

COUNCIL

15 March 2022

MEMBER QUESTION TIME – Part 2

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

39. Councillor Rebecca Whitaker

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, please confirm since 2018, how many schools have signed up for no idling car zones, details of how these have been enforced and any related toxic fumes data?

Response

50 primary schools signed up to the No-Idling campaign which launched in 2020 a few weeks before schools closed for the first pandemic lockdown. The Public Health team is working with the Road Safety team to embed the No-Idling message into road safety visits and engagement work with schools. The focus of this campaign work has been behaviour change, but formal enforcement will be implemented if deemed necessary in the coming months.

The air quality data the Council collects and reports to government can be found at <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/environmental-health-and-pollution/air-quality/review-and-assessment-of-air-quality-in-the-bradford-metropolitan-district/>.

There is also the 'find out about air quality near you' function <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/breathe-better-bradford/where-is-the-clean-air-zone/find-out-about-air-quality-near-you/> which allows the user to see the nitrogen dioxide concentrations at most schools in urban areas in the district on a 1 x 1m grid.

40. Councillor Debbie Davies

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, please confirm the estimated income from the introduction of clean air charges, along with a breakdown of how will?

Response

This question is for the Healthy People & Places Portfolio. The Council is directed by Government to introduce a Clean Air Zone. The Government has its own modelling methodology and data guidance which it instructs each authority to use, this led to the Government directing Bradford to meet legal limits for air quality in 2022 by implementing a charging Clean Air Zone (CAZ).

For every CAZ charge made a proportion has to go to Government. Our understanding is that the Government anticipate taking an annual revenue of £77 million from all the Clean Air Zones in the country that they have mandated. The remainder of the revenue collected is retained by the local areas to be spent on initiatives to improve the quality of air locally. This calculation was however done before they directed Manchester to set up a Clean Air Zone. As the biggest CAZ in the country the revenue from Manchester to Government will increase this amount considerably.

For Bradford the Council was required to follow Treasury rules in developing the business case. The Government business case estimates that licences paid to enter the CAZ by non-compliant vehicles in the opening year will amount to £10,022,000 (85% of these charges will come from non-Bradford residents and businesses, given the extensive grants and exemptions secured for local people). The Government's business case includes their CAZ Central Service (Fees) Regulations which means that £2 of every licence paid will be paid to the Government as it is their national system which every CAZ in the country has to use, totalling £1,724,492.

Therefore, the Council estimates that after the Government has taken their revenue, they will provide the Council with £8,297,508 in the opening year to be spent on improving the quality of air. It should be noted that this funding has to be spent on programmes which improve air quality and improve emissions. It cannot be used to fund normal council services.

41. Councillor Geoff Reid

Recent storm damage affecting Bradford Forster Square to Leeds trains meant that passengers at Apperley Bridge were stuck on the station platform for two hours or more. However, Skipton - Leeds trains not stopping at Apperley Bridge continued to run. Would it have been in order for passengers to cross the line and go to Shipley to catch a train to Leeds? If not will the Leader press for a change of policy by Metro to allow for this?

Response

This is an operational issue for the rail industry (Northern Rail and Network Rail) which officers will take up with them in light of the inconvenience experienced by passengers recently.

42. Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

Would the Leader of the Council confirm whether there are there any plans to use subtitles on webcams of council meetings in order to help people who are hard of hearing?

Response

The webcasting of Council and Executive meetings is managed by an external organisation which does not currently include the provision of subtitles.

Existing technology could if developed further enable subtitles to appear as a live feed; however; this sometimes is not ideal as a number of transcription errors would be evident as the transcription may not effectively distinguish between similar words.

We will happily look at what other alternatives may be available.

43. Councillor Debbie Davies

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, please confirm the Council's intentions for the former Richard Dunn Sports Centre site?

Response

The former Richard Dunn Sports Centre is a key regeneration site under Council ownership and the Council is assessing options to bring forward new regeneration proposals for this area.

44. Councillor Susan Knox

Many swimmers at Eccleshill pool have raised questions about the water slide no longer being in use during swimming sessions. Can the portfolio holder advise if the slide is still available for use in swimming session and if not the reason for its closure? If it is awaiting repair or maintenance, what is the expected cost and when dose the Council expect it to be back in use.

Response

The slide is temporarily out of action due to deterioration of the steel structure and the coating in the slide flume itself. Work to remedy the situation will begin imminently. Once the work begins it is anticipated that it will be around 4 weeks before the slide can re-open. The cost of the repair has been priced at £10,000.

45. Councillor Martin Love

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport tell us what has happened to the Towns Fund Accelerator funding that was earmarked for the proposed bus gate in Shipley Town Centre? Has this funding been returned to the government or is it still available for other traffic measures in Shipley?

Response

Shipley secured £750,000 to fund capital 'accelerated' projects in autumn 2020. This funding was separate to/independent of the £25m funding which was set out in the Town Investment Plans. The money was intended to support towns in responding to immediate challenges presented by the pandemic, including:

- Improvement to or new parks and green spaces and sustainable transport links;
- Improvements to town centres including repurposing empty commercial properties;
- Demolition or site remediation where this will have an immediate benefit.

We were keen to spread the outcome of this investment as evenly as we could across the town, allowing a maximum number of residents to experience and enjoy the improvements.

The pandemic taught us the importance of our open spaces and everyone's welfare depends on having access to fresh air, high quality parks and green spaces and we focussed a lot of the investment in this area. As a result of the investment, major improvements to outdoor areas in Shipley were delivered by the Council. This included outdoor gyms in Northcliffe, Windy Hill and Hirst Wood parks. In Northcliffe Park, work was completed on two tennis courts. In Hirst Wood Park work completed included an exercise walking pathway, new football goals, trim trail and tree planting. At Crowgill Park work involved new football goals, a teen shelter and outdoor gym equipment. A new walking route and tree planting was also delivered at Windy Hill park.

The funding originally allocated to contribute to the bus gate proposal was invested into extending public realm and active travel projects being delivered with the accelerated funds. This reallocation occurred as the funding was time-limited, and we wanted to ensure that the funding was not lost and was used in full to benefit Shipley.

46. Councillor Robert Hargreaves

Can the portfolio holder provide assurances that monies from the Playing Pitch Strategy will make it to Queensbury Ward where we have a huge imbalance of supply and demand in both football and rugby pitches for juniors and seniors?

Response

Cllr Hargreaves seems to be unaware that there has already been investment in sports facilities in the Queensbury ward through the Playing Pitch Strategy, including a contribution to the new facilities at Albert Road. Plans are being developed for a second pitch at Albert Road Recreation Ground that will pick up some of the overplay in the area.

47. Councillor Debbie Davies

We note that £1.4m has been allocated in the budget for the relocation of Baildon library but how much is expected to be realised from the sale of the Ian Clough Hall site?

Response

The proposed capital receipt for the Ian Clough Hall site was contained in an Executive Board report outlining the proposals to relocate the Baildon library, and details of the proposed capital receipt were contained in the Not For Publication appendix, as it would be commercially sensitive to release this prior to commencing the marketing of the property. We anticipate that the full receipt from the sale of the site will be needed to facilitate the new and improved library elsewhere in the village.

48. Councillor Debbie Davies

Is Bradford Live on target for opening in the former Odeon building later this year as planned?

Response

The original Building Contract awarded by Bradford Live envisaged that the construction work would enable the building to be completed later this year, however the Contract was placed with the knowledge that there were certain design works that could only be undertaken once access to the roof structure had been made available. Access has now been made and surveys undertaken. The revised programme should be finalised within the next couple of months and we are working closely with Bradford Live, the NEC and Wooler's to agree an opening programme at which point the NEC will make an announcement.

49. Councillor Matt Edwards

How much has Bradford Council spent on maintenance - specifically repairing bollards - along the Wakefield Road Cycle Lane? Does the Council commit to reviewing the long term future of this route by a specific date?

Response

Since the installation of the cycle lane on Wakefield Road a total of £650 has been spent on its maintenance. If there are specific areas that need attention please report it to our officers to inspect.

As stated previously all schemes are reviewed regularly to monitor their effectiveness, considering whether any changes need to be made.

50. Councillor Debbie Davies

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, please confirm the cost of the interactive 'Traffic Information' signs installed around the district around three years ago and the date when they will contain up to date travel information, so that people can plan their journeys accordingly?

Response

The Traffic Information signs are part of the Council's Variable Message Sign network which is part of our Urban Traffic Management and Control system. As part of the asset management refresh of this network 10 signs were upgraded in 2018 at a cost of £194,794.78 from West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Local Transport Plan funding.

In line with other West Yorkshire partners, last year the Council has moved both the control of the VMS network and our UTMC system to a common cloud based platform which offers greater flexibility in connectivity between systems and in the coming year we are investing in new technologies which can provide automatic messaging based on traffic conditions on the network.

In the meantime, anyone wanting to plan their journeys can use a variety of web or app-based systems including using the Council's website which has an embedded system called One Network which contains details of all planned road and street works in the district.

51. Councillor Debbie Davies

Why, when Covid restrictions are easing across the UK and we are wanting to encourage people to get back to normal life are Bradford Libraries sticking with the old advice of wearing masks, sanitizing hands, using screens and other restrictions?

Response

Throughout the pandemic, Bradford Libraries has closely followed the requirements, advice and guidance of the Government, the Council, and our sector support body Libraries Connected, which has worked closely with Public Health England, Trade Unions and DCMS in developing their approved guidance. This has ensured a consistency of approach in libraries across the country and in line with the Council's own approach. It has also ensured that libraries have remained a very safe environment for customers and staff, which we believe has been highly appreciated by them and helped to instil confidence in our visitors to use the service.

Libraries have lifted restrictions in a timely way throughout the pandemic in line with the latest guidance. As a result, all libraries are open (with a couple of exceptions – for other reasons) for all the normal purposes including browsing/reading, events and activities, IT use, meetings etc. without restrictions or social distancing.

The Service has retained just a few measures to help prevent customers and staff spreading the virus, which do not impact on the delivery of the service to the public. These are completely in line with the relevant guidance as cited below:

Government: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae> including: "Whilst there is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering, the Government suggests that you continue to wear one in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet, when rates of transmission are high."

Libraries Connected - <https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/resource/service-recovery-toolkit-word> including: "libraries may choose to implement a phased approach to the removal of restrictions and controls, maintaining some controls especially those that have a lower impact on library operations. These will vary from library to library but may include continuing to provide hand sanitiser at entrances, maintaining one-way systems, spacing chairs apart in meetings and events rooms, retaining screens at reception and enquiry desks and encouraging the wearing of face coverings. Libraries are encouraged to ask staff and customers to clean their hands regularly and clean surfaces that people touch regularly, such as computer keyboards and door handles."

A Council internal all staff briefing (1st March) stated: "We have taken a slow and cautious approach compared with some organisations. This has helped us keep our numbers low in terms of staff sickness."

52. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Will the Leader of Council undertake to write to Network Rail requesting that they fulfil their contractual responsibility to properly maintain Station Road in Shipley and ensure that the road and the pavement is kept clear of mud, sand, dust, leaves and other refuse?

Response

I understand from direct correspondence that Network Rail have agreed to make improvements to Station Road, which is good to hear. We have regular meetings with Network Rail and I will raise this with them directly to request that they ensure a proper maintenance regime is put in place to avoid the problems building up again in the future.

53. Councillor David Heseltine

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, please confirm, what pre and post CAZ introduction monitoring of traffic volumes, speed and pollution is being undertaken on routes around the zone that many concerned residents and communities fear will adversely affect their streets and villages?

Response

The modelling carried out on the CAZ was required to follow Government methodology and use Government approved data. The modelling results, and experience from other CAZ in the country, show that there should not be any significant traffic displacement caused by the CAZ and that air quality is predicted to improve in all Wards in the District due to vehicle operators upgrading their vehicles.

The Council has monitoring stations of air quality and traffic on roads outside the CAZ and inside the CAZ and will look at any unintended distributional impacts, addressing any issues, should they arise.

54. Councillor David Heseltine

Could the Leader of Council confirm play strategy spending by ward, including: - existing 106 monies, new monies, total works value, backlog maintenance, replacement items and new / additional items and totals?

Response

The play area and play facilities refurbishment five-year long delivery programme is currently in its second phase with the third and final phase to be delivered when the current phase has completed at the end of this year. Therefore, it is not possible at this stage to provide spending on a ward by ward basis until all the necessary works have been costed for the third and final phase, costings which are compounded by the vagaries of the equipment, labour and material prices which have increased significantly post Brexit and post pandemic and are anticipated to change further given current inflationary pressures.

55. Councillor Martin Love

Can the Leader of Council confirm that neither the Council nor the West Yorkshire Pension Fund have any investments in Russian Banks or other Russian companies?

Response

West Yorkshire Pension Fund has no direct exposure to Russian Investments. There was a small exposure to Russian investment via emerging market funds (0.1% of the Fund), but at the time of the invasion of Ukraine the external managers of the fund acted quickly to dispose of their Russian assets. Assets have been suspended nationally by the Stock Exchange since, and so have no value. The impact of this on the value of the Fund itself has been negligible.

56. Councillor David Heseltine

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, please confirm which destination parks in the district attract parking charges to use them?

Response

This is a question for the Healthy People & Places Portfolio, as parking charges in parks are determined by the service and not Parking Services or the Strategic Parking portfolio. The only Destination Park or Green Space where car parking charges are currently in place is St Ives Estate public car park. This charge is to manage parking in the area, and income generated is to be re-invested into St Ives Estate.

57. Councillor David Heseltine

As only one bid was put forward by Bradford MDC, to round one of the Levelling up Funding, which was for £20m adding to the Squire Lane pool scheme, would the Leader of the Council assure members in the other 4 constituencies, which collectively potentially lost £80m, that bids are being worked on for those areas, in order that huge amounts of future funding are not forgone in such a manner in future rounds of bidding and in addition can the Leader update on progress for the Bingley Bid, based around the health wellbeing and prosperity idea that I put forward along with Councillor Geoff Winnard?

Response

As discussed at the last Full Council this question is disingenuous. The Councillor knows that we have always committed to submitting a Levelling Up Fund bid for every constituency. It was always the government's publicly stated policy that multiple bidding rounds would be presented for the Levelling Up Fund. Therefore, no money has 'potentially' been lost anywhere. You know this full well.

Bids are being developed for Keighley, Shipley, Bradford South and Bradford East, details of which will be shared with members for consultation and feedback at the earliest possible opportunity. Cllr Dearden has consistently made the case for Bingley to be the next place for investment in the Shipley constituency.

58. Councillor Kyle Green

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, provide a breakdown of different parking revenues received for all off street Bradford Council car parks for the last 4 years?

Response

See attached spreadsheet for Pay & Display income. Please note for this financial year we only have Pay & Display income data up to end of December which has been reconciled.

59. Councillor Kyle Green

Can the Leader of the Council provide a ward by ward breakdown of council tax receipts?

Response

The table below shows the payments / receipts collected in 2021/22 to all years, in year and arrears. It contains details of any money that the Council has collected this year from the 1st April 2021, in relation to Council Tax (regardless of which year the money was owed for). As at 22nd March.

As the question only focuses on a part of council income, I thought it would be helpful to provide Business Rate income as well. With a more complete picture of the two figures combined, to give a few examples it shows that City ward provides approximately £29m, Tong £20.7m, Bowling and Barkerend £17.5m, Ilkley £16.5m, Craven £14.7m, Keighley Central £14.4m, Shipley £14.1m and so on. It shows how important it is for all parts of the district to work together, at work and play. Every ward and every person in the district is of equal worth.

Approximately 60% of council tax receipt is spent on services for Adults and Children's services which is spent everywhere in the Bradford district according to need and regardless of postcode. Any of us can require these services or be vulnerable at different times in our lives, regardless of where we live.

Amount collected in 2021/22 for all years outstanding balances, by Ward		
	Council Tax	Business Rates
Ward	Receipt Value	Receipt Value
BAILDON	£ 10,972,269 -	£ 2,286,322 -
BINGLEY	£ 12,403,320 -	£ 3,083,061 -
BINGLEY RURAL	£ 12,476,696 -	£ 1,256,059 -
BOLTON AND UNDERCLIFFE	£ 7,753,245 -	£ 2,630,480 -
BOWLING AND BARKEREND	£ 7,137,247 -	£ 10,460,072 -
BRADFORD MOOR	£ 5,257,185 -	£ 3,989,697 -
CITY	£ 8,128,901 -	£ 20,919,510 -
CLAYTON AND FAIRWEATHER GREEN	£ 7,852,632 -	£ 1,272,575 -
CRAVEN	£ 12,306,492 -	£ 2,443,545 -
ECCLESHILL	£ 7,923,947 -	£ 3,278,087 -
GREAT HORTON	£ 6,634,810 -	£ 2,115,897 -
HEATON	£ 7,103,851 -	£ 627,205 -
IDLE AND THACKLEY	£ 10,928,331 -	£ 2,632,771 -
ILKLEY	£ 13,422,638 -	£ 3,133,453 -
KEIGHLEY CENTRAL	£ 6,526,583 -	£ 7,926,920 -
KEIGHLEY EAST	£ 9,526,657 -	£ 3,590,742 -
KEIGHLEY WEST	£ 8,121,868 -	£ 546,686 -

LITTLE HORTON	£	- 5,562,101	£	- 3,263,072
MANNINGHAM	£	- 4,863,625	£	- 1,858,128
QUEENSBURY	£	- 9,615,165	£	- 984,519
ROYDS	£	- 7,778,993	£	- 1,758,937
SHIPLEY	£	- 9,312,506	£	- 4,871,650
THORNTON AND ALLERTON	£	- 8,891,613	£	- 606,527
TOLLER	£	- 6,012,357	£	- 994,637
TONG	£	- 7,715,181	£	- 12,979,377
WHARFEDALE	£	- 9,803,025	£	- 388,184
WIBSEY	£	- 6,875,954	£	- 1,648,233
WINDHILL AND WROSE	£	- 7,803,940	£	- 1,189,248
WORTH VALLEY	£	- 9,458,055	£	- 624,732
WYKE	£	- 7,509,364	£	- 8,497,962

60. Councillor Kyle Green

Can the Leader of the Council provide a ward by ward breakdown of uncollected council tax amounts over the last 5 years?

Response

The table below shows the Council Tax liabilities written off since 1/4/2017 split by ward as at 21/03/2022.

A factor that has affected the ability to maximise income is transiency, or the rate at which residents move addresses. This appears to correlate strongly with collection performance nationally. A higher rate of transiency makes collection difficult for two reasons. First, the effort needed to keep up with residents as they move around the country, second, because they are often low income households, they tend to leave small amounts owing, which are often uneconomical to collect. In Bradford, the City Ward saw transiency rates of nearly 25% in 2018, much higher than other Wards, including those with high levels of deprivation, explaining why council tax write-offs in City Ward are the highest in the District.

Council Tax liabilities written off since 01/04/2017 to all years, split by Ward As at 21/03/2022	
Ward	Amount Written Off
BAILDON	-£ 202,803
BINGLEY	-£ 294,417
BINGLEY RURAL	-£ 241,981
BOLTON AND UNDERCLIFFE	-£ 644,320
BOWLING AND BARKEREND	-£ 1,657,712
BRADFORD MOOR	-£ 1,133,327
CITY	-£ 3,703,746
CLAYTON AND FAIRWEATHER GREEN	-£ 610,863
CRAVEN	-£ 152,362
ECCLESHILL	-£ 805,410
GREAT HORTON	-£ 1,297,089
HEATON	-£ 867,262
IDLE AND THACKLEY	-£ 324,109
ILKLEY	-£ 91,987
KEIGHLEY CENTRAL	-£ 1,121,888
KEIGHLEY EAST	-£ 523,746
KEIGHLEY WEST	-£ 594,438
LITTLE HORTON	-£ 1,478,413
MANNINGHAM	-£ 1,417,329
QUEENSBURY	-£ 377,993
ROYDS	-£ 687,367
SHIPLEY	-£ 403,331
THORNTON AND ALLERTON	-£ 648,129
TOLLER	-£ 1,065,217
TONG	-£ 1,249,932
WHARFEDALE	-£ 63,850
WIBSEY	-£ 643,606
WINDHILL AND WROSE	-£ 532,070
WORTH VALLEY	-£ 152,236
WYKE	-£ 485,047

61. Councillor Kyle Green

Can the Leader of the Council confirm what Bradford Council did to investigate securing the £20 million 'levelling up' funding for the Keighley Constituency?

Response

At the time of the first round of Levelling Up Fund bidding, we had just successfully secured £33m for Keighley through the Towns Fund process. I am sure you will agree this was a fantastic success for Keighley and the private-sector led Towns Fund Board, supported

financially by Bradford Council as well as with significant amounts of officer time and resource.

This meant many of the schemes that may be available to the Levelling Up Fund had been included in the Towns Fund process already, such as the state of the art Health & Wellbeing Centre proposed for Keighley town centre, which will bring 200 jobs into the town centre, with 50 of them new jobs.

In light of this and the scale of investment recently announced in Keighley and Shipley, the most deliverable scheme available in the short timeframe set by Government was the Squire Lane development in Bradford West. We were delighted to secure £20m to advance this scheme.

Attention has now turned to working up bids for the other constituencies, as has always been our public commitment. Details on this are answered elsewhere in these questions.

62. Councillor Kyle Green

Can the Leader of the Council confirm whether Bradford Council use any large Russian owned suppliers (e.g. Gazprom) and if so, what is being done to end these relationships?

Response

A full analysis of the council supply base has been undertaken and no Russian owned suppliers are used.

63. Councillor Kyle Green

Can the portfolio holder explain why Ilkley and Ben Rhydding residents are having to fund a £90,000 funding gap to get a suitable playground for Ilkley Riverside Park while Lister Park received £650,000 for its refurbishment?

Response

The play area at Lister Park is the largest play facility in any of the district's urban parks, attracting families from far and wide across the district. The investment was made to replace the existing play area that was built as part of the parks restoration over two decades ago as immediately prior to refurbishment it presented with a high amount of equipment that was either isolated or completely removed.

All our parks and playgrounds have equal importance in their local community, unfortunately the Government has halved councils' spending power over the last 12 years and we have to tailor the finite refurbishment budget to maximise the impact over all the play sites across the district. Where we have the possibility of joint funding, which hopefully we will have in this case, it allows us to maximise the money allocated and bring additionally to what is available. The (£150,000) funding which was allocated to the works currently on site is sufficient to replace the majority of the equipment and refurbish three items which we are able to refurbish and retain. If the Friends of Group are successful in their current and future fund raising efforts, then these additional funds will upgrade the retained equipment only.

64. Councillor Geoff Winnard

Can the Leader of the Council confirm what percentage of Bradford Council's workforce are members of trades unions recognised for collective bargaining purposes, how are they represented in the Council's negotiating machinery and which trades unions are recognised by the Council?

Response

Employees can pay their trade union subscriptions by direct debit and so we would need to request that information from every trade union to provide an accurate overall figure. We can therefore only provide a figure for employees who pay Trade Union subscriptions by deduction from their pay, which is currently 24.1% (this figure does not include school based employees) but as outlined above this is not the actual figure of trade union members in the workforce which will be higher.

The Council has an agreed structure for collective bargaining in which trade union consultation meetings are held at Service, Department and Corporate level at regular intervals. The trade unions recognised for collective bargaining are Unison, GMB and Unite (and for Teachers NEU, NASUWT, ASCL and NAHT).

65. Councillor Geoff Winnard

Further to my question to Council in October 2021, can the Leader of the Council confirm whether any further progress has been made to register the 1887 Alfred Sharpe Educational Trust with the Charity Commission and when will the proceeds of around £220,000 from the sale of the now demolished Priestthorpe Annex start to be available for educational purposes in Bingley?

Response

Preliminary work has been undertaken in this matter prior to a formal application being made to the Charity Commission to register the charity. It is expected that the application will be lodged with the Charity Commission very soon. Once the registration has been finalised by the Charity Commission, the funds will be transferred to the charity for use in accordance with the charity's objects.

66. Councillor Geoff Winnard

Can the portfolio holder provide a list of grants made by the by Culture team in 2021/22? To what extent have elected members been involved in any of the awarding decisions?

Response

List of grants attached. The Culture Policy and Events team and external assessors makes recommendations on the applications using a rigorous matrix based on the grant criteria. Elected members do not sit on the panel but the portfolio holder is informed and can comment. The panel makes the decision.

67. Councillor David Heseltine

What action and when is to be taken in regards the drainage issues at Eldwick Rec? The football field is generally wet and poorly drained, water from the football area drains and flows on to the lower play area, does the leader agree that this issue needs resolving so as not to detract from the Play Strategy works?

Response

Refurbishment works to the play area are already programmed in. They include upgrade and improvements to provide an access pathway to ensure improved and increased inclusivity and year round access to the play offer. The issue with the drainage at the

football field is currently being investigated in order that any additional works necessary can be instigated in the near future.