

COUNCIL 17 JULY 2018

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Universal Credit is now being rolled out across the district. Would the Leader be able to point out the support available for those recipients who will now struggle with the harsh realities of this failed scheme?

Answer

Yes absolutely, we are working hard to ensure that as a local authority we are offering whatever support we can to people who are being affected by the Universal Credit rollout and indeed all of the government's benefits changes of recent years.

We have been working with partners for some time now to ensure the impact of Universal Credit in Bradford is minimised. Members will know that Universal Credit has been available to single, new job seekers since November 2016. Over 4,000 of our residents currently claim it. During this time the Council, along with our partners, have been working hard to understand the likely impact of a wider rollout and made plans to support our families as they too became eligible to claim Universal Credit.

Customers will be supported to make online claims and to manage those claims, at the Council's Customer Service Centres in Bradford and Keighley. There isn't a need to make an appointment, people can just drop in. This support will also be available through a number of partner organisations such as social landlords.

There are also a number of locations where self-service computers are available for those not requiring individual support.

Details are available on the Council's website and in a leaflet available from the three Job Centre Plus offices, local advice centres and social landlords.

Support with personal budgeting is also available to those who need it, to help new recipients deal with the changed arrangements that Universal Credit will require – the main one being a single month household payment, which includes housing costs.

The intention is to support people to manage their monthly payments and prioritise essential bills such as rents/utilities. Budgeting support will be provided by the local authority in partnership with Incommunities. Staff will be present in the three local job centres, appointments will also be available where this is more convenient.

The Council has been a staunch supporter of our local Credit Union, including providing funding so they can support efforts to improve financial inclusion across our district. As part of this, they are developing an account, commonly known as a

'jam-jar account' that will help their members to budget more effectively.

Despite this, there will continue to be situations where more help is required. The Council will retain responsibility for dealing with Discretionary Housing Payments, even for those residents who no longer claim Housing Benefit from us. We have recently amended our policy so that greater priority is given to families with children. Similarly our Local Welfare Assistance scheme has also been updated at the request of the Executive to ensure support is prioritised to the most vulnerable and has the greatest possible impact.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Leader for the detailed answer. In light of the recently released National Audit Office report is it not time for urgent reform of a scheme that is six years behind schedule, has not delivered on the anticipated cost savings and has also left 73% of claimants nationally in debt?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

It has taken an interminable amount of time with the Universal Credit and obviously we have to pick up the pieces at local level when things go wrong. I would like to see more humility from the Government in recognising what has gone wrong with this and what difficulties they have placed a lot of families in around the district who are really grappling to understand how this works and how to manage their monies according to this. Yes certainly recognise the criticisms you make there and would like them acknowledging and addressing by the Government.

2. Councillor Debbie Davies

Following the Born in Bradford report, which stated that 2572 Bradford children need glasses but hadn't been taken to their appointments (having a direct impact on literacy) can the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing advise whether anything is being done to ensure that parents take their responsibilities more seriously?

Answer

The Public Health 0-19 children's services (health visiting and school nursing services) always take eyesight issues in children seriously and signposts families with children who have an identified problem to the relevant service. They will also follow up with families where they have not attended for eye tests for their children, to encourage and support parents to take their responsibilities seriously knowing the impact that poor eyesight has on children's educational attainment and general health and wellbeing.

In addition, the school nurses signpost all children in Reception at school to the orthoptic-led vision screening service delivered by Bradford Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust and will also refer older children as required if an eyesight issue is identified by the school or parents at a later point in time. We are looking at other opportunities to raise the profile of this issue.

Supplementary Question

Do you think those parents who continue to ignore all the efforts which clearly go in to get their children's eyes tested should be investigated for possible issues of more serious child neglect?

Councillor Sarah Ferriby

I am not a qualified person to comment on that. I will seek officers' advice but I can assure you that officers where children are not taken for their eye appointments are followed up and we need to get young people who have eye sight problems picked up as early as possible. I myself started with eye problems at a young age and it was invaluable when reading the board that the teacher used at the front. I will pick that up with officers.

3. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Leeds City Council has agreed 20mph will become the new speed limit for 90 additional areas with signage (rather than traffic calming) to hasten improvements to pedestrian safety and to make Leeds a Child Friendly City.

Can the Portfolio Holder advise the Council what plans they have for following the excellent example set by Leeds Council?

Answer

We have long been supportive of 20mph zones where appropriate as a way of reducing traffic speeds and increasing road and pedestrian safety. There are already nearly 100 such zones across the district covering hundreds of streets and where opportunities arise to introduce more then we will look at them and are happy to work with members on identifying suitable areas for 20mph zones in their own wards, subject to funding availability.

Supplementary Question

My understanding of the Leeds Scheme that it was principally funded by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, I just wondered what plans we have got to progress it that way?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

I do not believe the Leeds Scheme is funded through the Combined Authority but we can certainly check but I am not aware of what pots within the Combined Authority would support that sort of scheme because it is usually through the Transport Plus Fund which is larger infrastructure projects but I can certainly check.

4. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Does the Leader of Council agree that it is vital that local residents and councillors are fully involved in developing plans for the new Otley Road/Bradford Road junction, as was the case when the old 'Saltaire roundabout' junction was re-developed five years ago, in order to ensure that the final design incorporates as many beneficial features as possible for local families, the nearby school, pedestrians and cyclists; and what steps is she taking to ensure that this process of community engagement actually happens?

Answer

Yes of course, there will be a full consultation of residents and local stakeholders to make sure that the best solution is achieved.

The Council is working closely with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to develop a consultation programme for the project including strategies for engaging with businesses, residents and key stakeholders. This consultation will be used to ensure that as far as practicable designs which are developed in the feasibility process will incorporate beneficial features. At this stage it is anticipated that consultation will commence in the autumn.

Supplementary Question

Thank you very much for the answer. I am really pleased that there will be a full consultation of residents and local stakeholders in relation to the new junction. As you know when we re-designed the Saltaire Roundabout five/six years ago there was a working group set up with residents, ward councillors, highways, planners, stakeholders which met and went through a whole bunch of design proposals before we got to the final successful outcome. Can I have an assurance from the Executive please that we will have the same process in relation to this junction?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

I do not know if it will be the exact same process just because in this scheme compared to Saltaire which was a single project. This one is looking obviously with the whole corridor which is why we are working with the Combined Authority so the consultation might be looking at a number of different junction schemes across that stretch going further into the city centre but what I have said all along and obviously assured you and other ward members is we really do want that full consultation and make sure people's views are genuinely taken on board and contributing to getting the best outcome possible, not just for a traditional highway scheme but for cyclists, pedestrians conscious of issues the local school has. What form that takes I could not guarantee it this time but certainly will keep you posted.

5. Councillor Dunbar

Would the Leader welcome the recent announcement that the maximum stake for Fixed Odds Betting Terminals will be reduced from £100 to £2 after a well fought campaign but criticise the unnecessary delay which will cause more harm in this district and across the country?

Answer

Yes and there is no justifiable reason whatsoever why it cannot be brought in within a reasonable timeframe. If the government recognises the damage that these maximum stakes are inflicting on people now, then it needs to get itself on the side of those people and reduce them immediately. Any unnecessary delay in dealing with this is unacceptable.

Supplementary Question

Would the Leader agree with me that the unnecessarily delay of the FOBT stake reduction will mean the unscrupulous betting industry bosses will make an extra £4billion pounds and does she agree that the stake reduction should be implemented in 2019, not 2020, and a mandatory one per cent levy should be put on betting industry companies to fund the treatment and care of problem gambling.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

It certainly is an issue which we have campaigned on a lot as a group and you personally as well. So thank you for all you have done with this. We were delighted initially when we heard that the Government were going to cave in really to the public demands to make sure that this changed, however now what we find is the delay is not until 2020. There is no apparent reason for doing that. Certainly I agree with what you are say about making sure that levy is actioned and making sure that the action is brought forward. There are people now who have this issue and the longer it continues, the more people are going to be affected. We know that there are people who really struggle with gambling addiction and there is no excuse to leave it longer than absolutely necessary to change it.

6. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Does the Leader join with me in congratulating Judith Cummins MP's well deserved award from the charity Brake recognising her work on road safety which this Labour Group has made one of its manifesto priorities?

Answer

Yes absolutely, I commend Judith Cummins MP for her tireless campaigning on this issue. Bradford recognises the significant impact she has had both locally and nationally in raising awareness of dangerous driving, the consequences and the apparent weaknesses around sentencing due to death by dangerous driving. The government announcement in 2017 on tougher sentencing for offenders was in part due to parliamentary campaigning by Judith Cummins MP.

7. Councillor Jackie Whiteley

Does the Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing recognise that despite recent initiatives to retain staff, a regrading exercise is also required in order to attract and retain more experienced Social Workers, as the failure to do so is resulting in an increased use of expensive agency staff and subsequent increased budget pressures, whilst increasing the workloads of full time permanent staff?

Answer

From exit interviews we know that there is only one Social Worker who has left due to financial reasons in Adult services. This worker moved to another Council where there is enhanced pay for Social Workers who are also qualified as Approved Mental Health Professionals and Best Interest Assessors. The numbers of Adult Social Workers leaving the Council remains very low and retention continues to be unproblematic within Adult Social Work in Bradford. Although there is no readily available data that provides comparative rates of pay for Adult Social Work posts across Yorkshire and Humber, recent searches of Local Authorities who are currently recruiting adult Social Workers indicate that Bradford Council pays comparable pay for Adult Social Work posts across most of the Yorkshire and Humber Local Authorities. Bradford Council is not anymore adversely affected by these difficulties than other Local Authorities.

Children's Services has identified a need to improve the mix between experienced

and less experienced social workers in some teams, although in other teams the balance is less of an issue. Children's Services has not struggled to recruit newly qualified social workers although there is a national and regional shortage of experienced social workers. Some neighbouring authorities pay social workers more or offer golden hellos. Exit interviews do show that comparative grading is an issue that social workers are aware of. A national pay scale for Social Workers would probably result in more stability within the system but there are no immediate plans for this to be introduced. In those teams which are particularly impacted, Children's Services has introduced a retention payment (reviewable annually) which has been a beneficial step for the service.

Children's Services has just embarked on a substantial recruitment drive, with a well publicised recruitment fair eliciting 41 applications from which we have made provisional job offers to 25 social workers. However the majority of new recruits are newly qualified. Children's Services also successfully targeted a number of experienced social workers who are looking to return to children's social work after a career break and we have recruited four experienced social workers. This should reduce the number of agency workers further.

While Children's Services fully accept that comparative pay grading is an important factor in recruiting and retaining social workers, it is certainly not the only factor. We know that social workers also want manageable caseloads and a safe working environment. The investment made by this Group in the last budget of £450,000 means that, if we recruit to all vacant posts our caseloads will be below the national and regional average. We have successfully introduced a Teaching Partnership and believe that our support and development offer is competitive.

Supplementary Question

The last paragraph I think says it all. If we recruit to all available posts our caseloads will be below the national and regional average. We have had an increase in children into care. We are using expensive agency staff, other Councils pay more. My question is at what stage will a cost benefit analysis take place to ascertain if a re-grading exercise might produce a full complement of children's social workers?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Obviously it is a question that this group feels quite keenly because at the last budget even though we have to cut every year, this was an area that we actually increased the budget in. It was a conscious decision to put more money into children social workers. There is a national shortage of them. They are absolute heroes the children social workers who work in this field. They are paid like £34,000 a year and personally I do not think that is enough. I would love to see them paid more and we also have a shortage around us. It is not just us. It is other local authorities so we are, I say pinching, we are nicking staff off each other and it is not really very helpful. So there needs to be a national campaign really to get more people going into children social work. It is such a valuable profession. It is something which is truly rewarding. The year before last there was our Staff Member of the Year for the whole Council was a children social worker who had a letter written to her by a family who she had protected from child sexual exploitation and they were so grateful, she changed lives there. That is a power you can have as a children social worker, that is a difference you can make. We do not have that

nationally yet. We had a civil servant up here last week, a national civil servant to ask them and one of the questions I was asking is there some national campaign like we got on Bradford, Come and Teach in Bradford Campaign which is working. Can we have something on national social workers as well going to children social work? It is not just a local issue, it is a regional and national issue and I think it needs action at all those three levels.

8. Councillor Cath Bacon

What steps have been taken to improve our response times to street light repairs and what work is being undertaken to look at LED lighting to improve energy efficiency and reduce maintenance costs?

Answer

We are taking a number of steps to improve our response times to streetlight repairs. We have ordered new specialist vehicles which are much less complex in the way they operate, reducing the potential for faults. We have sourced an LED retrofit solution after an industry-wide shortage of the old SOX (orange type lamps) and these are in the process of being fitted.

It is worth noting that throughout the winter operational staff were directed on to the gritting rota to help with our preparations for and response to the extreme weather conditions, which inevitably had some impact on the length of time in which repairs could be completed.

We have already installed a number of LED street lights across the district and are looking at ways of accelerating this process to reduce energy use and costs.

Supplementary Question

Thanks for the answer regarding street lighting. I am glad to see that things are now catching up. I understand that winter operational staff were directed onto the gritting rota when we had a horrendous winter as we know. One of the issues that we have got is there still appears to be that there are a number of streets lights that are reported on the system as cleared that are still faulty and I wonder if that could be looked at please. Is it possible to confirm have we actually now caught up with what was the backlog that was caused by the winter weather?

Answer

Certainly any specific street lighting you notice that are still faulty, by all means flag them up and we can look at them directly. I think it is ongoing really, that catch up process but I can double check where we are with the exact figures.

9. Councillor Ralph Berry

Can the portfolio holder say if there is any scope for the Council to work in closer collaboration with schools and Ofsted-registered voluntary sector education partners to meet the needs of a growing number of young people?

Answer

We are working closely with our schools and numerous voluntary sector partners in

education and those that are Ofsted registered for example:

- As part of our work on the Family Hubs model for Prevention and Early Help to map out what community based assets there are across the district including services and provision from our schools as they are vital in the council being able to build on what is already in place for children, their families' and communities. For example, we know that many schools provide new to English classes and other services and provision for parents, including stay and play sessions, their Parental Involvement Workers provide support and services to families and communities etc.
- There are strong and productive existing collaborations between schools and the local authority (LA) for example, the main focus of the Behaviour and Achievement Collaboratives (BACs) is to work together to find solutions for young people who are at risk of exclusion. These groups are well established (since 2007), meet weekly and all secondary schools/academies are represented. The LA works very closely with the BACs and their Headteacher representatives, liaises with families, the pupil referral units (PRUs) and manages the placement panel comprising of representatives from District PRU and AP independent Ofsted registered schools.
- In addition we are also working with a range of different providers to provide services and provision for those vulnerable learners who are excluded or at risk of exclusion. From September we are commissioning a number of places from our independent Ofsted registered alternative providers for young people who are excluded, at risk of exclusion and those with challenging behaviours in order to meet a range of needs and to provide a high quality bespoke offer for these young people.
- The Opportunity Area provides support to young people in the district particularly focused on the most disadvantaged through its range of activities and support to local authority maintained schools and academies. This support includes the following direct delivery of activity to young people;
 - Over 600 Essential Life Skills activities in over 200 schools
 - Launched a Summer Internship Programme where the OA will be supporting and funding at least 12 young people, all from disadvantaged backgrounds, to take up an 8 week internship with professional employers in and around Bradford
 - A Young Ambassadors programme recruitment for young people to promote and feed in their thoughts to the overall programme
 - A Young Inspectors recruitment to peer review Essential Life Skills Activity in schools
- The Council Youth Service work with a number of schools in the district supporting identified and diverse needs of young people. This includes the provision of 1-1 support on a range of issues through the work of the Youth Work Teams in schools in their areas.
- The Service also provides Tic Tac (Teenage info and Advice type sessions) and district wide buddies support for young people with poor mental health or who are feeling isolated.
- The Youth Service, alongside its open access youth club provisions, also works with young people in smaller group work sessions developing peer support groups which enables more young people to identify their own needs and build resilience and self-help strategies.

10. Councillor Robert Hargreaves

Does the Leader of the Council recognise that it was a missed opportunity to not show the World Cup on the Big Screen in Centenary Square and will she confirm that similar mistakes will not happen again?

Answer

It's been a wonderful World Cup. Gareth Southgate and his team gave our district and the country a great sense of pride. Although we didn't make it all the way, everyone is agreed that we've now got a young, talented team that can hopefully go on to greater things. It's been great to see such a likeable squad of players which reflects and represents what makes this country great – and it was especially pleasing to have real Bradford links in the squad too, it really is something for us all to be very proud of.

So we do understand the disappointment of some fans in our district who wanted to watch the games in City Park, but staging the screenings safely would have required a budget for cordoning off the area and other significant event management such as stewarding. Instead, we took the decision this time round to encourage those who wanted to soak up the atmosphere with other fans to do so by supporting some of the great venues we have in the city and district, whether that's bars, pubs and the many other community hubs.

We've also celebrated the team in a host of other ways during this World Cup. For example we had the rendition of Three Lions from the City Hall clocktower which quite rightly went viral online with over 100,000 views; we flew the flag at City Hall; we lit up Bradford city centre with the England colours on City Hall's clock tower, City Park mirror pool, Forster Square Station arches and Margaret McMillan Tower; we handed out England flags to staff for their vehicles; we shuttled fans in coaches to Odsal Stadium to watch the match there; we helped publicise the screening at Cougar Park; and we sent 2,000 new footballs to primary schools and special schools across the district to encourage children who have been inspired by England's young team to pick up a ball and emulate their footballing heroes.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for your response. I think we can all agree that the tournament was a huge success. It was also great to witness the success of the England squad in particular those with links to our region. I do feel that the Council's response fails to recognise the missed opportunities of not screening matches on the Big Screen in the heart of the city. The World Cup consisted of nations from all corners of the globe and given Bradford's rich history of migration and cultural diversity the Council should embrace such occasions. The very young average age of the England Squad was a huge chance to inspire the young people of Bradford to get involved in sports. In Bradford we have issues with health and obesity and this again is a missed opportunity. Relying on other organisations to show the World Cup matches is simply unacceptable and I would like to ask the Leader of the Council once again to acknowledge these missed opportunities and provide assurance to the people of the district that it will not be allowed to happen again.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Well certainly I hope we get the opportunity to think about it again because obviously it is another four years but there is Euro 2020 in the meantime. It would have been lovely to do something. Obviously we have said in the answer it was a budget issue. Also if you have been in City Park the Big Screen is right in the corner. If you sit round the Pool you cannot see it because there are trees all around. So it is not quite the same as the one in Leeds where I think people are often thinking of. We have got a different layout and the security costs are quite high. You mention about legacy as well. A legacy isn't just sitting watching it. In fact I watched it in various clubs and Windhill Cricket Club and the Wrose Bull; Ginger Goose one night. People gathered together wherever it was in the communities where they want to be but if you are talking about legacy in young people, it is things that we are doing which is that 2000 new footballs are going to primary schools to make children want to do more sport. I think we are addressing the sporting legacy of the World Cup and we had a bit of fun with it as well with the tune on the City Hall Clock which got 100,000 views. We are delighted though with the success and of course for our local dignitaries as well. I am trying to get Fabian Delph to come back to Tong Academy but we will see. Yes I understand your concerns but we have got a legacy there that we are all going to make the most of for our young people.

11. Councillor Alan Wainwright

Is it possible for Council wardens to be trained up to do enforcement on the significant problem of parked vehicles preventing access to pavements and entrances?

Answer

Currently wardens can only issue tickets where there is a legal order in place and do not have powers to issue for obstruction which the Police can do. We encourage members to liaise with their local police officers to discuss any problem sites in their ward and the best approach to tackling pavement parking.

Wardens can issue tickets under contravention code 27 for parking adjacent to a dropped kerb and members can flag up any specific issues with officers to investigate.

Ward members can work with the police to try and reach a common sense approach with residents where there are issues in given areas. I am happy to facilitate conversations if you know of a road or area where this issue is of particular concern.

12. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Analysis by the Institute of Fiscal Studies has predicted that around 160,000 (1 in 8) of the 1.3m children who currently qualify for free school meals will become ineligible under new criteria requiring families to be on Universal Credit, and with net earnings of less than £7,400. They predict that around 210,000 children not currently eligible will also qualify under the new criteria.

Can the Portfolio Holder advise us what impact this will have on families and school budgets in Bradford?

Answer

No child who currently qualifies for a free school meal will lose that meal when the family moves on to Universal Credit, nor will they lose that entitlement if the family's income increases above the £7,400 threshold. This will be the case until the child finishes the current phase of education (primary or secondary) or until the end of the roll-out of Universal Credit - currently projected to be 2023.

However, that protection does not extend to children who subsequently would qualify under the old criteria, but not under the new rules. I believe this is the group the IFS have identified.

Because the Council does not hold any information about those that might apply in the future, it is difficult to predict how many children will lose out, but also how many will gain entitlement.

Turning to the impact on schools budgets, eligibility for a free school meal determines 2 important funding streams – Pupil Premium Grant and deprivation funding that is contained within the school's national funding formula. The longer term impact that this will have on school budgets is currently unclear, due to the data protection and lack of local information I referred to earlier.

Supplementary Question

On the surface of it, it seems like a no issue but it is a massive issue where you have got lots of families. The qualifying criteria is going to be frozen for seven years which means it will have quite a significant impact on low income families. So there is going to be the launch of a campaign to scrap the freeze and wonder if the Leader of the Group will be prepared to back it?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

We will certainly have a look at it. Obviously any money that we can get to draw into Bradford schools and Bradford communities, we will look at that and make the most of those opportunities. We are always very entrepreneurial, have to go out and make the case for money into the district. So happy to have a look at it.

13. Councillor Hassan Khan

Will the Leader tell us what the latest is on Clean Air Quality in the District. I understand that we were going to be given funding for a Clean Air Zone like they are doing in Leeds but that the Government changed their mind at the last minute?

Answer

Bradford was informed by Defra in February 2017 that there was a need for a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) for Buses, HGV's and light goods vehicles. We were informed at that time that any CAZ would be mandated by government and that it was expected that approximately £10m would be made available to the Council for implementation. When the government's air quality plan was published in July 2017 Bradford had been removed from the list of local authorities that were required to look at the feasibility of a CAZ. In early 2018 the government were challenged on the decision to remove LAs like Bradford from the air quality plan and it was found to have been an

unlawfully inadequate course of action. To mitigate this, the court has ordered that LAs which exceed the legal objectives for nitrogen dioxide, like Bradford, should do a feasibility study. Bradford is undertaking a feasibility study and has been given £50,000 to fund the work. The brief for the feasibility study is to identify measures that will bring forward compliance of the legal objectives for NO2. The feasibility study work is on-going and the completion date is the 31st July.

14. Councillor Simon Cooke

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport, confirm the number of homes permitted by Planning Permissions relating to the City Centre where construction has not yet commenced, coupled with the number of homes covered by Planning Permissions relating to the City Centre, where construction commenced in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 Municipal Years?

Answer

The information is not available in the format requested, however, below is information that should provide a similar picture, based on the boundary of the City Centre as outlined in the City Centre Area Action Plan (AAP).

The data below is our Housing Land update and the details we have from Building Control. The permissions will no doubt include sites which have subsequently commenced and the completions, based on Building Control certification data, will include a lag and therefore be an undercount on what the final figure will be.

Total number of housing units built between April 2013 and March 2017: 787

Completions up to March 2018 still to be finalised: 95

Total number of unbuilt housing units with planning permission granted (before 1/4/18): 1,945

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the numbers. I think this is quite important. At the current buildout rate it will take 20 years to buildout the existing permissions and we are proposing to knock down the top of town and put houses on it which is presumably another 100, 200, 300. Are we not concerned that this is never going to get built. It costs £70,000 thereabouts to build a two-bed flat in total. You can buy a two-bed flat in the city centre on a 30 year lease for £42,000. That is the price listed. You can probably get it for less than that and that is in one of the new build better quality ones. Do we actually think we have got this strategy right in terms of delivery and what are we going to do to make it happen?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Yes we do think we have got the right strategy. Funnily enough talking to Bradford Property Forum this morning around roughly similar ideas, how we lift those land values and property values in the city centre to make sure we get really good quality developments. We recently had a block of flats near Forster Square Station win best building control, best conversion at the West Yorkshire Building Control awards a few weeks ago. So we know there are some quality developments going on but that is why it is part of the overall strategy for the city centre that it is going to help support that so if we can get one city park built with 90,000 sq ft of office space,

good quality jobs in the city centre, people earning higher incomes than that supports a strong city centre housing market. Obviously we know that part of the issue we have got right across the district, or for large parts of the district when we look at brownfield sites or previously developed sites it is about viability, its needs, public sector investment as well to get those over the line. Those are the sorts of things we look at to help accelerate delivery and get a stronger housing market in the city centre.

15. Councillor Rizwana Jamil

Does the Leader join me in welcoming the recent training for elected members around awareness of people trafficking and what the signs are? What work are we able to do with partners to get those messages out to the wider community?

Answer

Yes I'm glad the training is well received as it's such a serious subject which needs a really well thought out and comprehensive response.

The Bradford Anti-Trafficking network aims to engage the wider local community in the issue of human trafficking and spotting the signs. The network has various partners that are already engaged in community outreach such as West Yorkshire Police, Hope for Justice, Community Works, Barnardos and Bradford Council Ward Officers - all of whom have a standing presence in the community. The network seeks to ensure all of these on-the-ground workers are trained to spot the signs, and are enabled raise awareness amongst people they engage with. This can include activities such as training events, film screenings, drop-in services, targeted outreach in EU migrant communities, as well as producing printed resource in a number of languages. Further to these activities, the Bradford ATMSN has some further plans for community engagement, most significantly – the annual national “Anti-Slavery Day” on 18th October. Current plans for delivery are for a public stall exhibition in Centenary Square, as well as some targeted locations in all of the Bradford wards: Shipley, Keighley, Central, etc.

16. Councillor Tess Peart

Will the portfolio holder tell us what plans are being made for the new city centre markets to regenerate a wider area and whether the project will improve links between the middle or top of town and the Broadway area?

Answer

The Council's Executive on 10 July 2018, gave their approval to the £21 million project to progress plans to develop a 'food focused' market on Darley Street, while redeveloping Kirkgate Market as a separate, non-food market in the Kirkgate Centre.

This is an exciting project to create a new food market closer to the retail core of the city nearer the Broadway Centre, helping to revitalize Darley Street and return the markets to their historic home within the city centre. Bradford has a fantastic food heritage and we want the market to reflect that while showcasing the best food that the whole district has to offer.

The proposed design of the food market shows a significant glass frontage to encourage an open feel to the market and provide better links between Darley Street and Piccadilly, with a canopy over part of Darley Street to allow for outdoor markets and trading.

The area will form part of a 'Top of Town Masterplan' by the Council, which is in the early stages of development. The plan will provide a strategy to enable the creation of an attractive, resident friendly, healthy and sustainable environment in the city centre, with landscaped, traffic calmed street infrastructure, and high quality public realm and community spaces.

The designs will be developed throughout the rest of this year and into early 2019, and at the same time the Council will arrange various stakeholder events to obtain the views of traders, shoppers and city centre businesses which can then be incorporated into the final designs.

We know lots of businesses and people are taking a keen interest in our plans and it has been great to see so many offers of support and help from people after we released our artists impression of what the food market could look like to the public and on social media.

It is anticipated that construction will commence in January 2020, with the markets opening their doors in Easter 2021.

17. Councillor Debbie Davies

Can the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills Portfolio confirm whether the measures of success, such as increasing the number of applications by 50% whilst retaining high quality teachers and Leaders in the Bradford District, have been achieved following the employment of a Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy Manager?

Answer

We will be able to give accurate figures against the key performance indicators (KPIs) once the findings from the end of contract survey on recruitment and end of academic year retention figures are all in and analysed. This will be available in September in an end of contract report.

18. Councillor Nazam Azam

Do you join with me in feeling relief at the arrest of a suspect linked to the hate crime letters sent to Muslims earlier this year? This blatant Islamophobia cannot be tolerated.

Answer

Islamophobia and all forms of hate crime have no space in our district or this country and can't be tolerated in any form. It has been a great relief to the Muslim communities across the country and in particular Bradford that an arrest has been made regarding the hate crime letters sent to mosques and private addresses.

It is important that we encourage people to speak up and speak out against all forms of hate crime and to encourage anyone who is a victim to report this to the police or to one of our many hate crime reporting centres across the district.

19. Councillor Michelle Swallow

Could the portfolio holder please work with and use his influence with the West Yorkshire Police to suggest that in the interests of supporting road safety for motorists and pedestrians they consider signing up to the free service offered by Nextbase dashboard cameras which allows members of the public to upload instances of dangerous driving to the relevant Police Force, as it is my understanding that many police forces have signed up to this and I believe it will help to improve our safety and driving standards?

Answer

Members of the public are already able to submit dashcam footage to West Yorkshire Police using the Operation Steerside website. This is for incidents across the Bradford District, however the force is currently exploring opportunities for how dashcam footage could be provided by members of the public in a more efficient and effective way. This is at an early stage, it will involve procurement and IT security, therefore it is not appropriate to comment on specific companies at this time.

This Council wholeheartedly supports Operation Steerside, which remains an on-going and highly visible operation across Bradford District. Since Steerside began in February 2016 it has seized over 1,000 vehicles as we continue to crack down on the 'fatal four' – driving at inappropriate speed, using a mobile phone whilst driving, not wearing a seatbelt and drink/drug driving. We have also carried out nearly 13,000 specific actions – including issuing tickets for the above offences.

This has helped to make a real difference across the district. We are now broadening the work of Steerside – with a wider focus on nuisance and anti-social driving and the general perception of driving in the District. Over the next three months there are 12 multi agency days of action planned across the district, two of which have already taken place.

Tackling the issue of the antisocial use of motor vehicles is a Bradford District priority, recently a strategic ASB/Nuisance Road Group has been formed, chaired by Superintendent Daniel Greenwood. The group will be meeting on a regular basis to develop and co-ordinate a partnership plan.

20. Councillor Alun Griffiths

In their recent report Public Health England have warned that some types of LED streetlights, which are replacing many traditional streetlights across the country, could potentially harm people's eyesight and that Councils could, if they have been installed purely on the basis of energy efficiency and cost, then it is possible to end up with lighting scheme that will not be fit for purpose.

Can the Portfolio Holder assure members that the replacement street-lighting systems being installed across the District do not have the potential to harm people's

eyesight?

Answer

The Council officers in the street lighting unit are regularly updated with the latest information regarding LED road lighting and the alleged impact on peoples' eyesight and, after significant studies into these allegations there are many variables in LED lighting, of which colour temperature is seen as the one to get right. When we commenced installing LED lanterns we specified a colour temperature away from the blue spectrum which is where most of the issues occur.

An article regarding this subject was published recently in Optometry Today. Council Officers have been in contact with the Author Professor John O'Hagan who made the point that some (often cheap) LED luminaires used for street lights have the LED elements protruding below the fixture. This means that when you look down the road when it is dark, the street lights are a source of glare (annoying at least, and potentially a safety issue). Recessing the LEDs or using a diffuser removes the problem.

21. Councillor Alan Wainwright

Does the Leader join me in celebrating the England football team and manager doing us proud at this World Cup, including Bradford's own Fabian Delph and goalkeeper Jordan Pickford who spent a year at Bradford City?

Answer

Absolutely, what an incredible event it's been and made all the more special by the presence of Fabian Delph and Jordan Pickford. It must have been an incredible experience for both of them individually, not least for Fabian Delph who was able to fly back to witness the birth of his child during the tournament. The World Cup has shown what a unifier sport can be, especially given that the manager and his players conducted themselves with such class on the world stage, it's really something to be proud of and I know people right across our district have felt a part of it.

22. Councillor David Heseltine

Can the Leader of the Council inform members whether we can change the criteria to allow Area Committees to be able to use discretion in residential parking schemes?

Answer

Officers are currently working on a review of the currently Permit Parking criteria policy with a view to taking a report through the Executive later in the financial year. As it stands though, the existing policy sets out the prevailing stance on assessing requests for permit parking schemes and it is recommended that this remains so until such time as the policy has been reviewed.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. You are still looking at varying the policy. We have been at it about 18 months, how much longer is it going to take?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

I cannot give you a precise time. I know obviously it is something you have been very passionate about as Chair of the Area Committee which I have sat on myself and heard you go into great detail on but I will check with officers. Hopefully it should be sooner rather than later.

23. Councillor Tess Peart

Does the portfolio holder have an update on our campaigns for a city centre highspeed rail stop and for improvements on the Skipton-Colne line?

Answer

Our Next Stop Bradford campaign to bring a high-speed rail station into the centre of Bradford district continues to attract support and was recently nominated for best public sector award at the PRCA DARE Northern Awards.

We are continuing to work with our partners, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), Transport for the North (TfN) and Network Rail on building the evidence to support the case for a city centre Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) and station stop in Bradford.

Reports by consultants Genecon identified a £15bn economic uplift for Bradford and the region when there is a city centre NPR station in the future and we have submitted this evidence to TfN as they continue to work on their Strategic Transport Plan, of which NPR is a part.

In the meantime, the Council and its partners will continue to lobby key stakeholders in central government and in the business community as part of the #NextStopBradford campaign to bring Northern Powerhouse Rail to Bradford City Centre.

We recognise that the importance of east-west Transpennine links extend across the district, which is why we were so supportive of feasibility money being made available to study the potential benefits of reopening the Skipton-Colne railway line. This line would have huge benefits for Keighley and the Airedale corridor as well as other parts of the North. The feasibility work is being undertaken by Steer Davis Gleave on behalf of TfN and we hope to have the final report by the end of the year.

24. Councillor Martin Love

At an event in London on 20 June, hosted by UK100 and IPPR, the Leader of Council said 'Through the Council's close links with health researchers, we have the evidence base to support making air quality improvement a Council priority. For this reason we have developed a Low Emission Strategy as early as possible to secure improvement and health benefits for our population.' Can she tell us what action has so far been taken by the Council to support the Low Emission Strategy?

Answer

The following action has been taken to support the Low Emission Strategy since its

adoption in 2013, there is also currently a draft update of the Low Emission Strategy being produced which includes new initiatives for adoption in the coming months:

- 1) All relevant planning applications in Bradford have air quality mitigation applied to them, this has yielded the conditioning of;
 - i) In excess of 5,000 electric vehicle charging points at domestic and commercial premises since 2013
 - ii) Fleet standards of current or previous euro standard for all commercial fleets on new developments with low emission strategy conditions for larger fleets
 - iii) Dust control on all construction works in accordance with best practice guidance
 - iv) Low emission travel plans for staff and householders
 - v) Damage cost calculations for larger developments leading to site specific mitigation, examples of which include an electric minibus for staff and new cycling infrastructure.
- 2) Council procurement processes have been changed to include consideration of emissions (5% of contract via social values) in all purchase decisions. Vehicle procurement includes consideration of whole life costings.
- 3) The Council fleet includes the use of ULEV vehicles wherever practical and has recently received a 4 star Ecostars rating.
- 4) A Low Emission Zone (LEZ) feasibility study^[1] has been carried out to inform LEZ policy at Bradford, the study was carried out in collaboration with health researchers and has calculated annual health cost savings related to LEZ interventions in Bradford. This work has been published in the British Medical Journal.
- 5) The data from the LEZ study has been used to support a successful CVTF bid to retrofit 25 commercial buses, subsequent PEMS (portable emissions monitoring) testing showed a 96% reduction in NOX emissions. All of the 14 buses on the Manningham lane route (through an AQMA) have been retrofitted.
- 6) A successful West Yorkshire funding bid has also secured funding to retrofit a further 62 buses in Bradford between now and 2019.
- 7) A biomethane trial^[2] and gas feasibility study has been carried out at Bradford. This has led to a current facilities management project to look at the feasibility of City gas station at the new Super depot being proposed by the Council, this would potentially be in partnership with local bus companies.
- 8) A cycle super highway between Bradford and Leeds with the extension City Connect2 now on site, connecting Bradford city centre and Shipley town centre.
- 9) A new train station at Low Moor.
- 10) Bradford has also worked to share good practice and improve air quality across the region via development a West Yorkshire Low Emission Strategy^[3]. Bradford

^[1] <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/media/1384/reportofthelezfeasibilitystudy.pdf>

^[2] <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/media/1388/trialofbiomethanevehiclesbybradfordcitycouncil.pdf>

^[3] <http://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/News/Articles/WYLE-Draft-Strategy/>

lead and managed this project in collaboration with the 5 WY authorities, the Combined Authority and Public Health England. The finished strategy was adopted by the 5 Local Authorities and WYCA in December 2016.

Bradford's work on air quality has been recognised nationally, with recognition for air quality work at both the Sustainable City Awards (2013), the MJ Local Government Awards (2014) and Fleet Hero awards (2016).

Bradford are also currently working with Defra to produce a targeted feasibility study to bring forward compliance with the legal objectives for nitrogen dioxide. The study deadline is the 31st July 2018. Within the study a number of additional interventions are being explored to see if there are opportunities for further improvements in air quality and public health. This work will form part of the addendum to the Government's air quality plan which will be published by the High Court deadline of 31st October 2018.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer Leader. A very extensive response. The final paragraph says that we are producing in association with Defra a targeted visibility study to bring forward compliance of the legal objectives for nitrogen dioxide by the end of this month. Can I ask if that will be made public?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

It is a good point. I imagine it would be to be quite honest. It is something that is going to be given to the Government and I am presuming they are going to use it for pitching for more funding. It is amazing. We have already given £50,000 to sort out air equality in the district. I think I mention in my report, we saw Gove the other week and tried to make him realise it was a national issue. It is not just about the local. We are hoping for an open dialogue with the Government on this issue and therefore I would imagine a local dialogue as well. We will get that done.

25. Councillor David Warburton

Can the Leader give an update on the council's progress in investing more with local companies to support the 'Bradford Pound'?

Answer

The Council introduced and applied a Social Value Policy to its procurement activities from the beginning of April this year. The key objective of the Policy is to use every pound that the Council spends (the Bradford Pound) to do more than purchase high quality value for money supplies, services or works; the Council's spend can in aggregate be a lever for growth contributing to Bradford's economic resilience and growth.

We're now just over three months in. During that time we've spent time with our staff, and the voluntary and private sectors talking about our Social Value Policy so that there's a sound understanding of how and when it applies, we've also actively contributed to the City Region Inclusive Growth debate.

At the end of June our Social Value Policy has successfully been applied to 19

procurement exercises across contracts including pest control, transport services, the supply of plumbing materials, and first aid training. It's a good start and there's more to do. Embedding the Policy is important because it enables us to take into account how our suppliers put in place local, Bradford based supply chains, offer employment and training opportunities to Bradford's young people and longer term unemployed or provide support to voluntary and community based projects in the District.

Officers will be providing a report to the Well Run Council Board in the autumn setting out our initial Social Value achievements, with the Executive then receiving a report in early 2019 providing a summary of the achievements and lessons learnt in the first year along with suggestions for Social Value Policy improvements.

26. Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

Given the recent announcement of £60 fines being introduced for residents guilty of contaminating recycling bins, would the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport and Culture provide reassurance that some humanity, common sense and discretion will be used to differentiate between deliberate and accidental contamination, along with an idea of how the Council will implement the penalties for cross contaminating waste in the communal recycling bins used by many hundreds of residents throughout the District?

Answer

This action is in line with the Domestic Waste & Recycling Policy (DWARP), it is done with common sense and is wholly inclusive to all of the District's residents. Notices are served when the crews spot items in the recycling bin that are not on the list as being an item that can be recycled. If a resident receives a notice and contacts us to say they didn't place the item in their bin we will cancel the notice as we understand bins can become contaminated by another resident, but on the understanding that the resident is clear about what can and cannot be placed in their recycle bin. The crews will continue to monitor and report contamination.

Section 46 notices are not served on residents who place their recycling bins at a collection point or on communal bins.

Supplementary Question

Can I ask the portfolio holder? You mention in the last paragraph notices will not be served on residents using communal bins. What will the Council be doing to encourage those residents to make sure they only put allowable items into their recycling bins in order to increase the amount of recycling in communal bin areas?

Councillor Sarah Ferriby

Thank you Councillor Poulsen. Yes in those areas where there are communal bins or where there is a number of bins that are presented for collection the recycling team are going out where we find that if we are having any issues in those areas they are going out into those areas and speaking to individual householders on what is and isn't allowed to be put in those bins and that is a continuing process where we have issues anywhere in the district that officers can go out and keep that dialogue reaffirming those messages of what is appropriate to go in the bins.

27. Councillor Sue Duffy

Would the Leader agree with me that it is worrying that the Government are refusing to publish a national Carers Strategy two years after consulting with 6,500 Unpaid Carers?

Answer

Yes. I note that the Government has published a Carers Action Plan but there is still no sign of a National Carers Strategy. The two things are very different and we clearly need the latter.

I know our local Carers' organisation, Carers' Resource, have been campaigning for some months for a new National Carers Strategy and have sent me a document about it. Clearly any initiative that highlights the role of unpaid carers across our society is to be welcomed however the Government's Carers Action Plan doesn't address the needs of the caring community now. There is a focus on research. This is useful but there is already a large body of evidence out there about what works. Carers need practical action and support now.

We will not sit and wait for Government to take action, we are committed to developing our own local strategy to support Carers. The Department of Health & Wellbeing with the Clinical Commissioning Groups are consulting with Carers locally to develop a district wide Carers Strategy as well as inform future commissioning of services. We recognise that carers are fundamental to strong families and sustainable communities and make a significant contribution towards people feeling safe and remaining happy and healthy at home. In Bradford we estimate that there are at least 16,000 carers who we rely on as a system. Our ambition is to develop a local Carer's Strategy which will enable us to tailor the support we offer carers across the health and social care system so that it meets their individual and personal support needs, enabling carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring, whilst enabling the person they support to be a full and equal citizen.

28. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Can the portfolio holder give an update on progress of the District Economic Strategy?

Answer

Pioneering, Confident & Connected – an economic strategy for Bradford District launched in March this year followed by a London Launch in April attended by Rt Hon Claire Perry, Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

The Economic Partnership and the council are working with partners to produce a detailed delivery plan and agree a set of key performance indicators that will be signed off at the Economic Partnership meeting being held on 5 September this year. The draft delivery plan is currently being circulated to partners for completion.

Since the launch we seen good progress on many key delivery elements of the strategy, these include:

- **District Growth Scheme** - Launched in April this year, this new district wide scheme provides support to businesses in the form of business rate relief. The scheme addresses three priorities:
 - A. Support for investment in new-builds or premises expansions
 - B. Bringing listed and other significant heritage properties back into commercial use
 - C. Support existing businesses to expand through relocation/expansion into vacant premises/floor space in our town centres
- **ICE Expansion** - Development of business plan that will see expansion of ICE network from 5 to 9 ICES being undertaken with steering group comprised of key stakeholders. Agreed approach to be implemented from October 2018 with full roll out of new programme from September 2020.
- **Education Covenant** – 31% of district business are now supporting this key programme creating connections between schools, teachers and businesses to give young people in every school access to positive business role models. This exceeds the 30% target.
- **Rail Station Masterplans**
 - Bradford Interchange** –The Interchange will see significant redevelopment over the coming years beginning with work to improve access, new taxi rank and pick-up and drop-off area for the public. There will be new pedestrian crossings. This scheme is a precursor to major improvements planned for 2019 which will result in a new frontage, better pedestrian access and improved facilities.
 - Forster Square station** will see major public realm improvements and new retail pods built into the existing railway arches. Development is on track to meet its £17 million budget and delivery date of 2021.
- **Textile Academy** – JRF supported initiative that has addressed skills gaps in textile businesses in Keighley by engaging with the local community featured in a recent conference held in Bradford focussed on unlocking the potential of BAME women to drive a stronger and more inclusive economy. Work is being carried forward as part of the Integrated Communities Strategy pilot.
- **STEP Programme** - ESIF funded contract to support unemployed residents with differing degrees of barriers into work. Aims to support 5,000 individuals with job search and employability skills and get 1500 individuals into employment by 2020. Contract delivery on track and is exceeding with regard 50+ and BME profiles in particular.
- **Manufacturing Week** – Barclays Bank are the lead sponsor for Bradford Manufacturing Week (8-12 October), led by West & North Yorkshire Chamber and backed by the newly-formed Bradford Economic Partnership, aims to introduce the district's manufacturers to young people and boost apprenticeship numbers by creating more inspired, informed and 'work ready' applicants into the sector. The brainchild of Nick Garthwaite, president of Bradford Chamber and MD of international chemicals and detergents manufacturer Christeyns, the week

aims to engage with around 75 local schools, reach more than 20,000 14-18 year-old students and create 1,000 work experience days across the district.

- **City Centre Markets** - Bradford Council recently announced plans for a new city centre food market based in the historic Darley Street along with a re-vamped non-food offer located in the Kirkgate shopping centre. This will free up the existing Oastler Centre market on John Street for redevelopment as a significant residential area in the city centre. The new markets are expected to open in 2020/21 with the housing redevelopment beginning build out shortly after.
- **Townscape Heritage Scheme** - Following a successful first round bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the schemes development phase is now underway. The scheme aims to support property owners to improve heritage buildings by providing grant contributions of up to 80% to repair and reinstate traditional features such as shop fronts and windows and bring vacant floor space back into use. The outcome of the Council's Stage 2 application is expected by the end of June 2018. If successful, the scheme will be funded by £2m HLF funding and £750k CBMDC. Investment by property owners will be a minimum of £400,000.
- **Bradford City Centre BID** - Local business leaders have formed the Bradford BID Development Group, to investigate the possible creation of a Business Improvement District (BID) in Bradford. It is anticipated that well over £500,000 per year could be raised in Bradford to promote & add to the vitality of the city, thus increasing footfall and vibrancy across the entire city centre area.

29. **Councillor Brendan Stubbs**

Bill Grimsey has recently published his second review into the future of Town and City Centres in the UK. As part of that review there are a number of recommendations that could help secure the future of our high streets across Bradford District including recommendations for Government, Business and Local Authorities including,

a, Establishing Town Centre Commission under strong, established leadership through the local authority for each town centre, with a defined remit to build a 20-year strategy for their unique place. Ensure that this vision is underpinned by a comprehensive place plan.

b, Introduce clear high street assets ownership accountability by establishing a landlord register for each town to be able to trace the owner of every single property and engage them in the health and wellbeing of the place.

c, Local authorities should establish events teams to manage a comprehensive programme of activities that complement the Town Centre Commission Plan by driving footfall to local high streets.

Can the Portfolio Holder detail any plans Bradford Council have to take forward these and other ideas within the review to supplement any work already being done by the Council to secure a viable future for high streets across the district?

Answer

The second Grimsey review into town and city centres was an interesting look at the future of our high streets and will no doubt feed into the work already being done by Local Authorities given the fast changing nature of our centres.

We already work in partnership with businesses throughout the district, with the Keighley Business Improvement District (BID) doing great work for Keighley town centre, a Bradford BID under development, while the Ilkley Business Forum and the Shipley Town Centre Partnership and Bingley Chamber of Trade all provide business leadership in our Principle Towns. This is in addition to our wider business partnerships through the Bradford Economic Partnership, chaired by David Baldwin, and the Airedale Partnership, which focuses on the Airedale Corridor.

The Chambers of Trade and Commerce also work in supporting our town centres, as do Town Councils, such as in Bingley where they have successfully launched a farmers market, and likewise in Baildon.

The work done through our successful City Centre Growth Scheme means we already have a strong list of high street assets with identified agents and landlords as we gather this information when enquiries come in about particular units. Our work on the newly launched District Growth Scheme will help us gradually build similar lists for Keighley, Ilkley, Bingley and Shipley as we engage with asset owners and end users over potential support through the scheme.

Events are a vital part of any centre as the Bradford Festival showed this weekend. Many events are now delivered by external partners, such as the Bradford Literature Festival, and the role of the Council is often to facilitate and encourage rather than to act as a direct deliverer of events. The business partnerships mentioned above often play a key role in delivering quality events in our town centres, such as the various events Keighley BID deliver and the Shipley Street Arts Festival, which is supported by the Shipley Town Centre Partnership.

The Council recognises the importance of creating quality places and spaces for communities to mix and invested in public realm and infrastructure at key locations across the district. Recent years have seen dramatic changes to the retail sector and we continue to work with businesses, many of which are independents, to bring vitality and diversity to the high street offer.

The City Centre Growth Scheme has a healthy pipeline of applications for new bars, restaurants and cafe's as city centres move away from traditional retail and more toward leisure and experience. With recent issues faced nationally by restaurant chains, the business rates offer provided by the Growth Scheme is there to help de-risk investment and encourage a wider range of operators.

Due to the success of the city centres based scheme we launched the District Growth Scheme in April. This is a rate relief scheme to attract new investment and encourage the bringing back into use of empty properties in town centres across the district.

Supplementary Question

Just a two part supplementary. One of the things is what work are we doing to make sure that the smaller towns, the urban villages and the areas that do not come under that top five or six centres that we have, are getting the support and that we are putting the right energy in place for them to make sure that they are viable into the future as well. Secondly have we resolved the issue of past experiences when we have had events in the city centre and other areas where businesses were not fully aware of what was going on, giving them enough time for them to order the stock, get the staff in place to make sure they are open to fully take advantage of the money we have put in to getting thousands of people into the city centre, town centres and parks and other places in the district.

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Thank you Councillor Stubbs. Certainly with the district's growth scheme two elements of it support the district as a whole, the listed and heritage building relief and any development relief. The sort of town centre rate relief fund, we can review that as time goes on, see how it works in the town centres. A lot of the smaller economic centres, even smaller than that. A lot of the retail units will be business rate free anyway in that regard. So it will be having to look at what specific support at whatever business you are or whatever business you want to run anyway in the district you can get in touch with our Invest in Bradford Team and they will work with you just the same way as if you were a city centre business. So there is always support available from our business support advisers. In terms of events obviously it is Councillor Ferriby's area but I know for instance with the illuminate event we ran last year our City Centre Manager and his team were going round the City Centre speaking to businesses saying do you know this is on preparing and getting involved and sometimes some businesses take advantage of it and some businesses choose not to and that it is up to those businesses really. Hopefully with the business improvement district fingers crossed gets over the line and starts next year and that gives us another voice and another way through to speak to businesses and make sure that we are all pointing in the same direction and making the most of the opportunities that are available through events or other things.

30. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Would the Portfolio Holder join me in congratulating the organisers of the Bradford Literature Festival for the most successful year yet?

Answer

I am delighted to offer my congratulations to Syima for doing a remarkable job this year with the Festival, which continues to go from strength to strength. Bradford Literature Festival in April this year became an Arts Council England national portfolio organisation and is the largest funded literature festival in England. It's a wonderful achievement and it's a feather in the cap for Bradford.

31. Councillor Dale Smith

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, confirm what progress has been made with the transfer of responsibilities from the Police to the Local Authority, relating to the removal of obstructions, particularly on pavements?

Answer

The powers associated with dealing with pavement parking were discussed as part of the recent consideration of the approach to dealing with advertising boards. As was noted at the time there is no national prohibition against either on-street or pavement parking (except in the latter case in London) and more widely in relation to heavy commercial vehicles. The offence typically used to deal with these issues relates to *driving on the pavement*, whether with the intention to park or not. Because this is a criminal offence, as opposed to the vast majority of civil parking offences, it is enforceable by the police and not the local authority.

It was noted that current legislation allows local authorities to act to tackle on-street and pavement parking in various ways such as designating limited areas of 'no pavement parking' through a traffic regulation order or establishing a special parking area.

More recently there have been a number of private members' bills proposed in parliament to provide some degree of wider control over pavement parking the most recent of which was Simon Hoare's *Pavement Parking (Protection of Vulnerable Pedestrians) Bill 2015-16* which was debated in the House of Commons on 4 December 2015. This Bill provided a framework for local authorities in England and Wales to consult on and subsequently to ban pavement parking across wide areas, subject to certain exemptions to be set out by the Secretary of State in secondary legislation, particularly around medieval or older towns and city centres with Victorian terraces and the like, where popular ownership of the car was never envisaged. However, this bill was withdrawn from further consideration following the Minister giving a commitment to convene a round table in 2016 to discuss footway parking issues and to undertake further research.

Therefore nationally, the powers available to the Council to address this situation remain unchanged from those previously advised.

Supplementary Question

My supplementary is can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport confirm what progress has been made with regard to the removal of obstructions particularly on pavements as recently proved and directed by the Executive. I am referring to the matter of A-Boards in particular. How many prosecutions have been taken and what progress is being made?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Thank you Councillor Smith. So we have signed off the enforcement policy for A-boards so it is in place, it has been in place for a few months now. So wardens when they are travelling around the district if they see A-boards on the public highway, obviously not on private curtilage of landowners who have every right to put things on their own private land then they have got an enforcement policy to follow. They can then end up with that A-board being removed and obviously you or any other member in the room sees an A-board then you can use Council Contact or contact an officer and it should go through that process as well. I know from around x-thousand complaints highways have had over the past few months, to be honest it is only a relatively small number that come through about A-boards. That has not changed over the past few years so I think it is obviously for campaigners like

yourself who have done a lot of good work in this area. It is about raising that awareness and flagging it up when you see it. I recently asked a highways officer to just to make sure we are working with the wardens so they know what the policy is and that they can implement it when they see those A-boards.

32. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Our pioneering, connected and confident economic strategy creates a very clear vision for the future of our district. Would the portfolio holder be able to let us know how we will meet our key targets of raising GVA by £4bn, getting 20,000 people into work and 48,000 more people achieving NVQ3 level skills?

Answer

Raising skills levels is a key element both of increasing productivity (GVA) and getting more people into work. In order to realise the skills ambitions that will support the achievement of the targets in the economic strategy we are currently working with partners to develop a District skills plan, and are consulting on the key focus and actions for the Plan. This links to the Economic Strategy Delivery Plan.

Without looking to pre-empt partner views, we are confident that a significant proportion of achieving the ambitions set out in the Economic Strategy will be through the continuation and expansion of existing successful initiatives:

In terms of the employability, aspirations and attainment of our young people the Education Covenant approach incorporating Bradford Pathways and the Industrial Centres of Excellence will play a critical role. We are working to expand the scope and reach of these programmes to ensure all of our children and young people leave education with an understanding of their pathways into work, and the skills and qualifications they need to achieve their goals.

As well as addressing the supply of skilled young people into the labour market we need to ensure that unemployed adults are supported into work and that our residents can manage their career progression whilst in work. We see the expansion of the SkillsHouse programme as central to this. SkillsHouse has already had considerable success and supported more than 1,100 people into work and has undertaken pilot activity upskilling workers in low wage jobs.

Clearly the Council cannot deliver this alone, and the District skills plan will enable us to work with our partners to make better informed decisions on the use our collective, but ultimately limited resources, to ensure maximum effect in the delivery of our shared goals for the people of Bradford.

33. Councillor John Pennington

As seven previous Lord Mayors, along with Baroness Castle, David Hockney, Brian Noble and Ken Morrison, have been granted Freedom of the City, could the Leader of Council advise us as to when Jack Tordoff will be joining the list?

Answer

I'm delighted Jack Tordoff has just been awarded the OBE and I've written to him to

congratulate him on his honour. I'm sure he will blush to hear the question but I'm happy to discuss how people achieve Freedom of the City with the opposition leader at his convenience.

Supplementary Question

If that is the case thank you for your answer. Can you tell me please when I can meet one of you?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

We have a meeting on a monthly basis I believe so at our next monthly meeting I am sure we can discuss.

34. Councillor Geoff Reid

To the Portfolio Holder. Will the Council press the Diocese of Leeds about the future of their derelict land on the former Rimswell House site, Greengates, which has sat overgrown and a magnet for vandals for many years. It would better serve local residents and the area if it were brought back into use?

Answer

I would be happy to work with the member on the issues surrounding this site and discuss with the Catholic Diocese of Leeds their plans for it. Unused sites aren't just a waste of potential but left untended can blight a community and attract anti-social behaviour.

Supplementary Question

I simply want to correct the typo. The road though Greengates estate is Rimswell Holt and to say thank you to the portfolio holder for offering help in bringing some urgency into a difficult situation. Thank you.

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

You are very welcome Councillor Reid.

35. Councillor Martin Smith

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, advise colleagues of progress made, since the launch of the Gillingham Master Plan last October at the Cathedral?

Answer

Well North owns this particular initiative. They're a separate body to the Council led by Lord Andrew Mawson who has a strong affinity with the district. The Council is working with him and his team to support their plans to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the people of Gillingham. We will happily connect Cllr Smith with Lord Mawson for further information if required.

36. Councillor Warnes

Will the Leader of Council please outline the key reasons why Bradford Council's greenhouse gas emissions have fallen from 88,302 tonnes in 2009-2010 to 45,844 tonnes in 2017-2018, an impressive reduction of approximately 48%; and explain what plans and carbon reduction targets are currently in place to ensure that this contraction continues from 2020 onwards?

Answer

There are a number of reasons for the reduction Bradford Council has made in the Green House Gas (GHG) emissions since the 2009-10 financial year. It's worth noting that some of these factors are complimentary and means that the saving the Council has achieved have been maximised. Since 2009/10 the Council has been converting some buildings to lower carbon sources of heat, a particularly effective example is when Margaret Macmillan Tower changed from oil fired boilers to a combination of biomass and gas heating. A programme of conversion of lighting to LED has helped to reduce the amount of electricity used across our own buildings and also the street lighting network, this programme continues as budget and capacity allow. There has also been capital and revenue investment in a programme of work to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of heating systems and during the heating season the systems are monitored and optimised by the Energy Centre. The emissions from Council owned transport have reduced by 10% and the emissions from staff travel have reduced by 38% these savings stem from a reduction in the number of miles being travelled by staff and the conversion of some fleet vehicles to electric. There have also been reductions in the GHG emissions arising from electricity as the national grid becomes decarbonised. Officers have installed, where economically possible, equipment to generate energy onsite and these make carbon savings either by using renewable sources, such as Photovoltaic panels, or by eliminating electricity transmission losses, such as Gas fired combined heat and power (CHP) engines. It must also be recognised that the council is shrinking and this has contributed to the savings planned for 2020 being achieved, and exceeded ahead of time. Looking forwards from 2020 the authority will require a new strategy and this is currently in the first stages of development.

Supplementary Question

Thank you very much for the reply. It is brilliant that we have cut our carbon omissions by so much and it is also good that looking beyond 2020 that work has begun on the next strategy and according to yourselves it is currently in the first stages of development. The problem is that we are under 18 months away from 2020 and what I would like to know please is what has been done so far, when will Councillors be involved in this process and when will the process be finalised please?

Councillor Sarah Ferriby

Thank you Councillor Warnes. I will contact officers and get an update as soon as possible for you about that question. Thank you.

37. Councillor Russell Brown

Can the leader confirm, following my questions earlier in the year, that a STEM champion has been "appointed" and whether a bespoke, local, STEM plan has been initiated?

Answer

Yes, Cllr Tait has been appointed as STEM champion and is happy for Cllr Brown to be involved in the work.

The Bradford STEM network is well established but as part of its continued development has recently held a strategic planning workshop to review the future purpose and direction, focussing on the key question of how it benefits learning and education outcomes in Bradford. As a consequence of the planning session, a number of key strands of activity have been prioritised, specifically: agreeing the new mission statement; review of the data and metrics the Network will report; and the development of a new communication strategy.

Alongside and building on this work, the network will continue to develop a forward plan and in particular look at the use of LMI to identify trends and priorities for action. At present this research is focussing on areas of deprivation and gender and how these impact young people pursuing engineering or the sciences as career pathways.

In addition, we recognise that it is the Year of Engineering and are looking at how we best capitalise on the interest this generates and looking at options for events that may support that work, and officers have been working with the Chamber of Commerce to support the development of the Bradford Manufacturing Week in the Autumn. Bradford Manufacturing Week 2018 (BMW18) - the week will run from 8-12 October and the aim is to encourage businesses across the District to open up their doors and host a tour of the company, work placement or provide a talk in school to groups of students about the world of manufacturing. To date approximately 50 businesses have signed up to participate and 30 schools have registered. Work continues to encourage increased participation and the Council's Work Experience Team and Aspire-IGen will be supporting the businesses to prepare for BM Week with a "health check" visit prior to students visiting. This is an excellent opportunity for students to explore careers in STEM and gain an insight into the sectors that students have not necessarily considered as a career option. Bradford Chamber are leading on this initiative and are hoping this will become a sustainable model for future years to come. Key organisations are involved through sponsorship and the Steering Group to ensure BMW18's success and the proposal is to involve 1,000 students in engaging with Bradford's manufacturers and to change some misconceptions about traditional manufacturing jobs.

Supplementary Question

A couple of points. Can I congratulate Councillor Tait on what in my opinion is the most important role in the whole Council and invite her to Stanbury School where in its recent Ofsted inspection the Inspector commented on the use of STEM in the curriculum. You will need to bring your walking boots. With regard to the Bradford manufacturing week can I ask why a general invitation to Councillors to the launch event was not issued as this is a very important event and overall a good start but you have still got lots to do. Thank you.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Thank you. I do not think I was invited either but I just gate-crashed to be quite

honest. It is not a Council event so it is run by the Economic Partnership and the Chamber so they are leading it and obviously what they wanted was a lot of businesses there and they got a lot of businesses there so they are really delighted by how many manufacturing businesses are taking part in this district. We are blessed with more than average, about double the national average of manufacturing businesses, and they are really excited to get together and get the young people cited on the opportunities for careers in their industry in the future. I am sure if you want to express your interest you could be invited to come along to that but of course I think they probably wanted less of us and more businesses I am afraid to say. So I just gate-crashed.

38. Councillor Geoff Reid

To the Portfolio Holder. When is the installation of traffic lights at Moorside Road/Harrogate Road expected to happen as part of the Fagley Quarry development?

Answer

It depends how quickly the houses are sold. The signal junction at Moorside Road needs to be in when 150 dwellings are occupied according to the agreement.

39. Councillor David Heseltine

Can the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport & Culture, advise members of what powers are available to resolve problems caused by the overspill of parked private hire vehicles into residential areas, when designated ranks are full?

Answer

Licensed private hire vehicles are eligible to park in accordance with the law, i.e. they may park anywhere where parking is not prohibited for their type of vehicle. Where parking is restricted they must comply with the restrictions. Private hire vehicles are not eligible to park on ranks; ranks are for licenced hackney carriage (Taxi) vehicles only.

Each private hire vehicle is licenced to work for a Licenced Operator on behalf of a specific company. The company name/details are on the decals (fitted to the side of the vehicle) and also on the front and rear vehicle window visors. If a member of the public is concerned that a private hire vehicle is parking in residential areas whilst waiting for bookings they should firstly contact the Licenced Operator of the company the car is working for. They should explain their concerns and ask the Licenced Operator to address the matter, and if necessary make this a formal complaint. They should keep a record of dates/times of calls/complaints etc. If the Licenced Operator does not resolve the parking problem the member of the public should email the service using the email taxi.testing@bradford.gov.uk address and include the same information (dates, times etc.) they reported to the Licenced Operator, along with any comments of the Operator.

If there's a specific case you are concerned about then do let us know.