

COUNCIL

Tuesday, 11 October 2022

MEMBER QUESTION TIME – Part 2

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

35. Councillor Debbie Davies

Given that the proportion of reception aged children in the district classed as overweight is below the national average, but by year 6, 40.8% are classed as overweight, whilst the England average is 35.2%, does the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places believe that there is more that can be done to encourage primary school age children to be more active?

Response

In 2020-2021, 33.2% of children and young people in Bradford were classed as 'less active', that is they do less than 30 minutes of exercise per day (Sport England, 2022 – 32.4% in England). Low levels of physical activity and high sedentary time are two contributing factors leading to excess weight. However, we know that excess weight is also influenced by a wide range of other factors including; gender, how old we are, the genes we've inherited from our parents and grandparents, how we live our day to day lives, whether we're able to access healthy food or have a good network of friends, family or other support, and crucially where we live, work and play.

Delivering on outcome 1 (Our Children have a great start in life) of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2018-2023) there are a wide range of evidence-based programmes being delivered supporting long term behaviour change to improve the health of children and their families, through interventions in and out of school, in term time and in holidays. Key interventions to increase activity in children are described below.

JU:MP

JU:MP is undertaking a world leading programme to evaluate the impact of taking a whole systems approach to physical activity by working with families, communities, schools and organisations and by making improvements to the environment.

JU:MP has established eight neighbourhood action groups bringing together over 150 partners including community organisations, neighbourhood teams, schools and faith leaders. Significant resource has been invested in the delivery of the eight co-designed JU:MP action plans and the fifteen work streams that make up the wider programme. This includes:

- Over £1.2 million is being invested in eight parks and greenspace developments with three new developments already complete. This includes

Kashmir Park, a brand new park in a densely populated area of Toller which lacked greenspace, now well used and valued by the local community.

- 8 JU:MP Connectors programmes led by local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations are taking a behaviour changing approach to helping families to be active independently in simple, low cost sustainable ways.
- An extensive training programme to develop the skills of the workforce is underway including the JU:MP Leads programme developing a new generation of young sports leaders.
- The Join Us: Move Play campaign is now reaching over 8500 family members with regular communications and campaign materials designed to encourage families to move and play more.

JU:MP is also actioning the Creating Active Schools (CAS) framework, the UK's first whole-system approach to establishing physical activity within schools. This works at a locality level by training leaders in school to support organisational and cultural change for physical activity. This is unique; focussing on policy, environments and stakeholders before seeking to deliver new opportunities. This ensures changes are embedded in the culture and ethos of a school and therefore should sustain over time. The JU:MP programme currently covers a defined area of North Bradford but is increasingly sharing learning and resources across the district and is already exploring future funding opportunities to roll out and scale up the programme across the district.

JUMP are supporting the broader role out of CAS within the Living Well RIC area and the Community Partnership 5 schools. To date, there are 57 schools involved in CAS within Bradford. The long term hope is to rollout CAS across all schools within the district.

Living Well:

Our 'Whole Systems Approach' to obesity, Living Well, has a range of projects that influence the physical activity levels of children across the district.

One of those is 'Living Well Schools' which is a support mechanism for all schools which has a focus on physical activity and healthy diet.

The Living Well Service have designed and are now implementing the Children and Families Wellbeing service (linked in with the Health Visiting and School Nursing service). This delivers the NCMP programme as well as the 27-month development review which is a universal offer within the Healthy Child Programme, including height and weight. This service offer is also joined up with the Age of Wonder project which will give a detailed picture of the physical health of young people in the district and inform the services that aim to tackle systemic health issues such as diabetes and obesity.

Two of the main areas of focus for the work in the Living Well service is to encourage children in the whole family (not just child referred) to find ways to enjoy moving more and spending less time on screens (so less sedentary behaviour). Advisors

look at what the family can do to support children to enjoy being more active, tapping into the evidence-based resources and using motivational skills at an individual level.

Living Well; Reducing Inequalities in Communities (RIC) schools project

RIC is supporting a reduction in healthy weight in 30 primary schools from the 10% most deprived areas in the district, focusing on Physical Activity, Diet/Nutrition and Mental Health. RIC supports schools to implement evidence-based interventions. RIC has commissioned the CAS framework for the physical activity element of the project. RIC facilitators are trained as CAS Champions and are in schools actively giving tailored support to teachers and school leaders in adapting policy and practice - all 30 schools received intervention and training from the 3 RIC facilitators last academic year. Moving into this academic year, schools are now building upon the foundations laid last year, with many school leaders now prioritising physical activity in their school improvement plans and whole-school priorities. Over the next 18 months the project is being evaluated in order to establish whether the model is one that could be implemented in all schools.

Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme- 'Living Well Faith Settings':

Bradford Council, Born in Bradford and the Bradford Council for Mosques have formed a unique partnership to explore the opportunities for working with Islamic Religious Settings, in particular madrasah to tackle childhood obesity by supporting healthier behaviours and influencing positive social and structural change for better health in the local environment. This targeted action seeks to address the higher rates of excess weight in South Asian children in Bradford, of which a large majority identify as Muslim. Around 85 per cent of South Asian Muslim children attend the madrasah after school for around two, mostly sedentary, hours per day from the age of four to 15. This innovative project is working with Islamic religious settings to co-produce evidence-based madrasa curriculum materials and training for Islamic leaders aligned to Islamic Narrative. Action groups are established within participating faith settings to explore how to mobilise and connect existing community assets to promote joined up local approaches to promote health and identify enablers for systems change with wider partners. The project is co-creating a dynamic model of best practice and guidance to support and facilitate change that is being demonstrated to those addressing obesity in other areas of the North. Public health and JU:MP have committed to extending this project to all madrasah in the district until April 2024.

Bradford Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Summer of Fun Programme

Bradford Council is working with local schools and the voluntary sector to provide the HAF programme. Children accessed 30 days of sport provided over the school holidays including outdoor adventure, play, dance, arts and crafts (11am -3pm). 9,358 young people 5yrs – 14yrs engaged. 200 free lunches provided per day. Average daily attendance 312 with highest daily attendance 771.

Bikeability

Delivered in 64 schools to 4439 pupils (Sept 2021-July 2022). 21 Bikeability Family sessions were also delivered. Widening participation: funding secured to work with 6 primary schools and a 6th form.

WOW Schools and Little Feet:

Walk to School initiative; 21 schools have signed up. Little Feet is a new programme aimed at younger children (aged 2-5).

The interventions show successful and exemplar delivery of programmes to address levels of physical activity in children in Bradford following National guidance. JU:MP shows promise but there is more to learn and do: they are currently exploring the impact of technology on children's lives through co-designing, delivering and evaluating the Screen Off Life On campaign. They are also developing a fitness app that will use gamification to engage young people to move more

End note:

Whilst it is evident that there are a large number of projects and services being implemented across the district to improve the levels of physical activity of our children and young people, there is still some way to go to bring down our rates of inactivity (and rates of childhood excess weight). As such the district has been working on a new 'whole systems approach' to physical activity strategy. This new strategy is due to launch in early 2023. The strategy is the result of key partners, clubs and organisations from across the district coming together to influence the physical activity system. The strategy is being led by Active Bradford, Public Health and Sports & Culture, and it is hoped that this will become the broadest and most visionary physical activity strategy the district has ever implemented.

References:

Sport England (2022) Children And Young People Activity Data (Ages 5-16)
<https://activelives.sportengland.org/Result?queryId=77620>

Useful links

www.activebradford.com/jump

Creating Active Schools as a best investment for physical activity:
<https://ispah.org/creating-a-solution-that-transforms-physical-activity-culture-in-schools/>

CAS framework development article:
<https://ijbnpa.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12966-020-0917-z>

CAS video: <https://vimeo.com/669986708>

CAS information workshop (flyer attached): <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creating-active-schools-workshop-tickets-428028724437>

joinusmoveplay.org/

<https://www.local.gov.uk/learning-successful-community-engagement-bradford-childhood-obesity-trailblazer>

36. Councillor Caroline Whitaker

Following the welcome announcement that the pedestrian access bridge crossing the A629 between Silsden and Steeton is to be completed by 2025, will the Council commit to ensuring that the final scheme will also (a) include improved pedestrian access from Silsden, in particular widening the footpaths; and (b) consider moving the location of the bridge to the eastern side of the roundabout which will ensure safer access to the station for cyclists and pedestrians?

Response

The construction phase of the Steeton and Silsden Cycling and Walking Improvement project will start early 2025 and be completed early 2026.

The project will include the widening of footpaths, providing new cycling and walking connections between the communities of Steeton and Silsden, creating a safe and attractive route between the two settlements and key destinations like Airedale General Hospital and the railway station, as well as connecting new housing developments in the area so that there is sustainable access to these important local destinations.

Several options were considered for the location of the bridge including to the eastern side of the roundabout. The Outline Business Case is currently being refined with all options for a bridge being considered, which will take into account safer access to the station for cyclists and pedestrians.

37. Councillor Debbie Davies

Given the listed building status of the Richard Dunn centre, which potentially restricts the development potential of the site and given the significant ongoing security costs, with hindsight, does the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places believe that redeveloping the swimming facilities at the site (with slides) would have been more beneficial than building a brand new facility at Sedburgh?

Response

The Richard Dunn Sports Centre was constructed in the 1970s when energy was cheap. Not surprisingly the building was the biggest user of energy in Bradford Council, as it lacked insulation and its design was an inefficient use of space.

A decision was taken to build a new replacement centre as this was a more cost-effective solution. The recent steep rise in energy costs has shown that this was and is the right decision.

38. Councillor Anna Watson

Members of the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny and Overview Committee attending their meeting on 20 September were informed that the Bradford to Shipley Route Improvement Scheme is undergoing a “complete review and re-evaluation”.

Will the Leader of Council please tell us why the scheme is being reviewed in this way, given that local stakeholders are still to be consulted further about any changes; and provide a list of the stakeholders who will be consulted?

Response

The Council has been working with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to diligently control scheme costs in the context of recent and ongoing extreme national construction price inflation.

The impact of national inflation on all Combined Authority capital programmes has highlighted an affordability gap between budget costs and funding envelopes of many projects across West Yorkshire, not just the Bradford to Shipley Route Improvement Scheme, therefore scheme promoters are being asked to review their proposals to see if lower cost interventions could deliver the required benefits. This review also allows promoters to reappraise schemes in terms of their compliance with the latest policy guidance from the Department for Transport.

39. Councillor Debbie Davies

In response to a question at July's Full Council, members were informed that the longstanding unreliability of some library services due to staff shortages had been resolved by the appointment of new staff including casuals, yet we still see fairly regular updates apologising for libraries being closed during advertised opening hours, so could the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places please provide a realistic update on when this situation will be resolved to prevent further damage to footfall?

Response

There are still some closures, but in September these were around a quarter of what they had been previously, so the levels have reduced significantly. Despite the recent recruitment to fill all vacancies, previous budget reductions mean there is little resilience in the staffing levels in libraries. Public Health have agreed to provide additional funding over the next six months to boost staffing levels whilst libraries act as 'warm spaces'. The situation will be reviewed in the Spring.

We have worked hard to maintain good library provision across our district despite the incredibly challenging times. Conservative austerity since 2010 has had a very serious impact on library provision across the country since 2010, resulting in the loss of approximately a third of all of the country's libraries.

40. Councillor Matt Edwards

Since its inception, the Environmental Task Force has done amazing work dealing with grot spots across the District - especially in areas like Tong Ward which are hot spots for fly tipping. Will the Portfolio holder join me in congratulating them and the Neighbourhood Teams they work with and commit to ensuring this work is funded long term?

Response

Since the start of the Environmental Task Force in excess of 465 referrals across the district have been completed. These jobs have varied in size taking anything from up to a week at each of the locations referred. Works have included tackling areas with extensive overgrown vegetation, weeds, waste and litter. Locations across all wards completed have mainly been focused on snickets, footpaths, Council and Estates land. Support with site clearances of fly tipping have also been undertaken along with partnership working to find longer term solutions to reduce this problem.

The feedback from members and residents has been overwhelming and the work has evidentially transformed neighbourhoods. The clearance of public footpaths and snickets has been a key area where a massive difference has been made. Creating clear walkways in particular has received special thanks from disabled users, parents, delivery operators and businesses who previously faced access issues. Some of the snickets undertaken have been blocked by vegetation for years or simply been unused due to them not feeling like a safe place. The works have not only improved the area but improved lives. The positive response on site that the Task Force Team have received has been phenomenal as the level of attention to detail work has been clear for all to see.

The Task Force will continue to work closely with area teams to ensure that locations which require attention are identified. Members will continue to receive before and after pictures of works completed within their wards as an update of the individual jobs being completed.

41. Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

Would the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People & Places confirm whether, in order to achieve the Council's aim of carbon neutrality for the District by 2038, the Council intends to set carbon budgets for each year until then and will the Council assess the carbon emissions contribution of existing activities and proposed activities, and alter them as necessary to achieve the aim?

Response

The Council currently assesses Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions from direct emissions (boiler plant etc) and indirect emissions from purchased energy respectively. Guidance on assessing scope 3 indirect value chain emissions is emerging and the Council will follow the necessary guidance as it becomes established.

The Council, in partnership with WYCA, has developed a carbon impact assessment tool for evaluating major projects which is being rolled out, however, it should be noted that further understanding is needed regarding the robustness of these emerging processes.

42. Councillor Celia Hickson

Would the portfolio holder please explain why the situation with weeds across Holmewood is noticeably worse than in many other areas in Bradford District?

Response

Weeds are treated and sprayed three times a year across the district using an external contractor. If there are any particular concerns, these can be highlighted to the Street Cleansing Service. Where there are large overgrown weeds we would expect Clean Teams or the Environmental Task Force to remove these. Holme Wood, Tong Ward has received the third spray treatment week commencing 17 October.

43. Councillor Debbie Davies

Would the Leader of the Council advise members of the number of active users of the Citizen Coin app and the target number to make it worthwhile?

Response

The Citizen Coin pilot period has evidenced the scheme is worthwhile as it has and will continue to enable us to:

- increase volunteering & civic participation;
- improve skills and confidence;
- increase employability for citizens - not only helping people get into jobs but better jobs;
- encourage people get more active - improving people's health, mental health and well-being;
- increase social mixing so people get on with each other and with those people who are different to them – breaking down barriers and stereotypes;
- tackle social isolation;
- build on creating safe, strong, active communities;
- engage our young people in local activities;
- promote and support our local businesses;
- promote our district's culture, leisure and parks offer;
- help people living in poverty – making money go further;
- reward and incentivise people for doing social good.

As at July 2022, the scheme sees 1526 registered app users and 602 of these had registered for activities. The scheme is now targeting approximately 1000 people to actively use the app and to also try to reach people and families living or close to the poverty line.

It is encouraged that all Councillors help promote the scheme.

44. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Can the Leader of Council please update us on what is being done to ensure that our planning enforcement service is able to respond much more effectively, and quickly, to any planning violations reported by councillors on behalf of their residents?

Response

This is a small team of dedicated Enforcement staff who provide a very effective service to members and the general public. The team has recently employed a dedicated Planning Prosecutions Officer in a bid to tackle the backlog of Prosecution cases to be progressed to the Magistrates Courts and this is working very well. However, the team still has two Enforcement Officer vacancies at the moment and filling these posts is proving challenging. Once this team is fully staffed the response times will improve. However, as with every service within the Council, years of austerity and public sector pay restraint have meant demands on the service remains high despite our best efforts in managing the service effectively with the resources we have.

45. Councillor Geoff Winnard

Now that the Alfred Sharp Charitable Trust has been finally been registered with the Charity Commission, would the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment & Skills, confirm when educational organisations in Bingley will be able to apply for the first tranche of grant funding and whether it is possible that the grant awarding process include representation from Bingley Town Council in addition to Bingley's elected ward members?

Response

The decision regarding the implementation of an appropriate grant scheme for The 1887 Alfred Sharp Educational Trust is with the Charity Trustees. They are aware of the need to consider the release of funds. However, the grant procedure has yet to be determined by the Trustees. The request for representation by Bingley District Councillors and Bingley Town Council to be permitted as part of the award process will be forwarded to the Chair of Trustees.

46. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Does the Leader of Council share my concern that it is taking far too long - typically many months - for pavements to be repaired/reinstated after street trees have been taken out, leaving pavements unsafe for residents; and what action will she take to ensure that the necessary pavement repairs are carried out much sooner in future?

Response

Unfortunately, the issue of the removal of street trees and the subsequent reinstatement of the pavement has become a more prominent issue of late as the number of diseased trees being removed has increased. Sometimes a replacement tree is being considered, which can create a period of time between removal and reinstatement.

The respective departments of Parks & Landscapes and Highways are now collaborating better which should minimise the amount of time between removal and reinstatement as well as progress faster working through the backlog of reinstatements which remain outstanding.

47. Councillor Geoff Winnard

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, provide an update on any progress being made in the consideration on whether average speed cameras will be installed on the A650 Bingley Bypass and outline representations which are being made by Bradford Council to expedite this process?

Response

The new draft Deployment Strategy for the West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership has included average speed cameras for the first time. Sites in Bradford are undergoing assessment by the Camera Partnership and the highest priority site will be delivered within this financial year. Once that assessment has been done, Members in impacted Wards will be contacted. Clearly as with many services demand is high and without additional funding from government we will have to prioritise scarce resources to where the impact is greatest.

48. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Will the Leader of Council ensure that our trees officers always respond within six weeks when Bradford Council is notified by residents that they intend to carry out works on trees in Conservation Areas; and can she please advise us how often officers have been unable to respond within that time frame during the past 12 months?

Response

We employ two full time Tree Officers (this will soon reduce to one for next 12+ months). There is also one Trees Technician Post however this post is vacant at the moment. These are very challenging times for this part of the service but we are trying to fill the vacant post and officers are looking at ways of covering the Tree Officer's 12+ months absence. It is worth noting that Conservation Area applications are only one part of the Tree Officer role; they also deal with TPO applications, Planning Application Consultations, assist in drafting policies, and they offer general tree advice.

49. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Will the Leader of Council please write to the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Canal and River Trust, Allan Leighton, to ask him to ensure that the Trust cleans up the graffiti that - for several years now - has badly degraded the visitor and resident experience along the stretch of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal between Shipley and Saltaire (part of our treasured World Heritage Site, after all), despite repeated efforts by the local councillors to secure the necessary action?

Response

There has been some partnership working taking place over the last few years to work towards dealing with the ongoing graffiti that occurs in the area. There has also been a recent request from Shipley Town Council for possible site suggestions for street art and this could include a refresh of a former graffiti wall or other sites under bridges along the canal where appropriate if agreement can be sought from all interested parties. The Canal and River Trust clearly struggle to deal with a large amount of vandalism on the whole network but they should be encouraged to prioritise important stretches for example sites on the approach to Saltaire World Heritage Site. It appears that they are undertaking street art projects elsewhere to deal with this difficult issue. The Council will write to Canal and River Trust to request graffiti removal particularly on important approaches to Saltaire World Heritage Site.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/arts-and-culture-on-the-waterways/bringing-street-art-to-the-canal-side>

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/warning-of-the-cost-of-graffiti-to-the-nations-heritage>

50. Councillor Debbie Davies

Would the Leader of the Council advise members how and why £1,097,441 was spent on redundancies last year when the 2020/21, 2021/22 and the 2022/23 Council budgets were all agreed with no compulsory redundancies?

Response

At the time of Council budget setting for 2021-22, there were no planned redundancies under S188. During the course of the financial year, a number of departments undertook restructures for reasons of business operating changes rather than for financial budgetary saving reasons. Some of these restructures resulted in compulsory redundancies whereby people were displaced from posts and there was no assimilation to roles in the reconfigured structure or suitable alternative roles. However the figure quoted in your question (and by the T&A in their [article](#)) is made up of exit payments as a whole and is not purely redundancy costs. Exit packages includes compulsory and voluntary redundancy costs, pension contributions in respect of added years, ex-gratia payments and other departure costs.

51. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Can the Leader please provide updated information about progress relating to the 'School Streets' projects in Shipley - specifically (a) when the new School Streets will be implemented at Saltaire Primary and Wycliffe Primary Schools; (b) when the amended School Streets scheme at Shipley C of E will be in place; and (c) any plans that are in train to tackle road traffic dangers and reduce harms from air pollution outside the other schools in the Shipley ward?

Response

The Saltaire Primary School Street launch is planned for this month. Following discussions with Wycliffe Primary they have decided not to pursue a School Street at this time. The Traffic & Road Safety team is continuing to work with Shipley C of E school to resolve issues around the scope and operation of their School Street. We have signing and lining measures in place at all schools to encourage safe driving and parking and enforcement is carried out on a rotating basis. Where safety concerns are highlighted at individual sites investigations are carried out and additional works recommended as appropriate.

Our Road Safety team delivers a programme of education, training and publicity in schools and colleges across the district. This includes practical pedestrian training, Bikeability and indoor lessons which focus on helping our children and young people form good road safety habits and become safe road users. A suite of resources covering a range of relevant road safety issues (available on Bradford Schools Online) are also available for schools to download and use themselves. The team also run wider campaigns encouraging everyone to use the roads safely and with consideration for others.

52. Councillor Debbie Davies

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport confirm whether any thought has been given to mitigating the potential negative consequences of the introduction of LED lighting, such as the scientifically proven damage to the quality of people's sleep and the altering of the behaviour of animals such as bats and moths?

Response

During the development of the specification the Council worked with the Biodiversity Officer to minimise the impact of the whiter light emitted by LED lighting on humans, flora and fauna. The initial correlated colour temperature (CCT) considered was 4000 Kelvin but this was reviewed prior to introduction of the project and was changed to 3000 Kelvin to provide a warmer light further away from the blue spectrum and closer to the red.

On this basis, the impact of the project with a lower correlated colour temperature LED has reduced the risk of such issues as it is closer aligned to the use of high intensity discharge "white light" lamps, that have been used in the district for a number of years prior to LED's.

53. Councillor Debbie Davies

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport confirm the estimated total cost of the Kirkgate Centre project, taking into account additional costs such as demolition and any compensation payments to tenants who are being forced to close or relocate their businesses?

Response

The Report to the Executive in June 2021 in respect of the acquisition of the Kirkgate Centre was a confidential 'Not for Publication' report. This is due to the commercially sensitive nature of its contents, which included the potential level of compensation payments to be made to individual tenants to vacate the Kirkgate centre, each tenant's payment is commercially sensitive and depends upon their leasehold interest, lease length and lease expiry date and would be subject to negotiation with the individual tenant. In addition, it would be inappropriate and commercially sensitive to disclose the budget allocated for the centre's demolition, when the Council will be tendering the demolition in due course and not for a further 2/3 years.

54. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport confirm the cost of demolishing the NCP car park and the annual loss of revenue caused by its closure?

Response

The NCP car park was a strategic acquisition by the Council that gave us much greater control over a key site in the city centre, adjacent to the Interchange station. This purchase is now coming to fruition with the delivery of the Transforming Cities programme, which will see the building demolished to create an attractive frontage to the station and high quality connection between the station and a pedestrianised Hall Ings. The projected cost for the demolition of the NCP car park is £2.986m which is covered under the funding provided by the Combined Authority's Transforming Cities Fund programme.

Historically, pre-pandemic the Council received a fixed rent per annum from the operator, NCP (£335,000 for 2019/20, £327,000 for 2018/19 and £315,000 for 2017/18).

However, subsequent to the pandemic, and with the significant reduction in the use of the site, the arrangement with NCP changed to a management only agreement in October 2021 whereby the Council receives the actual income net of any direct operating costs and fees. This is a variable figure based on use of the car park and for the latest period where figures are available (October 2021 to May 2022) was £105,000. Projecting this forward for a full year (October 2021-October 2022) gives a possible income of £160,000 from which the cost of rates (currently £119,000 per annum) needs to be covered.

Therefore, the current net operating revenue generated by the NCP would be £41,000 per year.

55. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Portfolio Holder confirm whether free parking for library users and volunteers will continue to be provided when the new Baildon library opens?

Response

The old library was fortunate to have a small car park to the rear of the building that could be used by staff, volunteers and visitors. However, this is unusual and few of our libraries have dedicated car parks in this way. There will continue to be parking available in the public car park below Ian Clough Hall for the use of staff and visitors.

56. Councillor Debbie Davies

Would the Leader of the Council confirm the target figure for using local suppliers for Council goods and services and where the council sits in relation to achieving that target?

Response

As part of the Social Value and Inclusive Growth Rationale and Policy, approved by the Executive in December 2017 and implemented in April 2018 the Council set out aspirations to enable inclusive growth, including seeking to increase the proportion of Council spend locally.

A number of national events have impacted the policy, including the impact of Covid and the recent cost of living crisis. In addition, national procurement legislation and Council Contract Standing Orders must be complied with, with tendering processes not allowing contracts to be issued to local suppliers unless they submitted the highest scoring tender.

Performance in the past 2 years and this year to date are outlined in the table below. Much of recent years spend has been influenced by the pandemic and therefore the profile of the spend is difficult to compare with previous years.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 to Q1
Target	46%	48%	48%
Actual	36.8%	36.5%	36.5%
	£172.2m	£229.8m	£62.3m

Reviewing the Social Value and Inclusive Growth Rationale and Policy, assessing realistic target local spend levels and engaging local supply chain will be a key deliverable of the Head of Procurement when appointed. There needs to be much more work done with the local business community, running workshops on bidding and supporting them with better insight into public sector procurement. However this requires time and capacity from the procurement team. Whilst it continues to be a challenging market in which to recruit procurement professionals, their work in this area will inevitably more limited than we would like.

Performance against the metric continues to be one of the Council key performance metrics.

57. Councillor Bob Felstead

Could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, provide assurance that rather than wait for Government to legislate that all new builds be

fitted with Solar panels, council takes the lead and encourages developers across Bradford District to fit Solar Panels to all new build housing?

Response

The fitting of solar panels to dwellings and other buildings is, in many instances, permitted development and therefore does not require any involvement of the Planning Service. The consideration for the developer is likely to largely be one of cost over viable price point for that property. The Council already has planning policies that encourage developers to consider, on a site-by-site basis and where appropriate, the use of a range of renewable power sources as well as matters relating to reducing demand in the first place and energy efficiency. These are outlined in our Neighbourhood Design Guide, which has a wide ranging of policies relating to creating more sustainable communities across the district.

58. Councillor Allison Coates

Could the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places confirm how many Bradford District taxi licences were issued in the financial year 2021 – 22 and in the previous two years?

Response

The number of hackney carriage and private hire licences issued:

Financial Year April/March	No. of licences issued – Drivers (1 & 3 year licences) & Vehicles (1 year)
2019/2020	5269
2020/2021	5033
2021/2022	5554

59. Councillor Debbie Davies

I understand that the new market has had 120 applications for 79 stalls and the council has made it clear that any traders must meet the Council’s aspirations – could the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, please explain what those aspirations are and how the successful traders will be selected?

Response

Applicants were advised that the Council was looking for traders that can demonstrate a sound business model with products or services that will not only strengthen our existing customer base but also will inspire new customers to shop in the market. Applicants were also required to demonstrate they have the relevant skills and business knowledge and are able to promote their business through regular and effective marketing and promotional activities.

In addition, applicants selling hot foods are required to comply with our vision of good food in the Bradford District and how they can meet our goals and consumer demand for healthier foods.

Finally, applicants were asked to set out their ambitions to create a high quality and attractive shop unit as the Council is keen to encourage both imaginative and creative stall design and professional product displays so each stall is finished to a high standard. Given the new and more diverse range of customers we expect the market to attract then it is essential we create a pleasurable shopping experience to appeal to both existing and new customers.

The trader selection panel is made up of six persons, three from the Markets Service, two Business Advisors and a Business Development Manager from the National Market Traders' Federation.

Each panel member will independently score each of the 25 scored question as well as the 2 additional questions for hot food traders with only applicants that have passed the financial credit check stage proceeding to the scoring stage.

Each score will be based only on the responses given to each of the questions in the scored sections. A weighting will then be applied of between 1 to 5 based on the importance of each question to provide a final score from each panel member which is then combined with the other panel member's score to provide an overall average score.

Applicants with the highest scores for each floor level will then be considered for one of their three stall preferences, subject to stall availability and there being no over representation or duplication of the product and/or service offered. Should there be any gaps in products or services that will add value to the retail mix of the market then some stalls may remain vacant while officers from the Market Service directly approach such businesses.