

COUNCIL
13 December 2016

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. Councillor Wainwright

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

Answer

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

2. Councillor Cooke

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Hinchcliffe

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

3. Councillor Nicola Pollard

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

4. Councillor Swallow

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

5. Councillor Farley

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

Answer

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

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

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

6. Councillor Davies

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

Answer

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

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Imran Khan

Yes happy to do so.

7. Councillor Swallow

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

Answer

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

8. Councillor Pullen

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

Answer

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Ross-Shaw

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

9. Councillor Poulsen

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The following payments have been made or are in hand.

Initial grant scheme

Domestic properties £500 – 761 paid

Business properties £2500 – 71 paid

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

Domestic: 861

Business: 72

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Ross-Shaw

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

10. Councillor Engel

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

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

Answer

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

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Jabar

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

12. Councillor Farley

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13. Councillor Cooke

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

Answer

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Ross-Shaw

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

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

14. Councillor Abid Hussain

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. Councillor Swallow

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

Answer

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

Supplementary Question

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

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

Councillor Hinchcliffe

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

16. Councillor Ellis

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

Answer

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

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Hinchcliffe

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

17. Councillor Dunbar

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18. Councillor Dunbar

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

Answer

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Hinchcliffe

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

19. Councillor Stubbs

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Jabar

There is a consultation process on the budget proposals.

20. Councillor Dunbar

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

Answer

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Hinchcliffe

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

21. Councillor Poulsen

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

Answer

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Ross-Shaw

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

22. Councillor Davies

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Imran Khan

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

23. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

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

Answer

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Hinchcliffe

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

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

24. Councillor Brown

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

Supplementary Question

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

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

Councillor Ross-Shaw

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

Councillor Brown

Please.

25. Councillor Rickard

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

Answer

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

26. Councillor Ellis

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

27. Councillor Fear

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Jabar

Yes I believe that they are.

28. Councillor Townend

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

Answer

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Hinchcliffe

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

29. Councillor Davies

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Imran Khan

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

30. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

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

Answer

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Val Slater

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

31. Councillor Pennington

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

Answer

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

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Hinchcliffe

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

32. Councillor Townend

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

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

Answer

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Hinchcliffe

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

33. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

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

Answer

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

Supplementary Question

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

Councillor Val Slater

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

34. Councillor Rickard

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

Answer

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

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

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

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

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

35. Councillor Pennington

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

Answer

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

36. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

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

Answer

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

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

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

37. Councillor Townend

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

Answer

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

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

38. Councillor Rickard

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

Answer

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

39. Councillor Fear

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

Answer

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

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

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