

Agenda Item 10

COUNCIL

Tuesday 17 October 2023

MEMBER QUESTION TIME - PART 1

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. Councillor Carol Thirkill

Residents are expressing concerns regarding ASB in the use of motorbikes, electric bikes and scooters in our neighbourhoods. Have the council taken any measures or steps with partners to address the problem which is growing and blighting our areas?

Response

The council work in close partnership with the police to combat the antisocial use of motor vehicles in all forms. Operation Steerside is an excellent example of collaborative working which is delivering regular successful outcomes. There is a PSPO in place to help in combatting anti-social use of motor vehicles and steps are being taken to ensure that it's use is as robust as possible.

In last 12 months the following have been actioned as direct result of Steerside/Anti-social Behaviour Teamwork in relation to quads and bikes: Six Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Two Final Warnings, One Criminal behaviour Order (CBO) granted at Crown Court, with further 5 CBO pending, awaiting criminal charges. Fifteen Tenancy Warnings have been issued by Registered Social Landlords and two Notices Seeking Possession. These subjects have been discussed at our (adult/youth) Anti-social Behaviour Panel.

'Target Hardening' to restrict access of quads to ginnels, fields and open spaces has taken place in some of the most problematic locations. This work is delivered in partnership with Highways and involves installing barriers or gates and/or putting down boulders.

On-Trak West Yorkshire have delivered three Early Intervention programmes for young people becoming involved in anti-social behaviour related to quads/bikes. Up to twelve young people attend each programme where they learn to restore an old bicycle. The programme also includes educational inputs around county lines, grooming, motor bike safety, gun and knife crime, domestic abuse and drugs awareness.

In Clayton and Fairweather Green, due to regular complaints and discussions with local Councillors, ward officers co-ordinated a partnership approach to make it harder for off-road bikes to access Deep Lane footpath and surrounding fields. This involved several meetings and site visits to identify the different landowners and gain agreement and support to make improvements. Boulders have been

installed at 4 key points along the footpath, edges of the field and quarry to secure access. Seven large boulders were sourced from the quarry and installed to prevent organised groups riding their bikes on the fields.

2. Councillor Chris Herd

Would the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People & Places confirm how much is being saved and what is meant by "more flexible care provision" in the new Home Support Locality Contracts, which are understandably causing many elderly and vulnerable residents considerable worry?

Response

The current home support contracts commissioned by Bradford Council five years ago come to an end at the end of October 2023. A discussion was held at the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 October 2022 regarding the recommissioning of these contracts and a robust procurement process to replace them. Officers in the Department of Adult Social Care commenced the implementation of the new contracts 18 months ago in preparation for the new services to begin on Monday 30 October this year.

The aim of the new Home Support Locality contracts is not to save money, but to ensure that there is a sustainable volume of home care that meets the needs of the district. There is an increasing demand on home support due to people wishing to remain happy, healthy and at home for longer as well external challenges, such as the difficulty recruiting sufficient adult social care workforce and future-proof the sector.

The new contracts will provide a new approach with geographically localised services in 23 localities with two companies providing support in each locality area. This will enable people to receive care more quickly than at present, including people awaiting discharge from hospital. The contracts are for a seven-year term which will support the stability of the market and the local workforce.

There are several initiatives within the new contracts to change the nature of homecare over the 7 years including the greater use of technology, stronger working relationships with the NHS and the promotion of a more flexible care provision for people using services. This includes a move away from 'time and task' to focussing on achieving the outcomes that are important to the person. To make these positive changes, there will be some temporary disruption and this will be managed carefully to avoid any direct difficulties for people receiving services.

Letters have been sent to everyone who may be affected, informing them of the change of their provider organisation. Everyone affected by the change will have been contacted pro-actively by the Council to explain what is happening.

Dedicated phone numbers and email addresses have been set up, with teams of care staff, contract and quality officers and an overall implementation team to support and oversee the process.

Every person can have the opportunity to talk through any concerns or questions

with a member of the care team, who are trained to answer questions about the changes and support people who may be anxious or concerned, and who can also go through their options for their service.

3. Councillor Matt Edwards

Given the economic situation, the commitment to Net Zero, the withdrawal of funding by WYCA and the opposition by Leeds City Council, does the Portfolio Holder agree that it is time to formally abandon the deeply controversial and environmentally damaging South East Bradford Access Road once and for all?

Response

Firstly, we have to be clear that the rationale for the South East Bradford Access Route has primarily been around delivering much needed housing growth. The Core Strategy, part of the Local Plan adopted in 2017, showed that 42,000 new homes were needed across Bradford during the 15 year period covered by the plan.

Work on the Local Plan has continued since, taking into account updated growth projections and methodology from government and as was clear in the Draft Local Plan published last year, projected demand for housing has reduced since the Core Strategy was adopted. However, it is important to note that the area around the proposed access road is still designated as a growth area in the Draft Local Plan.

This work is continuing, and therefore I am unable to comment further at this time but as ward members I will ensure you are informed of any future progress or decisions on this scheme.

4. Councillor Brendan Stubbs

At the meeting of Council in July you assured me that you "We do not want the young people of Eccleshill to miss out on swimming" we are now more than 3 months on from that meeting and still the promised 'Swim for All' sessions have not been restored.

In follow up emails you claimed August 1st would see the start of a Tuesday evening session, this was replaced a week later by "There are still a few technical aspects and procedures to be signed off" and "the facilities team are doing there utmost to re-introduce these sessions".

Parents, young people and I are concerned that this matter is not treated with the utmost urgency, and we cannot see how it is so difficult to provide local children with 'swim for all' sessions that continue at all the district's other swimming pools. Our young people have been treated very poorly by the Council and this must be resolved now.

Please can you provide an honest and firm date for the Tuesday 'Swim for all' session to be restored and the timetable for when all the remaining 'Swim for all' session at Eccleshill Pool to be restored.

Response

I thank Cllr Stubbs for his question and his fellow Eccleshill councillors who have raised this with me, and I have to say that I share the concerns regarding the lack of sessions for unaccompanied young people.

Just to clarify, young people have always been able to swim at Eccleshill as part of a family group.

The issue first arose when staff and other customers at Eccleshill Pool were treated very badly by some unaccompanied young people at the pool.

Our staff have the right to work safely, and customers need to feel safe too. We cannot reintroduce this session until people are satisfied that we have everything in place.

There have been many things put in place, including training, new procedures, the introduction of new body cameras, and new CCTV.

There are still one or two issues outstanding, and that is mainly the online booking where we have been let down by system suppliers.

The reintroduction of swim for all is a high priority. We will provide a date as soon as possible.

5. Councillor Simon Cunningham

Would the leader join me in condemning the crass comments made by the Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party about Bradford's railway connectivity, and can she share any updates on the actual hard work that is being done locally to boost intercity rail for the District?

Response

No senior politician in a position of responsibility within the party of government should disparage a great northern city in this way. The resulting positive comments about Bradford from people who disagreed with him was heartening to see.

The following day the Prime Minister announced that Bradford would get a new city centre station on the mainline and of course we have had a visit by the Secretary of State for Transport and the Rail Minister since then to talk about progressing our plans.

6. Councillor Caroline Firth

Does the portfolio holder share my concern that Ilkley Town Council is being obligated to spend around £30,000 of residents' money on a parish poll that is non-binding either to itself or to Bradford Council on the subject of introducing 20mph streets to improve road safety, when the money could be better spent on town centre events or facilities for local people?

Response

Yes, this is a completely unnecessary non-binding poll that Ilkley Parish Council have not wished for and that will have no impact on the scheme. Nor will it add to the understanding of public opinion. There have already been two rounds of consultation with hundreds of responses and the scheme has been altered significantly to take account of that.

We know from a similar poll in Keighley that turnout is often extremely low and therefore arguably not reflective of local opinion in any case.

The costs of the parish poll are chargeable to the Parish Council (in this case Ilkley Town Council) and this is likely to be at least £30,000. This is money that could have been spent on local services by the Town Council had this poll not been forced upon them.

It is worth noting that a former Communities Minister in the Government committed to reviewing the rules around Parish Polls as there was concern they were being abused in the way we see now. That Minister is now the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, but sadly as with so many things from this government no progress appears to have been made on the commitment.

7. Councillor Simon Cunningham

Can the portfolio holder provide an update on the refreshed approach to locating temporary speed cameras in West Yorkshire, and have any so-called areas of community concern successfully secured a camera yet?

Response

Bradford has submitted ten community concern site requests so far, of which currently five sites qualify and five are under assessment. One site has been commissioned to date. The Portfolio Holder will be regularly updated on progress of the commissioned sites and ward members will be engaged if sites progress in their area.

8. Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

Would the Leader of Council be so kind as to commit to the council reverting to the pre-Covid norm of holding Keighley & Shipley Planning Panels in Keighley or Shipley, as is the case with Area Committees etc, because holding them in Bradford causes great inconvenience to residents, particularly those in the rural areas with no transport to get to Bradford, undermining public engagement and council transparency?

Response

It was already decided at the beginning of the municipal year that the Area Planning Panel (Keighley and Shipley) meetings would be reinstated in Keighley Town Hall. The IT equipment (TV Stand and power point) needed is currently on order and the meetings will return to Keighley Town Hall following the arrival and setup of this equipment in the building.

9. Councillor Simon Cunningham

Would the leader join me in welcoming the fantastic news that world-famous BRIT School has been successful in its application to develop a northern campus for the cultural and creative industries in Bradford, and can she outline the next steps of the process?

Response

The Brit School has confirmed that they propose to locate within Bradford. This is great news for our district and it reflects the huge creative and cultural buzz around Bradford right now, at a time when we are on the cusp of delivering several exciting regeneration schemes and preparing to be the UK's City of Culture in 2025. Officers are engaged with the Department for Education to agree Heads of Terms that will allow the Department of Education to undertake detailed design and due diligence in advance of the development.

Keighley also had a successful decision from the Department for Education in the same round of funding. Keighley New College, which will provide sixth form provision only, has been given the go ahead. We look forward to working with them to provide an excellent new educational facility for the young people of Keighley.

10. Councillor Chris Hayden

In Eccleshill we have a substantial new build of over 300 new homes between Harrogate Road and Moorside Road that was granted planning permission under reference 18/00897/MAR and is nearing completion. Part of the S106 agreement for the outline planning permission was to ensure the signalisation of the Harrogate Road/Moorside Road Junction. It is my understanding that this should have happened upon 50% of the project being completed. With this junction getting busier with every house sold, and accidents noticeably on the increase at this problem junction, please could the executive member inform me and my constituents when this necessary improvement work is planned, and when it will be completed?

Response

The Council is actively working with the developer to update the Contract costs and to complete the highway agreement for the work given the uncertainty of the construction market. The developer will then be permitted to commence work on the signalising of the junction. At this stage we do not have a definitive start date but continue to push the developer for as prompt a start date as possible.

11. Councillor Chris Hayden

In a recent Bradford East Area Committee meeting I heard reports from our local wardens who have been doing some brilliant work all over Bradford East. One of these pilot projects was working in partnership with local shop managers and owners to clear up shop fronts and land in the immediate vicinity to our retail areas. Given the success of the pilot, could I request that the executive consider

the full rollout of this project across the whole district as soon as possible?

Response

The takeaway pilot scheme is a partnership between the businesses and the council that involves reducing the litter generated by takeaway businesses. Officers support the businesses to look at solutions and formulate a local agreement with recommendations, such as ensuring the area outside the business is free from litter by carrying out periodic litter picking, reducing the amount of packaging given to customers or reminding them to use bins and displaying posters inside the shop. In turn, the council provides equipment and ongoing support through regular monitoring and feedback, with options to promote the business for their efforts. Following the pilots in different areas, the work will be rolled out to other businesses across the area.

12. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Leader of the Council confirm whether the Council works with the Police and / or any other agencies, to stop beggars harassing people at road junctions, which some people find very intimidating and creates a negative first impression to anyone visiting Bradford?

Response

Bradford Council does work closely with the Police in tackling the issues of begging on traffic islands. There are a multitude of reasons why this is taking place and as a consequence needs a co-ordinated multi-agency response.

Enforcement alone will not resolve these issues and as a result a stepped approach is adopted. Individuals are engaged with by a number of partners including the Police, the Homeless Outreach Partnership, Salvation Army, New Visions, Bridge Project to address the underlying issues as to why they are begging in the first place. Each individual is fully informed of partner agencies who can provide support and practical advice to address both their immediate financial and housing needs and any underlying addictions or conditions which have contributed to their situation (e.g. drugs, alcohol, mental health), they are warned regarding behaviour and impact this can have in an attempt to deter.

If this behaviour continues despite offers of support and warnings, then matters can be dealt with through enforcement either through the criminal justice system or through the issue of a Criminal Behaviour Order from the Council/Police Anti-social Behaviour Team. In the last 12 months the ASB team have obtained 5 Criminal Behaviour Orders for individuals persistently begging across the District.

13. Councillor Janet Russell

In light of the biodiversity motion passed at July's Full Council meeting, and the recent issue of concrete being poured into a spawning trout pool beside Back Beck Lane in Addingham, by a contractor, will the Portfolio Holder assure us that Environmental Assessments will be made for maintenance or building work beside or close to freshwater water streams of any size?

Response

This work was carried out urgently to ensure the wall and pipe under the carriageway did not collapse following a sinkhole which suddenly appeared in the carriageway. The emergency closure of the road and the subsequent investigations identified significant scour of the wall foundations. Our primary concern was the safety of members of the public.

What happened on 3rd July at Back Beck Lane was unforeseen as the water flow was initially contained prior to the concrete being pumped to shore-up the scoured/undermined bank. Environment Agency personnel attended the site and tested the water to their satisfaction. When an Environment Agency officer visited the site on 4th July to test the water, they found that the pH levels were still safe and did not pose a risk to wildlife in the pond. The Environment Agency and the Addingham Environment Group and contractor agreed on the way forward to complete the works. To mitigate any concerns, the Environment Agency was also invited to the next concrete pour and when the excess concrete will be removed to test the water samples. We have reviewed our consultation procedures for emergency/urgent works and members will be consulted in such situations as well as undertaking Environmental Assessments as necessary.

14. Councillor Alun Griffiths

The leader will have noted with concern the issuing of a section 114 notice by Birmingham Council and research published by Unison which places Bradford 5th in a league table of Councils that are "teetering on the brink of collapse".

Can she advise us if the Section 151 Officer is planning to issue a Section 114 notice, and explain what steps have been taken to inform that decision one way or another.

Response

The situation reported by Birmingham Council is not applicable to CBMDC. The research published by Unison is based upon assumptions which are unlikely to include some of the facts, assumptions and actions which inform the CBMDC forecasts.

There is currently no plan for CBMDC to issue a Section 114 notice. Significant work is underway to manage our finances within the budget, including additional controls over discretionary spend.

15. Councillor Joanne Dodds

I'm really concerned about the high numbers of children and young people who are vaping. When vapes first appeared we were told they were just to help people stop smoking cigarettes, but since then they have blatantly been marketed to children and young people with the flavours and packaging of sweets. What work is taking place in Public Health and with our partners to try and educate and prevent young people from taking up vaping?

Response

We share your concern and indeed there has been an increase in use of vapes among young people across the country, which particularly affects Bradford's young population. Because vapes are a resource to help people stop smoking and we know little about long term health effects, it is hard to develop convincing messages for young people. In the meantime the industry has pushed hard on promotion of vapes to young people including children.

This is a summary of latest actions of the public health team around this issue:

- OHID have launched some resources to help schools raise awareness of the dangers associated with vapes, these can be accessed here: [Vaping - KS3 form time activities | PHE School Zone](#).
- Our Children's Public Health team has access to these resources to promote in schools.
- We've just completed workshops with young people aged 11 onwards to gain insight into vaping in Bradford. The next steps are to develop resources based on the insight gathered, and share those resources with schools and services working with young people
- Currently, we're working on a contract variation for Step 2 to provide awareness around vapes in schools. We want the provider to use all the local and national resources to develop a local package for Bradford. Hopefully this should be in place by the end of the year.

16. Councillor Tariq Hussain

I know the roadworks are necessary for the big improvements to the city centre we're all looking forward to seeing, but what measures has the council has taken to reduce the build-up of heavy congestion in and around Bradford?

Response

The Transforming Cities works currently taking place around the city centre will help modernise the area with improved public realm, more greenery and a better environment for visitors and residents. However, we know to do that there will need to be some disruption and the team are doing everything they can to minimise the impact as the city centre is very much still open for business during this period.

The TCF team actively monitor journey times on the key corridors around the TCF work using a package called Clearview Insight that collects anonymised, crowd sourced data from Bluetooth and Satnav devices moving along a particular road 'span' and calculates the journey times along it. This then allows delays on particular routes to be ascertained.

The times are monitored on a regular basis and an average delay figure for the works is fed back to the public via the weekly Transforming Cities Fund E-Newsletter.

More detailed delay information is also soon to be published on the Authority Website so that road users can make informed choices regarding their journeys.

A continually live and updated map of all roadworks within the district (via the national One.Network website) is also linked to from the Authority's website.

All sites are actively monitored by the Network Resilience Team to ensure that, where possible, traffic management is reduced or removed during peak times and incidents are responded to quickly.

Remotely programmable fixed Virtual Message Board across the district have been set to advise drivers of delays since work commenced, and the Authority also retains four mobile messaging signs that can be used to supplement the boards with additional information as required.

Where necessary further direct intervention will take place should delays exceed certain lengths, although this is dependent on a number of factors and timings relevant to the particular route/road. At the time of writing none of these interventions have been deployed.

17. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Please can the portfolio holder give me an update on One City Park. Do we have more information on the building's tenants and when it will be completed and fit out for opening?

Response

One City Park is the first major commercial development to take place in the city centre in twenty years and we know this wouldn't have happened without council intervention. It will help deliver hundreds of jobs to the city centre, which will provide opportunities for residents across the district. Those jobs in turn will support the growth of our economy more widely.

The building has now been completed and handed over to the Council subject to final works that are due to be completed by the end of October. An announcement will be made soon about the first tenant.

18. Councillor David Nunns

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, confirm that when planning permission is granted for land identified in the Strategic Development Plan as suitable for housing or commercial development, whilst the plan is still the subject of consultation, additional land will not be earmarked to take its place and why is the planning department approving applications on Green Belt land whilst the Strategic Development Plan is still in the consultation stage?

Response

The emerging Local Plan will provide an up-to-date supply of sites to meet the District's needs for homes and support job creation for at least the next 15 years. The scale and distribution of land is currently being assessed following the

publication of the draft Local Plan for consultation in 2021. The final total supply of land will be set in the new local plan once it has reached adoption. However, the land supply is made up of a number of sites which have previous and existing backing for housing development or are deemed suitable and appropriate. There are also, as noted, a number of proposed changes to green belt to ensure the housing needs of the District can be met given the lack of non-green belt land.

As part of the work on the local plan the housing supply will be rebased to 2023 with a plan period to 2041. This means that the next version of the Local plan will have a revised set of site allocations as sites are removed from the proposed supply and new sites are included following further consideration of the reasonable available options.

The next version of the Local plan following the further assessment and update to the policies and sites will be considered by Full Council, later next year, with a view to approving it for submission to government for examination following publication for formal representations. Once approved by Council the document will have some limited material weight in decision making, balanced with the nature of the representations and policy changes. In this respect any proposed changes to green belt would be given limited weight if a planning application were to come forward ahead of the local plan being formally adopted.

However, like everywhere across the country, there is nothing to stop anyone submitting a planning application and the council will be duty bound to determine it in line with the current local plan policies and national policy.

In line with paragraph 48 of the NPPF, given that the Emerging Local Plan is still within the early stages of preparation, only very limited weight can be afforded to the plan in decision making.

In this context, it is considered that full weight should continue to be afforded to the policies of the adopted Core Strategy (adopted 2017) and the Replacement Unitary Development Plan (adopted 2005) in accordance with the degree of conformity with current national planning policy.

In this respect any proposal for development which is contrary to green belt policy would have to demonstrate very special circumstances and consider on balance the benefits against the harm.

Alongside the Local Plan the Council is required to update its Brownfield Land Register which sets out previously developed sites/land which is suitable for residential development. This is updated on an annual basis and will have a constant churn of sites both being developed and coming off as well as new sites being put on the register.

In terms of planning decisions, it is important to note that the District currently does not have a five year supply of deliverable housing land. Pending the adoption of the new local plan, that part of the current plan is deemed out of date. In this circumstance, national policy dictates that speculative housing proposals should be approved unless there would be significant harm which outweighs the

benefits of approving. National Policy does give added protections to designations like Green Belt but does not put a moratorium on approving such applications.

We are working hard to progress our Local Plan as quickly as possible but continual changes and potential changes to government planning rules and methodology in the last few years contributes to delays and of course we lost nearly a full year of progress when the Shipley MP 'called in' the Core Strategy to government, after which time it was released without amendment anyway.

19. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Can the portfolio holder provide a summary of homeless support as we approach the winter months?

Response

Every homeless person is an individual who deserves and needs support and we strive to ensure every single person is given the support they need. I was very pleased to see some of the teams involved in our homelessness provision were recognised for their work at our recent Staff Awards night as they do great work year-round in often very difficult circumstances for the individuals they are supporting. Below is an outline of some of our winter provision and homeless support:

No second night out - Since 2015 the Council has commissioned a short term accommodation service to help people who are sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough in the district. The service is run by Humankind and is called Bradford No Second Night Out (NSNO). NSNO is open 365 days a year and offers a range of services to support rough sleepers. They work very closely in conjunction with the Homeless Outreach Partnership (HOP), providing a 20 bed hostel for rough sleepers, including short term accommodation, outreach work, assessments and advice. Over the past 12 months the service has provided 194 beds for rough sleepers, 150 of these have moved on to suitable alternative accommodation. With further funding from the Council, Humankind has opened an emergency crash pad. This accommodation provides 12 emergency beds for rough sleepers, with placements made exclusively by the HOP team.

Cold Weather Provision

In addition to the above, Humankind also co-ordinate the Cold Weather Service in the district, ensuring that nobody has to sleep rough on any night during the winter months when the temperature is predicted to be zero degrees. Working in partnership with other providers (Horton, Salvation Army, Inn Churches) this service provided 117 clients with an emergency bed over the winter of 22/23.

Bradford Homelessness Outreach Partnership (HOP)-

The Bradford HOP was established in 2019 following a successful bid for the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) funding, and a programme was developed to address rough sleeping in the area. The HOP team is a multi-faceted team with specialists who are skilled at employing a number of techniques to get the

necessary support to the most vulnerable and multiple needs clients. The team is recruited from specialist agencies and provide expertise in their specific work area and other experts in rough sleeping. The HOP work closely with external partners; including the Police, Bevan Health Care, Community Safety and a wide range of other partners. The HOP provides a street-based response to address the issues of rough sleeping, through assertive outreach by intercepting and engaging with clients in order to direct them into services away from the street. This is the crucial first stage in getting people into a pathway of services and ultimately away from the streets. They undertake outreach work that correspond with patterns of rough sleeping in the district, responsive to circumstances, including early morning and/or night time coverage.

20. Councillor Mohsin Hussain

Could I have an update on the Low Street works in the town centre and when they're due to complete?

Response

The works to Low Street are the second phase of public realm works we have undertaken and will greatly improve the look and feel of the area in the town centre. The work is being carried out by the Council's own Highways Delivery Unit are progressing to programme despite being impacted over a few days due to weather conditions. The current anticipated completion date is mid-November.

21. Councillor Julie Lintern

Given the vast scale of Tory government cuts inflicted on Keighley since 2010, the latest allocation of £20m funding over 10 years for Keighley is obviously very welcome and much needed. For true levelling up to happen we also need to see an end to the government cuts. Nevertheless can the portfolio holder give further information on the plans for how this latest fund will be allocated?

Response

I agree with what you say about an end to government cuts and austerity as being vital for levelling up across the district and the country. To secure the £20m funding we will need to develop a Long-Term Plan for Towns, which will require the Town Board to develop the plan, with funding over 10 years and aligned to the issues local people want to address. Key themes of the fund are focused on transport and connectivity, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, and enhancing town centres to make high streets more attractive and accessible. Towns will receive funding and support split as 25% revenue and 75% capital to provide a range of locally defined interventions across the themes of the fund. Thankfully the Council is already investing in Long-Term Plans in the shape of our Development Frameworks, which are currently out to consultation and the public can feed back thoughts and ideas through our Let's Talk website, which can be found here: <https://letstalk.bradford.gov.uk>. This should mean that we can hit the ground running refining these with any additional criteria for the Levelling Up funding and move forward at pace in delivering for Keighley.

22. Councillor Julie Glentworth

During the many hours that I spend driving around Bradford District on a daily basis, it is apparent that important road safety signs regarding speed limits, directions, school zones and much more are disappearing, hidden by over grown foliage, or so badly faded that you cannot recognise what it is for, so will the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport please confirm that actions will be put in place to rectify this problem as soon as possible?

Response

If you identify any signs that are faded, damaged or obscured, please do report this to the Highways team who can investigate. There are a large number of road signs on our road network which have been installed over a number of years. These signs deteriorate over a period of time due to their exposure to UV light or due to the gradual build up of road surface grime over a period of years. In addition to signs which are illegible the issue of overhanging tree canopies does obscure signs, particularly during the summer months when trees are in full leaf and canopies lie lower than during the winter months.

Currently, identification of signs which need maintenance, either because they are faded, or they are obscured by foliage, is carried out by highway inspectors during their cyclical inspections of the network. However, the quantum of signs in need of maintenance each year far exceeds the very limited available budget for replacements meaning that a prioritisation risk-based approach must take place to identify signs which need urgent replacement. This invariably means that regulatory signs (e.g. speed limits, weight restrictions) are prioritised over local direction signs.

One way we maintain and update our signage is to incorporate this into other capital schemes that are being delivered. An example of this type of approach is the introduction of the Clean Air zone where over 70 advanced direction signs were upgraded to include the Clean Air Zone logo.

23. Councillor Anna Watson

Will the Leader of the Council reassure the residents, town council and local councillors in Shipley that the T own Fund money earmarked for Shipley T own centre improvements and increasing the connectivity of Shipley Town Centre to the railway station and Saltaire, but which has in fact been spent on West Lane and Baildon Bank in Baildon and West Royd and Wrose Brow Road in Wrose, will be reimbursed to the Town's Fund Project B funds. These pavement improvements fall outside the scope of the TIP and the Baildon roads are outside of the Shipley Town Deal Boundary, as agreed with the Government.

Response

All the listed schemes were submitted for consideration in the Shipley Towns Fund Town Investment Plan and approved by Atkins, the consultants who led on the development of the plan. The plan itself was subsequently approved by both

the Towns Fund Board and by the government, securing £27m of investment for the Shipley Towns Fund area.

We can confirm that the two Baildon projects, despite being submitted prior to the submission of the plan, are actually outside of the Towns Fund boundary and will not draw down Towns Fund money.

All projects were put forward as part of 'Project B - Active Travel' to better connect Shipley to surrounding areas and Saltaire. The actual quote from the Business Plan is "Deliver improved active travel routes to link the Market Square project to the railway station, as well as Shipley town centre to Saltaire (along the towpath) and *surrounding neighbourhoods*"(our italics).

Officers have reviewed the remaining projects and are comfortable they meet the criteria of the Town Investment Plan.

24. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

There has been much publicity concerning the presence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in schools and hospitals. Has the Council surveyed all of the other buildings it is responsible for to establish if this is a problem, what did they find and what actions are taking place to secure the buildings?

Response

Council officers are undertaking a review of buildings that fall within the date range for RAAC (currently c370) and are in the process of prioritising and arranging access over the coming weeks and months to ensure that the appropriate checks have been undertaken to either confirm no RAAC or if further structural surveys are required. 47 Maintained schools fell within the date range and two were identified to contain RAAC. On discovery further surveys were arranged and the council worked collaboratively with the two school teams to ensure continuity of provision whilst planning and ensuring the infrastructure was prepared/in place for modular villages.

25. Councillor Chris Steele

Leeds Bradford Airport obviously want to use more night time flights, even after breaking rules last year. This is obviously really concerning to some residents in my ward, many of whom already suffer from sleep disturbance from the noise. While recognising the importance of the airport to the local economy, jobs and local families, I believe any increase in night time flights is unwarranted given the obvious impacts on the environment and residents' health and sleep patterns. As a Council we have declared a Climate Emergency and work actively towards net zero. Can the portfolio holder provide detail on the process around the airport's application and the next steps, including any Bradford Council will take?

Response

Leeds City Council has confirmed that it will follow a process set out in national

government legislation and guidance while dealing with recent applications from Leeds Bradford Airport relating to night-time flying. Leeds council received five Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development (CLEUD) applications from the airport in September 2023. The applications relate to whether certain aircraft movements are permitted at night at the airport. The national regulations mean that CLEUD applications - which seek to confirm that an existing use of land or operational development is lawful - are not automatically subject to consultation or publication. Such applications are determined purely on the basis of relevant factual evidence assessed against a legal test. This means that 'planning merits' - such as disturbance and possible impact on a surrounding area - which might typically be raised during a consultation cannot be taken into account when a decision on a CLEUD is being made.

National guidance gives planning authorities discretion in certain circumstances to seek relevant factual evidence from third parties - including members of the public - when dealing with a CLEUD application. Due to the significant public interest in the operations of the airport, Leeds Council has therefore decided to undertake a call for evidence. This means they are seeking relevant factual evidence - such as flight data, flight times, flight frequency and size of aircraft - that relates to the specific operations at Leeds Bradford Airport. Submissions must relate to the period covered by the airport's evidence, which is August 29, 2007, through to August 28, 2018.

It is important to note that a call for evidence is not the same as a 'public consultation', as general comments, objections and opinions on issues such as planning merits are not being invited as they cannot be taken into account during the determination process.

The Council is seeking technical views and any evidence from services including Environmental Health. These responses will be reviewed and would be submitted as a response if appropriate and justified, linked to the nature of the process set out above.

26. Councillor Marcus Dearden

I am very concerned about the speeding on Fred Hoyle way (Bingley by-pass). Local councillors would like to see speed cameras installed as soon as possible. Could you please give an update on the progress of our request and possible timescale for implementation?

Response

Bradford has received a response from the West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership last week to say that Fred Hoyle Way does qualify as an Average Speed Camera site. Officers will discuss the matter with the Portfolio Holder on next steps, budgets and timescales. Officers will organise a meeting to update Members and the Chair of the Area Committee.

27. Councillor Marcus Dearden

On Sunday 1st October a mountain bike event was held in Myrtle park, Bingley.

Following this event Bingley councillors have been inundated with complaints concerning lack of notification as well as more damage done to the park at this year's event. Can I ask that council officers speak with the organisers to raise residents' concerns and address these issues?

Response

This is an annual event organised by Bronte Tykes as part of Yorkshire Cyclocross. They hold several races throughout the day for all age group categories, the course itself is taped off. The event does attract up to 500 people and is usually a well organised event. In previous years the cyclocross event has been held on more than one occasion.

We received the booking in June of this year and no issues were highlighted from the safety advisory group.

In line with the terms and conditions of holding an event in a park, the responsibility is on the organiser to keep and maintain the site in a clean and tidy condition during and after the event.

The friends of group have also raised concerns this year regarding the event, The Parks Manager will be raising the concerns/issues with the organiser as well as reviewing future requests.

28. Councillor Debbie Davies

Can we have an assurance that Baildon will get its new library as promised following the sale of the Ian Clough Hall site to a private developer and the purchase of the former Baildon Club for this purpose and what is the revised timescale for this project as the temporary library has now been in place for over a year?

Response

We are committed to ensuring Baildon retains a library for many years to come. The Council is currently reviewing all capital projects as part of addressing the Council's current challenging financial position. Until this process is complete, we are not able to confirm the timescale for this project.

29. Councillor Carol Thirkill

Can the portfolio holder give an update on our work to become a child friendly district?

Response

In November 2022, Bradford Metropolitan District Council completed our Foundational Year on the UNICEF UK 'Child Friendly Cities and Communities' programme. At the final review meeting, UNICEF UK shared that; "Bradford Council is making good progress along the prescribed Child Friendly Cities journey" and that we "have shown a demonstrable and sustained commitment from senior leadership" with "support from across the council".

Based on our learning and experiences during this Foundational Year, we took the decision to continue with the work but decided we did not need a contractual partnership in place with UNICEF UK and instead decided to operate outside of their specific programme. This enables us to take a more localised approach for the district and follows several Local Authorities including Leeds, Warwickshire, and Coventry who are delivering localised 'child friendly' initiatives external to UNICEF UK.

A paper was taken to and approved by Wellbeing Board on 28/2/23 which set out our proposed localised approach with a specific focus on children and young people's voice and influence as well as a new naming convention of "Child Friendly Bradford District" to differentiate us from the UNICEF chartermark status. This focus will help us develop our work to ensure we put the voices of children and young people at the heart of all we do as per our ambitions within the Council Plan and District Plan.

Through Child Friendly Bradford District, we have established a new youth voice community of practice which brings together 26 representatives from across our local partnerships. Children's Rights training and development sessions have been delivered to over 200 colleagues. 124 children and young people have taken part in local democracy workshops at City Hall and a new Bradford School Councils network is being established with 72 schools with named pupil voice contacts.

Under the initiative we also have a sub-group bringing together the work of our Social Care youth participation, SEND youth participation and the co-production and engagement elements of the new Joint Commissioning Team. We are working with colleagues in strategic HR to develop a consistent approach to involving children and young people in workforce recruitment and are supporting the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee to involve young people in the current enquiry process. In addition, we are working with colleagues in the Bradford Children and Families Trust, our Voluntary Sector and within the Act as One Health and Care Partnership to ensure they are included in developing this children's rights based approach where children and young people have a voice and influence within the services they access.

Finally, on 16th November 2023 Child Friendly Bradford District is hosting a Youth Voice Summit event where over 120 students from 16 schools and colleges will be able to work together with services to improve student wellbeing provision across the district - this event is in response to presentations from young people at the February 2023 Wellbeing Board and the knowledge that mental health and wellbeing is the top priority in the district as informed by engagement activity that complimented the development of the new Children and Young People's Strategy.

30. Councillor Tariq Hussain

Can I have an update on the Development Frameworks process and assurance that the public are being given every opportunity to have their say?

Response

The first round of engagement for the Development Frameworks was conducted earlier this year. In total we had 1,102 survey responses from members of the public and 130 individual stakeholders engaged via workshops and 1-2-1 discussions. This first round of engagement focused on people's perceptions of their community and the challenges and opportunities they face. The results have from this initial consultation have been fed into the plans which have been further developed and the council is now asking people to comment on these drafts.

Between 9 October and 19 November, the Draft Development Frameworks will be taken to public engagement. The engagement will be conducted online using the Council's Let's Talk platform <https://letstalk.bradford.gov.uk>. Publicity will be targeted at local businesses, landowners, potential investors and key organisations, but not to the exclusion of the public. The purpose of the engagement is to take feedback on the proposed interventions so that it can be used to shape the framework before it is finalised.

Members may wish to support the engagement by taking part themselves and encouraging others to take part via their own networks. In particular, any support members can give in actively encouraging local businesses to take part would be gratefully received.

31. Councillor Liz Rowe

Why has Shipley Towns Fund Board received nothing more as part of this latest allocation of funding from Government where Keighley Towns Fund Board received £20 million? Was there an application process?

Response

There was no application process for this latest funding announcement. I agree that it seems odd that both Shipley and Keighley were given original Towns Fund money, both were then rejected for Levelling Up Funding, and now only Keighley has been given additional funding. It is not clear what criteria has been used this time round or why Shipley has been given nothing and this is a shame as the need for investment in Shipley has not gone away since the government acknowledged this with the Towns Fund money.

32. Councillor Andrew Loy

Would the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder confirm whether the Council remains committed to "undertake an urban realm study to identify ways of improving the pedestrian environment to facilitate and encourage more walking trips to Ilkley Town Centre" and if so, when will the study take place?

Response

The Ilkley Parking Review report produced by Steer Davies Gleave in 2017 included seven recommendations to reduce car use and long stay town centre parking. Recommendation seven related to an urban realm study. The Council

welcomed the report and endorsed the recommendations.

The Council is committed to increasing opportunities to reduce reliance on the car and supports options for walking and cycling as part of its wider transport vision and in support of the approved Ilkley Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The original recommendation was subject to availability of funds, which were decimated shortly after due to the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. The Council continues to explore opportunities to support this ambition but at present there is no funding in place to undertake such a study.

33. Councillor Matt Edwards

Does the portfolio holder agree that requests such as street cleaning, weed removal or snickets clearing should only be marked as completed when they are actually completed, If there are not enough resources to complete work, should these requests be kept open so a) residents know that the work is still waiting to be completed; and b) the council is able to accurately monitor how long it takes for these tasks to be actioned?

Response

Invariably the issue of dealing with weeds and snicket clearance are dependent upon the regrowth of weeds or privets in these areas. It is frequently the case that clearance of such issues is undertaken but within a matter of weeks, or even days, regrowth occurs, and subsequent complaints are lodged with the Council about the same location.

The issue of recording how the complaints about weeds etc. is resolved could be viewed from a number of perspectives as suggested. However, as the basis of these types of issues are living plants it is arguable that the Council would never close any complaints down were the member's suggestion to be taken forward. It gives a better understanding of the Council's response to such complaints to log how many are received each growing season and how quickly these are dealt with. Areas with a high number of complaints in any season may then be identified for more intensive treatment in order to reduce the level of recurrence of complaints.

The Council can help work with residents to support clearance of unadopted backstreets and snickets.

The Council commissions an external provider to deliver a weed management service to weed spray areas to manage weed growth.

34. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

I know we've been pushing hard for a new through station in the city centre for a considerable time now because a city of our size and ambition should of course have that station. The Prime Minister committing to it in his keynote speech shows how successful we've been in making that case. Will the Leader give an update on how we now press government to deliver on its promise this time around?

Response

I welcomed the announcement the Government made to invest £2bn in a new city centre through station for Bradford when this was made last week. This investment is something we have long been campaigning for and will bring us closer to realising the vision for putting Bradford on the mainline rail network.

The Transport Secretary himself indicated that journey times between Bradford and Manchester would be halved to 30 minutes as a result of this investment. If this is indeed a firm commitment from Government, then it is good news for Bradford. Obviously I still need our neighbours in Manchester and Leeds to have good levels of transport investment because only by all cities having good connectivity can the North truly thrive.

We can now work more closely with DfT and Network Rail on drawing up plans for the new station and connectivity plans.