

COUNCIL

Tuesday, 24 January 2023

MEMBER QUESTION TIME – Part 2

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

35. Councillor Bob Felstead

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport please explain how Production Subsidies D39 and D31 and some of the larger transport subsidies affect the economic output of the district when compared to other regional conurbations?

Response

The measure of the economic output of an economy is referred to as Gross domestic product (GDP). GDP is a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in an economy.

GDP is equal to the sum of the gross value added of all resident institutional units engaged in production, plus any taxes on products and minus any subsidies on products.

From ONS data for 2019 (latest available figures), Bradford subsidies were estimated to amount to £16m in 2019. The value of these subsidies to the Bradford economy amounted to 0.1% of total GDP.

This was a much smaller proportion of GDP when compared to national and regional comparators.

For the UK as a whole, subsidies were worth 0.6% of total GDP – six times the figure for Bradford. The percentage for the Yorkshire and the Humber and for West Yorkshire mirror the national figure of 0.6%. Leeds is the highest in West Yorkshire with the value of subsidies estimated to £278m which was 0.9% of GDP.

36. Councillor Debbie Davies

How many of the fines issued for entering the Clean Air Zone are for the same vehicle on different occasions and what is the highest number of fines issued for the same vehicle?

Response

The data is not regularly collected in the format you require. What we can provide is that at the time of writing there are 982 unique vehicles that have incurred two or more contraventions in the five months since launch. This is out of one million vehicles a week going through the zone without issue. The highest number of

contraventions for a single vehicle is over 100. However this is an exceptional outlier and as such an unusual case that we are talking to the DVLA about because they don't have this vehicle registered as valid on their database.

37. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Now that the Council has decided NOT to widen the Canal Road corridor route, what plans does the Council have for the junction of Otley Road and Bradford Road and, in particular, the land formerly occupied by the Branch pub?

Response

Whilst the expected focus of the scheme has shifted to additional bus and active travel improvements along the Manningham Lane Route beyond those already in the scheme this does not preclude the need for elements of widening of the highway. While we have stated that road widening of Canal Road itself as originally planned is 'unlikely' this has been wrongly reported as any such works being scrapped.

As it sits at the top of the Manningham Lane route and there are still issues at the junction of Bradford Road and Otley Road the justification to implement some form of works there remains.

Initial development of the revised proposals has commenced with the next opportunity for Public Consultation expected by the end of Autumn 2023 before any proposals are confirmed. Ward members along the route of the scheme will be consulted on the proposals before they are made public.

38. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could we have details of the libraries within Bradford District, including whether they are Council run, community run or hybrids, together with visitor numbers, figures on items loaned and running costs of each please?

Response

Please see details below showing the latest in-year figures.

Library	Type	Visitors Apr -Dec 2022	Issues Apr - Dec 2022	Current Budget 22/23 £
Addingham	CML	1,730	1,025	2,700
Allerton	CML	213	448	5,700
Baildon	Hybrid	9180	29015	47,600
Bingley	Council	31484	36719	129,100
Bolling Hall	CML	2401	884	Nil

Burley	CML	22368	6913	7,600
City	Council	122924	48934	634,000
Clayton	Hybrid	3852	2198	29,700
Denholme	CML	723	357	500
Eccleshill	Council	54503	27567	106,800
Great Horton	CML	1220	1311	900
Heaton	CML	1390	739	Nil
Holmewood	CML	0	0	9,800
Idle	CML	3268	1882	20,300
Ilkley	Council	37349	22184	133,600
Keighley	Council	59940	45692	173,100
Laisterdyke	Council	24134	7880	80,100
Manningham	Council	38545	18095	158,900
Menston	CML	8438	5634	9,600
Queensbury	CML	1217	927	1,200
ShIPLEY	Council	56784	48203	212,300
Silsden	CML	5969	2718	100
Thornbury	CML	958	343	9,900
Thornton	CML	3089	1522	13,800
Wibsey	Council	6709	5561	78,800
Wilsden	CML	1019	224	nil
Wyke	Council	13186	14815	96,500
Total (27 libraries)		512,593	331,790	£1962,600

Please note:

1. CML = Community managed library
2. Figures exclude specialist and district wide services including Home Library Service, Local Studies, Reading Groups.

39. Councillor Mike Pollard

Would the Leader of the Council be so kind as to provide details of the annual number of fly tips per ward / constituency, along with the total annual cost to the council of removing and also processing these?

Response

There isn't a directly attributable cost for handling fly-tipping as it is handled as part of a range of activities by individual ward-based teams.

If all fly-tipping stopped tomorrow then the cost of one central team could be saved, £150,000 approximately. If wards were to share a clean team, then possibly a further £80,000-£160,000 could be saved.

Disposal costs cannot really be included in the debate about fly-tipping as 80+% is domestic in origin and therefore the cost of its disposal would still be borne by the council if the waste had been disposed of correctly.

In total 16,285 fly tips were handled by the council in the 21/22 financial year, which includes fly-tips proactively cleared by officers in their daily work as well as incidents reported to us by members of the public. The ward based breakdown is available through our CRM system, which records the 9,700 cases reported to us by members of the public but doesn't record fly tips spotted and handled directly by our neighbourhood staff.

The annual Fly Tipping Scrutiny Report will be presented to Committee on 21 March and will hopefully allow us to compare with other local authorities when DEFRA publish their annual data release on 31 January.

Breakdown of fly tip requests by ward:

2020/21 Fly Tipping Reports from members of the public on CRM

TOTAL FLY TIPS REPORTED	9700
MULTIPLE WARDS	1267
BLANK WARDS	461

Bradford East	2216
LITTLE HORTON	690
BRADFORD MOOR	541
BOWLING AND BARKEREND	501
ECCLESHILL	216
BOLTON AND UNDERCLIFFE	147
IDLE AND THACKLEY	121

Bradford West	2097
CITY	486
MANNINGHAM	464
HEATON	371
TOLLER	323
THORNTON AND ALLERTON	250
CLAYTON AND FAIRWEATHER GREEN	203

Keighley	1408
KEIGHLEY CENTRAL	574
WORTH VALLEY	374
KEIGHLEY WEST	229
KEIGHLEY EAST	122
CRAVEN	65
ILKLEY	44

Bradford South	1709
TONG	546
GREAT HORTON	513
WYKE	177
ROYDS	171
QUEENSBURY	155
WIBSEY	147

Shipley	542
SHIPLEY	149
WINDHILL AND WROSE	121
BINGLEY RURAL	120
BAILDON	109
BINGLEY	27
WHARFEDALE	16

40. Councillor Caroline Whitaker

When will the B6160 Bolton Road, Addingham, between Bark Lane and Main Street, be declassified to discourage drivers cutting through the middle of the village and along this narrow road on their way to and from Bolton Abbey? I understand that a scheme of this sort was agreed to in principle several years ago, but has not yet been implemented.

Response

The principle of declassifying the section of carriageway was agreed, however there needs to be a consultation event undertaken along the old and new routes, and funding to re-signing and altering the route needs to be allocated.

The matter is ongoing and will be moving forward before the end of the financial year.

41. Councillor Debbie Davies

In order to encourage residents to use libraries would the Portfolio Holder commit to introducing a system similar to that at Shipley Swimming Pool, whereby users get their parking fee refunded?

Response

The library service is a free service and does not own any car parks for which it charges a fee or for which it needs to manage demand like at Shipley Pool car park. For library users who travel to the library by car, there is either some free parking available at the site (e.g. Manningham, Eccleshill) or library users need to use nearby commercially operated car parks (e.g. City, Keighley) depending on the location. The Service does not hold a budget to refund library users who use nearby car parks and in practice such a system would be difficult to manage. We do however work hard to make our libraries as accessible as possible.

The car park at Shipley Pool is owned and managed by the Council and the parking fee is used to manage demand and act as a deterrent to people parking there who are not users of the pool. Refunds can be managed easily in relation to the fees paid for swim sessions and gym memberships.

42. Councillor Andrew Loy

How many fixed penalty notices for dog fouling have been issued in Ilkley in the last five years?

Response

Civil Enforcement Officers have not issued any fixed penalty notices for dog fouling in Ilkley in the last five years. The burden of proof is high for taking such action and there has been no evidence to allow for a penalty to be issued. Our wardens clearly act as a deterrent and therefore witnessing an incident would be very rare, however if people do have evidence and they are happy to go to court if necessary then they should report it and we will investigate and pursue any such case.

43. Councillor Matt Edwards

Will the portfolio holder intervene in the stalemate between Brierley Community Association and Bradford Council over repair works and replacement of an unsuitable heating system that are needed to the Community Centre building which will then allow the Centre Association to finalise their Community Asset Transfer.

Response

The Council recognises Bierley Avenue Community Centre provides services to the local community, and those involved in doing so have a genuine commitment to meeting those needs. The organisation has had the benefit of a full repairing and insuring lease since 2011, which expired in 2021, the Council has voluntarily undertaken some emergency works to the roof, which have now been completed whilst the negotiations have been on-going, and Council officers will work with them to progress the CAT application and business case.

44. Councillor Debbie Davies

Would the Portfolio Holder confirm which decorations for Christmas and other celebrations/festivals/religious occasions across the district BMDC fund and provide details of how much is spent on these?

Response

Bradford Council has budgeted to spend £243k on Festival Lights in the Bradford District for the 2022/23 financial year; there is no breakdown against specific festivals.

45. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Leader of the Council confirm whether or not the volunteers carrying out what was formerly the work of paid Council employees, are able to use the Volunteer Expenses v Help app?

Response

vHelp

vHelp app is a payment app for paying expenses to volunteers.

It is currently used by Bradford District Museums & Galleries and has been for over two years to help manage volunteer expenses for 60+ volunteers in museums. Benefits include no petty cash or admin staff, apart from a project manager who can approve, and payment is in a volunteer bank account within 24 hours. Volunteers do not have to travel to a site or cash office to claim expenses.

BMG volunteers are doing extra roles and complimentary projects that staff have never covered, eg gardening/wellbeing projects, weaving, letterpress printing; audience surveys; re-enactment; and family activity craft sessions.

Yes, all our volunteers are able to use the vHelp expenses app, if they require it. Some of course don't want to claim and are happy to their time and some give back in the form of a donation, which is an option on the app.

Bradford Museums and Galleries have a volunteer handbook and policy which is given to all volunteers on recruitment. Given that the Museums and Galleries team

have found the vHelp app to be so useful, we will look at rolling its use out further for other volunteers across different services.

46. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Given that the Council declared a 'climate emergency' four years ago this month, why do we still not have a comprehensive climate strategy and action plan linked to specific carbon reduction targets?

Response

Since the Climate Emergency declaration in 2019 the Council has worked throughout the Covid pandemic and made significant progress in delivering greenhouse gas emission reduction programmes, including significantly reducing the Council's own emissions, delivering an extensive network of electric vehicle charging points, transforming LED lighting to over a third of our street lights and developing with private sector partners the Hybradford scheme, to produce and utilise hydrogen in the District. The Council has successfully introduced the first Clean Air Zone in the North of England which will reduce GHG emissions by 150,000 tonnes – possibly the largest GHG emission reduction programme in the region.

The Clean Air Plan Team are currently restructuring to deliver on the Climate Emergency agenda, including comprehensive strategy development and GHG reduction targets. This work will be undertaken in parallel with the development and implementation of the Clean Growth Strategy and work alongside the Combined Authority to achieve a target of Net Zero by 2038.

47. Councillor Caroline Whitaker

A school crossing patrol is desperately needed to make it safer for child and adult pedestrians to access Silsden Primary School on Hawber Cote Lane, yet no one has applied for this essential post in the last 12 months. What is the Council doing to ensure that the chaotic mix of vehicles and pedestrians at school drop off and pick up times does not result in injury or worse?

Response

The Council is currently looking to recruit a School Crossing Patrol operative for the vacancy at Silsden Primary School. Unfortunately, despite numerous advertisements for the post there has only been one applicant who did not subsequently turn up for interview. The Council will continue to try and recruit to this position and will use all methods possible to attract applicants for the post.

Highways is working directly with Education and the school to alleviate safety concerns at the school entrance and beyond. A draft proposal for the management of traffic within the school grounds has been put forward for consideration by the school and the Education department with a view to resolving any outstanding issues before any works can proceed on the school site. Highways will keep Ward Members updated.

48. Councillor Matt Edwards

Will the portfolio holder assure residents living on Booth Holme Close on Westgate Hill that the Council is doing everything possible to ensure the road is finally adopted before construction starts on the neighbouring field?

Response

If a planning permission was granted for any development on the neighbouring field the Council cannot stop that happening before the road is adopted. However, we can reassure Councillor Edwards and residents that officers are doing everything possible and continue to pursue the developer for completion of any remedials and adoption of the Yorkshire Water sewers to allow the road to be adopted.

49. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Can the Leader of Council please update us on (a) the timeframe for when Bradford's new 'hydrogen hub' will come 'on stream' and (b) the estimated positive net contribution it will make to reducing our district's greenhouse gas footprint.

Response

The proposed HyBradford Scheme is led by the Bamford Group in partnership with Northern Gas Networks and is scheduled to come on line in 2025. It is anticipated that a hydrogen cluster across the District will be developed alongside the HyBradford Scheme.

The proposed scheme is expected to have a significant impact on CO₂e emissions reduction, however, at this stage this cannot be accurately quantified until it is clear how many vehicles (including buses) will use the facility for refuelling and how many businesses contract to take hydrogen to integrate into CHP systems

50. Councillor Caroline Whitaker

Can the portfolio holder confirm that residents who live within parking permit scheme areas will not be charged for obtaining a permit in the future?

Response

There are currently no plans to introduce charging for residential permits.

51. Councillor Kevin Warnes

How many net zero carbon homes has Bradford Council built in the past 4 years?

Response

The council has not built any new homes over the past five years. In terms of wider housing delivery by third parties, having reviewed Planning Consents/housing

delivery over the five-year period, it appears that none have specified construction to a 'zero carbon' standard.

Current national legislative standards, as set out in Part L of the current edition of Building Regulations, does not require construction to zero carbon standard. Under the new regulations that came into effect during June 2022 new homes are required to produce approximately 30% lower CO2 emissions than under the previous standards'.

52. Councillor Caroline Whitaker

Could the portfolio holder explain why the Meadow Drive Estate was included in the Steeton Parking Permit Scheme when it hasn't been adopted by Bradford Council yet? Can they also confirm that an Equality Impact Assessment was carried out before the scheme was implemented?

Response

Meadow Park Drive is currently under part one of the Adoption stage and is classed as unadopted highway. This classification allows the council to promote and advertise Traffic Regulation Orders such as the Parking Permit Scheme. This was in place prior to the advertisement of the parking order in Steeton. There is no requirement for an Equalities Impact Assessment for the Parking Permit Scheme although due diligence is carried out when schemes are designed.

53. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Does the Leader of Council share my appreciation for the superb way in which Paul Naylor and his colleagues maintain our gullies and grit our roads across our district?

Response

The work carried out by the Council's gully team has historically been carried out quietly and 'behind the scenes' from the perception of both the general public and members.

Paul Naylor has been able to raise the profile of this team across the district both by introducing action days where wards are targeted for treatment but also by providing a visible face to the service, that is confident to talk to everyone about the vital function of road gullies.

I would therefore very much like to express my appreciation for the superb way in which Paul and his team have worked in this role and how, by showing our communities the work involved in keeping our gullies operating, he has helped them develop a greater understanding of why problems arise.

54. Councillor Matt Edwards

As we approach the third year anniversary of the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, will Bradford Council consider a fund to help communities set up Covid Memorial Gardens?

Response

When Bradford District residents were invited to share their thoughts on memorials and events to commemorate COVID-19 through an online survey questionnaire and social media polls, memorials received 45 per cent approval, and events received 34 per cent, therefore neither received majority support. For some, it seemed too soon to be considering memorials, for others that it would use funding that could be spent on essential services. However, for those who were supportive of a memorial, it was clear that this was very important. The type of memorial that drew most interest was for a 'greenspace'.

The survey report can be found here: <https://letstalk.bradford.gov.uk/covid>

The Council is now waiting for national guidance to be issued by the UK Commission on COVID Commemorations before taking further action. The Commission is due to report next month.

55. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Can the Leader please update us on the Council's consideration of the option of a new pedestrian crossing on Bingley Road, to be located in front of the existing Coop and linking up the pedestrianised build outs that are currently there on either side of the road.

Response

The crossing will be delivered through the Council's Executive Strategic Road Safety pot during the 23/24 financial year. Discussions on the detail will take place with the elected members prior to commissioning.