

**COUNCIL
16 JULY 2019**

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

1. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Would the Portfolio Holder explain the background and clear-cut benefits behind the proposal for a Bradford-Halifax Greenway following the recent launch of the advocacy document?

Answer

On average 14,300 people per day commute between Bradford and Calderdale districts with an average journey length of 8 miles which is eminently suitable to cycle commuting. In 2011 the predominant travel mode of this journey is the private car (70%). The opportunities for cycling between these two districts is currently limited due to little or no dedicated cycle facilities providing a safe viable route to allow commuters to make this choice. The Bradford-Halifax greenway project provides this opportunity to help bring sustainable travel to this sector of the district. As part of the route the potential incorporation of the 1.4 mile long Queensbury Tunnel is seen as a transformational piece of infrastructure which would not only help commuters on their journeys but bring increased cycle tourism to the district building on the success of Tour de France and Tour de Yorkshire events.

The connectivity of Bradford City Centre with Halifax Town Centre as a result of the tunnel and its connecting routes would promote economic activity. This potentially significant cycling scheme would offer positive contributions to environmental, personal and community wellbeing and as this is a significant piece of capital infrastructure its benefits would continue to be generated over the longer term.

Financially, the benefits of introducing a scheme have been subject to the government's standard investment appraisal process (WebTAG) which has demonstrated in transport benefit terms the scheme achieves a good rate of return on investment (1.43 to 1) which is further improved by considering tourism benefits to 2.31 to 1.

The advocacy document serves to set out the justification for providing such a route (either with or without the Queensbury Tunnel) but also puts the respective costs of any schemes incorporating the tunnel into context.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Portfolio Holder for that. Can you reassure me and along with the 3,500 other objectors to the Highways England application to fill the tunnel in. That is a ridiculous ill-thought-out proposal and one which does not have any backing from almost anybody in this district.

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

You are right. It has seen I think an unprecedented level of opposition, certainly from the wider public. Obviously as a local planning authority we will process it according to the national policies but as an Executive we have said we believe that it should be restored and created into another key cycling route and build on the excellent work that we have done so far with City Connect. I think this could really transform, not just that part of Bradford but also Calderdale and the region because I think it would be a national attraction.

2. Councillor Mike Ellis

Could the Leader of the Council confirm how much has been spent by Bradford Council since 2014, to fund non-invasive autopsies through the contract with iGene and what did it cost to terminate the contract with iGene when there was still five years remaining?

Answer

Answering this question in a meeting open to the public would involve the disclosure of information which would be prejudicial to both the Coroner's, the Council's and the third party's interests (on the grounds that it is information relating to financial or business affairs, commercially sensitive and legally privileged).

3. Councillor David Ward

At the 19 March 2019 Council meeting, in a Labour amendment to a Liberal Democrat motion on "off-rolling", it was acknowledged that off-rolling was an example of "immoral behaviour". It has also been described by the Children's Commissioner as being illegal. The amendment stated that "In 2017 data collected evidenced that some schools were 'off-rolling' pupils to EHE". Will the Portfolio Holder please provide the names of the schools in Bradford that were identified as being those carrying out immoral and illegal off-rolling?

Answer

The current legislative framework does not require schools to send in data that would inform Local Authorities of "off-rolling". Where off-rolling is reported, the Education Safeguarding Team contact the school to discuss the matter and challenge any actions taken by a school that are not in line with registration and rolling requirements for pupils. There have been a number of these cases and in the vast majority of these cases, schools are working constructively with us and have taken action to rectify any cases that we have identified as potentially being off-rolling. In a rare case where a school is not felt to have addressed the matter adequately, the Local Authority reports its concerns and findings to Ofsted whose job as the regulator is to determine if a school has off-rolled. Given the extremely small number of individual cases in this second category at this time, it would not be appropriate to name individual schools that such discussions have taken place with.

Supplementary Question

The question states that given the extremely small number of individual cases and these are schools that have been found to be behaving immorally and illegally but

the small number of cases and it would not be appropriate to name those individual schools. I just wondered how many schools behaving immorally and illegally are required before it is actually appropriate to name those schools?

Councillor Imran Khan

So where schools are behaving inappropriately in that way we refer them to Ofsted and there is instances where we have referred to Ofsted but naming the schools is not helpful.

4. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Does the Leader of Council (a) agree with Extinction Rebellion campaigners across Bradford who state that we are living in the midst of a 'Climate Emergency', and (b) accept that Bradford Council and Bradford District need to become net carbon-neutral by 2030; and, if so, what is Bradford Council going to do to reach that goal?

Answer

The Leader and indeed the Full Council agrees that there is a Climate Emergency and a motion to support this was passed in January this year. At the time the Council identified five priorities that will support delivery of the goal of major greenhouse gas emissions reduction and this work is underway. The Council recognises that other changes are also necessary, many of which are already happening at both a Council and a District level in addition to these priority actions.

Climate Emergency is such an important and strategic issue that we are working closely with our neighbouring authorities on this matter. Just last week we launched the Leeds City Region Climate Coalition to bring together the public, private and third sectors, along with communities and campaign groups. We're creating the Coalition to bring people from different parts of the City Region together as we fight for a cleaner, greener future. We have asked people to pledge their support and do what they can both individually and collectively to lower their carbon emissions. The Leeds City Region is committed to becoming a net zero carbon city region by 2038 at the latest with significant progress by 2030.

As a Combined Authority we actually committed to making the Leeds City Region a net zero carbon economy a number of years ago, and are already investing in programmes to reduce emissions including better cycling and walking infrastructure, park and ride services and district heat networks.

Investment in clean energy could add £11 billion to our economy and create an extra 100,000 skilled jobs. People can also enjoy lower energy bills and better health for everyone in the region thanks to warmer, more efficient homes, greener transport and cleaner air.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer Leader. Obviously you will be aware my question was about Bradford Council and Bradford District. The answer is a sideways dodge, you have gone for the Leeds City Region level. So my question is what specifically is Bradford Council doing differently now on climate change that it was not doing six months ago when we declared a climate emergency?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

So Councillor Warnes we have been quite clear. We have brought a motion on climate change at a meeting before. We are quite clear about the five things that we are going to get on with which is things like the district heat networks, things like the street lighting initiative which is actually going to reduce carbon. I make it very specifically talking about West Yorkshire Combined Authority because there is no point in Bradford Council acting on its own. We need to do so in concert with the regional authorities around us because then if we do things together we move faster. So that is what we are doing. We are working with other authorities and our neighbours to make sure that everything we do together is going to get to that big prize that we need which is net zero carbon as soon as possible. There is no point in doing it on your own.

5. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

Will the Portfolio Holder join me in celebrating the fantastic achievement by the whole school community at Feversham Primary in my ward and its inspirational young headteacher, following its Outstanding Ofsted judgement? To crown this achievement Naveed Idrees has just won TES National Headteacher of the Year award.

Answer

We have written to the Headteacher of Feversham Primary to congratulate him on the Outstanding judgement received from Ofsted. The report highlighted the inspirational work of Mr Idrees and how pupils are encouraged and engaged in their learning. Feversham Primary is a nurturing and caring school with determination and ambition for all its family – staff and pupils alike. The school should be very proud of the recognition they have received. His award as Headteacher of the Year is very well deserved.

Supplementary Question

Can I thank the Portfolio Holder for his response? Education remains a priority for the children of our district. I had an opportunity to visit the school and can I ask the Portfolio Holder if he would also visit the school in my ward which has been recognised as an outstanding school and see an aspirational headteacher Mr Idrees in my ward.

Councillor Imran Khan

Absolutely.

6. Councillor Alan Wainwright

Can the Portfolio Holder join with me in celebrating the successful community asset transfer for the Valley project in Holme Wood which is great news for the local area?

Answer

Yes, this truly is great news not only for the Holme Wood area but the wider community as well.

Following a Community Asset Transfer application from 'The Valley Project' community group, the Council agreed to lease some land at Stirling Crescent, Holme Wood, Bradford.

The community group are using the site as a fully functioning adventure playground. Not only has this created a recreational space where it previously did not exist, it also ensures that an underutilised area of informal space is brought into use as an asset to the local community.

The benefits of the project are immense – including helping to bring the community together and build positive relationships, tackling childhood obesity- getting children off their computers, handheld devices and games, increasing children's creativity and problem solving skills, helping to supporting integration of groups and prevent bullying, addressing the increase in mental health conditions in children and many more.

This project also demonstrates how community asset transfers can make positive improvements to the environment and security of the spaces to ensure they become of value to the local community. It also has to be noted that this community asset transfer was formulated in conjunction with the local community, and subsequently had a high degree of local support.

The project has gathered a lot of media interest including being featured on BBC Look North.

This is one of many exciting projects that the Council is supporting through its community asset programme and dedicated community asset transfer team. It represents our long-term commitment to localism and the Council's continuing support to community organisations ensuring the best outcomes for communities and the best use of available assets.

7. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment & Skills confirm, how many children with SEND were not allocated school places to begin September 2019 until after Easter this year?

Answer

As of the 27 March 2019, there were 22 young people transitioning from Year 6 to Year 7 with an Education, Health and Care Plan who did not yet have a named school place.

Please note that many of the final Education, Health and Care Plans were delayed in agreement with the parents who chose to wait for confirmation of the 289 additional new places that are being established and were not able to be named until after Executive in early July 2019. Since last week, outstanding Education, Health and Care Plans are being finalised and parents are being contacted to have their places confirmed for September 2019.

Supplementary Question

Could you let us know what arrangements are in place to help these pupils with the transition from Year 6 to their new secondary school because clearly most children will have already done transitions. But if they are only finding out now which school they are going to into September there is probably not a lot of opportunities. So I just wondered what arrangements are in place please?

Councillor Imran Khan

We are looking at the numbers. Obviously there are only 22 and we are working through now and I am confident arrangements will be made to be able to assist those children in transition into the new schools probably over the next week or two.

8. Councillor Alan Wainwright

Can I have the latest figures by ward of the amounts collected in business rates?

Answer

BUSINESS RATES COLLECTION

2019/20

END OF JUNE 2019

	<i>Net raised</i>	<i>debit</i>	<i>Payments made</i>	<i>Outstanding balance</i>
BAILDON	£2,971,341		-£916,177	£2,055,164
BINGLEY	£3,630,662		-£1,236,793	£2,393,868
BINGLEY RURAL	£1,618,067		-£573,635	£1,044,433
BOLTON AND UNDERCLIFFE	£5,186,858		-£1,644,729	£3,542,129
BOWLING AND BARKEREND	£13,388,040		-£3,890,986	£9,497,053
BRADFORD MOOR	£4,765,927		-£1,355,892	£3,410,035
CITY	£31,580,337		-£10,031,370	£21,548,967
CLAYTON AND FAIRWEATHER				
GREEN	£1,505,368		-£383,893	£1,121,475
CRAVEN	£3,104,900		-£1,108,222	£1,996,678
ECCLESHILL	£3,742,622		-£1,115,955	£2,626,666
GREAT HORTON	£3,426,510		-£852,320	£2,574,191
HEATON	£910,603		-£368,412	£542,191
IDLE AND THACKLEY	£3,007,169		-£1,744,383	£1,262,786
ILKLEY	£4,526,499		-£1,495,858	£3,030,642
KEIGHLEY CENTRAL	£11,193,024		-£3,351,071	£7,841,953
KEIGHLEY EAST	£4,146,391		-£1,350,623	£2,795,768
KEIGHLEY WEST	£629,756		-£215,064	£414,692
LITTLE HORTON	£3,671,046		-£1,114,609	£2,556,438
MANNINGHAM	£2,586,486		-£884,350	£1,702,135
QUEENSBURY	£1,136,062		-£405,195	£730,867
ROYDS	£1,956,190		-£811,627	£1,144,563
SHIPLEY	£5,826,850		-£2,134,989	£3,691,861
THORNTON AND ALLERTON	£856,840		-£268,349	£588,492
TOLLER	£2,396,342		-£645,285	£1,751,057
TONG	£13,331,079		-£3,689,598	£9,641,481
WHARFEDALE	£602,043		-£228,353	£373,690

WIBSEY	£2,103,856	-£711,066	£1,392,790
WINDHILL AND WROSE	£1,363,472	-£404,184	£959,288
WORTH VALLEY	£879,473	-£286,022	£593,451
WYKE	£6,522,653	-£1,694,978	£4,827,675
Totals	£142,566,469	-£44,913,986	£97,652,476

9. Councillor Joanne Dodds

Can the Leader join with me in thanking all those involved in the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Normandy D-Day landings?

Answer

I am very happy to thank all those involved in the local commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Normandy D-Day landings. These included a short service at Keighley War Memorial, led by the Revd. Dr Jonathan Pritchard and members of the Royal British Legion, and The Clarke-Foley Community Centre in Ilkley organised a 1940s style tea dance. I understand that many people attended that event in costumes including one lady who came in her original WRENS uniform from 1944.

Those commemorations celebrated peace, liberty and reconciliation. Men from all over the world went to fight in Normandy to defeat Nazism and re-establish freedom. We pay tribute to those who lost their lives or were injured, as well as to all the veterans who took part. We must also remember the French civilians who suffered grievously in that struggle in Normandy in 1944. The Council sent a letter to Her Majesty thanking her for her involvement in the National events commemorating the landings and organised a number of events to celebrate our armed forces at the end of June.

10. Councillor Mike Pollard

A recent report showed Bradford was by far the worst from all West Yorkshire local authorities, being ranked 313rd from 326 local authorities across England for collecting Council Tax, meaning a colossal £13,785,000 of Council Tax went uncollected. What is being done to ensure improvements are made in the collection of Council Tax in the future?

Answer

Collecting Council Tax in Bradford continues to be challenging, as deprivation levels in the District are higher than the other West Yorkshire Councils.

We are constantly reviewing and trying to improve collection levels, whilst at the same time taking a sympathetic approach to those that genuinely struggle to pay. Government austerity has undoubtedly had an impact not just on councils but on residents of Bradford district.

It is important to note that the reported figures show the amounts that are collected within the year they are raised, rather than the amount that is eventually collected. This is important from a Council finance perspective

Here are some of the things that we have done and are doing in an attempt to improve collection:

- **Peer review** – The Council has always been keen to learn from others that appear more successful than us. We recently conducted a peer review with Wakefield Council (whose in-year collection levels are higher than ours). We compared our processes and practices and found that they are much the same. This gives us confidence that our activities are not found wanting. However, a short action plan has been developed to pick up and trial a couple of minor differences, which we hope will see improvement in our processes
- **Work with advice agencies** - We have worked closely with the advice agencies for a number of years now and this helps deal with our vulnerable residents. The Council has signed up to the Citizens Advice national “Council Tax Protocol”. This good practice protocol makes a number of suggestions on how local partnerships can be strengthened and residents better supported. The protocol reflects best practice at local level and is intended to facilitate regular liaison on practices and policy concerning council tax debt collection.
- **Late night team** – We know that contact with those that can’t or refuse to pay is paramount in successful collection, so now have a permanent team of staff whose role is to contact residents by phone when they fail to pay an arrangement as agreed. The team works from 4pm – 7pm.
- **Transience** – as a consequence of this, it has emerged that, alongside deprivation, the most significant contributor to low collections levels is the rate at which residents move address. In Wards with high levels of transience, arrears are high. In itself, this will not help us collect more Council Tax, but improvement in our understanding of non-payment trends will help as we plan future collection strategies
- **Improved online forms** - We have developed our web pages to capture information quicker and more effectively than we have previously done. The most important part of recovery is to ensure that the bill is correct and by improving our on-line forms and capturing essential information from citizens and landlords it has enabled us to collect money quicker and reducing the time it takes our staff to collect this information.

Supplementary Question

Several questions but I better make it just one in view of your admirably rigorous regime Lord Mayor. I appreciate that the reported figure show in-year collection rates but please could I have a list of the most recently written off amounts listed by ward please.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Certainly I am sure we can let you have that. We wrote off a few years ago for a few years. We are doing it on a regular basis now so I am sure we can let you have that. I would just like to say obviously there are people in poverty in the district and therefore some people cannot pay their council tax very easily and we should always support those people. I think the question and answer needs balancing between making sure people pay but also making sure we are sympathetic to people who cannot pay.

11. Councillor Caroline Firth

Does the Portfolio Holder join me in welcoming the emergence of plastic-free communities across the District, particularly the newly forming Plastic Free East Morton and Plastic Free Riddlesden groups in my ward? How can the Council support these groups to thrive?

Answer

Since the broadcast of Blue Planet II, and the recent Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Anita Rani programme on plastics, we have seen a welcome upsurge in communities coming together to reduce and recycle the amount of plastic they use. Bradford Council's Recycling Team has supported groups who have made contact, such as Wharfedale against Plastics and Plastic Free Bingley, and given talks on how they can recycle and reduce the amount of single use plastic they use. Not surprisingly some members are active Recycling Champions who receive regular updates on recycling and an invitation to our MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) at Bowling Back Lane. New groups looking for advice and support should contact the Waste Service.

12. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

In the light of the broadcast of shocking footage of the abuse of vulnerable people living in Whorlton Hall can the Portfolio Holder advise members what safeguards does the Council have in place to protect the safety, welfare and human rights of its citizens in placements in specialist disability or mental health wards both in and out of the district whose situation has rendered them highly vulnerable?

Answer

The CCG are the responsible commissioner for all placements in secure mental health hospitals. The CCG employs a Specialist Nurse who provides care coordination for every person from Bradford & District in a secure mental health hospital. Even before the Panorama programme was aired NHSE advised each CCG to undertake reviews of people in secure mental health hospitals.

The Council works closely in conjunction with the CCG to safeguard people who are placed in such units. The safeguarding responsibility for people who are placed in units within the District falls under Bradford Council. Providers are required to report any potential safeguarding concerns to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub which includes staff from adult social work teams and the police. At the point when the Care Coordinator makes a request, the Council allocates a worker.

The Council has invested in a safeguarding adults and mental capacity act service. This increased capacity has ensured that we are able to respond in a more timely manner to safeguarding concerns, we can work in a more preventative way and help ensure safeguarding incidents are dealt with appropriately. These services are also delivering training across the District and to staff in BDCT, home care and care homes.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer to the question. I just wonder whether or not to give the public more confidence that we do not see a repeat in Bradford people or indeed any

people involved in the shocking circumstances that those people found themselves when living in care. Can we give the public confidence and can we actually ask the Portfolio Holder that they will report maybe annually on the circumstances so that we can be made to feel confident that people who are living with their liberties deprived and often in complete segregation that somebody has been to see them, somebody has been to check on them and that we are confident that we would allow one of our members of our families to be held in such circumstances.

Councillor Sarah Feriby

Yes of course that was one of my first questions to Bev Maybury, Strategic Director to ensure that I could myself be reassured that members of our communities if they are in care that they are being well looked after.

13. Councillor Michelle Swallow

Please would the Portfolio Holder outline the strategy to deal with rats which is a cause of concern on several levels including that of public health?

Answer

The Council has a statutory duty under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1990 to ensure the district is kept free from rats and mice. The Council does this by proactively treating any rodent infestations on its own land. If the Council receive complaints of rats on private land the Environmental Enforcement Team investigate and establish if there is an infestation or if there is waste present that may provide harbourage for rodents. If rodents are present or the Officer suspects any waste may provide harbourage an Enforcement Notice is served on the owner of the land to remove any waste and/or instigate a rodent treatment programme to eradicate the problem.

Any rodent infestations related to a Food Business are dealt with by the Environmental Health Food Safety Team. Any infestations inside residential property are dealt with by the Housing Standards Team. Any infestations related to defective drainage are dealt with by Yorkshire Water or the Council's Drainage Team.

I am also pleased to confirm that the Director of Public Health has not been notified of any increases in diseases carried by rats and if we had any cases of such diseases Public Health England would have notified the Director as the statutory officer for all things related to health and wellbeing (including communicable diseases and threats to health) across the Bradford District.

14. Councillor Russell Brown

Can the Leader of the Council confirm whether the council any plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landings and promote the contributions engineers in Keighley made to the wider endeavours of NASA in the subsequent lunar exploration program?

Answer

I would like to take the opportunity provided by this question to pay tribute to the great manufacturers in Keighley who have contributed their engineering expertise to

so many significant developments including the moon landing. Companies such as Kone Escalators, Fives Landis (Formerly Landis Lund), Airedale Springs; Sealand Engineering, Neophix and Yorkshire Precision Engineering continue a fine tradition established by companies like Keighley Lifts, Keighley Grinders, Dean Smith and Grace.

Keighley has a proportion of manufacturing jobs at 15% which is higher than Bradford District at 13% and Leeds City Region at 10% and GB at 8%.

Whilst the space programme provides vital aspirational challenge for young engineers there is a local renaissance taking place in engineering training - the engineering apprenticeship programme at Keighley College (part of the Industrial Centre of Excellence Initiative) has gone from strength to strength - In the first year there were just 20 students, this year there are 106, also this year a number of students have started studying for their HNC and in the future it is planned to offer a HND option. This was recognised at the recent Keighley and Airedale Business Awards.

I know that the National Science & Media Museum are marking the anniversary of the first moon landing by showing "Apollo 11 – First Steps" in the iMax from July to October. More importantly, I think the best way to celebrate the importance of engineering and manufacturing more generally to the District, as set out in our Economic Strategy, is through Manufacturing Weeks – which seeks to inspire a whole new generation of young people to become involved in this great sector. Running this year from 7-18 October, it promises to be even bigger and better than ever and I hope as many young people as possible from our schools will get involved.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer which celebrates the wider achievements of the district's engineers if not those specifically involved in the lunar exploration programme. Can I ask that the Leader looks at ways of supporting the group I am working with in this celebratory year who are intending to re-establish the STAR Centre and FabLab which has inspired so many young people over the years which was recently closed by stealthy means by Leeds City College, Keighley Campus.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Brown. I have visited the STAR Centre myself of course and it was there for many years and was very welcome. I believe there are efforts afoot to try and continue it elsewhere which obviously we are supportive of and I realise that Keighley College want the space, want to put more engineering in so it is a double edge sword for them but happy to support the effort to relocate it because as I say myself I have enjoyed it myself.

15. Councillor Kamran Hussain

Can the Portfolio Holder reassure me that that schools who are on our list as being accessible for disabled children are fulfilling their obligation in maintaining their provisions which are in place?

Answer

All schools are required under the Equality Act to take reasonable steps to ensure that they are accessible to disabled pupils, staff and parents. Where a school is identified as having failed in this duty, then Local Authority officers can take the matter up directly with the school. Where this relates to a Free School or Academy, Local Authority Officers will alert and involve the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Free Schools Department of the DfE to ensure that appropriate action is taken by the Academy or Free School to provide an accessible education for disabled pupils.

16. Councillor Rizwana Jamil

Does the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills join me in congratulating Carlton Bolling College in our ward for its latest achievement in winning a Silver award?

Answer

We have written to congratulate Carlton Bolling College on winning a Silver Award in the Pearson Teaching Awards. This is well deserved recognition of the school's outstanding achievements and great work over the past 12 months and demonstrates the life-changing impact inspirational teachers can have on our young people.

17. Councillor Kyle Green

In light of the fact that neighbouring Councils have recognised the impracticality and damaging nature of introducing Car Parking Charges in outer towns, such as Wetherby and Brighouse, does this Council yet recognise the need to scrap plans for the introduction of new parking charges in Ilkley from 29 July 2019?

Answer

A review of parking in Ilkley was carried out in July 2017 by Steer Davis Gleave. The Council is in the process of implementing the recommendations of this report.

The review of car parking in Ilkley was undertaken to address increasing issues around congestion and parking in the town and was asked for by local ward councillors. The study used a range of primary data collection and stakeholder consultation to better define the parking issues in the town. It also explored options for better management of car parking and improvements to alternative modes of travel. The study focused on the centre of Ilkley and the surrounding streets which were identified by initial elected member consultation and site visits as the areas where parking pressure was perceived to be greatest. The main recommendations were to protect on-street parking for use by short-stay shoppers and encourage turnover by introducing charges for short-stay on-street bays within the town centre that are currently subject to waiting restrictions and to introduce resident parking schemes to reduce commuter parking in residential areas. The changes will be introduced from the 29 July 2019.

My understanding is that Calderdale are not looking at removing pay and display in Brighouse; they are reviewing with a view to removing the free element for the first

half hour.

Many residents struggle to park near their own house given that commuters park there in order to take the train into work. The proposals represent a pragmatic solution to issues which residents have been raising with elected members and with council officers for many years.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the response to my question. I note that no mention is made of the potentially dire impact of parking charges as the main reason they were scrapped in Wetherby in the answer nor any mention of any resident or business support for increasing and expanding parking charges in Ilkley. So can I ask the Council to firstly minimise the damage of these unwanted charges by following the Ilkley parking review report recommendation 7.31 and actually allow people to pay the charges by card as well as by coin or via an app. As well as this can I ask what measured impact will it take for you to actually remove the charges?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Thank you and welcome to the Council as well. With Wetherby I have not seen any specific reason given. It was during a budget process I think as to why they withdrew the proposal. I do know the local Lib Dems said it was a well known problem in Wetherby but because the parking was free commuters were parking there first thing in the morning and then shoppers could not access the car parking spaces for the wider town centre. So what you have actually highlighted is that in a lot of outer towns the same problems crop up every time which is where you have that level of unregulated parking. People who are commuting to the bigger city elsewhere are actually taking up spaces that are notionally intended for shoppers and how those towns deal with that is actually where you get the conflicts like the one we are talking about now. So I think you asked about three questions there so I will try and make sure I remember them all but I am sure you will email me if I forget any. Certainly with the pay and display machines I know there was a bit of a furore over the weekend because it will not be cashless, that is the exact same elsewhere in the district but it will have the parking app which is exactly what South Hawksworth Street car park has right now. So you will still be able to use those machines if you do not have cash. Obviously we will want to pay attention to what happens afterwards, what tweaks need to be made but I think the key thing I try get across is that the status quo right now is what has driven us to action so there is not a simple solution of saying well this is harder than we thought so let's just get rid of it. Precisely because the status quo is that people cannot even park on their own street or the street next to them and we have had people contact us for years and years saying this is a massive problem. So although at the moment there are people with concerns about what might happen because we try to rebalance that, actually just reverting to the status quo brings back all those original problems that residents are facing right now.

18. Councillor Ralph Berry

Can the Portfolio Holder outline what steps can be taken to address the on-going problem of untaxed and uninsured vehicles parked in residential streets in Bradford?

Answer

If there is an issue with a vehicle where we have received complaints or issued a few Penalty Charge Notices, the wardens go to the on line DVLA Tax Checker. If the vehicle is untaxed and doesn't have an MOT it is reported as an abandoned vehicle. If the vehicle is just untaxed the warden informs the DVLA on line. We do not do anything unilaterally with regard to whether a vehicle is uninsured, that is covered by Operation Steerside which is led on by the Police who partner with the DVLA as well as ourselves.

Supplementary Question

I just apologise for a slight text error in this but in virtue of being untaxed of course a vehicle is uninsured. It would be good to publicise how we are able to get better action on this in partnership with the agencies working. What I am looking for is how we can ensure that they are then removed because the issue is one that has been sore both in the ward I live and the one that I represent. It is about the removal of these vehicles. We are all for recycling and there is plenty of this recycling to be done on the streets of Bradford.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Berry. I am absolutely up for enforcement on this issue. Dangerous driving is something that every resident in the district is absolutely sick of and we as a Council several times now have passed motions showing our support for the enforcement agencies to make sure that people do comply with the rules. If you play by the rules that is great. If you don't we will come down on you and we will support the police in doing that. Actually it was the first thing I raised with the new police chief inspector when he arrived and had a word with him about it because we do need to see action on it. I really support Steerside. It has been hugely influential in making sure people realise that they need to play by the rules but we need to see more of it and consistently. It needs to be funded as well.

19. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could the portfolio holder give me an update as to the number of older people we have supported to stay in their own homes rather than in residential care or hospital and how have we done this?

Answer

SERVICE	Number of contracts
BEST	270
Day Care	1370
Direct Payments	1007
Extra Care Homecare	273
Homecare	2480
Individual Service Fund	43
Occupational Therapy	8
Shared Lives Compass	40
Shared Lives Full Time Placement	44

Shared Lives Time Out	140
Support at Day Care	68

The above table shows the number of community contracts for older people being delivered at 10 July 2019. We have implemented the Home First and Happy Healthy and At Home strategies to support people with strength based conversations looking at networking and community provision in localities via families, neighbours and the voluntary sector.

20. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

There have been a number of fires in West Yorkshire resulting in death or serious injury involving vulnerable people. Can the Portfolio Holder advise what steps have been taken to ensure proper follow-up of reports from the Fire Service following 'Safe at Home' visits and has lack of communications by and between agencies exacerbated the risk to vulnerable people?

Answer

There is an information sharing agreement between adult services and the fire service with referral pathways. Adult services refer for Safe at Home visits and act or support people to respond to the recommendations of the fire service. The Fire Service refer to Adult services where there are concerns after visits and we will offer support and advice to people.

The services collaborate and work together to mitigate or minimise risks for vulnerable people within the legal frameworks that Adults services have to operate within. We cannot legally enforce people to do something if they have the mental capacity to make their own decisions even if this may be an unwise decision. It is unfortunately the case that despite our best efforts, accidents occur. All near misses and serious incidents are investigated and used to learn from.

Supplementary Question

Can I ask that the outcomes of these investigations following serious incidents are reported to the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee so that we too can share in the learning and look at the way in which the Social Services approach these incidents? I had experience of one recently and we clearly did not get the best result for the services that we were providing.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Sunderland. I would be interested if you could share the case study you have. I will certainly have a look at that and make sure that any lessons are learned.

21. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Would the Leader join me in condemning the recent surge in homophobic and transphobic hate crimes and provide reassurance about what action is being taken by Council and partners to support and protect the LGBT+ community in Bradford?

Answer

Absolutely some of the incidents reported in the media nationally in recent weeks have been truly shocking. Hate crimes relating to homophobia and transphobia make up approximately 12% of all hate crime in 2018/19; an increase of 1.7% on the previous year.

Hate Crime is a force priority for West Yorkshire Police and documented in the PCC's Plan. Alongside active investigation of crime allegations, all victims of hate crime and hate incidents are offered a bespoke review of support services to which they can be referred if they choose. These services are primarily delivered by Bradford Hate Crime Alliance and other voluntary groups such as Equity Partnership. The Council has been working with the Equity Partnership to develop a plan to address inequality and promote inclusion of people from LGBTQ+ communities in Bradford.

Bradford Hate Crime Alliance (BHCA) support a network of independent reporting centres, including the Equity Centre and Yorkshire Mesmac. In May 2019 refresher training was provided to 18 staff and volunteers at Mesmac.

Anti-hate crime education initiatives play a vital role in building tolerance and promoting inclusivity in the young people across our district. One such initiative is the Sophie Lancaster Game, delivered in 25 primary and 7 secondary schools across the district. It encourages young people to make decisions about people based on getting to know them and not making assumptions on appearance. This helps to build tolerance and inclusivity towards all communities, including the LGBTQ+ community.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer Leader about some good work that is going on in the district but recent research by Stonewall proves that hate crime against the trans community has gone up by 81% alone in the last year. Firstly would the Leader join me in congratulating Transmission, Phoenix and the Equity Partnership for the great work they do in supporting the trans community in Bradford but also assure me in terms of writing to the new Prime Minister to get on with releasing a new and inclusive, a more accepted gender recognition Act so the needs of the community can be met and so hate crime is not tolerated like it is and rising to the level it is at the moment.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Dunbar. Happy to support wherever I can. I think absolutely I recognise the names of those groups who do great work in the district. Just a matter of pride and thank you very much for organising Pride this year in Bradford and we also had Keighley Pride this year for the first time so we are making great strides in the district but obviously we need to do more and encourage the Government to come along side us and support us in doing that.

22. Councillor Jackie Whiteley

In light of the fact that mental ill health amongst young people is not a phenomena only affecting the disadvantaged and Mental Health services for young people are

overstretched in Bradford, with the youth service being asked to support young people in the district, will the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing confirm that youth provision will be maintained in outlying villages including Burley in Wharfedale and Menston?

Answer

Mental Health is an issue that impacts on young people from across the Bradford District. Professional Youth Workers have demonstrated that youth work, as an approach, can have a significant impact on improving the mental wellbeing of young people. Consequently, the Youth Service has been commissioned by health to deliver with other partners the Youth In Mind programme. The Youth In Mind funding agreement covers all of Bradford, Wharfedale, Airedale and Craven District (the geography of the three CCGs).

There may be an impact of the loss of funding to the Youth Service due to Government austerity but this is most likely to be in the ability of the Service to react to a wide range of emerging issues within neighbourhoods and not how we deal with mental health. This includes for example addressing anti-social Behaviour, child sexual exploitation and community tensions.

Supplementary Question

Just for clarity can I ask you that will the young people in Wharfedale Ward who require support still receive it from the Youth Service going forward?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

I think the question went onto two things. We should not be just relying on Youth Service to do mental health support obviously. Mental health support – there is a range of service that are packaged around that and we need to focus on that and in September Health and Wellbeing Board are bringing report on CAMHS and on autism diagnosis because I want us to have a focus on that because I think it is a really important issue. Regarding new services obviously because of Government austerity Youth Services have been cut and let's be honest about it they cannot do as much as they did before. I do not know specifically what activity will be done in Wharfedale. I am sure officers will be able to involve you in that. But how that is going to be rolled out is still being worked on so I am sure you should be involved in that as we go forward.

23. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Could the Portfolio Holder tell me how the council supports start-ups and growing businesses, who entrepreneurs can contact if they would like such support to set up a business and what is the process?

Answer

The Council plays a key role in directing and delivering business support provision both in the District and City Region. This includes identifying and supporting high growth potential businesses, increasing the number of new business start-ups and creating an attractive offer to businesses looking to expand and relocate into the District.

The Council's Invest in Bradford (IIB) Team provide a first point of contact for start-ups and businesses wanting to develop their growth potential.

Direct business support is offered through IIB, offering wrap around support to businesses seeking to invest or grow within the district. The team of Business Advisors diagnose business growth needs and broker in support from other public or private partners as required by the client. They publicise and signpost to external business support programmes, advising on property, assisting with grant applications and advising on doing business with the Council.

24. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Will the Leader of Council ensure that a 20mph, traffic-calmed zone is introduced in central Shipley (on streets including Birklands Road, Birklands Terrace, Castle Road, Cross Banks, Hall Royd, Manor Lane, Selborne Terrace, Sunny Bank and Westcliffe Road), before works commence on widening the junction at the intersection of Otley Road and Bradford Road?

Answer

The result is that funding has already been allocated for the Shipley Town Centre 20 mph zone (incorporating the aforementioned streets) as part of the 2019/20 Safer Roads programme. Subject to the successful promotion of a Speed Limit Order, it is expected that the works will be implemented in the current financial year. The Otley Road/Bradford Road junction improvement is part of the West Yorkshire Transport Fund Bradford to Shipley corridor scheme; this is still at an early stage of development so construction would be in a future year.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Leader for the response. Fantastic news about the 20mph zone in central Shipley. My question is can you assure us the ward councillors that this area will be traffic calmed before works begin on the major junction nearby and if necessary for that traffic calming to be paid for by a very small proportion of the overall multi million pound budget for that road widening project?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

I will take this one Councillor. So the 20mph zone programme we have got which with city centres coming in very soon and then selected schools around Great Horton. City Centre we have just announced, some for Keighley as well is based on self enforcement so it will not include traffic calming. So the way that works is we work to DfT's standards about thresholds for average speeds on the roads so we check for those roads where we think might just be a bit on the borderline and if they are under that accepted thresholds then you do not need to put in traffic calming. If the speed showed that you would need traffic calming then we would have to consider that separately so if you think about the city centre zone, you have got Hall Ings, Princes Way where that will not include those because of the scale of those roads. For Shipley I did think you had been sent the map but it is broadly that Shipley triangular area. So it is looking within that to see are there any roads where the average speed might necessitate traffic calming which we would then have to look to for another budget process basically. So we do not think there will be any within that and therefore it should be okay with signage and roundels on the street.

25. Councillor Caroline Firth

Can the Portfolio Holder join me in congratulating Keighley-based business Keybury Fire and Security for being what is thought to be the first company in its sector to be named a plastic-free champion by Surfers Against Sewage?

Answer

We are extremely pleased that Keybury Fire and Security have been recognised as the first company in its sector, not least because the main driver in achieving the status is one of our Recycling Champions who is employed at the company.

Keybury have increased their recycling and reduced their general waste further than ever in 2018 through a Whole Team Approach. The volunteer 'recycling champion' for the Council who works at Keybury has encouraged staff to rethink their single-use items. Lots of the team bring their lunch from home in reusable containers. Further to this their offices do not have any water fountain or single use cups, crockery or cutlery. Instead they use water from the tap and wash up crockery.

26. Councillor Jackie Whiteley

Will the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills, please commit to a review of school procedures, regarding children who are excluded from school and those who are subject to isolation in school, with the latter being up to 8 hours in duration, as this can affect the individual's mental health?

Answer

Procedures in respect of school exclusions are required to be done in line with Exclusions legislation set nationally and therefore, a local review of the procedures is not appropriate.

We know that many schools in the District use isolation as a form of sanction and that many young people and parents have expressed concern over the negative experiences of this. Schools are all required to have a Behaviour Policy and the use of any sanction, such as isolation, needs to be in line with their policy as a means to help pupils improve their behaviour. Local Authority officers can challenge LA maintained schools on the use of isolation if they have reason to believe that it is not being used appropriately. However, Officers can only influence and encourage Academies and Free Schools who choose to use this. If there are any specific cases which the elected member would like officers to investigate, then please let me know.

27. Councillor Michelle Swallow

Please would the Portfolio Holder explain what strategies the Council is going to employ to get our City pavements looking nice with particular problems being gum and cigarette butts?

Answer

The Council has recently purchased 4 electric vacuum machines to specifically target small items of litter such as cigarette butts. In addition we have also bought a

new chewing gum removal machine to tackle this perennial problem. It is the intention to introduce the new equipment in the City Centre in mid August when staff have been recruited and trained. If successful we will look at rolling this out across the district centres. In addition to this an anti litter campaign targeting litter thrown from vehicles is set to be launched over the next four weeks. Finally, wherever Environmental Wardens see anyone dropping litter including cigarettes or chewing gum they will issue on the spot fines of £100.

28. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Mental ill health is increasing amongst the youth with increasing numbers of referrals. Could the portfolio holder give me an update in regards to what are we doing with partners to better meet the needs of these young people?

Answer

A Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) review of health services for Children Looked After (CLA) is underway. This is due to be finalised and be taken through CCG internal processes, and this will initially be tabled at the Maternity, Children and Young People's Partnership Board. This highlights the current waiting list for services and recommends increased resource in this area. This is specifically to increase Paediatrician clinic time to ensure that health needs assessments and medicals are taking place within timescales. In the short term, four additional Band 6 CLA Nurses have been agreed and a Band 4 Nurse to support Paediatricians. This will improve the response to Initial Health Needs Assessments and Annual Health Needs Assessments. In regards to the CAMHS Looked After Children Team, a revised pathway is recommended to access services and charging for CLA placed in the area from other Local Authorities.

Within the Through Care Service, a dedicated Therapeutic Social Work Team is working to provide early access to therapeutic work for young people, their carers and workers. This team also deliver some direct work through Theraplay. Young people accessing B Positive Pathways receive a dedicated in reach service of psychology, speech and language therapy and occupational therapy. This relationship based approach to delivering health services has been well received and conversations with partners regarding sustainability are underway. Across the Through Care Service, Fostering and Residential Services, a model of care is being delivered which uses a Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy (PACE) informed approach. This model is specifically used to support young people who have experienced early trauma and attachment issues. A significant number of the workforce have now been trained to work in this therapeutically minded approach.

Supplementary Question

Firstly I want to thank the Portfolio Holder for their lengthy answer they have provided me. I am a Mental Health Champion for the district so I work closely with schools and young people in the district. Mental Health is growing and the need for mental health is growing. There is a lot of good work we are doing but could I urge the Leader who sits on the Health and Wellbeing Board to stress the importance of the CAMHS, for example the waiting list is absolutely huge and the need is growing. It is not meeting the needs of our young people so could we please do something about that?

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Absolutely Councillor Shaheen. As I said in my earlier answer to Councillor Whiteley we do as a system need to look at CAMHS and make sure that that waiting list is reduced because it impacts on young people's lives and it costs us more in the long run so let's get in there early and make sure that young people are supported and are able to have a route out of mental illness quickly so that they can get on with a successful happy life. So absolutely support what you are saying there.

29. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

How many people who are medically certified as having a permanent condition that severely affects their intellectual and social functioning are in receipt of a Council Tax discount? How many annual reviews have taken place and how many resulted in a change in their personal circumstances which means they are no longer eligible to receive the discount and what where the reasons for the withdrawal of benefit?

Answer

For Council Tax purposes you are considered 'severely mentally impaired' if you have a severe impairment of intellectual and social functioning that appears to be permanent. This includes where you are severely mentally impaired as a result of a degenerative brain disorder such as Alzheimer's disease, a stroke, or other forms of dementia. To count as severely mentally impaired you must have two things

- a) A certificate of confirmation by a registered medical practitioner.
- b) Entitled to one of a number of specific disability benefits such as Incapacity Benefit or the daily living component of Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) at the standard or enhanced rate.

If the Council Tax payer lives alone and meets the criteria above (or there are other occupiers but they also meet the same criteria) then they will be entitled to a full exemption from the council tax charge. If there are two residents in a property and only one meets the criteria of Severe Mental Impairment then a 25% discount is awarded.

We review all the awards annually and the following table shows the number of each type of reduction that was awarded on 1 of April each year and the number of each that were cancelled during the year, because they ceased to meet the eligibility criteria.

The legislation does not allow for a review of the medical certification and the reviews that we undertake each year are only to confirm that the charge payer remains entitled to the qualifying benefit (the DWP have introduced new tests and reviews for people in receipt of PIPs and other disability benefits which may identify improvements in the effect of the condition) and whether there has been a change to the household (somebody moving in or out of the property) which could change the entitlement.

We do not record the reasons an exemption of discount has been cancelled.

Anecdotally, the most common reason is that they are no longer resident in the property; perhaps moved in to a home or passed away. Very few are cancelled due to them no longer fulfilling the SMI criteria, and when they do, it is because they no longer receive the qualifying DWP benefit.

	Full Exemption		25% Discount	
	Number	Cancelled in year	Number	Cancelled in year
2019/20	797		736	
2018/19	682	17	650	137
2017/18	655	6	740	127
2016/17	689	10	731	159

Supplementary Question

I wonder if we could ask officers or ask the Portfolio Holder if they would just accept that you cannot get better from Alzheimer's no matter how much exercise you do. You just cannot get better when you are severely mentally impaired and it is quite distressing as a family member to be contacted to ask if your relative has got better from a severe mental impairment so can we just alter the processes so we do only ask if living circumstances have changed and just accept that you do not get better from it?

Answer

Thank you Councillor Sunderland. As you see from the answer it is very rare for somebody to leave SMI once they have been it so I am not sure of the case that you obviously got an illustration there. If you are happy to share with me I will have a look at that with the officers concerned but absolutely most of the people sadly who come off this list are deceased. So that is the main highest reason.

30. Councillor Suhail Choudhry

Can the Leader tell me how we are supporting the police to tackle knife crime given the terrible incident in my ward of Bolton & Undercliffe recently?

Answer

The Youth Service Breaking the Cycle project is working in close partnership with the Police and the Youth Offending Team (YOT) to actively target and work with young people identified as being vulnerable to participation in serious, organised and violent crime. This includes 1-1 work with young people who have been involved in knife crime/crimes and with weapons using intelligence led interventions and active case management.

This is paralleled with broader awareness, actions and consequences work being undertaken in youth provisions around knives and weapons and helping young people consider alternative ways to keep themselves safe without the need to carry knives.

The commissioned services of Trusted Relationships and Families Against Crime offer a wider and supportive early help offer to family units for those identified as

being vulnerable to exploitation. There are elements of this work that have a specific focus on the Bradford East area.

A meeting was held with partners following a direction from the Health and Wellbeing Board. At this Knife Crime and Serious Violence issues for the Bradford district were discussed and partners were requested to obtain data that could be used to overlay with all partnership information and analysed to try and identify further potential solutions. Partners are due to meet again soon once this analysis has been conducted and report back to the CSP with any analytical findings and recommendations.

31. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport confirm why he thinks increasing parking charges in small towns and villages is a good idea, when shops are closing due to lack of footfall?

Answer

Evidence suggests there is no correlation between parking charges and reducing footfall. There has been no reduction in usage of car parks following the increase in charges in small towns and villages or the removal of 30 minutes free parking. Similarly, the income for pay and display parking in Council car parks over the last financial year suggests that usage has not been affected by increases in charges.

Supplementary Question

Thanks for the answer. You say there is no evidence of it affecting footfall. Is it possible to have a copy of that evidence because when you speak to shop owners who have said the parking charges have affected their businesses it is difficult to weigh up the two really.

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

I understand and it is one of the challenges we always have when planning these sorts of programmes. Ilkley is no different about how you measure up anecdotal data versus hard evidence and obviously where we introduce a new charge we have not got baseline data of usage necessarily to compare but where we have maybe just reduced some free parking or we have increased the charge then we have baseline data to compare it so we always check that just to see are we are meeting what we anticipated and has there been any changes. So I will ask officers what information we can send you. Is it just Baildon you would like to see? That is fine.

32. Councillor Kamran Hussain

Can the Portfolio Holder tell me how many children have been excluded from schools and are currently waiting for another school placement?

Answer

All permanently excluded children are admitted to Pupil Referral Units (PRU) or Alternative Provision (AP) providers for six day cover where they remain until it is deemed appropriate for them to return to mainstream. Only when the PRU/AP deems it appropriate will a report be written for placement in a mainstream school

through the Fair Access Protocol (FAP) process on a Re-integration Agreement Process (RAP) which dual registers the young person for a period of time before they transfer solely to the school roll.

We have received requests from the PRU/AP for nine secondary young people to be presented at the Fair Access Panels in July for placement through this process, into mainstream school. Parents will have the right to appeal against a refusal to admit from the preferenced schools and the LA will seek direction for any Academy/Free School who refuse to admit if the Panel deem the placement appropriate.

33. Councillor Michelle Swallow

I'm sure all of us in our District would want our road users, whether drivers, cyclists, pedestrians or others, to be safe, however, despite targeted work by West Yorkshire Police it is still a major issue so please would the Portfolio Holder comment on progress so far to deal with arrogant, dangerous drivers? Can you also provide an update on the roll-out of the 20mph zones?

Answer

The Police have had great success in tackling anti-social driving through Operation Steerside, which is over and above normal roads policing activity in Bradford. It is, however, acknowledged that this remains a key public concern. In view of this, the Police and partners (including Bradford Council) have recently expanded the scope of the Steerside initiative to develop a wider partnership approach to achieve a greater cumulative impact. A multi-agency Steerside group has now been established and this reports (via the ASB Strategic Management Group) to the Community Safety Partnership. This will highlight key concerns for the district, report on activity and take on commissioning requests from the Partnership. In addition to this, the new West Yorkshire Chief Inspector in charge of Roads Policing for West Yorkshire has promised new vigour around Roads Policing activity with the hiring of new officers to support a dedicated Roads Policing Team.

The first phase of the 20 mph zone roll out is almost complete with the installation of the City Centre 20mph zone starting in August this year, along with the City Ward and Bradford West School 20mph roll out. The second phase of the programme has just received approval with Shipley Town Centre, selected Keighley Schools and Barkerend Road. These will all have a 20mph Zone by the end of this financial year.

Supplementary Question

I do not know who I am addressing this to. Presumably Councillor Jabar is absent today. I appreciate the answer that was given in the written documents but I would like to know what more can be done and I appreciate that is like asking for the moon a little bit but living in the Bradford district at the moment seems to be like living in a race track on some evenings. I do not know if the Leader has ever had cause to go anywhere near Leeds Road, Great Horton Road or The Avenue in Clayton. Those are only three roads that I have mentioned but going anywhere near any of those on an evening during the summer months and the winter months, you just hear race cars. It seems like we are living in a lawless society and that is not the society that most of us in here believe is just and fair so I would really like to see more action and you have mentioned that that was one of the things in a previous answer. One of the

things you discussed I would like to know a bit more about that please.

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Swallow. Yes as I say you reflect a lot of the concerns of our residents who come to us and I am sure all of us round the Chamber have had complaints about dangerous driving and tales of how it happened. What I would encourage people to do is just ring up and ring the police, ring 101. What I have also had a conversation with chief superintendent about is the 101 number. When I called recently to report some dangerous driving it did take 17 minutes for a response. If we want to encourage people to respond to incidents that they see we need to make it easy for them to do so. Online chat apparently is easier to do. I am seeing a PCC end of July, end of this month, so I am also asking for all the stats about 101 and what the waiting times are because I do think we need to make it easy for people to ring up and report incidents of this kind. There is no quick fix to this. Enforcement is one of it. We have talked about or we will talk about play streets, school streets, that kind of thing as well and traffic calming and just responsibility, education, so there is a whole load of things that go into making this better but it is an issue and it is something that personally irritates me and I know irritates a lot of residents that we represent. So we will do everything we can to stamp it out.

34. Councillor John Pennington

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport confirm why the income from fines for parking at Bradford Central Library, is more than double the income from people buying tickets?

Answer

This is because the Central Library car park is only operational as a pay and display car park on evenings and weekends. During the day the car park is used by authorised staff at MMT and SHMH who need to be in and out of the building. A two hour maximum stay restriction applies week days. The majority of Penalty Charge Notices are issued to motorists who stay longer than the 2 hour restriction week days. The level of fine is set by national regulations.

Supplementary Question

In view of the huge increase in revenue from motorists who stay for more than two hours can you make sure that the signage is correct and clear?

Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

Yes.

35. Councillor Kamran Hussain

Can the Portfolio Holder tell me how many people are being supported by the specialist domestic violence and abuse service and how well it is managing to keep up with demand?

Answer

There were 2006 people supported by the specialist contracted Domestic Abuse

services in 2018/19. Of these;
187 were accommodated in refuge accommodation, 73 women and 114 children
337 were supported in resettlement services, 124 adults and 213 children
795 were supported in crisis and outreach services of which 23 were male
69 engaged with the perpetrators programme, of which 3 were female
46 families were also supported by the perpetrator programme
572 people engaged with independent Domestic Violence Advocate's (IDVA) support
of which 21 were male.

Demand Management

Demand is managed in a variety of ways; for instance within the crisis/outreach services, first contact is followed up three times. This may then cease until such time as the person is ready for support and/or if a referral to another sister support project/s is successful.

Serious/acute cases, presenting through whichever route are managed via the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to ensure agency responses are proportionate, effective and co-ordinated.

Demand into accommodation services and refuges is co-ordinated across a range of services, the LA's own temporary supported accommodation, other refuges across Bradford district; refuges in West Yorkshire and further afield. This is contingent on need and safety issues as well as access to bedspaces.

If at anytime a referral; self or otherwise, is felt to be in imminent danger then the appropriate emergency services would be contacted

36. Councillor Alun Griffiths

Has the Council been in receipt of any complaints from members of the public about drivers of Taxis or private hire vehicles refusing to allow assistance dogs to be carried in their vehicles?

Answer

According to our records, the Licensing Service have received a total of 3 complaints in relation to Guide Dog/Assistance Dog refusals. Details are:

- Feb 2017 – Refusal to carry Assistance Dog - Complaint upheld PHD suspended for 14 days.
- Nov 2017 – Refusal to carry Assistance Dog - Complaint was not upheld. Driver did not refuse.
- April 2018 – Refusal to carry Assistance Dog - Complaint not upheld. PHD was medically exempt.

Note: All were in relation to Private Hire Drivers refusing to carry the assistance Dogs and there are no reports of Hackney Carriage Drivers (Taxis) refusing to carry any Assistance Dogs.

37. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

With the recent announcement of the £1m Lottery funding boost for the Bradford Live project, can the portfolio holder give us the latest update as excitement is continuing to build around the scheme?

Answer

The announcement of the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) allocation of £1 million towards the refurbishment of the former Odeon Cinema is excellent news which further demonstrates the shared commitment of both Bradford Council and Bradford Live in ensuring that this local landmark is fully redeveloped and contributes to the overall regeneration of Bradford's City Centre.

Major progress over the last 6 months includes:

- Planning consent was granted in March 2019.
- Enabling works (including the demolition of the 1960s' internal structure) are due to be completed by the end of July. The removal of the old cinema screen will return the auditorium back to its full size and as it had been built in the 1930s.

Once the enabling/demolition works are completed, then the design team will undertake the final surveys and will further develop the details of the scheme with the view to start the procurement of main contractors in the Autumn. Based upon the current programme, it is anticipated that a report will be presented to the Executive before the end of the year in advance of any contract appointment.