

Public Document Pack



Department of Corporate Resources

Members of Council

Committee Secretariat

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Your Ref: AT/Council

Date: 8 July 2019

Dear Councillor

MEETING OF COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2019

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall - City Hall, Bradford, City Hall, Bradford, on Tuesday, 16 July 2019 at 4.00 pm

The agenda for the meeting is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'P. Akhtar'.

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 21 May 2019 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

(Adrian Tumber – 01274 432435)

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4. WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR

(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

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

Ward

(i) Better services for young people in the Bowling area **Bowling &**

Barkerend

(ii) Pedestrianisation of Market Street

City

(iii) Townfield Play Area, Wilsden

Bingley Rural

If any further requests are received, in writing, by mid-day three working days before the meeting (Thursday), details will be circulated.

(Fatima Butt - 01274 432227)

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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A question from a member of the public has been received and is contained in **Document “D”**.

(Fatima Butt - 01274 432227)

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

To consider the following 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):

Recommended –

- (1) That the following non-voting co-opted member be appointed to the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2019/20 Municipal Year:**

G Sam Samociuk – former Mental Health Nursing Lecturer

- (2) That the following co-opted members be appointed to the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2019/20 Municipal Year:**

Non-voting:

**Teachers Secondary School Representative: Tom Bright
Voluntary Sector Representative: Kerr Kennedy**

Voting:

**Katherine Haskett – Parent Governor Representative from 16
July 2019**

**Fauzia Raza - Parent Governor Representative from 3
September 2019**

Any further motions to appoint members will be moved at the meeting.

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

To deal with supplementary questions arising from the following 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.*

1. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Would the portfolio holder explain the background and clear-cut benefits behind the proposal for a Bradford-Halifax Greenway following the recent launch of the advocacy document?

2. Councillor Mike Ellis

Could the Leader of the Council confirm how much has been spent by Bradford Council since 2014, to fund non-invasive autopsies through the contract with iGene and what did it cost to terminate the contract with iGene when there was still five years remaining?

3. Councillor David Ward

At the 19th March Council meeting, in a Labour amendment to a Liberal Democrat motion on “off-rolling”, it was acknowledged that off-rolling was an example of “immoral behaviour”. It has also been described by the Children’s Commissioner as being illegal. The amendment stated that “In 2017 data collected evidenced that some schools were ‘off-rolling’ pupils to EHE”. Will the Portfolio holder please provide the names of the schools in Bradford that were identified as being those carrying out immoral and illegal off-rolling?

4. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Does the Leader of Council (a) agree with Extinction Rebellion campaigners across Bradford who state that we are living in the midst of a ‘Climate Emergency’, and (b) accept that Bradford Council and Bradford District need to become net carbon-neutral by 2030; and, if so, what is Bradford Council going to do to reach that goal??

5. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

Will the portfolio holder join me in celebrating the fantastic achievement by the whole school community at Feversham Primary in my ward and its inspirational young headteacher, following its Outstanding Ofsted judgement. To crown this achievement Naveed Idrees has just won TES national Headteacher of the Year award?

6. Councillor Alan Wainwright

Can the portfolio holder join with me in celebrating the successful community asset transfer for the Valley project in Holme Wood which is great news for the local area?

7. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment & Skills confirm, how many children with SEND were not allocated school places to begin September 2019 until after Easter this year?

8. Councillor Alan Wainwright

Can I have the latest figures by ward of the amounts collected in business rates?

9. Councillor Joanne Dodds

Can the Leader join with me in thanking all those involved in the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Normandy D-Day landings?

10. Councillor Mike Pollard

A recent report showed Bradford was by far the worst from all West Yorkshire local authorities, being ranked 313rd from 326 local authorities across England for collecting Council Tax, meaning a colossal £13,785,000 of Council Tax went uncollected. What is being done to ensure improvements are made in the collection of Council Tax in the future?

11. Councillor Caroline Firth

Does the portfolio holder join me in welcoming the emergence of plastic-free communities across the district, particularly the newly forming Plastic Free East Morton and Plastic Free Riddlesden groups in my ward? How can the council support these groups to thrive?

12. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

In the light of the broadcast of shocking footage of the abuse of vulnerable people living in Wharleton Hall can the Portfolio Holder advise members what safeguards does the Council have in place to protect the safety, welfare and human rights of its citizens in placements in specialist disability or mental health wards both in and out of the district whose situation has rendered them highly vulnerable?

13. Councillor Michelle Swallow

Please would the portfolio holder outline the strategy to deal with rats which is a cause of concern on several levels including that of public health?

14. Councillor Russell Brown

Can the Leader of the Council confirm whether the council any plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landings and promote the contributions engineers in Keighley made to the wider endeavours of NASA in the subsequent lunar exploration program?

15. Councillor Kamran Hussain

Can the portfolio holder reassure me that that schools who are on our list as being accessible for disabled children are fulfilling their obligation in maintaining their provisions which are in place?

16. Councillor Rizwana Jamil

Does the portfolio holder for education, employment and skills join me in congratulating Carlton Bolling College in our ward for its latest achievement in winning a Silver award?

17. Councillor Kyle Green

In light of the fact that neighbouring Councils have recognised the impracticality and damaging nature of introducing Car Parking Charges in outer towns, such as Wetherby and Brighouse, does this Council yet recognise the need to scrap plans for the introduction of new parking charges in Ilkley from 29 July 2019?

18. Councillor Ralph Berry

Can the portfolio holder outline what steps can be taken to address the ongoing problem of untaxed and uninsured vehicles parked in residential streets in Bradford?

19. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could the portfolio holder give me an update as to the number of older people we have supported to stay in their own homes rather than in residential care or hospital and how have we done this?

20. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

There have been a number of fires in West Yorkshire resulting in death or serious injury involving vulnerable people. Can the Portfolio Holder advise what steps have been taken to ensure proper follow-up of reports from the Fire Service following 'Safe at Home' visits and has lack of communications by and between agencies exacerbated the risk to vulnerable people?

21. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Would the leader join me in condemning the recent surge in homophobic and transphobic hate crimes and provide reassurance about what action is being taken by Council and partners to support and protect the LGBT+ community in Bradford?

22. Councillor Jackie Whiteley

In light of the fact that mental ill health amongst young people is not a phenomena only affecting the disadvantaged and Mental Health services for young people are overstretched in Bradford, with the youth service being asked to support young people in the district, will the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing confirm that youth provision will be maintained in outlying villages including Burley in Wharfedale and Menston?

23. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could the portfolio holder tell me how the council supports start-ups and growing businesses, who entrepreneurs can contact if they would like such support to set up a business and what is the process?

24. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Will the Leader of Council ensure that a 20mph, traffic-calmed zone is

introduced in central Shipley (on streets including Birklands Road, Birklands Terrace, Castle Road, Cross Banks, Hall Royd, Manor Lane, Selborne Terrace, Sunny Bank and Westcliffe Road), before works commence on widening the junction at the intersection of Otley Road and Bradford Road?

25. Councillor Caroline Firth

Can the portfolio holder join me in congratulating Keighley-based business Keybury Fire and Security for being what is thought to be the first company in its sector to be named a plastic-free champion by Surfers Against Sewage?

26. Councillor Jackie Whiteley

Will the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills, please commit to a review of school procedures, regarding children who are excluded from school and those who are subject to isolation in school, with the latter being up to 8 hours in duration, as this can affect the individuals mental health?

27. Councillor Michelle Swallow

Please would the portfolio holder explain what strategies the Council is going to employ to get our city pavements looking nice with particular problems being gum and cigarette butts?

28. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Mental ill health is increasing amongst the youth with increasing numbers of referrals. Could the portfolio holder give me an update in regards to what are we doing with partners to better meet the needs of these young people?

29. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

How many people who are medically certified as having a permanent condition that severely affects their intellectual and social functioning are in receipt of a Council Tax discount? How many annual reviews have taken place and how many resulted in a change in their personal circumstances which means they are no longer eligible to receive the discount and what where the reasons for the withdrawal of benefit?

30. Councillor Suhail Choudhry

Can the Leader tell me how we are supporting the police to tackle knife crime given the terrible incident in my ward of Bolton & Undercliffe recently?

31. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport confirm why he thinks increasing parking charges in small towns and villages is a good idea, when shops are closing due to lack of footfall?

32. Councillor Kamran Hussain

Can the portfolio holder tell me how many children have been excluded from schools and are currently waiting for another school placement?

33. Councillor Michelle Swallow

I'm sure all of us in our District would want our road users, whether drivers, cyclists, pedestrians or others, to be safe, however, despite targeted work by West Yorkshire Police it is still a major issue so please would the portfolio holder comment on progress so far to deal with arrogant, dangerous drivers? Can you also provide an update on the roll-out of the 20mph zones?

34. Councillor John Pennington

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport confirm why the income from fines for parking at Bradford Central library, is more than double the income from people buying tickets?

35. Councillor Kamran Hussain

Can the portfolio holder tell me how many people are being supported by the specialist domestic violence and abuse service and how well it is managing to keep up with demand?

36. Councillor Alun Griffiths

Has the council been in receipt of any complaints from members of the public about drivers of Taxis or private hire vehicles refusing to allow assistance dogs to be carried in their vehicles?

37. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

With the recent announcement of the £1m Lottery funding boost for the Bradford Live project, can the portfolio holder give us the latest update as excitement is continuing to build around the scheme?

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

11.1 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE - ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2018/19 3 - 18

At the meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held on 28 June 2019 consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance (**Governance and Audit Committee Document "D"**) presenting the Annual Treasury Management Report 2018/19.

Recommended –

That the Annual Treasury Management Report 2018/19 be adopted.

(David Willis – 01274 432361)

11.2 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020/21 TO 2022/23 AND BEYOND 19 - 44

The Medium Term Financial Strategy focuses on how the Council intends to respond to the forecasted public sector funding reductions. It sets out the approaches and principles the Council will follow to ensure

the Council remains financially viable and delivers on its priorities. At its meeting on 9 July 2019 the Executive considered the report of the Director of Finance (**Executive Document “J”**) and referred the report to Council.

Recommended –

That having considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy as an assessment of the Council’s financial outlook to 2022/23 and beyond, and a framework for it to remain financially viable and deliver sustainable public services in line with its priorities and the principles, the updated and revised Medium Term Financial Strategy at Appendix 1 to Executive Document “J” be approved.

(Tom Caselton – 01274 434472)

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

12.1 SCHOOL STREETS

To be moved by Councillor Kevin Warnes
Seconded by Councillor Martin Love

Council notes that parking around our schools:

- a) is a major environmental and social problem that affects many communities across Bradford District;
- b) contributes to significant local traffic congestion and air pollution (with some schools located in areas currently affected by illegal levels of air pollution);
- c) creates avoidable health and safety risks for children and families, partly due to the incidence of pavement parking that is a feature of parking around schools;
- d) undermines the amenity of nearby residents;
- e) persists despite the existence of adequate parking further away from most school premises;
- f) is already partly restricted near many school entrances by the use of yellow zig-zag and double yellow lines.

Council also notes that:

- g) School Streets are an extended form of parking restriction, whereby the roads around a school are temporarily closed to (most) vehicles on each school day, during set times (drop-off and pick up);
- h) many roads are potentially suitable for being turned into School Streets, though some are not (ie main roads that have significant volumes of through traffic or are public transport

routes);

- i) community support is an essential element of a successful School Streets scheme, including the willing engagement of school staff, pupils and their parents, nearby residents and (where relevant) local businesses;
- j) candidate schools for a School Street will, ideally, already have relatively high levels of active travel (walking and cycling);
- k) School Streets schemes are already being implemented by a number of councils (examples include Camden, Edinburgh, Greenwich, Hackney, Islington, Solihull and Southwark);
- l) the evidence from schemes implemented to date indicates that School Streets demonstrate high levels of compliance, reduce the number of children driven to school and increase the number of children who walk to school, cut air pollution and improve public perceptions of safety in the vicinity of the school premises.

Council therefore:

- 1) requests that officers incorporate consideration of, and funding for, a School Streets pilot programme into our broader strategic planning for improving air quality in Bradford District, and that this preparatory work is completed by the end of October 2019;
- 2) requests that officers submit an outline feasibility report for consideration by the relevant overview and scrutiny committees (Health and Social Care; Regeneration and Environment) before the end of October 2019;
- 3) requests that, taking into account any recommendations from the overview and scrutiny committees, officers invite all schools in the District in early 2020 to apply to be part of our School Streets pilot programme, with a view to (a) finalising arrangements for this scheme by 'Walk to School Week' in May 2020 and (b) implementing it from September 2020.

12.2 ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES

To be moved by Councillor Adrian Naylor
Seconded by Councillor Anne Hawkesworth

Council notes:

- To prevent the worst effects of climate change, we must keep global temperature rises below 1.5°C.
- Bradford Council has been given a Ministerial Direction to draw up a plan to drastically improve air quality. In October Bradford Council was given a year to draw up plans to try to reduce pollution in the district, after it emerged that nitrogen dioxide levels on some roads were unlikely to reach legal levels until

2027.

Council resolves:

In order to support the existing initiatives being developed and as suitable alternative zero emission vehicles already exist this Council instructs the Chief Executive to draw up and implement plans to ensure that all buses and taxis operating in the district are zero emission vehicles by 2025 or before.

12.3 OFSTED INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

To be moved by Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Seconded by Councillor Susan Knox

Council believes that the welfare of the 4000 children in our care is of the utmost importance to us as Councillors and notes the decision of the Council led by the Leader of Council and the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services in December 2018 to "oversee rapid and sustainable improvement in children's social care".

This Council is therefore disappointed to read that the monitoring visit of Bradford local authority children's services by OFSTED, published on the 4th July, which shows that Her Majesty's Inspector found the pace of improvement was "slow for the children in need of the help and protection services" there are "delays in children in need and children in need of protection having their needs identified and addressed" and that the vast majority of the area of social work support being scrutinised remaining "inadequate".

This Council requires the Lead Member to make public a report detailing the work done by the Children's Social Care Improvement Board and identify what further steps need to be taken to ensure that the "rapid and sustainable improvement in children's social care" promised in December 2018 can be delivered.

12.4 ALTERNATIVE PROVISION FOR EDUCATION

To be moved by Councillor David Ward

Seconded by Councillor Julie Humphreys

A recent report entitled 'Making the Difference – breaking the link between school exclusion and social exclusion', submitted to the House of Commons Education Select Committee as part of its Inquiry into Alternative Provision identified that the level of educational attainment and life chances of young people excluded from school were amongst the lowest of any group.

The report presented evidence that less than 1% of children excluded from school achieved 5 A* GCSEs and 63% of prisoners had been excluded at some point in their education with 43% of Youth Offenders having being excluded. Disproportionately excluded children and young people are either from poor backgrounds, have Special Educational Needs, are Looked After Children or are from other vulnerable groups.

The report also presented research findings that many children were simply 'lost' i.e. schools had lost contact altogether with children and that there was also clear evidence of undue pressure applied to some parents by schools to consider removing their child from the school and to instead have Elective Home Education.

Recommendation:

In the light of these disturbing findings the Council directs the Strategic Director for Children's Services to carry out an investigation into Alternative Provision in Bradford to assess the quality of the provision across the District and to identify areas needing to be improved to provide the very best system for the provision of Alternative Provision.

12.5 THE FUTURE OF BRADFORD'S BUS SERVICES

To be moved by Councillor Geoff Reid

Seconded by Councillor Julie Humphreys

This Council believes that,

Bradford's bus network plays a vital role in the District's economy, the creation of a healthy environment and the well-being of Bradford citizens. Thousands of Bradford residents depend on the bus services to get them to and from school, college, work and other day to day tasks and activities. The loss of a bus service can have a devastating impact on local communities and this is often felt most by young people who have no other means of transport as well as the elderly. This can contribute to further isolation and deterioration in mental health.

This Council Notes,

The intention of First Group PLC to end its ownership of its UK bus companies as well as the indications from Deutsche Bahn that it is seeking to sell its Arriva operations in the UK constitutes a serious risk to the viability of many bus services across the District.

Following a reduction in funding from Councils including Bradford, West Yorkshire Combined Authority has already announced plans to reduce its financial support for bus services by more than £3 million pounds over the next three years.

It is highly unlikely that any alternative operators would be willing to take over the West Yorkshire commercial networks of First and Arriva as discrete entities and such drastic withdrawals would inevitably lead to fragmentation and loss of routes and patronage.

The situation raises huge questions about West Yorkshire Combined Authority's strategic target of 25% increase in usage over 10 years and the claims made for the benefits of a formal Alliance with bus operators.

This change in circumstances should be taken as an opportunity to consider radically different models for running bus services should begin immediately within the District and within West Yorkshire.

This Council resolves:

- to work alongside the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to ensure that bus services across the district are maintained during this period of change.
- to investigate and bring for plans to support the continuation of comprehensive bus service across the district. It should take into account the franchising system which operates in London and the successes of the handful of local authorities who run their own bus companies.
- to bring back to the relevant committee a plan for Council action to maintain a stable bus network that residents young and old can rely upon.

12.6 USE OF GLYPHOSATE HERBICIDES BY CBMDC

To be moved by Councillor Alun Griffiths
Seconded by Councillor Riaz Ahmed

This Council notes the debate concerning the possible harmful effects of glyphosate is continuing to take place within organisations, including governmental bodies, across the globe. While accepting that glyphosate-based weed killers are licensed for use in the UK, are widely used and are effective, this Council notes in particular:

- The World Health Organisation's finding that glyphosate is a probable human carcinogen;
- Studies suggesting a link between glyphosate and certain liver diseases;
- Studies showing a high correlation between glyphosate use and a wide range of neurological conditions;
- Recent court cases in the US where juries have accepted a link between glyphosate use and instances of cancer and awarded enormous sums in damages;
- Studies showing the detrimental effects of glyphosate on honey bees and other beneficial organisms;
- The (non-binding) vote of the European Parliament to restrict the use of glyphosate in EU member states and introduce a ban in 2022, and
- The actions of numerous governmental bodies in banning or restricting the use of glyphosate.

This Council therefore

Requests the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to commission and publish a report covering these issues, the steps taken to protect both staff and the public from harm and examines alternative measures for weed control with a view to making recommendations for the reduction or cessation of Glyphosate use.

12.7 BRADFORD STANDS UP TO ISLAMOPHOBIA

To be moved by Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Seconded by Councillor Imran Khan

Bradford is a welcoming, friendly place. We stand up against prejudice in all its forms. Everyone in Bradford District should be able to be who they are and to live a fulfilling life here. We have a commitment to eradicate all acts of hatred.

Research by the late Jed Din of Bradford Hate Crime Alliance entitled "Understanding Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Hate in Bradford" published in 2017 found that "feelings of mistrust, not being treated equally and lack of respect from wider society is something that impacts aspects of [Muslims'] day to day lives." Consequently a "Joint Islamophobia Definition Working Group" was set up. Convened by Cllr Abdul Jabar, this Group included Bradford Hate Crime Alliance and the Bradford Council for Mosques and has been meeting since to craft a working definition for Bradford, all the while consulting with a range of people locally and nationally including academics, Imams, religious scholars and professionals to inform the development of the definition.

The resulting definition of Islamophobia is not a legal definition in its own right but builds on the current legislation and practice with the aim of ensuring that hatred and discrimination against people of the Islamic faith is eliminated in society.

The Bradford definition is as follows:

"Islamophobia is a direct or indirect act(s) of hatred and discrimination against people (individuals or groups) of Islamic faith on grounds of their belief and practice.

This could manifest in:

- 1. Inciting or carrying out acts of hatred and violence against people of the Islamic faith (Muslims).**
- 2. Direct or indirect acts of discrimination including policy and practice within organisations, which deny Muslims legitimate and fair access to opportunities, facilities and services because of their faith, beliefs and practice.**
- 3. Denying people of the Islamic faith the opportunity to practise their faith values, free of harassment, fear of violence against them or fear of incurring discrimination**

and hatred against them.

- 4. Actions which perpetuate a climate of mistrust, fear and a sense of marginalisation about or within the Islamic community e.g. remarks by individuals and groups that can be made without fear of being held to account. Also use of print, social or electronic media to align and create fear and division surrounding the Muslim community.”**

It is not enough just to define Islamophobia, we must also act to combat it wherever it is found. So this Council resolves to:

1. Accept the Bradford definition.
2. Work with Hate Crime Reporting centres in Bradford (28) to encourage reporting wherever incidents occur.
3. Instruct council officers to work with educational establishments outside school hours (supplementary schools) to arrange information on Islamophobia awareness.
4. Use the opportunity of the Hope Not Hate Event on 15th August, City Park – to raise awareness of Islamophobia.
5. Arrange talks at schools/community centres on Islamophobia to raise awareness across the district and particularly during Hate Crime Awareness Week 12th to 19th October.

12.8 BRADFORD DISTRICT RENEWS ITS COMMITMENT TO FAIRTRADE

To be moved by Councillor Adrian Farley
Seconded by Councillor Abdul Jabar

This Council notes that:

- Bradford is a Fairtrade Zone and has been for over 10 years. We want to show our commitment as a local authority by renewing our Fairtrade Community status at Full Council.
- 2019 marks 25 years since the Fairtrade Mark was launched in the UK.
- Since 1994, consumer demand for Fairtrade has grown thanks to the efforts of grassroots campaigners, and pioneering Fairtrade businesses.
- There are now over 600 Fairtrade Communities in the UK and more than 2,000 globally.
- As a result of Fairtrade commitments from mainstream brands and retailers, the UK Fairtrade market is now one of the biggest in the world.
- Global Fairtrade sales last year generated £142 million in Fairtrade Premium. Farmers in 73 countries have invested this money in their communities, increasing business productivity and contributing to the achievement of the global Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs).

- Despite this positive news, exploitation remains rampant in global supply chains. More than 40 million people are trapped in modern slavery, including forced labour, and 152 million young people in child labour. Hundreds of millions more are earning less than a living income or wage.

This Council believes that:

- Fairtrade and the wider Fairtrade movement has a significant contribution to make towards ending exploitation in global supply chains and achieving the SDGs.
- The recently agreed [International Fairtrade Charter](#) should be welcomed, with its vision of transforming trade to work for people and planet.
- The Fairtrade principles of paying a 'premium' that is wholly managed by farmers and workers themselves, and of minimum prices to protect producers from market volatility, are crucial to systemic change.
- Public bodies, including local authorities, should support ethical procurement policies, using their purchasing power to support Fairtrade and ensure their supply chains, at home and abroad, are free of exploitation, including modern slavery.
- Companies operating through global supply chains should go further and take steps to require the payment of living wages and achievement of living incomes for all.

This Council resolves to:

- Renew its commitment to 'Fairtrade Community' status.
- Actively promote Fairtrade locally, through support for local groups, in the media including social media, and events, including during Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Support local Fairtrade Schools and FE/HE institutions, and actively promote Fairtrade teaching materials in local schools and educational institutions.
- Celebrate and incentivise businesses championing Fairtrade products in the local community.
- Review its procurement policy, including its catering offer, to ensure that Fairtrade produce is chosen wherever possible, and that Fairtrade considerations are included as a preference in any contracts going out to tender.

12.9 CALLING ON THE NEW PRIME MINISTER TO INVEST IN BRADFORD

To be moved by Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe
Seconded by Councillor Imran Khan

This Council notes:

- The Conservative Party will shortly elect its new leader and therefore decide the country's new Prime Minister.
- The Bradford District is a great place for any government to invest in. We have a large and diverse young population, we are conveniently located at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse and globally connected. We are ambitious to achieve inclusive, clean growth for all our communities and businesses.
- Councils have lost 60p out of every £1 (60%) due to Government cuts since 2010, resulting in an unprecedented loss of public services and facilities across the country including over 500 children's centres and 475 libraries and a funding crisis in children's and adult social care.
- Due to the government cuts since 2010 Bradford Council has had to find £278m of cuts and reductions.

Council resolves to:

- Invite the new Prime Minister to visit Bradford in order to recognise Bradford's key role in the Northern Powerhouse.
- Push for significant new funding and support to realise our ambitions for better transport infrastructure, more money for early help and prevention, schools and skills, all leading to better jobs and opportunities for all.
- Call on the new Prime Minister to finally end his government's national austerity programme once and for all and instead to invest in the North in order to realise its true potential.

12.10 MENTAL HEALTH GATEWAY TO BRADFORD, PASSPORT TO LEISURE AND FREE TRAVEL

To be moved by Councillor Robert Hargreaves

Seconded by Councillor John Pennington

Council notes:

1. The significant rise in Mental Health issues within the district, wider region and country as a whole and the need for urgent action to support sufferers
2. The NHS offers 5 evidence-based steps to good mental wellbeing, 4 of which are; 'Connect', 'Be Active', 'Keep Learning' and 'Give To Others'. Travel is an essential part of achieving these steps, especially for those in the outer reaches of the district and free travel will be essential for those living in poverty, which in itself is a major factor in mental health issues. Cheaper

access to leisure facilities would also play a significant part in helping mental health patients improve their mental wellbeing. (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/improve-mental-wellbeing/>)

3. Government policy on Mental Health states that the NHS has set out to achieve 'parity of esteem' between mental and physical health, in terms of access to services, quality of care and allocation of resources.

Council resolves to:

Work with our partner agencies to carry out an expeditious review of support provided to Mental Health patients registered within the Bradford District Healthcare system, with a view to providing additional support, including measures such as access to 3-year Bradford Leisure Cards for patients and companions.

12.11 SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

To be moved by Councillor Paul Sullivan
Seconded by Councillor Mike Ellis

Council notes:

- The excellent work undertaken by Council Officers and Partner Organisations prior to and since the Council's adoption of the Bradford District Armed Forces Community Covenant, culminating in the Council receiving a Silver Award from the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme.
- That sadly a significant number of those eligible for services and support from the Council and Partners are unaware of this.
- That some of the services made available to the Armed Forces Community are only available for 5 years.

Council resolves to:

- have appropriate Council Officers and elected members, meet with representatives of the local Armed Forces Community, possibly at a meeting of the Veterans' Breakfast Club, to discuss how to improve awareness and take up of the services provided
- investigate the feasibility of increasing the benefits available, by making them available throughout the Veterans' lives, rather than for 5 years
- provide free use of facilities included in the (Bradford Encouraging Exercise in People) scheme
- consider any further recommendations arising from the meeting with the Armed Forces community

12.12 CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

To be moved by Councillor Kyle Green
Seconded by Councillor Mike Ellis

Council notes:

- That a key component of the European Commission's Building Blocks for a Greenhouse Gas Neutral Economy by 2050 is acknowledgement of "the need to embrace a clean mobility system, electrification being a promising option for many transport modes, while other alternatives include hydrogen, advanced biofuels and e-fuels. Smart urban planning and traffic management, together with alternative modes of private mobility and clean public transport, will also play an important role, especially in cities".
- The United Kingdom Government's own recent commitment to the United Kingdom becoming greenhouse gas neutral by 2050.
- The Leeds City region, Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) decision to adopt a new energy strategy and delivery plan which adopts the ambitions of the Paris Agreement.
- The Council's Climate Emergency & Green Economy resolution earlier this year acknowledged a climate emergency, affirmed a desire to "go further faster" than required by the Council's self imposed targets and listed "increasing the proportion of EV Hybrid Vehicles in use in the council fleet and supporting roll out of EV points across the district to help promote uptake of electrical vehicle use", as a key priority.

Council resolves:

To instruct the Chief Executive to bring forward a report to the Council Meeting of 15 October 2019, detailing the locations of existing and soon to be installed electric vehicle charging points, sites identified as next steps, with projections and ambitious commitments for the numbers and locations (across all wards) of charging points on a year by year basis, for the next 10 years

12.13 COUNCIL INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

To be moved by Councillor Jackie Whiteley
Seconded by Councillor Kyle Green

Given that this council has invested 6.4 million pounds of Council Tax payers money to buy the Moors Centre in Ilkley at a time when retail landlords nationally are seeing their returns squeezed by struggling retailers, this Council notes:

1. The Council as a landlord in Ilkley has a vested interest in economic stability and growth in the town.
2. Has a duty to make the investment provide a return at least as great as other available options open to a Council
3. The importance of establishing a quantifiable baseline measurement of the current business success in Ilkley. This measure should then be used to analyse the effect of the implementation of changes to parking availability and cost in the town.
4. This Council should undertake these assessments at three monthly intervals to ensure that any adverse affects can be remedied quickly to prevent future distress to the business community.
5. The importance of working with the independent Board of The Ilkley Bid who are in contact with traders in the town.

13. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

45 - 56

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19 (**Document “G”**) summarises the achievements and contributions made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees over the last year.

Recommended –

That the report be endorsed.

(Mustansir Butt - 01274 432574/Caroline Coombes 01274 432313/Licia Woodhead – 01274 432119)

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D

COUNCIL – 16 JULY 2019

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following question has been received from a member of the public:

“What is the Council’s response to the following statement:

If the Environment Agency does grant an operating permit to Endless Energy for the operation of their proposed incinerator at Marley, then the nature of the proposed development will be at wide variance with the conditions imposed by the original 2017 planning approval.

In particular:

- 1) Increased tonnage of waste to be processed from 100,000tpa to 148,800tpa and the impact from resultant additional HGV movements.*
- 2) The significant modification of the site layout including positioning of stack and siting of buildings and an apparent additional stack in relation to a diesel generator.*
- 3) The broadening of the nature of waste to be processed from pre-sorted RDF to residual, commercial and industrial wastes of a similar nature to unsorted municipal waste.*

It would not be in the public interest to grant retrospective planning permission for material amendments to the extant approval under planning officer delegation. The only acceptable response to such material changes as outlined above, especially in view of the Council’s “Climate Emergency Declaration” of 15 January 2019, is to address these significant deviations in a new full planning application, allowing the public to express their views?”

The Leader of Council will respond to the question at the meeting.

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E

COUNCIL 16 JULY 2019 REPORT OF THE LEADER OF COUNCIL

Devolution Update

The Yorkshire Leaders Board is still very committed to One Yorkshire and whilst this does not yet have the support of Government, their objections to it are less strident than they were.

The meeting with James Brokenshire, Secretary of State for Communities (outlined in my last report), was useful in opening up the opportunity to meet with HM Treasury. This resulted in a meeting with Treasury Minister Robert Jenrick at the end of March to discuss the steps towards devolution which was attended by myself, the Leader of Leeds and the Leader of Kirklees councils.

What everyone agrees is that if a One Yorkshire Devolution deal is to succeed, it cannot be realised until 2022 when the South Yorkshire current Mayoral term comes to an end. I have therefore made the case repeatedly that there have to be some interim arrangements in place for the Leeds City Region to continue operating. There needs to be a bridge between the Leeds City Region Growth Deal finishing and the One Yorkshire Devolution deal starting.

At the meeting with Robert Jenrick he gave permission for his civil servants to start talks with Leeds City Region staff towards finding a way forward for an interim deal. These conversations are on-going and tomorrow I am going down to London with the Leader of Wakefield for another meeting with Robert Jenrick to acknowledge progress made and see how we can further develop the detail of what an interim deal might look like.

There is still a way to go both in securing an interim deal and also in securing One Yorkshire devolution. However the fact that our respective officers are in dialogue is heartening. Obviously with a new Prime Minister imminent, none of us can rule out a change of direction.

The work of the Yorkshire Leaders Board continues and a meeting was held last week which covered Northern Powerhouse work as well as devolution. This cross party/cross region working is fostering good collaborative relationships which can only hold us in good stead in the long run. These relationships continue regardless of changes in Leader with Scarborough, Ryedale, York and Richmond all having changed party leadership in the local elections this year.

Children's Services Ofsted Monitoring Report

Clearly the recent Monitoring Report we have received from Ofsted is not good enough. The pace of change needs to be accelerated and new working practices, just introduced, need to be more deeply embedded. We are fully sighted on the challenges the service is facing. For example, Recruitment remains a significant issue. We are pleased that our frontline staff are committed to improving the service and motivated to be part of a new improved service. We thank them for their commitment and loyalty during challenging times.

We are grateful to Gladys Rhodes White for having stepped in as Interim Director to take us through the first stage of change whilst we recruited a permanent Children's Services Director. Ofsted praised her contribution. Mark Douglas, who has led improvements at Doncaster Children's Services, joined us as the permanent DCS at the beginning of this month. We welcome Mark and offer him our full support and cooperation in implementing the change we all want to see.

Climate Emergency

Last week as Chair of West Yorkshire Combined Authority I led an event with Roger Marsh, the Chair of the LEP on the Leeds City Region Climate Coalition. Here we commended the actions of individual constituent authorities in the city region for passing motions on Climate Emergency and also pledged that we would collectively be net zero carbon by 2038 at the latest, having made significant progress by 2030.

We should be under no illusion that to achieve this target significant investment is going to have to be made in transport and energy. We have an opportunity to attract some of this funding through the work on Air Quality we are currently undertaking for Government, the outcome of which we will not know until we submit the outline business case in October followed by the full business case after consultation.

However there are also opportunities to be had. It is estimated that investment in clean growth is worth £11 billion to UK economy and will create 100,000 extra skilled jobs. We want to be sure to have a share of that opportunity.

Meeting with Darren Henley, Chief Executive of Arts Council England

I went to London a couple of weeks ago to meet with Darren Henley, Chief Executive of the Arts Council. Darren knows Bradford well having visited several times already. Bradford currently has a bid in to the Arts Council for Creative People and Places Funding. This is a competition with other UK cities and towns and therefore the competition is fierce. We will find out whether we have achieved this later this summer. It would mean significant funding for culture from the Arts Council over the next three years. I truly believe that cultural investment in all our communities builds our confidence as a place and makes people from outside Bradford district take a fresh look at what we have to offer. I wish the bidding team which includes arts organisations from all over the district the very best of luck with the bid.

Williams Rail Review event in Bradford

This morning, in this Chamber, the Northern Powerhouse Partnership held an event with Keith Williams, the eponymous author of the Government sponsored Rail Review. The Williams Rail Review has been tasked by Government with setting out proposals for the future of our railways. In Bradford this morning he gave an insight into the findings of his report which will be published later this year. I welcome his commitment to putting passengers first after the disaster of the timetable changes in May last year. The ensuing disruption to travel cost our region dearly. He acknowledged this and advocated less central control from civil servants in Westminster in future arrangements. As an advocate of devolution I obviously welcomed this approach. I have committed to meeting with him again before the report is published in order to have our input into the action plan which should come out of the report. It was good to welcome him to Bradford.

Cricket World Cup Success

Finally I would like to add my congratulations to Adil Rashid and Jonny Bairstow, both from Bradford, on their magnificent contribution to England's World Cup success. This is truly wonderful news and Bradford is very proud. I have already spoken to the Leader of the Opposition and we are agreed that we would like to organise some kind of celebration for them on their return. This is being organised in conjunction with their families and we hope to have more news soon.

QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER

Councillor John Pennington

We have got Mark Douglas here today and I hope the Leader will make sure that he is getting all the support that he wants and also from our Chief Executive because he needs some support right from the very top so that needs making sure. You also mention the Arts Council England and we will shortly have a new Director of the Science Museum in Bradford here who has got great ideas for the museum and I wonder if you would consider at some stage closing the lower part of Little Horton Lane so that it will join up quite nicely, not only with the new church that the Reverend Toby (Howarth, Bishop of Bradford) is going to create, but it will then join up with the Alhambra and the Odeon and we could then have a real crescent of entertainment for the public to visit Bradford.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

So first of all on Mark Douglas. Yes very much welcome him arriving in the Authority. He can speak to our Group on Monday night. I am sure he will be happy to speak to the other groups in the Chamber. He has obviously led improvement process elsewhere successfully and therefore we are very pleased to have him here and we obviously will be providing him with our full support to get the improvement journey speeded up and I am sure we are going to debate that further in this Chamber today. I will not go into (Councillor) Adrian Farley's speech. Regarding culture I do believe that culture is really important for the district and that is why I maintain a positive relationship with the Arts Council because they have been a major funder of ours in the past and presently and hopefully in the future. Regarding regeneration opportunity I think the NEC going to the Odeon opens up a whole load of regeneration opportunities. I think we will see it being a real game changer in that part of the city. Great that the church are investing as well in that building, quite a significant amount of money I understand, and again that is going to further re-regenerate that area. A city is always changing. As towns are always changing. It never stops and therefore like our lives which continue cities continue as well, whether we are there or not. So there will be more changes to come in the future. I am sure we will all try and make sure in this Chamber that they are as positive as possible for the people of this district.

Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

About Devolution really the first one. Does it actually feel like pushing water up hill without a bucket? When do you think there will actually be any progress made?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

So it has been a very long time. I spend a lot of my time talking about Devolution and trying to make it happen but of course given the national environment at the moment as well it is quite tricky because there have been quite a few changes in terms of key people to speak to as well and decision makers in the House of Commons. It is very difficult to achieve. I do feel we have made progress. I do not like to speak too soon to be quite honest because obviously we are going to have a new Prime Minister in next week and it could all change again. The conversations we have been having so far about an interim deal have been constructive and I am hoping we will make further progress with that once I have had the conversation with Robert Jenrick tomorrow and then obviously we are all together as one Yorkshire and we are still pushing that agenda and there is an opportunity for a new Prime Minister to come and say you know what let's make a big statement about the North of England, let's give Yorkshire devolution as it has been asking for but let's watch this space but yes I think we are making progress. You have got to be patient and persistent.

Councillor Kevin Warnes

Does the Leader of the Council agree with me in relation to the climate emergency that you are in a position of unique leadership as Chair of WYCA and with that in mind why are you not pressing for a zero carbon deadline of 2030 at the latest rather than 2038 which by then will be too late?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

So what we have said is that we are going to accelerate as quickly as possible to make as much progress as possible by 2030 but I am also being honest with the electorate Councillor Warnes because actually without significant Government funding for some of the things we want to do we will not be able to make significant progress. At this moment when we do not know how much investment we are going to get from Central Government I am being very honest with people of Bradford District and West Yorkshire Combined Authority. 2038 obviously is exactly the same as Manchester are aiming at. It is also twelve years before the national Government is aiming at so it is still very stretching and ambitious and I think we need to be really pragmatic about making sure we get the money available to make the changes we all want to see. That is what I am focusing on at the moment.

F

**COUNCIL
16 JULY 2019**

**MEMBER QUESTION TIME
Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12**

1. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Would the Portfolio Holder explain the background and clear-cut benefits behind the proposal for a Bradford-Halifax Greenway following the recent launch of the advocacy document?

Answer

On average 14,300 people per day commute between Bradford and Calderdale districts with an average journey length of 8 miles which is eminently suitable to cycle commuting. In 2011 the predominant travel mode of this journey is the private car (70%). The opportunities for cycling between these two districts is currently limited due to little or no dedicated cycle facilities providing a safe viable route to allow commuters to make this choice. The Bradford-Halifax greenway project provides this opportunity to help bring sustainable travel to this sector of the district. As part of the route the potential incorporation of the 1.4 mile long Queensbury Tunnel is seen as a transformational piece of infrastructure which would not only help commuters on their journeys but bring increased cycle tourism to the district building on the success of Tour de France and Tour de Yorkshire events.

The connectivity of Bradford City Centre with Halifax Town Centre as a result of the tunnel and its connecting routes would promote economic activity. This potentially significant cycling scheme would offer positive contributions to environmental, personal and community wellbeing and as this is a significant piece of capital infrastructure its benefits would continue to be generated over the longer term.

Financially, the benefits of introducing a scheme have been subject to the government's standard investment appraisal process (WebTAG) which has demonstrated in transport benefit terms the scheme achieves a good rate of return on investment (1.43 to 1) which is further improved by considering tourism benefits to 2.31 to 1.

The advocacy document serves to set out the justification for providing such a route (either with or without the Queensbury Tunnel) but also puts the respective costs of any schemes incorporating the tunnel into context.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Portfolio Holder for that. Can you reassure me and along with the 3,500 other objectors to the Highways England application to fill the tunnel in. That is a ridiculous ill-thought-out proposal and one which does not have any backing from almost anybody in this district.

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

You are right. It has seen I think an unprecedented level of opposition, certainly from the wider public. Obviously as a local planning authority we will process it according to the national policies but as an Executive we have said we believe that it should be restored and created into another key cycling route and build on the excellent work that we have done so far with City Connect. I think this could really transform, not just that part of Bradford but also Calderdale and the region because I think it would be a national attraction.

2. Councillor Mike Ellis

Could the Leader of the Council confirm how much has been spent by Bradford Council since 2014, to fund non-invasive autopsies through the contract with iGene and what did it cost to terminate the contract with iGene when there was still five years remaining?

Answer

Answering this question in a meeting open to the public would involve the disclosure of information which would be prejudicial to both the Coroner's, the Council's and the third party's interests (on the grounds that it is information relating to financial or business affairs, commercially sensitive and legally privileged).

3. Councillor David Ward

At the 19 March 2019 Council meeting, in a Labour amendment to a Liberal Democrat motion on "off-rolling", it was acknowledged that off-rolling was an example of "immoral behaviour". It has also been described by the Children's Commissioner as being illegal. The amendment stated that "In 2017 data collected evidenced that some schools were 'off-rolling' pupils to EHE". Will the Portfolio Holder please provide the names of the schools in Bradford that were identified as being those carrying out immoral and illegal off-rolling?

Answer

The current legislative framework does not require schools to send in data that would inform Local Authorities of "off-rolling". Where off-rolling is reported, the Education Safeguarding Team contact the school to discuss the matter and challenge any actions taken by a school that are not in line with registration and rolling requirements for pupils. There have been a number of these cases and in the vast majority of these cases, schools are working constructively with us and have taken action to rectify any cases that we have identified as potentially being off-rolling. In a rare case where a school is not felt to have addressed the matter adequately, the Local Authority reports its concerns and findings to Ofsted whose job as the regulator is to determine if a school has off-rolled. Given the extremely small number of individual cases in this second category at this time, it would not be appropriate to name individual schools that such discussions have taken place with.

Supplementary Question

The question states that given the extremely small number of individual cases and these are schools that have been found to be behaving immorally and illegally but

the small number of cases and it would not be appropriate to name those individual schools. I just wondered how many schools behaving immorally and illegally are required before it is actually appropriate to name those schools?

Councillor Imran Khan

So where schools are behaving inappropriately in that way we refer them to Ofsted and there is instances where we have referred to Ofsted but naming the schools is not helpful.

4. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Does the Leader of Council (a) agree with Extinction Rebellion campaigners across Bradford who state that we are living in the midst of a 'Climate Emergency', and (b) accept that Bradford Council and Bradford District need to become net carbon-neutral by 2030; and, if so, what is Bradford Council going to do to reach that goal?

Answer

The Leader and indeed the Full Council agrees that there is a Climate Emergency and a motion to support this was passed in January this year. At the time the Council identified five priorities that will support delivery of the goal of major greenhouse gas emissions reduction and this work is underway. The Council recognises that other changes are also necessary, many of which are already happening at both a Council and a District level in addition to these priority actions.

Climate Emergency is such an important and strategic issue that we are working closely with our neighbouring authorities on this matter. Just last week we launched the Leeds City Region Climate Coalition to bring together the public, private and third sectors, along with communities and campaign groups. We're creating the Coalition to bring people from different parts of the City Region together as we fight for a cleaner, greener future. We have asked people to pledge their support and do what they can both individually and collectively to lower their carbon emissions. The Leeds City Region is committed to becoming a net zero carbon city region by 2038 at the latest with significant progress by 2030.

As a Combined Authority we actually committed to making the Leeds City Region a net zero carbon economy a number of years ago, and are already investing in programmes to reduce emissions including better cycling and walking infrastructure, park and ride services and district heat networks.

Investment in clean energy could add £11 billion to our economy and create an extra 100,000 skilled jobs. People can also enjoy lower energy bills and better health for everyone in the region thanks to warmer, more efficient homes, greener transport and cleaner air.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer Leader. Obviously you will be aware my question was about Bradford Council and Bradford District. The answer is a sideways dodge, you have gone for the Leeds City Region level. So my question is what specifically is Bradford Council doing differently now on climate change that it was not doing six months ago when we declared a climate emergency?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

So Councillor Warnes we have been quite clear. We have brought a motion on climate change at a meeting before. We are quite clear about the five things that we are going to get on with which is things like the district heat networks, things like the street lighting initiative which is actually going to reduce carbon. I make it very specifically talking about West Yorkshire Combined Authority because there is no point in Bradford Council acting on its own. We need to do so in concert with the regional authorities around us because then if we do things together we move faster. So that is what we are doing. We are working with other authorities and our neighbours to make sure that everything we do together is going to get to that big prize that we need which is net zero carbon as soon as possible. There is no point in doing it on your own.

5. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

Will the Portfolio Holder join me in celebrating the fantastic achievement by the whole school community at Feversham Primary in my ward and its inspirational young headteacher, following its Outstanding Ofsted judgement? To crown this achievement Naveed Idrees has just won TES National Headteacher of the Year award.

Answer

We have written to the Headteacher of Feversham Primary to congratulate him on the Outstanding judgement received from Ofsted. The report highlighted the inspirational work of Mr Idrees and how pupils are encouraged and engaged in their learning. Feversham Primary is a nurturing and caring school with determination and ambition for all its family – staff and pupils alike. The school should be very proud of the recognition they have received. His award as Headteacher of the Year is very well deserved.

Supplementary Question

Can I thank the Portfolio Holder for his response? Education remains a priority for the children of our district. I had an opportunity to visit the school and can I ask the Portfolio Holder if he would also visit the school in my ward which has been recognised as an outstanding school and see an aspirational headteacher Mr Idrees in my ward.

Councillor Imran Khan

Absolutely.

6. Councillor Alan Wainwright

Can the Portfolio Holder join with me in celebrating the successful community asset transfer for the Valley project in Holme Wood which is great news for the local area?

Answer

Yes, this truly is great news not only for the Holme Wood area but the wider community as well.

Following a Community Asset Transfer application from 'The Valley Project' community group, the Council agreed to lease some land at Stirling Crescent, Holme Wood, Bradford.

The community group are using the site as a fully functioning adventure playground. Not only has this created a recreational space where it previously did not exist, it also ensures that an underutilised area of informal space is brought into use as an asset to the local community.

The benefits of the project are immense – including helping to bring the community together and build positive relationships, tackling childhood obesity- getting children off their computers, handheld devices and games, increasing children's creativity and problem solving skills, helping to supporting integration of groups and prevent bullying, addressing the increase in mental health conditions in children and many more.

This project also demonstrates how community asset transfers can make positive improvements to the environment and security of the spaces to ensure they become of value to the local community. It also has to be noted that this community asset transfer was formulated in conjunction with the local community, and subsequently had a high degree of local support.

The project has gathered a lot of media interest including being featured on BBC Look North.

This is one of many exciting projects that the Council is supporting through its community asset programme and dedicated community asset transfer team. It represents our long-term commitment to localism and the Council's continuing support to community organisations ensuring the best outcomes for communities and the best use of available assets.

7. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment & Skills confirm, how many children with SEND were not allocated school places to begin September 2019 until after Easter this year?

Answer

As of the 27 March 2019, there were 22 young people transitioning from Year 6 to Year 7 with an Education, Health and Care Plan who did not yet have a named school place.

Please note that many of the final Education, Health and Care Plans were delayed in agreement with the parents who chose to wait for confirmation of the 289 additional new places that are being established and were not able to be named until after Executive in early July 2019. Since last week, outstanding Education, Health and Care Plans are being finalised and parents are being contacted to have their places confirmed for September 2019.

Supplementary Question

Could you let us know what arrangements are in place to help these pupils with the transition from Year 6 to their new secondary school because clearly most children will have already done transitions. But if they are only finding out now which school they are going to into September there is probably not a lot of opportunities. So I just wondered what arrangements are in place please?

Councillor Imran Khan

We are looking at the numbers. Obviously there are only 22 and we are working through now and I am confident arrangements will be made to be able to assist those children in transition into the new schools probably over the next week or two.

8. Councillor Alan Wainwright

Can I have the latest figures by ward of the amounts collected in business rates?

Answer

BUSINESS RATES COLLECTION

2019/20

END OF JUNE 2019

	<i>Net raised</i>	<i>debit</i>	<i>Payments made</i>	<i>Outstanding balance</i>
BAILDON	£2,971,341		-£916,177	£2,055,164
BINGLEY	£3,630,662		-£1,236,793	£2,393,868
BINGLEY RURAL	£1,618,067		-£573,635	£1,044,433
BOLTON AND UNDERCLIFFE	£5,186,858		-£1,644,729	£3,542,129
BOWLING AND BARKEREND	£13,388,040		-£3,890,986	£9,497,053
BRADFORD MOOR	£4,765,927		-£1,355,892	£3,410,035
CITY	£31,580,337		-£10,031,370	£21,548,967
CLAYTON AND FAIRWEATHER				
GREEN	£1,505,368		-£383,893	£1,121,475
CRAVEN	£3,104,900		-£1,108,222	£1,996,678
ECCLESHILL	£3,742,622		-£1,115,955	£2,626,666
GREAT HORTON	£3,426,510		-£852,320	£2,574,191
HEATON	£910,603		-£368,412	£542,191
IDLE AND THACKLEY	£3,007,169		-£1,744,383	£1,262,786
ILKLEY	£4,526,499		-£1,495,858	£3,030,642
KEIGHLEY CENTRAL	£11,193,024		-£3,351,071	£7,841,953
KEIGHLEY EAST	£4,146,391		-£1,350,623	£2,795,768
KEIGHLEY WEST	£629,756		-£215,064	£414,692
LITTLE HORTON	£3,671,046		-£1,114,609	£2,556,438
MANNINGHAM	£2,586,486		-£884,350	£1,702,135
QUEENSBURY	£1,136,062		-£405,195	£730,867
ROYDS	£1,956,190		-£811,627	£1,144,563
SHIPLEY	£5,826,850		-£2,134,989	£3,691,861
THORNTON AND ALLERTON	£856,840		-£268,349	£588,492
TOLLER	£2,396,342		-£645,285	£1,751,057
TONG	£13,331,079		-£3,689,598	£9,641,481
WHARFEDALE	£602,043		-£228,353	£373,690

WIBSEY	£2,103,856	-£711,066	£1,392,790
WINDHILL AND WROSE	£1,363,472	-£404,184	£959,288
WORTH VALLEY	£879,473	-£286,022	£593,451
WYKE	£6,522,653	-£1,694,978	£4,827,675
Totals	£142,566,469	-£44,913,986	£97,652,476

9. Councillor Joanne Dodds

Can the Leader join with me in thanking all those involved in the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Normandy D-Day landings?

Answer

I am very happy to thank all those involved in the local commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Normandy D-Day landings. These included a short service at Keighley War Memorial, led by the Revd. Dr Jonathan Pritchard and members of the Royal British Legion, and The Clarke-Foley Community Centre in Ilkley organised a 1940s style tea dance. I understand that many people attended that event in costumes including one lady who came in her original WRENS uniform from 1944.

Those commemorations celebrated peace, liberty and reconciliation. Men from all over the world went to fight in Normandy to defeat Nazism and re-establish freedom. We pay tribute to those who lost their lives or were injured, as well as to all the veterans who took part. We must also remember the French civilians who suffered grievously in that struggle in Normandy in 1944. The Council sent a letter to Her Majesty thanking her for her involvement in the National events commemorating the landings and organised a number of events to celebrate our armed forces at the end of June.

10. Councillor Mike Pollard

A recent report showed Bradford was by far the worst from all West Yorkshire local authorities, being ranked 313rd from 326 local authorities across England for collecting Council Tax, meaning a colossal £13,785,000 of Council Tax went uncollected. What is being done to ensure improvements are made in the collection of Council Tax in the future?

Answer

Collecting Council Tax in Bradford continues to be challenging, as deprivation levels in the District are higher than the other West Yorkshire Councils.

We are constantly reviewing and trying to improve collection levels, whilst at the same time taking a sympathetic approach to those that genuinely struggle to pay. Government austerity has undoubtedly had an impact not just on councils but on residents of Bradford district.

It is important to note that the reported figures show the amounts that are collected within the year they are raised, rather than the amount that is eventually collected. This is important from a Council finance perspective

Here are some of the things that we have done and are doing in an attempt to improve collection:

- **Peer review** – The Council has always been keen to learn from others that appear more successful than us. We recently conducted a peer review with Wakefield Council (whose in-year collection levels are higher than ours). We compared our processes and practices and found that they are much the same. This gives us confidence that our activities are not found wanting. However, a short action plan has been developed to pick up and trial a couple of minor differences, which we hope will see improvement in our processes
- **Work with advice agencies** - We have worked closely with the advice agencies for a number of years now and this helps deal with our vulnerable residents. The Council has signed up to the Citizens Advice national “Council Tax Protocol”. This good practice protocol makes a number of suggestions on how local partnerships can be strengthened and residents better supported. The protocol reflects best practice at local level and is intended to facilitate regular liaison on practices and policy concerning council tax debt collection.
- **Late night team** – We know that contact with those that can’t or refuse to pay is paramount in successful collection, so now have a permanent team of staff whose role is to contact residents by phone when they fail to pay an arrangement as agreed. The team works from 4pm – 7pm.
- **Transience** – as a consequence of this, it has emerged that, alongside deprivation, the most significant contributor to low collections levels is the rate at which residents move address. In Wards with high levels of transience, arrears are high. In itself, this will not help us collect more Council Tax, but improvement in our understanding of non-payment trends will help as we plan future collection strategies
- **Improved online forms** - We have developed our web pages to capture information quicker and more effectively than we have previously done. The most important part of recovery is to ensure that the bill is correct and by improving our on-line forms and capturing essential information from citizens and landlords it has enabled us to collect money quicker and reducing the time it takes our staff to collect this information.

Supplementary Question

Several questions but I better make it just one in view of your admirably rigorous regime Lord Mayor. I appreciate that the reported figure show in-year collection rates but please could I have a list of the most recently written off amounts listed by ward please.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Certainly I am sure we can let you have that. We wrote off a few years ago for a few years. We are doing it on a regular basis now so I am sure we can let you have that. I would just like to say obviously there are people in poverty in the district and therefore some people cannot pay their council tax very easily and we should always support those people. I think the question and answer needs balancing between making sure people pay but also making sure we are sympathetic to people who cannot pay.

11. Councillor Caroline Firth

Does the Portfolio Holder join me in welcoming the emergence of plastic-free communities across the District, particularly the newly forming Plastic Free East Morton and Plastic Free Riddlesden groups in my ward? How can the Council support these groups to thrive?

Answer

Since the broadcast of Blue Planet II, and the recent Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Anita Rani programme on plastics, we have seen a welcome upsurge in communities coming together to reduce and recycle the amount of plastic they use. Bradford Council's Recycling Team has supported groups who have made contact, such as Wharfedale against Plastics and Plastic Free Bingley, and given talks on how they can recycle and reduce the amount of single use plastic they use. Not surprisingly some members are active Recycling Champions who receive regular updates on recycling and an invitation to our MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) at Bowling Back Lane. New groups looking for advice and support should contact the Waste Service.

12. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

In the light of the broadcast of shocking footage of the abuse of vulnerable people living in Whorlton Hall can the Portfolio Holder advise members what safeguards does the Council have in place to protect the safety, welfare and human rights of its citizens in placements in specialist disability or mental health wards both in and out of the district whose situation has rendered them highly vulnerable?

Answer

The CCG are the responsible commissioner for all placements in secure mental health hospitals. The CCG employs a Specialist Nurse who provides care coordination for every person from Bradford & District in a secure mental health hospital. Even before the Panorama programme was aired NHSE advised each CCG to undertake reviews of people in secure mental health hospitals.

The Council works closely in conjunction with the CCG to safeguard people who are placed in such units. The safeguarding responsibility for people who are placed in units within the District falls under Bradford Council. Providers are required to report any potential safeguarding concerns to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub which includes staff from adult social work teams and the police. At the point when the Care Coordinator makes a request, the Council allocates a worker.

The Council has invested in a safeguarding adults and mental capacity act service. This increased capacity has ensured that we are able to respond in a more timely manner to safeguarding concerns, we can work in a more preventative way and help ensure safeguarding incidents are dealt with appropriately. These services are also delivering training across the District and to staff in BDCT, home care and care homes.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer to the question. I just wonder whether or not to give the public more confidence that we do not see a repeat in Bradford people or indeed any

people involved in the shocking circumstances that those people found themselves when living in care. Can we give the public confidence and can we actually ask the Portfolio Holder that they will report maybe annually on the circumstances so that we can be made to feel confident that people who are living with their liberties deprived and often in complete segregation that somebody has been to see them, somebody has been to check on them and that we are confident that we would allow one of our members of our families to be held in such circumstances.

Councillor Sarah Feriby

Yes of course that was one of my first questions to Bev Maybury, Strategic Director to ensure that I could myself be reassured that members of our communities if they are in care that they are being well looked after.

13. Councillor Michelle Swallow

Please would the Portfolio Holder outline the strategy to deal with rats which is a cause of concern on several levels including that of public health?

Answer

The Council has a statutory duty under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1990 to ensure the district is kept free from rats and mice. The Council does this by proactively treating any rodent infestations on its own land. If the Council receive complaints of rats on private land the Environmental Enforcement Team investigate and establish if there is an infestation or if there is waste present that may provide harbourage for rodents. If rodents are present or the Officer suspects any waste may provide harbourage an Enforcement Notice is served on the owner of the land to remove any waste and/or instigate a rodent treatment programme to eradicate the problem.

Any rodent infestations related to a Food Business are dealt with by the Environmental Health Food Safety Team. Any infestations inside residential property are dealt with by the Housing Standards Team. Any infestations related to defective drainage are dealt with by Yorkshire Water or the Council's Drainage Team.

I am also pleased to confirm that the Director of Public Health has not been notified of any increases in diseases carried by rats and if we had any cases of such diseases Public Health England would have notified the Director as the statutory officer for all things related to health and wellbeing (including communicable diseases and threats to health) across the Bradford District.

14. Councillor Russell Brown

Can the Leader of the Council confirm whether the council any plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landings and promote the contributions engineers in Keighley made to the wider endeavours of NASA in the subsequent lunar exploration program?

Answer

I would like to take the opportunity provided by this question to pay tribute to the great manufacturers in Keighley who have contributed their engineering expertise to

so many significant developments including the moon landing. Companies such as Kone Escalators, Fives Landis (Formerly Landis Lund), Airedale Springs; Sealand Engineering, Neophix and Yorkshire Precision Engineering continue a fine tradition established by companies like Keighley Lifts, Keighley Grinders, Dean Smith and Grace.

Keighley has a proportion of manufacturing jobs at 15% which is higher than Bradford District at 13% and Leeds City Region at 10% and GB at 8%.

Whilst the space programme provides vital aspirational challenge for young engineers there is a local renaissance taking place in engineering training - the engineering apprenticeship programme at Keighley College (part of the Industrial Centre of Excellence Initiative) has gone from strength to strength - In the first year there were just 20 students, this year there are 106, also this year a number of students have started studying for their HNC and in the future it is planned to offer a HND option. This was recognised at the recent Keighley and Airedale Business Awards.

I know that the National Science & Media Museum are marking the anniversary of the first moon landing by showing "Apollo 11 – First Steps" in the iMax from July to October. More importantly, I think the best way to celebrate the importance of engineering and manufacturing more generally to the District, as set out in our Economic Strategy, is through Manufacturing Weeks – which seeks to inspire a whole new generation of young people to become involved in this great sector. Running this year from 7-18 October, it promises to be even bigger and better than ever and I hope as many young people as possible from our schools will get involved.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer which celebrates the wider achievements of the district's engineers if not those specifically involved in the lunar exploration programme. Can I ask that the Leader looks at ways of supporting the group I am working with in this celebratory year who are intending to re-establish the STAR Centre and FabLab which has inspired so many young people over the years which was recently closed by stealthy means by Leeds City College, Keighley Campus.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Brown. I have visited the STAR Centre myself of course and it was there for many years and was very welcome. I believe there are efforts afoot to try and continue it elsewhere which obviously we are supportive of and I realise that Keighley College want the space, want to put more engineering in so it is a double edge sword for them but happy to support the effort to relocate it because as I say myself I have enjoyed it myself.

15. Councillor Kamran Hussain

Can the Portfolio Holder reassure me that that schools who are on our list as being accessible for disabled children are fulfilling their obligation in maintaining their provisions which are in place?

Answer

All schools are required under the Equality Act to take reasonable steps to ensure that they are accessible to disabled pupils, staff and parents. Where a school is identified as having failed in this duty, then Local Authority officers can take the matter up directly with the school. Where this relates to a Free School or Academy, Local Authority Officers will alert and involve the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Free Schools Department of the DfE to ensure that appropriate action is taken by the Academy or Free School to provide an accessible education for disabled pupils.

16. Councillor Rizwana Jamil

Does the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills join me in congratulating Carlton Bolling College in our ward for its latest achievement in winning a Silver award?

Answer

We have written to congratulate Carlton Bolling College on winning a Silver Award in the Pearson Teaching Awards. This is well deserved recognition of the school's outstanding achievements and great work over the past 12 months and demonstrates the life-changing impact inspirational teachers can have on our young people.

17. Councillor Kyle Green

In light of the fact that neighbouring Councils have recognised the impracticality and damaging nature of introducing Car Parking Charges in outer towns, such as Wetherby and Brighouse, does this Council yet recognise the need to scrap plans for the introduction of new parking charges in Ilkley from 29 July 2019?

Answer

A review of parking in Ilkley was carried out in July 2017 by Steer Davis Gleave. The Council is in the process of implementing the recommendations of this report.

The review of car parking in Ilkley was undertaken to address increasing issues around congestion and parking in the town and was asked for by local ward councillors. The study used a range of primary data collection and stakeholder consultation to better define the parking issues in the town. It also explored options for better management of car parking and improvements to alternative modes of travel. The study focused on the centre of Ilkley and the surrounding streets which were identified by initial elected member consultation and site visits as the areas where parking pressure was perceived to be greatest. The main recommendations were to protect on-street parking for use by short-stay shoppers and encourage turnover by introducing charges for short-stay on-street bays within the town centre that are currently subject to waiting restrictions and to introduce resident parking schemes to reduce commuter parking in residential areas. The changes will be introduced from the 29 July 2019.

My understanding is that Calderdale are not looking at removing pay and display in Brighouse; they are reviewing with a view to removing the free element for the first

half hour.

Many residents struggle to park near their own house given that commuters park there in order to take the train into work. The proposals represent a pragmatic solution to issues which residents have been raising with elected members and with council officers for many years.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the response to my question. I note that no mention is made of the potentially dire impact of parking charges as the main reason they were scrapped in Wetherby in the answer nor any mention of any resident or business support for increasing and expanding parking charges in Ilkley. So can I ask the Council to firstly minimise the damage of these unwanted charges by following the Ilkley parking review report recommendation 7.31 and actually allow people to pay the charges by card as well as by coin or via an app. As well as this can I ask what measured impact will it take for you to actually remove the charges?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Thank you and welcome to the Council as well. With Wetherby I have not seen any specific reason given. It was during a budget process I think as to why they withdrew the proposal. I do know the local Lib Dems said it was a well known problem in Wetherby but because the parking was free commuters were parking there first thing in the morning and then shoppers could not access the car parking spaces for the wider town centre. So what you have actually highlighted is that in a lot of outer towns the same problems crop up every time which is where you have that level of unregulated parking. People who are commuting to the bigger city elsewhere are actually taking up spaces that are notionally intended for shoppers and how those towns deal with that is actually where you get the conflicts like the one we are talking about now. So I think you asked about three questions there so I will try and make sure I remember them all but I am sure you will email me if I forget any. Certainly with the pay and display machines I know there was a bit of a furore over the weekend because it will not be cashless, that is the exact same elsewhere in the district but it will have the parking app which is exactly what South Hawksworth Street car park has right now. So you will still be able to use those machines if you do not have cash. Obviously we will want to pay attention to what happens afterwards, what tweaks need to be made but I think the key thing I try get across is that the status quo right now is what has driven us to action so there is not a simple solution of saying well this is harder than we thought so let's just get rid of it. Precisely because the status quo is that people cannot even park on their own street or the street next to them and we have had people contact us for years and years saying this is a massive problem. So although at the moment there are people with concerns about what might happen because we try to rebalance that, actually just reverting to the status quo brings back all those original problems that residents are facing right now.

18. Councillor Ralph Berry

Can the Portfolio Holder outline what steps can be taken to address the on-going problem of untaxed and uninsured vehicles parked in residential streets in Bradford?

Answer

If there is an issue with a vehicle where we have received complaints or issued a few Penalty Charge Notices, the wardens go to the on line DVLA Tax Checker. If the vehicle is untaxed and doesn't have an MOT it is reported as an abandoned vehicle. If the vehicle is just untaxed the warden informs the DVLA on line. We do not do anything unilaterally with regard to whether a vehicle is uninsured, that is covered by Operation Steerside which is led on by the Police who partner with the DVLA as well as ourselves.

Supplementary Question

I just apologise for a slight text error in this but in virtue of being untaxed of course a vehicle is uninsured. It would be good to publicise how we are able to get better action on this in partnership with the agencies working. What I am looking for is how we can ensure that they are then removed because the issue is one that has been sore both in the ward I live and the one that I represent. It is about the removal of these vehicles. We are all for recycling and there is plenty of this recycling to be done on the streets of Bradford.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Berry. I am absolutely up for enforcement on this issue. Dangerous driving is something that every resident in the district is absolutely sick of and we as a Council several times now have passed motions showing our support for the enforcement agencies to make sure that people do comply with the rules. If you play by the rules that is great. If you don't we will come down on you and we will support the police in doing that. Actually it was the first thing I raised with the new police chief inspector when he arrived and had a word with him about it because we do need to see action on it. I really support Steerside. It has been hugely influential in making sure people realise that they need to play by the rules but we need to see more of it and consistently. It needs to be funded as well.

19. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could the portfolio holder give me an update as to the number of older people we have supported to stay in their own homes rather than in residential care or hospital and how have we done this?

Answer

SERVICE	Number of contracts
BEST	270
Day Care	1370
Direct Payments	1007
Extra Care Homecare	273
Homecare	2480
Individual Service Fund	43
Occupational Therapy	8
Shared Lives Compass	40
Shared Lives Full Time Placement	44

Shared Lives Time Out	140
Support at Day Care	68

The above table shows the number of community contracts for older people being delivered at 10 July 2019. We have implemented the Home First and Happy Healthy and At Home strategies to support people with strength based conversations looking at networking and community provision in localities via families, neighbours and the voluntary sector.

20. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

There have been a number of fires in West Yorkshire resulting in death or serious injury involving vulnerable people. Can the Portfolio Holder advise what steps have been taken to ensure proper follow-up of reports from the Fire Service following 'Safe at Home' visits and has lack of communications by and between agencies exacerbated the risk to vulnerable people?

Answer

There is an information sharing agreement between adult services and the fire service with referral pathways. Adult services refer for Safe at Home visits and act or support people to respond to the recommendations of the fire service. The Fire Service refer to Adult services where there are concerns after visits and we will offer support and advice to people.

The services collaborate and work together to mitigate or minimise risks for vulnerable people within the legal frameworks that Adults services have to operate within. We cannot legally enforce people to do something if they have the mental capacity to make their own decisions even if this may be an unwise decision. It is unfortunately the case that despite our best efforts, accidents occur. All near misses and serious incidents are investigated and used to learn from.

Supplementary Question

Can I ask that the outcomes of these investigations following serious incidents are reported to the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee so that we too can share in the learning and look at the way in which the Social Services approach these incidents? I had experience of one recently and we clearly did not get the best result for the services that we were providing.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Sunderland. I would be interested if you could share the case study you have. I will certainly have a look at that and make sure that any lessons are learned.

21. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Would the Leader join me in condemning the recent surge in homophobic and transphobic hate crimes and provide reassurance about what action is being taken by Council and partners to support and protect the LGBT+ community in Bradford?

Answer

Absolutely some of the incidents reported in the media nationally in recent weeks have been truly shocking. Hate crimes relating to homophobia and transphobia make up approximately 12% of all hate crime in 2018/19; an increase of 1.7% on the previous year.

Hate Crime is a force priority for West Yorkshire Police and documented in the PCC's Plan. Alongside active investigation of crime allegations, all victims of hate crime and hate incidents are offered a bespoke review of support services to which they can be referred if they choose. These services are primarily delivered by Bradford Hate Crime Alliance and other voluntary groups such as Equity Partnership. The Council has been working with the Equity Partnership to develop a plan to address inequality and promote inclusion of people from LGBTQ+ communities in Bradford.

Bradford Hate Crime Alliance (BHCA) support a network of independent reporting centres, including the Equity Centre and Yorkshire Mesmac. In May 2019 refresher training was provided to 18 staff and volunteers at Mesmac.

Anti-hate crime education initiatives play a vital role in building tolerance and promoting inclusivity in the young people across our district. One such initiative is the Sophie Lancaster Game, delivered in 25 primary and 7 secondary schools across the district. It encourages young people to make decisions about people based on getting to know them and not making assumptions on appearance. This helps to build tolerance and inclusivity towards all communities, including the LGBTQ+ community.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer Leader about some good work that is going on in the district but recent research by Stonewall proves that hate crime against the trans community has gone up by 81% alone in the last year. Firstly would the Leader join me in congratulating Transmission, Phoenix and the Equity Partnership for the great work they do in supporting the trans community in Bradford but also assure me in terms of writing to the new Prime Minister to get on with releasing a new and inclusive, a more accepted gender recognition Act so the needs of the community can be met and so hate crime is not tolerated like it is and rising to the level it is at the moment.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Dunbar. Happy to support wherever I can. I think absolutely I recognise the names of those groups who do great work in the district. Just a matter of pride and thank you very much for organising Pride this year in Bradford and we also had Keighley Pride this year for the first time so we are making great strides in the district but obviously we need to do more and encourage the Government to come along side us and support us in doing that.

22. Councillor Jackie Whiteley

In light of the fact that mental ill health amongst young people is not a phenomena only affecting the disadvantaged and Mental Health services for young people are

overstretched in Bradford, with the youth service being asked to support young people in the district, will the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing confirm that youth provision will be maintained in outlying villages including Burley in Wharfedale and Menston?

Answer

Mental Health is an issue that impacts on young people from across the Bradford District. Professional Youth Workers have demonstrated that youth work, as an approach, can have a significant impact on improving the mental wellbeing of young people. Consequently, the Youth Service has been commissioned by health to deliver with other partners the Youth In Mind programme. The Youth In Mind funding agreement covers all of Bradford, Wharfedale, Airedale and Craven District (the geography of the three CCGs).

There may be an impact of the loss of funding to the Youth Service due to Government austerity but this is most likely to be in the ability of the Service to react to a wide range of emerging issues within neighbourhoods and not how we deal with mental health. This includes for example addressing anti-social Behaviour, child sexual exploitation and community tensions.

Supplementary Question

Just for clarity can I ask you that will the young people in Wharfedale Ward who require support still receive it from the Youth Service going forward?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

I think the question went onto two things. We should not be just relying on Youth Service to do mental health support obviously. Mental health support – there is a range of service that are packaged around that and we need to focus on that and in September Health and Wellbeing Board are bringing report on CAMHS and on autism diagnosis because I want us to have a focus on that because I think it is a really important issue. Regarding new services obviously because of Government austerity Youth Services have been cut and let's be honest about it they cannot do as much as they did before. I do not know specifically what activity will be done in Wharfedale. I am sure officers will be able to involve you in that. But how that is going to be rolled out is still being worked on so I am sure you should be involved in that as we go forward.

23. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could the Portfolio Holder tell me how the council supports start-ups and growing businesses, who entrepreneurs can contact if they would like such support to set up a business and what is the process?

Answer

The Council plays a key role in directing and delivering business support provision both in the District and City Region. This includes identifying and supporting high growth potential businesses, increasing the number of new business start-ups and creating an attractive offer to businesses looking to expand and relocate into the District.

The Council's Invest in Bradford (IIB) Team provide a first point of contact for start-ups and businesses wanting to develop their growth potential.

Direct business support is offered through IIB, offering wrap around support to businesses seeking to invest or grow within the district. The team of Business Advisors diagnose business growth needs and broker in support from other public or private partners as required by the client. They publicise and signpost to external business support programmes, advising on property, assisting with grant applications and advising on doing business with the Council.

24. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Will the Leader of Council ensure that a 20mph, traffic-calmed zone is introduced in central Shipley (on streets including Birklands Road, Birklands Terrace, Castle Road, Cross Banks, Hall Royd, Manor Lane, Selborne Terrace, Sunny Bank and Westcliffe Road), before works commence on widening the junction at the intersection of Otley Road and Bradford Road?

Answer

The result is that funding has already been allocated for the Shipley Town Centre 20 mph zone (incorporating the aforementioned streets) as part of the 2019/20 Safer Roads programme. Subject to the successful promotion of a Speed Limit Order, it is expected that the works will be implemented in the current financial year. The Otley Road/Bradford Road junction improvement is part of the West Yorkshire Transport Fund Bradford to Shipley corridor scheme; this is still at an early stage of development so construction would be in a future year.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Leader for the response. Fantastic news about the 20mph zone in central Shipley. My question is can you assure us the ward councillors that this area will be traffic calmed before works begin on the major junction nearby and if necessary for that traffic calming to be paid for by a very small proportion of the overall multi million pound budget for that road widening project?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

I will take this one Councillor. So the 20mph zone programme we have got which with city centres coming in very soon and then selected schools around Great Horton. City Centre we have just announced, some for Keighley as well is based on self enforcement so it will not include traffic calming. So the way that works is we work to DfT's standards about thresholds for average speeds on the roads so we check for those roads where we think might just be a bit on the borderline and if they are under that accepted thresholds then you do not need to put in traffic calming. If the speed showed that you would need traffic calming then we would have to consider that separately so if you think about the city centre zone, you have got Hall Ings, Princes Way where that will not include those because of the scale of those roads. For Shipley I did think you had been sent the map but it is broadly that Shipley triangular area. So it is looking within that to see are there any roads where the average speed might necessitate traffic calming which we would then have to look to for another budget process basically. So we do not think there will be any within that and therefore it should be okay with signage and roundels on the street.

25. Councillor Caroline Firth

Can the Portfolio Holder join me in congratulating Keighley-based business Keybury Fire and Security for being what is thought to be the first company in its sector to be named a plastic-free champion by Surfers Against Sewage?

Answer

We are extremely pleased that Keybury Fire and Security have been recognised as the first company in its sector, not least because the main driver in achieving the status is one of our Recycling Champions who is employed at the company.

Keybury have increased their recycling and reduced their general waste further than ever in 2018 through a Whole Team Approach. The volunteer 'recycling champion' for the Council who works at Keybury has encouraged staff to rethink their single-use items. Lots of the team bring their lunch from home in reusable containers. Further to this their offices do not have any water fountain or single use cups, crockery or cutlery. Instead they use water from the tap and wash up crockery.

26. Councillor Jackie Whiteley

Will the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills, please commit to a review of school procedures, regarding children who are excluded from school and those who are subject to isolation in school, with the latter being up to 8 hours in duration, as this can affect the individual's mental health?

Answer

Procedures in respect of school exclusions are required to be done in line with Exclusions legislation set nationally and therefore, a local review of the procedures is not appropriate.

We know that many schools in the District use isolation as a form of sanction and that many young people and parents have expressed concern over the negative experiences of this. Schools are all required to have a Behaviour Policy and the use of any sanction, such as isolation, needs to be in line with their policy as a means to help pupils improve their behaviour. Local Authority officers can challenge LA maintained schools on the use of isolation if they have reason to believe that it is not being used appropriately. However, Officers can only influence and encourage Academies and Free Schools who choose to use this. If there are any specific cases which the elected member would like officers to investigate, then please let me know.

27. Councillor Michelle Swallow

Please would the Portfolio Holder explain what strategies the Council is going to employ to get our City pavements looking nice with particular problems being gum and cigarette butts?

Answer

The Council has recently purchased 4 electric vacuum machines to specifically target small items of litter such as cigarette butts. In addition we have also bought a

new chewing gum removal machine to tackle this perennial problem. It is the intention to introduce the new equipment in the City Centre in mid August when staff have been recruited and trained. If successful we will look at rolling this out across the district centres. In addition to this an anti litter campaign targeting litter thrown from vehicles is set to be launched over the next four weeks. Finally, wherever Environmental Wardens see anyone dropping litter including cigarettes or chewing gum they will issue on the spot fines of £100.

28. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Mental ill health is increasing amongst the youth with increasing numbers of referrals. Could the portfolio holder give me an update in regards to what are we doing with partners to better meet the needs of these young people?

Answer

A Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) review of health services for Children Looked After (CLA) is underway. This is due to be finalised and be taken through CCG internal processes, and this will initially be tabled at the Maternity, Children and Young People's Partnership Board. This highlights the current waiting list for services and recommends increased resource in this area. This is specifically to increase Paediatrician clinic time to ensure that health needs assessments and medicals are taking place within timescales. In the short term, four additional Band 6 CLA Nurses have been agreed and a Band 4 Nurse to support Paediatricians. This will improve the response to Initial Health Needs Assessments and Annual Health Needs Assessments. In regards to the CAMHS Looked After Children Team, a revised pathway is recommended to access services and charging for CLA placed in the area from other Local Authorities.

Within the Through Care Service, a dedicated Therapeutic Social Work Team is working to provide early access to therapeutic work for young people, their carers and workers. This team also deliver some direct work through Theraplay. Young people accessing B Positive Pathways receive a dedicated in reach service of psychology, speech and language therapy and occupational therapy. This relationship based approach to delivering health services has been well received and conversations with partners regarding sustainability are underway. Across the Through Care Service, Fostering and Residential Services, a model of care is being delivered which uses a Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy (PACE) informed approach. This model is specifically used to support young people who have experienced early trauma and attachment issues. A significant number of the workforce have now been trained to work in this therapeutically minded approach.

Supplementary Question

Firstly I want to thank the Portfolio Holder for their lengthy answer they have provided me. I am a Mental Health Champion for the district so I work closely with schools and young people in the district. Mental Health is growing and the need for mental health is growing. There is a lot of good work we are doing but could I urge the Leader who sits on the Health and Wellbeing Board to stress the importance of the CAMHS, for example the waiting list is absolutely huge and the need is growing. It is not meeting the needs of our young people so could we please do something about that?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Absolutely Councillor Shaheen. As I said in my earlier answer to Councillor Whiteley we do as a system need to look at CAMHS and make sure that that waiting list is reduced because it impacts on young people's lives and it costs us more in the long run so let's get in there early and make sure that young people are supported and are able to have a route out of mental illness quickly so that they can get on with a successful happy life. So absolutely support what you are saying there.

29. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

How many people who are medically certified as having a permanent condition that severely affects their intellectual and social functioning are in receipt of a Council Tax discount? How many annual reviews have taken place and how many resulted in a change in their personal circumstances which means they are no longer eligible to receive the discount and what where the reasons for the withdrawal of benefit?

Answer

For Council Tax purposes you are considered 'severely mentally impaired' if you have a severe impairment of intellectual and social functioning that appears to be permanent. This includes where you are severely mentally impaired as a result of a degenerative brain disorder such as Alzheimer's disease, a stroke, or other forms of dementia. To count as severely mentally impaired you must have two things

- a) A certificate of confirmation by a registered medical practitioner.
- b) Entitled to one of a number of specific disability benefits such as Incapacity Benefit or the daily living component of Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) at the standard or enhanced rate.

If the Council Tax payer lives alone and meets the criteria above (or there are other occupiers but they also meet the same criteria) then they will be entitled to a full exemption from the council tax charge. If there are two residents in a property and only one meets the criteria of Severe Mental Impairment then a 25% discount is awarded.

We review all the awards annually and the following table shows the number of each type of reduction that was awarded on 1 of April each year and the number of each that were cancelled during the year, because they ceased to meet the eligibility criteria.

The legislation does not allow for a review of the medical certification and the reviews that we undertake each year are only to confirm that the charge payer remains entitled to the qualifying benefit (the DWP have introduced new tests and reviews for people in receipt of PIPs and other disability benefits which may identify improvements in the effect of the condition) and whether there has been a change to the household (somebody moving in or out of the property) which could change the entitlement.

We do not record the reasons an exemption of discount has been cancelled.

Anecdotally, the most common reason is that they are no longer resident in the property; perhaps moved in to a home or passed away. Very few are cancelled due to them no longer fulfilling the SMI criteria, and when they do, it is because they no longer receive the qualifying DWP benefit.

	Full Exemption		25% Discount	
	Number	Cancelled in year	Number	Cancelled in year
2019/20	797		736	
2018/19	682	17	650	137
2017/18	655	6	740	127
2016/17	689	10	731	159

Supplementary Question

I wonder if we could ask officers or ask the Portfolio Holder if they would just accept that you cannot get better from Alzheimer's no matter how much exercise you do. You just cannot get better when you are severely mentally impaired and it is quite distressing as a family member to be contacted to ask if your relative has got better from a severe mental impairment so can we just alter the processes so we do only ask if living circumstances have changed and just accept that you do not get better from it?

Answer

Thank you Councillor Sunderland. As you see from the answer it is very rare for somebody to leave SMI once they have been it so I am not sure of the case that you obviously got an illustration there. If you are happy to share with me I will have a look at that with the officers concerned but absolutely most of the people sadly who come off this list are deceased. So that is the main highest reason.

30. Councillor Suhail Choudhry

Can the Leader tell me how we are supporting the police to tackle knife crime given the terrible incident in my ward of Bolton & Undercliffe recently?

Answer

The Youth Service Breaking the Cycle project is working in close partnership with the Police and the Youth Offending Team (YOT) to actively target and work with young people identified as being vulnerable to participation in serious, organised and violent crime. This includes 1-1 work with young people who have been involved in knife crime/crimes and with weapons using intelligence led interventions and active case management.

This is paralleled with broader awareness, actions and consequences work being undertaken in youth provisions around knives and weapons and helping young people consider alternative ways to keep themselves safe without the need to carry knives.

The commissioned services of Trusted Relationships and Families Against Crime offer a wider and supportive early help offer to family units for those identified as

being vulnerable to exploitation. There are elements of this work that have a specific focus on the Bradford East area.

A meeting was held with partners following a direction from the Health and Wellbeing Board. At this Knife Crime and Serious Violence issues for the Bradford district were discussed and partners were requested to obtain data that could be used to overlay with all partnership information and analysed to try and identify further potential solutions. Partners are due to meet again soon once this analysis has been conducted and report back to the CSP with any analytical findings and recommendations.

31. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport confirm why he thinks increasing parking charges in small towns and villages is a good idea, when shops are closing due to lack of footfall?

Answer

Evidence suggests there is no correlation between parking charges and reducing footfall. There has been no reduction in usage of car parks following the increase in charges in small towns and villages or the removal of 30 minutes free parking. Similarly, the income for pay and display parking in Council car parks over the last financial year suggests that usage has not been affected by increases in charges.

Supplementary Question

Thanks for the answer. You say there is no evidence of it affecting footfall. Is it possible to have a copy of that evidence because when you speak to shop owners who have said the parking charges have affected their businesses it is difficult to weigh up the two really.

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

I understand and it is one of the challenges we always have when planning these sorts of programmes. Ilkley is no different about how you measure up anecdotal data versus hard evidence and obviously where we introduce a new charge we have not got baseline data of usage necessarily to compare but where we have maybe just reduced some free parking or we have increased the charge then we have baseline data to compare it so we always check that just to see are we are meeting what we anticipated and has there been any changes. So I will ask officers what information we can send you. Is it just Baildon you would like to see? That is fine.

32. Councillor Kamran Hussain

Can the Portfolio Holder tell me how many children have been excluded from schools and are currently waiting for another school placement?

Answer

All permanently excluded children are admitted to Pupil Referral Units (PRU) or Alternative Provision (AP) providers for six day cover where they remain until it is deemed appropriate for them to return to mainstream. Only when the PRU/AP deems it appropriate will a report be written for placement in a mainstream school

through the Fair Access Protocol (FAP) process on a Re-integration Agreement Process (RAP) which dual registers the young person for a period of time before they transfer solely to the school roll.

We have received requests from the PRU/AP for nine secondary young people to be presented at the Fair Access Panels in July for placement through this process, into mainstream school. Parents will have the right to appeal against a refusal to admit from the preferenced schools and the LA will seek direction for any Academy/Free School who refuse to admit if the Panel deem the placement appropriate.

33. Councillor Michelle Swallow

I'm sure all of us in our District would want our road users, whether drivers, cyclists, pedestrians or others, to be safe, however, despite targeted work by West Yorkshire Police it is still a major issue so please would the Portfolio Holder comment on progress so far to deal with arrogant, dangerous drivers? Can you also provide an update on the roll-out of the 20mph zones?

Answer

The Police have had great success in tackling anti-social driving through Operation Steerside, which is over and above normal roads policing activity in Bradford. It is, however, acknowledged that this remains a key public concern. In view of this, the Police and partners (including Bradford Council) have recently expanded the scope of the Steerside initiative to develop a wider partnership approach to achieve a greater cumulative impact. A multi-agency Steerside group has now been established and this reports (via the ASB Strategic Management Group) to the Community Safety Partnership. This will highlight key concerns for the district, report on activity and take on commissioning requests from the Partnership. In addition to this, the new West Yorkshire Chief Inspector in charge of Roads Policing for West Yorkshire has promised new vigour around Roads Policing activity with the hiring of new officers to support a dedicated Roads Policing Team.

The first phase of the 20 mph zone roll out is almost complete with the installation of the City Centre 20mph zone starting in August this year, along with the City Ward and Bradford West School 20mph roll out. The second phase of the programme has just received approval with Shipley Town Centre, selected Keighley Schools and Barkerend Road. These will all have a 20mph Zone by the end of this financial year.

Supplementary Question

I do not know who I am addressing this to. Presumably Councillor Jabar is absent today. I appreciate the answer that was given in the written documents but I would like to know what more can be done and I appreciate that is like asking for the moon a little bit but living in the Bradford district at the moment seems to be like living in a race track on some evenings. I do not know if the Leader has ever had cause to go anywhere near Leeds Road, Great Horton Road or The Avenue in Clayton. Those are only three roads that I have mentioned but going anywhere near any of those on an evening during the summer months and the winter months, you just hear race cars. It seems like we are living in a lawless society and that is not the society that most of us in here believe is just and fair so I would really like to see more action and you have mentioned that that was one of the things in a previous answer. One of the

things you discussed I would like to know a bit more about that please.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Swallow. Yes as I say you reflect a lot of the concerns of our residents who come to us and I am sure all of us round the Chamber have had complaints about dangerous driving and tales of how it happened. What I would encourage people to do is just ring up and ring the police, ring 101. What I have also had a conversation with chief superintendent about is the 101 number. When I called recently to report some dangerous driving it did take 17 minutes for a response. If we want to encourage people to respond to incidents that they see we need to make it easy for them to do so. Online chat apparently is easier to do. I am seeing a PCC end of July, end of this month, so I am also asking for all the stats about 101 and what the waiting times are because I do think we need to make it easy for people to ring up and report incidents of this kind. There is no quick fix to this. Enforcement is one of it. We have talked about or we will talk about play streets, school streets, that kind of thing as well and traffic calming and just responsibility, education, so there is a whole load of things that go into making this better but it is an issue and it is something that personally irritates me and I know irritates a lot of residents that we represent. So we will do everything we can to stamp it out.

34. Councillor John Pennington

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport confirm why the income from fines for parking at Bradford Central Library, is more than double the income from people buying tickets?

Answer

This is because the Central Library car park is only operational as a pay and display car park on evenings and weekends. During the day the car park is used by authorised staff at MMT and SHMH who need to be in and out of the building. A two hour maximum stay restriction applies week days. The majority of Penalty Charge Notices are issued to motorists who stay longer than the 2 hour restriction week days. The level of fine is set by national regulations.

Supplementary Question

In view of the huge increase in revenue from motorists who stay for more than two hours can you make sure that the signage is correct and clear?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Yes.

35. Councillor Kamran Hussain

Can the Portfolio Holder tell me how many people are being supported by the specialist domestic violence and abuse service and how well it is managing to keep up with demand?

Answer

There were 2006 people supported by the specialist contracted Domestic Abuse

services in 2018/19. Of these;
187 were accommodated in refuge accommodation, 73 women and 114 children
337 were supported in resettlement services, 124 adults and 213 children
795 were supported in crisis and outreach services of which 23 were male
69 engaged with the perpetrators programme, of which 3 were female
46 families were also supported by the perpetrator programme
572 people engaged with independent Domestic Violence Advocate's (IDVA) support
of which 21 were male.

Demand Management

Demand is managed in a variety of ways; for instance within the crisis/outreach services, first contact is followed up three times. This may then cease until such time as the person is ready for support and/or if a referral to another sister support project/s is successful.

Serious/acute cases, presenting through whichever route are managed via the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to ensure agency responses are proportionate, effective and co-ordinated.

Demand into accommodation services and refuges is co-ordinated across a range of services, the LA's own temporary supported accommodation, other refuges across Bradford district; refuges in West Yorkshire and further afield. This is contingent on need and safety issues as well as access to bedspaces.

If at anytime a referral; self or otherwise, is felt to be in imminent danger then the appropriate emergency services would be contacted

36. Councillor Alun Griffiths

Has the Council been in receipt of any complaints from members of the public about drivers of Taxis or private hire vehicles refusing to allow assistance dogs to be carried in their vehicles?

Answer

According to our records, the Licensing Service have received a total of 3 complaints in relation to Guide Dog/Assistance Dog refusals. Details are:

- Feb 2017 – Refusal to carry Assistance Dog - Complaint upheld PHD suspended for 14 days.
- Nov 2017 – Refusal to carry Assistance Dog - Complaint was not upheld. Driver did not refuse.
- April 2018 – Refusal to carry Assistance Dog - Complaint not upheld. PHD was medically exempt.

Note: All were in relation to Private Hire Drivers refusing to carry the assistance Dogs and there are no reports of Hackney Carriage Drivers (Taxis) refusing to carry any Assistance Dogs.

37. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

With the recent announcement of the £1m Lottery funding boost for the Bradford Live project, can the portfolio holder give us the latest update as excitement is continuing to build around the scheme?

Answer

The announcement of the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) allocation of £1 million towards the refurbishment of the former Odeon Cinema is excellent news which further demonstrates the shared commitment of both Bradford Council and Bradford Live in ensuring that this local landmark is fully redeveloped and contributes to the overall regeneration of Bradford's City Centre.

Major progress over the last 6 months includes:

- Planning consent was granted in March 2019.
- Enabling works (including the demolition of the 1960s' internal structure) are due to be completed by the end of July. The removal of the old cinema screen will return the auditorium back to its full size and as it had been built in the 1930s.

Once the enabling/demolition works are completed, then the design team will undertake the final surveys and will further develop the details of the scheme with the view to start the procurement of main contractors in the Autumn. Based upon the current programme, it is anticipated that a report will be presented to the Executive before the end of the year in advance of any contract appointment.

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Report of the Director of Finance to the meeting of Governance and Audit to be held on 28 June 2019

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Subject:

Annual Treasury Management Report 2018-19

Summary statement:

**This report shows the Council's Treasury Management activities for the
year ending 31 March 2019**

Chris Chapman
Director of Finance

Portfolio: Corporate Services

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Corporate Services

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 2018-19. 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 2018-19 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports:

- An annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (Council 19/03/2019).
- A mid-year treasury update report (Council 16/10/2018).
- 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. Member training on treasury management issues was undertaken during the year on 14/03/2019 in order to support Members' scrutiny role.

2. Overall Treasury Position as at 31 March 2019

At the beginning and the end of 2018-19 the Council's treasury, (including borrowing by PFI and finance leases), position was as follows:

	31 March 2018 Principal £'m	Rate/ Return	31 March 2019 Principal £'m	Rate/ Return
Fixed rate funding:				
-PWLB	278.8		275.8	
-Market	41.4	5.5%	36.2	5.4%
PFI and other finance leases	178.0		170.0	
Total debt	498.2		482.0	
CFR	669.5		700.1	
Over / (under) borrowing	(171.3)		(218.1)	
Total investments	35.0	0.4%	56.9	0.74%
Net debt	463.2		425.1	

3. Prudential Indicators

3.1 Capital Expenditure

The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need; or
- If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows the actual capital expenditure and how this was financed.

	2017-18 Actual £'m	2018-19 Estimate £'m	2018-19 Actual £'m
Capital expenditure	72.9	151.0	84.3
Financed in year	55.9	76.0	52.7
Unfinanced capital expenditure	17.0	75.0	31.6

3.2 The Council's Overall Borrowing Need

The Council's underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is simply the total historic outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the Council's indebtedness and so the underlying borrowing need. Any capital expenditure above, which is not immediately paid for through a revenue or capital resource, will increase the CFR.

In order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year (2017-18) plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current (2018-19) and next two financial years. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. This indicator allowed the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2018-19. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

	31 March 2018 Actual £'m	31 March 2019 Budget £'m	31 March 2019 Actual £'m
Capital Financing Requirement	669.5	740.0	700.1
Gross borrowing position	498.2	541.0	482.0

	31 March 2018 Actual £'m	31 March 2019 Budget £'m	31 March 2019 Actual £'m
(Under) / over funding of CFR	(171.3)	(199.0)	(218.1)

3.3 Treasury Indicators

The authorised limit - the authorised limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by s3 of the Local Government Act 2003. Once this has been set, the Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2018-19 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.

The operational boundary – the operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary are acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.

Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream - this indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital, (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income), against the net revenue stream.

	2018-19
Authorised limit	£640m
Maximum gross borrowing position during the year	£482m
Operational boundary	£600m
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream	9.0%

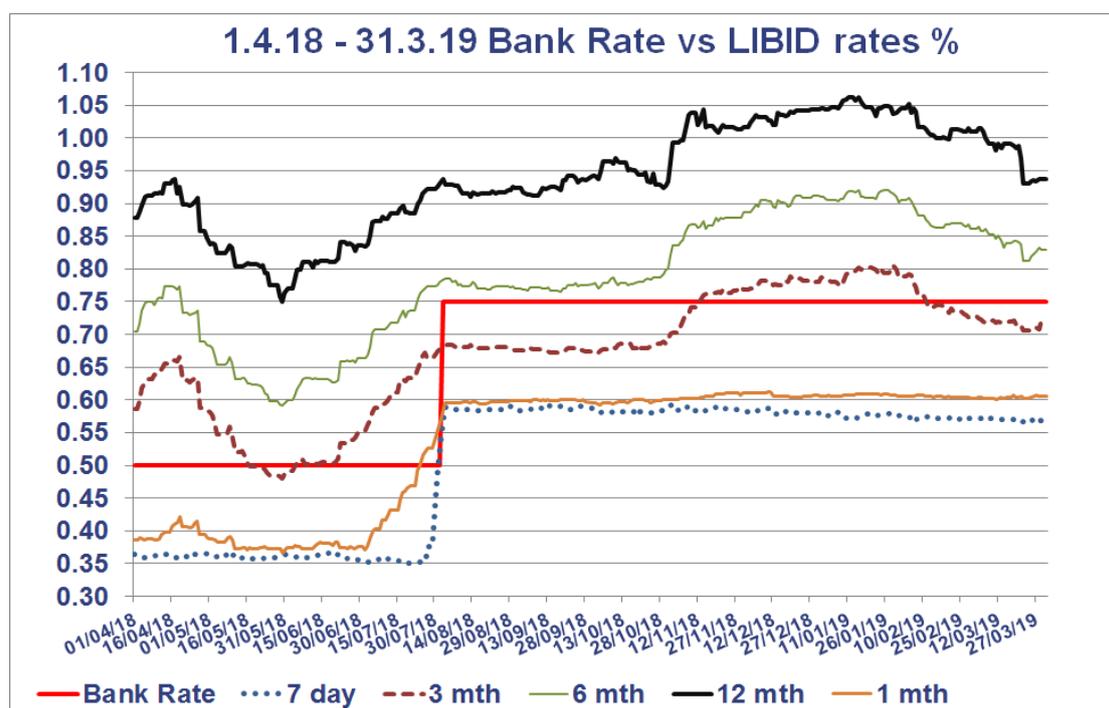
The maturity structure of the debt portfolio was as follows:

	31 March 2018 Actual £'m	31 March 2019 Actual £'m
Under 12 months	9.5	17.1
12 months and within 24 months	17.1	1.8
24 months and within 5 years	22.8	27.5
5 years and within 10 years	65.1	58.7
10 years and within 20 years	61.9	61.9
20 years and within 30 years	0	0
30 years and within 40 years	95.2	95.2
40 years and within 50 years	48.6	49.8

4 The Strategy for 2018-19

4.1 Investment strategy and control of interest rate risk

Investment returns remained low during 2018-19. The expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2018-19 was that Bank Rate would rise from 0.50% to 0.75%. At the start of 2018-19, and after UK GDP growth had proved disappointingly weak in the first few months of 2018, the expectation for the timing of this increase was pushed back from May to August 2018. Investment interest rates were therefore on a gently rising trend in the first half of the year after April, in anticipation that the MPC would raise Bank Rate in August. This duly happened at the MPC meeting on 2 August 2018. During this period, investments were, therefore, kept shorter term in anticipation that rates would be higher later in the year.



It was not expected that the MPC would raise Bank Rate again during 2018-19 after August in view of the fact that the UK was entering into a time of major uncertainty with Brexit due in March 2019. Value was therefore sought by placing longer term investments after 2 August where cash balances were sufficient to allow this.

Investment rates were little changed during August to October but rose sharply after the MPC meeting of 1 November was unexpectedly hawkish about their perception of building inflationary pressures, particularly from rising wages. However, weak GDP growth data after December, plus increasing concerns generated by Brexit, resulted in investment rates falling back again.

Continued uncertainty in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis has 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.

4.2 Investment Outturn 2018-19

The Council's investment position at the end of 2018-19 is summarised below.

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO	Actual 31.3.18 £m	Actual 31.3.18 %	Actual 31.3.19 £m	Actual 31.3.19 %
Treasury investments				
Banks	22.1	63	29.4	52
Building Societies - rated	4	11	5.0	9
Money Market Funds	8.9	26	22.5	39
Total managed in house	35.0	100	56.9	100

The maturity structure of the investment portfolio was as follows:

	2018-19 Actual £'m	2018-19 Actual £'m
Investments		
Longer than 1 year	£0m	£0m
Up to 1 year	35.0m	56.9m

Investments held by the Council - The Council maintained an average balance of £54.7m of internally managed funds. The internally managed funds earned an average rate of return of 0.74%. The comparable performance indicator is the average 7-day LIBID rate, which was 0.506%.

4.3 Investment Policy

The Council's investment policy is governed by MHCLG investment guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on 19th March 2019. 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 investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.

5 Borrowing strategy and control of interest rate risk

Borrowing is undertaken to fund net unfinanced capital expenditure and naturally maturing debt and also to maintain cash flow liquidity requirements. During 2018-19, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position. This means that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), was not fully funded with loan debt, as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as investment returns were low and minimising counterparty risk on placing investments also needed to be considered.

A cost of carry remained during the year on any new long-term borrowing that was not immediately used to finance capital expenditure, as it would have caused a temporary increase in cash balances; this would have incurred a revenue cost – the difference between (higher) borrowing costs and (lower) investment returns.

The policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances, has served well over the last few years. However, this was kept under review to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when the Council may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure and/or the refinancing of maturing debt.

Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution was adopted with the treasury operations. The Director of Finance monitored interest rates in financial markets and adopted a pragmatic strategy based upon the following principles to manage interest rate risks:

- If it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a sharp FALL in long and short term rates, (e.g. due to a marked increase of risks around relapse into recession or of risks of deflation), then long term borrowings would have been postponed, and potential rescheduling from fixed rate funding into short term borrowing would have been considered.
- If it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper RISE in long and short term rates than initially expected, perhaps arising from an acceleration in the start date and in the rate of increase in central rates in the USA and UK, an increase in world economic activity or a sudden increase in inflation risks, then the portfolio position would have been re-appraised. Most likely, fixed rate funding would have been drawn whilst interest rates were lower than they were projected to be in the next few years.

Interest rate forecasts expected only gradual rises in medium and longer term fixed borrowing rates during 2018-19 and the two subsequent financial years. Variable, or short-term rates, were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing over the period.

Below are Links forecasts for interest rates set at 12/2/18.

Link Asset Services Interest Rate View 12.2.18													
	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Mar-19	Jun-19	Sep-19	Dec-19	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-21
Bank Rate	0.50%	0.75%	0.75%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.25%	1.25%	1.25%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%
5yr PWLB Rate	1.90%	2.00%	2.10%	2.10%	2.20%	2.30%	2.30%	2.40%	2.40%	2.50%	2.50%	2.60%	2.60%
10yr PWLB Rate	2.50%	2.50%	2.60%	2.70%	2.70%	2.80%	2.80%	2.90%	3.00%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%	3.20%
25yr PWLB Rate	2.80%	2.90%	3.00%	3.10%	3.20%	3.20%	3.30%	3.30%	3.40%	3.50%	3.50%	3.60%	3.60%
50yr PWLB Rate	2.60%	2.70%	2.80%	2.90%	3.00%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%	3.20%	3.30%	3.30%	3.40%	3.40%

Since PWLB rates peaked during October 2018, most PWLB rates have been on a general downward trend, though longer term rates did spike upwards again during December, and, (apart from the 1 year rate), reached lows for the year at the end of March. There was a significant level of correlation between movements in US Treasury yields and UK gilt yields -which determine PWLB rates. The Fed in America increased the Fed Rate four times in 2018, making nine increases in all in this cycle, to reach 2.25% –

2.50% in December. However, it had been giving forward guidance that rates could go up to nearly 3.50%. These rate increases and guidance caused Treasury yields to also move up. However financial markets considered by December 2018, that the Fed had gone too far, and discounted its expectations of further increases. Since then, the Fed has also come round to the view that there are probably going to be no more increases in this cycle.

The issue now is how many cuts in the Fed Rate there will be and how soon, in order to support economic growth in the US. But weak growth now also looks to be the outlook for China and the EU so this will mean that world growth as a whole will be weak. Treasury yields have therefore fallen sharply during 2019 and gilt yields / PWLB rates have also fallen.

5.1 Borrowing Outturn 2018-19

The Council repaid two maturing PWLB loans in the year totally £9.48m with an average rate of interest of 7.63%. The maturity of these loans results in an annual saving of 724k interest.

A new PWLB loan was drawn in December from the PWLB for 48 years at a rate of 2.77% to finance the repayment of a LOBO loan.

Summary of debt transactions – management of the debt portfolio resulted in a fall in the average interest rate of 0.15%, representing net General Fund savings of £782k per year.

5.2 Borrowing in advance of need

The Council has not borrowed more than, or in advance of its needs, purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed.

5.3 Rescheduling

In December 2018 the Council entered a competitive bidding process to purchase one of its LOBO loans. The Council was successful with the bid and the loan valued at £5.2m was purchased. The interest rate on this loan was 4.5% and it was replaced as part of the £6.4m PWLB loan at 2.77%. This means that even with a premium payments of £1.145m the Council makes an annual revenue saving.

6 Other considerations

6.1 None

7 Changes to the Treasury Policy

At present the Council only uses Moody's for its long term credit rating in the Treasury Policy's. This raises the issue that there are a few banks including ring fenced banks which use the other two main credit rating agencies but not Moody's. This means at present we would not be able use these banks.

Due to the issue raised above it is proposed to make the following changes to the Treasury Policy.

The present criteria are:

Any Bank or a Building Society with a Moody's rating of Aa3 or better, a Fitch short-term credit rating of at least F1 and a Standard & Poor (S & P) rating of A-1 a limit of £30 million.

Any Bank or a Building Society with a Moody's rating of A1 or better, a Fitch short-term credit rating of at least F1 and a S & P rating of A-1 a limit of £20 million.

New criteria

Any Bank or a Building Society with a Moody's rating of Aa3 or better, (Fitch AA- if not available) a Fitch short-term credit rating of at least F1 and a S & P rating of A-1 a limit of £30 million.

Any Bank or a Building Society with a Moody's rating of A1 or better, (Fitch A+ if not available) a Fitch short-term credit rating of at least F1 and a S & P rating of A-1

8 Options

8.1 None

9 Financial and Resources Appraisal

9.1 The financial implications are set out in section 1,2,3, 4 and 5.

10 Risk Management

10.1 The principal risks associated with treasury management are:

Risk: Loss of investments as a result of failure of counterparties.

Mitigation: Limiting the types of investment instruments used, setting lending criteria for counterparties, and limiting the extent of exposure to individual counterparties.

Risk: That the council will commit too much of its investments in fixed term investments and might have to recall investments prematurely resulting in possible additional costs or new borrowing (Liquidity risk).

Mitigation: Ensuring that a minimum proportion of investments are held in short term investments for cashflow purposes.

Risk: The level of investments and surplus cash is higher than needed to fund short term timing differences.

Mitigation: Cash flow forecasting and capital expenditure monitoring.

Risk: Increase in the net financing costs of the Council due to borrowing at high rates of interest.

Mitigation: Planning and undertaking borrowing and lending in light of assessments of future interest rate movements, and by undertaking mostly long term borrowing at fixed rates of interest (to reduce the volatility of capital financing costs).

Risk: Higher interest rates increase borrowing making it more difficult to self-finance capital schemes. Debt servicing becomes less affordable and less sustainable and crowds out revenue spend.

Mitigation: To pause, delay or defer capital schemes. Also review opportunities to borrow in the future at current interest rates.

Risk: Return on non-treasury investments lower than expected.

Mitigation: Review and analysis of risk prior to undertaking non-treasury investments.

Risk: The Council's Minimum Revenue Policy charges an insufficient amount to the Revenue Estimates to repay debt.

Mitigation: Align the Minimum Revenue Policy to the service benefit derived from the Council's assets.

Risk: Associated with cash management, legal requirements and fraud.

Mitigation: These risks are managed through:

- Treasury Management Practices covering all aspects of Treasury management procedures including cashflow forecasting, documentation, monitoring, reporting and division of duties.
- All Treasury management procedures and transactions are subject to inspection by internal and external auditors.

The Council also employs external financial advisors to provide information on market trends, credit rating alerts, lending criteria advice and investment opportunities.

11 Legal Implications

11.1 Any relevant implication considerations are set in the report.

12 Other Implications

12.1 Equal Rights implications – no direct implications

12.2 Sustainability implications – no direct implications

12.3 Green house Gas Emissions Impact- no direct implications

12.4 Community safety implications- no direct implications

12.5 Human Rights Act – no direct implication

12.6 Trade Unions – no direct implications

12.7 Ward Implications – no direct implications

13 Not for publications documents

13.1 None

14 Recommendations

14.1 That the report be noted and referred to Council at its meeting on the 16th July 2019 for adoption.

15 Appendices

Appendix 1: Prudential and treasury indicators

Appendix 2: Borrowing and investment rates

16 Background Documents

Treasury Management Schedules

Treasury Management Practices

Treasury Policy

Appendix 1: Prudential and treasury indicators

1. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS	2017/18 Actual £'000	2018/19 Estimate £'000	2018/19 Actual £'000
Capital Expenditure	72,900	151,000	84,343
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	15.8%	9.9%	9.0%
Gross borrowing requirement General Fund	320,000	363,000	312,000
Capital Financing Requirement	669,000	740,000	700,124

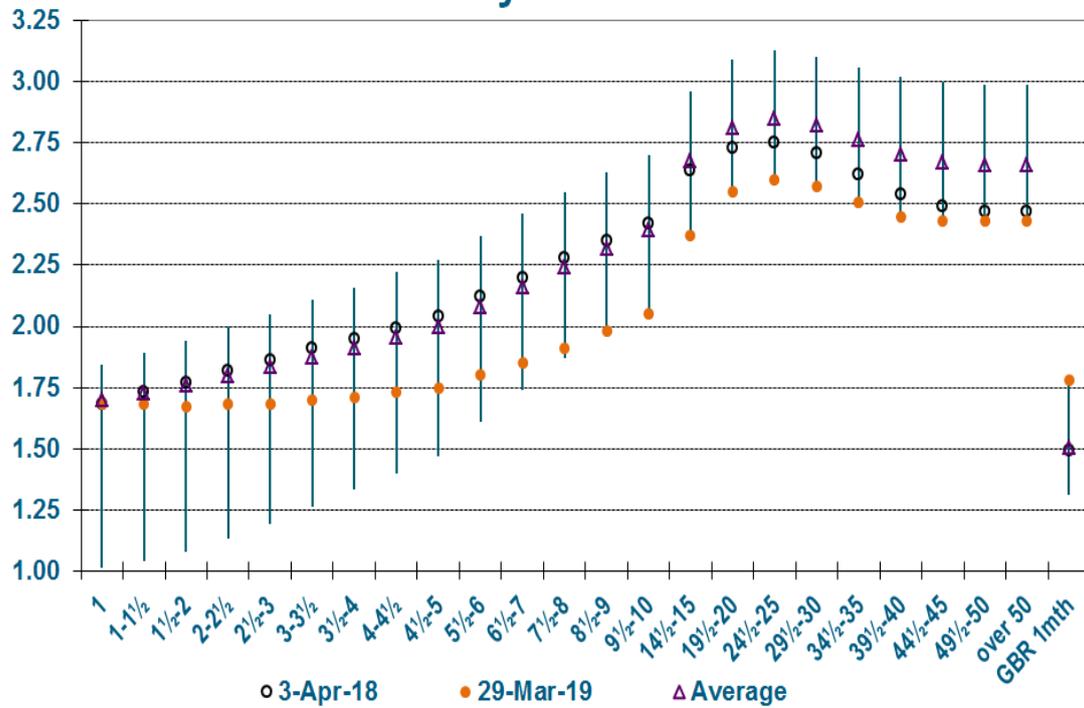
2. TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS	2017/18 Actual £'000	2018/19 Original £'000	2018/19 Actual £'000
Authorised Limit for external debt -			
borrowing	320,000	420,000	312,000
other long term liabilities	178,000	220,000	169,000
TOTAL	498,000	640,000	481,000
Operational Boundary for external debt -			
borrowing	320,000	400,000	312,000
other long term liabilities	178,000	200,000	169,000
TOTAL	498,000	600,000	481,000
Actual external debt	320,000		312,000

Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing during 2018-19	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 within 20 years	90%	0%
20 years and within 30 years	90%	0%
30 years and within 40 years	90%	0%
40 years and within 50 years	90%	0%
Maturity structure of investments during 2018-19	upper limit	lower limit
Longer than 1 year	£20m	£0m

Appendix 2: Borrowing and investment rates

a) PWLB borrowing rates

PWLB certainty rate variations in 2018-19

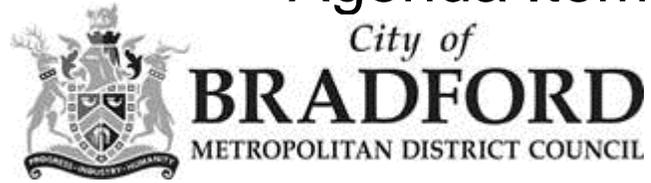


	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
02/04/2018	1.48%	1.85%	2.23%	2.57%	2.29%
29/03/2019	1.48%	1.55%	1.85%	2.40%	2.23%
Low	1.28%	1.50%	1.80%	2.33%	2.16%
Date	29/05/2018	26/03/2019	28/03/2019	26/03/2019	26/03/2019
High	1.64%	2.07%	2.50%	2.93%	2.79%
Date	04/10/2018	10/10/2018	10/10/2018	10/10/2018	12/10/2018
Average	1.50%	1.80%	2.20%	2.66%	2.47%

b) Money market investment rates and forecasts 2018/19

	Bank Rate	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
01/04/2018	0.50	0.36	0.39	0.59	0.70	0.88
31/03/2019	0.75	0.57	0.61	0.72	0.83	0.94
High	0.75	0.59	0.61	0.81	0.92	1.06
High Date	02/08/2018	01/11/2018	10/12/2018	29/01/2019	15/01/2019	11/01/2019
Low	0.50	0.35	0.37	0.48	0.59	0.75
Low Date	01/04/2018	19/07/2018	30/05/2018	30/05/2018	30/05/2018	30/05/2018
Average	0.67	0.51	0.54	0.68	0.79	0.94
Spread	0.25	0.24	0.25	0.33	0.33	0.31

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Report of the Director of Finance to the meeting of Executive to be held on 9 July 2019

J

Subject:

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020/21 TO 2022/23 AND BEYOND

Summary statement:

The Medium Term Financial Strategy focuses on how the Council intends to respond to the forecasted public sector funding reductions. It sets out the approaches and principles the Council will follow to ensure the Council remains financially viable and delivers on its priorities.

The next three years already contained a series of potentially significant proposed changes to the structure of the Council and the services it will be responsible for and what it can provide. Many of these proposed changes are still at consultation stage which brings additional complexity when predicting the future. In addition the impact on the economy from leaving the EU may also affect local government funding and demand for services.

The forecast identifies for planning purposes that savings need to be identified of £23.9m in 2020/21 in addition to the £17.4m savings agreed in February 2019. In the following year the gap increases to £26.2m in 2021/22 and then up to £28.9m by 2025/26. This forecast reflects the risks associated with delivering the Council Plan 2017-2021 in particular the challenges of the costs of social care.

Chris Chapman
Director of Finance

Portfolio: Leader and Corporate

Report Contact: Tom Caselton
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E-mail: tom.caselton@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Corporate

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Whilst there is a growing national awareness of the demand on council services with reduced funding there are several fundamental reforms being proposed but with no detail at this stage, this makes financial planning difficult. This Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets out the financial envelope for the Council to deliver its key priorities as set out in the revised Corporate Plan based on assumptions made from the relevant data available.
- 1.2 The key outcomes that underpin the financial planning of the Council are:
- Good schools and a great start for all our children
 - Better skills, more good jobs and a growing economy
 - Better Health and better lives
 - Safe, clean and active communities
 - Decent homes that people can live in
 - A well run council
- 1.3 The MTFS shows a continuing pressure on the Council's financial envelope and identifies an immediate need for planning purposes to identify revenue savings of a further c£23.9m in order to set a balanced Budget in February 2020. The gap rises to £26.2m in 2021/22 and continues to widen to £28.9m by 2025/26 (Appendix 1 Table 2). A recent report commissioned by the County Councils Network on the state of local government finance suggested there was a £3bn gap for Metropolitan District Councils by 2024/25.
- 1.4 Appendix 1 section 3.1 contains details of the key uncertainties associated with the forecast. There are several national reforms that will impact on the forecast namely:
- Fair funding review
 - Business Rates Baseline reset
 - Move to 75% Business Rates retention
 - Spending Review 2019
 - Social Care Green Paper
 - Brexit
- 1.5 Clearly Brexit is still an unquantifiable uncertainty for the national economy. Any deterioration of the national economy could lead to further austerity measures imposed on local government. For many of the reforms listed above the implications on individual local authorities will not be known until late in 2019, if at all. This will not give much time for local authorities to budget for any significant changes in funding. As a result it is important that Council reserves are maintained now in order to smooth any adverse transition.
- 1.6 An inadequate rating for Children's social care in September 2018 by Ofsted together with with increasing caseloads, increasing numbers of children entering care and subsequent pressure on staffing levels has led to increasing pressure on the children's social care budget.
- 1.6 The Council benefited in 2019/20 from the Leeds City Region/North Yorkshire 75% Business Rate Pilot. For the purposes of this forecast it is assumed that the Pilot will not continue and that the government introduces 75% business rates retention

nationally. It should be noted that these two events are not mutually exclusive and there is a possibility another business rate pool could be formed but no benefits from such a pool are anticipated in this forecast.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The MTFS forms part of the Council's planning and performance framework, and provides the context for the more detailed budgeting process.
- 2.2 The MTFS is refreshed each year to give a rolling three year assessment of the fiscal environment, after the close of the previous year, and before the budgeting round commences. It also provides a forecast for a further three years but given the uncertainty on any reforms to local government financing this forecast will need to be refreshed as further information becomes available.
- 2.3 The MTFS (Appendix 1) comprises three sections
 1. Purpose, priorities and principles
 2. Medium Term Financial Forecast and Gap Analysis
 3. Risks associated with the forecast

Followed by a series of annexes

Annex A	Current Cost and Resource Structure and savings approved to date
Annex B	Expenditure Forecast Assumptions
Annex C	Resource Forecast Assumptions

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The MTFS is typically affected by key decisions made by Executive and Council which have material financial implications. In addition national policy changes can also have a significant impact on the MTFS.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The MTFS is a financial and resource appraisal.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 The principal risks arising from the strategic assessment emerge from:
 - the sensitivity of financial estimates to actions beyond the immediate control of the Council, in particular Government decisions on local authority financial regimes and spending levels. This is particularly significant for this forecast given the National reforms currently being considered;
 - the capability of the Council to influence Council Tax and Business Rates;
 - the impact on the economy and any resulting adjustment to the local government financial envelope resulting from Brexit.

5.2 Specific risks in the plan are set out in section 3.1 of Appendix A.

5.3 The MTFFS basic premise is that approved local savings plans will be delivered on time and in full. For planning purposes a proportion of the savings identified at risk of not being delivered have been incorporated into the budgetary gap to be closed. See Table 4 in section 3.3 of Appendix 1.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

6.1 This report is submitted to the Executive in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure rules.

6.2 The Council is legally obliged to set a balanced budget.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Non specific

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Non specific

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Non specific

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Non specific

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Non specific

7.6 TRADE UNION

Non specific

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Non specific

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

Non specific

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

Non specific

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

This report sets out the assumptions for budget planning purposes and therefore does not include any options.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That having considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy as an assessment of the Council's financial outlook to 2022/23 and beyond, and a framework for it to remain financially viable and deliver sustainable public services in line with its priorities and the principles, that Executive recommends the updated and revised Medium Term Financial Strategy at Appendix 1 to Document "J" be forwarded to Council for approval.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 to 2022/23, including the annexes to the Strategy.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 Council Budget Report 21st February 2019 - Document U

12.2 Executive Report 9th July 2019 - First Quarter Financial Position Statement for 2019/20 - Document I

**City of Bradford Metropolitan
District Council**

Medium Term Financial Strategy

2020/21 – 2022/23

PURPOSE, PRIORITIES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS)

1.1 Purpose and priorities

The MTFS sets out how the Council intends to respond to:

- the forecasted size of the financial challenge it faces in both the medium and longer term
- the constraints of the national and local landscape
- the risks to financial resilience.

In the current financial climate the Council's principal financial aim is to continue to effectively align scarce resources to support Council priorities:

- Good schools and a great start for all our children
- Better skills, more good jobs and a growing economy
- Better Health and better lives
- Safe, clean and active communities
- Decent homes that people can afford to live in
- A well run council

The Council will continue to work with partners, other organisations, residents and communities to deliver positive outcomes on these priorities.

To remain affordable and deliver sustainable public services, the MTFS has four main objectives:-

- Continue the trend of recent years to manage down the Council's recurrent cost base in line with overall resources
- Maintain income levels and increase them where possible, including growing the Council Tax and Business Rates tax base
- Prudently use reserves and balances to smooth the transition to a lower cost base and accommodate unforeseen challenges, and ensure that longer term liabilities and risks are adequately covered
- Seek to benefit from public service reform

1.2 Approach and principles

The MTFS is consistent with the priorities the Council is pursuing, as articulated in the District Plan and the Council Plan.

The principles that will influence the choices the Council will make in the future are summarised below

- **Working together** – working closely with partner organisations, business, communities, families and individuals to make the most of all our district's resources, assets and opportunities
- **Equality** – making sure that council activity helps to reduce inequality, provides opportunities for everyone and builds an economy that works for us all

- **People in charge of their own lives** - supporting wellbeing and independence through early action to prevent problems developing or stop them getting worse
- **Every pound counts** – using money wisely and targeting resources at district priorities while supporting the development of cost-effective and innovative solutions

A robust performance management framework arrangement will make sure value for money, sustainability, efficiency gains and the effectiveness of resource allocations can be demonstrated across all Council services, partnerships and commissioned service delivery; and that mechanisms are in place by which performance against these can be measured and managed. This will provide an increasingly sophisticated understanding of performance against district wide and local priorities set within the context of the financial outlook.

This forecast is based on a series of assumptions which are detailed in Annexes B and C. It starts from the current financial structure of the Council, which is analysed in more detail at Annex A.

The strategy and principles set out above lay down the framework and constraints for the next stage in the continuous cycle of operational and financial planning.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST AND GAP ANALYSIS

- 2.1 The medium term and longer term forecasts set out in Table 1 and Table 2 derive from comparing forecast expenditure assuming no changes to current plans, with forecast income, to give a deficit to be managed out through budget decisions. Table 3 shows the changes to assumptions since the budget was approved by Full Council.
- 2.2 The starting point for the Forecast is the current financial structure of the Council, which is analysed in Annex A which assumes that the Service and non-Service savings approved by Council in previous years will be achieved in full. The Quarter 1 financial monitor report indicates that we are already seeing cost pressures which will need to be included in future financial plans. As a result for planning purposes an additional amount has been incorporated into the forecast budgetary gap relating to pressures on children's social care.
- 2.3 Forecast cost structure and forecast future resources are affected by a number of factors, some that are within our control and others that are not. Business Rate Reform, Spending Review, Fair Funding Review, Social Care Green Paper and the potential impact of Brexit are all potentially going to impact on Bradford but the quantum of these factors on the Council's budget is unknown. In Annex B the material factors that are likely to affect the Council's spending forecasts are set out.
- 2.4 In the eight years from the beginning of 2011/12 to 2018/19 the Council has approved a series of reductions of £262.0m to its net budget. Further reductions of £16.1m (including £1.1m of further Public Health grant cuts) are being applied during 2019/20 taking the total reductions to £278m.
- 2.5 The Government announced in the December 2017 Provisional Local Government Settlement that there would be a move to 75% business rates retention but that Public Health Grant and Revenue Support Grant (RSG) would be funded by the retained business rates. The figures for 2020/21 have therefore been presented on an anticipated 75% rates retention system but this makes net funding comparisons between financial years problematic. Details of the assumptions on 75% business rates retention are included in section 6.1.
- 2.6 On 22 February 2019 the Council agreed further savings for 2020/21 of £17.4m. Assuming that the Council raises Council Tax in 2020/21 by 1.99% the deficit still to be closed in 2020/21 is forecast to be £23.9m.

Table 1 Cumulative Medium Term Forecast

	2020-21 Forecast £'000	2021-22 Forecast £'000	2022-23 Forecast £'000
NET EXPENDITURE			
2019/20 Base Budget	359,911	359,911	359,911
Reversal of non recurring investment	(6,267)	(7,167)	(7,167)
Full year effect of recurring pressures	2,610	3,170	3,750
Sub total	356,254	355,914	356,494
FUNDING CHANGES			
Independent Living Fund	57	112	166
Local Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit Admin	250	500	1,827
New Homes Bonus Grant	919	914	923
Winter pressures money	2,297	2,297	2,297
S31 grants	667	250	(176)
Public Health Grant to be funded by 75% business rates	40,722	40,722	40,722
Sub total	44,912	44,795	45,759
INFLATION			
Pay Award (2.0%)	4,908	9,908	15,202
Contract Price Indexation (2.0%)	7,454	12,459	17,569
Income (0.5%)	(825)	(1,351)	(1,881)
Base Net Expenditure Requirement	412,703	421,725	433,143
Demographic Pressures in Adults	1,600	2,400	5,700
Looked After Children demographic growth	625	1,250	1,875
Additional pressure on Children's social care	15,000	20,000	15,000
One off pressures	300	330	0
Capital financing and central budget adjustments	4,218	7,683	7,683
Release of overprovision of MRP from previous years	6,520	6,520	6,520
Public Health savings reversed	5,000	5,000	5,000
Full roll out of universal credit	0	0	(390)
Budget decisions approved in Feb 2018	(17,396)	(25,775)	(31,264)
Net Expenditure Requirement	428,570	439,133	443,267
RESOURCES			
Settlement Funding Assessment	(202,577)	(205,578)	(208,678)
Use of Reserves - Earmarked	(900)	0	0
Council Tax Income	(201,236)	(207,382)	(213,693)
Total resources	(404,713)	(412,960)	(422,371)
Budget shortfall	23,857	26,173	20,896
Memorandum			
Council tax base	143,700	145,200	146,700
Council tax Band D	£1,400.39	£1,428.25	£1,456.67

Table 2 Cumulative Six Year Outlook

	2020-21 Forecast £'000	2021-22 Forecast £'000	2022-23 Forecast £'000	2023-24 Forecast £'000	2024-25 Forecast £'000	2025-26 Forecast £'000
NET EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENT	428,570	439,133	443,267	455,729	468,385	481,173
RESOURCES						
Settlement Funding Assessment	(202,577)	(205,578)	(208,678)	(211,878)	(215,182)	(218,592)
Use of Reserves - Earmarked	(900)	0	0	0	0	0
Council Tax Income	(201,236)	(207,382)	(213,693)	(220,173)	(226,827)	(233,658)
Total resources	(404,713)	(412,960)	(422,371)	(432,051)	(442,009)	(452,250)
Budget shortfall Memorandum	23,857	26,173	20,896	23,678	26,376	28,923
Council tax base	143,700	145,200	146,700	148,200	149,700	151,200
Council tax Band D	£1,400.39	£1,428.25	£1,456.67	£1,485.65	£1,515.21	£1,545.36

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FORECAST

3.1 A series of potential changes in the Spending Review 2019, Local Government Settlement, Business Rate reform and the results of the fair funding review inevitably means there are uncertainties and sources of risk attached to the forecast.

Risks associated with the forecast:

- The impact of national economic performance on public sector finance as a result of the Brexit negotiations.
- The buoyancy of the local economy
- Fair Funding Review
- Business Rates Baseline Reset
- Move to 75% Business Rate retention
- Business Rates Review process, appeals against the rating list and future increases in the Business Rate multiplier
- Integration of health and social care, the financial health of the NHS, and the ability and willingness of the NHS to fund social care
- Current work being undertaken in Children’s social care and the impact of any further Ofsted inspections
- Inflation – a 1% variance in pay equates to £2.5m and a 1% change in prices would have a £2.2m impact on expenditure assumptions
- Treasury management – the extent to which cash balances will drive the need to borrow to finance capital investment
- Change management risk, and the deliverability of existing budget decisions
- Liabilities that may arise from conversion of schools to academies

- Contractual risk
- What devolution, regional and other aspects of public sector reform will mean for Bradford
- Potential increase in West Yorkshire Transport levy as a result of increased borrowings in respect of the West Yorkshire Transport Fund
- Impact of demographics in terms of both additional demand and additional growth
- The potential costs of transition and restructuring
- Spending Review 2019

KEY MOVEMENTS FROM 2019/20 BUDGET

3.2 The key changes from the budget assumptions are set out in the Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Movements from Approved Budget Forecast	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	£m	£m	£m
Budget Shortfall per Budget February 2019	27.9	22.3	21.0
Council Tax assumptions (6.2b)	0.9	(0.1)	(1.2)
Funding assumptions (Table 4)	(23.1)	(25.2)	(26.3)
Children’s social care pressures (5.3a)	17.0	22.6	18.3
Removal of redundancy budget (5.1a)	(4.5)	0.0	0.0
Re-profiled travel assistance saving (5.5)	(0.9)	(0.5)	(0.4)
Adult demographic growth revision (5.3b)	(0.1)	(0.8)	1.0
Inflation assumptions (5.1a & 5.1b)	1.3	2.5	3.8
Markets deficit – temporary funding (5.3c)	0.3	0.3	0.0
Public Health savings (5.3d)	5.0	5.0	5.0
Full rollout of Universal Credit	0.0	0.0	(0.4)
Other	0.1	0.1	0.1
Revised budgetary gap per MTFS (cumulative basis)	23.9	26.2	20.9

Table 4 – Funding assumption changes

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	£m	£m	£m
Assumed changes to Settlement Funding Assessment (6.1)	(6.9)	(8.3)	(9.9)
No further reductions in Public Health Grant (7.1a)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Damping frozen in 2013/14 not removed (6.1b)	(7.6)	(7.6)	(7.6)
New Homes Bonus amended to reflect change in assumed Council Tax base growth (7.1b)	(1.3)	(2.0)	(2.6)
Social care grant announced in October 2018 budget assumed to be permanent (7.1g)	(3.9)	(3.9)	(3.9)
Spring 2017 iBCF assumed to continue (7.1f)	(3.2)	(3.2)	(3.2)
Housing Benefit Subsidy Admin Grant to be phased out (7.1d)	0.0	0.0	1.1
Total per Table 3 above	(23.1)	(25.2)	(26.3)

4.1 ANNEX A: CURRENT COST AND RESOURCE STRUCTURE AND SAVINGS APPROVED TO DATE

To put the size of the challenge facing the Council into context an understanding of the current cost, resource base and savings delivered to date is required.

a) Cost Base

Whilst the Council continues to have overall accountability for over £1.1bn of spend, it cannot spend directly £297m which is controlled by schools. This leaves, in 2019/20, a gross expenditure budget of £820m (£360m net expenditure) to fund non school activity.

Table 5 – Budget split between Schools and Council

2019/20	Gross Exp	Net Exp
	£m	£m
Council Services	814.8	359.9
Schools	302.5	0
	1,117.3	359.9

If the £127m spent on benefit payments, the £35m required to meet the cost of the long term PFI contracts, the £23m levy paid to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), the £41m that must be spent on Public Health activity and the £29m capital financing budget are excluded from the gross expenditure budget, this leaves a much smaller gross cost base, £560m, from which to drive out further savings.

Of the net budget of £360m, 31.0% is allocated to Health and Wellbeing. This emphasises that if the Council is going to balance its books in the long term and make sure the services it provides are sustainable, controlling demand and spend on Adult and Integrated Health Care is key.

Table 6 – Budget by Department

2019/20 Budget	Gross	Net	% of net budget
Health and Well Being	229.5	111.4	31.0%
Children's Services	468.7	94.7	26.3%
Place	118.1	63.5	17.6%
Capital Financing and WYCA	51.9	51.9	14.4%
Chief Executive	4.2	4.0	1.1%
Corporate	223.0	43.3	12.0%
Non Service	21.9	(8.9)	-2.4%
	1,117.3	359.9	100.0%

A different way of presenting the budget is by the Council Outcomes that has been used for the Outcome Based Budgeting exercise.

Table 7 - Outcome Budget 2019/20	Gross	Net	% of net budget
Better health better lives	440.6	192.1	53.4%
A well run council	79.9	53.2	14.8%
Better skills more jobs and a growing economy	94.2	44.0	12.2%
Safe clean active communities	61.1	41.1	11.4%
Fixed	55.7	18.6	5.2%
Good schools and a great start for all our children	380.9	7.3	2.0%
Decent homes that people can afford to live in	4.9	3.6	1.0%
	1,117.3	359.9	100.0%

The analysis illustrates that over 53% of the budget relates to personal type services which will undoubtedly lead to some difficult choices through the budget process if the Council wishes to retain the current proportion of spend across its outcomes.

b) Resource base

Table 8 below shows that in 2019/20 over half (54%) of the Council’s net expenditure is funded from Council tax. For 2019/20 the Business Rates income figure is skewed by the Leeds City Region/North Yorkshire 75% Business Rates Pilot. The Business Rates Pilot is currently for one year only and it is assumed that the Council would revert to the government’s proposed 75% retained business rates in 2020/21.

In addition to the proposed 75% business rates retention (further details set out in 6.1a). There are also other reforms planned, namely:

- Business rates baseline reset;
- Fair Funding Review; and
- Spending Review 2019.

A key issue will be what the total size of local government will be across the board. The earliest Bradford Council is likely to understand the impacts of these changes will be in late 2019.

In addition we are still expecting the publication of the Green Paper on Adult Social Care, despite six postponements to its publication. There are clear links to reforms of local government funding and the potential reforms to funding of social care. However, it is unclear how these two initiatives will impact on each other and ultimately on the ability of Councils to meet their obligations.

In addition if there were to be significant redistributions of local authority funding, it is expected there would be transitional arrangements to lessen the impact. This paper assumes the current damping requirements that were frozen in the 2013/14 settlement will apply for 2020/21 and beyond.

Table 8 - Sources of Funding in 2019/20	Gross £m	%	Net £m	%
Schools Grants	302.5	27%	-	0%
Other Government Grants	243.9	22%	-	0%
Fees, Charges, Contributions	211.0	19%	-	0%
Council Tax	195.3	17%	195.3	54%
Government "Top Up" Grant	67.0	6%	67.0	19%
Revenue Support Grant	-	0%	-	0%
Business Rates and previous year deficit	96.2	9%	96.2	27%
Use of Reserves	1.4	0%	1.4	0%
	1,117.3	100%	359.9	100%

Please note totals may not add up due to rounding differences

As the Council is required to absorb further reductions in Government funding, the clear message is that the Council's ability to grow both its local council tax base and local business rates base in order to sustain services and deliver on priorities will take on increasing significance. However, an important point to note is that a 1% increase in council tax raises just under £2m. A 1% pay award and 1% increase in contract prices costs the council £4.7m. Council Tax alone is not enough to keep the Council at a standstill position and without other sources of income further cuts are inevitable.

c) Savings approved to date

Eight consecutive years of reductions in Government funding, and inflationary and demographic pressures have required the Council to approve savings/cuts over the period of £262m.

Table 9 – savings approved to date since 2011/12

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total
	£m	£m								
Savings	48.7	28.5	26.1	31.8	37.7	45.6	37.5	6.1	16.1	278.1

By 2025/26 it is estimated that to balance the books over £100m more in savings and additional income (27% of the current net budget) will have to be found – on top of the £278m already made and increases in Council tax.

During the period of austerity the Council has absorbed a large share of Government funding reductions in relation to overall public sector funding reductions. Throughout this period the Council has protected basic services at a time of growing cost pressures. The Council will continue to focus on reducing costs and improving efficiency and productivity but finding new savings and raising income means that frontline services are now being impacted.

ANNEX B: EXPENDITURE FORECAST ASSUMPTIONS

5.1 Inflation

a) Pay

Although the Council does not receive any specific funding for pay awards an amount equivalent to 2.0% p.a. has been included in the calculations. Services are expected to absorb incremental increases. Clearly if the pay awards ultimately agreed are based on a tiered structure with higher percentages for lower paid staff then more detailed modelling will be required and the pay award provided in this document will need to be revised.

The forecast previously assumed that there would be £4.5m of redundancy costs required to top up the long term redundancy provision. As explained in the Outturn report (Doc ref I) a transfer of £3m has been made from balance sheet provision to reserves for future severance costs. As a result of this the one off budget provision for 2020/21 has been removed from this forecast. However, if further reductions in local government funding continue after this date then this assumption will need to be revisited.

There may be additional costs in respect of implementing the new spinal column points due to the compression of the spinal column points and therefore the compression of grade differentials at the lower end of the grading structure. At this stage nothing has been quantified or provided for this.

It has therefore been assumed for 2020/21 onwards, that the introduction of the new spinal column points in 2019/20, means that all spinal column points will receive the same percentage increase.

b) Non Pay

The Bank of England target rate of CPI is 2.0%. The Bank of England inflation report published in May 2019 indicated that CPI would be below target in the first half of the forecast and then rise to above target. The published rate of CPI rose from 1.9% in March 2019 to 2.1% in April 2019.

Given this, an average inflation rate of 2.0% has been assumed for contract inflation for 2019/20 and during the remaining period of this MTF5. Provision has been made for Premises and Transport costs which have been increased by 2.5% in all years.

In the budget papers approved by Budget Council in February 2019 an additional amount of non pay inflation was provided for Adult Social Care of £2.5m p.a. for 2019/20.

In recognition of difficult trading conditions, all Services inflation increases to their income budgets are factored in at 1.0% per annum.

5.2 Pension Contribution Rates

The next Actuarial Valuation will take place in December 2019. Employers' pension contribution rates have been fixed at 17.5% until the end of 2019/20. The forecast assumes that further provision will have to be made in 2020/21 to deal with changes arising from actuarial assumptions. Clearly many factors on the performance of the pension scheme can vary over the next three years.

5.3 Demand-Led Service Pressures

a) Children's Social Care

Ofsted undertook an inspection of Children's Social Care in September 2018 and published an inadequate rating. At Full Council additional permanent resources of £7.0m were invested into Children's social care together with a further £6.5m of temporary investment.

There has been a significant increase in the number of looked after children since March 2019 and on the current trajectory it is estimated that the number will have risen to 1,400 by the end of March 2020. As a result of this projected increase a further £15m for the costs of social care has been included in this forecast for 2020/21. If the number of Looked After Children does not stabilise then there could be a further £5m pressure on Children's Social care budgets and has been reflected in the 2021/22 figures and then falls back to an on-going £15m for 2022/23.

In addition to the increase in numbers of children in care the additional case loads is suggesting that the temporary staffing in place using some of the £6.5m temporary investment will become permanent leading to a further £2m budget pressure that has been recognised in this forecast.

b) Adults demographic growth

The demographic growth for adult social care has been revised using statistics from the Projecting Older People Population System (POPPI) and Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information System (PANSI). This has resulted in a slight reduction of the demographic growth provision for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

c) Markets service

As the market scheme progresses there will be continuing pressure on the markets bottom line budget whilst there is a transition from the old markets to new market developments. As a result temporary funding has been included in this forecast to cover the estimated shortfall in the markets income that cannot be covered by the markets reserve. The amounts forecast as being required are £300k for 2020/21 and £330k for 2021/22.

d) Public Health

As part of the four year outcome based budgeting exercise further reductions in areas of public health spend were planned where the grant would be substituted for council funded services that aligned to public health outcomes. A recent review has indicated that if these proposals went ahead in their entirety then the Council would be an outlier in spend on the public health miscellaneous category. As a result £5.0m of public savings have been reversed in this forecast pending a further review.

5.4 West Yorkshire Transport Levy

The budget proposals agreed in February 2019 assume a reduction in the levy of £500k in 2019/20 followed by a further £500k reduction in 2020/21. These have been factored into the forecast following discussions with WYCA. However, further discussions are required on how to bridge the funding gap to deliver the £1.4bn Transport Fund. Initial estimates were that a further £1.3m would be required from Bradford by 2024/25 (an average increase of £140kp.a.). No provision has been made for increased contributions in respect

of the Transport Fund as we are awaiting a revised capital expenditure profile from WYCA colleagues which will determine the phasing and level of borrowing WYCA will require.

5.5 Service and Non Service Saving Proposals

The Forecast in Table 1 assumes that the Service and Non Service savings approved by Council, covering 2019/20 and part of the gap for 2020/21 will be achieved in full.

Travel assistance savings have been profiled in this forecast in line with those provided by the independent consultants Edge. It is therefore assumed that these savings will be met in accordance with that profile.

5.6 Health Sector Reforms

Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) have been developed in collaboration with the NHS to tackle financial, care quality and health challenges. No allowance has been made in this MTFS for any impact of financial, organisational or service delivery changes arising from those plans.

5.7 Care Act 2014

The Care Act 2014 brings a number of challenges to the Council but until further information is available the forecast takes a neutral stance in terms of the impact of the proposed cap on care costs until further information is revealed in the proposed Green Paper.

There is a concern that when the Social Care Green Paper is published it may not link with the other local government funding reforms resulting in perverse pressures in local government.

5.8 Independent Living Fund

For 2019/20 the Council will receive a grant of £1.9m for the administration of the Independent Living Fund (ILF). A modest 3.5% p.a. reduction in the ILF grant has been forecast over the period of this forecast in line with the indicative allocations. It has been assumed that the ILF will continue to be funded through government grant beyond 209/20. If this is not the case then there is potentially a further £1.9m pressure on the Council budget unless the council decides to abolish any local arrangements.

5.9 Devolution

For the purposes of the Forecast in this document, no assumptions, either positive or adverse have been made about the financial consequences of any devolution deal that could affect Bradford.

ANNEX C: RESOURCE FORECAST ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 National influences

The Local Government Settlement and the Spring Statement 2018 have both outlined that continuing measures will be applied to return public finances to a sustainable level in the long term. There are several reviews and consultations taking place that will affect local government financing over the period covered by this forecast but as these have not yet concluded there is uncertainty on what this will mean for Bradford. The reviews and consultations are referenced in the appropriate sections below.

The Brexit negotiations bring further uncertainty and it is unclear whether there will be an adjustment to local government finances or what the size of any such adjustment may be. No adjustments have been made to this forecast but the situation will be under constant review during the budget setting process.

a – Business Rates Reform

As reported previously the government was undertaking work on reforming business rates. This work consisted of three streams:

- Fundamental Review of Relative Need
- Reset of the Business Rates Baseline
- Change to the percentage of rates retention

A technical consultation on the relative needs and resources of local authorities closed in February 2019. The intention stated by the government is to implement the Fair funding Review by April 2020. The Spending Review 2019 would determine the size of the local government finance pot that would then be allocated to local authorities based on new funding formulae. The timescales for implementing the fair funding review by April 2020 are looking extremely challenging and this forecast now assumes that any such changes would not apply by April 2020. The effect of this is explained in section 6.1b below.

The government announced it will seek to implement a 75% business rates retention from 2020/21 and that the ring-fenced Public Health Grant will disappear and instead be funded from retained business rates together with the remnants of RSG. For this forecast it has been assumed that a reduced Public Health Grant of £40.7m will be rolled into 75% business rates retention.

The government has also indicated that the next business rate revaluation will be 2021 followed by triennial revaluations. For this forecast the impact on Bradford is assumed to be neutral.

Regarding the reset of the business rate baseline it is likely to be April 2020 and a full reset based on 2018/19 business rate income although this is still to be confirmed. Again it is assumed for this forecast any effect is cost neutral for Bradford due to the uncertainty as to whether this will take place.

b– Revenue Support Grant

The Council successfully applied for the multi year settlement which provided some certainty on the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and the rate of reduction during the period to April 2020.

For 2019/20 the 75% business rate pilot has meant the Council receives no RSG. As explained in 6.1a above it has been assumed that for 2020/21 there will be no separate RSG. Given the current uncertainty surrounding the spending review and the previous announcements of an overall flat cash settlement for total government spending, with an extra £20.5bn for the NHS it seems highly probable that there will be further cuts to local government spending. On this basis a 2.5% reduction in the 2019/20 Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) has been assumed for 2020/21 with a flat £1m p.a reduction in future years.

We had assumed that the Fair Funding Review would be implemented from April 2020. Given recent events on the national stage and the energy that has been directed at Brexit it is now felt unlikely that the Fair Funding would be implemented by April 2020. As a result the damping of £7.6m that was frozen in the 2013/14 settlement is now assumed to continue indefinitely.

These assumptions will be kept under review.

c- Schools Funding

The academisation programme will continue to change the relationship of the Council with schools and hence the Council will need to carefully consider the activities it undertakes in respect of the education agenda.

The amount of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is in the main passported directly to schools and therefore the transfers to academies, whilst affecting how the Council might undertake its duties in respect of education, will have a lesser effect on the net budget of the Council. However, there is an amount of DSG that is used to fund services provided by the Council and this has been forecast to decline as we move to a sector led model.

Early indications suggest that schools will have to make difficult budget decisions to avoid setting deficit budgets in 2020/21.

6.2 Local Influences

a) Business Rates

Due to a series of business rate reliefs announced by the government in recent years the Council is currently in receipt of £21.5m of s31 grants to compensate the Council for loss of business rate income. This forecast assumes the current level of s31 grants will continue and increase at a rate of 2% in line with the CPI forecast.

A significant unknown factor in estimating the Council's funding from Business Rates are appeals. A new appeal system was introduced in 2017/18, with the Council setting aside amounts to fund refunds. However, the impact of the new appeal system and the likely cost of appeals is still very uncertain at this stage.

b Council Tax Levels

For 2018/19 the limit on raising council tax was increased to 3% as MHCLG suggested the 3% limit was as a result of higher than expected inflation. It is assumed that this referendum limit will fall back to 2% during the period covered by this forecast in line with forecast CPI.

With a 2019/20 Band D Council tax of £1,373.07 (including the social care precept) the Council continues to set one of the lowest Band D Council Taxes of all Metropolitan Districts. (7th lowest metropolitan district council in 2019/20) and the lowest in West Yorkshire. If the referendum limit was to be raised and the Council chose to increase Council Tax by an extra 1% this would generate an estimated £1.9m in additional income. In total the Council budgeted to raise £195m in Council Tax in 2019/20.

The government have made no commitment to the ability to raise a social care precept beyond April 2020 so no further social care precept increase have been assumed in this forecast. Given the high levels of savings to be made in Adult Social Care it would be problematic to implement any future social care precept rises without reducing the level of savings required in Adult Social Care which would not provide any easing of the budgetary pressures.

Any future increase in Council Tax will be consulted on as part of the Budget process. In February 2019 Full Council indicated a 2.99% Council Tax rise for 2019/20. This figure has been reviewed in this forecast in comparison to other local authority forecasts the forecast has been reduced to an increase of 1.99% p.a. for 2020/21 and subsequent years in line with the inflation forecasts. If no Council Tax increase were made the budgetary gap by 2025/26 would increase by a further £26m.

Looking at the increase in the council tax base for 2019/20 and the estimate of Band D equivalent new properties being built in the District the Council Tax base has been increased by an estimated 1500 Band D properties in 2020/21, continuing to increase at this level in subsequent years.

It is important to understand the profile of the categorisation of properties in the District and the effect it has on limiting the revenue that can be raised through Council Tax increase compared to more affluent areas. Table 10 below shows that 157,950 or 80% of properties fall within bands below Band D. This clearly limits the amount of money that a rise in Council Tax will raise compared to other districts that have property profiles skewed to higher council tax bands.

Table 10 - Council Tax Band Analysis 2019/20

	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Total
Equivalent number of properties	142	79,979	41,490	36,339	16,678	11,831	5,586	3,466	247	195,758
Band D Ratio	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
Band D Equivalent number of properties	79	53,320	32,270	32,301	16,678	14,460	8,068	5,776	494	163,446

Source: Report to Executive 8th January 2019 Document AF Appendix A1 – please note the figures above are before reductions due to Council Tax Reduction Scheme, bad debt provision and forecast growth

Government published statistics illustrate the disparity between how much local authorities can raise in their respective areas depending on the profile of the properties in their districts. The table below compares Bradford’s Band D rate with that billed by the District Council Elmbridge in Surrey and also the amount raised per dwelling. As can be seen although the difference between Band D is only 18.5% the difference between how much is raised per dwelling is 102%.

Table 11 – Illustration of difference between Band D and Council Tax per Dwelling

	Band D 2019/20	Average Council Tax per Dwelling 2019/20
Bradford	£1,640	£1,090
Elmbridge	£1,936	£2,207
Difference	£296	£1,117
% difference	18.5%	102%

Source: MHCLG Live Tables on Council Tax

7.1 Core Funding – specific grants

In addition to the funding announced in the Final Local Government Settlement details of the main grants that will be paid to the Council have been announced which will be used to fund c£244m of the Council’s gross expenditure, the most significant being the ring fenced Housing Benefit Grant and Public Health Grant.

Table 12 – specific grants

	2019/20 £m
Housing Benefit Grant	126.7
Public Health Grant	40.7
PFI Grant	27.3
Section 31 Business Rates Compensation	21.5
Social Care Support Grant	6.2
New Homes Bonus	4.9
Local Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit Admin Subsidy	2.4
Other	14.2
Total	243.9

a) Public Health

To cover the cost of public health services delivered by the Council, the Department of Health will pay the Council a ring fenced grant of £40.7m in 2019/20.

This forecast assumes that the level of Public Health funding will remain cash flat post 2020. As mentioned in 6.1a there have been strong hints that as a result of the fair funding review the Public Health Grant will form part of the increased business rates income. For this forecast we have assumed the grant is transferred into 75% retained business rates with no cuts to the 2019/20 level of grant.

b) New Homes Bonus Grant

The forecast of the New Homes Bonus (NHB) reflects the reduction in the legacy payments down to four years together with the deadweight factor. No reduction in the forecast has been made for any potential NHB being withheld due to the Council not supporting housing growth. There has been speculation that NHB would be abolished alongside the introduction of the Fair Funding Review. For this forecast it is assumed that NHB will continue and if it was abolished the Council would not lose funding as the NHB would be rolled back into the Settlement Funding Assessment.

Table 13 – Forecast New Homes Bonus

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£m						
Yr1	1.916						
Yr2	1.004	1.004					
Yr3	1.034	1.034	1.004				
Yr4	0.932	0.932	0.932	0.932			
Yr5		0.997	0.997	0.997	0.997		
Yr6 est.			1.010	1.010	1.010	1.010	
Yr7 est.				1.025	1.025	1.025	1.025
Yr8 est.					1.040	1.040	1.040
Yr9 est.						1.056	1.056
Yr10 est.							1.069
Yr11 est.							
Total payable	4.887	3.968	3.974	3.965	4.073	4.131	4.190

d) Local Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit Administration

With no clarity on when Housing Benefit Administration will fully transfer to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), a reduction of £250k p.a. has been assumed in the two separate grants the Council receives to fund the cost of administering Council Tax reduction (CTR) scheme and Housing Benefit for 2020/21 and 2021/22. It is assumed that for 2022/23 the entire Housing Benefit Admin Subsidy grant is withdrawn. A reduction in the costs of the Revenue & Benefits service of £390kp.a. has been assumed from 2022/23. The Localised Council Tax Support Admin Grant is assumed to continue to reduce by £50kp.a. from 2022/23 onwards.

e) Local Welfare Assistance Funding

The Forecast assumes no external funding for Local Welfare Assistance.

f) Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)

The Local Government Settlement provided an estimate for an Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) that recognises the fact that some local authorities with a low council tax will not be able to raise as much from the social care precept as those with a high council tax base. Part of this iBCF is being funded through the reductions to the amounts of New Homes Bonus paid. The full amount of the iBCF announced in the Local Government Settlement has been included as funding to the Council and is being used towards funding for demographic growth and cost pressures.

For this forecast it has been assumed that the additional iBCF announced in the spring 2017 budget of which £3.2m remains in 2019/20 will now continue indefinitely. Previous forecasts had assumed that this element of iBCF would end after 2019/20.

g) Social Care Support Grants

In the Budget Statement at the end of October 2018 the Chancellor announced additional funding for adult and children's social care of £650m. The monies were split between £240m winter pressures grant for adult social care and a social care grant of £410m. For this forecast it is assumed that the winter pressures grant of £2.3m will cease but the social care grant of £3.9m will continue.

8.1 Schools Funding

Of the Council's gross spend of over £1.1bn, £302.5m is spent by schools and funded from the ring fenced grants, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Pupil Premium and Post 16 funding.

There is continued pressure on school budgets with the continued rise in staffing costs and the limited response to this within the DfE's national funding formula as it currently stands. This is a national issue, which is affecting all local authorities, and which has meant that the majority of schools in Bradford have already progressed managed staffing reductions. The pressure specifically on Special Education Needs (SEND) budgets in Bradford is very significant and continues. This pressure is mirrored in other local authorities and has now become a national publicised issue.

9.1 Reserves

At the start of year, the Council had £15.0m of General Fund Reserve together with £10.3m of unallocated reserves (3.1% of the Council's gross budget excluding schools) as a contingency reserve.

The level of unallocated reserves will be kept under the review, in the light of the Council's External Auditor's recommendation in their June 2015 report on the Council's arrangements for securing Value for Money "that unallocated reserves should not be allowed to fall below the level determined prudent by the Council's Section 151 Officer".

Given the on-going uncertainty regarding the overall level of local government funding and the additional pressures on Children's Services it is prudent to hold the current level of reserves to ensure resilience during the next few years.

All other balances are set aside to meet the cost of future commitments and Council priorities. The utilisation and purpose of which will be subject to regular scrutiny.

10.1 European Funding

The Council is in receipt of EU Structural funds and works with businesses and the VCS across the district on EU programmes. It is anticipated that following the vote to leave the EU that central government monies will be directed to the regions to replace any potential

loss of EU structural funding.

If the funding is not replaced it will have a negative impact on the range and type of interventions the Council can be involved with.

G

Overview and Scrutiny in Bradford



Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-19

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Dear Councillor

We have the pleasure of presenting the 2018-19 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report. This report summarises the achievements and contributions made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees over the last 12 months.

The work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees is a very important contributor to the delivery of Council Services in a challenging operational environment.

We would like the opportunity to acknowledge and thank all those people who contributed to and supported the work of Overview and Scrutiny and look forward to working with you during the upcoming year.

We are particularly appreciative of the Bradford District Councillors and Co-Opted Members, who sat on our Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the year.

Finally, we are pleased to note the results of the latest Overview and Scrutiny Annual Survey which continue to show positive levels of satisfaction in the overall operation of the scrutiny function. The survey is carried out in March each year and full details can be found on page 5.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs 2018-2019



Cllr Nazam Azam
Corporate



Cllr Vanda Greenwood
Health and Social Care



Cllr Mike Gibbons
Children's Services



Cllr Rizwana Jamil
Regeneration and
Environment

Overview and Scrutiny in Bradford

Bradford Metropolitan District Council has four Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Two of the Committees also have additional “co-opted” members.

The Committees are:-

- Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

And their role is to:-

- act as a “critical friend” to the Council’s leadership (the Executive) and senior officers;
- drive improvement in public services;
- enable the concerns of the public to be heard;
- consist of independently minded people who decide their own agenda and how they will do their work.

A total of 43 members and 13 Co-opted members were engaged with Overview and Scrutiny.

The Committees take a thoughtful, evidence based approach to the areas of work they address, which also includes listening to different officers, organisations and the public on topics that are of interest and / or concern to them.

Our meetings are open to the public and we always welcome contributions from people who attend our meetings or send us their views.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Survey 2018-19

Responses – survey carried out March 2019

Overall response rate: 42%

Total surveyed: 313

Total number of responses (n): 132

Councillors (all): 32

Co-opted Members and officers (Council and external): 101

Number of O&S Committee meetings attended by respondents: 0-3 meetings = 70%; 4+ meetings = 30%

Comment

As in previous years the results are broadly positive with a large majority agreeing with the statement that 'O&S contributes to improving services in Bradford District'. However, also in common with previous years, the main area of challenge is the level of public involvement in the scrutiny process.

Results

Question (1 & 2)	Very Satisfied	Fairly Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Fairly Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
<i>Overall, how dissatisfied or satisfied are you with the general operation of overview and scrutiny in Bradford District?</i>	18%	40%	23%	14%	5%
<i>How dissatisfied or satisfied are you with the level of public involvement in the scrutiny process?</i>	8%	31%	43%	11%	7%

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<i>O&S effectively acts as acts as critical friend to the Council's leadership, senior officers and partners</i>	14%	56%	13%	3%	14%
<i>O&S contributes to improving services in Bradford District</i>	20%	55%	8%	2%	15%

Examples of work undertaken in the past municipal year

During the year, the Committees have looked at a wide range of issues which have been of interest and concern to a wide ranging audience. Set-out below are two detailed examples of the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Bradford during the municipal year 2018-19.

Single Use Plastics Scrutiny Review

At its meeting on Tuesday 16 January 2018, Council considered a motion in relation to Single Use Plastics and recommended that the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertake a detailed Scrutiny Review into Single Use Plastics and make recommendations.

Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee members began their deliberations on Wednesday 19 September 2018, with the session focusing on setting the scene into how Bradford Council currently deals with the single use plastics. At the information gathering sessions on Tuesday 9 October 2018 and Tuesday 27 November 2018, members met with representatives from external organisations.

Information gathering sessions were undertaken as part of this scrutiny review which focused on three areas for improvement, in accordance with the terms of reference adopted at the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 20 February 2018. Specifically, the committee resolved to:

- reducing the use of single use plastics by Council staff and visitors on its own estate;
- engaging with the users of Council parks and other recreational facilities to reduce the use of single use plastics;
- working with partner organisations, local businesses and residents to encourage a reduction in the use of single use plastics across our District.



Yorkshire on Tap event, free reusable water bottles for staff.

As a result of the review, this Committee has made a number of recommendations for consideration which were agreed by members, on Tuesday 26 March 2019. The overarching recommendation related to the development of a Single Use Plastics Policy and Implementation Plan.

Recommendations were also developed around other key and recurring issues that have arisen during this scrutiny review. These issues included:

- moving towards becoming a plastic free organisation;
- procurement of goods and materials;
- improved recycling offer;
- education and awareness raising;
- greater Partnership working.

Members of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee will not just be scrutinising the progress made against the Scrutiny Review recommendations, but will also be keeping an overview of Bradford Councils overall approach to becoming a Single Use Plastic free organisation.

Youth Voice

The Children's Services O&S Committee has shown interest and enthusiasm in terms of hearing and acknowledging the voice of young people in Bradford.

The Youth Service presented a report to the Committee who then proposed that some work should be done in order to produce a framework to get the views of young people regarding agenda items for meetings, so that the concerns of young people could be addressed and considered.

The youth service organised a meeting of their service users, who discussed the issue and came to a conclusion on the best approach.

They decided that as social media plays such a large role in the life of young people, it made sense to utilise this resource to reach out to the young people of Bradford. The group decided that instagram would work well as it is a social media site which most young people have accounts for.

A pilot of the instagram scheme was set up with report authors reflecting in their report on how young people have been involved.

Report authors were also required to provide a couple of sentences about their reports, which was intended to simulate young people's discussion.

This information is shared via instagram (see picture). The comments are collated, and the social media apprentice and/or another of the young people involved in the project, feedback to the Committee at the meeting, when that item(s) is being discussed.

This has resulted in young people being able to have an influence on items that they are interested in, or have concerns about.

Obviously not every report lends itself to this type of approach, but so far it seems to be working well.

	<p>On the left is an example of an Instagram post.</p> <p> </p> <p>Above are the symbols for interactions on Instagram. The speech bubble icon, when pressed will allow the user to type a comment on the post.</p> <p>The heart when pressed will notify whoever shared the post that you have liked it!</p> <p>Finally, the arrow icon shown on the picture on the left allows you to send the post to one of your followers.</p>
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Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Health and Social Care O&S Committee has consistently sought to ensure that the importance of mental health and wellbeing, and mental health services is reflected in its activity and this was again the case during the 2018/19 Council Year.

In December 2018 the Committee held a meeting given over entirely to scrutiny of a number of issues where the District faces significant challenges: vocational and employment support for people in mental health recovery, access to psychological therapies, perinatal mental wellbeing (this refers to the period including pregnancy and the first year following the birth of a child), and acute care.

This was followed in February 2019 by a joint meeting with Children's Services O&S Committee that focussed specifically on young people's mental wellbeing. The meeting was attended by young people who spoke about their experiences and activities they are involved in such as peer mentoring.



Display by young people who attended the meeting

The Committee has found that progress is being made in a number of areas, will continue to highlight areas of continued concern and will seek to promote the importance of mental wellbeing as part of policies and services across the board.

Call-In

“Call-in” is an important way Scrutiny Councillors can hold the Council’s Executive to account. A call-in delays implementation of an Executive decision until a Scrutiny Committee has had a close look at the decision. The Scrutiny Committee may choose to ask the Executive to reconsider its decision. There was one call-in of Executive decisions in 2018-19:

- Tuesday 3 July 2018 – Regeneration & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Amendments to Off Street Parking Places Consolidation Order 2015. The decision was released for implementation.

Engaging the Public

As well as publishing our agenda and reports on the internet, we now also:

- Tweet regularly about scrutiny (@Bfd_Scrutiny);
- Promote our work through local media.

When scrutiny meetings are considering controversial subjects or matters of public interest, we often get several members of the public attending.

Complete Work Programmes for each Committee are available by contacting the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Lead.

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Looking Ahead

It is important that we consider the Overview and Scrutiny activity carried out this year, in order to continue to improve the way in which Overview and Scrutiny operates in Bradford.

Furthermore there are some big challenges in the upcoming year and set-out below are some of the key areas of work for Overview and Scrutiny.

Detailed Scrutiny Reviews

Members of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny have been concerned at the level of Hate Crime across the District and have subsequently decided to undertake a Scrutiny Review into this area.

Domestic Violence within the District will also be the subject of another detailed Scrutiny Review, by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny.

Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny members have increasingly become concerned about air quality across the District and subsequently agreed to undertake a detailed Scrutiny Review into this area, pending the outcome of the feasibility study into air quality across the District

Gambling

Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee are keen to examine the approaches to tackling gambling across the District.

Libraries and Museums

The future provision of Libraries and Museums in the Bradford District, is likely to be a key area of work for members on the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Ofsted Inspection of Looked after Children

The Children's Services Committee will be closely monitoring the response to the Ofsted Inspection of Looked after Children. This area will feature as a standing item at each meeting of the Committee.

Scrutiny of Health and Social Care

This will include advocacy services, HIV and sexual health, carers, young people's mental health, primary care GP access and services, reconfiguration of some hospital services, autism, 0-19 children's health services and home care for adults. The Committee will continue to be a member of the West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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