

**COUNCIL**  
**16 MARCH 2021**

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

---

**1. Councillor Carol Thirkill**

Can I have an update on the roll-out of electric car charging and in particular what is being considered for on-street charging for residents who don't have a driveway?

**Answer**

Following the successful roll-out of 50kW rapid chargers for public & taxi use (<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/environment/climate-change/electric-vehicle-charging-points>), Bradford Council has recently started a Neighbourhood Charge point scheme and appointed a contractor to install electric vehicle charge points within residential settings.

The aim is to install 7Kw electric vehicle charging points (EVCPs) to be located within our neighbourhoods and villages to support residents to switch to electric vehicles. A significant proportion of the Bradford district's homes do not have access to off street parking, such as driveways and garages, and this means they are unable to plug in an electric vehicle should they wish to do so at home. By providing neighbourhood charging facilities it removes the barrier for residents for realising the benefits of owning a plug-in electric vehicle and will aid the transition to plug in vehicles across the district.

The model Bradford Council intends to have for the charge points, is that they would be owned by the council enabling the ability to set the customer tariff. The electricity will be supplied using the existing utility contract the council has in place.

The intention initially is that EVCPs will be installed on the council's own land, such as car parks. A number of other projects may also allow for on-street charging to be trialled, for example it may be incorporated into a Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme.

The following council-owned car parks have been initially identified as potential locations to install neighbourhood EVCPs:

<b>Car Park</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Locality</b>
Killinghall Triangle	BD2 4SJ	Killinghall / Eccleshill
Agar St	BD8 9NB	Girlington
Caroline St	BD18 3LF	Saltaire
St Pauls Road	BD18 3ER	Shipley
Skirrow Street	BD16 1SJ	Cottingley
Wilsden Royd House	BD15 0AS	Wilsden
Gas Street	BD22 8NQ	Haworth
Wesley Place	BD20 0PH	Silsden
Cowgill St	BD8 7NS	Manningham

Main Street or Bolton Road	LS29 OPD	Addingham
Railway Road	LS29 8HP	Ilkley

We are currently at the stage of compiling a long list of potential sites, we welcome suggestions from councillors as they will have local knowledge of their neighbourhoods. The location needs to be council land with 24-hour access, free overnight parking and be close to homes without off street parking.

## 2. Councillor Mike Pollard

It is noted that, as of 26 February, only approximately £0.4 million of the Government's allocation to Bradford Council of £15.59 million in respect of Additional Restrictions Grant has been distributed to local businesses. Would the Leader of the Council please explain the nature of the barriers causing the undue delays in distributing this important Government support? Compared with Bradford Council's rather less than 3% distributed, the equivalent figure nationally at the same date, albeit still unsatisfactory, was approximately 13%?

### Answer

So far the Council has paid out just over £800,000 to applicants under the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) scheme. Our application round received over 3,400 applications, which are being assessed and payments are being made as quickly as possible.

The scheme is focussing support on businesses and self-employed individuals who are not being assisted through the Government's other support, including the Local Restrictions Support Grants and the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme.

### Supplementary Question

Thank you for this. Firstly, there is no explanation offered as to the 'nature of the barriers causing the undue delays in distributing this important Government support'. Clarification please. How many of the 'over 3400' applications received for the ARG scheme are wholly new and from businesses previously unknown to Council, i.e. have not sought support under any of the previous Government Covid support schemes, including the Local Authority Discretionary Grant fund, applications for which closed 28 August 2020.

### Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw

It's worth noting that the Council is dealing with 14 different types of grant funding and each grant has a slightly different eligibility criteria and the systems and processes that we have to set up for those all have to be adapted for that specific criteria so the ARGs attracted a very high volume of applications like we've mentioned the other night in your supplementary and I just think it's worth noting that it reflects that kind of strong micro small business base we have across the District and that then does lead to a range of difficulties in getting information from the applicant sufficiently to be able to process those grants, so the processing team then have to liaise with the majority of them, We're finding actually sometimes on several occasions just to ensure sufficient evidence to back up their claims for grant assistance and that's then actually making sure we've got an evidence base to pass future audits, not just from the Councils' external auditors but from the Government's

own audit teams. So as the application is received, mainly from new or small businesses the majority of businesses were not previously well known to the Council.

However, even where businesses have been known to us, because of the ongoing nature of grant schemes and the slight changes that take place, checks have to be carried out to ensure that they're continuing to trade and we are getting up to date financial information from them to ensure that eligibility criteria was met.

### **3. Councillor Rachel Sunderland**

We have seen an increase in the number of people enjoying our parks over the past twelve months as a place for exercise and leisure. I am sure the Portfolio Holder will join me in thanking all those involved in keeping our parks clean and tidy, in my Ward the work of the Friends of Peel Park volunteers have been invaluable. But will the Portfolio Holder recognise that there are some issues that are beyond the role of a volunteer and consider focusing additional investment into our major parks and look at introducing a pilot scheme for Park Warden in Peel Park, specifically to tackle the behaviour of the few users whose bad behaviour impact negatively on the experience of so many?

#### **Answer**

I absolutely pay tribute to all the Friends groups and other volunteers who play such a special role in the district's parks and green spaces across the district. They do a huge amount of positive work both independently and in conjunction with council services.

I can advise that Neighbourhood Wardens are tasked to patrol all parks on a weekly basis. This is mainly to ensure that the public comply with the requirements of dog control orders but also to provide a highly visible, reassuring presence for the public. More recently Wardens have been patrolling parks to advise the public around social distancing and keeping safe.

In addition, we have three Neighbourhood Wardens who use motorbikes to patrol parks and green spaces. These "mobile" Wardens are able to respond rapidly to issues and if required can patrol parks and green spaces across the district.

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

Does the Leader of Council agree that it is inappropriate for the Council to allocate housing in the Shipley ward for two greenbelt sites (SH4/H and SH5/H) and one greenfield site (SH3/H) as part of the draft Local Plan, plus other greenbelt sites elsewhere across the district, bearing in mind that (a) we are likely to see more opportunities to convert existing retail space into residential accommodation in our post-Covid economy; (b) developing these greenbelt sites will result in the loss of valuable green space and habitat and add hugely to local traffic pressures; (c) the greenfield site in the Wycliffe neighbourhood is a valuable and much-loved area of recreational land for local residents; and (d) there is an excellent brownfield site by the Valley Road, until recently used for housing, that should be allocated for much-needed housing rather than being used by the Council to widen the existing road (and increase traffic and local air pollution as a result)?

#### **Answer**

It is important that the district puts in place an up to date Local Plan which supports sustainable development and clean growth. It is critical that we make sure we have adequate quality housing and jobs to meet current and future residents' needs to 2038. Our current consultation is a key stage in the journey to put a sustainable plan in place and allows the public and others to make comments on the draft proposals before they are finalised.

National guidance expects housing need to be met in full and it allows for limited greenbelt change if the local circumstances require it, if non-greenbelt options have been fully tested. The majority of councils in West Yorkshire have had to look to greenbelt to meet their own needs or will do so in future. The independent Inspector then assesses whether this requirement has been demonstrated in the case of each local plan and whether there are exceptional circumstances for any change to greenbelt.

The Bradford district has an outstanding record of delivering new housing on brownfield land with over 70% of residential development over the last 10 years taking place on such land or through the conversion of existing buildings. While this remains a key priority, the intensification of the urban areas needs to be handled with caution as it is also important to protect urban green space and quality of life in such locations.

The draft proposals have been informed by extensive assessment of over 1,000 sites which demonstrated that while the plan seeks to focus development in the main settlements and prioritise brownfield and non-greenbelt land there is a need to make some changes to the extent of the greenbelt to meet the needs in full. This is on a smaller scale than in the current adopted Core Strategy and would result in a less than 2% reduction in the extent of the Green Belt. The current consultation already proposes to significantly increase the housing target for Bradford city centre but caution is needed regarding the potential loss of retail and other uses in local centres which provide sustainable local facilities which can be accessed without the need for the car. Town centre planning is not as crude or easy as turning every empty shop into a house.

The Local Plan as well as allocating land for development is increasing the protection for green space with 1,693 sites identified to be protected following an up to date assessment of the local green space.

The current consultation allows the public, stakeholders and others to comment on the policies and proposals of the local plan. These will then be carefully considered as changes are made and the Council prepares a final version later in the year.

### **Supplementary Question**

Does the Leader of Council believe that it is right to be consulting on a draft plan which is heavily based on data and analysis that was carried out prior to the start of the pandemic?

### **Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw**

The current consultation's based on a number of key pieces of evidence which provide up to date information specifically on housing and economic needs as well as land supply. It's worth noting that the housing need figures for the District set by

Government is already anchored to household projections but the more detailed information that type mix and affordability is relatively up to date and is available in the strategic housing market assessment. However, jobs growth will obviously be impacted quite significantly by the pandemic, so in recognition of this we updated employment projections prior to the consultation linked to the wider recovery work that's been taking place and this data was published as well alongside the Local Plan as well for comment and feedback.

Clearly, obviously a bit of volatility in the employment projections and we do acknowledge that, but also to remember that plans for the next fifteen to twenty years as well so we'll move out of this uncertain period into recovery and then eventually we'll get back enough growth so that we've not lost too much to support that then through its policy for jobs and economic growth and embed those longer term growth ambitions. Comments are welcome on the current evidence and any gaps or areas of concern you can flag through the process as part of the consultation then we can kind of consider if we need to pick that up. So there will be further updates to several key pieces of evidence before the Local Plan is finalised will be informed in part by the responses received during the consultation. Particularly we are going to be looking at transport movements, impacts and mitigation.

## **5. Councillor David Warburton**

At the present time government rules prevent local election candidates from either delivering newsletters or manifestos. What is the Council doing to support all candidates at the upcoming local elections in May?

### **Answer**

Campaign activity is regulated by the Government and the Electoral Commission. The Returning Officer has no role or legal entitlement to advise on campaign activity.

A change to the lockdown regulations is to be introduced by the Government to support door to door campaigning activity. This is said to represent a proportionate approach which balances the importance of effective elections with the need to protect public health. The Government has made changes to legislation to enable Covid-secure campaigning by candidates and their supporters. The changes, applicable from 8 March, will allow for two months of outdoor campaigning in the run up to May's polls, to support candidates with campaigning.

The relaxation of the lockdown rules applies only to people who are campaigning for the upcoming polls. This means that only those who are campaigning for a specific electoral outcome can carry out this activity.

All activity will still need to adhere to rules regarding social distancing and limits on gatherings in line with guidance issued by the Government. From 8 March, therefore, people who are campaigning in support of the electoral success (or against the electoral success) of candidates or political parties, or relating to a referendum outcome, are allowed to deliver leaflets and canvass electors in relation to the elections and local referendums taking place on 6 May and for any further by-elections and local referendums being held for as long as Covid-19 related restrictions remain in place. The number of campaigners operating together should be kept to an absolute

minimum and a minimum 2 metres distance should be maintained between them at all times.

A link to the Government's guidance is here - ['approach to elections and referendums during Covid-19'](#) and Electoral Commission guidance for candidates and agents can be found on their website at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk).

## **6. Councillor David Warburton**

What measures are the Council putting in place to protect staff and constituents from exposure to the coronavirus at Polling Stations and at the Election Count?

### **Answer:**

To prioritise the safety of all involved, measures recommended by the Government, Electoral Commission and Public Health are to be in place, due to the pandemic this year.

The "Hands, Face, Space" approach, is to be followed, including:

- Lateral flow tests will be given to all staff appointed to election duties
- Polling station assistants (in addition to the usual polling station staff) will guide voters regarding the measures in place
- Hand sanitiser will be available for use before and after votes are cast
- Face masks must be worn in polling stations unless medical exemptions apply – spare masks will be available for electors who do not have one
- Numbers within polling stations will be limited to enable social distancing rules to be applied and separate entry and exit points will be used where possible
- Voters will be encouraged to bring their own pens or pencils, but ballot pencils will be provided as usual, if needed
- Wipes will be available in polling booths so surface areas and ballot pencils can be wiped
- Guidance signage will be provided
- Polling staff will be sat behind screens and will be provided with PPE
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at the count venues
- Face masks must be worn in count venues unless medical exemptions apply – *spare masks will be available for anyone who does not have one*
- Count staff will be sat behind screens and will be provided with PPE
- Staff walking around count venues will be required to wear visors and face masks unless medically exempt
- Lateral flow tests will be available for candidates and agents
- One constituency at a time will be verified/counted to reduce the number of people observing and to reduce the risk of transmission
- A Poll Card Letter is to be sent this year, containing additional information of what to expect at polling stations, the COVID-19 safety measures in place and guidance

## **7. Councillor John Pennington**

As £40m was originally allocated for the provision of new swimming pool facilities for Bradford District, could the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places, confirm how much of that money is coming to Bingley either to maintain the existing pool or

provide a new facility?

**Answer**

Cllr Pennington should be aware, as a local councillor, that Bingley Pool was always due to be replaced by modern facilities at Squire Lane. In the meantime, Shipley pool has had over £500,000 of investment and The Leisure Centre Keighley has had £250,000 of investment spent on it. Both these bigger pools serve Bingley residents as well. Following the Executive report of January 2017 the allocation of funding for new sports facilities was adjusted to £28.1m for new facilities at Sedbergh and in the North of Bradford (Squire Lane). At this point the council resolved to seek community management options for Bingley Pool rather than close it.

**Supplementary Question**

I find your answer disrespectful to myself and the Friends of Bingley Pool who are clearly being led a merry dance by the Portfolio Holder. My concern is for Bingley not Shipley, Keighley or Bradford North where the first sod has yet to be turned. Stop prevaricating give me and the Friends of Pool a specific date for the conclusion, a Yes or No to the meandering negotiations? If you do not intend to help Bingley say so now?

**Cllr Sarah Ferriby**

Bingley Pool was due to transfer to a community asset in 2020. As a result of facility closures as a requirement by the Covid 19 pandemic, the Friends of Bingley Pool asked the Council to delay the transfer for at least a year. Discussions are continuing and there is open dialogue regarding the eventual takeover of the pool. The Council are continuing with essential maintenance on the pool.

**8. Councillor David Warburton**

This Tory Government has promised record infrastructure investment as part of its "levelling up" agenda, but we've now seen Network Rail's 2019-24 budget cut by £1bn – a cut not mentioned in Spending Review documentation which stressed record investment in strategic road and rail projects. Now there's also a 40% cut to Transport for the North's budget, from £10m in 2020/21 down to £6m in 2021/22. What effect will this have on our ambitions for Northern Powerhouse Rail and other major improvements?

**Answer**

It is hugely disappointing for Bradford and the north that TfN's core funding has been cut by 40% from £10m to £6m. The immediate impact of the cuts is that the Integrated and Smart Ticketing (IST) programme will be de-funded, with no more funding in 2021/22. There are also cuts to other functions which TfN delivers centrally. However, Northern Powerhouse Rail funding will be protected at the same level of funding in 2021/22 as it was in the previous year. Although TfN sought increased monies for NPR, protected funding for the next year will enable Bradford to work with TfN to further develop plans for a city centre NPR station. We are continuing our intensive lobbying of government to ensure that they cannot ignore the compelling case for a Bradford city centre stop on Northern Powerhouse Rail. No other option on the table will deliver the transformative change for the North that is needed and which the government has said it will deliver.

### **Supplementary Question**

Do you believe that such drastic cuts to Transport to the North & Network Rails budgets for the coming years are a true reflection of this government's promised levelling up agenda?

### **Cllr Susan Hinchliffe**

I am obviously concerned about capital transport investment into the north of England of course specifically into Bradford over the next few years. Pre pandemic the Government was very bullish about what kind of investment they were going to make. Post pandemic, with the amount of money they have spent, I am concerned that they may be getting a bit lukewarm about investment in the north of the capital so this is not a good signal.

Something that says transport for the north on it you'd like to think that it's worth investment because it's got the word north in it, we need to invest in the north of this country to be able to be successful as a nation and they need to understand that so I, and we as a group and as an Executive will be pushing to make sure we get the investment we need and our people deserve going forward and that's with transport for the north but also with Government and other bodies because we know what a difference it will make to our economic recovery

### **9. Councillor Richard Dunbar**

Would the leader agree that the budget presented by the Chancellor did little to address the wide scale inequality in society and did nothing to reward our public service heroes – the very people who have got this country through the pandemic?

### **Answer**

It is concerning that this was a Budget failing to deliver the kind of fundamental change we have long called for. Covid has exploited and exposed the fault lines of inequality across our society and this was an opportunity to tackle those inequalities head on. Of particular concern was that again there was no plan to fix social care, the government instead continuing its policy of transferring the burden to the local council taxpayer. I agree we would have expected a fair reward for key workers – they are public service heroes who have played such a crucial role for the nation through this pandemic. They deserve our thanks but also to be paid properly for their work.

### **10. Councillor Robert Hargreaves**

Given that £40m was allocated for the provision of new swimming pool facilities for Bradford District, could the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places, confirm what plans the Council has put in place for primary schools that previously used Queensbury Pool to deliver swimming as part of the curriculum?

### **Answer**

All the primary schools have been supported to find alternative swimming facilities which suit their needs, with the majority using Sedbergh pool instead.

### **Supplementary Question**

I note the Portfolio Holder's terrible and somewhat disingenuous response to my question. There may be lack of unawareness that the leader of the council simply told schools in Queensbury to use the pool in Halifax when it was announced that Queensbury Pool was closing. Can the Portfolio Holder provide details of the support that schools have allegedly received from the council and what the plans are for the schools that were told to go to Halifax now that has closed as well? Can Portfolio Holder also commit to supporting the future community management of Queensbury Pool as in Bingley?

**Cllr Sarah Ferriby**

Queensbury pool closed in Autumn 2019 when Sedbergh opened, the majority of schools that previously used Queensbury pool for swimming lessons re-located to Sedbergh. There were three Queensbury schools that chose to make arrangements with alternative providers. If any of those schools are now affected by the closure of Halifax pool we are happy to have discussions with them regarding available pool time in Bradford District. Queensbury Victoria Hall is now operated by the voluntary sector. Discussions are ongoing about whether or not the trustees of Victoria Hall will take on the management of the pool.

**11. Councillor Richard Dunbar**

'Culture is our Plan' is the recently approved ten-year strategy for cultural development in our district. Please can the portfolio holder explain the key themes and anticipated outcomes and why culture is so central to Bradford's economic recovery and future prosperity?

**Answer**

Culture Is Our Plan is an ambitious ten-year strategy that will harness the collective power of Bradford's diverse creative and cultural offer – both existing and unrealised – to improve the citizen experience of those living in the district, while contributing to future economic prosperity.

We know that the Bradford District rightly has a lot to be proud of already – from world-famous attractions to exquisite food, great local and national museums, and award-winning parks – but there is also an acknowledgement that some levelling-up is needed to ensure that Bradford can achieve levels of cultural investment and engagement enjoyed by many other great cities of the north.

There are 10 themes to the plan, which have been thoroughly developed following months of extensive public engagement, research, and stakeholder consultation. The strategy provides a robust framework to support culture in places where it is traditionally thin on the ground, and builds on the excellent ongoing work by partners across the district including The Leap, Bradford Producing Hub, Bradford City of Film, and Bradford 2025.

The strategy is actively promoted as a 'work in progress' to enable citizens of the district to engage with and participate in its evolution in response to emerging trends, themes, or areas in need of enhanced support. It will be fully launched in May as an interactive online plan accessible to all.

At the heart of the ten-year strategy is Bradford's bid to be the UK City of Culture for

2025 – a designation that has been nothing short of transformational for previous incumbent cities. As well as an increase in visitor numbers and inward investment, a successful designation will also support a significant uplift in jobs – directly within the cultural and creative industries, but also indirectly within supporting sectors such as hospitality or the evening and night-time economy.

To further underline the importance of the sector to our district's future prosperity, Culture was included as one of the four work streams of Bradford's Economic Recovery Plan – adopted earlier this year in response to the economic challenges arising from Covid-19. Culture is seen as integral to the future role of our district's diverse high streets and communities, and it is an industry that is well placed to complement Bradford's increasingly-renowned pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit.

## **12. Councillor Geoff Reid**

Now that many of our bus services in Bradford have returned to pre-pandemic frequencies, will the Director of Public Health be issuing fresh guidance for the use of public transport in the light of the possible easing of lockdown restrictions?

### **Answer**

The Director of Public Health will continue to support the district to follow relevant government guidance on safe use of public transport during this time when the NHS, council services and our partners continue to work hard to roll out the vaccine programme and maintain the testing programme. It is important to continue with the basic guidance of Hands – Face – Space (washing or sanitising hands, wearing a face covering and staying at least 2 metres apart where possible), including when using public transport.

### **Supplementary Question**

Sticking to the basic Covid guidance on social distancing etc. as noted in the reply is fairly straightforward, but the Government guidance on who may use public transport is not. If there are more buses can we expect more people to be able to use buses with regard to the example given in the guidance about short journeys to access an open space?

### **Cllr Sarah Ferriby**

According to the roadmap for lifting lockdown, minimising travel will no longer be required at step 3 no earlier than 17 May. Until then people should continue to minimise the journeys that they make wherever possible, avoiding travel at the busiest times and routes. You should not travel outside your local area unless you have to do so and it is best to walk or cycle if you can, but if you must use public transport for legally permissible reasons such as work, plan your route and decide on how you will get there to travel at quieter times when it is less busy.

Step 3 the Government will further ease limits on social contact, enabling the public to make informed personal decisions. We can expect more use of public transport but it will remain important for people to consider the risks themselves taking account whether they and those they meet have been vaccinated or are at greater risk. Some measures may be required even after all adults have been offered the vaccine because neither coverage or effective of the vaccine will be 100%. As a result, significant proportions of the population will remain vulnerable to infection, some of

whom may still be vulnerable to severe diseases. We will review the national guidance on how we manage Covid 19 from the summer onwards. In the meantime, it is important to keep up with habits such as regular hand washing and letting the fresh air in.

### **13. Councillor Paul Godwin**

Keighley Library is a jewel in the crown for the district and I know the portfolio holder will join me in welcoming our recent and continuing investments in it – please could you tell us about the improvements that have been made?

#### **Answer**

Keighley Library is indeed a jewel in the crown for the Library Service and for the district as a whole. At nearly 1,200 square metres, it is by far our largest library building, it is Grade II listed and the first Carnegie library in the country.

In August 2007 the library reopened after a major refurbishment costing £1.1 million and funded by the Council. Repairs were made to the roof, the stonework and plaster walls; woodwork and windows were replaced or rebuilt; a new heating system was installed, and modern replica radiators replaced the old cast iron ones. The building was re-painted, new carpets fitted and new furniture provided. Old false ceilings were stripped away. Murals were also restored by a conservationist from the museum service, who also cleaned the marble bust of Andrew Carnegie. Facilities for disabled people were updated with a new lift, disabled toilet and induction loop fitted, adjustable desks for wheelchair users, and special computer screen for the visually impaired.

In 2020, the Local Studies and Archives area on the first floor welcomed the addition of the Ian Dewhirst Collection with a newly designed area in memory of the much-loved local historian and ex-member of library staff. This includes a feature cabinet containing highlights of the collection, a large sign in keeping with the library and Ian's interest in railway history, and a special seating and study area.



The Council is once again planning to invest in the future of the library, with further refurbishments set to take place later in the year. This will include maintenance to the flooring and include new carpeting, redecorations and new energy efficient lighting. The Council's conservation team are being consulted on the works.

Keighley Library has been selected to be one of the pilot libraries for implementing the new vision and model, agreed for the service in March 2020, with the development of a 'tailored offer' for the community, working closely with partners and stakeholders. The forthcoming refurbishment is, therefore, an opportunity to consider any other potential improvements that could be made at the same time, such as the inclusion of community meeting spaces in the library.

#### **14. Councillor Debbie Davies**

Can the Leader of the Council confirm why it has taken over three months to provide answers to questions submitted to the December meeting of Full Council for written reply?

#### **Answer**

Answers were quickly provided for a not insignificant 37 questions for the day of December Full Council itself, despite the additional pressures of the pandemic. So I understand the member is referring to the additional questions above and beyond that initial set, which in pre-Covid times were typically answered within a calendar month after the meeting, ie it would have been by mid-January in the case of the December meeting. We are not now in pre-Covid times of course and the key focus of the Council continues to be on the pandemic response and ultimately saving lives. All portfolio holders are always happy to speak direct to pick up any urgent issues.

#### **Supplementary Question**

Thank you for the answer but it seems strange that 37 answers can be provided within a week but the additional 17 took over three months. When do you anticipate the additional questions from today to be answered?

#### **Cllr Susan Hinchliffe**

As soon as possible really is the answer. If there is anything urgent that you're asking, then obviously that gets answered quickly by any officer you wish to ask in the Council. This is a formalised process and officers go through all the questions and the answers and collate those and bring them back to full Council. You don't have to wait for a full Council to have a response to an answer. Obviously officers are busy at the moment with Covid and obviously if you have urgent questions don't wait for a full Council, just pick up the phone or send an email or ask me – I'm sure we'll get an answer as quickly as possible.

#### **15. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq**

How many food parcels and meals has the Council delivered to help prevent children and families going hungry in this pandemic and what plans do we have in place for the next school holidays?

#### **Answer**

The Hub, established in response to the pandemic, issued 14,000 food parcels which contained a week's food for a family, feeding approximately 28,000 children between March 2020 and June 2020.

The Summer 2020 – Holiday Hunger Programme using 35 voluntary organisations fed more than 2,300 children whilst providing holiday activities and October half term funding from the council supported delivery via the voluntary sector with 23,000 meals provided.

The Covid Winter Grant funding has been used to provide food support for Christmas 2020 and February 2021 half term and provided 60,000 meals to families. Foodbanks have been funded along with organisations supporting other groups including asylum seekers and refugees.

Schools were provided with funding to support families with weekend hunger from December 2020 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Funding was allocated on a proportionate basis taking into account deprivations levels, FSM and Pupil premium. Over 20,000 children have been supported so far.

Easter holiday provision will be delivered using a combination of the additional Covid winter grant funding for Easter and the holiday and Food programme (HAF). All food provision will be funded from the Winter Covid Grant to support hungry children. The HAF programme targets children on benefits related free school meals and as well as the Easter holidays, the HAF funding will deliver 6 weeks' provision over the Summer holiday and 2 weeks at Christmas 2021.

**16. Councillor Nazam Azam**

Can the portfolio holder give an update on the works to make way for the new Darley Street Market?

**Answer**

The construction contract for the new Darley Street Market should be signed very shortly. Officers have carried out a great deal of preparatory work including water supply diversion, structural investigations and the finalisation of party-wall agreements. Demolition is expected to commence in April 2021 with main construction works commencing towards the end of 2021. Completion of the new market is targeted for Summer 2023.

**17. Councillor David Heseltine**

Would the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places please confirm what happened to the proposed new Squire Lane leisure facility?

**Answer**

Officers are continuing to work with partners across the public, community and private sectors to progress plans for the Squire Lane site that provide the right mix of high-quality health and fitness facilities.

**Supplementary Question**

In light of the so far failed delivery of this project and the requirement for much needed water space for the district, could the leader explain how this demand will be met and

act on the one obvious way to do this, by investing in our current facilities such as Bingley and Queensbury pools?

**Cllr Sarah Ferriby**

The Council's strategy is to invest £27.1million in new sports facilities and to repair and maintain the retained facilities which will provide the modernised service with good quality water space for the future. The new facility at Sedbergh was delivered in 2019 and work is ongoing to deliver a new leisure, health and community facility for future generations to enjoy.

**18. Councillor Taj Salam**

The Council has invested in various schemes to promote walking and cycling in recent months – can the portfolio holder give an update?

**Answer**

In November 2020 Bradford Council appointed a Cycle and Active Travel Champion to work with stakeholders (internal and external to the Council) to champion cycling and walking and ensuring that they are at the heart of the planning and design of the district's streets and communities and they contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of the people of the district.

Bradford Council has successfully delivered Tranche 1 of the Active Travel Programme. The work has involved multi agency stakeholder engagement and has been well received by the public. The programme focussed on reallocation of road space to provide safe infrastructure for all vulnerable users such as pedestrians and cyclists. It also addressed the clear increases in walking and cycling that have emerged during the pandemic. The work included:

- Pop up cycle lanes on Great Horton Road, Manchester Road and Wakefield Road
- Footpath widening schemes on Scotchman Road and Wheatley Lane
- Zebra crossing at Ilkley Grammar School
- Cycling parking provision at 19 Council-owned car parks
- Installation of a Cycle Hub
- Automatic pedestrian detection devices at 270 locations across the District
- Cycle provision and lane closure on Hall Ings, Bradford
- Full vehicle closure to support active travel on Shay Lane
- The purchase of 2 e-cargobikes and an e-bike trailer. One of the e-bikes is being used by the Parks team in Lister Park and other bike and trailer are to be used by local businesses and community organisation when the scheme is fully up and running which will be managed by the Capital of Cycling team

The above work is subject to monitoring and schemes are being adapted to suit local need. The Landscape, Design and Conservation team have also delivered a number of schemes which improve benefits to pedestrians and cyclists including:

- Low Street, Keighley – public realm improvements delivered using Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding to improve access in this shopping street
- Horton Park Horizon 2020 - Bradford has become a partner of LIFE Critical, a project in the EU Life Programme supporting environmental, nature

conservation and climate action projects. Phase 1 created and improved access from the park to the Canterbury estate and local school.

### Future Schemes

As part of the Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 (ATF2) we will be consulting on delivering the following schemes over the coming months:

- School streets at 11 schools across the district
- Active Travel Neighbourhoods in 3 areas
- Cycle infrastructure along 2 roads (Fenby Avenue and Bradford Road in to Bingley)
- Bus Gate in Shipley
- Improvements to Beechgrove Greenway including lighting and resurfacing
- A number of other new footpaths and footpath improvements including a new footpath in Bell Dean which is already completed.
- Further cycle parking (currently being consulted on)
- Ebike trial scheme

Other schemes to be delivered include towpath improvements between Shipley and Apperley Bridge and Silsden and the West Yorkshire Boundary. We are also working with The Better Place project and looking at the following projects:

- Kettlewell Snicket
- Link path from Canterbury into Horton Park
- Toddler trails in Horton, Bowling, SHINE, Peel, Attock, Beechgrove Greenway, Curzon/Folkestone Street and around Laisterdyke Library
- Beechgrove Greenway in conjunction with ATF2
- Illuminated mile – Myra Shay and surrounds in conjunction with ATF2
- Wheelie track Bowling, possibly Bradford Moor Park (TBC) linked to Hop on teaching cycling skills
- Linked to sculpture trails throughout BSB BP area
- School streets – pilots 10 across District Inc. St Matthews, St Stephens and Westminster in conjunction with ATF2

£200,000 has been invested in a new nature play area at Scotchman Road former allotment site and contractors are on site improving access, walking and cycling provisions in and around Pitty Beck (£90,000). Bell Dene Road footway improvements were part of this scheme. Discussions are underway regarding green space development in the wider local delivery pilot area.

Streets for People – Shipley - As part of the funding from WYCA's Healthy Streets scheme, Shipley has secured £1m to be used towards making the town centre healthier, safer and more attractive. This project is currently out for community engagement on the concepts of Streets for People and how they could be delivered by improving the streetscape, focused on the Market Square.

- the Landscape Design and Conservation team secured funding from Pocket Parks Plus, local Transport Plan and Baildon Town Council to fund the creation of a nature trail and wildlife meadow which links the Higher Coach Road area of Baildon along the River Aire and to the Hirst Wood area. We have recently

secured funding from Towns Fund to deliver the next phase of the footpath which will provide routes from and to Saltaire World Heritage Site to Shipley and surrounding countryside, linking existing routes and attractions, to encourage people to stay longer in the area in all seasons, and use active/sustainable travel methods.

- Postman's walk in Keighley provides connectivity linking the town centre with suburban areas to the west of the town through an off road footpath. It is the only riverside green space in the area and offers great potential for improving the local environment. The project will include refurbishment of existing paths, and retaining walls, and replacement of dilapidated seating, habitat creation, tree management and interpretation works.

The Towns Fund awarded accelerator funding for Shipley and Keighley with £750k each to drive long-term economic and productivity growth.

Shipley projects include

- Cycle/ footpath linking Shipley and Baildon to Saltaire (£72,000)
- Improved footpaths in Saltaire (£246,483)
- New bus gate to Shipley Market Square (£40,000)
- Developing small parklet spaces (£28,000)
- Improved walking routes to local schools and other green spaces in Windhill (£25,000)
- Bus shelters real-time information boards (£43,750)

Keighley Projects include;

- Developing small parklet spaces (£36,050)
- New bus real-time information boards (£96,250)
- A pocket park at Postman's Walk (£90,000)

**19. Councillor Tariq Hussain**

Will the portfolio holder update us on progress in getting blight sites cleaned up and back into use, as it continues to be a key concern for the council and for residents?

**Answer**

The Council is proactive in managing unsightly sites in the district with a capital funding pot we have created to enable the planning service in co-ordination with other council services to intervene and improve sites where there is a strong business case for future uses. Through co-ordination of our enforcement teams and powers through the Environmental Enforcement Board the council is actively reviewing unsightly and neglected sites. The most recent example of this is the Old Manor House, the oldest building in Manningham, to acquire if necessary and bring the building back into use.

**20. Councillor Alun Griffiths**

What percentage of staff in children's homes have had a first coronavirus immunisation?

**Answer**

At the current time 75% of our staff have had their first vaccination.

**21. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq**

How many laptops or other devices have been sent out to support children's learning since the pandemic started in the district and what more can be done to tackle the digital divide?

**Answer**

We have issued over 2,500 devices across the district and we have expanded the range of vulnerable children and young people. In addition, we have issued over 300 Wi-Fi dongles to support children to get online.

We currently have 650 laptops and 100 iPads in stock and are working with a range of teams including the youth offending service; post 16 care leavers and schools to identify those children or young people who need a device or Wi-Fi connection. All children in care have received devices, and a process is in place to ensure all children new to care receive a device.

We have had 63 laptops donated from Morrisons and these were delivered to 5 schools on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

Schools are also able to order devices directly from the DfE and whilst we do not have access to the number of devices that schools are ordering for children, we are aware that all schools in the district are ordering devices to support children in their schools. A survey will be issued to schools to understand how many devices they have received from the DfE and how many devices they will still need. The findings from this will be used to provide a digital inclusion response that meets the needs of the children and young people

To understand and plan for on-going provision in Bradford, we are taking steps to identify the level of need on a ward by ward basis. We are working with mobile phone operators (Vodafone etc) and network providers (BT etc) to understand their coverage across the district. All this information will be put onto a digital map and will provide us with a clear picture across the district.

A workshop will be held in April to discuss the digital needs of pre-school aged children (0-5yrs). This will include understanding the actual device need for development; digital inclusion for families etc.

Discussions have started, with the West Yorkshire Combined authority to identify how we could develop a West Yorkshire approach to Digital Inclusion.

**22. Councillor Mike Pollard**

Would the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder kindly provide a breakdown of actual spending to date and projections on future spending, on the Darley Street Market?

**Answer**

The capital spend on the Darley Street Market project up to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 amounts to £4,064,943, the main items of expenditure covers three areas:

1. Building Acquisitions – costs associated with the acquisitions by private treaty and compulsory purchase order of 8 to 24 Darley Street amounts to £2,527,745
2. Pre-Construction - costs associated with preparing the buildings for their demolition which includes asbestos removal, relocation of a sub-station, water supply diversion, structural investigations, demolitions investigation works, party wall agreements, diversion of street lighting and drainage surveys amounts to £538,897.
3. Design Team Fees – multi-disciplinary team costs associated with the design of the new market including preparation of brief, concept through to developed design for planning leading to technical design and construction drawings which amount to £972,116.

Other costs that have been incurred to date relate to the statutory fees for planning and building control.

The construction contract is for the value of £17m and the spend profile will be determined by the programme of works and the expenditure based on the actual works certified by the Council's appointed design team each month. The works are anticipated to commence in April 2021 and be completed by Summer 2023.

### **23. Councillor Angela Tait**

I was pleased to support our additional investment in footpaths and rights of way which have been so heavily used by people exercising during the lockdowns. How will we be using this and other planned investments to improve our walking routes, parks and green spaces in the coming year?

#### **Answer**

Yes, this is an important investment that we have identified as a Group and will be very welcome as we have seen such good use of our footpaths over this past year. An additional £250,000 has been allocated as part of the budget setting process for improvements to footpaths and rights of way (walking routes) across the district. Officers within our Green Spaces, Countryside and Woodlands Services are working together to identify and prioritise the footpaths most in need of urgent maintenance or repair. This short term investment is in addition to a £6m programme of work already committed to refurbish our play areas and play spaces over the next four years.

### **24. Councillor Kevin Warnes**

Can the Leader of Council explain how doubling the number of flights to and from Leeds-Bradford airport is consistent with decarbonising our economy and addressing the 'climate emergency' declared by Bradford Council in 2019?

#### **Answer**

Leeds Bradford Airport is privately owned and is located within Leeds City Council boundaries, it is Leeds City Council therefore that has done the work to examine the recent planning application. It is also the case that as a Council, we do not have direct control over the number of flights to and from Leeds Bradford Airport. We will look to work constructively to reduce emissions where we have a substantive policy and practical way to accelerate progress.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority have done extensive work to map our carbon pathway as a region and won a national MJ award for the work recently. This makes it clear that air travel currently accounts for 3.6% of regional carbon emissions. We need to insist on a national aviation strategy from Government to tackle aviation emissions nationally. To place this into context road transport currently accounts for 39.6% of regional emissions and there is much we can do to address this figure locally including through the Transforming Cities programme which is an overall regional investment of £500 million.

### **Supplementary Question**

Does the Leader of Council agree that the decision to grant planning permission for an expanded terminal at Leeds-Bradford airport – if upheld - will undermine efforts across West Yorkshire to respond to the climate emergency, and what is she doing in her capacity as Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to support the campaigners and councillors across our region who want to limit the number of flights to and from this airport?

### **Cllr Susan Hinchliffe**

This is a national issue. We need a national aviation strategy from Government. We can't do aviation strategy region by region. By definition it is international in its nature and needs a Government approach to everything and you must be aware, of course most people in Bradford District who take a flight actually drive over the M62 and take it from Manchester which is busy expanding and obviously taking advantage of international travel when it returns of course. So this is why we cannot do it place by place, by definition you can't.

Now that obviously means in West Yorkshire we need to take it absolutely seriously. In terms of our carbon reduction pathway I'm really proud of the work we've done on that and it's great to see that work coming to life and being plotted into the future about what we can achieve. Much of that is down to us using less cars and actually improving the heating efficiency of our homes and we must focus on that because it's things we can do without national recourse to Government all the time. So we must focus on what we can do to accelerate the carbon reduction that we all want to see, but at the same time we mustn't let government off the hook with coming up with their own national policies which support our local efforts and that is one of them.

### **25. Councillor Tariq Hussain**

What has the City of Culture bid achieved so far in terms of drawing in new funding to the district and promoting new cultural activities, and what are the next steps?

### **Answer**

Since Bradford formally declared its intention to become the UK City of Culture for 2025, significant steps have been made to prepare the district for submission of the bid in late 2021.

Despite the challenges arising from Covid-19, the Bradford 2025 team has been able to sustain and promote a wide number of activities to support the Bradford District's diverse cultural and creative industries while also drawing in new funding.

Working in partnership with the Council's cultural partnerships team (and a range of

other partners), this activity has included:

- supporting 55 artists and creatives during the first lockdown period with a series of rapid grants;
- supporting and nurturing filmmakers as part of a collaboration with City of Film, BFI, and Screen Skills;
- supporting a district-wide public art programme (elements of which are still in development to be fully activated post-lockdown);
- supporting and funding a wide range of light projects & installations district-wide;
- creating programmes of work to include students at primary and secondary schools at Bradford College and the University of Bradford in creative projects inspired by the bid
- and being an active participant in a number of successful and ongoing funding bids alongside strategic partners in the district.

Bradford was also successful in securing £1.75 million funding from West Yorkshire Combined Authority as part of the rolling Gain Share funding programme, which will be used to support emerging elements of the district's new 10-year cultural strategy (Culture Is Our Plan) as well as activities directly connected to the City of Culture bid & cultural recovery

The bid team has also appointed a new Head of Partnerships, who is proactively identifying opportunities for significant cross-sector support for Bradford 2025.

The Bradford 2025 team is anticipating the publication of updated UK City of Culture competition guidelines by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) in late Spring 2021 with an expected bid submission timeline of Q4 2021 and a result of the winning city in May 2022.

Once the DCMS guidelines have been published in full, the Bradford 2025 team will activate a comprehensive public campaign, building on a programme of significant research and bid development that has been underway since August 2020.

## **26. Councillor Kyle Green**

Would the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder, advise members how much revenue has been raised by after 6pm parking charges, broken down by individual car parks?

### **Answer**

We are unable to provide a breakdown showing revenue after 6pm for each car park. We only receive details of the monthly cash collection for each car park which does not identify the time the charges were paid.

### **Supplementary Question**

If the council is not measuring the revenue generated by these charges can they advise what the point of them is and how much it costs to employ wardens to enforce these charges?

### **Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw**

Obviously this is something we've discussed many times but we collect data on monthly income received for each car park. So obviously, as and when you introduce changes to the tariffs or whatever else you can see if there's an increase or decrease and whether that's in line with expectations since the charges were introduced so obviously there are ways around that, it's just that we couldn't provide you with a sort of specific figure where we know for sure well that's the precise amount over that precise period. In Ilkley for instance, which is where we know you are interested in, the proposal for South Hawkesworth Street car park was recommended in the independent parking review undertaken by Steer, Davis and Glee which had a reference to evening charging in there and they were obviously tasked to look at supply and demand issues throughout Ilkley and specifically referenced that for funding reinvestment into the car park itself which we have done with the car park resurfacing and new street lighting installation around the car park as well. So we've followed through on what we promised on that one.

In terms of the roll of Council Wardens means that there's a lot of restrictions. They're expected to monitor after 6pm already such as residents parking areas, double parking, high level restrictions such as no waiting and therefore, as a consequence, there was no additional cost for warden employment as enforcement of these charges it's just basically a small fraction of the work they carry out.

**27. Councillor Aneela Ahmed**

Can I have an update on our work in partnership with the police and other partners to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour?

**Answer**

The District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is the focal point for partnership work to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the district.

Community Safety Partnerships were created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The act requires statutory agencies including local authorities, police authorities, fire and rescue services and health authorities set up a Community Safety Partnership to work with partners, the community and voluntary sector to tackle issues including: crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reduce re-offending in its area.

The CSP Board in Bradford is chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, Councillor Abdul Jabar, and the Deputy Chair is Chief Superintendent Dan Greenwood. The CSP is required to produce a Community Safety Plan, identifying areas of priority attention. The three priorities in the current Plan are:

- Priority One: Tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Priority Two: Tackling Crime and Re-offending
- Priority Three: Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Performance data covering the key areas of the plan is reported to the CSP Board on a quarterly basis. An annual report on community safety work is reported to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and past reports can be downloaded from the Council Meetings area of the website. The CSP is directly accountable for its work and its success in achieving outcomes to Bradford Wellbeing Board.

The District's Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team is jointly resourced by Bradford Council and West Yorkshire Police. This team oversees and case manages a wide range of perpetrators and issues across the district. This is done in partnership with referring agencies and those agencies relevant to the individual case. This may include Schools, Mental Health Services, Social Landlords, Early Help Services among a range of others. Cases are heard and escalated where appropriate via the ASB Panels – one for adults and one for young people. The young persons' panel meets two weekly and the adults four weekly.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Partnership is a sub-group of the CSP Board. The group focuses on all forms of ASB – criminal and non-criminal including issues monitored by the Council such as noise nuisance covered by Environmental Health and the range of litter and fly-tipping issues covered by Environmental Enforcement. As well as identifying areas for strategic improvement such as more co-ordinated approaches and information-sharing, this group monitors Anti-social behaviour data from the Police Council and a range of social housing providers, most notably Incommunities.

On a more localised level, Place meetings take place in each Council Ward – these cover local issues including community safety and anti-social behaviour as well as other priorities such as a range of local issues related to safe, clean and active communities. Some disruption to processes has occurred during the pandemic with inevitable disadvantages to having to hold a range of meetings virtually. The priorities in Place meetings are usually contained in a Ward Plan that is produced by each Area for its six individual wards.

When there are specific issues such as an ASB hotspot Ward Officers will often work with Neighbourhood Policing Team Colleagues and other partners to agree collective actions, share information and target resources to tackle collective priorities.

## **28. Councillor Nussrat Mohammed**

What progress are we making on our plan to 'plant a tree for every child' and how else can we engage with children and families in our actions to improve the environment?

### **Answer**

Tree for Every Child is the Council's commitment to plant a tree for every child in primary education to help tackle climate change. Nominally the number of trees to be planted was set at 55,000 trees. The project aims to complete the tree planting and engagement by March 2023. Highlights to date:

- Tree for Every Child launched during National Tree Planting Week, November 2020 on the BBC's Countryfile as part of their Plant Britain challenge.  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000pzlx/countryfile-plant-britain>
- Webpage with offer for schools went online  
<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/environment/climate-change/take-climate-action-planting-a-tree-for-every-child/>
- First School Orchard tested with Horton Park Primary School in January 2021.
- School tree planting tested at Addingham Primary School (55 trees)
- 15,000 trees planted at Wrose Brow
- Delivery Partnership with Trees for Cities agreed, including a contribution to funding the project.

- Temporary seconded Schools Engagement Officer begins working on project in March.
- Sites for 2021/22 and 2022/23 woodland planting have been identified and being assessed.

**29. Councillor Alun Griffiths**

Given the rapid decline of Covid infection rates and the remarkably high uptake of Covid vaccination, can the portfolio holder explain what youth Covid ambassadors will do after November to justify an additional £300,000 expenditure?

**Answer**

Cllr Griffiths needs to be more guarded at celebrating reductions in infection rates. In comparison with many other cities and towns in the UK we continue to see very stubborn rates of infection which are only slowly declining. We cannot be complacent and will need to manage levels of infection for many months to come. The Covid ambassadors have been vital in this work and will continue to be so.

What's more the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will be felt well beyond this year. One such impact is loneliness and isolation. Young Covid Ambassadors will be used to support and work with young and older people to consider how they can re-engage and re-learn the benefits of health through social activity and friendships.

The aim is that a district wide network of community based activities, events and awareness raising sessions will be developed that help bring people back out into the community, re-establish community connections and create new opportunities to help reduce isolation. An intergenerational approach may help create stronger community bonds that help the whole community to engage in positive behaviour change.

**30. Councillor Aneela Ahmed**

The Council has recently announced additional investment for mental health and suicide prevention work which is likely to be seeing increased pressures given the pandemic. Can we have some detail of how these investments will be used to improve the provision?

**Answer**

Much has been invested in mental health support during the pandemic but I think the recent piece of funding you are specifically referring to is Worth Connecting - £150k. The service is already successfully marketing the offer including: a recent press release via the T&A. In addition to providing support via telephone and video call, the service will provide specific materials and sessions for Carers on Digital health, on Entertainment, on Shopping and on Video Calling. Ongoing support to the service is provided by Public Health and monitoring arrangements in place.

**Suicide Prevention Support - £75k**

The planned new work will be developed through a partnership arrangement between VCS and NHS organisations and led by a VCS provider. The service offer is based on an informal 'check in' call to patients'/service users who have been referred for mental health support and not attended, or to those who have rejected further support at the point of need/attendance at a service. The detailed model will be designed by partners

and its purpose is to ensure that more people feel able to attend the service that they have been referred to rather than not engaging with the offer or to have opportunity to engage again if they have rejected support. The support offer recognises that there are a range of individual circumstances which lead to feelings of desperation, for example relationships/debt/loss, rather than mental ill health and opportunity for support will be taken at different times and needs to be optimised. Past audits show that sometimes people who die by suicide had been referred several times to services and did not attend.

**31. Councillor John Pennington**

As The Prince of Wales Park Lodge in Bingley is in a very poor dilapidated condition and possibly abandoned, could the Leader of the Council, please confirm who is responsible for its upkeep and repair?

**Answer**

The Prince of Wales Park Lodge is a tenanted residential property. Responsibility for upkeep and repair of the lodge, over and above that falling to the tenant, sits with both Parks & Green Spaces Services together with the Building & Technical Service unit. Whilst a review of all such lodges is currently taking place, this property will be included in the review and any necessary repairs undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

**Supplementary Question**

Yet another answer that leads nowhere so I ask again who by name is responsible for the upkeep of the publically owned Prince of Wales lodge and what powers of enforcement does the Council have on their tenant. Will the review quantify the necessary repairs and the consequent cost to the taxpayer should the tenant default?

**Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw**

The most recent condition survey for the lodge demonstrates that the majority of the potential improvements and repairs are not the liability of the tenant and therefore a review, currently taking place is basically looking to clarify the levels of budgetary responsibility held by each of the three services involved and then it will ensure that from that the work is carried out as soon as possible.

**32. Councillor David Warburton**

Can I have an update on our work to tackle fly-tipping and prosecute the culprits and how our recent additional budget investment will help in cleaning up our streets and neighbourhoods?

**Answer**

Fly tipping is a scourge on our communities and the Council does everything it can to prevent it and to prosecute where the culprit can be identified.

The Environmental Enforcement Team actively investigates fly tipping incidents to identify and pursue offenders. However, identifying offenders is not always possible as fly tipping is usually done covertly and offenders try to avoid detection. where possible all complaints of fly tipping are investigated. This usually involves Neighbourhood Wardens searching through waste to look for evidence or door knocking to see if there are any witnesses.

Where evidence is found cases are referred back to the Environmental Enforcement

Officer and depending if the offence is proved the Enforcement Officer can consider enforcement options such as issuing a £400 fixed penalty fine or prosecution.

In addition, the Environmental Enforcement Team uses CCTV to catch offenders. CCTV can be effective, particularly where vehicles are involved. Vehicle registration checks are done to identify the registered keeper of the vehicle. The registered keeper can then be questioned about the offence.

This Group has set aside funding (£300,000) to purchase additional CCTV and the team is currently surveying potential locations to install the cameras. The additional funding was also allocated for landscaping works to be undertaken on land that was subject to fly tipping. This work can include placing physical barriers across sites to defend the land in question.

### **33. Councillor Kyle Green**

What funding will be made available to support life saving measures for the River Wharfe in Ilkley where bathing status has been granted?

#### **Answer**

Bradford Council is currently developing a Water Safety Policy for the district which will involve carrying out risk assessments at river and open water sites on Council owned land that are deemed to be high and medium risk. The policy will set out how risk is determined for each site, but it will involve an assessment based on factors such as the number and severity of hazards at the site and the frequency of use and type of use/behaviours that are experienced there. We expect the River Wharfe at Ilkley to be categorised as a higher risk site. Once the individual risk assessments have been carried out, officers will consider any measures that are needed to mitigate against the risks identified and any necessary resources to carry out the work. The designation of this part of the river as a bathing water will be taken into account during the risk assessment process.

#### **Supplementary Question**

While I welcome some progress to finally see safety concerns addressed, can the portfolio holder advise why this risk assessment has not taken place until now given bathing status was granted in December and when they expect it to be completed and measures put in place?

#### **Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw**

An internal working group has been drafting the water safety policies since January and is looking to complete the work by the end of the month. So that covers multiple different departments in areas for Safer Communities, Countryside Rights of Way, Health and Safety, Parks, Sport and Leisure as well so it's quite wide ranging and involved. This sets out a framework for risk assessments which will then be carried out over the coming weeks, and measures for the River Wharfe at Ilkley are planned to be in place basically in accordance with the timescales contained in the designation of bathing water status i.e. 15<sup>th</sup> May.

### **34. Councillor Tariq Hussain**

Can the portfolio holder for healthy people and places tell me about the £5,000 grants we are offering to community groups to support climate action projects and how they go about bidding?

### **Answer**

Community groups are being invited to apply for a grant of up to £5,000 to fund a climate action project to reduce carbon emissions, encourage greener travel and lifestyles, reduce food waste or increase biodiversity.

Groups are being asked to contribute to the district-wide efforts to tackle climate change by setting up community led local projects - complementing existing work on low-emissions transport, tree planting and reducing energy consumption, and giving local residents a chance to do more to care for the planet on their own doorsteps. Bradford Council is sharing £360,000 between its five area offices – Bradford East, Bradford South, Bradford West, Keighley and Shipley – as part of its investment in climate action initiatives to drive the district towards net zero carbon emissions by 2038. The money is to form a Climate Change Grant.

Local organisations are being invited to apply for a share of the fund if they have a project which meets one or more of the following objectives:

- To promote, support and encourage positive behaviour changes within the community e.g. reducing car usage, reducing waste, sourcing seasonal or locally grown foods or reducing energy consumption.
- To educate and raise awareness of climate emergency
- To secure environmental improvements that help build local resilience and adaptability to climate change, e.g. energy efficiency of community buildings, producing onsite energy or renewable energy or more efficient heating systems.
- To respect and protect green spaces by supporting the retention and/or renewal of natural habitats or encouraging biodiversity and environmental stewardship.

Grants will be up to £5,000, but applications for larger amounts will be considered. The Climate Action Fund is part of a £1m funding pot of climate action initiatives identified by the Council last year but due to Covid there was a delay on the process. The initiatives identified were:

£250,000 Waste Management projects  
£360,000 Community led projects  
£250,000 A tree for every child  
£140,000 for expanding 20mph zones

This fund follows on from the £250k Cleaner Streets fund which funded community groups to undertake projects to improve the streets and open spaces.

The following link takes you to the page on the Bradford Council website which contains more detailed guidance and the application forms for each area:

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/your-community/community-grants/bradford-district-community-climate-action-fund/>

The fund was launched on 26 February with a deadline of 23 April.

**35. Councillor Debbie Davies**

Could the Leader of the Council confirm whether the Council maintains Performance Indicator records or other Service Standard measurements for Customer Service e.g. a Customer Charter, detailing target and actual times to answer telephone calls, emails, paper correspondence etc. and if so, how is the Council performing against these targets?

**Answer**

It is a key priority to ensure consistently high standards of customer service, including throughout this pandemic and the additional pressures it brings on residents, businesses and our own services. Officers are required to respond all written correspondence within five days of receipt. If it is not possible to provide a substantive response within that timescale, an acknowledgement should be sent giving an anticipated full response date.

In terms of statutory correspondence or complaints such as FOIs and SARs timescales for response are clearly set out in legislation and performance is monitored by the Council's Complaints Officer.

**Supplementary Question**

Thank you for the information on required timescales for responding to written correspondence but you fail to say if this target is being met or not and also is there a similar target for answering telephone calls within a certain number of seconds and if so what is that target and is it being met?

**Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe**

I'm sure all staff across the Council will be delighted to know we're not going to tell them they've got to answer the phone within 2 seconds and watch them do it. We have to be able to provide the service levels that council staff have to work to and trust them to get on with the job really well and I have to say, throughout this last year I have been amazed and delighted by the amount of effort and work that they've all put in to take us through this difficult time. So, no we don't tell them they've got to respond to the phone within 2 seconds or 1 second even, but we do expect, and they do deliver excellent service to the people of this District and I, for one, would like to thank them for that.

**36. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland**

To the Portfolio holder for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety. In November 2020 you were featured in the press sharing with the public that a significant impact was being made with an initiative to tackle serious and organised crime in Bradford East.

Can you please advise what actions have been taken to reduce serious and organised crime? Please include the number of people been charged with offences and the type of offence committed.?

**Answer**

A police-led partnership delivering work within the Bradford 3 area has been set up and seeks to engage all sectors of the community of BD3 to deliver meaningful and long lasting improvements to the area to negate the impacts of Serious and Organised Crime (SOC).

In the first few months there has been a significant amount of police enforcement both through planned drugs warrants but also high visibility proactive patrols in the area. In addition, significant work took place to engage with a number of partners known to work or have links to the area. Community engagement explained the background to the work and sought to build the support of local organisations and people. Funding to support the work of community organisations which help build resilience to crime or provide diversionary activities has been provided.

Other activities have included a door to door survey by Neighbourhood Policing Staff, to speak with local residents and give them a chance to advise on the issues that they felt were affecting their community. This was received really positively by the community and as well as opening up some key channels of communication, also identified a range of priority issues including drug dealing, nuisance driving/parking, anti-social behaviour, litter and poor street lighting.

Some positive outcomes of the work so far include the arrests of over 30 people for drugs related offences, the seizure of large quantities of drugs and cash and over 100 traffic offences (Speeding; no seat belt; use of mobile phone; no insurance etc.) have been dealt with. Inputs have also been done in local schools on knife crime and Child Criminal Exploitation and community surveys continue. In one instance of police attending to execute a warrant, members of the community came out and applauded the officers from their doorsteps as the suspects were led away.

**37. Councillor Debbie Davies**

Would the Leader of the Council acknowledge that there is a danger, that Bradford introducing the only Clean Air Zone in West Yorkshire will act as a disincentive to set up a new business in the district, because of the risk of increased costs e.g. for suppliers?

**Answer**

Cllr Davies asks the question as if there was any choice in the matter. Bradford is under national Government directive to improve the air quality in our boundaries. Notwithstanding this Government direction, there is also a moral imperative to improve our air quality given the terrible health outcomes, particularly for our young people.

With Newcastle, Sheffield and Manchester introducing Clean Air Zone schemes at the same time there will be market adaptation by businesses across the North of England.

The Council has secured £31m in Government funding to support our businesses in adapting to the Clean Air Zone and we will be providing additional support through our business exemption programme worth over £10m. The Council's grant and exemptions packages are supported by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).

All West Yorkshire Authorities, including WYCA, have adopted the West Yorkshire

Low Emission Strategy (2016-2021), including planning guidance which foresaw the introduction of CAZ. All medium and major developments in West Yorkshire have been subject to the following requirements:

- all commercial vehicles should comply with current or the most recent European Emission Standards from scheme opening, to be progressively maintained for the lifetime of the development
- all commercial vehicles should comply with current or the most recent European Emission Standards from scheme opening, to be progressively maintained for the lifetime of the development (pg. 11 planning guidance)

### **Supplementary Question**

Thank you for the answer but it doesn't answer my question – do you or do you not think the introduction of the Clean Air Zone may act as a disincentive to new businesses setting up in the Bradford district?

### **Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe**

No I don't think it will be a disincentive, the businesses that I know change and adapt and of course, we've had significant investment through this from Government, from your Government in fact, to make it easier for businesses to do that adapt and change. It is the most generous deal I think has been secured in the country for this kind of clean air zone. I, of all the people that are often speaking to businesses are genuinely interested in taking up this grant so it is something we don't have a choice in Councillor Davies. Your Government and our Government and Local Governments have to do this and will be up for legal challenge if we don't, so you suggest it may be a choice, it isn't but I have every confidence in the businesses in the District that they are ingenious. They are adaptable and we're going to support them with investment and with the support they need to make sure that they can survive and indeed, thrive when this new zone comes into effect.

### **38. Councillor Angela Tait**

With the news that the new Infrastructure Bank will be located in our region, how might it support this Council's infrastructure investment in particular our work to urgently address the climate emergency?

### **Answer**

The Chancellor announced the decision to locate in our region in Leeds, stating that the bank will invest across the UK in public and private projects to finance the green industrial revolution.

This is great news for our region which has the largest financial and professional services sector outside London, so it's the right call for the Chancellor to locate the UK Infrastructure Bank here. This announcement will benefit not just Leeds but also Bradford and the wider region. It will bring good jobs and be an incentive for other businesses to locate here and for investment in low carbon growth.

Once we better understand the details, we hope to work with the Green Investment Bank to help support us to meet our infrastructure investments, including those directed at the Climate Emergency.

### **39. Councillor Robert Hargreaves**

Would the Leader of the Council be so kind as to reassure the residents of Queensbury, regarding what steps the Council has taken in the past 12 months, towards securing the future of Queensbury Tunnel as a cycle / greenway and what are its plans for the future, given that the Local Plan Consultation states “The Local Plan will protect the Queensbury Tunnel which runs under the settlement as part of a wider connection with the Great Northern Trail”?

#### **Answer**

I have personally had many conversations with Government Ministers at the Department of Transport to try and get the investment we need to restore and keep Queensbury Tunnel. At the same time at officer level the Council has been working closely with representatives of the Department for Transport, West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Calderdale Council on progressing two studies specifically considering the future of Queensbury Tunnel using the funding allocated by the Secretary of State for Transport in 2020.

These two studies consider specific aspects of questions surrounding the tunnel’s future viability namely:

- a technical study into the engineering measures which are necessary to stabilise and repair the Queensbury Tunnel, provide adequate ventilation, lighting and infrastructure to allow its potential use as a cycle / greenway; and
- an economic appraisal looking at how a route connecting Bradford and Halifax which uses the tunnel could fit within the wider network infrastructure.

The initial findings of the first of these studies (the technical assessment of the tunnel stabilisation) was shared with the Council by Highways England who commissioned the work earlier this month and is now being independently reviewed and verified by the Council’s consultants with a view to having a final report by the end of April.

Work on the economic appraisal will shortly commence with consideration of a range of route options which will explore linkages with the Great Northern Trail and emerging Transforming Cities Fund West Bradford Cycle superhighway extension proposals. This study will also consider associated matters such as the costs of land assembly, on-going revenue costs associated with security and safety within the tunnel and ownership of the tunnel itself (whether this is retained by Highways England or transfers to Bradford Council). The programme for this work commences this month and is expected to be completed by Early-July 2021.

Upon completion of both these studies the Council have agreed to prepare an outline business case (OBC) setting out its preferred option, funding requirement and delivery arrangements to government in early August. Consideration of the recommendations of the OBC will then rest with the Department for Transport.

Until a final decision is reached by government on whether or not funding to support a future for the tunnel is reached the Council will continue to protect the Queensbury Tunnel as a potential transport asset as set out in the Local Plan draft.