

COUNCIL 20 MARCH 2018

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. **Councillor Azam**

Can the Portfolio Holder outline what measures or strategies we have in place to address hate crime? Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and hate crime of all kinds cannot be tolerated in our District.

Answer

Your question is all the more pertinent at this time given that since you asked it, we have all seen and heard about the awful Islamophobic letters which have been sent to individuals in different parts of the country, including in Bradford. I've been liaising with the police and other agencies on that issue. The police have assured me that they are thoroughly investigating those disgraceful letters and of course we all need to work together to ensure that we all feel safe and supported and we must not let a hateful minority undermine the community relations of the vast, decent majority. Together, Bradford District must stand together against Islamophobia and all forms of hate wherever it appears.

Hate crime is abhorrent. It has no place in Bradford District. For me this is a personal as well as political priority. The need to promote peaceful and respectful understanding between people of all backgrounds – and build on the positive initiatives we have in this district – has underpinned everything I have done since taking on the portfolio.

I have spoken at a number of events covering these issues, recently for example at the initiatives to remember Jo Cox and in memory of Sophie Lancaster, a young woman from Lancashire who was murdered simply because she was a Goth, and I also helped to mark the LGBT History Month here in Bradford for which I am grateful to my colleague Councillor Dunbar who helped make those events such a success. I've strongly supported other initiatives to tackle and raise awareness of hate and prejudice, for example in Bradford we make significant contributions to Holocaust awareness and Remembering Srebrenica activities and we have the successful Stand Up, Speak Out, Make a Difference scheme which focuses on the power of education to empower young people through learning about the terrible consequences for humanity if hate is allowed to take root.

The Bradford Hate Crime Strategy was refreshed and re-launched at Victoria Hall in Keighley in September 2017 by Bradford Council and its partners. This revised local strategy is aligned with the national action plan around the following objectives:

A. Preventing hate crime

Preventing hate crime by dealing with the beliefs and attitudes that can lead to

hate crime. We recognise the importance of preventing hate crime happening in the first place and are committed, through education, to challenging those attitudes that can lead to discrimination and divisions within our society.

B. Responding to hate

Responding to hate crime in our communities with the aim of reducing the number of hate crime incidents. We will focus on a number of settings that have emerged as high risk environments for hate crime, including public transport, the university and college area and the internet.

C. Increasing the reporting of hate crime

Increasing the reporting of hate crime. We will continue to work to make it easier for those affected to report incidents of hate crime including through 30 third party reporting centres. To give victims the confidence that their complaints will be taken seriously we will work with the police and Crown Prosecution Service to publicise successes in prosecuting hate crime.

D. Improving support for the victims of hate crime

Research has shown that hate crimes cause victims greater distress than similar crimes without the same motivation. We will work to ensure victims are provided with timely, appropriate and effective support whether or not the incident has been reported to the police. If the victim chooses to report the incident to the police then support is available both at the time of reporting and through the criminal justice system.

E. Building our understanding of hate crime

Building our understanding of hate crime. In order to tackle hate crime, we need to understand the scale and nature of the problem. We will undertake our own research on aspects of hate crime and work with academics and others to improve our analysis and understanding of the drivers of hate crime.

The UK has one of the strongest legislative frameworks to tackle hate crime in the world. If a crime committed can be shown to be motivated by hate, the courts can impose an additional 50% uplift on any sentence handed down.

In Bradford District there is a very high conviction rate of around 80% for those cases sent to court for hate crime offences

However, legislation can only ever be part of the answer. We must create an environment where people have the confidence to come forward, victims are properly supported and crucially, we take action to tackle the attitudes and beliefs that drive these crimes.

The district Community Safety Partnership commissions the Bradford Hate Crime Alliance to deliver on several key objectives:

- Support the operation of a network of third party hate crime reporting centres across the district
- Provide 1:1 engagement and support to victims of hate crime with 24 hour availability
- Deliver specific hate crime training packages

- Attend and support the District ‘Hate Crime Strategic Management Group’

Recognising the deep impact hate crime can have, all victims of hate crime receive an enhanced service from Victim Support and will be contacted within specific timescales.

Bradford Council supports schools to deliver a range of powerful education programmes through partners such as the Sophie Lancaster Foundation and the Council’s own ‘Stand-up Speak Out Make a Difference, programme.

2. **Councillor Gibbons**

What preparations have been made by the Council for Brexit?

Answer

Reports on the Council’s response to Brexit were taken to Executive on 20 September 2016 and to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny on 6 October 2016. A further update was scheduled to be taken to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny following the triggering of Article 50, however, the Committee removed that update report from their schedule pending further developments and more concrete outcomes.

Many of the consequences of Brexit are still not fully known, nationally and internationally. There is therefore a lack of clarity on what impacts we are likely to see locally regarding our migrant workforce, local businesses’ trade arrangements, economic impacts and replacement funding streams; however we have taken steps to mitigate risks and identify opportunities.

We are continuing to engage and lobby through established networks, including the LGA, Key Cities and at a City Region level.

We are supporting businesses by:

- Gathering intelligence at a local level on potential and actual business impacts.
- Enhancing the account management of key businesses.
- Working closely with partners through existing networks such as Chamber of Commerce, Invest in Bradford and the Property Forum.
- Working with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and Department for International Trade to maximise global trade opportunities.

We are working to address issues in terms of the labour market by:

- Liaising with other public sector partners to see what information is available regarding the roles of the EU workforce.
- Monitoring and using intelligence to assess changes to migration patterns and population demographics to support service planning such as demand on school places.

We are focused on securing funding by:

- Identifying key areas of critical investment risk, lobbying for UK funded programmes, including as part of the Leeds City Region, and working with partners to identify alternative investment mechanisms.
- Maintaining dialogue with civil servants regarding specific projects to secure delivery.
- Collaborating via the Leeds City Region through the European Officers group.
- Working with Community Led Local Development partners to identify viable approaches to those programmes.
- Lobbying through the Local Government Association, Leeds City Region and Key Cities, to make the most of opportunities for power, resources and control to be devolved beyond Westminster.

Our approach has been developed in support of the LEP plan, with collaboration ongoing with authorities across the City Region to share approaches, learning, information and knowledge.

Brexit updates are being provided to the Governance and Audit Committee via the Annual Governance Statement and mid-year progress report. A further Brexit report will be taken to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny when the Committee feels there is sufficient progress on negotiations and clarity on future arrangements.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. Very extensive list of organisations, departments and so on that have been consulted and been worked with over a long period of time I am sure and thank you very much for the full answer. Very well done to all of those groups, committees, etc, etc. They have been working hard on this. It is a lot to go through but Mr Khan, Mr Singh, Mrs Jones, Mr Smith etc voted for Brexit, perhaps voted the other way, we do not know exactly who voted for what but ie the general public and may I just add the supplementary question how we are disseminating the information that has been gleaned from all of these meetings to the general public out there that we are responsible to? Are we going to go out with a sort of an additional newsletter or some major part of a news information document and so on? Fairly straight forward I think.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Can I be churlish and say when the Government have decided what they are doing we will also go out telling people how it is going to impact on Bradford. I often say that Brexit or no Brexit we would be running this city just as we are doing now which is focussing on making sure we get growth and transport, on education, on culture making it a great place to live so I would not do anything different whether it was Brexit or no Brexit. We just have to get ourselves as a city in the best shape possible for whatever is coming next. I am in a hurry to achieve that because obviously we have now got the transition agreement in outline so it is all going to happen quite fast and I was just want to make sure we achieve that quite quickly. I am not sure if there are any certainties in this yet about how it is going to impact. I visited a business just a few weeks ago who had lots of questions and no answers yet and they had met with lots of MPs to try and get to the bottom of it. There are still quite a lot of hanging questions there and until we get those resolved by the Government I am not sure we are in a position to know exactly how it is going to play

out because I think the Government are still making it up as they go along to be quite honest Councillor Gibbons I am afraid. But rest assured we are doing everything we can to make sure Bradford is in the best position for whatever the future holds.

3. Councillor Ward

Can the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills confirm that if the proposal set out in the consultation on the future of SEND Specialist Teaching Support Services 0-25 years is approved there will be the loss of ten full-time equivalent specialist teachers for Early Years, Autism, Cognitive and Learning and Social and Emotional and Mental Health?

Answer

The consultation feedback is being properly considered in its entirety and the proposals are being revised as a result of that feedback. The revised proposals will be put to the Council's Executive on 3 April.

Supplementary Question

Can I ask the Portfolio about , I am sure he is fully familiar with Section 22 of the Children and Families Act 2014, and what that clearly specifies is that local authorities, it is an obligation on the local authority, and it states that it is the obligation of us to identify all the children and young people in their area who have or may have SEN or who have or may have a disability. So the question is what impact was carried out or impact assessment was carried out to ensure that the local authority could comply with Section 22 of the Act when putting together the SEND proposals?

Councillor Imran Khan

Thanks for that question. Obviously with everything that we do it is very important that we carry out equality impact assessments and take all these things into consideration. Schools Forum have been involved in this and Schools Forum have also recommended the way forward. We are currently in consultation so that has to come back to us, will be considered as and when appropriate and will be presented on 3 April.

4. Councillor Love

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport tell us why the Council have purchased the former Branch pub in Shipley, how much was paid for it and why ward members were not informed of the purchase by officers?

Answer

Bradford Council has acquired the former Branch public house so that the land can be used to widen the road and improve the junction to help reduce congestion on the road and journey times through the junction. This junction is included in the Bradford to Shipley Corridor Improvement scheme which is in its early stages of development and forms part of the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund package of projects funded through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

The pub, which has structural damage, has stood empty for a number of years and has been on the open market but had not sold, was purchased for £385,000. Funding for this purchase was secured from West Yorkshire Combined Authority. This was paid after an independent valuer had assessed the property. There was an opportunity to purchase the site which would accelerate delivery of the project. While negotiations were ongoing they were subject to confidentiality. We advised ward members on 28th February, soon after the purchase was completed. I'll look to see if it could have been done any sooner. The project will be subject to full consultation and we will be working very closely with the cycling community to see what improvements can be made to cycling routes in the area.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Ross-Shaw for the answer. Given that neighbours of the site were asking ward councillors about this at the beginning of January there does not seem to be the confidentiality, it does not seem to have worked very well on that. Can I ask what sort of timescales we have got for the consultation that is going to go into the redevelopment of the site?

Councillor Ross-Shaw

Thank you Councillor Love. Sadly we are always in that position where people can tell me what I am doing and I cannot confirm whether I am or not because it is still confidential. It does happen. In terms of consultation absolutely it is the number one thing we have been contacted about. I am sure it is the same for you guys as ward members as well. We are just trying to reassure people there will be a full consultation. We are still at that phase where we are working that up to. Once we have a more firmer outline of that process we will let you know and we will get the word out to the public as well.

5. Councillor Bacon

Will the Leader and Portfolio Holder join me in thanking the men and women who worked so hard in keeping the District's roads gritted, especially during the turmoil of the Beast from the East?

Answer

The teams within Highways, Parks & Landscape have been kept exceptionally busy this year keeping the District's roads and pavements moving. This is always a very busy time for the service when calls from the public increase exponentially as the weather conditions deteriorate. Whilst this is a very high-profile front line service the work of the gritting teams is supported by an equally dedicated team of back office staff who are the "unsung heroes" of the service.

This year winter has been significantly more severe and protracted than previous years and we have seen a massive increase in the amount of salt/grit we have used throughout the season compared to previous years. The workers who ensure that our gritters are out on the road treating the worst of the weather have delivered a service which is both resilient and responsive and have been well supported by teams from Parks & Landscapes who ensure that not only the roads but the pavements in our city and town centres remain passable.

I therefore fully support my colleague in wishing to express my thanks to the team.

6. Councillor Bacon

Can the Portfolio Holder outline the protections that are in place for the Green Belt in the Core Strategy and national planning regulations?

Answer

The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out national policy on Green Belt. National policy outlines both the 5 main purposes of green belt and the types of development or uses which are considered appropriate within it and those that aren't. The NPPF also includes the approach to establishing and reviewing green belt boundaries and controlling the types of development which are considered not inappropriate in Green Belt.

The NPPF states that apart from a number of exceptions, new buildings are inappropriate. Those exceptions are set out in NPPF paragraph 89 and include buildings for agriculture and forestry and for outdoor sport and recreation. These are generally types of development which retain the openness of Green Belt and/or have limited impact on openness and include infill development in small villages washed over by Green Belt or redevelopment of an existing use.

The NPPF considers that inappropriate development is by definition harmful. The Government would expect that planning applications for inappropriate development would be refused unless there are 'Very Special Circumstances' where the potential harm caused by the development is clearly outweighed by other considerations.

Once established (as is the case in the District) Green Belt boundaries can only be amended through the preparation of the Local Plan and only where 'Exceptional Circumstances' are demonstrated.

The Core Strategy (adopted July 2017) prioritised brownfield development and considered whether there was a need to review the Green Belt and concluded that exceptional circumstances existed in order to meet the development needs (for homes and jobs) of the District to 2030 in full. Policy SC7 sets out the headline approach to the partial Green Belt review which will be undertaken in the Allocations Development Plan Document. Calculations have shown that this will mean only around 2% of Green Belt land will need to be released for development in locations across the District in addition to maximising the use of land and sites within urban areas and in particular encouraging the use of brownfield sites. The review will be based upon the 5 purposes of including land in Green Belt but also consider the strategic function of the Green Belt. The approach is supported by Policies SC4 and SC5 which set out the strategic approach to patterns of development and seek to focus development in appropriate settlements and maximise the use of non-Green Belt land as far as practical.

7. Councillor Whiteley

I understand that there is a separate fund designed to make good community buildings in disrepair, how can an application be made?

Answer

We set aside funding in last year's budget to support community asset transfers (an additional £100,000 over 2017/18 and 18/19 plus small capital investments when appropriate). There is transitional funding for the six Public Halls which are to be transferred by way of Community Asset Transfer and the transferees are to be invited to apply for support from this fund.

8. Councillor Engel

I would like to thank all Council workers for their efforts during the cold snap and ask how we support staff in the course of their duties to prevent their injury through accidents.

Answer

I'd like to join with Cllr Engel in thanking all council workers for their efforts during the bad weather. Our gritting teams have been fantastic but other frontline workers have also gone above and beyond to keep the district moving.

The Council has an established health and safety management system which includes a robust risk assessment process. Risks are assessed and suitable control measures put in place including safe systems of work, training and equipment or clothing. During times of potential adverse weather conditions, managers will use weather forecasts and LA weather alerts as a trigger to re-plan and or co-ordinate actions to reduce the risk of accidents, for example, stopping waste collections or warden services until it is safe to continue. If an incident occurs then managers/staff have access to Employee Health and Wellbeing services, HR Business Partners and Occupational Safety.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for that answer. It is reassuring to know that we are constantly striving to be a good employer for the people that work so hard to serve our residents in this district. I wonder if you would also join me in thanking all those community spirited members of the public out there such as the people who drove their tractor around Clayton Village to make the roads passable again in the snow. All those people who have been checking on their elderly or mobility impaired neighbours to ensure that they have the essentials and they are not taking undue risks and just the general community spirit that I would imagine all of us in this Chamber have witnessed in places across their wards in the bad weather.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Engel. Yes indeed the weather recently, well in the last few weeks, months actually, has been appalling and a lot of residents have really struggled to get around the district but Council workers have been tremendous and I am happy to put on record my thanks to them. That is not just the gritting people either, it is the people, social care workers. There is a video, I do not know if everybody has seen it, BBC video going round being shared like 65,000 times of a care worker getting through the snow in Queensbury. Really examples like that just show you that Council workers are really committed to the work they do in spite of the challenges they operate in and my heartfelt thanks to those people. Of course

volunteers in communities as you rightly say in Clayton there, a really great example but there are people all round the district who look out for their neighbours, get involved and make sure everybody they know is okay in the bad weather. It is lovely to see people coming together and obviously without them we could not keep the district motoring and the district moving. So thank you very much to volunteers and Council workers. I am hoping there is going to be no more bad weather to try out that community spirit; we are getting towards the end of March. I would like to think April may be alright but if not we will be calling on them again. So thank you very much.

9. Councillor Malcolm Slater

How can residents check whether a waste carrier is reputable and licensed? Is there a public list of registered carriers and are the registered operators obliged to carry and display their licences?

Answer

As a householder/resident, if you produce waste which is not being passed on to the Local Authority, you have a duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure you pass your waste to an authorised waste carrier and obtain a waste transfer note from them as proof of the transfer.

The registration of waste carriers is undertaken by the Environment Agency (EA), and residents can check if the person or organisation is registered by visiting their website to view the public register of waste carriers, or by calling the EA on 03708 506 506.

It is commonplace for a registered waste carrier to have with them a copy of the registered waste carriers certificate to show if asked to produce it. If this is not the case the producer of the waste (in this case the householder/resident) can request to see a copy of the certificate.

10. Councillor Heseltine

Are we in a position to move forward on Bingley Priesthorpe Annex with any of the interested parties and has there been a rigorous interrogation of their finances?

Answer

We have received six bids for the property. We are currently interrogating the proposals and using independent agents looking at each party's ability to acquire the property and deliver a sale of the asset.

Supplementary Question

Thanks for the answer. The community are concerned we will just change owners. The building continues to deteriorate. What is the timescale to conclude not just a sale but a deliverable sale, and I keep asking this one, what is Plan B.

Councillor Ross-Shaw

Thank you Councillor. Obviously we have had six bids in so it looks pretty reasonable that we will get a sale and we will do due processing to make sure that it

goes through accordingly basically. We are going through that process. I will see if we have a time frame in mind and I will let you know.

11. Councillor Farley

Can the Leader of Council join me in thanking Bradford Fairtrade Zone, voluntary groups and businesses across the District that have come together over Fairtrade Fortnight to raise awareness of this important subject?

Answer

I'm pleased to have the opportunity to say a very big thank you publicly to Bradford Fairtrade Zone and the many voluntary groups, businesses and shoppers who made Fairtrade Fortnight such a success in our District.

Highlights of Fairtrade Fortnight included a 'Come on In' event at Marks & Spencer in Broadway, attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, where people were encouraged to sample Fairtrade products and a Fairtrade 'Bake off' style cake competition in Haworth.

Bradford Fairtrade Zone works all year round to promote Fairtrade. By paying a fair price for our food we support farmers and communities across the world, making food production more sustainable and enabling the people who grow our food to improve their lives. Fairtrade gives us the power to change the world for the better every day.

I'd also like to thank Cllr Adrian Farley, the Council's Fairtrade champion for his continued commitment to the role.

The Council supported Fairtrade Fortnight activities, including in Bradford Markets and by publicising events.

We are proud to be a Fairtrade Council, part of a global movement to help farmers in some of the poorest regions on earth get a fair deal so they can make their own decisions and control their own lives.

Bradford District became a Fairtrade Zone in 2006 which means local shops stock Fairtrade goods, there is active support for Fairtrade in the local area and Bradford Council is committed to supporting Fairtrade, including using coffee, tea, chocolate and bananas procured from Fairtrade sources at functions, events and in our City Hall café.

12. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

In December the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills said that he was "absolutely fuming" and that £2 million pounds had been taken from Bradford schools by Wakefield City Academies Trust. Can he advise Members of Council how much progress has he made in returning these monies to Bradford's schools?

Answer

We have had a lot of internal scrutiny to determine the figures. I have had

discussions with MPs who have raised this serious matter with the Education Secretary. I have visited one of the schools to understand the impact on them and plan to visit the other affected schools. The Leader and myself along with the Strategic Director, Children's Services have also raised the issue with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) and also the incoming sponsors.

The Council also wrote to the previous Secretary of State.

We are now awaiting an update from the Department for Education.

Supplementary Question

Thank you to the Portfolio Holder for the answer but as a supplementary now you have determined the figure can you tell Members how much it is and what else is he doing to get the reply from the Department for Education.

Councillor Imran Khan

I have not got the final figure yet. We are still working on that. As you can imagine it is fairly complicated and a lot of this money was in schools that was taken out so we are still finalising the figure. We are working with the MPs. We are still waiting for a response from the Department for Education bearing in mind that we did write to them in December as well but then there was a change of Secretary of State. We are doing all we can and hopefully at some point I will be able to come back to this Chamber and report on this a bit more.

13. Councillor Swallow

Please would the Portfolio Holder explain how efficient the prevention of homelessness funds have been in Bradford and how much is left in the budget to be able to keep a roof over the heads of our citizens in this District?

Answer

Despite significant service pressures from increasing homelessness - since 2010 homelessness prevention cases in Bradford have increased by 138% and homelessness acceptances by 183% - the council continues to provide quality services to the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless.

We have a range of services that we provide to tackle and prevent homelessness. The funds expended cover our Housing Options Service which not only deal with homelessness cases but also provides a gateway to support provision to vulnerable clients and manages the Districts Housing Register; the No Second Night Out Service supports rough sleepers and is doing an excellent job providing short term accommodation and resettling individuals with complex needs; Housing Related Support (covering temporary accommodation, complex need contracts, young people at risk, and DV Refuge provision) all play their valuable part in providing the right support to enable effective Move On into permanent accommodation; and the Day Shelter on Leeds Road ensures there is provision and support provided as a drop in during the day time.

The budget for the Housing Options and related services total around £1.8m, Housing Related Support £3.8m, Day Shelter £204k, No Second Night Out £240k.

This is base budget funding which is normally fully spent in any given year.

There is additional funding in the form of time limited grants from the government to deal with the impact of implementing new measures from the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (New Burdens Funding) and a further new allocation towards prevention (Flexible Homeless Support Grant). These funds are being used to expand the capacity within the service to meet the pressures placed by the new legislation as well as to meet the upward pressure on demand for services. The funding from these grants is fully committed.

In terms of efficient provision I am able to say that the services our staff and contracted partners provide to support the homeless is exceptional and I am in no doubt that our staff have always stepped up to the challenges facing the District. We are preparing for the launch of new legislation which begins on 4 April and we are supporting staff with a new IT system, quality training, better joined up working between Departments particularly between Housing Options and Customer Services and improved administrative support to meet the very extensive requirements and the change in approach expected by government legislation.

14. Councillor Davies

Do you envisage any problems with your Early Help strategy in terms of expecting workers to cover the whole age range from 0-19 so that families have one key worker? Many employees will understandably be specialist in their own roles, e.g. early years and may not have the skills, experience and desire to work with young adults.

Answer

We want to support staff to maintain a degree of specialism and build up their skills and experience working across the broader 0-19 age range and whole family. We are developing a self-assessment tool which workers and managers can use to map their specialisms and identify where they will build additional skills over time. This will be on-going and include training, mentoring, shadowing and self-directed learning.

The new model has been shaped by the consultation process and through listening to the views of service users, who have expressed the view that there are benefits to be gained from having a single point of contact.

15. Councillor Swallow

Do we have enough places in the District for people fleeing domestic violence? I am concerned there aren't enough domestic violence places for parents with children.

Answer

Supporting Women and Families experiencing Domestic Abuse is a priority across the District. The Council does this in a number of ways;

- a. Strategic Planning & formal partnership working
- b. Direct service delivery
- c. Commissioning specialist services

The goal is to support householders; families with or without children to become independent of their abusers in stable accommodation, ideally in their own homes and communities.

The emphasis is on removing the aggressor to alternative accommodation, rather than bringing additional turmoil and trauma onto the victim and children by making them move.

Everyone who needs to flee domestic abuse is found somewhere to go; a place of safety.

When those experiencing violence (with or without children) have to flee their home, refuge provision is provided by the local Woman's Aid organisation, this includes specialist support for children as well resettlement/rehousing on three different sites. There are currently 24 bed spaces available in 8 projects across the district (inclusive of non-specialist accommodation for homeless families as well and the refuges).

For many the main concern is stopping the violence which is why there are a range of options funded as detailed below.

Householders, who need to leave, can do so and access temporary accommodation in refuges or other temporary accommodation settings.

The services available include a '*sanctuary scheme*' helping families and/or single people to stay in their homes. This often involves the use of Civil and Criminal interventions as well as 'target hardening homes and property' (the installation of new locks and/or panic alarms etc.) to stop perpetrator access as well as other safety planning advice and activities. The services offer direct support work for adults and children including:

Navigation through legal remedies, injunctions; family law; custody etc.

Income stabilisation; welfare advice; debt etc.

Bradford's approach to domestic abuse was inspected in February 2017 through the Joint Targeted Area Inspection. The report from four inspectorates - Ofsted, CQC (health), HMIC (police) and HMIP (probation) states: "In Bradford children and parents who experience domestic abuse have access to a wide range of services to meet differing needs. This includes a number of commissioned services as well as voluntary sector organisations that offer services. Effective commissioning of their specialist skills and knowledge adds considerable value to services offered to families. The range of services is impressive, including specialist workers to meet the needs of diverse communities and services for men who are victims of domestic abuse. One mother spoke powerfully of how the group work provided by one such organisation has helped her understand the impact of domestic abuse on her son and helps her to be aware of early signs of potential abuse in new relationships."

16. **Councillor Swallow**

Could the Portfolio Holder please find out how social housing landlords across the District make sure that properties are sufficiently insulated and what is the Council's

role in this? We need to protect our citizens as far as possible from the challenges of fuel poverty?

Answer

All social housing providers have a responsibility to ensure that their properties meet a decent standard for thermal comfort.

The Labour Government's renowned Decent Homes Programme made huge strides in its aims to bring the country's social housing stock up to a decent standard and it demonstrated the kind of transformative progress that can be made when this issue is treated as a priority on a national government level and given the investment it needs. We would be happy to work with the government and other partners on such a scheme in the future.

Locally, social housing landlords can take advantage of the Better Homes Yorkshire framework and the Council are able to coordinate joint bids for funding for insulation schemes where opportunities arise.

If there are any particular issues with any particular landlord we are happy to support councillors to speak to the landlord and address the situation.

It should be noted that the Council has also worked with partners to deliver schemes providing external wall insulation for householders at risk of fuel poverty living in hard to treat 'right to buy' private sector properties on predominantly social housing estates.

17. Councillor Davies

Has the detailed proposal on the Prevention and Early Help consultation sent to all Councillors by the Chair of Governors of Midland Road Nursery School been fully considered and, if so, what are your thoughts on it?

Answer

Yes, all responses to the consultation have been considered and independently reviewed. All the responses will be considered on 3rd April at the Executive.

18. Councillor Swallow

Would the Portfolio Holder please outline which activities the Council is working on (or partnering with) to commemorate the 70th anniversary on June 22nd of the docking of the Windrush bringing the first Caribbean immigrants to the UK?

Answer

Bradford has a number of events planned to celebrate Windrush 2018.

Windrush Generations – Standing on their Shoulders is the theme chosen for the Bradford Windrush celebrations over the weekend of 22-24 June, 2018. A planning team has been pulled together made up of representatives from the diverse African and Caribbean communities across the District. The team has been tasked with creating a programme that reflects Bradford's BME communities and Bradford's own

Windrush generation.

- 22 June 2018 will mark the 70th anniversary of the arrival of Empire Windrush a ship carrying passengers from the Caribbean who were looking to help re-build the mother country after the 2nd World War. These people were loyal to the mother country and as British passport holders many took the opportunity to come across and help in whatever way they could. People were promised jobs, and accommodation in return for a wage. Some were plain curious and just wanted to see another part of the world for a change.

It's an opportunity to remember the achievements of black and minority ethnic communities in the reconstruction of Britain after WW2 in key roles in the public sector, NHS, industry, faith, business, construction and various roles in public life in making Britain great reflecting cultural diversity and secular society today.

Bradford Council will host a civic reception for key elders within the Bradford's African and Caribbean community. Currently the invitations have been extended to High Commissioners or country representatives from the Caribbean. Thus far we have confirmation that High Commissioners from Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago will be in attendance at the reception.

- Saturday, 23 June 2018 a stage will be erected in City Park. The stage will be shared by African and Caribbean communities. There will be a headline act yet to be confirmed but talks are taking place with individuals who are well respected in the communities and have a link to Bradford. There will also be performances from local people.

There will be a number of stalls around the square that will provide cultural food, arts, crafts and information. The stalls will be staffed by both community people and organisations such as the Armed forces.

- Sunday 24th June 2018 – Centenary Square will see a combined churches event. This will bring together churches from across West Yorkshire as part of the Windrush celebration.

In the interest of partnership working Bradford City of Sanctuary and refugee and Asylum seekers groups are working in partnership to produce a joint event, as the period also covers Refugee Week.

The Windrush celebration will be an amalgamation of two community groups coming together to produce one shared outcome.

19. **Councillor Dunbar**

Would the Leader join me in congratulating Thornton resident Fiona Broadfoot and the other sex abuse survivors who have just won a landmark legal case which quashes criminal convictions (which were brought about as a result of being groomed into prostitution) that have blighted their lives ever since?

Answer

Yes, absolutely. I have huge respect for her and congratulate her on the legal success. She has liberated women who were similarly wrongly labelled and therefore the impact of the change she has made is tremendous. I'd also like to thank her for the empowering work she does locally with young girls to raise their self esteem and build aspirations.

20. Councillor Riaz Ahmed

Can the Leader of Council advise Members on her plans for the "Peoples Palace", how much has been spent on developing these plans and when will they be made public?

Answer

In 2020 we'll be opening the National Rugby League Museum in City Hall after we won a national competition to host it. We're looking to use this opportunity to also see how we can open City Hall to members of the public as part of a City Hall heritage project. We are submitting a bid to Heritage Lottery Fund.

To date we have spent almost £90k to develop Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage 1 drawings to enable the bid to be submitted. This is to inform our application to bid for significant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. We expect to hear from the Heritage Lottery Fund later this year.

21. Councillor Dunbar

Would the Leader join me in agreeing that proposed changes to pension arrangements by Universities UK of lecturers in institutions across the country will cause disruption to students' education and could see a recruitment and retention crisis in the sector?

Answer

Education is key to the future success of this district, so we hugely value the work of all education professionals, from those who work with our youngest children in nursery education right up to those who work in further and higher education. I therefore hope that the unions and Universities UK are able to reach a satisfactory agreement as soon as possible, which protects the working rights of lecturers.

Supplementary Question

I would just like to ask the Leader bearing in mind that a reasonable offer has yet to be determined by Universities UK, would she agree that they need to come back with an improved offer because their original offer would see some of our hardworking lecturers lose £10,000 per year?

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Dunbar. Yes absolutely. A tax on pensions is something we have seen far too frequently as of late and I would really welcome a change of heart in this instance. Thank you.

22. Councillor Riaz

Does the Leader believe that the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum regarding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) relationship understanding in Bradford and District schools should be vigorously adhered to?

Answer

Teaching about the diversity that exists in the world is vital. It means that children from all families feel included and helps all young people learn about the importance of respecting all people regardless of their sexuality.

In schools where pupils receive an inclusive education, LGBT pupils are less likely to experience bullying. They are also more likely to report feeling safe, welcome and happy at school. Pupils should be well informed and this is paramount, so that efforts to ensure their long-term wellbeing and to tackle prejudice are not undermined

Inclusive RSE will foster good relations between pupils, tackle all types of prejudice – including homophobia – and promote understanding and respect.

The national curriculum makes it compulsory from age 11 onwards that children receive SRE (sex and relationships education). All schools must have a written policy on sex education which they must make available to parents for free.

23. Councillor Dunbar

Would the Portfolio Holder give a full update, by each individual component, of the success of the Get Bradford Working scheme?

Answer

In total the Get Bradford Working programme has now supported **3,104** local people into employment but it has also resulted in new occupationally relevant curriculum, expanded work related learning opportunities, promotion of Apprenticeships to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and young people, and is creating new higher level qualifications and pathways.

There have been seven different strands to Get Bradford Working and three remain active:

The **Employment Opportunities Fund**, which specifically targets Bradford residents who have been out of work for at least six months, has supported 969 individuals into sustained employment.

SkillsHouse engages with employers who have vacancies and supports unemployed people in the district to compete for these vacancies. SkillsHouse has supported **1,072** unemployed individuals into work in over 110 businesses, and achieved World Host status for the City Centre.

SkillsHouse has also recently started to undertake work to upskill underemployed and low paid people in the local workforce.

There are now five **Industrial Centres of Excellence** (ICE) in a range of sectors¹. The ICE enable partners to ensure that the curriculum, equipment and learning pathways that students experience remain relevant, addressing current and future skills gaps.

Across the five ICE there are **2,974** students on programme and over 300 businesses have engaged with the ICE programme to date, of which, 40 are a Board member of one of the Centres.

Further detail is available from the report to the Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 13 March 2018.

24. **Councillor Love**

Can the Leader of Council tell us what the impact on Bradford will be of the High Court ruling forcing the Government to declare that an additional 33 local authorities have to do more to combat poor air quality?

Answer

Last year we fully expected to receive Government funding to improve air quality in the Bradford district. Our neighbours in Leeds were announced as a Clean Air Zone and received significant funding accordingly to implement it. However Government stepped back from any additional measures which had been rumoured in 33 other local authorities including Bradford district and left us with nothing.

In response to the most recent court ruling Defra asked all the 33 Councils to attend a workshop on 28th February. At this workshop we learned that Bradford will be asked to complete a feasibility study to identify actions which will achieve EU compliance within the shortest timescale possible. This work will have to be completed by June. I am mindful that other local authorities in previous directives have received substantial funding and extensive time to develop such studies. Our representatives at the meeting asked how much resource would be made available for the 33 local authorities. We were told some funding would be available but no amounts have been communicated to us to date.

25. **Councillor Dunbar**

Would the Leader give an update of the work being done by the Council to tackle homelessness?

Answer

The Council prioritises support to the homeless and works closely with partners to ensure that the homeless especially those sleeping rough on our streets receive the support they need to lead as normal a life as possible.

The following homelessness activities are carried out by the Council:

Housing Options (HO) team- the Council has responsibility for social housing

allocations and tackling homelessness. The HO team therefore ensures applicants on the Housing register are banded in line with the Council's Housing Allocations Policy and prioritised for rehousing with our Housing Association partners. In addition the team is responsible for assessing applicants who may be homeless in line with the Housing Act, to provide prevention advice and assistance to those who may become homeless, provide temporary accommodation to those in priority need and to provide permanent accommodation where clients have been found statutory homeless.

Temporary Accommodation- If permanent accommodation is not immediately found for those who are deemed statutory homeless, the Council provides Temporary Accommodation through our commissioned provider Horton Housing to accommodate until permanent accommodation is found. Horton uses Council accommodation, Clergy House and Jermyn Court, as well as Octavia Court (leased from Incommunities) plus a number of dispersed units to house our homeless clients. This is sourced via the Housing Options team.

Housing Related Support Gateway- the HO team also operate the Housing Related Support Gateway and assess applicants for support needs. The aim of the service is to target housing related support to those who need it most. The team coordinate and prioritise support (accommodation based or floating support) to homeless households in order to prevent homelessness. The support is provided by a number of Council commissioned support providers (as shown in the next paragraph).

Support Contracts- The contracts include two Multiple Needs contracts, General need and offenders, Young People at Risk, and Domestic Violence Refuges.

No Second Night out Service- the Council funds Developing Initiatives for Support in the Community (DISC) to provide shelter to rough sleepers and work with them to move them on to settled accommodation. DISC has 12 bed spaces in a direct access hostel and capacity for a further 5 for destitute rough sleepers. During 16/17 DISC accommodated 253 clients in total at its hostel. Out of these it assisted 130 people to secure settled accommodation. It has a street outreach team which does regular night sweeps to locate rough sleepers and to offer accommodation and support to them.

Cold Weather provision- DISC also coordinate cold weather provision working with partners to improve capacity during cold nights. CWP is triggered when temperatures fall to zero and below.

Day Shelter – provided by the Salvation Army for the Council at its Leeds Road premises. Provides basic support needs for rough sleepers such as clothes washing facilities, showers, opportunity to obtain clean clothing, food or to utilise the computer suite. They work with rough sleepers to address their issues and assist in moving them on to independence working with partners such as DISC etc. to make this happen. Twice a week the Salvation Army carries out outreach work in Bradford City Centre to help rough sleepers.

Private Rented Housing team- The Council has a private rented lettings scheme which works with private landlords, ensuring only good quality accommodation is sourced, to provide housing for applicants on the housing register. Low level support such as help claiming housing benefits etc. is provided to both the landlord and the tenant to ensure the tenancy is sustained. Whilst most clients housed in the private rented sector may not be homeless, there will be many who are vulnerable or at risk of homelessness. This is sourced via the Housing Options team.

Bradford Cares – The council is the lead on this multi agency response to addressing the issues of rough sleeping which brings together a wide range of organisations to respond to and try and address the issue of rough sleeping and begging in the city centre.

The Council also works with a range of partners and services to support the homeless such as Bevan Health Care which provides health care for the very vulnerable including a street medicine team. Bevan also has a Pathway Team a dedicated group of Health and Social care professionals that assist patients who are homeless or vulnerably housed. They ensure that the appropriate discharge plans are put into place for each patient for when they leave hospital. The team work with patients disadvantaged by access to health and housing and who may have complex/multiple health needs including physical, mental and substance misuse issues.

Other partners the council works with include Bridge, Emmaus, Riverside, Salvation Army, Cyrenians, WYFI etc. The latter WYFI, West Yorkshire – Finding Independence (WY-FI) is made up of a partnership of 7 organisations across West Yorkshire including: [DISC](#) (lead partner), [Bridge](#), [Barca-Leeds](#), [Community Links](#), [Foundation](#), [Spectrum CIC](#), and [Touchstone](#). With a team of mentors WYFI work with clients with multiple and complex needs to ensure their effective engagement in services to enable them achieve their personal goals and aspirations.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for that Leader. I just want to ask, we do a great job despite the cuts this Council has received in homelessness services. In light of the fact that homelessness has doubled since 2010 would the Leader agree that the Government needs to do more to regulate the private rented sector to ensure hard working people are not turfed out of their home whenever some private landlords feel the need to do so.

Councillor Ross-Shaw

Yes absolutely Councillor Dunbar. One of the things that always comes through in the housing agenda is the condition of private rented sector and the trouble we have in making sure that stocks up to standard. When Labour was in Government we had decent homes standard so a lot of the social housing and social housing I lived in when I was growing up got improved quite radically. We have not been able to match that in the private sector and there definitely needs to be more done in that area.

26. Councillor Dunbar

Would the Leader give a full break down, by Parliamentary Constituency, of the numbers of people and families affected by the benefit cap, what its impact has been and what support is available to those struggling as a result?

Answer

The current figures for claims affected by the Benefit Cap are:

Constituency	Cap cases	Private landlord	Social Landlord	Total number of children
Bradford East	264	169	95	864
Bradford South	255	143	112	859
Bradford West	188	116	72	652
Keighley	82	44	38	280
Shipley	54	30	24	171
Overall	843	502	341	2826

The benefits cap is just one of a number of welfare reforms this Government have introduced and it is not possible to identify its impact in isolation.

The overall impact of these welfare reforms has been dramatic, with many of our residents struggling to make ends meet - this is especially true of families.

Until universal credit is fully introduced, the impact of the benefits cap is seen in reduced support with housing costs, so the most appropriate means of support is via Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)

In April 2017 the Council revised its DHP scheme to reflect this impact on families and chose to prioritise the use of its funding to support vulnerable families.

In the period from April 2017 to December 2017, 917 families were awarded extra help with their rental payments, an increase of 328 (or 64%) on the same period last year.

This reflects the increased need caused by the benefits cap, and the Council's commitment to using its limited funding to support those most in need

In further recognition of this need, the Council has recently agreed an extension of its local welfare provision. This financial safety net exists to help the neediest with interest free access to essential household goods or support with food or fuel costs.

The Council has also worked closely with the larger social landlords as they take steps to support their tenants who have been affected by the welfare reforms. Their presence on the District wide Anti-Poverty Coordination Group helps to ensure the key stakeholders work together to ensure support is available.

Supplementary Question

I am just a little bit concerned about this. Thanks for the answer but with the Spring statement offering little hope to the most in need is the Leader worried that of the budget cuts, the welfare cuts announced since 2015, 75% of them have yet to come into effect so it is obviously a massive concern so what can we do to put more pressure on the Government to make sure the most that need in this district are protected?

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Absolutely Councillor Dunbar. In fact one of the motions we have got on the agenda looks very much at vulnerable people and how we are supporting them. So obviously in Council we are doing what we can so the local welfare assistance programme is something we have reviewed as an Executive recently and are doing what we can with the meagre resources we have got to support people in the most dire circumstances and that is something we will continue to do. We will effectively happily lobby with other local authorities through the Local Government Association and through charity sector to make sure they realise how urgent this need is in some communities and yet it is the thing that really worries me. Vulnerable people and how they are going to be supported through these austere times that we are still going through. Seven years in, another three years to go and then what. It does worry me absolutely. Anything we can do to support them and support the Government to hear that message I am happy to support.

27. Councillor Mike Pollard

In accordance with Section 7.8 of Document "AO" presented to the Executive on 9 January 2018, it is noted that the Business Rates Base for 2018/19, after taking into account all appropriate allowances for bad debt, appeals and costs of collection, is £129.4 million. The small additional surplus brought forward from 2017/18, cited in Section 8.1 of the same document, brings the Business Rates total to £129.6 million.

Section 12 goes on to note "Latest Developments, i.e. Bradford's participation in a 100% Business Rates Retention pilot for 2018/19 which changes the structure of the Budget and also mentions an additional distribution of £1.8 million from the Leeds City Region Pool. Against this addition we must offset the 1% Business Rates share accruing to the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. These adjustments do, "prima facie", produce net Business Rates income of £130.1 million.

Could the Leader of Council please itemise the further factors taken into account which resulted in a Business Rates contribution to Council's Cumulative Budget 2018/19 of £126.693 million – a variance of approximately £3.4 million?

Answer

A report was presented to Executive on 9 January 2018 on the calculation of Bradford's Council Tax Base and Business Rates Base (Document "AO"). At the time Document "AO" was published the 100% Business Rate Pilot had only just been announced and further work was required to finalise the position. In addition, there have been further refinements of the estimates for reliefs and discounts.

The Government makes decisions about Business Rates that can be collected within the district, such as the level of discounts to small businesses. The Council receives compensation for the cost of these decisions in the form of grants from the Government. These grants and other contributions comprise other Business Rate related income. When the full picture of all Business Rate related income is taken into account, there is an increase in overall income of £5.5m as outlined in Document P, the Council's Revenue Estimates for 2018-19 that went to Full Council on 22 February 2018.

Just looking at Document "AO", Appendix B shows the Business Rate income collected within the district and how this is redistributed to the Council, Government and the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. Appendix B shows a figure of £129.4m compared to the figure of £126.693m shown in the Council Budget.

The differences are shown in the table below:

		£m	£m	£m	£m
Document AO, Appendix B2, line o	1	129.438			
Anticipated 2017-18 surplus, line a	2	0.157			
Document AO, Appendix B2, line p	3		129.595		
Less 1% share to the WYFA, incorporating 2017-18 surplus	4		-1.296		
Less Government share of the 2017-18 surplus	5		-0.078		
Bradford Council equivalent 99% Local Share	6			128.221	
Increase in Rateable Value of Bradford Businesses	7			0.200	
Increase in reliefs/discounts	8			-1.013	
Reduction in estimated losses on collection	9			0.014	
Reduction in amounts set aside for appeals 2018-19	10			0.009	
Reduction in cost of collection cost	11			0.009	
Cost due to a projected 2017-18 deficit, rather than surplus	12			-0.770	
Reduction in share paid over to WYFA	13			0.023	
Bradford Council Budget for 99% Local Share	14				<u>126.693</u>

The movements are described below:

- (1) This is the budgeted distribution from the Collection Fund, excluding the element relating to the projected 2017-18 surplus.
- (2) The projected 2017-18 surplus, per Document "AO".
- (3) Document "AO", Appendix B2, line P: this shows the total projected 2018-19 Business Rates total, as identified in the question to Full Council. This includes an ongoing 2018-19 Business Rates total (£129.439m) and a small projected surplus for 2017-18 (£0.156m).
- (4) The 1% share of the Business Rates total which is paid over to the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. As noted in the question, this amount has to be offset against the Business Rates total.
- (5) This is the Government's 50% share of the 2017-18 projected surplus originally projected in Document "AO". The Government takes a 50% share of the 2017-18 surplus, regardless of the introduction of 100% Business Rates Retention in 2018-19.
- (6) This is the Council's comparable 99% share of total Business Rates, based on Document "AO".
- (7) This is the increase in the rateable value of Bradford's businesses. One reason for this increase was that the Business Rates multiplier was calculated in Document AO as 0.479p. However, the multiplier was rounded to 0.480p for the final Council Budget, which is the figure that will be used in 2018-19. There was also a small increase in the Rateable Value from the November data used for Document AO.
- (8) Businesses are eligible for discounts, known as reliefs, on the Business Rates they pay. The projected cost of the reliefs was increased for the Council budget compared to Document AO. The Council is reimbursed for the cost of some of these reliefs via a grant, known as a Section 31 grant.
- (9) A small change on the projected cost of the bad debt provision and write offs.
- (10) A small change in the projected cost for the amounts set aside to fund appeals.
- (11) A small reduction in the administration grant for the cost of collection. The cost is funded from Business Rates income and therefore has to be deducted.
- (12) The small 2017-18 surplus projected in Document AO was changed to small deficit projection for the Council budget. This was due to a slightly more cautious approach after some large refunds for appeals were paid out in December and January. The actual 2017-18 position will be finalised at the end of April 2018.
- (13) A small adjustment to reflect the reduction in the amount paid over to the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (WYFRA). As the total Business Rate income has reduced, compared to document AO, the 1% share paid over to

WYFRA has also reduced. The total amount paid over implied from the Council budget is £1.273m (£1.296 per (2) less £0.023m (per 11), which is £1.273m).

- (14) Amount per the Council budget, representing 99% of total Business Rate income, after adjustments for provisions and the cost of collection.

Supplementary Question

With regard to the document that I cited in my question that went to Executive on 9 January, I appreciate that details of the 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot was necessarily a bit scanty in that report but could the Leader please advise where the £1.8m Leeds City Region pool windfall in quotes was buried within the budget statement summary.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

I thought the question was very comprehensive. I thought you would be satisfied with that. It was not just the business rate pool money, it was the additional business rates income that was coming in as well of course. So that may have confused matters from your point of view if you look at it line by line. So when we were looking at redistributing some of that additional money that we did not expect to receive, it was the two elements that came in, not just that £1.8m from the business rates pool. Of course the other half of that has gone into the Business Rates Pool at the City Region level and that has yet to be spent and that is what we will all be bidding towards. If you cannot see it in that line in that document, I am happy to get officers to go through with you line by line and they will be able to point you in the right direction with that but rest assured it is all there, all the dots are in the right place. Thank you very much.

28. Councillor Farley

Could the Portfolio Holder tell us how the launch for the District's economic growth strategy went here in Bradford and what's planned for the London launch and beyond?

Answer

The Bradford Economic Strategy was launched on 6th March at Kala Sangam, opening with young musicians from the Bradford Catholic Youth Choir and Drumline.

Attendees included key partners and business leaders including Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City council, Morrison's, Bradford Live, Carlisle Business Centre, Exa Networks, Bradford Trident, Barclays, Yeme Architects, ICT, Meyer Bergman, the University of Bradford, Assembly Bradford and the Chamber of Commerce.

Around 90 people heard the keynote speaker Sir Richard Leese speak on the importance of Northern Cities collaborating and working in their City regions to enhance their economies. In particular he stressed the importance of a city centre Northern Powerhouse Rail station for Bradford and the opportunities better connectivity and partnership working in Bradford would give cities like Manchester.

David Baldwin, Chair of the Bradford Economic Partnership, highlighted why this is the right time for the District to drive investment and support into our four key local opportunities: our young and enterprising population, our distinctive offer, our growth potential and our globally connected district.

He outlined the key ambition of the strategy for Bradford to become the fastest growing economy in the UK, increasing our GVA by £4bn by 2030, creating an additional 20,000 jobs and upskilling 43,000 people to NVQ3 level or above.

A panel of business leaders talked about the importance of Bradford District's young people, building on skills and life chances and using Bradford District's built, heritage and cultural assets to their best advantage for businesses, visitors and residents.

The London launch is taking place on Wednesday 21 March 2018. This launch offers a chance to raise the profile of the district with current and future investors and developers. Speakers for London include the entrepreneur Piers Linney, Niamh McBreen and AMP Capital Investors, owners of Leeds Bradford Airport.

Over the summer we will be holding a series of Economic Strategy Roadshows across the district, in partnership with business leaders, to outline how the Economic Strategy can deliver for the district. Events will be held in Ilkley, Keighley and along the Airedale corridor with more considered as necessary.

29. Councillor Lal

Will the Portfolio Holder give a progress update on the plan for a Business Improvement District in Bradford?

Answer

The General Manager of the Broadway, Ian Ward, has established a BID Development Group for Bradford City Centre. Ian brings a wealth of experience as former Chair of the Liverpool City Central BID. The Bradford development group comprises around 30 key business operators and stakeholders and meets on a monthly basis. During September to November 2017 City Centre businesses were asked to complete a questionnaire to ascertain support for a BID in Bradford. 70% were in support, 22% undecided and just 8% against. This has resulted in a full business plan being developed.

Currently in draft form in readiness for consultation with the development board and businesses, the final version of the BID Business Plan will be presented in mid June 2018 and will be voted on by the businesses during September and October 2018. Should there be a yes vote, the BID would go live on 1st December 2018, generating circa £2.5 million during the five year term, with the BID demise line will including in the region of 600 businesses. The BID will allow a unified voice for the city centre, with the four "pillars of success" which are Safe, Alive, Promoted and Clean.

www.bradfordbid.co.uk

www.bradfordbid.co.uk/downloads

30. Councillor Griffiths

The Sunday Times carried the details of an investigation into the organisation West Yorkshire MESMAC including the referral of the organisation to the Police by Leeds City Council. Can the Portfolio Holder advise Members of Council of concerns raised with or by Bradford Council and what action has been taken?

Answer

There has never been any allegations made against MESMAC or any evidence of inappropriate relationships in Bradford. When the Leeds complaint came to light the matter was raised by Bradford Council staff with MESMAC. Public Health staff have scrutinised MESMAC policies and procedures. The matter was referred to the Police Service (and) but no outcome has been provided to either Leeds or Bradford Safeguarding Children Boards at this time.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for your reply Leader. Can I just clarify there is a minor typo which I am not concerned about but in the last sentence of your reply you say the matter is referred to the police service. Do you mean by that are you referring to the point of the question that it had been referred to the police service by Leeds City Council, there has been no referral to the police service by Bradford separately to that one?

Councillor Val Slater

Yes it was referred by Leeds to West Yorkshire Police. I have obviously been in Leeds, it went to the Leeds Division. I have a got here a recent statement that was sent to MESMAC from the police and what it does say is concerns were raised with Leeds City Council, concerns raised were referred to West Yorkshire Police. An investigation has been conducted in relation to the information. West Yorkshire Police were unable to substantiate any of the concerns raised and it goes on to confirm that they are firmly committed to safeguarding people. So I hope that gives you the answer and thank you for giving me the opportunity at my last meeting to stand up and say something. Thank you.

31. Councillor Farley

Can the Portfolio Holder outline the benefits of a public sector hub to Keighley and why the capital money cannot be used for revenue services?

Answer

The public sector hub is a great opportunity to put hundreds of jobs right into the heart of Keighley town centre and is strongly supported by the business community in Keighley.

The hub would see the Council and other public sector partners co-locate in the same building as part of the One Public Estate national programme. This can help reduce running costs for all organisations and also improve service delivery through closer partnership working.

Existing empty buildings are often not fit for purpose for a modern, office unit and can't accommodate the amount of staff we are looking to move. Services that might move into the new purpose designed hub will vacate other premises freeing up

space for re-use or redevelopment. Commercial confidentiality prevents the naming of the services in discussion with the Council.

However, I can confirm that Keighley Library and Keighley Town Hall are not part of this proposal so would not move.

The hub represents a valuable town centre use as well as convenience for future service users, in a sustainable travel location. Train and bus stations are close by plus Keighley benefits from town centre parking facilities.

Town centre jobs are invaluable to local businesses as they support the daytime and evening economy as workers buy their lunch locally, pop out to run errands on their lunch break and stay in the area after work to socialise.

Capital funding is agreed by the Council on the basis that it will deliver or remove something, often a building, and that this cost is a one-off.

On-going services are paid for through revenue funding with an expectation that the Council will need to commit further revenue in future years to continue its service delivery.

Capital money cannot be used for revenue purposes and even if you could use it in that manner then in the following years you would still need to find additional funding to support the service as you will have spent the capital budget but without the benefit of producing an asset. The end result is that services would still be cut but you would have nothing to show for your capital budget.

By investing in more efficient accommodation we can reduce our running costs which makes our services more efficient to run.

32. Councillor Brown

Can you explain why Children's Services officers failed to attend the first SEND consultation in Keighley?

Answer

This was an error in communication. Officers have already apologised to those attendees who expected an event and turned up.

Supplementary Question

Could I just say thank you from Councillor Ali and myself for the apology but can I ask how you manage to identify all those other attendees who were turned away from the venue of this very important consultation?

Councillor Imran Khan

Obviously when we go out to consultation we ask people to register so we can only identify those people that have registered to come and they were informed that there was a genuine mistake and we have apologised to them. In terms of others I do not know.

33. Councillor Bacon

Can the Portfolio Holder set out what the Council has done to support green spaces across the district, in particular in Keighley?

Answer

The Replacement Unitary Development Plan (RUDP) identifies existing green space to be protected. The Core Strategy (Adopted July 2017), in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), sets out policies to protect existing open space and policies seeking improvements (Policy EN1) linked to new development including new on site/off site provision, improvements to existing depending on the nature of the development and local needs (including use of Section 106 agreements to secure improvements and financial contributions).

The bi-annual Section 106 Monitoring Report considered by the Regulatory and Appeals Committee on 9 November 2017 sets out the contributions received since 2009 for a range of mitigation including Recreation open space, set out by Parliamentary Constituency. The following extract sets out the contributions for open space:

	Bradford East	Bradford West	Bradford South	Shipley	Keighley	Total
Open space	£224,760	£255,086	£779,935	£278,678	£369,346	£1,907,806

The Keighley Area Committee held on 14 September 2017 considered the annual report for the devolved Parks & Green Spaces Service reviews activity during the previous year and also considered the significant issues that will have an effect over the following 12 months with options where available for future service delivery, investment and savings. This sets out the range of assets and facilities managed by the Council.

Section 2.4 of the report sets out new works delivered in the previous 12 months including the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People restoration of Cliffe Castle. The £ 4.5 million restoration of Keighley's iconic park includes the provision of new glasshouses, a café and magnificent palm house along with restoration of the fountains, bandstand and grounds.

Further investment green spaces across the Keighley constituency include Addingham Recreation Ground improvements to MACA surfacing, provision of new benches and picnic area. Cross Roads Park, working with the friends of group, designs for a new Multi Use Games Area and Skate park design. Other schemes include drainage at Silsden Rugby Pitch, new play areas at Hainworth and Braithwaite and development of a project at Devonshire Park.

34. Councillor Ellis

Is it reasonable that residents of Stable Mews Cottingley, some of whom are quite elderly have to carry their household waste and recycling several hundred yards along an unlit road to a communal bin site?

Answer

The siting of these bins has been considered on three separate site visits with one of the Council's Operational Managers and it was decided that the location of the bins was the most suitable now these properties have moved from a rural collection onto a 26 tonne alternate week collection. There is help available to any resident who requires an assisted collection, details of which are on our website. These details have also been made available to the residents from the properties in this location who have contacted the Council.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for your answer. Can I ask are you satisfied that this Council is carrying out its statutory duties under Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Ellis for your detailed knowledge of the law there. I am not as knowledgeable about it as you are there. Obviously we do our utmost to support people particularly with disabilities so if people need a bin collecting obviously there is an assistance scheme which they can register for and I would imagine that anybody who is elderly, infirm or disability should be able to register for that and therefore should be able to have that assistance with their bin. If it is somebody and by all means contact Councillor Ferriby with the actual case that you are concerned about and I am sure we will do our utmost to support that resident to make sure they are not inconvenienced.

35. Councillor Shaheen

Could the Portfolio Holder explain to me how children whose parents decide to home educate are monitored? How do we make sure that parents register correctly for home schooling?

Answer

Bradford takes a proactive approach to children who are educated at home; although legislation in this area gives a council limited powers. Parents are not required to register or seek approval from the local authority to educate their children at home. Local Authorities have no statutory duties in relation to monitoring the quality of home education on a routine basis. Under Section 437 (1) of the Education Act 1996, local authorities shall intervene if it appears that parents are not providing a suitable education. Prior to action under Section 437, local authorities are encouraged to address the situation informally.

Bradford keeps a register of all parents who have informed the LA that they are home educating, and all pupils who have been removed from a school roll to home educate, and makes contact with all of these parents. Although parents are under no duty to respond to such enquiries most do so. Officers risk assess students based on information from contributing partners such as Children's Social Care, and where we have safeguarding concerns then this is shared with our multi agency partners and welfare visits are made using LA duties under section 175 (1) of the Education Act 2002 (to safeguard and promote the welfare of children) . These powers are limited and the LA does not, for example, have the power to enter the homes or otherwise see children for the purpose of monitoring Elective Home Education (EHE) unless these is a clear safeguarding issue.

Bradford undertakes daily monitoring of the home educated register. Officers work to address concerns both informally and formally where they have a suspicion that reasonable and sufficient education is not taking place for a child or children. Since January 2018 the EHE Team have initiated 21 School Attendance Orders to start the process of admitting children onto a school's roll where the LA has not been satisfied that sufficient or suitable education is taking place. More in depth analysis of EHE data is resulting in the LA working more closely with partner agencies to identify areas of risk for EHE children supporting reintegration into education. The EHE team monitors which schools children attend prior to becoming home educated, and where there appears to be a larger than expected number, works with school management teams to understand and challenge this where appropriate.

36. Councillor Reid

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport advise Members of Council what plans he has, in recognition of the growing number of local authorities in the United Kingdom who are bringing in landlord licensing schemes not confined to Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), to instruct the Chief Executive and relevant officers to produce an outline feasibility report for the use of a self-funding landlord licensing scheme in Bradford?

Answer

Mandatory licensing for certain HMO properties already exist and late last year the government announced that they would be extending the criteria, though we are still awaiting further guidance and criteria on what this will look like.

On the wider issue of licensing in general, in March 2015 the Government extended the conditions for the designation of selective licensing schemes and consider selective licensing for all privately rented accommodation as very much a last resort.

The Secretary of State's consent is now required for the implementation of any selective licensing scheme which covers more than 20% of a local housing authority's geographical area, or more than 20% of the privately rented homes in the district area. Nicknamed 'the 20/20 rule', the new Approval significantly curtails the scope of established consent for selective licensing schemes.

Before considering selective licensing the authority must:

- Only make a designation if the area has a high proportion of property in the private rented sector (more than 19% of the stock is suggested)
- First identify the objective or objectives that a designation will help it achieve i.e. whether the area is suffering problems that are caused by or attributable to any of the criteria for making the designation
- Consider whether there are any other courses of action available to it that would achieve the same objective or objectives as the proposed scheme without the need for the designation to be made
- Local housing authorities are also required to conduct a full consultation for a minimum of 10 weeks to include landlords, agents, tenants and neighbouring authorities

- Only where there is no practical and beneficial alternative to a designation should an application to establish such a scheme be made.

Licensing all privately rented properties is only one tool that can be used to improve or maintain standards. The Council already delivers a number of services aimed at improving conditions across the private rented sector. This has included a number of highly successful proactive enforcement projects targeted at certain areas of the District where there have been high concentrations of privately rented accommodation and, most recently has attracted Department for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (formerly the Department for Communities and Local Government) funding to deliver a project targeted at privately rented flats located above commercial premises on key arterial routes.

In light of anticipated changes to mandatory licensing we await further detail on what impact this may have and our existing approach to housing standards, where we focus our resource on targeted interventions as outlined above.

However, the Housing Service continues to closely work with landlords and tenants on both a reactive and proactive basis whilst keeping overall conditions in the sector and our approach to them under review.

37. **Councillor Shaheen**

Homelessness is a growing concern within our District. What are we doing as a District to help and support this?

Answer

The Council prioritises support to the homeless and works closely with partners to ensure that the homeless especially those sleeping rough on our streets receive the support they need to lead as normal a life as possible.

The following homelessness activities are carried out by the Council:

Housing Options (HO) team - the Council has responsibility for social housing allocations and tackling homelessness. The HO team therefore ensures applicants on the Housing register are banded in line with the Council's Housing Allocations Policy and prioritised for rehousing with our Housing Association partners. In addition the team is responsible for assessing applicants who may be homeless in line with the Housing Act, to provide prevention advice and assistance to those who may become homeless, provide temporary accommodation to those in priority need and to provide permanent accommodation where clients have been found statutory homeless.

Temporary Accommodation- If permanent accommodation is not immediately found for those who are deemed statutory homeless, the Council provides Temporary Accommodation through our commissioned provider Horton Housing to accommodate until permanent accommodation is found. Horton uses Council accommodation, Clergy House and Jermyn Court, as well as Octavia Court (leased from Incommunities) plus a number of dispersed units to house our homeless clients. This is sourced via the Housing Options team.

Housing Related Support Gateway- the HO team also operate the Housing Related Support Gateway and assess applicants for support needs. The aim of the service is to target housing related support to those who need it most. The team coordinate and prioritise support (accommodation based or floating support) to homeless households in order to prevent homelessness. The support is provided by a number of Council commissioned support providers (as shown in the next paragraph).

Support Contracts- The contracts include two Multiple Needs contracts, General need and offenders, Young People at Risk, and Domestic Violence Refuges.

No Second Night out Service- the Council funds Developing Initiatives for Support in the Community (DISC) to provide shelter to rough sleepers and work with them to move them on to settled accommodation. DISC has 12 bed spaces in a direct access hostel and capacity for a further 5 for destitute rough sleepers. During 16/17 DISC accommodated 253 clients in total at its hostel. Out of these it assisted 130 people to secure settled accommodation. It has a street outreach team which does regular night sweeps to locate rough sleepers and to offer accommodation and support to them.

Cold Weather provision- DISC also coordinate cold weather provision working with partners to improve capacity during cold nights. CWP is triggered when temperatures fall to zero and below.

Day Shelter – provided by the Salvation Army for the Council at its Leeds Road premises. Provides basic support needs for rough sleepers such as clothes washing facilities, showers, opportunity to obtain clean clothing, food or to utilise the computer suite. They work with rough sleepers to address their issues and assist in moving them on to independence working with partners such as DISC etc. to make this happen. Twice a week the Salvation Army carries out outreach work in Bradford City Centre to help rough sleepers.

Private Rented Housing team- The Council has a private rented lettings scheme which works with private landlords, ensuring only good quality accommodation is sourced, to provide housing for applicants on the housing register. Low level support such as help claiming housing benefits etc. is provided to both the landlord and the tenant to ensure the tenancy is sustained. Whilst most clients housed in the private rented sector may not be homeless, there will be many who are vulnerable or at risk of homelessness. This is sourced via the Housing Options team.

Bradford Cares – The Council is the lead on this multi agency response to addressing the issues of rough sleeping which brings together a wide range of organisations to respond to and try and address the issue of rough sleeping and begging in the city centre.

The Council also works with a range of partners and services to support the homeless such as Bevan Health Care which provides health care for the very vulnerable including a street medicine team. Bevan also has a Pathway Team a dedicated group of Health and Social care professionals that assist patients who are homeless or vulnerably housed. They ensure that the appropriate discharge plans

are put into place for each patient for when they leave hospital. The team work with patients disadvantaged by access to health and housing and who may have complex/multiple health needs including physical, mental and substance misuse issues.

Other partners the council works with include Bridge, Emmaus, Riverside, Salvation Army, Cyrenians, WYFI etc. The latter WYFI, West Yorkshire – Finding Independence (WY-FI) is made up of a partnership of 7 organisations across West Yorkshire including: [DISC](#) (lead partner), [Bridge](#), [Barca-Leeds](#), [Community Links](#), [Foundation](#), [Spectrum CIC](#), and [Touchstone](#). With a team of mentors WYFI work with clients with multiple and complex needs to ensure their effective engagement in services to enable them achieve their personal goals and aspirations.

Future challenges include further reducing the use of B&B hotels and getting better at meeting the support needs of very chaotic individuals through new models of provision such as Housing First.

38. Councillor Pennington

The national press are advertising a show in February next year at St George's Hall, will it be ready?

Answer

There is no change to the expected reopening date of St George's Hall which is due to reopen at the end of 2018.

Supplementary Question

Note: Councillor Pennington's supplementary question was not captured by the electronic recording so the supplementary question can not be reproduced verbatim but Councillor Pennington asked for the date of the first booking taken for the St George's Hall when it reopens and would the building work be completed before the seasonal festivities?

Councillor Ferriby

Thank you Councillor Pennington. At this moment I cannot give you a date but what I can say is that St George's Hall will open at the end of 2018. As soon as I have any further information I will update all colleagues around this Chamber.

39. Councillor Shaheen

Could the Portfolio Holder explain what work is being done with community/voluntary organisations as there have been major cuts and service delivery is not how it used to be. What are we doing to help and support?

Answer

First I would like to reassure you that we fully recognise the valuable support the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations provide to our communities and our District. Therefore, despite the significant budget cuts the Council has had to make over the past few years we are still supporting the sector to the best of our ability at this time. Examples include:

1. A significant financial contribution to the VCS infrastructure. This includes support to Community Action Bradford and enables them to provide support across the VCS sector through their Voluntary Organisations Support Officers, this includes training, funding advice and governance.
2. Financial support to CNET (Community Empowerment Network Ltd) to run the VCS assembly to ensure that VCS and Community voices are represented across the District
3. Provision of Community buildings grants so that VCS organisations across the District can continue to deliver their activities within the heart of their communities
4. Establishing a VCS Transformation Group. We are working with key partners to develop a long term view of the health of the sector and support VCS groups who are struggling; to change, adapt and grow to meet the needs of the communities we serve in this time of diminishing resources. We will do this by undertaking an assessment with the group (Community Action will do this) and considering the findings with the sector. Support will come in the form of advice and guidance from peers and business partners and in extreme cases may be financial but this will be a last resort.
5. Directly encouraging residents to be make a difference in their communities and neighbourhoods through the People Can initiative.

I also Chair the VCS relationship management where we discuss issues of importance to the Council and the Voluntary and Community sector.

Despite the significant Government cuts, we are still committed to supporting our VCS and working to help them as best we can to become more resilient in the face of austerity.