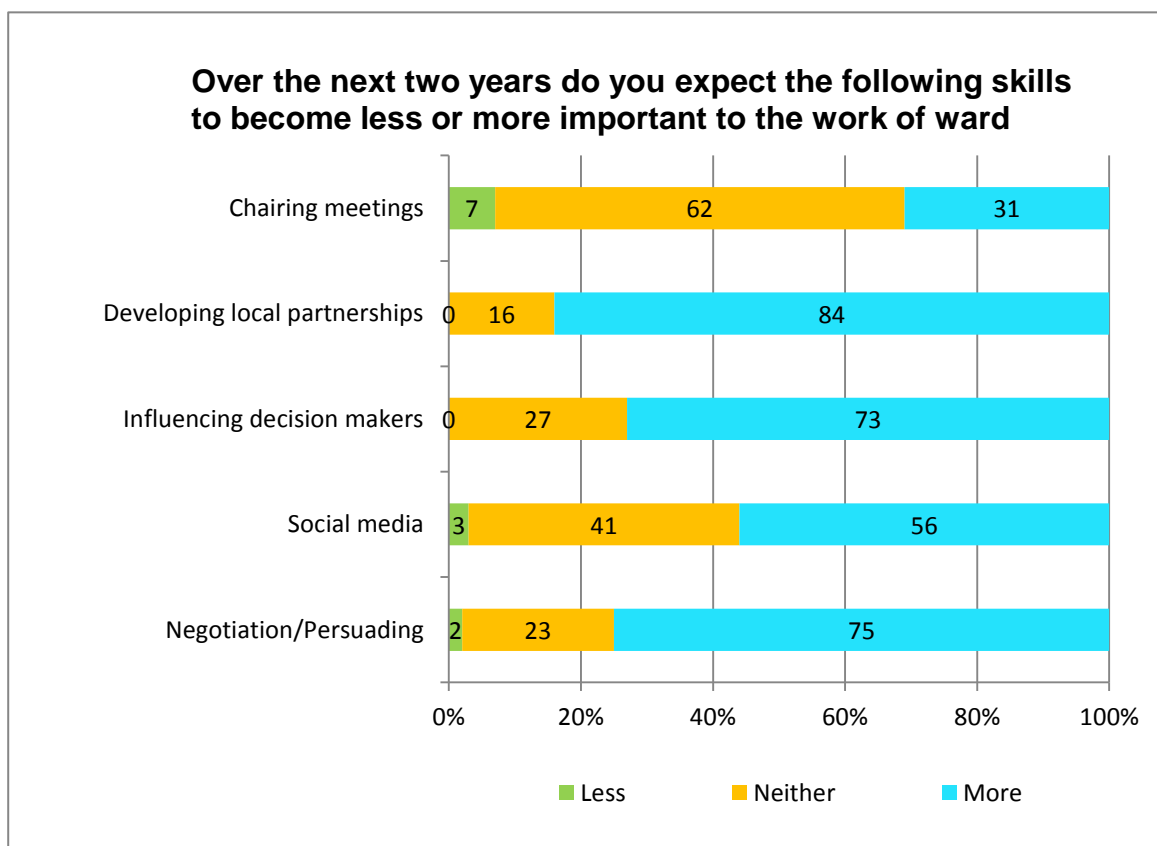
Some Councillors identified other areas in which they expected workloads to increase – these included communications with residents, commuting to meetings and specific issues around the Strategic Housing Land Assessment and local plan.



- 5.8 Asked more generally about their overall workload 93% of Councillors who answered the question agreed with the statement “I expect my overall Council workload to increase over the next two years” with 22% agreeing strongly that this would be the case. These views were uniformly spread irrespective of length of service, position on the council or the numbers of hours currently devoted to Council activities.

I expect my overall Council workload to increase over the next two years	
Strongly Agree	41%
Agree	52%
Disagree	5%
Strongly Disagree	2%

- 5.9 The survey asked whether Councillors believed certain skills would become more or less important to their work in their wards over the next two years. Developing local partnerships was considered to be an area in which skills would be increasingly important by 84% of Councillors who answered the question. Three quarters thought that negotiation and persuasion would be more important and 73% said the same of the ability to influence decision makers. Just over half (55%) of respondents anticipated social media skills becoming more important in ward work.



Other skills identified by Councillors as being necessary and likely to increase in importance were problem solving, mediation, and community development. Some Councillors said that they had found it difficult to answer the question because multiple skills are required to be an effective ward Councillor.

- 5.10 Councillors were asked how they thought that the role of ward councillors might change over the next two years. In response many comments anticipated an increasing community development focus and advocacy element to the role including support to help people find different ways of addressing local issues *and* take greater responsibility for their areas.

“The role of a councillor has moved on from someone who just oversees replacing street lights and gritting. More emphasis will be on partnerships working and influencing decisions.”

Councillors foresaw increased engagement with the voluntary sector and other organisations such as parish councils and the need to become skilled at identifying and securing resources from sources beyond council budgets.

Some Councillors expected significantly more case work including work of greater complexity as a result of funding cuts and expressed concern about how to communicate the changing nature of Council services to a sceptical public with high expectations of their local representatives.

- 5.11 Councillors were asked whether they thought they would need more or less support from the Council over the next two years to perform their role as ward councillors. Almost half (48%) of Councillors responding said that they would need more Council support to carry out their ward work with 39% saying they thought support needs would remain the same. Well over half (56%) of Councillors with two years' experience or less said that they would need more support and the same was true of Councillors with ten years or more experience (57%). A lower proportion of Councillors with three to five years (31%) and six to ten years' experience (37%) said that they would need more support.

Of Councillors with an executive or executive assistants' position six out of nine said that they anticipated the need for more support to perform their ward work and just under half of Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs shared this view. Among senior members of opposition groups most (62%) believed that they would need around the same level of support although several written comments suggested that the Council should try to increase the support it provides to opposition groups. Over

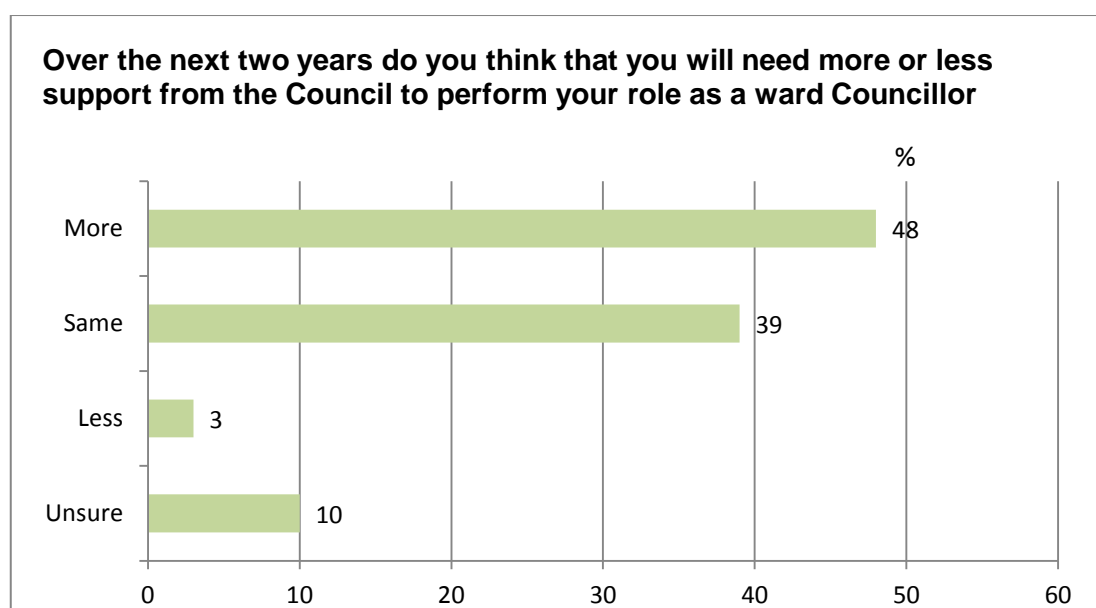
40% of members who did not hold a senior position on Council committees or within their group (excluding party whips) said that they would require more support.

A significant number of written comments were provided in relation to future support needs. Many of them referred to the need to adopt new approaches to service delivery and to the relationship with their local communities because of budget reductions as a driver of the need for increased support. However these views were generally balanced with a recognition that with all services under financial pressure increasing resources to support members would be difficult to justify.

There were however, comments that suggested a shift in culture and emphasis could deliver enhanced support without the need for extra resources. Some indicated that they believed that some Council departments regard elected members as an obstruction and do not value their democratic role or share information properly with Councillors. Others, the neighbourhoods service was quoted several times, were highly regarded and could act as exemplars for other parts of the organisation.

It was also suggested that other organisations for example in the health sector would benefit from a better understanding of Councillors roles and that this would support better local working.

Better quality and more timely information, better understanding of the role among public sector staff and support to develop partnership working with local people were recurrent themes.



- 5.12 A summary of the survey findings and details of all written comments can be found at Appendix 4.

6 Elected Member Interviews

- 6.1 Between January and March 2016 a series of semi-structured interviews were undertaken with senior Councillors including the former leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of Council, the leader of the opposition and leaders of the Liberal Democrat and Green groups and a member of the Executive. Since the change in the Council's leadership in May the new Council leader has also been interviewed.

Interviews were also undertaken in May 2016 with the then Chairs of Scrutiny Committees. The interviews were designed to explore views on the role of Councillors in a changing environment including the numbers required to represent the District. The interviews were undertaken on the understanding that the views expressed would be unattributed to individuals. The interview questionnaire is provided at Appendix 5.

- 6.2 Elected members were asked about the key challenges facing the Council and their impact on the role of elected members.
- 6.3 **Budget.** All Councillors who were interviewed placed meeting significant budget pressures at the top of the challenges facing the Council. There was general consensus among the responses that the Councillors role was changing as a result of budget reductions and changes to the Council's traditional role as a service provider.

The Councillor's role at strategic and at ward level was viewed as being increasingly about advocacy, brokerage and influence. It was suggested that Councillors were spending significant amounts of their time scrutinising budgets and budget cuts and then trying to manage their implementation or explain them to a sceptical public.

Elected members recognised that things have to change and be done differently and that there are fundamental questions about the future role and purpose of the Council. Some saw services inevitably being scaled back to statutory duties and expressed concern about finding the balance between delivering statutory responsibilities while finding the resources to do other things that are needed to change the District for the better. A question was raised about the balance between universal and high cost targeted services that are provided to relatively few people. One member suggested that within 5-10 years the District Councillor model won't exist and will have been replaced by governance models based on West Yorkshire or wider geographic level.

Although change is inevitable the Council is constrained by previous decisions that mean it has a low tax base and while Councillors have tried to resist a slash and burn approach to implementing budget cuts to date, supporting communities to run facilities and services themselves takes time.

As the Council reduces services providing face to face contact with the public Councillors are increasingly becoming its public face and there are issues around addressing public expectations and raising awareness of the need for change and of the services that the Council is responsible for. Several Councillors said that people want someone to blame and that Councillors are often left to carry the can for decisions that are often beyond their control for example in housing or in terms of services provided by other agencies. Getting communities to buy in to change is difficult and a strong narrative is required around reductions in resources and the need to focus on self-sufficiency where this is possible. There is existing antipathy in some quarters to being part of Bradford District that causes issues particularly as budgets reduce.

- 6.4 **Devolution.** Devolution of powers, resources and responsibilities from Westminster to sub-regional levels featured prominently in the thoughts of all the interviewees.

Councillors thought that devolution could lead to the movement of some strategic functions currently performed locally up to the sub-regional level thus shrinking Bradford Council in size and scope. The job of Bradford Council will be to ensure that we have a significant voice in the region and that devolution works for the District as opposed to trying to get ministers to listen to our case for Bradford. The role of senior Councillors will become more strategic and externally focussed on working through relationships and getting the best deal and this is likely to place more pressure on their colleagues in their local wards.

Generally devolution was seen as an opportunity but there was concern that much uncertainty over the nature of any devolution deal remains. People were also worried that Bradford could lose out to other areas and that the role of core cities was being over emphasised.

Concern was expressed about democratic accountability with a mayoral model potentially placing too much power in one person's hands, potential dominance by one political party, confusion about who is responsible for what and a lack of clarity about scrutiny arrangements particularly where services are likely to leave local control. Some Councillors said that the devolution agenda would reduce local power

and resources and undermine local democracy at a time when our communities need more advocates not fewer.

- 6.5 **Demand and demography.** Increasing demand for services was a common theme linked to challenges around balancing budgets and sustaining services and good outcomes. Budget reductions are compounded by rising numbers of older and younger people and people with disabilities leading to increasing pressure in terms of meeting statutory duties with less money, one member felt that demand pressures were transitional and would come back into balance over time. Another said that budget cuts were increasing demand for crisis services and they were seeing increasing levels of need and complexity in their case loads. It was suggested that Councillors are often at the end of the line for people in crisis which raises a question about the potential for Councillors to be more proactive in terms of facilitating early action to assist people before they find themselves in crisis.
- 6.6 **Education & Skills.** Improving education and skills were identified as key areas of challenge but Members across the board expressed frustration at having limited powers to address them, “No role without control” summed up this sentiment. The Council itself cannot be held directly responsible for educational attainment without having power and the Education Covenant is promoting shared responsibility. Questions were raised about the Council’s ability to deliver on its ambitions for education and good schools and there are issues about public awareness of the diminishing part that Councils’ play in education. It was acknowledged however that while Council influence is eroded there is still a need to represent the interests of children and families.
- 6.7 **Health / Public sector reform.** The health and social care system was identified as another example of an issue in which the Council has responsibility for knitting together partnerships of service commissioners and providers but little or no power or resources to make them work effectively. Health structures are complex and poorly understood by the public and partnership working within the sector was felt by some to be relatively immature.
- 6.8 **Housing.** Trying to balance the need for new homes while at the same time protecting green spaces was seen by some as a key issue by some members.

Relationships with Parish Councils, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and business.

- 6.9 Elected Members were asked about their perceptions of Parish Councils and the VCS and how the changing nature of local government might impact on them.
- 6.10 **Parish Councils.** Parish Councils were perceived as key stakeholders with whom productive relationships need to be established and maintained although they are seen to be of variable quality.

The power to place a precept on Council tax gives people living in places with Parish Councils the opportunity to exert more control over the area's destiny. However several concerns were expressed about the degree of expectation being placed on them in terms of their ability to take on responsibilities for services and facilities. It was suggested that the Council could do more to support parishes in this regard for example, through bridging loans or dowries accompanying asset transfers.

Concerns were expressed about the potential for postcode lotteries to result from transferring responsibilities to parish Councils with the richest communities getting the best deal.

- 6.11 **VCS.** Generally relationships with the VCS were perceived to be strong but there are issues about how the Council works with the sector given the severe budget constraints it faces and several members said that elements of the VCS need to change as well as the Council. It was suggested that some bigger organisations actively compete with others that they are there to support and that there are organisations that focus largely on running buildings rather than on people or outcomes.

Most members sought to make a distinction between what they perceive to be a "professional" element of the VCS and "grassroots" organisations. There were perceptions that the latter group are more representative of local communities with the former having a degree of disconnection from them yet having greater influence over Council policy via formal structures dominated by relatively small numbers of larger organisations that have vested interests.

- 6.12 **Business.** Most members called for greater engagement with/from business in particular in terms of skills and apprenticeships. It was suggested that the Council needs to develop an "ask" of the private sector around skills and community engagement and that the Council should seek to influence the deployment of revenue from the apprenticeships levy. Good relationships with business are important to promote "reputation of place" and the Council should do more to engage

with entrepreneurs especially those outside the city centre. Where the Council lacks skills for example in commercialism, it was suggested that it should work more closely with the private sector providing opportunities for business to do the things it does badly itself.

- 6.13 **Councillor Numbers and Elections.** Interviewees were asked about their views on whether the number of Councillors should be cut and on the frequency with which local elections should be held. As might be anticipated views were mixed with no definitive consensus emerging on either issue.

Some Councillors agreed that the overall numbers of Councillors should be cut but several said that there was too much uncertainty especially around devolution, for it to be the right time to make such a move. It was felt by some that without clarity around the powers and responsibilities that would be left with Bradford Council that there could be no informed judgement made on the on-going nature of the role and therefore on the numbers needed. It was suggested that if powers were to reduce then this would be a more appropriate time to look at reducing the numbers of elected representatives but even then while case work might reduce the need for community leaders and advocates would increase.

Others believed that if numbers were to be cut then the position should be made a full-time job with appropriate remuneration which would be likely to negate or limit and cost reductions that could be made through numerical reductions. It was argued that as things stand Councillors are relatively low cost representatives.

Mixed feelings were expressed about the possibility of fewer Councillors especially given a growing role for Councillors as community champions and advocates and the very high levels of demand for Councillors services in some parts of the District. According to some members the role itself is unlikely to diminish and workloads have already increased. It was argued that budget cuts are increasing pressures on Councillors and that they are critical helping people understand and participate in change so that the Council needs to maintain its numbers for now with another look when we arrive at the “end game”.

- 6.14 Some interviewees believed that 90 is the right number of Councillors. Among those who thought that a reduced number was feasible if not necessarily desirable, the suggestions for the appropriate number of Councillors ranged from 30 one member wards to 60 (30 wards with two members) and 75 (25 wards with three members). It was suggested that while the Council probably needs 30-60 “strategic place makers” this would not provide the numbers needed to fulfil all its regulatory functions.

Another idea was for the Council to consider moving to 90 “mini” wards each with its own Councillor.

- 6.15 The suggestion that different wards could have different numbers of members led to concerns about unfair and unequal levels of representation and division between communities. In general, members appeared to prefer a consistent level of representation in each ward be that through one, two or three councillors although some suggested that some parts of the District could manage with fewer. It was argued by some that three works well and should continue to be the standard however many wards the District has.
- 6.16 Asked whether the Council should request a formal boundary review few members rejected the idea but there were several concerns expressed that this is not the appropriate time and that the Council should wait until there is greater certainty around budgets, devolution and the role.
- 6.17 There was some support for holding elections every four years in which all Council seats would be contested. Four yearly terms it was argued would enable better planning and reduce costs although there would be risks attached to potentially significant numbers of new members all at once which could threaten continuity of leadership and undermine collective experience and expertise. Others argued to stay with elections in thirds – it was said that this provides rhythm and greater accountability – keeping members sharp and in touch with communities.

Councillor Roles, Skills and Support

- 6.18 The interviews asked about views on how changes to the role and functions of the Council were translated into changes in the workload of District councillors and the skills they require, how this would affect workloads and the type of support they need. As senior roles become more strategic and externally focussed “frontline” councillors will have to backfill the gaps.
- 6.19 Most of those interviewed believed that workloads would increase in the future; some said it would remain at current levels but none thought it would decrease although the focus may alter. If numbers of Councillors were to reduce then this would lead to increased pressure on workloads
- 6.20 In terms of changes in skills there was a general consensus around the idea that Councillors would increasingly need to be skilled in brokerage, influencing, partnership and advocacy and “future proofing” communities against budget reductions through bringing different groups, resources and opportunities together.

While responsibilities in some areas will decline – for example direct involvement in schools, members felt that at all levels of activity the need for place making, influence, persuasion, mediation and engaging with others will increase and the emphasis of ward work could shift from case work and dealing with service delivery to a community development focused approach – although some took the view that case work particularly with people in crisis remains the most important part of the job.

The Council can't be relied on to provide all the answers and Councillors need to work with local people to build "self- support" with people most "empowered" when they are involved. This could mean for example, Councillors needing to lead active community organisation in order to take over services or assets that the Council can no longer sustain. It was suggested though that relatively few Councillors were currently working in this way or had the requisite skills to do so.

There may be a case for looking at the role Councillors can play in terms of early intervention and prevention.

Skills were regarded by some as being less important than having access to the "tools" to do the job.

Devolution will require different skills to advocate for Bradford and understand the wider issues and in general there was a view that we are going to need more Councillors who understand policy and strategy as well as community councillors.

It was suggested that political parties could do more to develop skills and help encourage skilled and resourceful people to become Councillors – at the moment many people ask themselves why they should bother given the challenges to be faced and the perceptions that some members of the public hold of Councillors.

- 6.21 Views on how well the Council supports ward Councillors depended largely on the quality of individual officers or the experience of elected members who know who to ask. Where support is good officers are nevertheless often stretched and unable to respond rapidly to constituent issues.

It was said that political awareness among council officers is poor but that so is the understanding of many elected members of officer imperatives. Councillors also have a responsibility to take advantage of training and support opportunities and more needs to be done to give people the tools to help them-selves.

The Council was criticised for not supporting councillors to be community leaders and only offering the support it thinks they need.

- 6.22 **Social Media.** Members were asked for views on the impact of social media on local democracy and how the Council should respond. Social media was accepted as having become part and parcel of the democratic landscape and was adding to workloads, one member described how young mums would contact them with issues on Facebook. An easy way to reach lots of people it is playing a significant role in mobilising people although it was suggested that it may be approaching its peak capacity.

However numerous concerns were expressed including receiving abuse, the use of social media to disseminate disinformation and myths that then require rebuttals and the risk of being dragged into online rows.

Councillors felt that social media should continue to be regarded as just one strand in the Council's overall communications and consultation strategies and that it should be cautious about overemphasising its importance and reacting instantaneously to its content. It could play a part in gathering data and intelligence and area officers need to interact with social media around neighbourhood forums etc.

7 Councillor Profile

- 7.1 The Council's Democratic Services section gathers information on the age and ethnic profile of Councillors.
- 7.2 Women are under represented on the Council comprising 37.8% of Councillors despite females accounting for more than half the District's population (50.7%) and 51.2% of its over 18 population. The proportion of female Councillors is slightly higher than the national average (2013) of 32.7%.
- 7.3 The proportion of Councillors from non-White ethnic groups at 31.1% is close to that of the overall population and exceeds that of the 18+ population (23%). Nationally the figure for non-white Councillors is 4%.
- 7.3 The average age of Bradford Councillors at 52, is relatively young compared to national figures compiled by the Local Government Association in 2013 placing the average age of Councillors at 62.

Table 5 illustrates the fact that despite having being younger than the national average the age profile of Bradford Councillors is significantly older than the voting age population of the District. No Councillors are

younger than 30 and the proportions aged 40-49, 50-59 and 60-69 are all significantly higher than among the wider 18+ population.

Table 5 - Age Profile of Bradford Councillors.

Age Group	Bradford District 18+ population	Bradford Councillors	Councillors National Average*
	%	%	%
18-29	21.2	0	2.3
30-39	18.7	17.8	5.4
40-49	17.9	25.6	10.5
50-59	16.1	26.7	38.1
60-69	12.8	21.1	38.6
70+	13.3	8.9	22.2

*National Census of Councillors 2013, LGA

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 Bradford District is a place where people attach high value to democratically accountable local representation irrespective of age, gender, ethnic group or location. People understand that locally accountable Councillors also play a role in taking decisions on behalf of the whole District and holding key decision makers to account and they attach very high levels of importance to those responsibilities.
- 8.2 Constituents attach high importance to many aspects of ward Councillors' work and in particular they expect their elected representatives to consult and work with constituents on local issues as part and parcel of the job.
- 8.3 Very high proportions of people believe that three Councillors is the right number for the ward in which they live or that more are needed. This view is most strongly held among women and people aged 18-34.
- 8.4 Most councillors spend over 20 hours a week on council duties and activities with 70% of Councillors devoting 50% of their time on Council business to constituency matters. Over 90% of councillors anticipated an increase in their workload over the next two years and interviews with senior members of the Council suggested that for many members workloads are already increasing and will continue to do so.

The figures on workloads are broadly consistent with national data from the LGA census of Councillors 2013 which also shows increases in the average time Councillors spend on Council business from 20.7 hours a week in 2010 to 25.1 in 2013. This is a continuation of a long standing

trend – the Report of the 2007 Commission on Councillors, “Representing the Future” identified that the average amount of time Councillors spent on their duties had increased from 52 hours a month in 1964 to just under 95 hours in 2006. The Institute of Local Government Report to the Electoral Commission 2005 on Council size concluded that the average hours Councillors spent on Council duties per month was highest among the authorities with the highest ratios of electors to Councillors.

- 8.5 A growing electorate is likely to have an impact on workloads. Some councillors expect to see significant increases in case work and many take the view that their role as community leaders and advocates will expand as the scope and scale of Council services and budgets contract and the relationship with local communities and community organisations changes.
- 8.6 Councillors and constituents attach a high degree of importance to the community leadership aspects of the elected members’ role and expect these elements to increase in scope in future however there is concern that many Councillors need additional support to perform these roles effectively.
- 8.7 Bradford is an ambitious District with an entrepreneurial and growing economy and a leading role to play in Leeds City Region, the pan-northern economy and in any sub-regional devolution arrangements that affect the District.

Interviews with senior elected members indicate the need to maintain elected representatives who can work strategically and at a high level regionally and nationally to ensure that Bradford District gets the best possible outcomes at a time of great uncertainty. The importance attached to the strategic place making role of senior Councillors reflects the views of Sir Michael Lyons’ Inquiry into Local Government 2007 which asserted that:

“Good leadership for prosperity, as part of economic place-shaping is particularly challenging and complex, since it requires work with partners and independent organisations including private businesses at a regional, national or even international level. The council has to have the leadership and influencing skills to assert the interests of its residents, while having the credibility to be taken seriously as a negotiating partner.”

Successfully performing this high level leadership requires senior Councillors to devote significant time to their duties and to have a wide range of skills and experience along with the support of ward colleagues

who can deal with increasing levels of case work and support their communities to develop higher levels of self-support.

In addition to the strategic and community leadership roles the Council requires members to fulfil regulatory functions.

- 8.8 Bradford is a big, diverse and growing District where people expect their Councillors and their council to be able to ensure that everyone is properly represented.

The national Councillors Commission in 2007 argued that Councillors are most effective as locally elected representatives when they have similar life experiences to those of their constituents and that:

“councils benefit from having a range of age, background and human experience among their elected membership which reasonably reflects their population, on two broad counts: symbolically, for notions of fairness, the importance of role models of resemblance, and enhancing trust and legitimacy in the political process; and substantively, different core interests and concerns can be fed directly into the democratic process.”

It is important in this context that where possible Councillors reflect the diversity of the communities that they represent and that people from all communities have the opportunity to become councillors - the likelihood of this being the case is less with fewer numbers of councillors.

As it stands, the age profile of Bradford Councillors is younger than national averages but older than the population; women are under-represented and in terms of ethnicity the proportion from non-white BME groups is broadly consistent with the general population. Fewer Councillors could be detrimental to progress in achieving a Council that is more representative of the people that it serves.

LGBCE guidance requires the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities when assessing Councillor's numbers.

Again, given the social and geographic diversity of the District, a reduction in the number of elected members could reduce the Council's ability to properly reflect community identity and interest at risk.

- 8.9 Relatively high levels of deprivation have implications for Councillor workloads and pressure on public services.

Among the criteria that the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland used to determine appropriate ratios of Councillors to electors

was the proportion of people living in areas of high deprivation. Where over 30% of the population lived in areas within the 15% most deprived nationally for example, in Glasgow, the Commission recommended that the optimum Councillor to elector ratio should be 2,800. If equivalent criteria were applied to Bradford then Councillor's numbers would increase in order to reflect the additional demands associated with levels of high deprivation in parts of the District.

8.10 The implications of devolution for the role and function of Bradford Council and councillors is as yet unclear. Likewise, the future shape and role of the Council as it reduces to a smaller size and scale has yet to be fully determined and the outcomes of the review or Constituency Boundaries are unknown. This uncertainty leads some senior councillors to believe that this is not the appropriate time to reduce Councillors although they do not discount the possibility in future.

8.11 Comparisons with other local authorities would suggest that current numbers of Councillors in Bradford are not unusually high given the size of its electorate and the range of the Council's representative responsibilities. While the number of electors per Councillor is lower than in some broadly comparable authorities such as Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield, Kirklees and Leicester, it is higher than many others for example, Nottingham, Derby, Southampton, Liverpool, Newcastle and Blackburn and Darwen. The numbers of electors per Councillor are higher than national averages and amongst the upper quartile of Metropolitan authorities.

A growing electorate will mean each Councillor representing increasing numbers of people in future. A reduction in numbers would risk a deficit in democratic representation.

8.12 Bradford does not currently meet the criteria for an LGBCE review however if Bradford Councillor numbers were to reduce in line with national averages for upper tier Councils subject to Boundary Commission reviews since 2010 it would see a reduction of 8 Councillors and the numbers of electors to councillors increase to 4,080 based on the total electorate at 1 December 2015. A reduction of 33% from 90 to 60 Councillors based on 30 two member wards would represent the highest percentage change in any reduction at a higher tier council since 2010 and would increase elector to councillor numbers to 5,576 – in December 2014 only Birmingham had a higher ratio among all upper tier Councils.

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Report of the City Solicitor to the meeting of Council on 13 December 2016

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Subject:

Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to Special Responsibility Allowances for Executive Assistants/Annual uprating of Allowances

Summary statement:

The Leader of the Council has appointed 3 Executive Assistants to work with the Executive Members with portfolios. Previously 6 Executive Assistants were appointed.

The Council's Independent Remuneration Panel met on 4 November 2016 to consider what Special Responsibility Allowance should be paid to the Executive Assistants given their reduced number and increased responsibilities. The annual uprating of allowances in accordance with the percentage increase provided for by the local government pay settlement for the year in question ended in October 2015. The Panel also considered whether the uprating should continue. The Independent Remuneration Panel has now submitted its report and its recommendations.

This report appends the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and seeks a decision from Council on the recommendations, two decisions being necessary, one from 6.1 to 6.3 (inserting a figure into 6.2 if that recommendation is supported) and one from 6.4 to 6.5.

Parveen Akhtar
City Solicitor

Portfolio:

Corporate

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E-mail: parveen.akhtar@bradford.gov.uk

Improvement Area:

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Council's Members' Allowances Scheme is set out at Part 5 of the Council's Constitution. Before the Council makes or amends a Scheme it must have regard to the recommendations made by an independent remuneration panel. The duties of the independent remuneration panel include producing reports making recommendations as to the responsibilities or duties in respect of which special responsibility allowances [SRAs] should be available. There are legal requirements in relation to publicising the recommendations of independent remuneration panels and the decisions of councils in making or amending Schemes. No payments can be made to councillors other than in accordance with the Scheme.
- 1.2 The Leader of the Council has appointed three Executive Assistants to work with the Executive Members with portfolios during the 2016/17 municipal year instead of the six formerly appointed. At its meeting on 4 November 2016 the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel considered what SRAs should be available to Executive Assistants. They also considered whether Members' Allowances should be uprated, the previous uprating having ended in 2015.
- 1.3 The Independent Remuneration Panel's report and recommendations form the Appendix to this report.

2. Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel

- 2.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel has made the following recommendations:
 - 2.1.1 The Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Executive Assistants should be 30% of the Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Leader of the Council with effect from the December 2016 meeting of the Council.
 - 2.1.2 The level of the Special Responsibility Allowances payable to the Executive Assistants should be reviewed in two years' time.
 - 2.1.3 The basic, special responsibility and co-optees' allowances should be updated in accordance with the headline pay increase negotiated through the National Joint Committee for Local Government Employees (or equivalent) and travel and subsistence allowances should be uprated annually in accordance with the rates claimable by officers. The indexation should continue for two years.

3. Financial and Resource Appraisal

- 3.1 The report of the Independent Remuneration Panel appended to this report indicates that the increase in the SRA to the Executive Assistants is cost neutral. The cost of the uprating of allowances is £34,467.22 in 2016 (based on the 1% officers' pay award).

4. Legal Appraisal

- 4.1 As set out above and in the Independent Remuneration Panel's report appended to this report.

5. Other Implications

- 5.1 There are no equal rights, sustainability, community safety, Human Rights Act or trade union implications of this report.

6. Options

Council has the following options:

- 6.1 To adopt the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Executive Assistants and to amend the Members' Allowances Scheme to give effect to those recommendations; or
- 6.2 To have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel but to set a Special Responsibility Allowance available to Executive Assistants at a different level to that recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel and to amend the Members' Allowances Scheme to give effect to that decision; or
- 6.3 To have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel but not amend the Members' Allowances Scheme in relation to the Executive Assistants.
- 6.4 To approve the uprating of allowances in line with the local government pay settlements in 2016 and 2017 and the uprating of travel and subsistence allowances in accordance with the rates claimable by officers; or
- 6.5 To decline to approve the uprating of allowances in line with the local government pay settlements in 2016 and 2017 and the uprating of travel and subsistence allowances in accordance with the rates claimable by officers.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That Council consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and resolve as appropriate from the options in paragraph 6 above, two decisions being necessary, one from 6.1 to 6.3 (inserting a figure into 6.2 if that recommendation is supported) and one from 6.4 to 6.5.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel dated 4 November 2016.

9. Not for Publication Documents

9.1 None

10. Background Papers

10.1 Members' Allowances Scheme [Part 5 of the Constitution] at:

<http://www.bradford.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/1AC7A905-A2C8-47A9-847F-69B0AE65B4B9/0/CBMDCCConstitution.pdf>

CITY OF BRADFORD METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Report of Panel on Members' Allowances

4th November 2016

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require each local authority to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel to advise the Council on its scheme of members' allowances, having regard to the Regulations and the Government's statutory guidance. Before making or amending a scheme the Council must have regard to the advice of the Panel. No payment may be made to Council members otherwise than in accordance with the Council's Scheme.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Regulations the Council has appointed an Independent Remuneration Panel. In making (and subsequently amending) its scheme of members' allowances the Council has had regard to the advice of the Panel. The Panel now consists of Sir Rodney Brooke CBE DL (Chair), Lorraine Clarke and Christopher Ing. The Panel last reported to the Council in September 2015 making recommendations regarding the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) payable to 6 Executive Assistants.
- 1.3 The Council has reduced from seven to six the number of Executive Members with portfolios. The Council also created the posts of six Executive Assistants to work with the Executive Members with portfolios. The Council agreed to the Panel recommendation to set a Special Responsibility Allowance for these six posts of 12.5% and then 15% of the Leader's SRA.
- 1.4 The Council has now reduced the number of Executive Assistants from six to three with effect from the Annual Meeting in May 2016. The Panel have now considered the appropriate SRA for these Executive Assistants.
- 1.5 In considering this issue the Panel met Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe (Leader of the Council) and Ms Parveen Akhtar (City Solicitor). After a discussion with Councillors Hinchcliffe on the matter, she left the meeting to allow the Panel to debate the issue. The conclusions of the Panel are entirely its own.
- 1.6 In addition to the issue of Executive Assistants, the Panel was asked to consider whether to increase Members' Allowances in line with the annual pay settlement for local government staff (the annual uprating having come to an end in October 2015), and to consider when any uprating should next be reviewed.

2. Background

- 2.1 For the 2016-17 municipal year the Council's Executive consists of the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council and four Portfolio Holders. Their respective portfolios are:

Leader (Corporate Matters)

Deputy Leader (Health and Wellbeing)

Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment & Skills

Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport

Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport & Culture

Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods & Community Safety

- 2.2 The three Executive Assistants each have an area of responsibility which corresponds to a Portfolio. They are not members of the Executive. They cannot vote at meetings of the Executive but may speak at the discretion of the Leader. They do not have responsibilities for the media. The position of Executive Assistant is to provide practical and policy support to the Leader and Portfolio Holders. It is also a developmental role providing members with direct experience of working with the Executive and assisting Portfolio Holders in developing and delivering strategic policy, informing decision making and the political management of the Authority. Their specific responsibilities are:

- (a) supporting Portfolio Holders actively to review performance and resources and develop policy in specific areas identified by the Portfolio Holders.
- (b) supporting Portfolio Holders and/or the Leader by progressing casework and actions as specified by the Leader/Portfolio Holder.
- (c) attending policy briefings in their areas of responsibility.
- (d) deputising for the Portfolio Holders at meetings relating to the Assistant's areas of responsibility and/or participating in meetings with the Portfolio Holders.
- (e) attending meetings of Executive members and the Council's Joint Political and Managerial Leadership as determined to be appropriate, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders and Leader.
- (f) attending meetings and developing relationships with relevant local and regional partners as determined to be appropriate through consultation with the Portfolio Holders.
- (g) attending public meetings as appropriate.

- (h) developing knowledge in areas related to their responsibilities as Executive Assistants and keeping abreast of local and national developments in those areas.
- (i) working on specific projects as assigned by Portfolio Holders/ Leader.

Items (b) and (i) have been added to the role profile for 2016/17.

3. Consideration

- 3.1 While appreciating that the cost of members' allowances is by no means excessive in relation to the responsibilities of the Council and its members, both the Panel and the Council recognise the severe financial climate currently affecting local authorities. The Panel wish to avoid any significant increase in the overall cost of members' allowances. The reduction within the 2015/16 financial year of the number of Portfolio Holders reduced the cost of members' allowances by £25,939.
- 3.2 The workload on councillors continues to increase: budgetary reductions increase the pressure on them. They have growing demands from their constituents. Specifically the prospect of the devolution of powers from central government and the creation of a combined West Yorkshire or larger authority increases the pressures on and workload of the Leader, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holders. The Executive Assistants can be asked to assist the Leader and Portfolio Holders with these matters, present issues to the Executive and to Overview and Scrutiny Committees and to represent the Portfolio Holders at meetings with outside bodies. While the Panel appreciates the developmental role of the Executive Assistants, it can see that their presence and involvement in the work of their respective Portfolios has been significant and will continue to grow as they gain experience.
- 3.3 The Executive Assistants cover the following Portfolios:-
 - Health & Wellbeing
 - Education, Employment & Skills
 - Environment, Sport & Culture

Given that they now have new additional responsibilities in relation to casework and projects, as specified at paragraph 2.2 above, the time commitment for the role has increased significantly. Examples of the specific projects to be assigned to the Executive Assistants relate to cohesion and community leadership development, the Council's youth offer, and the Council's relationships with the business community. Tasks within these projects may include but are not limited to:

- (i) Community leadership and cohesion: a review of best practice of councillors' role in these key areas

- (ii) Youth offer: a review of how the Council can optimise services for young people and enhance 'youth voice' in the District including through close working with partners
 - (iii) Business relations: assessing new opportunities for the Council to provide fertile ground to promote business growth; assessing new opportunities for the business community's corporate social responsibility activities to complement the Council's work and benefit the District
 - (iv) Supporting the Leader: providing practical and casework support including following up actions from meetings and liaising with officers.
- 3.4 Special Responsibility Allowances in the Bradford Members' Allowances Scheme are largely based on a percentage of the Leader's Special Responsibility Allowance.
- 3.5 Bearing in mind that the roles were in the early stages of development, the Panel recommended in 2015 that an appropriate Special Responsibility Allowance for the six Executive Assistants' posts would be £4,488, i.e. 12.5% of the Leader's Special Responsibility Allowance. However, it was clear that the roles of the Executive Assistants would evolve and develop. With that in mind, the Panel recommended that, from the date of the 2016 Annual Council Meeting, the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Executive Assistants be increased to £5,385, i.e. 15% of the Leader's Special Responsibility Allowance. We also recommended that their Special Responsibility Allowances should be kept under review, bearing in mind the evolving nature of the role, especially in the context of devolution and the development of a combined West Yorkshire or larger Authority.
- 3.6 In the interim, the Council's budget position has worsened. Over the next 4 years savings of £100m will have to be found. The Council will have to transform from a service providing body to one which influences, commissions services and leads or is a member of various partnerships. Its scope of direct operations may reduce but its role will be increasingly complex.
- 3.7 With the reduction in the number of Executive Assistants from 6 to 3, the post holders will assume new responsibilities as shown in paragraph 3.3 above if their SRA is increased. The reduction in the number of posts achieves a saving of £16,155. Having regard to their expanded role profile, the increase in their time commitment, the potential addition of significant new responsibilities, and the type of specific projects to be assigned to them, the Panel believe an increase in the SRA to 30% of the Leader's SRA is appropriate. Because of the reduction in the number of Executive Assistants an increase in the SRA from 15% to 30% is cost neutral. Parts of the Executive Assistants' roles are new and the Panel believe that the recommended SRAs should be reviewed after two years.

Uprating of Allowances in the Members' Scheme

- 3.8 The Scheme currently provides at paragraph 8.1 as follows: "All rates of allowances payable under this scheme shall be increased on 1 October in each year up to and including 1 October 2015 by the index." The "index" means "the percentage increase provided for by the local government pay settlement for the year in question." We understand the pay settlement in 2016 involves an increase of 1%.
- 3.9 The Regulations do not allow inflation-linked increases in members' allowances to continue for more than four years without further consideration by the Independent Review Panel. The current uprating ended in October 2015. The Panel believes that it is sensible to continue to link members' allowances to the annual pay settlement and other allowances for local government staff. The national negotiating machinery balances the affordability of the settlement with the need to recruit and retain staff. The same considerations apply to members. The Panel therefore recommend that the updating of members' allowances should continue for a further two years but (because of the substantial changes affecting local government) be reviewed in October 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 **The Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Executive Assistants should be 30% of the Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Leader of the Council with effect from the December 2016 meeting of the Council.**
- 4.2 **The level of the Special Responsibility Allowances payable to the Executive Assistants should be reviewed in two years' time.**
- 4.3 **The basic, special responsibility and co-optees' allowances should be uprated in accordance with the headline pay increase negotiated through the National Joint Committee for Local Government Employees (or equivalent); and travel and subsistence allowances should be updated annually in accordance with the rates claimable by officers. The indexation should continue for two years.**

**Rodney Brooke (Chair)
Lorraine Clarke
Christopher Ing**

4 November 2016

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