

**COUNCIL  
11 DECEMBER 2018**

**MEMBER QUESTION TIME  
Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12**

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**1. Councillor Vick Jenkins**

Air quality is a concern for people in the Shipley Ward. Can the Portfolio Holder please inform me what actions are being taken as a result of the Council working with DEFRA to achieve the dramatic improvement in air quality that we need to see in pollution hotspots in the district?

**Answer**

In October this year the Council was issued with a Ministerial Direction to identify the option which will deliver compliance with legal limits for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in the area for which the authority is responsible, in the shortest possible time.

The Council along with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Department for Transport (DfT) are still in the early stages of planning how we undertake our feasibility study to explore the available options to bring forward compliance. As part of the Ministerial Direction the Council has to submit to Defra/DfT a Strategic Outline Case by the 31st January 2019 and Outline Business Case by 31st October 2019.

On 30th November the Council submitted to Defra/DfT a proposal for local plan development which includes funding required by the Council to develop the outline business case.

**2. Councillor John Pennington**

Would the Leader of the Council provide assurance to the Full Council that any change of circumstances at Odsal Stadium and Richard Dunn are maximised to benefit council coffers and the people of Bradford and District?

**Answer**

In respect of a disposal of any its assets, the Council has a duty to achieve 'Best Consideration' in accordance with section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, and will also seek to maximise any regeneration benefits for the citizens of Bradford District while also ensuring the most appropriate future use of the Richard Dunn site.

The Richard Dunn leisure centre is anticipated to close in autumn 2019, to coincide with the opening of the nearby new Sedbergh Fields leisure facility, and marketing of the asset will commence in 2019. In respect of Odsal Stadium, this is leased to the Rugby Football League for a term of 150 years from 2002 at a peppercorn, and is sublet to the Bradford Bulls.

Meanwhile I'd like to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to the Bulls on their promotion to the Championship. It's great news for the club and for the district as a whole and hopefully it's onwards and upwards from here.

### **Supplementary Question**

Thank you for the response. I just have a question on top of this. Who owns the head lease for Odsal Stadium?

### **Councillor Hinchcliffe**

So Councillor Pennington it is a complicated story. It is a stadium the lease I am quite happy to offer you a meeting with Joanne Hyde who is Corporate Services Director and she will go through it in detail. So rather than me trying to go through complex lease agreements I would be happy for you to take a briefing direct from Joanne Hyde.

### **3. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> November I was contacted by a company called Bellavail IMS who had been by the Council "to help address the issue of un-adopted roads, footways and street lighting in new developments, which have been left incomplete by developers". As a results of this work the Council has now "successfully adopted the highway and taken responsibility for the maintenance of the highway at Meadow Road, Apperley Bridge (Bradford), enabling 84 properties with an estimated 240 – 250 residents and council tax payers now able to benefit from local services such as gritting, maintenance of street lighting and street cleansing." "The company went on to inform me that "All works were completed at no cost to the public purse with NIL COST to the residents or the Council, which not only improves the local road conditions but also positively affects the saleability and potential value of your constituents' properties."

Can the Portfolio Holder advise the Council of this arrangement and how this work has been done at "no cost" and where else in the District the company has been working?

### **Answer**

Bellavail IMS is a specialist company that deals with the issue of unadopted roads and incomplete S38 Highway agreements on new developments where the developer has an obligation. They have been engaged by the Council to arrange for certain outstanding works to be completed on a site by site basis on a handful of sites around the district to allow those roads to be adopted. This does not include old unadopted roads.

All Section 38 agreements signed by a developer require them to take out what is effectively an insurance policy in case they go bust or fail to complete the required road works. This 'bond' is usually provided by a Bondsman, which is a bank or a building control company the developer may be using. Bellavail acting on the Council's behalf chase the developer to complete the outstanding work or else make a claim against the bond. They make no charge to the public purse for this but charge an administration fee to the developer or bondsman as part of the cost of finishing the work and this is included in the agreement.

### **Supplementary Question**

Thank you for the answer. The email from which the question was drawn was followed up by a request for me to give commendation and publicity for the work that had been done. So whilst I will endorse the work of all highways officers across the district who actually put in a lot of hard graft in quite difficult times. Portfolio holder, can you just send a message to the person that has been emailing me actually asking for extra publicity off the back of a job that they have been paid to do is not a way to endear themselves to this Councillor and probably there is another 89 who feel very much the same.

### **Councillor Ross-Shaw**

I could not agree more Councillor so I will pass that on.

### **4. Councillor Martin Love**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety please tell us whether it is the police or the Council who are responsible for enforcement of breaches of HGV bans on roads throughout the district?

#### **Answer**

HGV, or weight restriction limits, on roads throughout the district relate to moving traffic violations which are enforceable by the Police. Currently, the only moving traffic restrictions which the Council can enforce relate to vehicles illegally using bus lanes.

### **5. Councillor Michael Stelling**

What is the Council doing to prevent the disruption of Park Services by the Travelling Community who have broken into various park sites recently. Is the Council looking at other legal options to put a blanket ban on these areas and other Council property, to aid easier removal such as what Leeds City Council has done?

#### **Answer**

All our Parks and Recreation grounds have secured access points and are not easily accessed by vehicles unless a forced access is gained. Any stakeholder in a park or recreation ground is supplied with a key to gain access but they do sign to agree that the gate must be left in a secured position at all times.

Whenever an illegal encampment appears, council officers visit immediately, do welfare checks and evict through the courts.

We would not hesitate to use a blanket ban in the right circumstances. This tends to be a persistent group over a prolonged period of time. Most groups in our district tend to be small groups and stay for a short duration.

## **6. Councillor Kamran Hussain**

Can the Portfolio Holder tell me what has been the impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act in Bradford and what particular challenges do we face with partners in ensuring that we are meeting people's needs?

### **Answer**

The Homelessness Reduction Act came into effect in April 2018 and it is early days to provide a full evaluation. However I am able to share some of the experiences and expectations.

The main outcome people expect from the HR Act is a reduction in homelessness. However, whilst the HR Act is welcomed as it focuses more intensively on prevention, what it does not do is to deal with the underlying issues which cause homelessness in the first place, such as poverty, welfare reform, insecure private sector tenancies, lack of affordable housing and an economy which does not reach all sectors of our society. A greater level of investment is therefore required into housing supply and in alleviating poverty for low income households. A decade of austerity has not only increased homelessness throughout the country but made tackling homelessness a lot harder.

As far as partnership working is concerned, it is predicated on the fact that partners have capacity to help support the work of the Councils Housing Options team. Whilst there is general support for this approach, partners are worried that shrinking budgets across all sectors will affect the ability of partners to fulfil collaborative working effectively. The Council team have nevertheless been working with partners to make them aware of the duty of public agencies to refer those they believe are homeless or at risk of homelessness. A notification process has been established which makes it easier for agencies to report.

What we are finding in the early days of implementation is that a predominantly telephone based approach to Housing Options and the office space in Britannia House does not work well for the length of interviews or the different demographics of clients that approach the service. The HR Act expects more face to face interviews and more quality time devoted to each individual. This has increased assessment time as well as back office work and is placing some strain on the resources available to deal with the additional requirements.

In Bradford we struggle to house chaotic people with multiple and complex needs within our current accommodation offer and it is unlikely that the HR Act alone will be sufficient to tackle the problems facing people with complex need. This is why investment is being placed into projects such as Housing First, No Second Night Out, the Day Shelter and our commissioned Support Services. This is where partnership working with the housing and voluntary sector can bring about successful outcomes for people with the most problematic issues.

Our fears are lack of sufficient funding to deal with the additional requirements in the Act and further forthcoming impacts from Universal Credit and other welfare reform measures. The LGA has already warned the government to fully fund the impact of the Act and what LA's have received is a fraction of the funding required for full effectiveness and the funding is limited to a maximum of 3 years.

**7. Councillor Michelle Swallow**

Would the Portfolio Holder advise if she agrees that carers who care for sick family members in their own homes are saving the social care system significant resources and does she agree that if family carers were not able to care in the ways they do, adult social care would be in an even more perilous state?

**Answer**

I absolutely agree. Their work is invaluable.

The role of unpaid carers in Bradford is estimated to contribute over £900 million to the health and care economy in Bradford District and Craven (taken from the Market Briefing Document, September 2018 available on the Council Website). The Council and our commissioning partners (NHS) have a statutory as well as moral responsibility to respond to carers' needs. Beyond this, commissioning effective support for carers is a key strategic priority as their unpaid work is indispensable to the functioning of the health and care system.

We are currently in the process of renewing the carers service contract through a procurement exercise. This is a jointly funded and commissioned service with our NHS partners. The service design has been heavily influenced by carers through a variety of engagement events. Carers are also involved in evaluating the prospective bids.

**8. Councillor Debbie Davies**

As the 'Science and Technology based business park' at Otley Road, Baildon was meant to provide over 700 high-tech jobs and include a hotel, restaurant and shops and eight years on there is no sign of the hotel, restaurant or shops, could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, provide an update on the number of jobs and how many of these are classed as "high-tech"?

**Answer**

The Baildon Business Park is the largest business park development in the district in the last five years and is now close to completion. We were pleased that the Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry visited the site as a guest of Philip Davies MP recently and I know you have also been welcomed by a business successfully operating there.

The development has 22 units, 10 of which are occupied, with the remaining 12 to be occupied from early 2019. The development has brought in high value businesses from outside Bradford District to locate here and has enabled other local businesses to expand their operations at the site.

The original draft scheme which you outline was drawn up in 2007/8 and secured outline planning permission in 2010. However, following withdrawal of significant public sector funding in 2010 a revised scheme was drawn up to reflect the demands of the market at that time. The multi storey technology hub was removed from the plans, resulting in a reduction in floor space and a revised jobs estimate of 477 based on the Home and Communities Agency (HCA) study figures which estimate how many square metres each person occupies in a property depending on the use.

The intention was to provide retail/hotel uses in the revised scheme. Morrisons had signed up for their 'Local' store concept, however shortly afterwards took a corporate decision to drop the 'Morrisons Local' brand nationally and therefore did not develop at Baildon.

Hotel operators, family pub chains and small supermarket operators all reduced their development activity nationally during the recession that started in 2011 and none were therefore in a position to invest in the site. The scheme was therefore further revised to accommodate eight smaller units, which have now been constructed and all of which are sold, providing accommodation for small local businesses.

The Council has maintained the high-tech focus for the development, while also ensuring the units are available for expanding local business across all sectors. Companies based at the development include: aircraft parts manufacture; high end fabric processing and spinning; research & development, manufacture and assembly of aluminium products; 3D printing of small components; healthcare product design, manufacture and repair; design and manufacture of canvas products.

The number of jobs currently on site is approximately 200. Once all the units are occupied it is estimated the jobs figure will be at approximately 375 but this will continue to grow. The job numbers will always be a snapshot in time and over the years this level is expected to grow. As an example, Produmax have been in their unit for three years and staff numbers have doubled in that time.

**9. Councillor Michelle Swallow**

Would the Portfolio Holder advise if she would consider supporting requests to the Government to increase the support for Carers through the increase of Carer's Allowance from £64.60 per week to a rate which is more comparable to a living wage?

**Answer**

The Carer's Allowance is a DWP benefit. We would support anything that would be of help to carers. We will be tasking the newly commissioned carers' service to support the development of a new carers strategy for Bradford – this may include views on financial support for carers.

**10. Councillor Michelle Swallow**

Would the Portfolio Holder please advise how many Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) there are in the District, how many separate residents there are in these HMOs and of these how many have been inspected and require improvements to minimum acceptable standards?

**Answer**

There are an estimated 1,125 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in the district. HMOs can take many forms, ranging from bedsit type accommodation, shared houses and/or flats but all with an element of sharing of facilities. It also includes buildings that have been poorly converted into self-contained flats (without Building Regulation approval).

Since 2006 those HMOs considered to be of highest risk have been required to have a licence from the Council to continue to operate as an HMO. This initially applied only to HMOs of three storeys or more but since 1 October 2018 licensing now applies to any HMO occupied by 5 or more occupants, the occupants to comprise two or more households. This change was approved by the Executive on 6 November.

Licences are normally issued for the maximum period of 5 years, although a licence can be issued for a shorter period in certain circumstances. It is an offence to operate a licensable HMO without a licence, the penalty for which can be a Civil Penalty Notice for up to £30,000 or prosecution. All licenced HMOs are inspected at least once during the period of their licence.

The estimated number of licensable HMOs in the district is currently 353. Of these 250 are licenced and 37 licence applications are being processed. Officers within Housing Standards have completed an initial survey to identify potentially licensable HMOs since the change in legislation and will be undertaking further survey work in early 2019.

The number of people occupying an HMO at any one time is not information that the Council holds. Licensable HMOs are licenced for a specific number of occupants. The 250 licenced HMOs are licenced as follows:

HMOs licenced to accommodate 5 – 7 people	139
HMOs licenced to accommodate 8 – 10 people	73
HMOs licenced to accommodate 11+ people	38

During the period 1.4.18 to 4.12.18 the HMO team based within the Housing service carried out 649 initial inspections, served 154 enforcement notices and carried out 311 inspections confirming improvement.

### **Supplementary Question**

(the verbatim supplementary question by Councillor Swallow was not captured by the electronic recording and will be added in later if the recording can be recovered)

Are the remaining potentially licensable HMOs without a HMO licence being followed up by housing officers?

### **Councillor Ross-Shaw**

You may presume so Councillor.

### **11. Councillor Mike Pollard**

Can the Leader of the Council confirm what Wakefield Council (which an Officer recently described as having “impressive Council Tax collection rates”) does differently in collecting Council Tax and how long have we been working with them to try and improve our collection rates in Bradford?

**Answer**

The Council has a long history of benchmarking against other organisations about how we collect our local taxes. I am keen to assure ourselves that we continue doing all we can to maximise the amount of money we collect, whilst at the same time dealing with those that struggle to pay, appropriately – that’s the reason the Council signed up to the Council Tax Protocol earlier this year; an agreement between Councils and our local Citizen Advice Bureau, which gives an assurance that we doing just that.

The work that is underway with Wakefield has not been concluded so I am unable to respond fully. The Review started in September and I am expecting to see an initial report early in the New Year.

**Supplementary Question**

This glowing report on Wakefield was extracted from a press item so perhaps may have been a little creative but can the Leader comment on this unnamed officer what he may have had in mind when praising Wakefield processes on collection of council taxes.

**Councillor Hinchcliffe**

I think it is just by the closer working that they have got currently with Wakefield Council. They have noticed that they have got a good collection rates, it is as simple as that and therefore they are going to do a peer review of Bradford. I am very keen on other authorities coming to look at what we do so we can learn and that is going to happen in this area. I think you can never learn too much in this and we have lots of different services and I want to make sure we learn from the best. So if they have got a good example to follow let’s see what it is and see if we can do likewise.

**12. Councillor Michelle Swallow**

How many households in the District are in rent arrears and unable to top up the difference between either the Housing Benefit or for those on Universal Credit Housing Element and are facing eviction this winter?

**Answer**

The Council doesn’t hold information about the level of rent arrears across the District, nor if any arrears that do exist are caused by a shortfall of Housing Benefits or the Universal Credit Housing Element.

What I can say is that the Council remains committed to Discretionary Housing Payments and has and will continue to ensure that every penny the Government provide for this is spent on supporting the most vulnerable in the District with any rental shortfall. In the last full year the Council spent all of the £1.1m it had for this purpose.

So far this year we have awarded £719k in extra support to 1,221 of the District’s most vulnerable households

173 of these have been supported because their Housing Benefits has been reduced due to the benefits cap and 514 due to the bedroom tax.

Whilst I have no information about the overall level of arrears, I can report that our Housing Options Service helped 47 families or individuals that were faced with the threat of eviction for rent arrears in 2017/18 and 65 the previous year.

### Supplementary Question

(the verbatim supplementary question by Councillor Swallow was not captured by the electronic recording and will be added in later if the recording can be recovered)

Can I ask that information continue to be made widely available to ordinary citizens as more people need to be able to access information.

### Councillor Hinchcliffe

Certainly Councillor Swallow. There are a number of ways of supporting vulnerable people in the district including doing the Council tax hardship fund for example but also on housing benefit. We have to make sure that residents are able to apply to get help with their Council tax for example as well if they have got in difficulties. So absolutely we will make sure that yourselves as Councillors know but also all the different advice agencies in the district are briefed as well so they are all aware of all the schemes that we provide. It is tragic really to see the vulnerability of some people and we must do all we can to support them.

### 13. Councillor David Ward

Will the Portfolio Holder provide a breakdown of Permanent Exclusions by school in 2017/18 and for the beginning of 2018/19?

### Answer

Breakdown of permanent exclusions outlined below:

Academic Year 2017-18		Academic Year 2018-19 to Date	
School	No. of pupils	School	No. of pupils
Parkland Primary School	1	Appleton Academy	2
Bingley Grammar School	1	Bingley Grammar School	1
Appleton Academy	4	Bradford District PRU	1
Beckfoot Thornton Academy	1	Bradford Forster Academy	1
Bradford Academy	1	Buttershaw BEC	3
Bradford Forster Academy	1	Dixons McMillan Academy	1
Buttershaw BEC	5	Grange Technology College	5
Grange Technology College	4	Ilkley Grammar School	1
High Craggs Academy	1	Immanuel College	1
Ilkley Grammar School	1	One In A Million Free School	1
Immanuel College	1	Parkside School	1
Laisterdyke Leadership Academy	2	Queensbury Academy	2

Laycock Primary School	1	Ryecroft Primary Academy	1
Queensbury Academy	3	Southmere Primary Academy	1
Ryecroft Primary Academy	1	St Oswald's C of E Primary Academy	1
Shirley Manor Primary School	1	Tong Leadership Academy	1
	30		24

### **Supplementary Question**

It looks as though we are heading for as many permanent exclusions in the first term of this academic year than the whole of the previous academic year. I just wonder if the portfolio holder was aware of this and whether he is aware of any actions that are being taken to find out what is happening in these schools?

### **Councillor Imran Khan**

Yes absolutely. That is one of the things we have been looking at. There are any number of reasons why a school will permanently exclude any children but please rest assured that we as a local authority do challenge schools when it comes to permanent exclusions. We make sure obviously that they follow the correct procedures and policies but it is also something the Education and Improvement Strategic Board has been mentioned. It is something that we will focus on in weeks to come.

### **14. Councillor Michelle Swallow**

What steps is the Council taking to prevent homelessness?

#### **Answer**

Our homelessness team supports over 360 rough sleepers every year, providing emergency accommodation and support, with many moving on to more secure and permanent accommodation.

If anyone is worried about where they are going to sleep tonight then I would urge them to contact our Housing Options team as soon as possible, either at Britannia House in Bradford or at Keighley Town Hall, or by calling 01274 435999.

If you are concerned about someone else sleeping rough in Bradford District, you can also contact No Second Night Out in the following ways:

By phone on 01274 309165.

By email at [Bradford@humankindcharity.org.uk](mailto:Bradford@humankindcharity.org.uk)

In person at Discovery House - 133 Barkerend Road, Bradford, BD3 9AU.

Housing Options is the Council's dedicated team providing advice, support and guidance to those who become homeless in the district. This team is complemented by a team which liaises with private landlords and ensures private landlords play their part in housing our customers. There is also the Council's Outreach support team which focuses on sustaining tenancies for offenders/prison leavers, asylum seekers with positive decisions and those placed in B&B and the private rented sector.

A number of services have been commissioned to undertake activities that support people who are homeless into sustainable accommodation solutions.

No Second Night Out – works with homeless individuals who are not a priority need. They assess clients during a short stay of up to 28 days and provide support into accommodation.

Day Shelter – Operates a safe place for homeless people during the day. The service again provides support with barriers to homelessness including resolving benefit issues

Housing Related Support - Offers support for those who cannot sustain a tenancy themselves. A number of contracts are commissioned out which includes, young people at risk; women fleeing abuse; people at high risk of offending; multiple needs, and homeless.

Housing First – A pilot project to house those with the most complex housing needs. Government pushing this nationally and after pilots in Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region and West Midlands expected to roll it out nationally.

Cold Weather Support – A co-ordinated approach to opening bed spaces when the temperature drops below zero degrees Celsius.

Specific training was offered to housing providers on preventing homelessness in clients on universal credit.

A project on improving communication and co-ordination of street outreach.

In 2019 the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for Bradford will be rewritten. It will be supported by a project group from different sectors to ensure that the supporting action plan will be co-owned and jointly delivered.

The department has also bid for money that the Government released for new projects including bids we are waiting to hear from.

### **Supplementary Question**

(the verbatim supplementary question by Councillor Swallow was not captured by the electronic recording and will be added in later if the recording can be recovered)

Can some of the information on Housing Options be made publically available please?

### **Councillor Ross-Shaw**

Yes absolutely. I think most of it, if not all of it already is publicly available but last year what we did was we put out some social media messages just highlighting what we do and it actually got shared hundreds of times really quickly. It was one of a more popular post that we did because it is a matter that is so important to people so we have already been talking about what we can do this year within the budgets. We have got to try and get that message out even further because obviously the problem is not going away sadly.

**15. Councillor Jackie Whiteley**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, please confirm that in seeking to raise parking charges across the district, a full cost benefit analysis has been conducted with regard to the possible affect on high street shops and the potential loss of business rates should shops cease to trade and furthermore does this proposal conflict with Policy EC5 of the adopted Core Strategy which seeks to sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of centres across the district? (Retail studies [EB/034-036])

**Answer**

Previous extensions in charging hours and increases of parking charges have not affected occupancy levels in Council pay and display car parks. We have not received any reports about reduced footfall or the closure of businesses as a result of changes to parking charges. Many of the villages, towns and the city centre have benefited from a price freeze in parking charges for a number of years. The last increases for long stay were in 2011 and charges for short stay have not increased since 2009 when the hourly rates at some car parks were increased by 10p. Recent changes to car parks in 2017/18 and 2018/19 have been introduced for the most part to ensure consistency and have included the introduction of charges at free car parks and the removal of free periods for parking. Charges for car parking in the Bradford District remain competitive when compared to other authorities.

**Supplementary Question**

Thank you for your answer. Unfortunately it does not really answer what I asked. Bradford, we do not live in a bubble and the high street is in crisis and I do not think it is too far to suggest that expensive parking might affect this. Also could you please give me an answer - is this, does it, does this idea conflict with the policy which is in our adopted core strategy which seeks to sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of centres across the district and I understand that is a retail subject?

**Councillor Ross-Shaw**

Absolutely because there is no evidence it has a detrimental impact and it does not go against any policies basically.

**16. Councillor Ralph Berry**

Does the Leader share my frustration and anger about the situation with Wibsey park lodge?

**Answer**

I note and share your frustration.

Following complaints received by the Planning Enforcement Team, correspondence was sent to the owner of the property advising that a Prior Notification (PN) application should have been submitted to the Local Planning Authority before any demolition work was carried out; as such he is now required to submit, retrospectively, a full planning application for the demolition works completed on the land.

An application was submitted two weeks ago but unfortunately this was done incorrectly and council officers are in contact with the owner, in an attempt to rectify this.

I have asked the Planning Enforcement Team to keep you and your fellow ward members updated on this matter.

### **Supplementary Question**

Thank you very much for the answer Leader. To almost to compound insult to injury the application that has been made is not valid. Could I ask that the officers do whatever we can to reiterate that demolishing something without planning permission must not be seen to be able to give one an advantage over following the actual rules. The concerns that people have in my ward and others is there is a profession, I do not know whether you would call them a profession of planning agents and people, who could be taking far more attention to advising their clients to act within the rules and the more that we act within the rules, the happier people are in those neighbourhoods. We are not against change, we are not against development but it has to be done within the rules and in a visible location like this, the rules are seen to be completely ignored. It is hardly surprising that people sometimes unfairly blame the Council officers who have behaved entirely appropriately in this case and responded very quickly.

### **Councillor Hinchcliffe**

I can assure you it certainly does not advantage them having demolished without permission. Absolutely not. People should follow the rules. They are there for everybody to follow regardless of who you are or where you are in the district and I would expect that to happen in this case. I am disappointed that it didn't.

### **17. Councillor Ruth Wood**

Given the frustrations caused while roadworks are being carried out, can the Portfolio Holder outline how the Council manages roadworks through the Yorkshire Common Permit Scheme, whether there have been any benefits through this and what more can be done to minimise the impact?

### **Answer**

The current Permit Scheme is limited to operating on the busiest roads in the district, which equates to approximately 32% of the total highway network. This arrangement was deemed by the Department of Transport – at the inception of the scheme – to be adequate to ensure direct benefits to the local economy. The remaining 68% of the highway network is currently managed using a noticing scheme as per the requirements of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991.

As part of operating the scheme the Council has been required to produce an annual assessment of the impact of the permit scheme. The last such update was reported to Executive on 3 April 2018. The annual report for the 2016/17 financial year (which covers the second year of operation) showed an average reduction of 1.41 days duration of street works across the district, amounting to a calculated saving to the local economy of approximately £500,000 (based on Department for Transport WebTag figures); this equates to a total of 40,944 hours of delay saved. This

performance indicates that the scheme is operating as expected in the original cost-benefit analysis.

In April, Executive also approved the transition to an “all permit” scheme which would encompass 100% of the highway network. This arrangement is currently being consulted on with statutory undertakers (works promoters) with a view to introducing this in April 2019.

**18. Councillor Andrew Senior**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, provide an update on what he is doing to secure the future of Queensbury tunnel, which would potentially be the longest underground cycle/walkway in England?

**Answer**

The Council continues to work with key stakeholders, including Queensbury Tunnel Society, Calderdale Council and Sustrans, to look at the possible future use of Queensbury Tunnel as a cycling leisure facility.

Following completion of the intrusive surveys earlier this year the detailed technical report from AECOM has now been received and a better understanding of the challenges facing this project in relation to the scope of works necessary to stabilise the tunnel and the indicative budget required to do so has been secured. Currently, these indicative figures far exceed the potential funding from Highways England by a significant margin.

We are currently exploring funding opportunities for both the stabilisation works as well as those works necessary to convert the tunnel to this alternate use. We also raised it with the Secretary of State for Transport on his most recent visit to Bradford.

A report on the potential options for the Council going forward will be considered by Executive early in the New Year.

**19. Councillor Hassan Khan**

Can the Portfolio Holder give an update on the Opportunity Area scheme and what activities it's doing to improve educational standards?

**Answer**

The primary purpose of Opportunity Area is to focus local and national resources on a common goal – to increase social mobility by investing in education to deliver our plan. The main areas of investment that link to educational standards are listed below (however this is not a full list of OA investment and support activities):

**Priority 1 – Strengthening School Leadership and the Quality of Teaching**

Major OA investment in school-to-school support - £1.5m across 25 schools

- Identified using a data-driven methodology
- Brokered support from Teaching School Alliances, NLEs, to work in partnership with identified schools
- Inviting system leadership support from Bradford and beyond

- Average of £60k per school across 4 terms
- Pilot and 1st round supporting 17 schools, with 8 more schools to be added next term (We now have 68% of supported and supporting schools in place – on target to meet a total of 25 – with all supporting schools sourced from Bradford, West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire)
- 'Implementation Matters' - support from the Bradford Research School at Dixons, building on the EEF's School's Guide to Implementation.
- Open to LA Maintained and academies alike, primary and secondary
- Good response from system leaders in Bradford and beyond. We think it's a good thing to open up the city to additional expertise, while making the most of the capacity that's already within Bradford.
- Next round likely to be in the spring term – will be going out to system leaders in Jan/Feb.
- This approach builds on wider system leadership work already happening in Bradford – i.e. various SSIF rounds
- Whilst we are making good progress against delivery interventions and outputs, however whilst Bradford is improving in regard to KS2 and KS4 results the gap to national is not closing. There remains a considerable number of schools in OFSTED categories 3 & 4. Our interventions will take time to impact.

#### Investment in literacy - £600k across 30 schools

- Task and finish group are shaping proposals for the priority 1 working group for a model of delivery to improve literacy in 30 of Bradford's Primary Schools. It is proposed that schools will be supported by a national leader of education to develop a literacy improvement plan and have up to £20K per school to commission specific literacy interventions

#### Bradford for Teaching

- OA is funding Bradford for Teaching, which will be provided by Northern Lights Teaching School Alliance, with an ambitious extension of the programme
- Ambition is to make Bradford the first destination for high quality education professionals, at all levels and all stages of their career. To help improve the learning and career development offer for education professionals, as well as the targeting and take up of that offer, to help Bradford grow and retain a high quality workforce.
- BfT will be a strategic organisation that will work across ITT and CPD in Bradford to develop a wider 'Bradford Offer'.

#### Coaching, Mentoring, Masterclasses

- Ambition to match 50 new or new to Bradford head teachers with mentors to support them to develop as school leaders. These leaders will also participate in masterclasses.
- To date there are 43 new or new to Bradford head teachers, plus 7 aspiring head teachers participating in the programme.

### **P3: Improving access to rewarding careers**

#### Funded training for secondary careers leaders and accreditation

- Funded careers Leader training to begin in January 2018

#### Support for primary careers

- Networking events for primary school leaders and employers and an “aspiration fund” available to 100 primary schools based on levels of deprivation. This is to support employer contacts and careers education in primary. The latter includes access to consultancy support for embedding employer contacts in curricula
- Delivery to commence in autumn term 2018 and end summer term 2019

#### **P4: Using evidence and research to remove barriers to learning**

##### Centre of Applied Educational Research

- CAER comprises a partnership between the DfE, the Educational Endowment Foundation and the Bradford Local Authority together with the Universities of Leeds and Bradford and the Bradford NHS Trust
- The CAER will coordinate a number of the world class research projects based within the Bradford Institute for Health Research. For example, Bradford houses one of the world’s most important longitudinal cohort studies – Born in Bradford
- Schools choosing, targeting and robustly evaluating programmes of learning for pupils, based on the evidence of what works best, and being prepared to stop and change, where programmes don’t work
- - drawing on, getting involved in and leading the development of new techniques and practice, in educating pupils and removing barriers to learning, supported by world leading research partners
- - engaging with employers, to deliver a curriculum that equips tomorrow’s professionals with the skills they will need, whatever career path they follow
- - these are the latest thinking about effective education, as described by the Education Endowment Foundation, and locally, by our own Research School at Dixons Academy Trust.

##### Evidence Active Schools – a campaign to make use of Bradford’s infrastructure, research school,

- The goal is to create an ‘Evidence Active Network’ across all of the 206 schools in Bradford and use this organisation to determine what works best in schools and health services (recently launched by Education Minister Zahawi).
- The aim is about schools choosing, targeting and robustly evaluating programmes of learning for pupils, based on the evidence of what works best, and being prepared to stop and change, where programmes don’t work
- Schools will be encouraged to draw on and get involved in and leading the development of new techniques and practice, in educating pupils and removing barriers to learning, supported by world leading research partners
- Schools will be supported to engage with employers, to deliver a curriculum that equips tomorrow’s professionals with the skills they will need, whatever career path they follow

These are the latest thinking about effective education, as described by the Education Endowment Foundation, and locally, by our own Research School at Dixons Academy Trust.

#### **20. Councillor Abid Hussain**

Can the Portfolio Holder give an update on the Industrial Centre of Excellence in Keighley and how it is helping young people to get the skills and qualifications they need to secure good jobs?

## **Answer**

Airedale has a proud and active manufacturing and engineering sector with many local companies exporting worldwide.

Through the development of the Centre of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME), Keighley College has led, since January 2015, on manufacturing/engineering education within the Bradford District. This partnership between businesses, Keighley College, the Council and Oakbank School (now Beckfoot Oakbank) is part of the Council-led Industrial Centres of Excellence programme.

This approach has boosted the number of young people entering training with the intent of building the workforce pipeline, improving productivity and securing growth in this sector.

Businesses that had historically looked outside the district for recruitment and training of their apprentices have now turned to Keighley College AME to meet their needs.

The manufacturing/engineering work is informed by a board made up of local businesses, chaired by Tim Parkinson of Airedale Springs and including: Acorn Stairlifts, Carnaud MetalBox, Produmax, Keighley Laboratories, Gesipa, Metalkraft, Advanced group, Byworth Boilers, Fives Landis, the Chair of Bradford Chamber of Commerce and representatives from The Airedale Partnership, the Council, and Keighley College.

Currently there are 256 AME students that include:

- 170 Engineering, Fabrication and Welding, and Machining and Fabrication apprentices.
- 8 studying a Level 2 Diploma in Mechanical Engineering.
- 11 studying a BTEC level 3 Diploma in Engineering.
- 10 studying a Level 4 Higher National Certificate in Manufacturing Engineering that started in September 2018.
- 18 are studying GCSE engineering at key stage 4.
- 8 studying BTEC Level 2 in engineering at key stage 4.
- 31 students at key stage 4 undertaking curriculum enhancements in engineering.

The future further growth of engineering/manufacturing education at Keighley College is limited by the capacity of the teaching equipment and machinery available. A Registration of Interest has already been made to the LEP for further consideration once funding becomes available to expand the provision.

## **21. Councillor Brendan Stubbs**

Can the Portfolio Holder give details on the recent drive to ensure hot food take aways were correctly licensed to operate beyond 11pm, how many businesses were targeted, how many applied for a license and finally what action is being taken to ensure compliance from those who have not applied for a license?

**Answer**

There were 195 advice letters sent to businesses which are registered with the Council as takeaway food premises and are not currently licensed for the sale of hot food after 11pm. The licensing service has received responses from approximately 50 businesses. To date around 18 applications packs have been requested, 6 grant applications made and 30 businesses have advised they do not operate beyond 11pm. Late night inspections will be undertaken in the coming months. Further enforcement action, including prosecution, will be taken where necessary.

**Supplementary Question**

I wonder if the portfolio holder would agree with me that it is important that we make sure that everybody is properly licensed as you just said in answer to Councillor Berry a minute ago. We need to make sure that everybody is playing by the rules and I wonder if you could just let me know whether there are any plans to follow a similar enforcement pattern with the other establishments in the city that sell alcohol for example over the counters and all the other premises that we have that are subject to different licencing regulations to make sure that everybody who operates a business in the city is doing so under the proper licences?

**Councillor Jabar**

We will look into this and I will get back to you and I assure you that we will.

**22. Councillor Hassan Khan**

What are our plans for investment and support for skills in the Bradford District to prepare for the future after Brexit?

**Answer**

Bradford's Economic Growth Strategy's aim is for Bradford to be the fastest growing economy of the coming decade. A skilled workforce is vital if Bradford's economy is to grow to realise the ambition of increasing the number of productive businesses and supporting young and enterprising people to innovate, invest and build fulfilling lives in the district.

Studies by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research before and after the Brexit vote show that there is a great deal of concern among employers in certain sectors that they may not be able to fill vacancies following the country's withdrawal from the EU. EU nationals play an important role in many of Bradford's key economic sectors, including construction, the National Health Service, hospitality, and social care.

It is crucial that we think differently about how we invest in our skills system. We must ensure that businesses are able to continue to access the workforce they need and residents are able to find jobs which are well paid and secure. Currently we are consulting with partners on the development of a District Skills Plan. The focus is to better integrate post-16 skills provision through approaches to planning, accountability and delivery which are jointly developed between business and education and training providers. To develop skills provision that is more responsive to our local economic needs and support residents to secure fulfilling careers.

The Skills Plan is being produced to support the delivery of our ambitious growth aspiration contained in the economic strategy. It envisaged that the Skills Plan will be a well evidenced and bold road map for changes to our local investment and support for skills in Bradford building on the great foundations we already have in place. There has been significant progress that we can look forward with confidence in delivering our economic ambitions. The Skills Plan will look to further develop our recent successes such as:

- The Industrial Centre of Excellence (ICE) programme so that all young people in Bradford will have the opportunity to follow a learning pathway linked to their career aspirations from the age of 14 across nine ICEs.
- The Get Bradford Working programme that has successfully supported over 3,100 people into work, particularly expanding the role of SkillsHouse to offer its recruitment services to a wider range of businesses.
- Improvements to the post-16 learning offer with the opening of two new and exciting schools sixth form centres in September 2019. New College Bradford and Dixons Sixth Form Academy will offer over 2,000 outstanding sixth form places in the city centre that will offer very best post-16 environment to help students achieve truly aspirational outcomes.

As part of this, we have been working closely with Leeds City Region, Local Government Association, and Key Cities to make the case for a devolved adult skills system for Bradford arguing that greater local influence over skills would result in better outcomes for our local residents and businesses.

### **23. Councillor Robert Hargreaves**

Given the number of new houses being built in rural and semi-rural areas, can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, inform the Council of when we will have in place a comprehensive strategy, informing investment in the new / improved infrastructure, such as sewers, highways, school places, GP and dental services etc, required to accommodate the many thousands of new houses that the Controlling Group wishes to see built across the district?

#### **Answer**

The housing target is based on the national government planning framework and is not therefore purely a locally determined number.

The capacity of services and infrastructure, including public highways, drainage and water systems, schools capacity and other health services was considered and informed the work on the adopted Core Strategy. The District's population is growing and will continue to do so and therefore infrastructure and services will need investment and improvement across the District. The Council has produced a Local Infrastructure Plan (LIP) to address these issues. It has consulted with utility providers as part of that work. The Local Infrastructure Plan indicates a number of challenges in accommodating future growth but does not indicate any major infrastructure issues which are not capable of resolution given the necessary resources, careful forward planning and continuing co-operation between the Council and relevant stakeholders. Further work will be undertaken including an update to the LIP as part of the work over the next 3 years on the Local Plan. Ultimately the

Local Plan , when fully updated with Allocations will provide more certainty over the levels of growth planned in each area, and will assist the Council in the planning process and its ability to bid for funding and delivery of new infrastructure and in its on-going liaison with service and infrastructure providers to align investment with growth.

The issue of the capacity of services and infrastructure is however looked at in detail when individual planning applications for major new housing schemes are considered. This includes for instance highway and drainage infrastructure in the locality of a site and it is often a requirement for developers to carry out significant improvements to facilitate their new development. Such infrastructure requirements are secured through a section 106 agreement. New housing development is also liable to the Council's CIL charging regime and monies collected can be used in the future to improve local infrastructure and offset impacts on education and other key services across the district where necessary.

### **Supplementary Question**

Although Bradford's targets are based on central government should we follow the footsteps of Leeds and review our own figures on the back of the government's consultation into whether the current methodology for calculating the required number of new houses is appropriate? At the moment developers are given the option of investing in infrastructure or the much cheaper option of paying per metre square or feet square into CIL. We need to encourage investors to be more community minded and invest in community infrastructure. I was concerned by the whens and wills of the local infrastructure plan in your answer. So when will the LIP be ready to implement and what measures are being taken to ensure the current infrastructure is not further stretched in the meantime?

### **Councillor Ross-Shaw**

Thank you for that. There was a lot there so I will try and make sure I do not miss any bits out. Yes absolutely we are doing a partial review of the core strategy which set out that £42,000 figure that the government obviously backed but since then they want to change the national methodology and therefore we are looking at that and we are going to do a partial review to make sure we are in line with that which may impact that number basically. In terms of the LIP it is already in place but as we got the core strategy in place the next step in that process is the allocations which is where you start allocating uses to specific sites so as we go through that process and obviously doing a partial review of the core strategy, we will have that LIP to look at at the same time. But every application is obviously assessed for its impact on the immediate infrastructure and that is where through the 106 process we might have to pay for a junction improvement or whatever to improve that. So CIL is compulsory and they do not have a choice whether or not to pay it but a specific application will be checked to look at the impact on local infrastructure.

### **24. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq**

Can the Leader tell us who the winners of the staff awards were this year and does she agree with me that it is vital that we take time to thank council staff for the work they do for the residents of the district, particularly in these difficult times?

**Answer**

I fully agree it is important we take the time to thank council staff for the work they do for the residents of this district especially in these challenging times of national government austerity.

Employee of the Year is Abigayle Johnson, Team of the Year is the Bradford South Street Cleansing Team, Apprentice of the Year is Afzal Khalifa, Leader of the Year is Hafiz Rahman and Partnership of the Year is 'Bringing Reading to Life for local children and their families'. Congratulations to them all.

**25. Councillor Kevin Warnes**

Can the Leader of Council assure us that non-stunned meat is only being served in our district's schools to children whose parents/carers have provided written consent linked to their faith and therefore opted into the provision of these meals?

**Answer**

The Council has an obligation to provide suitable meals for children based on religious, medical or allergen grounds and we gladly fulfil this duty.

The Council's in-house catering service provider to schools supplies a non-stunned Halal meat option for consumption by Muslim pupils, a non-Halal meat option is provided for consumption by pupils not of the Muslim faith and a vegetarian option is available to all. Where a non Muslim pupil has requested to have the Halal meat option then there must be a written consent from the parent/guardian.

The individual school notifies our Facilities Management service which children are of the Muslim faith, these children are then served Halal food without the need for individual written permission.

Some schools in the district have outsourced their catering service to private sector providers or taken the catering service in-house, under these circumstances the schools are responsible for the policy regarding access to non-stunned Halal meat.

Bradford Council has worked well with the Muslim community and the Council for Mosques on this service since the early 1980s and has no intention of changing this partnership approach.

**26. Councillor Vick Jenkins**

Can the Leader join with me in congratulating a care home in Shipley ward for its Outstanding grade in its recent CQC inspection having only been open for one year?

**Answer**

Yes this is a great achievement after just one year of operation.

The Care home is Formations Care Home and the registered managers are Zoe Duffy and Joanne Boldy. Zoe Duffy is a leading member of the Bradford Care Association and is an independent sector representative on a number of partnership groups. We thank her for her contribution.

**27. Councillor John Pennington**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, advise colleagues whether, now that Red Route Corridors (road markings) no longer require special approval, will the Council consider introducing them outside schools?

**Answer**

Red Routes have been used in London for some time. Through special approval from the Department for Transport (DfT) a small number of highway authorities outside of London have developed Red Route corridors. The recent revision of the Traffic Signs Regulations & General Directions (TSRGD) (2016) has now brought Red Routes into line with yellow line restrictions as a parking management tool without the need for special approval.

Red Routes are used on major roads and transport corridors where vehicles are not permitted to stop. The prohibition extends to stopping for loading or unloading and to boarding or alighting from a vehicle (except for licensed taxis and the holders of blue badges). For this reason Red Routes are mainly used on major bus and commuting routes, they are not used outside of schools. On Red Routes, stopping is only permitted within designated laybys.

They also operate on a 24/7 basis and therefore would be in operation even when the school was closed on an evening or during school holidays so would not necessarily be appropriate for use outside schools.

As the use of Red Routes outside of London is limited there is some concern that knowledge of them among drivers would be more limited and that isolated use in a single district could lead to problems. If the use of Red Routes were to be adopted it would be better to do so on a regional basis to ensure consistency and understanding across a wide geographical area. As we undertake more partnership work on a regional basis to manage the road network we will discuss whether red routes could be introduced across the region.

We currently enforce against parking outside schools where the appropriate measures are in place, such as School Keep Clear lines, which ban parking and can be enforced using a CCTV car which patrols the district every morning and afternoon. The CCTV car also enforces on bus stops and road crossings. Where there is contravention of existing regulations such as residents parking permits and double yellow lines we can send wardens to enforce. 512 PCNs have been issued since 1 January 2018 for being stopped in a restricted area outside a school.

**Supplementary Question**

Red Route Lines. If the Council were to decide to implement such Red Route Lines what other agencies would have to be consulted?

**Councillor Ross-Shaw**

Statutory ones probably. I will get back to you with a full list Councillor Pennington.

## **28. Councillor Hassan Khan**

I really welcome the increased emphasis on being tough on dangerous drivers in the district. Can the Leader give us an update on how Operation Steerside is going?

### **Answer**

Operation Steerside was borne out of public perception, press coverage and reported incidents relating to the perceived standard of driving and number of road traffic collisions (RTCs) in Bradford District. Whilst the initial impact of the operation was an overwhelming success, its emphasis was very much based upon enforcement.

Recent 'Your Views' Survey still shows significant concerns around anti-social driving across the district. Enforcement alone cannot resolve and tackle the issues across the district. We have to work more collaboratively, utilising all our collective assets. We are currently engaging with key partners to widen the scope of Operation Steerside to encapsulate all our collective partnership activity focused on anti-social and dangerous driving.

More recently Operation Steerside has undertaken multi-agency days of action and targeted deployment in locations of high demand.

Since its inception Operation Steerside has undertaken 15,785 interactions.

A Strategic Management Group will be formed which will ensure more effective pooling of our collective resources to better focus activity and hold individual organisations to account for delivery of agreed actions. This will be chaired by Bradford District Operations Superintendent and will report to Community Safety Partnership through the Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategic Partnership Group.

A multi-agency 4 P Plan will be developed aimed at;

- Pursue - We will deny use of the roads to those who do not drive in accordance with the law.
- Prevent - The partnership will provide an effective programme of road safety education across the District.
- Protect - Collaboratively we will maximise the safety of all road users of Bradford District
- Prepare - We will make best use of our collective resources and promote active citizenship.

The ASB Partnership has allocated £23,000 towards the development of Operation Steerside and the 'days of action' that are taking place.

The 'Days of Action' have resulted in:

- 495 Tickets
- 55 Traffic Summons reports
- 109 Vehicles seized for road traffic offences
- 19 reports for no road fund licence
- 5 Arrests

- 427 Speeding offences recorded by the Casualty Reduction Partnership
- 298 Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles have been checked
- 294 Vehicles checked by DVSA as a result 59 were prohibited from use
- 743 Vehicles checked for illegal road fuel with 6 prosecutions

**29. Councillor Aneela Ahmed**

Can the Portfolio Holder let us know the latest progress on the development of the former Odeon building?

**Answer**

Last week was a momentous week for the development of Bradford Live as they submitted their planning application to turn the former Odeon building into one of the North of England’s premier entertainment venues, run by the NEC.

The planning application included a number of architect’s drawings showing what the venue will look like when completed and I’m sure everyone on the Council will agree they look fantastic and are worthy of such a historic venue in the history of Bradford’s musical heritage.

The technical work is progressing and the design team recently completed RIBA Stage 3 and have progressed to RIBA Stage 4. Strip-out works to remove the old 1960s concrete frames will commence early in the New Year and, subject to planning permission, full building works are due to commence in late summer 2019.

**30. Councillor Alun Griffiths**

For each of the last three years 2016, 2017, 2018 how many notices of motion were submitted by each political group on the council and how many of these (by political group) were moved straight to the vote under Standing Order 19?

**Answer**

The Council’s Constitution does not require a formal record to be kept of when Members move straight to the vote at meetings of Council. Notes taken at the meetings indicate the following:

<b>2016</b>	Labour Group	Conservative Group	Liberal Democrat Group
Number of motions	14	11	5
Number of motions taken straight to the vote	0	2	1

<b>2017</b>	Labour Group	Conservative Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independents Group
Number of motions	16	5	8	1
Number of motions taken straight to the vote	0	2	3	0

<b>2018</b>	Labour Group	Conservative Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Green Group
Number of motions	13	9	4	6
Number of motions taken straight to the vote	0	2	3	3

### **Supplementary Question**

Thank you Leader for the answer. I appreciate that recording may have meant that not every instance or moves to the vote has been captured. In the light of which and given her previous comments on a couple of occasions in this meeting about openness and diversity of the strength of diversity are you entirely comfortable with the way in which you colluded with the Conservative party to suppress opposition and in particular minority opposition, discussion and debate in this Chamber?

### **Councillor Hinchcliffe**

I do not agree the premise of the question to be quite honest. We have a meeting today of four hours and the motions that go straight to often are motions that we all agree with and therefore we do not see the need to a debate. We just go straight to the vote and often approve them. It depends very much on time constraints and on what else is on the agenda but you will find that in scrutiny meetings and everywhere we are always there happy to be questioned on anything. I would not take your conclusions to heart at all. I am sorry if you do so but if you are willing to ask me a question, I am always happy to answer it.

### **31. Councillor Tess Peart**

Does the Portfolio Holder agree that whilst one can never be complacent the recent Ofsted report identified strengths within the council and partners in tackling the heinous crime of child sexual exploitation?

### **Answer**

CSE remains a focus for Bradford Council and its partners and collectively there is a commitment from a strategic and operational perspective to safeguard children which was recognised in the Ofsted report. The CSE/Missing sub-group provides strategic oversight whilst the operational CSE/Missing group analyses and addresses threats and emerging themes across the District, and oversees the effectiveness of the joint operational response to CSE / Missing. Both groups are critical to the work and effectiveness of the Bradford District multi-agency co-located CSE Team. The CSE Team provides the operational response to children at risk utilising West Yorkshire Police, Bradford Children's Services and other partners. Further information regarding the respond to CSE is available via <https://bradford.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=6927> (Agenda item 7)

Safeguarding partnerships are now considering the emergence of organised crime, county lines, modern day slavery and criminal exploitation as new threats in a similar way to the same conversations in the last decade around child sexual exploitation.

The partnership recognise that whilst there is an excellent understanding of CSE in Bradford District there is also a need to do more work around the scale and prevalence of the wider criminal exploitation of children. Across Bradford there are a number of initiatives that are working creatively and in partnership with children and families to support and deliver preventative work in key areas. One example is the Trusted Relationships funding of over a million pounds from the Home Office. This additional funding will enable intensive support to children aged 10-14 at significant risk of exploitation. The funding will provide support out of office hours on a 1 to 1 work and also group work with young people to encourage them to open up about their experience, recognise positive relationships and how to keep safe, as well as build plans for their future.

**32. Councillor Debbie Davies**

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, put residents' minds at rest by confirming that there are no plans to charge people, who currently have free resident parking permits, for them in the future?

**Answer**

After nearly ten years of Conservative government-imposed austerity, which has seen this Council forced to take over £250 million out of its budget, we've had to bring in charges for a wide range of services we hoped we wouldn't have to.

Charges for a range of highways services, including residents parking permits, were included in a previous Council budget but we managed to make the savings elsewhere and therefore did not introduce it at that time.

With no end to austerity in sight, despite the Prime Minister's warm words, I'm afraid we cannot guarantee that every service we currently provide for free will remain so indefinitely. However, I can guarantee that we will continue to do everything we can to provide the essential services for the district that people rely on and to keep the Council on a sustainable financial footing for future generations.

**33. Councillor Carol Thirkill**

Can the Portfolio Holder tell us what steps he is taking to ensure the voice of the child is heard throughout this Council?

**Answer**

Hearing the Voice of Children and young people is a key priority for me and for Bradford. As the youngest city with 150,000 children and young people their voice is critically important in shaping our services. The Council employs a Commissioner for Youth who has a key role in facilitating and supporting the voluntary youth sector to deliver activities including those which enable young people's voices to be heard. Schools offer opportunities for youth voice to be heard in education through school councils. There are a number of very active youth groups in the district - for example Speakers Corner - who passionately bring the views of young people to leadership within the council and partners. Health colleagues in the CCG, working closely with the council, also facilitate powerful youth voice work through the Future in Mind programme.

The VCS in Bradford have been commissioned to develop a framework for youth voice to provide guidance and help to organisations in making sure they hear the voice of children moving forward. Specific opportunities for Looked After Children are offered through our Children in Care Council which meets regularly, and are being expanded through the new “Leaving Well” app being rolled out to all care leavers. The work being undertaken following inspection includes a VCS facilitated group to challenge and support social care on its improvement journey which will also include other opportunities for a broad group of young people to drive improvement.

### **34. Councillor Simon Cooke**

Could the Leader of the Council provide colleagues with an update as to where we are at with key regeneration schemes, such as, BD1, St. John’s, Keighley College, Jacob’s Well, Richard Dunn and Odsal Stadium?

#### **Answer**

BD1: we assume refers to One City Park. The One City Park procurement process is underway, seven Selection Questionnaires (SQs) were submitted by the deadline of Friday 21 September 2018. The three highest scoring applicants were then invited to the Invitation to Submit Tenders stage of the procurement process and these are due to be returned by 17 December 2018. The procurement process is due to be concluded in April 2019 when contracts will be prepared for award.

Keighley College: The intention to provide a Public Sector Hub on the college sites remains, the Council continues to talk to major public sector organisations to confirm their accommodation needs whilst recognising the principals of One Public Estate. This national policy encourages the public sector to co-locate, where possible in the interest of efficiency and co-operation. The achievement of a proposal that meets the needs of the organisations involved, works through their own planning arrangements and which can operate as a complementary development is being actively pursued.

Jacob’s Well: Demolition of the Jacob’s Well building is due to take place February 2019, following which the site will be cleaned up and retained for Member and staff parking pending development proposals from McClaren Developments, who were granted the option to develop by securing public sector partners to co-locate within a new development on the site.

Richard Dunn: The Richard Dunn leisure centre is anticipated to close autumn 2019, to coincide with the opening of the nearby new Sedbergh Fields leisure facility. The Council is committed to maximising the regeneration benefit of any disposal, to benefit the citizens of Bradford District whilst also ensuring the most appropriate future use of the site.

Odsal Stadium: This is leased to the Rugby Football League for a term of 150 years from 2002 at a peppercorn, and is sublet to the Bradford Bulls.

### **Supplementary Question**

Can I thank the officer for translating my slightly incoherent question? That is what happens when you bring them in at the last minute. Thank you for the answers which are helpful. There are a couple of things that strike me around the matters relating to the public sector hubs and the matters there is that we still do not seem to be making anything that looks like anything other than a conversation and yet in both cases it has cost us a great deal of money to try and facilitate what it is that ultimately private developers working with public sector bodies are seeking to deliver. Can we be assured, and I am not sure how much it will be once we have blown up the building over the road but we will have spent the best part of a million quid knocking these things down, that we are going to get the value of that back and we are not going to find ourselves with sites growing plenty of buddleia rather than actually jobs and services for the people of Bradford.

### **Councillor Ross-Shaw**

So the key thing I would guess is that obviously we might have to put a bit of money in to make those sites ready but we retain control of those key sites. So yes there is an option on the city centre one but it is a bit like the new college site where obviously it had an original intention but it was also a strategic acquisition and then an option came along. It is because no matter what happens with the public sector hubs we want to get them over the line, but we still have key sites in key locations that you then deliver for the benefit of the area in the district. So that money does not go to waste that we have done spending demolition or preparing a site because whatever the end use is, it is still of benefit. I do not know why you would think a development in the centre of Keighley town centre would not be of benefit but it obviously will whether it is a public sector hub or not. The problem with public sector hubs obviously is with the entire public sector going through austerity so it is a moving feast of trying to get a deal over the line whilst every single area of government is shrinking. As long as those conversations are viable which they are, then we will carry on having them to see what we can get over the line basically.

### **35. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland**

At the last meeting of Council I asked what action was being taken to address the on-going potential safeguarding concerns arising from the limited capacity to conduct direct payment audits for social care clients? The reply did not address the question, you said you would follow up my supplementary question however I do not seem to have had a reply. Is there a proper process in place to deal with all clients or their nominated persons in receipt of direct payments and are there any remaining safeguarding concerns?

### **Answer**

There are 1,248 direct payments, including children's and Continuing Health Care (CHC), the majority of which have had their annual review.

However there are still 423 that have gone over the 12 month target. We are investing in a new team of reviewers who will address needs and allocations, based on the three tiers model. This will incorporate previous audit reviews.

Remedial actions have included introducing ISF's (individual service funds) which allow a person to have choice and control without having the money which significantly reduces the risk.

### **Supplementary Question**

This is the second time of trying to answer this question and you've still not managed to answer it. The original audit review audit report raised issues of there being ongoing safeguarding concerns. I ask again because it is not contained within the answer, do you have any ongoing safeguarding concerns?

### **Councillor Ferriby**

I have just had a conversation prior coming into the meeting with Bev Maybury (Strategic Director, Health and Wellbeing) and she has met with internal audit and it has been agreed to have an end to end review on how we support people their finances in general, part of which is direct payments. I am confident that this will give us a clear action plan which can then be monitored accordingly but I am happy to have a conversation also with yourself outside the Council meeting. I am told we are confident that there are no issues.

### **36. Councillor Jackie Whiteley**

Does the Leader of the Council accept that by reducing the grant to Town and Parish Councils, as per the Controlling Group's budget proposals, residents of certain parts of the District will affectively receive a stealth tax in order to maintain the services which they receive?

### **Answer**

The Council is currently consulting on reducing or ending the Council Tax Support Grant to Town and Parish Councils in 2020-21.

The grant was introduced for the first time in 2013-2014, when Government removed Council Tax Benefit (now called Council Tax Support) from the tax base by statute. Previously Council Tax Benefit was funded from a Central Government Grant, completely separate from the setting of the tax base. In summary, the purpose of the grant was to compensate Town and Parish Councils for the reduction in their local tax bases, because of the new localisation regime for providing Council Tax Support.

The current value of the grant is exactly the discrete amount identified at the 2013/14 level of the Revenue Support Grant. However as this has long since been decreased to such an extent that it will go to zero in 2020, the council is no longer in a position to provide money it does not have.

In summary, we are having to pass on the Government cut which has been made to our budget several years ago by Government. It was originally given to us specifically to support the council.tax reduction scheme. The Government has chosen to no longer fund this and therefore we are unable to. I suggest you take this up with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

### 37. Councillor Debbie Davies

As we were told at July's Full Council meeting that a report would be available in September detailing the success or otherwise of the appointment of the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy Manager, can the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment & Skills, confirm whether this report is now available?

#### Answer

The report is now available and will be presented to the January Full Council meeting as part of the wider Education Covenant report.

#### Supplementary Question

Thanks for the answer. I just wondered what is the reason for the four months delay please?

### Councillor Imran Khan

It is an annual report and it will come in January. What I will say is I firmly believe in sustainability and what I want to do is make sure that we had a plan going forward when that project was coming to an end so you will be pleased to know that we have picked it up through the education opportunities area and we will continue to do work around retention recruitment and the previous retention recruitment manager will still have input into that process.

### 38. Councillor David Ward

Using the January census point, will the Portfolio Holder show the number of new Elective Home Educated children for the years 2015-2016 to 2017-18 by school attended immediately prior to commencing Elective Home Education?

#### Answer

We are able to provide this data for 2017-18 for previous schools on roll, but do not have easy to access or accurate data for previous years. This is due to Elective Home Education being out of the remit of Education Safeguarding prior to this time, and also a change in the current way we collect and analyse this data.

Please see table below for 2017-18:

School	Count	School	Count
Tong Leadership Academy	26	Laisterdyke Leadership Academy	2
Hanson	17	Margaret McMillan PA	2
Beckfoot Oakbank	13	Newby PS	2
Appleton	10	Shibden Head PA	2
Queensbury	10	Silsden PS	2
Carlton Bolling	9	St John's CE PS	2
Dixons Allerton	9	St Mary's Menston	2
Buttershaw BEC	7	Titus Salt	2
Bradford Academy	7	Westminster CE PS	2
Parkside	6	Woodhouse Grove	2
Samuel Lister Academy	6	BBG	1
Bingley Grammar	5	Beckfoot School	1
Immanuel	5	Beckfoot Allerton	1

School	Count	School	Count
St Bede's and St Joseph's	5	Bowling Park PS	1
The Fountain	5	Brackenhill	1
Merlin Top PA	4	Bradford Central PRU	1
One in a Million	4	Bradford Christian School	1
Parkland PS	4	Bradford Forsters	1
Peel Park PS	4	Bradford Girls	1
Al Mu-min	3	Clayton Village PS	1
Beckfoot Upper Heaton	3	Crossflatts	1
Dixons MacMillan	3	Crystal Gardens	1
Dixons Trinity	3	Dixons City	1
Farfield Primary	3	Dixons Music Primary	1
Lowerfields PS	3	East Morton	1
South Craven	3	Eternal Light	1
St Joseph's Bingley	3	Fearnville	1
St Matthew's PS	3	Feversham College	1
St Stephen's PS	3	Grange	1
All Saints PS	2	Holy Family	1
Beckfoot Thornton	2	Holybrook	1
Belle Vue Girls	2	Home Farm Ps	1
Cavendish PS	2	Horton Grange PS	1
Christ Church	2	Horton Park Primary	1
District PRU	2	Hothfield Junior School	1
Frizinghall	2	Iqra	1
Ilkley Grammar	2	Knowleswood PS	1
Laycock PS	1	Nessfield	1
Lister PS	1	Oastlers	1
Marshfields	1	Ryecroft PA	1
Saltaire PS	1	The Sipton Academy	1
Scholes Village PS	1	Thornbury PA	1
Southmere PS	1	Thornton PS	1
St Edmunds Nursery	1	University Academy Keighley	1
St Francis PS	1	Victoria PS	1
St Michael and All Angels	1	Whitcliffe Mount	1
St Oswalds	1	Wilsden	1
The Sacred Heart PS	1		

### Supplementary Question

I just wondered how many of these cases here you believe they represented a real philosophical conversion leading to lifestyle changes from parents who have suddenly discovered they have the skills, resources and commitment to educating their own children?

### Councillor Imran Khan

Again parents have a right and a choice of how they want to educate their child. It is not compulsory for them to register with us when it comes to elective home education and again it is any number of reasons why a parent might choose to take their child out of school and educate them at home. We do encourage them to

contact the local authority and work with us. We cannot force it upon them. Our responsibility obviously is about making sure that those children are safe and have access to a good quality education but that is very subjective. Other than that there is not a right lot we can do I think is the honest truth. We have written to the Secretary of State for Education previously as well and asked if we had more powers in which we could talk to parents but the answer came back as negative no we can't. Parent's choice.

**39. Councillor Robert Hargreaves**

Can the Portfolio Holder provide an update on the feasibility studies and subsequent consultations process for the possible crematoria at Littlemoor Park, Queensbury, Northcliffe Park, Shipley etc and can he confirm whether the Council has bought the site of the former Branch Pub in Shipley, in order to improve access to the possible Northcliffe Park facility?

**Answer**

The procurement exercise for the consultants to deliver the Council's Bereavement Investment Project has been completed and Rex Proctor and Partners, based in Bradford, have been appointed. The consultants are now assessing the five sites identified in the project for suitability and will have a draft report on them by early next year. The report will identify any sites that can't be developed due to physical, financial or other constraints. The remaining sites will be subject to further tests and the preferred sites will be subject to consultation with local residents and other organisations before moving into the development stage.

The purchase of the Branch Public House in Shipley is a separate project altogether and is not linked. This major infrastructure project will incorporate proposals to improve junction capacity and traffic flow at both the Otley Road / Valley Road and Otley Road / Bradford Road (Branch) junctions.