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COUNCIL
16 OCTOBER 2018

MEMBER QUESTION TIME
Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. Councillor Abid Hussain

Can the Portfolio Holder give an update on the Council's plans to increase footfall on Darley Street and other streets around the middle and top of town areas in the city centre?

Answer

The city centre has seen a huge boost in footfall with the numbers counted in just three core retail streets rising from 16 million to over 20 million a year since the Broadway Shopping Centre opened. Broadway Shopping Centre has opened new modern retail space bringing in retailers who have been absent for many years. Our work on regenerating our town and city centres is never done. We are therefore now working towards additional new developments to boost the success of the city.

The Council's plans for the new markets offer focussed on Darley Street will see significant investment in this area. Once these developments commence, it is expected that investor confidence will be reflected in the take-up of vacant units. Locating a new food focused market on Darley Street will see a huge upsurge in footfall in the area and surrounding streets.

In the meantime the Council continues to offer assistance through the City Centre Growth scheme's Priority Streets Initiative. This is a targeted scheme to incentivise businesses to bring back in to use vacant ground floor units in key retail streets with high volumes of vacant properties. The package of support available includes capital grants towards property improvements and equipment purchases along with business rate rebates. The scheme will continue to support new investment, particularly independents, as we start to build our offer around our Markets development.

City Centre Growth Scheme funding has recently supported the development of co-working and collaborative spaces, encouraging new and creative businesses to breathe life back into historic buildings, bringing new energy and ideas and additional footfall into the city centre.

The scheme has also particularly been encouraging food and beverage, leisure and office uses to support our retail offer and to re-purpose former retail units. Current applications pipeline include bars, cafes; a trampoline park, a cosmetic clinic and an indoor activity centre.

Heritage Lottery funding has recently been secured to deliver a Townscape Heritage Scheme within the City Centre Conservation area and centred around Rawson

Place, North Parade, Northgate and Darley Street. The four year scheme will offer property owners grant contributions of up to 60% to repair and reinstate traditional features such as shop fronts and windows, and bring vacant floor space back into use.

The new TJ Hughes store will open in Spring 2019. This will provide a second anchor store for the Kirkgate Shopping Centre with over 32,000 square feet of trading space and an entrance via Godwin Street.

In addition there are a number of short term projects to drive footfall into these areas, such as events and meanwhile uses in units on Darley Street and surrounding areas. The recent Bradford Bubble Up event included a giant waterslide down Darley Street which boosted footfall in that area.

A number of empty retail properties are being managed by East Street Arts, who are an arts organisation working across the UK and Europe and whose mission is to support artists to create work that brings lasting change to our everyday lives. For example, studio spaces created in the former Marks and Spencer's building are fully occupied by artists and performing arts groups use sprung dance floor installed in the basement area for rehearsals. In addition, the former Post Office is being divided into eight studios for use by local artists.

Consideration is currently being given to a specific creative sector initiative to further stimulate the variety of creative and leisure uses and widen the city centre offer beyond mainstream retail, thereby increasing footfall and unlocking future potential, particularly including those developments of a more sustainable nature. This could include identifying opportunities for retailers, particularly in craft products, to work together through makers' markets or test trading to create a stronger offering and for other makers to create supportive hubs.

2. Councillor Debbie Davies

Can the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills inform colleagues of any actions which are being taken to meet the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2017-20 objective, of reducing unauthorised primary and secondary school absences within the district, to beneath the national average?

Answer

Reducing unauthorised absence is one of two key imperatives in Bradford's Children and Young People's Plan. As this is a shared objective, work has begun with partners and stakeholders to develop messages for parents about the importance of attendance. In addition, we are working with Young People to develop the best way to engage and communicate with them to promote good school attendance.

Schools are engaging well with the Local Authority and use interventions such as the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices and School Attendance Orders where absence is not improving and remains a concern. However, schools are also investing in preventative strategies, for example;

- In conjunction with the Safeguarding Hub, training is available to schools and a strong traded offer is in place from the Attendance Team with a focus on preventative measures that promote good attendance.
- A Vulnerable Pupil Data Dashboard informs resourcing and interventions are put in place where concerns are raised around levels of absence. Schools can now escalate their most challenging cases to find rapid solutions through multi-agency management for cases where children are deemed to be at risk as a result of not having a stable education placement.
- An offer is available to all schools that provides guidance to strengthen attendance policies to tackle areas of concern tailored to individual schools, including sharing of good practice on attendance where identified by Ofsted.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. I just wondered is the level of persistent pupil absence still five percentage points higher than the national average?

Councillor Imran Khan

I am not sure but I will check and come back to you.

3. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

What action is being taken to address the on-going potential safeguarding concerns arising from the limited capacity to conduct direct payment audits for social care clients?

Answer

Our safeguarding response will pick up a range of issues and where there are wider considerations/lessons for how we undertake our business processes we would make risk assessments and make proportionate changes if required. From a Direct Payment audit perspective we expect to audit Direct Payment accounts 6 months after commencement and then annually. As the number of people taking a Direct Payment increases there will be consideration of the capacity required to undertake the audits in line with expectations. The annual Social Worker review is another opportunity to pick up if there are any issues of concern/ safeguarding concerns regarding a person in receipt of a Direct Payment.

Supplementary Question

I am a bit concerned about the answer that I have been given which appears to talk about what should happen rather than what is actually happening because having raised this issue, having seen it in the audit report, the key concerns were, and you just do not seem to have addressed them at all in the response, is that an effective process was not in place to deal with all clients or their nominated persons. Direct payment audits are not up to date and the actions issued in the audits are not always effective. The bottom line is that there has been a high level of staff turnover and there is just not enough staff to ensure that we are actually safeguarding these vulnerable adults.

Councillor Sarah Feriby

Thank you Councillor Sunderland. I would just be interested to know when that information was given, the timeframe, but I will follow that up with the Director of Service but this is the information that I have been given. I know that there have been staff shortages but there has also been staff that has been put in place to do a lot of work in the adult and health social care.

Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Just for your interest then Councillor the email was sent to me on 25 September 2018 at 15.27.

Councillor Sarah Feriby

Thank you Councillor Sunderland. I will follow that up with the Director of Service.

4. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Now that the Council has demolished the Branch Hotel, one of Shipley's oldest local landmarks, in order to widen the nearby road, what steps have been taken to date to involve local residents and community groups in exploring the full range of possible design options for the new junction and thereby maximising its capacity for cutting air pollution and boosting low carbon travel, cycling and local walking networks?

Answer

The Branch pub had been empty for many years and had significant structural issues. It has now been demolished with funds secured from West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The project team involved in the delivery of the West Yorkshire+ Transport Fund's Bradford to Shipley Corridor improvement project are currently developing a communication and engagement strategy for the proposals. The first stage of this is a presentation for members which will be held soon to ensure that we can engage as many local members as possible prior to the wider public engagement exercise. More information on this session will be circulated shortly.

The consultation with the local residents and members of the travelling public will follow over the next couple of months to ensure that as far as possible the aspirations of the community are incorporated within the proposals which are developed for improvements along this strategic corridor.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Councillor Ross-Shaw for your response. It is good that residents and Councillors are going to be involved in this process. I am not completely reassured though. What is bothering me is that there seems to be the classic top down approach, the officers draw up plans, they consult, they go back behind the closed doors, they finalise the plans and what I am driving at is do you not think it would be better for a junction of this importance if residents and local community groups were more proactively involved in fine tuning the junction designs well up stream, well before the plans have become written in stone almost? Thank you.

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Thank you Councillor Warnes and a good use of the word “up stream”. I liked that one. It has been difficult to criticise the process that has not started yet in a sense but I do take your point. The first stage of the consultation won't be these plans, do you like them or can we tweak them. It will be more high level at that point. So there is plenty of opportunity to get involved I think if or any firm road schematics are drawn up.

5. Councillor Angela Tait

Would the Leader join me in congratulating the Bradford Chamber of Commerce and all supporting organisations in the success of the pilot Bradford Manufacturing Week which brought together manufacturers, schools, young people and parents through tours, work experience, seminars, exhibitions and learning events held at manufacturer premises and key locations across the district?

Answer

Bradford Manufacturing Week (8-12 October) a great success, seeing more than 1,000 young people signing up for more than 3,000 manufacturing experiences across the week including tours, work placements, work experiences, school talks and life skills workshops.

The West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce led event was delivered with support from the Economic Partnership, Barclays Bank and a range of sponsors and local businesses and schools. The initiative received acknowledgement and accolade for the initiative in the House of Commons prompted by a question by Judith Cummins MP. This Government recognition for the difference the initiative is making to future generations and championing manufacturing as a career choice is most welcome.

I would particularly like to thank Nick Garthwaite, Chamber President, for his personal drive in making it such a success.

A debriefing has been scheduled to discuss successes and lessons learned which will act as preparation for Bradford Manufacturing Week 2019.

6. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Does the Leader agree that the Prime Minister as the creator of the hostile environment policy needs to take more proactive action to support members of the Windrush Generations rather than continue to blame them for their fate?

Answer

We discussed this issue in this Chamber in July when criticism of the Government's actions towards the Windrush Generation was heard from across the council chamber. Sadly this scandal has continued since then given, as you say, the lack of proactive action from Government to support those affected by this awful situation. These are people who have lived in and contributed hugely to this country for many, many years. What they deserve is respect and recognition of their rights which we all called for in this chamber in July.

Supplementary Question

The reason why I raised this question is after me and Councillor Mullaney raised this at the last Council, it has come to our attention that members of the Windrush generation in Bradford have been contacted on Government orders by civil servants to have individual meetings with members of the Windrush generation and also then to sign non-disclosure agreements leaving those members of the Windrush generation to worry that they will still be deported. What is going on and what can we do to put more pressure on the Government who are acting lyrically in the media about this but are doing nothing to protect members of the Windrush generation?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Dunbar. There is a danger in an environment where there is such much news of Brexit and everything else that such an issue which was very front of mind of the media a few months ago dissipates so it is a very good idea to bring it back and to make sure we are all aware that problems are still ongoing and that there are still citizens of this country who have been harassed in this way. I know Councillor Pennington joined with us last time in saying how atrocious this was and I am sure we can speak to our MPs to make sure that pressure is continued on the Government to make sure that the situation is resolved as quickly as possible for their benefit.

7. Councillor John Pennington

In light of the fact that the Bradford Brewery has closed after just 3 years trading, despite being awarded grants of £170,000, can the Leader of the Council advise colleagues of measures in place to ensure that grants awarded more recently, are likely to provide other than short term benefit?

Answer

Unfortunately it is not possible to ensure that all businesses supported through the City Centre Growth Scheme continue to trade indefinitely. Like all businesses they are impacted by external influences that cannot be mitigated for.

Nationally, the percentage of start-up businesses that are still trading after 3 years is 53.7% (Source - ONS). This compares with 74% of start-ups supported by the City Centre Growth Scheme that have continued to trade. This is despite the high proportion of the businesses supported being in the highest risk categories. Nationally 80% of retail stores fail within five years followed by 60% of independent restaurants.

To increase the chances of survival, the scheme provides a package of support for new and existing businesses through Invest in Bradford business advisors in addition to assistance with recruitment and staff training provided by SkillsHouse.

In instances where it is not possible for a business to be saved we will work to protect jobs, to keep properties occupied and to protect the public investment.

Where capital grants are awarded, financial risks are assessed and recipients may be required to provide personal guarantees to enable grant recovery should the

business be dissolved. The capital grant programme has been a good way of bringing previously redundant buildings back into use in the city centre, such as this. Regardless of the first operator, if the building is of a good standard it can more easily attract a new owner/tenant thereafter.

The property on Westgate formerly occupied by Bradford Brewery has now been taken by Eyes Brewery Ltd from Leeds who will be operating a brewery and bar, with plans to open in December. We are pleased to welcome them to the city.

Supplementary Question

Just as a safeguard really can we have greater scrutiny from somebody with maybe a business background, but certainly local knowledge, to evaluate before awards are made?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

So there is due diligence on everything we give out and actually if you see what people have to go through and people come to us and say we want a grant and actually sometimes they cannot have it because we make them jump through a lot of hoops to get it. So there are already quite a lot of barriers there in place and even when people employ new people, and that is part of their business rate relief employing new people, we ask to see their wage slips every month. There are a lot of balances and checks that go with this and I am sure officers will be happy to share that process with you. It is quite complex but I think it is absolutely right that you should have oversight of it as well as we do.

8. Councillor Taj Salam

Can the Portfolio Holder tell me how much fly-tipping we have picked up in the last year and what is the cost?

Answer

Street Cleansing and Environmental Enforcement attended 14,317 fly tips in total in 2017/18. This figure includes all the public reported ones as well as those identified by Council staff independently.

The exact cost is hard to determine because crews collect fly tipping as part of their wider work when out and about. The estimated cost of collection is therefore between £120,000 and £200,000 and a further £400,000 (est.) is spent on Enforcement investigative work.

It is unfair on those people who do dispose of their rubbish correctly that a minority of people do not. As a Labour-led Council we have made a point of being tough on enforcement and regularly prosecute those who are found out for fly-tipping through the courts.

9. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Would the Leader agree that the continued delay of the Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) stake reduction will do nothing but cause more harm to those suffering the harsh realities of problem gambling?

Answer

After the initial elation that the Government had agreed to reduce the stake for FOBTs, I am outraged that the reduction is being delayed by two years. There is no reason for such a long delay. The stake reduction for fixed odds betting terminals will make a real difference in tackling problem gambling. I support a swift implementation of the changes. The proposed two year delay to implement the changes puts those vulnerable to gambling addiction and problem gamblers at continued risk. Any lobbying of Government by the industry should not detract from the very real problems caused by these high stake machines.

10. Councillor Andrew Senior

Can the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places give reason to the decisions for Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre to be constructed with no “all weather” pitches, whilst another site with all weather provision shuts early in the evening, before many people wish to / are able to play?

Answer

The Council has an adopted Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) which includes the planning of Sports Facilities across the district. The current PPS adopted by Bradford Council in November 2014 highlighted a shortage of quality grass pitches in Bradford South area but was not showing a shortage of All Weather Pitches (AWP). As such, the development at Sedbergh is being built with high quality grass pitches and facilities. However, the Council, in partnership with the sport’s governing bodies, is developing plans for an AWP at the former Wyke Manor school. The pitch will be available for community use and for both football and rugby. The pitches at Sedbergh have been developed in such a way that allow the Council at a later date to further consider the requirement for and viability of a floodlit synthetic pitch. A revised PPS is due in early 2019 which will provide an up dated supply and demand assessment and this will also inform future planning for both grass and AWP.

Supplementary Question

Thanks for your answer. We will welcome the revised PPS report in early 2019. The last thing we need to do is produce state of the art playing fields that will be either ruined or unused between late November and March due to inclement weather.

Councillor Sarah Feriby

Sorry Councillor Senior was that a comment rather than a question? Thank you.

11. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Is the Leader in agreement that based on the Government’s record over the past 8 years that the so called fairer funding formula will in fact be unfair to local government and residents in Bradford?

Answer

I am extremely concerned that the review of how business rates are distributed across the country through the “Fair Funding Review”, combined with the Government’s complete cut of the revenue support grant, could lead to the

Conservative Government politically favouring the “Tory Shires” over the Urban Metropolitan Districts. As we’ve said before, by 2020 our net budget in Bradford will be around half what it was in 2010. All at a time when we face growing demand for services.

I would urge Government not to be driven by party politics when it comes to funding local public services. A disadvantaged child in an urban area has just as much right to good public services as a child living in a more affluent area. I have asked to meet with Ministers in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for this very reason.

12. Councillor Geoff Reid

Labour Councils in Manchester, Greenwich, Bristol and Lambeth have improved planning transparency by making their viability assessments for affordable housing public. Will Bradford Council follow this example to publish the viability assessments for affordable housing on new developments?

Answer

The National Planning Guidance was recently updated and states that the Government's recommended approach is for viability assessments to be publicly available unless there are exceptional circumstances. Where exceptional circumstances exist it is expected that the applicant will prepare an Executive Summary to be made publicly available instead. As the guidance is still new we have not yet had an application that required a viability assessment but would expect any future applications that required them to be made publicly available on our Planning Portal.

Supplementary Question

I thank the portfolio holder for his judicious answer. It is early days yet but does he welcome the new rules on transparency which came into force in July as levelling the playing field between the mega developers who have been able to use their resources and muscle to exploit the viability loophole and the small and medium developers who may get more of a look in perhaps boosting more affordable housing?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Thank you Councillor. Certainly improved transparency is good in the process. Obviously the planning process in housing is very contentious so people want to be reassured that communities are getting a good deal out of any developments that take place so obviously some people do not want to see housing but if it takes place they need to be reassured that they are getting the right sort of development with the right contribution so in that case increased transparency is good. It does mention that there is a presumption to viability so not every application will actually provide a viability assessment but absolutely putting the onus on the developer to make sure that they are right in their documents with the expectation that that will be publicly available for scrutiny can only be a good thing I think.

13. Councillor Abid Hussain

Can the Portfolio Holder give an update on the proposed Ilkley Business

Improvement District.

Answer

Businesses in Ilkley approached the Council regarding the potential for a Business Improvement District (BID) in Ilkley. Establishment of a BID in Keighley, the campaign for a BID in Bradford and the existence of BIDs in both Skipton, Otley Leeds and Halifax and the spread of Business Improvement Districts nationally have demonstrated potential benefits to the town.

There is a strong core of businesses leading the development work. A development Board has been formed to direct the progress of the campaign and is meeting regularly. An unused office in Ilkley Town Hall has been made available to the development team by the Council during the campaign.

The Council has committed to provide grant funding and officer support to see the Ilkley BID proposal through to a ballot. This is being matched by funding from Ilkley businesses and a loan from Ilkley Parish Council.

A competitive process saw the appointment of Heartflood to act as consultant advisor to the Development Board. Heartflood have a strong track record and have recently worked on the Bradford BID proposal.

If progress continues as planned, a ballot of eligible businesses will take place in Spring 2019.

14. Councillor Robert Hargreaves

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport support an urgent review of the Council's policy regarding roller shutters on shops, as the current affects of crime and other anti social behaviour are such that our nation of shopkeepers is at serious risk of being closed for business?

Answer

The Council has an adopted shop front security policy that has been in place since 2012 and is broadly in line with the approach of towns and cities across the country. This promotes the use of a number of appropriate security measures that can be applied to shop premises. Whilst its starting point is to support the use of internal roller shutters (which don't need planning consent unless it is a listed building), it does not rule out the use of external measures, which are dependent on the circumstances relating to the individual property.

It is important that businesses are aware of the policy and we have looked at raising awareness of this in a number of ways in the past couple of years:

Change of use applications now include information on shutters and shop front design policy

Business rates information will include an infographic with information on the policy and a number of other relevant policies for businesses such as A-board policy and business support and funding information

Developers and agents will be reminded of the policy at forums and events

Since the adoption of the existing policy the Council has approved applications for external shutters that are designed to allow light from the building on to the street and provide a view of the shop front. External solid shutters create a deadening effect on the street scene, which can increase fear of crime and also protect any burglars who break in from the rear from view.

It is worth noting that the vast majority of enforcement cases come from complaints from the members of the public or nearby businesses who are themselves complying with the policy. The Council does consider each case in consultation with the Police's Architectural Liaison Officer, who offers advice on protection measures and supports the policy approach outlined in the Shop Front Design Guide.

If you would like to share the details of the case with me, I will happily look at the case.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for your response. I note the alignment with policies across the country but I would like to point out that the majority of high streets across the country are indeed failing along with this policy. This is after all a policy that was relevant in 2012 and is irrelevant today. I therefore ask the portfolio holder will you dare to dream and use Bradford as an example to follow nationally by revealing the policy and protect the businesses of the best city to start a business?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

You know what I was thinking if you asked a supplementary, I thought I had better just remind him we are the best place to start a business so you have gazumped me there but I do not think the policy is any less relevant to be honest. Obviously the high street does change fast and you are right I do not think the reasons for that are about shop front design per se, I think it is obviously about the change in nature of retail particularly with internet shopping but if there are any elements that are not working for a particular area, always happy to sit down with Members and go through those areas. I think the case that has come up in your ward is in a conservation area and that is very difficult to deal with because there are legal duties to make sure that conservation areas are kept to a certain standard but as the answer shows there are quite a few things we have done to try and mitigate impacts on shopkeepers so they can trade successfully but happy to meet you to discuss the specifics in that case if you like.

15. Councillor Angela Tait

Would the Leader join me in congratulating the National Science and Media Museum for producing The Bradford Science Festival which took place at the museum, in City Park and at The Broadway.

Answer

Absolutely. The 2018 Bradford Science Festival in July was a huge success. Curated by the National Science and Media Museum and delivered with the support of 60 local, regional and national partners and contractors the Festival attracted 34,347 people, 40% of whom visited the Festival from outside of the Bradford District. The Festival was aligned with the Government's Year of Engineering.

The Festival was delivered across three venues; in the National Science and Media Museum, in City Park/Centenary Square and in The Broadway – taking Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning out in to the city.

The full evaluation will be completed shortly but the team are already delighted to know that there was a good gender balance of people attending (52% Male, 48% Female) and the ethnic diversity of attendees broadly reflects the ethnic diversity across the city.

16. Councillor Richard Dunbar

A recently published report argues that the Universal Credit system is perpetuating inequality and facilitating abusive men’s control and coercion of their partners. What steps are being taken in Bradford to help mitigate the effects of this cruel and draconian policy?

Answer

From all I hear from residents and landlords alike I am becoming increasingly concerned about the roll-out of Universal Credit. The Council is working together with partners, including the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), to support residents as they move on to Universal Credit (UC).

This will include an assessment of whether a split payment is appropriate. The DWP have said they will do this if there is a suggestion of this behaviour occurring. DWP have produced guidance for their staff in relation to split payments. And under UC, there is a requirement for both partners to engage with the DWP, so there is a need for DWP staff to be vigilant to spot this kind of danger.

UC payments can be divided between partners in a couple in exceptional circumstances, including where there is, or is the risk of domestic violence, financial abuse, or where a claimant is mismanaging UC payments and not using them to meet the day-to-day needs of the family. Although it refers to 'split payments' (stating that the larger percentage could be allocated to the person with primary caring responsibilities for children), the law allows payment to be made solely to one partner, where this is in the interests of the claimants and their children. My concern is that in a crisis situation a vulnerable partner may not know about this facility and may not be strong enough to insist upon it.

Also, “alternative payment arrangements” can be applied to the housing costs element of UC which means that it can be paid directly to a landlord which may help mitigate any risk of losing a home. Again the vulnerable person would need to have the capacity to seek an arrangement along these lines.

We currently have staff working in each Jobcentre (including one from Incommunities), to identify issues, such as the need for budgeting support. Staff in Adults and Children’s Services have received training on UC and the availability of these split payments. As the Services that would most likely encounter such situations.

Finally, I know all the advice providers in the district have also been trained and I know they will continue to support and advise anyone in this difficult position. We must all pull together to support residents as much as possible. In the meantime however I call on the Government to heed the concerns now being expressed from all quarters, across the political divide. Even John Major has called it “unfair and unforgiving”. It is unacceptable that the poorest people in society should have yet another cut. Austerity is clearly not over.

Supplementary Question

It is just this week we have heard from the Work and Pensions Secretary herself that some of the poorest members receiving Universal Credit will be £200 a month worse off so again is this not proving that this system despite all the diatribe from the Government that would be an amazing system and simplified is actually putting some of the most vulnerable and marginalising very difficult situations?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Yes I think even the Government is now starting to think there needs to be a pause in this programme, Councillor Dunbar, and I was speaking to a landlord at the weekend who had been assured that things were going to be okay but now it is starting to be in practice he is saying it is just not working and people who are moving on to Universal Credit sometimes they are not accessing the advice that has been put in there. It is all there but accessing that and getting to understand it when your life might be in crisis for example is quite difficult to do so I think this is about vulnerable people’s lives and I think we need to be really careful about making changes in this area and I do hope the Government will listen to those voices which have been increasingly strong saying we need to pause, listen and act to make sure we do not have detrimental impact on some very vulnerable people in society.

17. Councillor Russell Brown

Would the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills join with me in congratulating Stanbury Primary School’s recent Ofsted report with its reference to STEM activities and how they are integrated into the curriculum and note the anecdotal evidence regarding the increased number of female students wanting to take up engineering as a career option?

Answer

I am very happy to congratulate the school on their recent short inspection which found that the school is still good, and identified a broad range of strengths not just in terms of academic success but also how the school prepares pupils for life beyond school.

Our young people having the best possible preparation for adulthood and the world of work is one of the key priorities set out in the Council plan, as part of this it is important that we equip the young people of the District to make well-informed decisions regarding their options and consider fully the broad range of career opportunities available not just traditional routes based on historical working patterns. There is a lot of research about the contribution that diversity in the workforce makes to productivity, and STEM related occupations are critical to the future economic success of the District and a priority for the Leeds City Region.

The Council and its partners' continued commitment to the Bradford Pathways approach and Industrial Centres of Excellence will contribute to developing the workforce across all sectors in the District and addressing historical stereotyped, career choices.

Supplementary Question

Can I thank the portfolio holder for his comprehensive response. Indeed this very morning I have attended the Bradford Manufacturing Week feedback session as mentioned by Councillor Tait at Keighley College with many companies in attendance including one that is recruiting young people into textile manufacturing albeit with computer aided looms which are producing high quality, high value materials. Could I just repeat the question to the portfolio holder? Would you like to come and visit us at our school and see what we do out in the sticks?

Councillor Imran Khan

Yes absolutely. If I can just take this opportunity to thank you for inviting Councillor Dunbar and myself to a previous session that you ran up in Thornton and we had good fun up there producing some Yorkshire Roses. I think mine was slightly better than yours, or did you give up half way through, I do not know. It was really good and of course I am always open to those sort of invitations. Thank you.

18. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could the Portfolio Holder share with me what engagement work is currently taking place in wards to provide support in the bonfire period, I would be keen to know what is being done with youth, elderly, organisations etc in and around the wards?

Answer

Following feedback from last year's operation Bradford Council and Bradford District Police agreed to facilitate two regular partnership/tasking meetings.

The 'Operations' meeting, which is chaired by Bradford Council's Emergency Planning Team, has run for a number of years and will continue to discuss locations particularly relating to organised and sporadic bonfires. Focussing on safety and environmental tasking it agrees how to deploy appropriate resources and responses including Council Wardens, Fire Service, Incommunities, Highways and Environmental Enforcement. An operational plan supports the activity of this meeting.

The Bonfire Community Engagement meeting shares intelligence relating to Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) and community tensions. The meetings will be operational tasking/enforcement led to gain better co-ordination and sharing of intelligence in order to manage individuals. Persistent offenders will receive joint home visits from the local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and ASB Team. Targeted interventions and key messages to schools, faith and community groups will come from this meeting. The meeting will capture and share community tensions and consider opportunities for positive community engagement, with community and faith groups. The meeting will also identify groups or individuals who can mediate and offer resilience before, during and after the bonfire period. A Community

Engagement Plan will support the work of this meeting.

The two meetings will run back to back to ensure that partners have input into both. Actions will be captured and tasked appropriately. The group is meeting weekly, becoming daily week commencing 29 October. NPT Inspectors and Area Co-ordinator staff attend both meetings to ensure that ward-based intelligence and activity is coordinated and that local concerns are raised and responses are effective and appropriate.

Across West Yorkshire there are increased threats to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) and other emergency services. Operationally this will be monitored within Community Engagement meeting.

Council Contact Centre will record all incoming information related to bonfires and this will be treated as one source of intelligence to be shared with partners.

Council Cleansing staff will be tasked to remove fly tipping where we consider flammable materials have been dumped with the intention of creating a dangerous bonfire.

Where a complaint has been received the scene will be evaluated by Council staff and if there is any doubt then the Fire Service will be called for a second opinion.

A SILVER command room will be established for the full bonfire weekend and will only be stood down once all partners agree the situation is back to normal.

19. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could the Portfolio Holder share with me the number of people who use the tip sites on average and also how much waste is collected on a quarterly basis and what is the money from waste being used for from the tip sites?

Answer

We do not routinely record the number of visits. Income from recyclates is based on total collection of all recyclates and any income received is off-set against the overall waste disposal budget.

The tonnages at the household waste sites in 2017/18 are shown below. The figures reflect the fact that in May to July 2017 we rolled out alternative weekly collections across the district. This significantly increased the amount of household recycling collected at the kerbside and therefore the amount of recycling at the waste sites reduced as a result, as people no longer had to take it to the sites themselves.

	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Recycling	9,423	9,304	6,029	5,123
Residual	3,298	3,815	3,196	3,262
Total	12,721	13,119	9,225	8,385

20. Councillor Brendan Stubbs

Can the Portfolio Holder provide a detailed breakdown of the number of hours each of the districts Council-run libraries have had to close early or temporarily over the last 12 months when they were timetabled to be open. Please include details for the reasons for those closures.

Answer

The number of hours that libraries needed to be closed either due to staff shortage or other reasons from 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018:

Library	Hours	Reasons
City Library	None	
Bingley	13.5	Staff shortage
Bingley	0.5	Incident
Eccleshill	31	Staff shortage
Ilkley	0	
Keighley	0	
Keighley Local Studies	5	Staff shortage
Laisterdyke	88.5	Staff shortage
Laisterdyke	6.5	Break In
Manningham	73	Staff shortage
Manningham	6	No Heating
Shipley	1	Health and safety
Wibsey	5.5	Staff shortage
Wyke	38.5	Staff shortage
Hybrid Libraries		
Baildon	7	No Volunteers
Baildon	3	Staff shortage
Clayton	1.5	No Volunteers
Clayton	11.5	Staff shortage

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. Can I just ask if the portfolio agrees or shares my concerns that when we are deciding whether we close or keeping a library open based on the number of books that are borrowed from it as one of the factors, that we need to do all that we can to make sure that all libraries do stay open when they should be open so that residents can access the service and borrow the books that they need to borrow?

Councillor Sarah Feriby

Thank you Councillor Stubbs. Of course libraries are well used and books need to be taken out and I know from the question that you asked about the number of hours that some Council libraries were closed and some of the hybrids as well. I have actually asked officers the issues regarding this now. We have some vacant posts but we are actually shortly advertising for some apprenticeship posts because some of the issues have been round staffing levels but I take on your comments about library services. Thank you.

21. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could the Leader share with me how we are trying to make the chamber and politics in general more diverse in encouraging people from different backgrounds to be part of politics in the district.

Answer

The diversity of our Councillors is increasing but there is more to be done to improve representation on all fronts:

- **Age.** The average age of Bradford Councillors is 54. This compares well with a national average of 62 (in 2013) but overall, the age profile of Bradford Councillors is much older than the electorate they represent. No Councillors are younger than 30 and the proportions aged 40-49, 50-59 and 60-69 are all significantly higher than among the wider electorate.
- **Gender.** There are now 35 female Councillors comprising 38.9% of the Council. This is higher than the national average - research by the Fawcett Society in 2017 found that 33% of Councillors nationally were women. But women continue to be under-represented and Bradford only just scrapes into the top 25% of Councils in terms of the proportion of female Councillors.
- **Ethnicity.** 28 Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Councillors make up 31% of the Council compared to around 36% of the general population and 23% of the 18+ population. A census of Councillors undertaken in 2013 found that only 4% of Councillors nationally were from BME groups.

Clearly there is more to do and it is incumbent on political parties at the local and national level to look at the measures that they can take to promote participation among all people from different backgrounds, for example, all women shortlists have helped to increase the numbers of women councillors.

Clearly as the ruling group, Labour does not have any say over how other parties select their candidates. However locally the Labour Party continues to strive to be reflective of the communities we represent. In the Labour Group we are closer to 50:50 in terms of the gender split and on diversity we are around 45% BME.

A range of activity was undertaken in July as part of National Democracy Week in order to engage with under registered groups, better understand the barriers they face, and work to ensure that every member of society who is entitled to do so has an equal chance to participate in our democracy. The week was themed on the Suffrage Centenary celebrating 100 years since women won the right to vote and included:

- 3 Democracy Pop-Up Shops
- Social media campaign
- Work with partners, including Bradford People First, to tackle barriers to engagement and encourage democratic participation among under-registered groups.

- A 'register to vote' video which was created for previous campaign will be displayed on the Big Screen at Centenary Square and shared on social media channels and in Britannia House customer contact point.
- Youth service designed and delivered 2 group sessions (one on Vote for 16 campaign and the other for Youth Voter Registration), to young people in all youth centres across the Bradford District, during the week. The sessions included decisions, point of issues affecting young people, raising awareness of politics and encouraging young people to register to vote.
- Information published internally on Pride@work, Bradford Schools Online, Bradnews.
- Short video publicising voter registration on our website and shared on social media.

Democratic participation and citizenship is key to integration and our "Stronger Communities Strategy", linked to the integration area will help to give voice and influence to communities of interest giving them the confidence to become more involved in political and community life.

So we are doing a lot and there is a lot more we can do. There is a challenge for each and every one of us in the chamber to do all we can to make politics more accessible, open and relevant to all of the people we represent and, in so doing ensure that the full diversity of the District is better reflected both here and in wider political debate and participation.

22. Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

In light of the closure of the Haworth Visitor Information Centre can the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places confirm what proportion if any, of the £55,000 raised from the sale of the Penistone Hill toilet block will be invested in Haworth or on measures to promote Haworth as a tourist destination?

Answer

On 24 February 2011 Full Council took a decision that all capital receipts generated from the sale of assets would be used to corporately fund the capital investment plan. This decision has enabled the Council to finance the capital investment plan in the most cost effective way and should not be confused with the decision to invest or incur capital costs.

The decision to incur capital expenditure is made by Budget Council when agreeing the Capital Investment Plan each February.

As the elected member may be aware, the Council is investing in the Central Park toilets in Haworth which are temporarily closed whilst the damp proofing works are completed at the cost of the Council prior to the Community Asset Transfer. Less substantial works have also been required at West Lane as well, ahead of that Community Asset Transfer. All these works are funded from the Council's corporate capital investment fund which includes capital receipts from sales of assets.

Supplementary Question

Just to point out to the portfolio holder, thank you for the response but the capital funding you mention going into the toilets in Haworth Park is not to improve the toilets but is remedial work following the failure of the build and the original design that the Council have now got round to actually doing. It is not capital investment. My question though off the back of this is, what is the Council going to do to support tourism in the outer areas particularly in Haworth given their decision that they are now going to close the Visitor Information Centre which is the focal point of tourism across the village?

Answer

Thank you Councillor Poulsen. Actually the question that you originally asked was directed to my colleague here (Councillor Ross-Shaw) because he has (in his portfolio) facilities. Obviously you know we were very disappointed with the outcome of the negotiations with the Bronte Society and officers are in discussions with a number of partners in the Haworth area to support tourism going forward. Some of the tourist information, that will be information in shops but as Councillor Ross-Shaw has just whispered in my ear we have got Sparkle in Bradford. Thank you.

23. Councillor Alan Wainwright

Can the Portfolio Holder tell us the latest position on the Community Asset Transfer programme?

Answer

54 have been or are in the process of being completed. 23 have temporary arrangements in place. We believe this to be the largest Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme in the region.

The Council's CAT Team now comprises three surveyors and a project officer. As CATs are being promoted to support the on-going community based delivery of services, more CAT applications are expected to be submitted and the necessary policies, processes and systems are in place to deal with these in a timely manner.

Following the successful launch of the Council's CAT toolkit in June 2018, a second CAT information event will be held on 30th October 2018, focussing on community groups who are new to the CAT process. The event will be hosted by the Council's CAT team, and attended by the Portfolio Holder, Community Action Bradford and District (CABAD) and Locality. In addition guests from MACC, Manchester's CVS Support Organisation and a Manchester City Councillor are expected to attend to learn about how Bradford is successfully managing the CAT Process.

24. Councillor Kevin Warnes

When will the Council construct the small pavement buildout by the bus terminus at the end of the Higher Coach Road, bearing in mind that (a) this simple measure has been the subject of discussions with the ward councillors for nearly two years, and (b) it would make it easier for our elderly and disabled residents and parents with small children to get on and off their buses?

Answer

There are currently no available funds for the construction of the build out on Higher Coach Road but the council is currently exploring financial support from the Bus 21 initiative. A realignment of the kerb has been constructed to date along with a Bus Clearway but does not provide adequate alignment of the bus due to the bus stop being on a curved radius. As a back up, this project could become part of the Shipley Area Committee list if local councillors are so minded.

Supplementary Question

Thanks to the portfolio holder for the response. I mean bad news comes in threes doesn't it? First we hear about climate change accelerating, then we hear of the Brexit talks are on the rocks and now this body blow that after two years of discussions with highways officers they cannot find the funds to construct a simple buildout on the pavement at the end of the Higher Coach Road. Nonetheless I am going to cling to the one bit of good news in the paragraph, you mention that the Council is exploring financial support from the Bus 21 Initiative. Can you please tell me more about this and can you please reassure me that this civic improvement will be realised in my lifetime? Thank you.

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

I can offer no such reassurances Councillor Warnes but obviously it is not something I have been close to because ward highways issues tend to go through the area committees in any case. So I do not know what highways officers will have suggested at the time because the budget would have always expected to come under there unless there was some sort of centralised safety element of it. I will send you some more information on Bus 21. Obviously maybe where Bus 18 which was a successful collaboration between the bus companies trying to work more closely together to support public transport across the region. Bus 21 is now the next step for that and it is trying to take it to the next level so I will send you some info on it.

25. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

I welcome the initiative for the new 20 mph zones. Can the Portfolio Holder outline the implementation plan?

Answer

We have started the initial feasibility work on a city centre 20mph zone and similar zones around schools. The city centre 20mph zone would cover roughly the top of town down to the National Science and Media Museum and up to the University and Bradford College. 20mph zones are a proven way of encouraging safer driving, more cycling and walking and generally creating a better environment for communities to live, work and play in. Research has shown improvements in physical and mental health, quality of life, community cohesion and sustainable and healthy modes of transport as a result of 20mph zones, while survival rates from a collision at 20mph can be ten times higher than at 30mph.

The city centre zone is targeted on roads where it can prove effective without the need for additional traffic calming measures and on nearby residential streets that already benefit from existing traffic calming measures. Roads like Prince's Way and

Hall Ings would require additional infrastructure to prove effective and therefore are not in the scope of the scheme at this point.

We are in the process of identifying the first phase of schools that would benefit most from 20mph zones in the vicinity, including in nearby residential streets with traffic calming features to capture as many journeys from the home to the school as possible. We are working with colleagues from Public Health to identify approaches to improve ways of walking to and from schools to increase safety and 'walkability' and 20mph zones will play a part in this work.

It is important to note that 20mph zones are not targeted at dangerous drivers who carelessly drive at extreme speeds regardless of the speed limit. We will continue to work with the police in taking targeted action on these drivers through Operation Steerside. 20mph zones are about reducing the average speed on the roads for the benefit of everyone.

Consultation with ward members and other stakeholders will begin next month and an interim report will be presented to the Executive in December 2018. The scheme will then be formally advertised and follow the normal democratic process.

26. Councillor Jackie Whiteley

Can the Leader of the Council advise colleagues, via the provision of detailed figures for each of the last four years, whether in light of the significant drop in the number of Bradford Council employees, the Council's spending on Union staff time, waived office rental costs, stationary supplies and parking spaces etc has fallen comparably and can the Council confirm that Union employee time funded by the Council Taxpayer, relates to Council Employee Welfare and is not utilised for Municipal and / or Parliamentary Campaigning?

Answer

The following are the last 4 years of figures of the facility time budgets to directly fund those individuals who are released from their duties to carry out Trade Union duties within the Council and within Schools:-

2014/15 - £753,751

2015/16 - £611,673

2016/17 - £616,297

2017/18 - £538,007

The Council has a statutory obligation to consult on budget reduction proposals / redundancies (and other matters such as TUPE, health and safety, discipline/capability procedures etc.) with the Trade Unions. This requires a significant amount of Trade Union time and this requirement continues year on year due to the constant budget cuts the Council has to make each year.

The Council does not provide free parking spaces.

The only accommodation provided is one small office in City Hall.

The Council has a statutory duty to provide the necessary resources, including stationery, accommodation and access to computers etc. to enable the Trade Unions to carry out their functions and duties. Therefore, stationery costs are not monitored separately for Trade Unions and not all stationery is provided by the Council.

Employee Welfare is only one aspect of the functions of a Trade Union, they undertake a range of functions that employers have a statutory duty to involve them in. They also provide valuable support for the Council with its staff training programme

Political campaigning is normally undertaken at regional level and any time on such campaigning is not funded by the Council.

Supplementary Question

Thank you very much for your answer. It is good to see that the costs associated with union representation are decreasing. Obviously there is a statutory obligation to consult but given that the budgetary constraints of this Council and the fact that union members contribute subscriptions to unions is there any leeway, do you think there is any suggestion that we might think of asking the unions to contribute towards the cost of their own representatives in the Council?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

They already do by the function of their organisation. There is no issue with the fact that we have statutory obligation to consult with employees who have redundancy options available to them who might be going through a disciplinary etc and if we did not have trade union staff doing that we would have to pay staff in the Council to go and support those members, those employees, in those meetings. This is a HR cost. It has to happen. Every Council in the country, Conservative, Labour alike, all have trade union representatives doing this role and if we didn't we would have to employ people to do that, probably at a greater cost actually. They provide good value do our trade unions and actually in the changing times we are in, when austerity is so severe and we have taken what 2,000 people out of the organisation since it started, maybe more. That is a real cost to the organisation. There is change constantly and we could not go through the amount of change we go through year by year without the support of our trade unions and our employees. It is a very difficult situation for our employees to be in. Every year they get a letter saying they are going to be made redundant, every single member of the Council, absolutely they need support from their trade unions for them to keep functioning in our organisation. We should be grateful to the trade union movement for the support and the encouragement they provide for us to keep going, delivering good services in difficult times.

27. Councillor Tariq Hussain

What events took place this summer to mark the anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide? Also what other activities is the council taking part in to tackle Islamophobia and other forms of hate?

Answer

This week is National Hate Crime Awareness Week and a number of activities are taking place to highlight the issue including how we tackle Islamophobia.

Regarding Srebrenica, there was a memorial event held at City Hall on 9 July to commemorate the Srebrenica genocide. There was also a football tournament held at University Academy Keighley for teams of young people, to raise funds for Remembering Srebrenica.

Stand Up, Speak Out, Make a Difference (SUSOMAD) addresses Islamophobia and other forms of hatred. The programme includes training young people as peer guides for exhibitions about the Holocaust and the Srebrenica genocide, workshops focusing on prejudice in general and Islamophobia specifically, and pupils making a film about an aspect of prejudice that they want to address and using it as a peer education resource in school. This is available to primary and secondary schools.

THINK is a leadership development programme for young people aged 13 to 19 involving a residential course and peer education activities back in school. It develops young people's skills, knowledge and understanding around values, beliefs and their management of conflict so that they are equipped to think critically and confidently about their place in the world. It helps to realise young people's ability to resolve conflict peacefully and non-violently. We have funding for 4 schools to send 10-15 pupils each.

We offer training to school staff on a programme developed by the Sophie Lancaster Foundation. The sessions challenge common preconceptions and enable pupils to explore their values and beliefs and where they originate from. A wide range of issue-based topics are explored, including: how to respect equality and diversity in relationships; physical, mental and emotional well-being; how to recognise and manage emotions within a range of relationships; respect for self and others; rights and responsibilities; managing transition, bullying and hate crime and incidents. This has been offered to 25 primary schools.

Choices, developed in junction with The Peace Museum, has been offered to 20 primary schools and explores the concept of intolerance. An exhibition and workshop explore themes relating to the choices people make in times of conflict. The workshop covers themes such as propaganda, the influence of the media, democracy and the law and current political developments.

During a guided tour of the exhibition, which uses World War 1 as a starting point, students are asked to explore what courage means, what influences our decisions, and discover those who joined up to serve their country and those who spoke out for peace in times of conflict.

Small Steps for Peace is a programme of interactive peace education for Key Stage 2 pupils, developed by the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation. It helps learners to: understand the causes of conflict, how it can be driven by diverse needs and wants and how it can be entrenched between in-groups of 'us' and out-groups of 'them'; understand the impact of conflict, gaining awareness of how they and others feel in conflict situations and the consequences of violence; develop active listening skills; build emotional intelligence, recognising and regulating their own emotional responses, empathising with others, and growing their confidence and capacity to communicate; practice problem solving in creative ways and in collaborative group settings.

28. Councillor Tess Peart

Can the Portfolio Holder tell us about some of the Christmas events planned this year in the district?

Answer

There are lots of Christmas events happening throughout the district to look forward to. To name just a few examples: the ever popular Santa Specials are back on the Shipley Glen tramway, which is always a wonderful experience for young children; we have the Made Bradford Christmas market on 10 November in the city centre when the Christmas lights are switched on; there's a Victorian Christmas market at the Industrial Museum on 17 and 18 November; Bingley hosts its Christmas Fayre and lights switch-on on 24 November; Keighley's Christmas lights switch-on takes place on 25 November; there are the fantastic Santa Steam Specials on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway this festive season; in Clayton there is a Dickensian market; there is the Saltaire Living Advent trail which is always a fantastic sight and a fun event both for the community and for visitors; in Ilkley there is a food focused Christmas market; or for those who fancy something a bit darker on 5 December there is a ghost tour of the Police Museum led by the Civic Society! And of course as ever there is a great range of festive shows and pantomimes to look forward to this year. People can keep checking the Visit Bradford website for the latest updates at: <https://www.visitbradford.com/thedms.aspx?dms=12&festival=5018>

29. Councillor David Ward

What is the total cost of redundancy/early retirement payments associated with the Prevention and Early Help restructure?

Answer

We are part-way through the process, with the restructure still being implemented. At the time of writing, the cost of voluntary redundancies is £898,000.

Supplementary Question

What is the estimated date for completion of the process?

Councillor Adrian Farley

Thank you for the question Councillor Ward. The process is still ongoing at the moment. I do not have the information to hand but I will endeavour to send it to you.

30. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could the Portfolio Holder tell me what training and support is given to our adult social care workers in home care. Please could you share the training and update how effective it has been?

Answer

All the Social Care staff employed by the Council have their Health and Social Care Level 2 award. There are a few Trainees and Apprenticeship Enablement Assistants who are completing their Care Certificate and will follow on from this to attend college one day a week and complete their Level 2 award over a two year period. It is a requirement to complete the Care Certificate before working with people.

Supplementary Question

I just want to say thank you to the officers and the team of the Adult Social Care. I have been someone who has used this service first hand and I have just experienced from the past years to now we have done really well so a vote of thanks to the service despite all the Government cuts. We are doing really well as a district Council.

Councillor Sarah Feriby

Thank you Councillor Shaheen. That is very, very much appreciated and I will make sure that is passed on to Council officers.

31. Councillor Mike Pollard

Can the Leader of the Council confirm the value of any Lender Option, Borrower Option (LOBO) Loans that the Council has, along with details of their duration and any interest rate rises, actual or possible, that should give cause for concern?

Answer

The Council has 6 LOBO loans with a total value of £41.4m. This comprises 5 individual loans totalling £33.9m with fixed interest rates of 4.5% with the residual £7.5m loan having a 3.6% rate. The loans range in duration from 25 years to 47 years remaining. Officers in Finance would be more than happy to share the loan by loan breakdown with Cllr Pollard.

Supplementary Question

Thank you to the Leader for the answer. Interesting that the answer states that the interest rates are fixed. As the, pardon the expression, BO part of LOBO stands for Borrower Option which I understand can only be exercised when the lender exercises their option to change ie presumably increase interest rates, can the Leader confirm that the contracts entered into specifically were described therein as LOBO loans?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

So Councillor Pollard you can absolutely have a one to one with Andrew Crookham (Director of Finance) to explain all this however what I can tell you is that these LOBOs were taken about 15 even 10/15 years ago probably when the interest rate was not fixed but in 2016 we fixed it. Whereas other authorities maybe more exposed because the rate maybe going up and down, with us it is fixed but happy to sit with you and Andrew Crookham to go through it in more detail if you still have further questions. Thank you Councillor Pollard.

32. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

What will be the impact of the £2m Heritage Lottery Fund grant at the top of town?

Answer

The overarching objective is to increase the economic activity at the 'Top of Town' by using its historic environment as a positive resource. The scheme is designed to improve the public space and heritage assets, bringing business and investor

confidence, creating an improved shopping, living and working environment, and encouraging further regeneration.

Bradford Council's vision for the 'Top of Town' is for it to become a thriving, well connected city centre quarter, vibrant during the day and night, with quality independent shops and leisure uses, alongside high quality offices and residential breathing new life into historic buildings and enhancing the heritage of the area. Establishing an urban village of city dwellers will help make the retail and commercial offer more sustainable, while the area will become the thriving core for the independent enterprise community, allowing new and established businesses to benefit from the rich historic built environment.

- The Townscape Heritage scheme will build upon ongoing regeneration activity, in particular that to the area around North Parade where several bars have opened in recent years. In addition to improving the built historic environment, there will be better connection between the 'Top of Town' and the area around The Broadway shopping centre, bringing a new vibrancy to the area and making it more economically attractive. The area to benefit from the grants, available via Bradford Council through the National Lottery Townscape Heritage scheme, includes: Period properties concentrated along North Parade, Rawson Place, Darley Street, Northgate, Piccadilly, Upper Piccadilly, Duke Street and James Street
- 37 structures on the National Heritage List for England
- 47 key unlisted buildings dating to when the city was known as 'Worstedopolis', the woollen textile capital of the world.

Regeneration of the built environment will be teamed with a scheme of public realm improvements centred around the Statue of Richard Oastler on Northgate.

A comprehensive activity programme will also help raise public awareness of Bradford's wonderful architecture to widen people's knowledge of the 'Top of Town' area, develop an understanding of historic buildings and the skills needed to maintain and protect them, and increase awareness of how protection and preservation of our heritage can enhance our communities and places.

A leaflet is being distributed to Members with more details of the works.

33. Councillor Abid Hussain

What is the latest situation on the parking review for Ilkley after the recent consultation?

Answer

In response to concerns raised by ward members and local residents, a report was commissioned to assess town centre parking in Ilkley. The report, by traffic consultants, Steer, Davies & Gleave, found evidence of people parking in residential areas and on-street in the town centre before using the train station to commute to work outside of Ilkley, causing problems for residents and businesses who were not

seeing the benefit of on-street parking that should be used to encourage a turnover of shoppers. The report included a number of recommendations to better manage traffic and parking within Ilkley town centre.

The recommendations include:

Recommendation 1: Protect on street parking for use by short stay shoppers and encourage turnover

Recommendation 2: Introduce resident parking schemes to reduce commuter parking in residential areas

Recommendation 3: Increase tariffs at South Hawksworth Street car park and reinvest additional income into parking facilities

Recommendation 4: Improve Blue Badge parking provision

Recommendation 5: Review the business permit scheme with a view to reducing business permit parking provision

Recommendation 6: Improve presentation and co-ordination of alternative travel options

Recommendation 7: Undertake an urban realm study to identify ways of improving the pedestrian environment

We are proposing to implement these recommendations and are currently consulting on them. We have extended the consultation to reflect public interest and three public exhibitions have taken place with an attendance in excess of approximately 1,200 people over the three events. Online representations have been made along with hundreds of 'Have your say' forms completed. The comments and views will be tabulated and presented for consideration.

Early amendments based on initial key stakeholder feedback from groups such as the Ilkley Business Forum included the provision of loading bays for local business and additional residential parking over and above what was looked at in the parking review. Early feedback from questionnaires sent to residents by John Grogan MP found broad support for the proposals and we will assess the consultation responses to consider what further amendments could be made to address any concerns raised.

34. Councillor Chris Herd

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport advise colleagues why Historic England were not consulted regarding the decision to demolish Cherry Tree Farm, a listed building dating back several hundred years?

Answer

The Council advised the owner that it considered Cherry Tree Farm to be a dangerous structure, and without attention it posed a risk to public safety. The owner

subsequently demolished the structure. Historic England was aware of the situation through previous discussions with the Council's Heritage Conservation Team. However the urgency of the situation, where the building posed a significant risk to the public, meant that the decision to demolish had to be taken swiftly. Historic England itself has acknowledged publicly that when health and safety becomes a major factor, the local authority has the power to carry out emergency measures to protect the public.

Supplementary Question

Was the building or any of the land around in the Council ownership of Cherry Tree Farm?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

No, none of the land was in Council ownership.

35. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Can you please advise by ward, per month for each of the last four years the number of broken street lights that have been reported and how many of them have been repaired within an eight week period?

Answer

This information has been collated and runs to a document of 61 pages in length. I will email it to all members.

Supplementary Question

Thank you very much to the person who is going to send me 61 pages. I shall look forward to reading every single one and will ensure that I do. The reason for asking the question and raising the concern really was having been contacted by a couple of members of the public who said that when they rang to find out about a street light being off or on for a long period of time, they were given the phone number of a third party supplier and told to ring them and ask them. I followed this up myself and was given the said phone number in order to ring up to find out so what I want to know is, is this now standard procedure because if it is, it sucks.

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Thank you. I agree that does sound like it sucks so we will look into that. I am not sure that should be the case.

36. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Would the Leader join me in congratulating the Fire Brigades Union who this year celebrate their centenary as an organisation.

Answer

Absolutely. At this time of year Firefighters are particularly busy and therefore we thank them most sincerely for their work. The Fire Brigades Union has a long and proud history of representing its members and ensuring that the public continues to receive a good, safe emergency service. I wish them all the best for the next 100 years!

37. Councillor Debbie Davies

As Organ Donation Week highlighted the fact that 15 people from Bradford died whilst on the waiting list in the past five years whilst 41 people from Bradford received a transplant last year, could the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places investigate measures which the Council could do, such as a link on the website etc, to encourage people to consider signing up to become organ donors after their death?

Answer

It is vital to raise the awareness of organ donations. Bradford recently joined others in lighting up several buildings in pink to show their support during organ donation week.

We have already been in discussion with the NHS Blood and Transplant organisation to understand what we can do to promote organ donation here in Bradford. They see Bradford as a priority area where they would like to increase the numbers on the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR).

We intend to support organ donation in a number of ways:

- including a link on our Council website to our pages for residents to sign up - organdonation.nhs.uk and blood.co.uk
- supporting campaigns such as Organ Donation Week on our social media channels

Supplementary Question

I am not sure for healthy people and places which one of you that is. Just to say thank you for the very positive reply. Very refreshing.

Councillor Sarah Feriby

You are welcome Councillor Davies.

38. Councillor Brendan Stubbs

Can the Portfolio Holder please advise the length of waiting times for a place to join swimming lessons provided at each of the districts swimming pools, broken down by the different stages (Aquatots 0-4, Juniors 4+, Adults 16+ and Senior Citizens) and the Premium and Deluxe packages. As well as the number applicants in the waiting list at each stage or package for each of the pools.

Answer

The information requested has been collated, as below, and more detail can be provided direct to the member if required.

Waiting lists for all packages from 1 September 2018 – 8 October 2018:

- Bingley - 22
- Bowling – 107
- Eccleshill – 112
- Ilkley – 22 (pool currently closed for maintenance)
- The Leisure Centre Keighley - 47

- Queensbury - 25
- Richard Dunn - 57
- Shipley - 159
- Tong – 1

The lessons currently run in blocks of 12 weeks and we fill up the classes up to and including week 4. Most swimming pools do have waiting lists and the anticipated waiting time for lessons is below:

Juniors

- Bingley - 6 months
- Bowling - 6 months
- Eccleshill - 6 months
- Ilkley - 6 months
- The leisure Centre Keighley - 6 months
- Queensbury - 3 months
- Richard Dunn - 6 months
- Shipley - 6 months
- Tong – 3 months

Adult and Child

- Bingley - 3 months
- Bowling - 3 months
- Eccleshill - 6 months
- Ilkley - 9 months
- The leisure Centre Keighley - 6 months
- Queensbury - 3 months
- Richard Dunn - 6 months
- Shipley - 6 months
- Tong – don't run adult and child classes

Adults

- Bingley - 3 months
- Bowling - 6 months
- Eccleshill - 6 months
- Ilkley - 6 months
- The leisure Centre Keighley - 2 months
- Queensbury - 2 months
- Richard Dunn - 3 months
- Shipley - 6 months / day time immediately
- Tong – don't run adult classes

Premium (maximum 6 pupils in a class) and Deluxe (1:1 or 1:2 lessons):

- Bingley - 3 months
- Bowling – don't do as restricted on space due to waiting list for Juniors
- Eccleshill - 3 months
- Ilkley - don't do as restricted on space due to waiting list for Juniors and Adult and Child

- The Leisure Centre Keighley - 3 months
- Queensbury - 3 months
- Richard Dunn - 6 months
- Shipley - 3 months
- Tong – don't run premium or deluxe classes at present time

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer again. Clearly the concerns that were raised with me by residents are borne out in the numbers here and I wonder if the portfolio holder would agree with me that these numbers clearly show there is a demand for action to do something to tackle this problem and whether she has already taken steps or whether they are looking at steps they can take to make sure that hundreds of people who want to learn to swim who cannot currently in the district are able to get to a swimming pool and have those lessons in a reasonable time period?

Councillor Sarah Feriby

Thank you Councillor Stubbs. Yes action has already been taken and Shipley has extended by an hour and is looking for a further extension for time to allow lessons. Eccleshill has also had an additional teacher so that there are altogether 72 pupils benefitted from that. As we know Ilkley is currently closed for maintenance but a full review of lesson programming and times will be undertaken for the reopening and also Queensbury Pool has extended by half an hour.

39. Councillor Martin Smith

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport advise members on the number of Compulsory Purchase Orders issued last year and during this year to date?

Answer

There have been 15 housing Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) and 2 Highways CPOs made since January 2017 to date (a total of 17).