

**COUNCIL
12 DECEMBER 2017**

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. Councillor Tait

2018 has been named the Year of Engineering. Does the Leader agree with me that science and engineering offer huge value and can benefit our district in all kinds of ways including education, skills and the economy?

Answer

Yes I would absolutely agree and the importance of science and engineering related business, jobs and skills to the future prosperity of the District has been a prominent theme of the stakeholder consultations informing Bradford's forthcoming economic growth strategy.

Bradford is first and foremost an economy built on manufacturing. The sector employs 23,000 people across the district, the 4th highest number of any city in the UK. Engineering is a major activity accounting for around 7,000 jobs and is worth around £500 million to the district's economy. Key companies include Kone Plc, Borg Warner, Denso, CarnaudMetalBox, Cinetic Landis and Teconnex.

Denso, formerly known as N D Marston Ltd, is engaged in the manufacture and wholesale of radiators, oil coolers and inter-coolers. Kone manufactures, sells, installs, services and modernises elevators and escalators and services automatic building doors. Borg Warner is a leading supplier of innovative turbocharging systems to the automotive industry. Mansfield Pollard is one of the UK's leading manufacturers of bespoke ventilation systems for companies such as Marks & Spencer, Asda and Morrisons, TGI Friday's and KFC.

Electronic and digital technologies are also a key activity with companies such as Arris, Radio Design, Teledyne and EchoStar UK. Arris, formerly Pace, is the world's largest developer of digital TV set-top box technology. It supplies a large number of digital TV broadcasters, operators and retail customers worldwide. It has partnerships with major companies such as Alcatel, Cisco Systems and Microsoft. Radio Design is a company formed by a team of filter system experts formerly employed by Filtronic Comtek. They are world leaders in wireless telecommunications product design. The MD Eric Hawthorn was recently elected to the Royal Academy of Engineers in recognition of his pioneering work.

We anticipate significant replacement demand in the next ten years especially in Advanced Manufacturing which has an ageing workforce across the District. With our

partners we need to collaborate to scale up existing projects and develop new initiatives as required to ensure young people and the existing workforce both have the information and awareness of careers in Science and Engineering and the skills to prepare them to benefit from the opportunities in the sector.

2. Councillor Heseltine

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport, detail the free parking offer for Christmas shoppers in Bingley and the rest of the district and can she confirm that the Labour Group's Executive, is considering spreading Christmas cheer in years to come, by removing Christmas Parking Concessions from next year?

Answer

As part of the February 2017 Council budget decision it was agreed that there would not be any concessions for Christmas parking across the district (including Bingley) with effect from Christmas 2017. However, the Bradford District still remains one of the cheapest places to park both regionally and nationally and I understand that Bingley's Christmas Lights switch-on was very well attended with very few available parking spaces in the town centre.

Supplementary Question

Could you appraise us of the cost of the following things that we have afforded; statues in the town centre, coloured lights on buildings, city centre toilets, city festivals, abandoned pool project? Surely a bit of Christmas cheer to our residents to get them to come and use our shops with be a little bit of free car parking. Can we maybe have a look at changing that one? I do have some humbugs that I have brought especially if you don't.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

I would dearly love to give things away Councillor Heseltine. However you will notice further on in the agenda that we also have an item on budget. It is very tight and therefore we cannot just give away parking. You and I were both there and had a conversation about just this thing in Bingley at the Bingley light switch on and I did remark it was a hugely successful event organised by local people, local parish council, arts centre and everything, they did a fantastic job and it was rammed in Bingley. There was no place to park. I do not think providing free parking would have encouraged any more people to go, in fact it was an opportunity just to manage parking a little bit better. It isn't a huge amount isn't parking in this district. I think we are the lowest in West Yorkshire I seem to remember. We do provide very good parking at very good value for money, I hope you will agree, and yes perhaps if we had better times and more growth we can do that, but at the moment I am afraid not and actually I am sorry I do not eat humbugs.

3. Councillor Fear

To ask the Portfolio Holder: Once the Council acquires the NCP car park on Hall Ings, will it be run as a Council car park, including discounted or free parking for Council staff and elected members?

Answer

No. The Council acquired the head leasehold interest of the investment, earlier this year, to generate an annual surplus revenue from the NCP rental, not to operate a car park. It was acquired subject to the existing lease to NCP, which has a further 20 years unexpired. The Council has the right to receive NCP's rent, but has no influence in the operation of the car park.

4. Councillor Warnes

Now that Smart Parking's unlawful signs, cameras and ticketing machines have been removed from the Oastler Road car park near Saltaire, can the Leader of Council please outline what measures Bradford Council is undertaking to ensure that a fully operational car park is re-established at this location and managed responsibly for the benefit of local residents, tourists, shoppers and nearby small businesses?

Answer

The owners of the land have been updated on the process they need to follow to turn the highway into a car park. At the time of writing we are awaiting their response regarding next steps.

Ultimately, whether or not a pay and display car park operation is reinstated on this land is a decision for the land owners and not the Council. Council officers will however be making suggestions to the owners in our discussions about the adopted highway issue. Our recommendation to them would be that it is essential that only operators who comply with the British Parking Association's code of practice should be invited to operate such a facility.

Supplementary Question

Leader thank you for the response and I would also like to thank Highways and Legal for the way in which they swiftly dealt with the car park at Oastler Road and closed down this illegal operation. But I have to say I am disappointed and mystified by the hands off response that you have taken because we heard earlier from the petition that this car park has cost local businesses and hundreds of local residents thousands of pounds. It is clearly a patch of land that is a vital economic benefit to the local area therefore I think it is in our interest as a Council to get involved and also you will know as well as me that the British Parking Association's Code of Conduct is thoroughly inadequate and we cannot just fall back on that as a means of going forward. So can I ask you as a follow up please would you consider engaging with Saltaire Investments Ltd to take this car park back under Council operation and if that proves difficult will you consider purchasing the land and if necessary compulsorily purchasing the land to ensure that this site is used as a car park for the benefit of local businesses and residents?

Councillor Ross-Shaw

I would not define our approach as hands off. I think obviously this is just a due process to go through. I think we have been clear publicly that we do not like how they have operated and we have called on them to refund fines just as we have refunded fines made from when it was a Council run car park and it was still a public highway. The question really is about boundaries, how far we can push it legally so

we have made it clear that we expect that any operator that comes into a car park if that's what we're going to return it to, and we are supportive of that, should comply with the Parking Association's Code of Practice for instance that they think is a limit to how much we can enforce that on them. We want to get round a table with them, we are pushing for them to come to the table. It was good that they have taken the infrastructure out so it is just currently public highway which is better than it was before. I know you have had a lot of people come forward who have been fined and I have as well. I am sure a lot of us have. So we want to get it resolved, we want them to refund those fines, we want to get them round a table and see where we can go. The issue I suspect with compulsory purchase orders is it can take a very long time and that is if we want to do it in the first place so you end up with a limbo in the first place. I think the best way forward is to make sure we get round the table and we sort this out properly.

5. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Does the Leader have an update on the University of Bradford's bid to set up a medical school?

Answer

The university submitted its bid on 23rd November and has been informed it will hear if it has been successful by the end of March 2018. We have been pleased to support the university in its exciting plan for a medical school, which can bring great benefits to the people of this district.

6. Councillor Mohammad Shabbir

Does the Leader share my major concerns around the misuse of fireworks and related antisocial behaviour that we've seen not just at bonfire night but throughout the year, and how are we supporting the police and fire services to tackle it?

Answer

Yes. Both for community safety and the safety of our young people this is something that concerns me.

Of course the highest risks usually occur around bonfire night. Bonfire planning starts the first week in September each year and sees all partners come together on a weekly basis to;

- discuss bonfire related issues and responses
- look at planned bonfires and their safety
- identify patterns of incidents where services are attacked and determine the multi agency response
- identify emerging sporadic bonfires and assess their safety
- take reports of nuisance fireworks not reported via other channels and to feed this into the ASB Hub

Firework safety is a significant concern for the district – in particular the impact of fireworks on young peoples' safety.

We have seen a number of incidents reported to fire and police services in relation to

fireworks and related Anti Social behaviours. In an attempt to tackle this there has been a joint partnership between Council departments of the Youth Service, Neighbourhoods, Safer Communities and licensing who have shared intelligence and planned interventions to support the work of the Police and Fire Service both in the lead up to and during the Bonfire weekend.

By starting the process early we can resolve most issues and understand each others' roles so when we arrive at the busier period we start to meet daily and we each understand what the various partners can and will do to resolve the issues that arise.

The Bonfire Planning Group led by the Council's Emergency Management Team does not specifically deal with ASB nuisance caused by fireworks but clearly there is crossover between this group and the ASB team which is dealt with by having information available in a two way flow.

Identified bonfires are assessed for safety and advice given where necessary. Where the bonfire is on public land we ensure that all necessary licencing regulations are complied with and that risk assessments have been undertaken. If the bonfire is more 'sporadic' then the 'fire car' is deployed to assess the safety aspects and the content may be removed if deemed unsafe. We also take reports from the public on what they might consider to be dangerous.

The local authority Youth Service took a lead in delivering action and consequences work through open access youth provisions and through the contacts they have in local secondary schools. Safer Schools officers, community partners and local faith leaders, working with ward officers from area offices supported the delivery of key safety messages using existing networks in communities. Fire Service resources and safety literature was used to support this delivery in the two weeks leading up to the Bonfire weekend.

During the three nights of the bonfire weekend operation, Youth Service and Safer Officers worked alongside fire and police colleagues in the Special Operations Room supporting appropriate interventions in the areas in 'live time' as reports were coming in. This meant detached youth workers were able to be deployed to work in areas where they already had established links, and where they would be most effective providing positive interventions, talking to young people about the consequences of their actions. This was supported by a targeted programme of diversionary activities, running mainly on the Friday and Saturday evenings of the Bonfire weekend.

The Bradford Safeguarding Children's Board are to receive a report on 'Fireworks and Young People' at their meeting in December. This report will seek support from the Board for an awareness campaign about the sale of fireworks to young people, how communities can report concerns and actions that can be taken. The report will also seek support from the organisations and community partners within the Safeguarding Partnership to embrace a far reaching education programme around actions and consequences of firework misuse, which would be delivered in the lead up to the next Bonfire period. It is envisaged that whilst this would be a district wide education programme there would be a primary focus on the areas from which the highest ASB reports were received.

7. Councillor Davies

Given the Baildon sinkhole has now been there for three months and local shops and businesses are severely impacted by the reduction in parking for customers, would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport consider the Council providing compensation in a similar way as utility companies are required to make when roadworks over-run?

Answer

Our officers have been working hard to repair the sinkhole in Baildon and restore the car park back to operational use. This has involved excavating over 200 tonnes of spoil from the ground, including over 50 tonnes by hand that had washed further down the culvert. The work has been undertaken in very difficult conditions but we remain confident that the work can be completed by Christmas. However, a burst of rainfall can cause the water level in the culvert to rise quickly so it is very weather-dependent.

Whilst the Council fully appreciates the impact the sinkhole has had on local shops, businesses and residents, the highway authority is not responsible for loss of trade as it performs its statutory duties as outlined in the Government's Standard Note SN/BT/200 last updated in November 2010. An extract from the Note reads:

Highway works ultimately benefit the whole community. Occupies of premises may be entitled to compensation if something is done improperly (for example, the blocking of access without authority) but not otherwise. Businesses have no right in law to any given level of passing trade, and may suffer temporary loss owing to disruption of traffic flows. Trade may fluctuate for a variety of reasons, and accurately assessing the losses directly attributable to works in the highway can be difficult. There is, too, an element of 'windfall' profit and loss: often when one trader suffers a rival business in the neighbourhood stands to gain custom as a direct result of the same works. There are therefore no plans to introduce legislation to create legal liability to compensate anyone for loss of trade when a highway authority properly executes road works under its statutory powers.

The full note is attached as Appendix 1.

Supplementary Question

Thanks for the comprehensive answer. One line does say "occupiers of premises may be entitled to compensation if something is done improperly" well if the culvert had been inspected then the sudden collapse could have been avoided and then it would have been done as planned repairs which obviously would have been a lot quicker than the three months that we have been waiting so long?

Councillor Ross-Shaw

Obviously you visited the sinkhole with me which I hope was an informative visit and there officers told you how the precise location of the culvert was not known so therefore we could not do those precise inspections on it. I think usually in these situations in terms of liabilities do we have a robust inspection regime in place which

means beyond reasonable matters that we would have found it we could have done so. I am happy to double check with officers but we are pretty confident in the position we have got.

8. Councillor Jamil

Will the Portfolio Holder join me in congratulating Horton Park Primary (in the top 40 state primaries in the country), Ilkley Grammar (the best comprehensive school in the region) and Bradford Grammar School (independent secondary of the year) after their inclusion in the Sunday Times' top schools rankings?

Answer

Absolutely yes. We work very closely with all Bradford District schools and it is a pleasure to see their accomplishments being acknowledged. It remains our ambition for every child to have equal access to excellent educational opportunities and this is very encouraging.

9. Councillor Wainwright

After the Autumn Budget does the Leader agree that the government continues to favour tax cuts for bankers and the rich over proper funding for local government and public services?

Answer

Absolutely, I agree with the Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell who has spoken passionately on this subject in parliament this week. The priorities of the current Chancellor are just plain wrong.

10. Councillor Cooke

Would the Leader of the Council confirm whether she considers it to be open and transparent, for a single member of the Council Executive Committee, along with an officer of the Council, to take decisions to purchase properties, without the knowledge or involvement of any other Councillors?

Answer

There are robust processes in place to ensure rigour is applied to all decision making in this area.

The taking of executive decisions is governed by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) Regulations 2012 and the Council's Constitution, particularly Article 14 and the Executive Procedure Rules.

These set out the basis on which an executive decision can be taken by an individual member of the Executive or an officer in consultation with a Portfolio Holder. The delegation of functions to officers by the Council and Executive allows officers to take certain decisions within their area of responsibility, either alone (routine decisions including those of a professional, managerial, operational or regulatory nature), or after consultation with the appropriate Executive member with portfolio or chair of the appropriate committee.

Decisions are required to be recorded and published in accordance with Article 14.25A to G of the Constitution.

Consultation with other Members before a decision is made would depend upon the circumstances of the decision being taken and where property is concerned whether exempt information is involved. Officers are required to comply with the Council's Financial Regulations. Expenditure forms part of the on-going financial monitoring reports delivered for both the Executive and scrutiny arrangements.

Turning specifically to property purchases, the following process applies whether the property is being used for administrative, service delivery, regeneration or for income-generation purposes. All property is acquired through the Capital Investment Plan which is approved by Budget Council. When a suitable property is identified, following initial due diligence, a report is submitted to the Project Appraisal Group (PAG) chaired by Strategic Director Corporate Resource, to ensure that it meets all of the Council's investment criteria. If it is supported by PAG, then the Portfolio Holder and/or Leader are briefed, by the Strategic Director for Corporate Resource and Assistant Director for Estates and Property and if Members are supportive an acquisition progresses. The acquisition is recommended to Executive normally as part of a Quarterly Financial Revenue Monitoring Report, or via a set-piece report about the specific asset. On occasion, depending on the timing of negotiations for an acquisition, the detail may have to remain confidential. In this way, members have oversight of property acquisitions.

Supplementary Question

I apologise for there being a little bit of a theme here but I do think it is quite important. Thank you for the answer which is helpful in setting out where they are. My concern is twofold. The reality is that we can and are making multi million pound property transactions, purchases, which are not defined as key decisions which are not subject in the way that multi million pound procurement commissions are subject to scrutiny as per the law. The question I have isn't that anything wrong is going up but if we do not have good robust scrutiny of these things and that means using whatever processes we have available for us to scrutinise things then we are exposing ourselves to people out there beginning to question us making substantial multi million pound decisions, in effect in secret and not just in secret but one party in secret. Does the Leader not think that it would be wise to actually broaden the engagement in this in order to make sure that we have a more accountable system of dealing with these kind of major purchases?

Councillor Hinchcliffe

As you probably know we have compared to other local authorities across the country. We have been quite conservative with a small c really so far on making investments in property and anything else throughout the district. There are some local authorities out there like Warrington who have made literally £1.2b of property investment so they have been much more expansive than we have and I am not suggesting that we ever go that far. So the investment strategy behind this has obviously been scrutinised already. There are robust practices in place as outlined in the answer. I think as we progress I think obviously with this year with the budgets that we have announced we have also announced that we are going to go for

growth. And as we go for growth part of that is housing, part development but also how we use our own money to make more money and there isn't an awful lot but we need to make every penny go as far as it can. Therefore that is looking at investing in more property but also other investments and talking to West Yorkshire Pension Fund about how we do that. By going down that path we have already hinted at it we would be looking to establish some kind of investment committee for that kind of work as we start to move into that arena more robustly. Obviously have to talk to you about how that develops over time but that is something that we will be working over the next few months and obviously we will be coming out with an announcement probably in February next year when we have worked up those plans. Obviously the budget is still out for consultation. Once we have got that through then we can start to work up those detailed plans of how we are going to manage that money but obviously it is in all our best interest to make sure that investments are made responsibly and well. We have been very cautious I think and we probably do need to be a bit more ambitious in how we are using our money to make it work better for us but obviously that is got to be with due oversight and care and attention.

11. Councillor Berry

Can the Portfolio Holder give an update on the numbers of young people who are "NEET" (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) in the district and the measures being put in place to support those who have complex needs or who have not been able to be supported in mainstream provision?

Answer

The DfE has changed the measurement of NEET over the past couple of years so that the figure that is reported in their NEET scorecard is an average based on December to February. This year Bradford was exactly on the national average at 6%. Monthly data since then also indicates strong performance that continues positive trends in the District and compares favourably when benchmarked against statistical neighbour and national data.

All NEET young people up to age 18 have access to support from the NEET service delivered by the Connexions contract, this includes specialist advice for young people facing multiple and complex barriers to participation. Support can be accessed via live web chat on the Connexions site, by telephone or face to face. The contract for the service particularly emphasises support for young people with SEN, LAC, Care Leavers, and young people known to the YOT service. Any young person with an Education Health and Care Plan can also access specialist support to access education where appropriate up to the age of 25.

Supplementary Question

Firstly very good news on the Children Looked After placements. I would like to ask by way of supplementary if we are satisfied with the provision for those children who emerge into the post 16 scenario not having acquired the right to an education and health care plan but whose needs have not been picked up in the mainstream system up to 16, whether we are satisfied with the arrangements to enable them to get that provision and also bearing in mind the growth in Bradford, Leeds and other places of young people post 16 emerging into new forms of alternative provision,

whether we are satisfied that that provision is of sufficient standard to be able to support those young people who have vulnerabilities and complex needs? I accept that you will not be able to answer that now but I would appreciate some information in the future because I am genuinely concerned about it.

Councillor Val Slater

I wasn't expecting that aspect to the question but I can actually tell you that I am sure as you know that as a Council we sign up to sector lead improvement across Yorkshire and Humber and one of the projects at the moment across, and 11 Councils across Yorkshire and Humber are involved, is looking at what they are calling Send Transition so we are doing a self-assessment at the moment as are the other Councils. We will assess York, they will assess ours and then there is going to be a big event. What I am saying, although I do not have any facts and figures, it is an issue we are aware of, we are working with our colleagues, our peers, to see how we can best share good practice and develop on this.

12. Councillor Fear

To ask the Portfolio Holder how many downloads there have been of the Bradford Council app in each of the last three years as well as any data on the number of active users and incidents reported through the app?

Answer

The number of downloads each year of the Council app are shown below:

2015 - 26,013

2016 - 19,675

2017 - 27,768

Total - 73,456

Currently there are no statistics held on active users or on incidents reported specifically through the app.

Supplementary Question

If we are not collecting the stats on active users or the number of incidents reported using the app how are we evaluating its effectiveness.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

I can look at what evaluation we have done. Obviously the numbers show that a lot of people are downloading it. By word of mouth, people are obviously saying to each other you need to download this, it is obviously very useful. I think the numbers are a good indicator but I can find out what other evaluation there is.

13. Councillor Nazir

Will the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport give us a progress update on the proposed Odeon scheme and tell us what kind of impact he sees for Bradford if it goes ahead?

Answer

Bradford Live, the Council's preferred delivery partner has selected the NEC International Group (NEC) as their preferred operator, following a competitive

marketing process, to deliver a 4,000 capacity live music and conference/exhibition space in a refurbished Bradford Odeon. This proposition is seen as a significant 'game changer' to the city, as a successfully redeveloped former Odeon will strengthen the night time offer in the city centre. NEC have predicted that they will attract circa 270,000 visitors a year to the city centre providing a substantial boost to the existing retail/leisure city centre business. The current anticipated opening of the venue is Autumn 2020.

Last week the Executive approved in principle providing a loan to Bradford Live in the region of £12m, which would be repaid by the rental income provided to Bradford Live from the NEC Group. This secures the majority of the funding required to complete this transformational project for the district and the wider City Region.

Officers are working closely with Bradford Live and the NEC in seeking funding from the government's Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund, WYCA's Regional Growth, and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Leeds City Region LEP has selected the Bradford Odeon as their entry to the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund and we are grateful to have the support of our neighbouring authorities in Leeds, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield. The scheme now goes on to national consideration and we are anticipating an announcement on who will secure funding in March 2018. Imran Hussain MP has already secured a meeting with the Minister of State within the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Matt Hancock MP to discuss the project and again we are grateful to have the support of all the district's MPs from all parties.

A further update on the progress of the legal and financial arrangements will be provided at the Executive's meeting on 9 January 2018. We are conscious that members are keen to be sighted on this important project in the district and we have tasked officers with looking at ways we can actively involve members albeit during a highly sensitive commercial and legal process.

14. Councillor Pennington

Further to the announcement that after 22 years, the Council is to evict the much used News Kiosk from Centenary Square, would the Leader of the Council confirm whether she agrees with me that many of the people attending the events that we try so hard to attract people to, held on and around the Square, may well find this an inconvenience and can she confirm whether any consideration has been given to offering the tenant a sensible relocation?

Answer

There are a number of other retailers in very close proximity to City Park that offer similar products and services to the kiosk, so visitors will still be able to purchase their goods whilst attending the events that take place in and around City Park. By removing the kiosk we open up that area of City Park, which allows better movement around the area when we hold major events, such as the Illuminate festival, which attracted 200,000 people to the city over the course of three days. We would of course welcome the opportunity to explore suitable alternative locations with the tenant and go through the range of incentives available, such as capital grants to assist with building improvements and equipment purchases, as well as the business rates rebates that are available as part of the City Centre Growth Scheme.

Supplementary Question

Your comment to the answer I am grateful to you for. The tenant will indeed need some help from the growth zone. We all ought to know in this room just what has happened to the poor chap in the newsagents kiosk. He has spent two years and £1,500 negotiating the legals with the Council to get his tenancy agreement extended or renewed. He has also spent £2,600 on paying the arrears for his rent and rates which should have been laid at the previous tenant's door and our rating office have literally threatened him with eviction if he did not pay. So he is £4,000 out of pocket and this is something that quite frankly none of us can be proud of. As to the question of new premises could I ask the Leader that we look very seriously at relocating him into part of the Pavilion.

Answer

If the tenant can prove that the previous owner is liable for the rent and rates then obviously it will be down to him. I have dealt with quite a few cases with council tax and business rates collection where the local officers just need the proof and they will apportion that debt to the other person. He has to have evidence to show that and if he has evidence then I am sure they will talk to him. So it is having the evidence I think is the important part of that. You talked about other locations. Obviously there are other locations in the city centre which would be able to have small business rate relief as well with so we have units quite available. The Pavilion is already rented out to a private company so I do not think there is an opportunity there as far as I know but there are obviously other units available in the City Centre and I am sure our economic development team will be happy to talk to him about other opportunities.

15. Councillor Nazir

Will the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills give an update on the situation at Bradford College?

Answer

Bradford College's inspection report and the issuing of a financial notice to improve are a matter of public record. We recognise the critical role the College has in the District in educating and developing our current and future workforce to meet local business needs and deliver economic growth. Almost 40% of the young people on a post-16 study programme in the District are attending Bradford College so it is vital that they can offer a high quality, financially sustainable curriculum.

The Council will therefore support the College in any way we can to accelerate the improvements that are needed. As Skills lead for West Yorkshire Combined Authority and as Leader of Bradford Council, the Leader is seeking a meeting with the Chair and Principal once the FE Commissioner has completed their review.

16. Councillor Wainwright

Would the Portfolio Holder comment on the possible impact in Bradford arising from the little-publicised plans by the government to remove refuges and other forms of short-term supported housing from the welfare system?

Answer

The government has announced that short term Supported Housing, for example for the homeless and women's refuges, will no longer be funded from the welfare system and will instead be overseen by Local Authorities. Many refuges rely on the funding they get from Housing Benefit and are concerned they will have to close if the government removes this funding source from them. Were this to happen clearly there would be a severe impact on some of the most vulnerable people in society. Longer term supported housing including extra care and sheltered and those for learning disabilities will continue to be funded via Housing Benefit.

We are expecting to get a similar amount to that which is being spent on Supported Housing currently. The government has said the money will be ring-fenced but it is unclear whether the amount itself will remain the same or whether what we get will be restricted in terms of how we can spend it. Clearly it's critical that this vital service is properly funded by central government if a sufficient level of support is to be offered.

Local Authorities overseeing the future model of Supported Housing does offer us a potential opportunity to ensure provision is meeting the needs of some of the district's most vulnerable residents, but it is vital that the service is sufficiently funded to ensure that those needs are met.

The consultation ends in January and we are consulting as widely as possible as we consider our response, including with refuges in Bradford.

17. Councillor Riaz

In Bingley Rural Ward, there has been a spate of burglaries and car jackings. This has even been raised in Parliament, by our local MP. Residents report concerns that rural crime and policing are often forgotten due to the prominence given to urban crime and policing. Obviously, this issue is primarily a policing issue, and not the Council, but as, crime is a holistic problem, I would like to ask The Leader of the Council to advise members regarding what action could be taken by Bradford Council itself, to respond to this spike of crime in my Ward?

Answer

Ward Councillors, Council Officers and officers from West Yorkshire Police attended a residents' meeting on 4 December and provided crime figures and updates about the work being done to address these concerns.

The Police spoke about the visibility plan and the policing team for Bingley Rural ward – which includes checking for houses that are in darkness and providing relevant crime prevention advice.

A detailed overview of the specialist skills, faster vehicles and additional resilience provided at the request of Districts was given, along with details of how the ANPR system operates. The meeting was told that the Police are regularly patrolling Bradford District, and Shipley constituency as a whole.

Details were given regarding current staffing numbers, the recruitment process and how that has increased the number of officers within Bradford District.

18. Councillor Farley

Almost two years on from the Boxing Day floods of 2015, will the Leader assure us of the steps the Council has taken to prepare for any future incident?

Answer

An update on progress made following the Flooding Scrutiny Review into the Councils response to the flooding event of Boxing Day 2015 was recently reported to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 October 2017. This followed a previous similar report to the same committee, one year earlier, on 29 September 2016. The purpose of the report was to receive details of further improvements to the Councils response and on flood related work to prevent future flooding.

Key improvements include:

- Since January 2017 there has been a weekly teleconference call during adverse weather (or a weekly West Yorkshire group e-mail circulated at other times) involving the Met office, Environment Agency, Blue Light services and West Yorkshire Councils to connect the possible impacts of any predicted weather events and determine the necessity for any standby arrangements.
- All 'responding' Council services have identified their service response required for each level of alert within the Adverse Weather Plan. This is activated as appropriate by the Emergency Management Team whenever a weather alert is received.
- All services now have stand by/call out arrangements in place that are appropriate for that service and the foreseeable demands that are likely to be placed upon it.
- A protocol is in place for monitoring highway grills for which the Council is responsible. Depending on their location and history of collecting debris they will be inspected on either a monthly or quarterly basis which is supplemented with additional inspections when severe weather warnings are received.
- A permanent stock of sand bags and flood sacs is now available for deployment by Council staff to manage major flooding incidents under the control of the Duty Drainage Officer. The Sand Bag Policy, which is displayed on the Council website, compliments individual's responsibilities to protect residential and commercial property. The stock is made up of 6,000 sandbags, 1,340 dry FloodSax, and 660 HydroSnakes. (5,500 items kept at Stockbridge Depot in Keighley, 1000 items kept at Wakefield Road Depot in Bradford, 1,500 items kept in locations in Apperley Bridge, Ilkley and Addingham.)
- Out of hours, the duty Emergency Planning Officer is responsible for sending any necessary e-mail to senior officers, Group Leaders and Councillors to advise of emergency situations as well as any social media to provide reassurance and provide key flooding messages.
- To mitigate and improve communications during high call volume periods, a message process has been configured which allows the Gold/Emergency Planning team to set a message against 01274 431000, the Council's Contact Centre number, to provide an information message to the public in emergency

situations and divert them to alternative channels of information.

- Frontline responding services are equipped with necessary smart phone capability to ensure necessary coverage/communications in the field.
- The Council has signed up to the Environment Agency (EA) floodline number that allows Bradford residents to ring a national helpline number and receive flooding information relating to the Bradford District.
- The Council's website has been revised with access to up-to-date and detailed flooding information, advice and support available immediately from the front/home page on a single button.
- Significant progress has been made in engaging with Parish Councils and local communities in developing local Emergency and Flood Plans. Each Local Council engaged in the writing of plans has had the opportunity to look at their storage needs for locally based and maintained resources and address those individually. These include provision of radios and flood sacs.
- A flood information pack which included a laminated leaflet providing advice on what to do when a local flood warning is in place, when flooding is happening and recovering from flooding, was produced jointly with the Council, the EA and Leeds Flood Resilience Project and funded with Local Levy monies. The pack was sent district-wide to properties that had reported flooding and received Council Tax rebate and/or applied for a property level Flood Resilience Grant following the 2015 floods and those considered to be at risk. In total, packs were distributed to 6,000 properties and businesses in the Bradford district as well as being placed in Council libraries and available on-line on the Council website at <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/browse-all-news/press-releases/flooding-information-pack-being-sent-to-residents/> . The Council and the EA continue to actively encourage residents and businesses to sign up to the flood alert system. The EA produce reports from their automated system to show take up of this Flood Warning Service in the highest risk areas. Across Bradford in those areas, approximately 75% of those properties are assessed as being potentially warned, i.e. a property that could receive a warning. It is therefore important to continue to publicise the system to develop greater coverage of early awareness of flooding.
- The Councils Joint Leadership Team recently undertook a “desk top” exercise to understand and test the Council's response to a major flooding incident within the district.

In addition to the above improvements to the Councils response to flooding incident, the Council is also identifying and delivering cost beneficial solutions to reduce future flood risk across the district. Full and further details of this and all of the above can be found in the Corporate Overview and scrutiny report of 26 October 2017 via the following link

<https://bradford.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=6710&Ver=4>

Before this Full Council, officers from the Council, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency held an event in this chamber to provide more information for members on flood risk and to answer any questions you may have on the issue more generally and I hope as many members as possible attended.

19. Councillor Bacon

In these challenging times for local authority workers with growing demands and reduced resources it was good to see the Council's employee awards event held recently to recognise the hard work of staff – will the Leader tell us about the successful award winners this year?

Answer

This year's service excellence award winners were recognised at a ceremony at Bradford City Football Club's event suite on Friday, 10 November. Some 118 individuals and 27 teams received awards. At the event we hosted special guests Gareth Gates and Bradford Rock Choir. The event was made possible thanks to our event sponsors – AdviserPlus who provide our HR Plus service for managers, and Comenius, our supplier for our Evolve system. On the night a number of awards were given as follows:

The Employee of the Year 2017 is Amjad Ishaq, Environmental Services and Enforcement Manager. Amjad is a fantastic team leader and role model. His team has led the way in projects including taking a hard line on fly tipping, resulting in over 20 prosecutions this year.

This year Team Nominations were of exceptionally high standard, and the panel came to the conclusion that 2 individual teams should receive 'Team of the Year' Awards. The Dealburn Road Household Waste Recycling Centre and Holmeview Resource Teams received Team of the Year Award both teams went the extra mile in different ways.

Our Leader of the Year is Susan Spink, Programme Manager for Waste Services, who built a great team, inspired people to go the extra mile and whose project has made substantial savings.

The Council's Apprentice of the Year is Kara Sutton, Apprentice Learning and Development Technician in HR. Kara has taken to her duties with exemplary professionalism and is a role model for apprentice attitude, behaviours and commitment.

We also have a Special Recognition Award. This is awarded to our unsung heroes. Our goal is to sing some of their praises and give them the recognition they deserve for the good works they do day in and day out. This year's winners are Maureen Axon, who works within the Department of Children's Services as a Community Resource Worker, Derek Smith a Transport Driver and Peter Marks, a Transport Escort from the Department of Place.

As well as our award winners, the Leader would also like to say huge thank you to ALL Council staff, who one way or another are working all year round to help make the Bradford District a better place for everyone.

20. Councillor Ward

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills: What due diligence measures did the Portfolio Holder take to ensure that Wakefield City

Academies Trust (WCAT) was a suitable sponsor for Bradford schools and has the Portfolio Holder followed Wakefield Council's lead in referring WCAT to the police?

Answer

In late 2015, WCAT was granted cash by Government as a flagship "northern hub" academy trust through open competition. The Trust was allocated to Bradford through the RSC (Regional Schools Commissioner's) office. Academy sponsors selection is the decision of Government. Our disappointment and concerns continue to be raised with Government and are further articulated in the relevant Motion to Council to be discussed later today.

When the National Schools Commissioner Sir David Carter appeared before the Commons Education Select Committee on 5th December, he admitted that the Department for Education had given WCAT an "impossible" task by allocating the trust 14 schools in special measures within a 32-month period. He said he was "confident" lessons had been learned. However, as this district's local democratically elected representatives, we will continue to press for greater transparency and more robust regulation as we call on the DfE to ensure this can not happen again.

Supplementary Question

Thank you very much for the answer to two questions but the answers are a bit too long for the focus. Can I just check with him to para-phrase his first answer as being none and his second answer as being no?

Councillor Imran Khan

That's my answer. Obviously your choice whether you want to accept that or not. We will have another discussion about this further on.

21. Councillor Farley

Will the Portfolio Holder give an update on the road improvements being made at North Street in Keighley town centre?

Answer

The works are progressing well. New stone paving works have been completed outside the shops and are receiving positive comments from the shop owners and the public (as reported in the T&A); the remaining area of stone paving will be completed within the next two weeks.

The new left-turn lane into Cavendish Street is on-going and although public utility diversion works by other parties have caused some delay to this part of the scheme, works should be substantially completed before Christmas.

It is anticipated that the full extent of the highway works will be completed in the early New Year followed by replacement tree planting.

The scheme is one of a number of initiatives undertaken in the town centre to improve traffic flows, including re-opening the old emergency exit at the bus station, which has allowed buses to avoid North Street when leaving the station. This resulted in journey time improvements of several minutes for buses and should contribute to reducing congestion on North Street.

22. Councillor Barker

In relation to the freehold transfer of Burley Library to the Burley in Wharfedale Parish Council, can the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport and Culture please provide an update of when the work, comprising the 'asset lock' governing this process, will be completed?

Answer

The Asset Lock which is by way of a Deed has been sent out to Burley Parish Council for signature. It is anticipated that this will be received back imminently upon which it will be registered with the Land Registry.

Supplementary Question

Can I thank the Portfolio Holder for the answer that has been provided? Just a couple of things. Is it possible for me to have a copy of the asset lock concerned and also have you any sort of timescale in mind when this work might be completed?

Councillor Ross-Shaw

Yes I will see what we can send over to you and I will get a timescale as well.

23. Councillor Nazir

Does the Portfolio Holder welcome the news that Bradford is the joint fourth most improved local education authority area in the country on the Progress 8 measure and can he tell us how schools are working to make further improvements?

Answer

Yes. We continue to work closely with our schools. In our maintained schools officers work with schools focussing on attainment and achievement, in academies this is the role of the office of the RSC. Across the District however the LA has undertaken a number of different strategies to support the standards agenda including supporting teacher recruitment and securing a new Free School for SEND.

24. Councillor Warnes

Can the Leader of Council please tell us how many street trees have been removed across Bradford District over the past five years; and how many new street trees have been planted?

Answer

Since 2010 some 350 separate highway instructions have been issued that resulted in one or more trees per location being felled from a population in excess of 18,000. Approximately 30 have been replaced in highway locations as site conditions permit. Sadly it is not always possible to replace street trees due to the presence of utilities underground, which prevents the planting of trees over them.

There has also been 14 hectares of new planting off street since 2012, the equivalent area of 21 football pitches or around 15,000 trees. Work is ongoing to create a Trees and Woodland Planting fund to collect donations and grant funding to allow additional tree planting to take place across the district.

Supplementary Question

Thank you very much for the response. I appreciate that this sort of information is quite hard to get hold of. If you read the stats what this means is that we are going to lose half of our street trees in the next 25 years unless we change what we do. As a couple of follow up questions. Could I ask please what proportion of those separate highways instructions were – let me just rephrase that. Of those 350 separate highways instructions what proportion – I cannot phrase the questions. I do apologise. What I am trying to get at is when we have taken trees out, of all the trees we have taken out, what proportion are we not putting back in because there are utilities running under the pavement and what proportion is simply due to the fact that we haven't got the money and just as a quick follow up, when are we going to have this Trees and Woodland Planting fund in place please? I apologise for the confusion.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

First of all about the answer to the 350 separate locations. I think they will not probably record it to be quite honest by number of trees which is why in the answer it says one or more per location. I do not think they have talked about what number per those 350 is involved there. I am not sure that information will be available. I am not sure how you get to half the statistic you were getting to there like half the trees or whatever. I do not see that in the answer so it must be some maths there that you have done which makes a few assumptions which maybe incorrect. So you might want to check some of those assumptions with Councillor Ross-Shaw after this meeting. The Trees and Woodland fund I am sure Councillor Ross-Shaw can advise on that – sorry it is Councillor Ferriby who can provide on that. I am not sure we can do two. We will let you know.

25. Councillor Bacon

Will the Leader tell us about the main aims of the new “Bradford Pound” social value policy and what opportunities it might offer residents, local businesses and the Council?

Answer

Our ambition is to grow the Bradford economy and in doing so we will look to creatively use both our influence and our procurement approach to increase the capacity of Bradford's local supply market. Moreover we want to ensure that we maximise the potential to motivate our suppliers to promote and instil an ethos of inclusive growth so that economic activity has a beneficial impact that is spread across society. In short, every pound that we spend needs to do more than purchase high quality value for money supplies, services or works: it should in aggregate also be a lever for growth contributing to Bradford's economic resilience; colloquially we refer to this as the 'Bradford Pound'. With a supplier spend of £406m we've got the potential for a big local impact.

26. Councillor Berry

Can the Portfolio Holder provide an update on the numbers of looked after children placed out of the district over the last 6 months?

Answer

In the last 6 months (Jun-Nov 2017) there were 507 placements of looked after children, of which 115 (22.6%) were out of the Bradford district. Of those 115, 55 were within West Yorkshire and 60 further afield.

27. Councillor Davies

Are there any plans to introduce a 'live chat' option on the Council's website to enable improved interaction with residents?

Answer

Recent and on-going improvement to the Council's IT systems are making the provision of web chat a possibility and introducing this is planned as part of the on-going strategy to introduce more flexible and cost efficient ways for people to contact the Council. We are currently considering where best to trial the introduction of web chat and plan on trialling this in a single service area next year before any wider roll out.

28. Councillor Nazir

Will the Portfolio Holder for regeneration, planning and transport give an update on the planned revamp of Forster Square station?

Answer

The Forster Square Station project is progressing well. The Outline Business Case, which is a critical phase in the development process, was completed and approved earlier this year. That allowed for the release of funding to develop the next phase, the Full Business Case (FBC), in June. We are now working up the FBC works requirement which includes the detailed design and construction specification, over the course of the next year.

As one of the early phases in this work we are holding a two day public consultation on Forster Square Station on the 12 and 13 December. There are a number of elements of the scheme where we are keen to get some feedback from station users. The current plans are to make much greater use of the railway arches that will be exposed with the removal of the existing stairwell (the lift will be replaced in the new scheme) and the potential design of 'pods' to be installed within them to allow better station facilities, such as a heated waiting room, retail, bike storage, staff facilities etc, is one element we are keen to get feedback on. We are also looking at options for a pocket park where the current unused open space by the existing arches is.

There is a fantastic architectural heritage at Forster Square station that is currently under used and appreciated and our hope is the redevelopment will provide us with the opportunity to rectify that and create a suitably impressive gateway entrance into the city.

At this stage we are on track for the on-site delivery of the station scheme by early 2021.

29. **Councillor Azam**

Will the Portfolio Holder outline the support the Council has been providing to the Oastler Market and top of town businesses in recent months and in the run-up to Christmas?

Answer

The Council has put together the following support package to assist the Oastler Centre/Market traders and adjacent businesses. These have been well received by traders who are working with our officers to promote the various schemes to their customers.

Markets Events

A new events space has been created in the market that is intended to be used for various promotional events, 'pop up' test trading, product launches or general awareness/fundraising campaigns.

These events are aimed at showcasing to those new customers visiting the event space the wonderful products and services that are available in the market. Some of the event organisers that have booked the events space, such as the Print Fair that took place in late November, will heavily promote their event and bring with them their own customer base and traders can hopefully benefit from the increased footfall.

A number of events have been planned up to the end of the year, some of which have already take place, as follows:

- **Saturday 25 November:** Top of Town Christmas Party with Bradford Print Fair, Made in Bradford, Brick Box, Sparrow Pop Up Bar, Sonia's Vegan Food Pop Up & Xmas Food Walk hosted by Wur Bradford. This was a great success at bringing in a new audience to the market and generating a great atmosphere around the market and the Top of Town.
- **Saturday 2 December:** Emma Hardcastle Book Reading & Bookstart Bear Winter Tour.
- **Saturday 9 December:** Pottery Workshop by Hive and Sonia's Vegan Pop Up.
- **Friday 15 December:** NHS Winter Nutrition Stall & Ministry of Food Live Festive demonstrations.
- **Saturday 16 December:** Young Masters Festive Workshop with Local Sculpture & Craft Artists.
- **Thursday 21 December:** The Pulse 2 Crew register entries for '*Delights from the Stall*'
- **Friday 22 December:** The Pulse 2 Crew register entries for '*Delights from the Stall*'
- **Saturday 23 December:** The Pulse 2 Radio station promoting '*Delights from the Stall*' competition with winners being announced on this day. The prizes will be from the products and services available in the market

Throughout the rest of December the event space will be used for traditional festive entertainment including a Santa's Grotto and music from the Gawthorpe Brass Band,

Harmonium Services & Pennine Chimes and we are already in talks about possible events for 2018.

Markets Shuttle Bus

- A new shuttle bus service has been launched that operates between the Interchange and the Oastler Centre in conjunction with a local bus company TLC Travel Ltd and West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
- The new Markets Shuttle service will be provided by TLC Travel Ltd as part of their existing routes in the city centre, with two buses an hour going direct from the Interchange to outside of the Oastler Centre on John Street.
- Customers will be able to catch either the 635 bus or the 676 bus from Stand 1 at the Interchange to take them to the Oastler Centre and the 635 bus, 643 bus or the 644 bus from either the bus stop on John Street or on Westgate to the Interchange.

This service is funded by West Yorkshire Combined Authority and will have a special fare of just 50p each way, all concessionary or free passes will also be valid. Leaflets promoting the service have been distributed to key stations as well as to traders.

Business Support

- Dedicated business coaching has been put in place to support all market traders as well as tenants of the external retail units based at the Oastler Centre
- This includes one to one support tailored to the individual development needs of the businesses.
- The Business Coach will also assist with accessing funding, particularly for businesses interested in relocating to properties within the City Centre's Priority Streets area.
- Training and development needs analysis is also on offer along with access to a training package including Worldhost customer service accredited courses, tailored workshops and other accredited courses to develop key business skills.

This is all in addition to our day to day work in supporting and promoting the markets across the district, including events at Keighley, Kirkgate and the Oastler centre. We are continuing to look at ways to improve our markets offer across the district and to drive up footfall.

30. Councillor Reid

To the Portfolio Holder: What proportions of the properties on Bradford's Empty Homes Register were reported to the Council (a) by members of the public? (b) by Members of Council?

Answer

The number of long term empty properties in the district has fallen by 3,371 since 2009 and we continue to work with property owners to get such properties back into use.

Information relating to empty properties is maintained in the Council Tax system and updated with information from owners, tenants, managing agents etc.

Of the cases which the Council's Empty Homes Team is currently dealing with, 1% were generated by enquiries from Councillors, 33% were generated internally as either proactive investigations by empty homes officers or as referrals from other Departments, and the remaining 66% were received as complaints / requests for service by members of the public.

Supplementary Question

I thank the Portfolio Holder for a straight forward and helpful answer. Given that Bradford's number of empty homes per square kilometre is twice as high as the rest of other West Yorkshire districts the answer does suggest a significant amount of untapped intelligence within this Chamber. Will Councillor Ross-Shaw join me in inviting Elected Members to add to their New Year resolutions report more empty homes in 2018?

Councillor Ross-Shaw

I agree there probably is an untapped intelligence in this Chamber. I am happy to work with him to identify it.

31. Councillor Farley

In spite of the government cuts can the Portfolio Holder assure us that we will maintain substantial gritting coverage across the district this winter?

Answer

The Winter Maintenance operation will still be maintaining a resilient gritting coverage across the network that accounts for 62% of the network. This compares favourably with Calderdale at 50%, Leeds at 43%, Kirklees at 53% and Wakefield at 42% whilst making the previously approved budget savings.

This has been accomplished in part by redesigning the gritting routes to make efficiencies in relation to mobilisation and treatment times, saving on procurement of weather bureau services, and reducing and consolidating salt stockpiles at the start of the winter season whilst still providing 30 days' operational resilience for the service.

We store 24,000 tonnes of rock salt to use over the gritting season, with 34 gritting lorries and staff on call 24/7 from October through to April.

At last year's budget we provided additional funding to the gritting service to help restore some previously de-prioritised routes and this, along with the efficiencies, has seen us able to anticipate the 62% coverage this year.

32. Councillor Pennington

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport provide members with details of any measures that are to be taken to ensure the continued operation

and success of Uriah Woodheads, when the installation of the Cycle Super Highway prevents the company from receiving deliveries and collections etc from large vehicles?

Answer

The Cycle Super Highway scheme will narrow the carriageway on Valley Road and change it from a two-way street into a one-way street heading north towards Queen's Road.

There are no proposals to close the access points from the public highway to Uriah Woodhead's premises.

Computerised modelling shows that large goods vehicles (LGV's) will still be able to gain access to Uriah Woodhead's premises through their existing gates although it is recognised that space will be tighter than it is at present because of the road narrowing.

An offer has been made to Uriah Woodhead to provide, at no cost to them, a new, wider gateway in order to maintain the same ease of movement for lorries. This offer has not so far been accepted by Uriah Woodhead but is still available and the money has been included in the scheme budget.

During the construction phase and before any work is undertaken that will affect traffic movements on Valley Road, there will be further consultation between the businesses and the Council and its Contractor to ensure that any temporary disruption caused by the construction works will be kept to a minimum.

Work on the scheme has currently started on Hillam Road and is currently on budget and on schedule to be completed by September 2018.

Supplementary Question

I am glad we have got to this one. Are all planners psychopaths?

Councillor Hinchcliffe

I am not sure that that question justifies an answer Councillor Pennington to be quite honest. We have given a response here and there is support out there for the business concerned in terms of the entrance if they wish to avail themselves of that and that is still available.

33. Councillor Poulsen

Would the Leader of the Council, confirm in which areas businesses have been approached to sponsor Christmas Trees for this year and how were these areas chosen?

Answer

The Council, in partnership with Festival Lights, has historically funded the supply and installation of nine Christmas trees across the District. All these are now being offered as sponsorship opportunities as part of an agreed budget saving. Four of the trees are provided at locations within Local Council areas, Haworth, Ilkley, Bingley

and Keighley and the appropriate Local Councils have initially been offered the opportunity to take on the sponsorship. Local businesses have been offered the opportunity for the remaining trees, including in the city centre, together with any not taken up by the four Local Councils. Two of the nine will be sponsored this year, one by Keighley Town Council and the other by Harron Homes for Queensbury. Officers will continue to seek sponsorship for the trees ready for next Christmas.

Supplementary Question

Can I just check obviously a lot of the local businesses that were contacted this year were contacted quite late on with only a few weeks and obviously the trees had already been ordered by then. What will happen next year if there is no sponsorship coming forward? Will there be a tree cull?

Councillor Ferriby

Unfortunately if there is no sponsorship coming forward next year there will be no trees but the Council has worked successfully in other areas with parish councils that have provided trees and local community and residents groups but I have already spoken to officers, it was quite rightly as you say late in the day when contact was made but those contacts have been made with parish and town councils and we will be moving forward with contact with businesses as well to make the opportunity available then to sponsor trees.

34. Councillor Heseltine

Can the Leader of the Council confirm that any proceeds from the sale of Priestthorpe Annex, the building owned by the trust, will be administered by the trust and income generated used for the benefit of Priestthorpe School, as per the discussions that have previously taken place with the school?

Answer

The school building now known as the Priestthorpe Annexe, Bingley is held by the Council as Trustees of the former Bingley Science Arts and Technical School (the former school). The terms of the trust are set out in a conveyance dated the 23 October 1889 between Alfred Sharp Esquire and the trustees of the will of James Sharp Esquire which conveyed the property to the " Trustees of 'the former Bingley Technical School'. The conveyance sets out various educational objectives of the trust which intended to benefit both children and adults of Bingley.

The property became vested in the Council as trustees on 1 April 1974. Until 2002 when the former school closed the building was used for the provision of education and vocational training.

In August 2017 the Councils Regulatory and Appeals Committee sitting as trustees resolved to seek expressions of interest for the disposal of the building. The closing date for such is the 26 January 2018. In March 2018 a further report will be presented by the City Solicitor to the Committee who will consider the matter and how any proceeds of sale can be used to further the objectives of the trust.

Given the objectives of the trust is to benefit both the children and adults of Bingley any income from proceeds may in part be used to benefit the existing Priestthorpe

school but not exclusively so. I am unaware of any conversations that Cllr Heseltine has had with the school but am happy to be appraised of them.

Supplementary Question

The humbugs are still waiting. Thanks for the answer. The Council I am told had the conversations with Priestthorpe School not me. I was just relaying that information and can you clarify the process and confirm that the Trust will hold and distribute the funds?

Councillor Ross-Shaw

I do like humbugs so I will take a few. So I do not know when the school believes the conversations took place, I suppose over the past 18 months there has been a big change round in the Asset Management Department and on the Executive as well. So it might just be that the conversations took place before that. Happy to have another conversation just to make sure they are aware it is children and adults. Obviously anything we do in that area for the benefit of educating children the school you would anticipate being involved and we would not want them to be unduly worried. I think it might be easiest to just get a written statement to you about the process so that you are aware of it and we can just have it clarified.

35. Councillor Stelling

Events, such as the recent Illuminate Bradford, saw huge numbers of people drawn into town creating a real buzz. Do we know what the economic boost these events bring to businesses in the City Centre? Have there been any conversations with City businesses to see how this could be maximised?

Answer

Illuminate Bradford attracted 200,000 over three days into the city centre (13-15 October), providing an estimated £2,757,321 benefit to the local economy. Over 200 local people were employed by contractors to work on the event and 159 local artists took part in the event. We are increasingly working with city centre businesses to coordinate activities and therefore maximise the opportunities presented by the signature events staged in the city centre. The Bradford BID group led by Ian Ward at the Broadway are keen to be involved.

36. Councillor Heseltine

In response to questions asked by residents of Bingley Ward, can the Leader of the Council list the funds that have been paid over the last 5 years and any that are currently identified for payment till the end of the funding streams and specify what the funding was for, to companies operating in Bradford City Centre that are non footsie multinationals or footsie 250 and companies with a turnover of £1 million plus?

Answer

Information based on the grants administered by Economic Development as part of the City Centre Growth Zone initiative in the last 5 years is detailed on the spread sheet attached as Appendix 2 to this document. We are unable to access information on other grant sources. The funding provided has to comply with the

parameters of the funding as agreed with Government. Much of the funding listed was through the City Centre Growth Zone. The Council provided 50% of this funding and the Government provided the other 50% through the Regional Growth Fund. The Government is not making available this kind of funding again for town centres however we are looking at what we as a council can do locally for other towns in the district.

37. Councillor Heseltine

Can the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport and Culture confirm that Bingley Music Live will take place in 2018?

Answer

Yes, I'm delighted to say Bingley Music Live will be back again next year after such a brilliant event in 2017, which generated a surplus thanks to some really positive close working with local businesses as sponsors and contributors, alongside advice from residents and the wider community – and not least of course the great entertainment on offer. It's good news for Bingley and the district as a whole that it was such a success and that it will be back next year.

38. Councillor Rachel Sunderland

Noting the difficulties in getting a response from Officers, can the Portfolio Holder please provide me with an update on plans to repair the bridge in Peel Park, the associated costs and timescales associated?

Answer

The instruction to undertake repairs has been issued to the Council's structural engineers and it is expected that works will be completed by Spring 2018 at an estimated cost of £25,000.

Please feel free to get in touch with me directly any time if you feel you are not getting a speedy response from officers and I'll be happy to assist.

39. Councillor Poulsen

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport, advise colleagues of the current average time between the need for a street light repair being reported and the light being repaired and how many are awaiting repairs for over 28 days?

Answer

At the current time the average repair time for street lighting faults is between 15 and 20 days. Council Contact officers have been advised to inform the public of a 20 day service level, although many are completed before this.

At this time of year the number of fault reports increases significantly, using November as an example there were 1262 repairs ordered for reported faults.

As it currently stands there are 879 repairs yet to be completed with 126 over 28 days (14.33%).

Supplementary Question

I am not going to give you a list of lights. I just want to say the online reporting system is very good where you can click on the street light and report it which works very well and people find that easy to use. What I think we need to possibly look at if you take it forward is once the light has been reported as faulty the date or something that it was reported or an anticipated repair date is on the system as well so that people are not constantly then ringing 431000 and repeatedly chasing lights that may be due to be repaired the following day. Just something possibly in the future to look at.

Councillor Ross-Shaw

I am disappointed. I was expecting a specific example that you were going to complain about but glad to hear the website is working well. It is really a good tool if anyone wants to use it if they do have street lights. We do get a lot of reports this time of year and I know our staff are working very hard to get them all back up and running. I will certainly feedback about how we can improve. I presume you are talking about the website itself so it is a good idea. Thank you.