

COUNCIL
14 January 2020

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

PART 2

38. Councillor Rachel Sunderland

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm how many Parking Tickets have been issued in each of the District's Wards, over the past three years?

Answer

Figures for on street and off street On Street and Off Street PCNs over last 3 years:

Financial year	On Street	Off Street
17-18	30,488	10,288
18-19	33,784	10,145
19-20 YTD	35,228	13,080

We can provide detail about how many tickets have been issued on street and off street over the last three years across the District. We are unable to report at a ward or constituency level, but if there is a particular road or street or lists of specific streets which are of interest or concern then please don't hesitate to let me know and officers could work on setting up a report with this information.

39. Councillor Brendan Stubbs

To the portfolio holder, broken down by ward, how many planning enforcement actions are currently being undertaken by the Council across the district?

Answer

Current planning enforcement actions are being undertaken, by ward, as follows:

<u>Ward Number/Name</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
01 Baildon	37
02 Bingley	51
03 Bingley Rural	94
04 Bolton & Undercliffe	30
05 Bowling & Barkerend	45
06 Bradford Moor	66
07 City	125
08 Clayton & Fairweather Green	52
09 Craven	61
10 Eccleshill	25
11 Great Horton	75
12 Heaton	63

13	Idle & Thackley	30
14	Ilkley	61
15	Keighley Central	74
16	Keighley East	87
17	Keighley West	38
18	Little Horton	47
19	Manningham	104
20	Queensbury	53
21	Royds	33
22	Shipley	81
23	Thornton & Allerton	64
24	Toller	72
25	Tong	45
26	Wharfedale	48
27	Wibsey	53
28	Windhill & Wrose	22
29	Worth Valley	110
30	Wyke	48

40. Councillor Geoff Reid

When utilities contractors leave barriers and signs stacked up after completing their work, how much time is allowed to elapse before they are required to remove them?

Answer

Utility companies are required to remove barriers immediately after they finish works. If they do not - and we become aware of leftover equipment - fines are levied at a prescribed daily rate (depending on the class of road) until the equipment is removed.

41. Councillor Martin Love

Can the Leader of Council please tell us what percentage of street lights in the district are currently out of order and what is the current lead time for repairs?

Answer

4.15% of the total number of street lights across the district currently have faults. Repair times can vary slightly depending on the number of faults at a given time, but it is currently approximately 3 weeks to resolve "Lamp Out" faults. Some lead times for repairs have been longer than usual at the start of the year due to the delivery of lamps delayed by the manufacturer or distributor over the Christmas period, with some units not able to be repaired until stocks are received. Northern Powergrid's guaranteed standard of performance is 35 days to repair a "dead service/loss of supply" for street lighting.

42. Councillor Kyle Green

How many looked after children in Bradford and District were placed in OFSTED rated 'inadequate' children's homes?

Answer

We only have one child placed in a residential home which has a rating of Inadequate. This placement was only agreed by a head of service after careful assessment and analysis of the placement which provided assurance that significant improvements had been made since the last full inspection. The current procedures for placing children in residential homes are being reviewed. Children would not normally be placed with an inadequate provider.

43. Councillor Russell Brown

Has any consideration been given into how other local authorities (notably in the North-East) run election counts enabling them to announce the results many hours earlier than we do here?

Answer

Yes, consideration has been given as to how local authorities, notably in the North East, run election counts enabling the announcement of results many hours earlier than here.

There are a number of factors that contribute to the timing of results, including:

- The size of the local authority electoral area:
 - CBMDC is the 4th largest electoral area in the country with 5 constituencies
 - The Keighley and Shipley constituencies are the 2 largest in the district
- Commencing the count for all 5 of the constituencies at the same time, rather than one constituency at a time
- The number of votes to count - CBMDC had almost twice the number of votes to count than both the Newcastle and Sunderland electoral areas at the 12 December 2019 Parliamentary General election
- The number of polling stations to process from the CBMDC area and the distance/travel time to the count venues after close of poll:
 - 142 at the Richard Dunn Sports Centre count station
 - 98 at the Keighley Leisure Centre count station
- Capacity of count venues and permitted maximum resource levels

Area	Number of Constituencies	Number of Electors	Number of Votes Cast at 2019 UKPGE	Comparison of Level of Votes Counted by CBMDC
Bradford	5	359,753	235,417	46% more than Newcastle 49% more than

				Sunderland
Newcastle	3	190,127	127,838	
Sunderland	3	207,793	121,141	

CBMDC conducts the count process to fully comply with legislation and Electoral Commission guidance and timescales.

A pragmatic view is taken here by the (Acting) Returning Officer in relation to election counts and the race to finish first is less important than delivering an accurate result and maintaining the integrity of the process, which are the primary considerations.

44. Councillor Debbie Davies

What support did BMDC give to the promotion and support of Small Business Saturday last month?

Answer

Last year's Small Business Saturday took place on 7 December 2019. Various teams within the Council took part by raising awareness, advising a number of small businesses and posting information on their social media.

Invest in Bradford - sent letters to over 200 businesses in the district to raise awareness and ask them to keep the council informed if they had any plans or offers on the day. Posts on social media, including Twitter. Also produced an e-newsletter - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKBMD/bulletins/26e87d9>

Visit Bradford - posted information on their social media and produced a business showcase on their Instagram & Twitter accounts. <https://visitbradford.wordpress.com/2019/12/05/small-business-saturday-showcase-visit-bradford/>

Bradford Markets - posted information on their social media accounts and also re-tweeted information from various organisations and wrote an article for council staff which was posted on Bradnet and highlighted the staff offers available from local small businesses to council employees.

We also helped to facilitate conversations with bus and train operators and local BIDs in Keighley, Ilkley and Bradford for support more generally over the Christmas period. We hope that this joint working will be progressed further and developed for the 2020 Christmas period.

45. Councillor Geoff Winnard

Can the portfolio holder provide an update on the future of Bingley Swimming Pool and on any progress in relation to the proposed transfer of ownership of the Bingley Swimming Pool to the Friends of Bingley Pool?

Answer

We are continuing to work with the Friends of Bingley Pool towards a community asset transfer of the facility. A meeting is due to take place later this month between officers and the Friends to finalise outstanding matters with a view to obtaining final approval at the earliest opportunity. By joint agreement with the Friends of Bingley Pool, the Community Asset Transfer is now proposed to complete September 2020.

46. Councillor Debbie Davies

How many people currently benefit from receiving books from the Home Library Service and what are the numbers broken down by Ward?

Answer

The Home Library Service is available to residents who are physically unable to make use of their local library, live in their own home, do not have the use of a vehicle and don't have younger relatives living at the same address.

Library staff make an initial visit to assess the resident's reading needs and then visit every four weeks, on the same day and time, taking a selection of books to be chosen from. There is no charge for the service and books are available in standard form or large print. Audio books are also available for loan.

Listed below is the number of books borrowed from the Home Library by ward:

<u>Ward Number/Name</u>	<u>Number of Books</u>
01 Baidon	6
02 Bingley	11
03 Bingley Rural	7
04 Bolton & Undercliffe	4
05 Bowling & Barkerend	1
06 Bradford Moor	0
07 City	6
08 Clayton & Fairweather Green	11
09 Craven	0
10 Eccleshill	7
11 Great Horton	3
12 Heaton	4
13 Idle & Thackley	8
14 Ilkley	0
15 Keighley Central	2
16 Keighley East	3
17 Keighley West	3
18 Little Horton	6
19 Manningham	3
20 Queensbury	12
21 Royds	11
22 Shipley	10
23 Thornton & Allerton	8
24 Toller	5
25 Tong	16

26	Wharfedale	0
27	Wibsey	6
28	Windhill & Wrose	2
29	Worth Valley	0
30	Wyke	5

47. Councillor Mike Gibbons

What evidence do you have to show that people would use the proposed Park and Ride from the top of the M606?

Answer

A feasibility study to be undertaken by independent transport consultants has recently been commissioned to determine if a park & ride facility will be commercially viable from a commercial bus operators' standpoint.

The objective of the park & ride facility if feasible would be to attract people to transfer from the car to a rapid and electric bus service to and from the city centre, complementing the clean air zone proposal which is currently being developed.

In addition, feasibility work is also underway to determine if the existing busway link along Manchester Road can be improved to facilitate dedicated road space and priority for bus services continuously in both directions, significantly enhancing the current busway infrastructure between Odsal and the city centre.

Ultimately this enhanced infrastructure and complementary transport measures within the city centre will help deliver significant modal shift from private car to bus in the medium to long term.

48. Councillor Paul Sullivan

Given there is an abundance of office premises to let in the City Centre, what is the reasoning behind the decision to build offices on the site of the former Tyrls Police Station?

Answer

As stated in the One City Park (OCP) report for the Meeting of the Executive on 2nd January 2020 there is a shortage of high quality Grade A office accommodation in the city centre. In an effort to kick-start the process of reversing this trend, the Council acquired the former Police HQ building from the former Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) with the intention of demolishing the building to create a suitably high profile site to accommodate a new city centre office development that would be of a quality to match any location in the Region.

In order to successfully implement the Economic Strategy the City needs a regenerated office market to boost business growth, create jobs, support the retail sector and stimulate the provision of new housing. Whilst there remains an existing supply of secondary office accommodation, it must be recognised that the city cannot attract 'grade A' occupiers without Grade A space, and without such space it is most unlikely that Bradford will achieve the future economic growth it needs.

There has been recent market activity indicating an increase in requirements from high quality businesses for high quality office space with Bradford being a location of interest. The recent relocation of multinational professional services provider PwC to refurbished office space in the city centre is a recent example of this demand from blue-chip occupiers to locate in Bradford, but such companies require Grade A space.

This shift in the commercial property market, reflecting an improvement in the city's position as a credible option for business investment relocations, has been caused in part by the high performance of the Leeds, Manchester and Birmingham markets, making locations like Bradford realistic and attractive alternative investment options for companies seeking locations that offer quality Grade A accommodation.

There is now a shortage of Grade A office space in Leeds and a growing trend in 'north-shoring' (corporate occupiers relocating to the regions from London in pursuit of lower overheads). One City Park will be a unique, attractive and price competitive location which can secure the occupiers required to make it a success.

There is a high degree of market confidence that One City Park will be a success as it is the right project, in the right place at the right time.

49. Councillor Geoff Winnard

What action is Bradford Council taking to improve levels of pupil attendance in Bradford Schools and what progress is being made?

Answer

Regular attendance is a key factor in educational achievement. While overall responsibility for school attendance lies with schools themselves, we as the Local Authority actively maintain oversight of attendance and we scrutinise and challenge schools where there are concerns. We also have a traded offer which schools and settings can purchase to support good attendance.

The Attendance team within Education Safeguarding identifies schools/settings where persistent absence is a cause for concern and intervention strategies are suggested. Schools are supported and challenged where practice falls short of Pupil Registrations Regulations. Clear and consistent messages are given to schools and Attendance Network meetings are held termly to communicate key messages and share good practice. The Attendance team works in partnership with wider education professionals to identify schools where challenge is necessary. The team uses an evidence-based approach to improve school attendance including so-called 'nudge' projects for schools that take up the traded service. Schools provide attendance data for periods of intervention, which are evaluated and monitored.

Prosecution support is available to schools where avenues have been exhausted. The legal framework and context is considered for each case. Support is given around suitability of referrals and information gathered.

Secondary absence is stable, with unauthorised and persistent absence both down. Primary absence overall is down, as is authorised absence, however there was a slight increase in primary persistent absence.

Education phase	Overall absence		Persistent absence	
	2017/2018	2018/2019	2017/2018	2018/2019
Primary	4.4	4.3	10.9	11.4
Secondary	6.2	6.2	16.9	16.2

50. Councillor Kyle Green

Will the Council support the reintroduction of a hoppla bus in Ilkley to help reduce the need for commuters to use personal motor vehicles to use rail and bus services?

Answer

To date no bus operator has been willing to operate such a service without public subsidy. To provide such a service would require additional funding to that currently deployed on bus services in the district. Officers of the council and West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) can explore the costs and business case for such a service; however a funding package would need to be identified. WYCA has a subsidy framework it employs when considering bus routes; the service which existed previously was cut due to such low levels of use that it didn't meet the threshold for subsidy.

51. Councillor Kyle Green

What is the Labour led council doing to combat high levels of graduate unemployment?

Answer

Recent graduates from the university have comparable employment outcomes to national, with 6% unemployed, compared to 5% across the country.

Through the Integration Area programme, Bradford for Everyone, a project was commissioned through DWP to work with any unemployed graduates across the district from any university. "Graduate2Work" is delivered by Aspire-igen.

The Council is also a key partner on the University of Bradford's Graduate Workforce Bradford programme which successfully won £300,000 of funding from the Office for Students. This is a three-year project specifically to tackle the unemployment and under-employment of recent BAME graduates from the university.

Both programmes work closely with businesses to improve the participants' work and interview readiness. This reflects the first key theme of our Workforce Development Plan, which launched on 4th February and which aims to ensure that everyone leaving education has relevant skills that employers are seeking. This incorporates our approach to careers and technical education which enables young people to have the breadth of work experiences and skills to be competitive in the labour market. The university and three FE colleges (who all offer some higher education) are partners on the ICE District Board which leads on this approach.

The Workforce Development Plan contributes to the goals of our Economic Growth strategy that we are delivering through the Bradford Economic Partnership. We are keen to grow local economic opportunities; currently job density is lower than

regional and national comparators. In delivering the Economic Growth Strategy we aim to become the fastest growing economy in the UK, supporting 20,000 more local people into work. The Workforce Development Plan will put in place the systems to maximise the impact of our partners' work, ensuring that all our residents, at all levels of education and entry into the labour market, can benefit from the opportunities created by growth.

52. Councillor John Pennington

Are illegal immigrants temporarily housed in hotel accommodation by the Council? If so what is the monthly cost to the taxpayer?

Answer

No. The NRPF Team (No Recourse to Public Fund) do not look after illegal immigrants. They look after destitute migrants who are not eligible for benefits due to their immigration status. This means that these people came to the UK legally but as a result of events in life their migration status might become an issue and prevent them to access help. The individuals are assessed on destitution and are eligible for support under the following legislation:

Section 17 Children in Needs

S18(1) Care Act 2014 (care and support needs)

S19(1) Care Act 2014 (power e.g. expectant mothers)

S1 Localism Act 2011 for people victims of Modern day slavery

However migrants are not the primary focus of this team. Most of the people the team supports are women fleeing domestic violence, or victims of human trafficking. The use of hotels as accommodation is not the first choice and most of the time it would be inappropriate to house these people in a hotel as they need to be placed in supported living accommodation where they can be supported emotionally.

53. Councillor David Heseltine

For several months I have been trying to find out who owns the wall that abuts Victoria Street Car Park and the area of grass at Ferncliffe Road / Main Street junction in Bingley? The wall needs repair, but as yet no department will accept responsibility?

Answer

We can confirm that the walls around Victoria Street car park and the grassed area at Ferncliffe Road are owned by the council. We are working to establish which service will carry out the work. Officers from Estates Management are happy to meet Cllr Heseltine on site to establish which section of the wall he is referring to, following which we shall deal with the repairs as quickly as possible.