

COUNCIL

Tuesday 17 October 2023

MEMBER QUESTION TIME – Part 2

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

35. Councillor Falaq Ahmed

Would the Leader of the Council provide an update regarding the development of the range of support services available for the victims of child sexual exploitation?

Response

Social workers, social care support workers, health professionals and youth services practitioners all work with children at risk as part of the support and care package. There are some charitable services that offer support and Children's Social Care do refer into these via their Risk Assessment Meetings (RAM).

The usual route to access services would be via the GP for health interventions unless a child has a Social Worker and then they can make a referral or the Health Practitioner in the Hub can support this.

36. Councillor Bob Felstead

Could the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills confirm what percentage of children were given their first choice of primary and secondary school for the 2023/24 school year and how does this compare with other local authorities in West Yorkshire and nationally?

Response

For primary school places, the number of parents receiving their first preference remained at 91% for the third year running and the number of parents receiving their first or second preference also remained at 96% compared to last year. This compares to the national figure of 92.5% of parents receiving an offer of their first preference. The figure for Yorkshire and Humber is 94.1%

The number of parents receiving one of their top three preferences also remained at 97.6%. This is despite an increase in the cohort size of 273 pupils. The national figure is 98.6%.

Compared to last year there has been a slight decrease in the number of pupils allocated a school that they didn't ask for with only 120 pupils (1.67%) being allocated against preference compared to last year's 123 pupils (1.78%), a decrease of 3 pupils. Different authorities give three of five preferences so it is not possible to give an accurate comparison.

The cohort for secondary school applications for 2023 is similar to last year and Bradford's parents have continued to receive fewer offers from schools outside of the Local Authority due to the increase of the cohort size in all neighbouring authorities. There has also been a positive change with parents preferencing more places in Bradford schools which has also added additional pressure on school places. Despite the high level of demand, the percentage of parents receiving their 1st preference has increased again this year to the highest number of 1st preference allocations in 8 years. This year there has been an increase of 0.45% to 79.85%, (an increase of 51 pupils) in 1st preference allocations. This compares to a national figure of 82.6% and a Yorkshire and Humber figure of 87.6%.

The number of children receiving one of their top three preferences is 91.27% a decrease of 0.08% on last year, but this equates to 7 more children receiving one of their top three preferences due to a slightly bigger cohort. Different authorities give three of five preferences so it is not possible to give an accurate comparison.

The number of children offered a place against any preference made is 432 this year (5.28%) an increase of 0.13% equating to 11 children more than last year.

All allocations against preference have been made for reasonable alternatives and where possible we have considered public transport and walking distances have been considered.

37. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Leader of the Council provide more information regarding the new library planned for the city centre?

Response

The Council has an opportunity to break the lease on the current premises occupied by City Library in December 2026. The library in the City Centre is important and a number of options for its future are being investigated at present in the context of city centre regeneration and as a legacy project for City of Culture 2025. Once a clear plan is established this will be brought forward for wider consideration.

38. Councillor Caroline Whitaker

Can the leader of the council ask that ward councillors are informed when major works are to be carried out in their areas. The Smart Street Lighting work commenced in the Craven Ward without even a hint of a start date, or a list of which streets would be affected. This has also been true of other highways work, such as the improvements to the pavement in the middle of Silsden. It is difficult to keep residents informed and to help with their queries when so much time is spent getting to the bottom of who is in charge and what, when, where and for how long things are happening.

Response

Notification of major road works to members can be provided via the one.network website (<https://one.network/public>) which contains details of all road and street works planned and actually being carried out in the district. This information is

extracted from the Council's permit scheme database. Members who wish to avail themselves of this service should contact the Network Management and Resilience team who will arrange training and configuration of the system so the emails notify members of works in their ward can be generated on a weekly basis.

In terms of the commencement of works related to the Smart Street Lighting Project this is a consequence of the principal contractor, Amey, engaging additional teams to carry out the replacement of columns associated with this programme. The contractor failed to provide suitable management of his sub-contractor which led to the situation where works were being carried out in locations that were not known to the Council's Smart Street Lighting team.

When this issue was brought to officers' attention immediate intervention was taken to prevent further areas of work being commenced. However, due to the period which had already elapsed between officers becoming aware of the issue and additional sites being opened up by Amey's sub-contractor there are areas of the district that now require remedial visits. Amey has apologised to the Council for allowing this state of affairs to arise and is working closely with the Smart Street Lighting team to rectify the situation in the shortest possible time.

39. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Will the Leader of Council please clarify the governance arrangements for decisions about re-investing CAZ revenues in sustainable travel across the District, and assure us that Shipley (an area with significant traffic congestion and several air pollution hot-spots) will get its fair share of this vital investment?

Response

The CAZ has now been operational for a year and once operational costs have been covered, the net proceeds of CAZ revenue will be allocated in line with the published Bradford Council Charging Scheme Order (CSO) 2022 (Annex 3).

The Council is currently preparing a detailed programme for the first 5 years of expenditure, with all significant programme expenditure subject to the governance of the Sustainability Programme Board and reporting to the Council Executive Committee.

The Council's Executive Committee has approved £1.1m of CAZ revenue to be used to support the Clean Air Schools Programme (CASP) whereby 5 new Environmental Wardens will be recruited over a 3-year period and £500,000 of grant funding is being made available to schools to deliver projects to support the objectives of improving air quality. The Area Committees will play a key role in the allocation of CASP funding to ensure it is awarded equitably across the district.

40. Councillor Celia Hickson

Will the portfolio holder provide an update on ongoing enforcement action against the owners of the former Yorkshire Martyrs High School site on Westgate Hill.

Response

The site and former Yorkshire Martyrs School are owned by three partners and because of a failure to comply with previously served community protection notices, the partners were prosecuted in 2019 and received fines totalling £14,000 and, in addition, costs in the region of £7,000.

Despite this legal outcome, the site and buildings continued to attract antisocial behaviour and further community protection notices were served. The priority of that enforcement activity was to secure the perimeter of the site and prevent access to the increasingly dilapidated former school buildings. Initially, as insufficient steps were taken by the partners to comply with the notices, formal legal proceedings were instigated, and the three partners were notified of this. Consequently, the owners engaged 3rd party representation and a secure and substantial fencing has been erected around the full site boundary to prevent access to the former school building and associated grounds.

Whilst it is not the responsibility of the Environmental Health Service to monitor the security fencing that has been erected, it does so from time to time to assess if it remains in place and has no gaps that would encourage site access. The recent checks have found the fencing to be secure and reasonably well maintained. Those occasional checks will continue but there is currently no necessity for any ongoing formal enforcement activity.

Advice has been taken from colleagues in Building Control about the structural integrity of the former school buildings and whether they are in such a state of disrepair as to require enforced demolition. Whilst it is agreed that the buildings are severely damaged and dangerous if entered, they are not currently in a such a condition that would enable the Council to require demolition.

41. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

How long does it take to process an application for a Tree Preservation Order and how many outstanding applications are awaiting processing?

Response

Development Services requires reasons from the public or Members for the TPO request. The reasons can be, for instance, that the trees are considered to be visually important to the area or they are at risk of being felled along with any further background information that may be important. The Department also requires the address of the tree(s) proposed for protection and, preferably, a plan of the area.

Development Services aims to make decisions on TPO requests within six months.

As of 23rd October 2023 there are 128 TPO requests awaiting determination.

There will be occasions when the service doesn't manage to meet the six-month timeframe due to local circumstances such as the complexity of the issues relating to the trees in question as well as pressures on council resources. If Cllr Sunderland has a particular case that she would like to discuss, we would be more than happy to do so.

42. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

How many consultants has the council engaged since the 1st April 2022 and what was the individual and total amounts of the payments made?

Response

The attached spreadsheet shows that the council engaged 73 suppliers since 1st April 2022, with a total value of £8,965,225.82 over this 18-month period. Councils use consultants to purchase specialist skills which they don't have in-house e.g. for building new crematoria and cemeteries.

As shown in the spreadsheet the majority of that 18-month total – approximately £5.5m – is accounted for by just two items on the list. These are for specialist services in setting up the Children and Families Trust (PwC) which was paid for by Government; and to support the development of the business case, design and project management services for Towns Fund bids, Levelling Up Fund bids and Investment Area proposals (AtkinsRealis).

For context, as members are aware the Trust was set up in record time and in common with other trusts required considerable legal, procurement and other specialist support in its establishment due to the complexity of setting up an organisation of that size and importance. This cost is in common with other trusts that have been established.

The Towns Fund and Levelling Up Fund bids were drawn up to secure funding for jobs and regeneration in our district, so likewise they depend on high quality specialist input in line with the approach taken by councils across the country. This use of external support to develop the Towns Fund business plans helped to secure £58m for Keighley and Shipley.

We have repeatedly made the point that councils should not be forced to compete for vital regeneration funds in this way, however we have to work within the parameters set by the current government to have any chance of securing much-needed funds for our residents and businesses. Councils having to bid in this way for funding pots – especially when the government changes the criteria after the deadline passes – results in authorities across the country having to spend these sorts of amounts when there should be proper devolution of funding that would empower communities to set their own agendas.

The next highest value items in the spreadsheet include specialist work for the sustainable development and Southern Gateway masterplan and Holme Wood urban design framework (WSP); engineering, project management and design work for the Steeton & Silsden crossing (OVE Arup); Bradford Beck remediation feasibility and detailed design work (JN Bentley); and planning works for significant new cemetery provision (Cemetery Development Services). These are all important schemes in the strategic development of the district.

The Steeton & Silsden Crossing, Bradford Beck remediation and development frameworks are examples of schemes that are externally funded by WYCA through various capital programmes – for example Steeton & Silsden Crossing via City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement and Bradford Beck via West Yorkshire+

Transport Fund. Both procurements are for specialist advice, including buildability and construction sequencing, which the council does not have internally. The council carries out robust tender processes to seek best value from suppliers.

43. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

What arrangements does the Council have to enable residents to dispose of their unwanted textiles and shoes and what steps does it take to ensure the final destination of the recycled goods?

Response

We have textile banks at each HWRC and a contract in place for a local textile recycling company to collect, grade and sell to the global textile recycling market – textiles are sold as a commodity and not disposed of.

44. Councillor Debbie Davies

As the Darley Street Market's current budget estimate of £27m is massively over the original budget of £21m, with this merely being the latest in a long line of Bradford Council schemes coming in heavily over budget, could the Leader of the Council confirm whether / when we will see more accurate budget setting for large projects?

Response

We are operating in a difficult environment of high inflation and multiple economic challenges caused by the infamous Tory mini-budget of Kwasi Kwarteng and Liz Truss, which continues to affect organisations, businesses and families nationwide. The Council has in place a robust process for estimating potential project values and uses the services of professional quantity surveyors and accepted industry practices. The high inflation rates have nevertheless impacted on estimated project costs which is also the case for many other Local Authorities across the country. The budget for this project was originally £23.5m with an additional £3m grant from WYCA. The project budget was increased by further funding of £3.8m (15%) in response to the market changes outlined.

45. Councillor Debbie Davies

Would the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder confirm how many landlords are there estimated to be across the district and what percentage of these have accessed the free online training funded by the Government's Enforcement and Innovation Fund to enable landlords to learn about their responsibilities, housing standards and legal changes?

Response

There are estimated to be around 16,000 landlords operating across the district, although not all of these will be resident in the district. This estimate is based on Council Tax data which identifies individual private landlords although the data also includes some lettings or managing agents. The 2021 Census identifies 48,278 properties in Bradford rented from a private landlord or letting agent.

The free online training for landlords has been offered since May 2021 and has been promoted by direct mailshots to known landlords, regular reminders through the Stay Connected bulletin for landlords and agents and other general publicity. Since May 2021, 377 landlords/agents have requested information on the course and 202 have enrolled with the training provider for the online course. To complete the course landlords or agents are required to complete a short written assessment – 107 landlords have submitted a satisfactory assessment. On the basis of the number of landlords who have enrolled for the training, this is 1.3% of the estimated number of landlords in the district.

Since January 2022, the Council has required landlords applying for a new or renewal licence to operate a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) to have completed an accredited training course on managing/ letting rented properties – this online training satisfies this requirement.

46. Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

Whilst residents welcome the street lighting replacement programme, there have been a number of instances where there has been a gap of several weeks between the old lights being disconnected and the new ones connected, leaving patches of complete darkness, causing danger to residents, so would the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder provide assurance that there have been no reports of injuries connected to such situations and that measures will be taken to prevent any re-occurrence of these situations?

Response

The Council has not been advised of any reports of injuries being suffered by members of the public in relation to the lack of street lighting in areas where column replacements are being undertaken. Ordinarily, work by the principal contractor for the Smart Street Lighting contract (Amey) is closely monitored to ensure that where columns are being replaced there is the least amount of time between removal of the old column and connection of the new street lighting unit. However, as per the response to Q38 there have recently been issues with this arrangement, which has now been corrected by Amey.

47. Councillor Janet Russell

Following a recent case in Steeton where a developer of a housing scheme was requested to site an A-Frame at one end of a walkway to comply with planning conditions, can the portfolio holder assure me that the accessibility for disabled residents (and residents with pushchairs) will be fully considered by the council when requesting A frames, and by developers when installing them? Finally, what checks are taking place after installation to ensure issues like this do not occur again in the future?

Response

The installation of the A-frame in this location was most unfortunate and has been remedied. Highway, Planning and access officers do consider the needs of residents both with mobility and pushchair needs on a site-by-site basis and will continue to do

so, only specifying the use of an A-frame where absolutely necessary and a known problem of anti-social off road motorbiking needs tackling. Other means of protecting vulnerable highway users from antisocial riding is often used now in place of A-frames.

48. Councillor Anna Watson

Will the Leader of the Council reassure us that the Council will still bring in separate food waste collections – which are mandated under the 2021 Environment Act – even though the Prime Minister has said he wants to scrap this commitment?

Response

There has been a revised policy from government announced (subject to consultation) that from April 2026, Food Waste will have to be collected at kerbside. There is a huge implementation cost involved and work is underway to plan for the change (subject to consultation and available funds). Given the government's commitment that they will not impose new burdens without additional funding, we are writing to government to ask how they expect us to fund this.

49. Councillor Ursula Sutcliffe

Can the portfolio holder confirm the number of wheelchair accessible taxis which are licenced to be operating within Bradford? Has any monitoring work taken place since the introduction of the CAZ to ensure that there hasn't been a net reduction of wheelchair accessible taxis. Finally, with the introduction of the Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Disabled Persons) Act 2022 is the Council doing any checks to ensure passengers receive assistance without being charged any extra and that there is a clear complaints process if members of the public have been discriminated against.

Response

Information for current numbers of Private Hire (PH) and Hackney Carriage (HC) Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV) can be found on the public register. This information can be found on the following link:

[Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licences issued in Bradford](#)

All HC vehicles licensed by BMDC are WAV. This is a conditional requirement of the HC licence.

At the date of this report (31/10/2023) the numbers of licensed WAV are:

HC = 214

PH = 121

Total = 333

The HCPH Licensing Service monitors licence numbers and produces a monthly Key Point Indicator (KPI) report.

The report provides the number of all licenses issued by the service and has been in place since March 2021. The Bradford Clean Air Zone went live on 26th September 2022. An annual KPI analysis of WAV numbers for September 2020–September 2023 is as follows:

| September 2020 | September 2021 | September 2022 | September 2023 |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| HC WAV = 214 | HC WAV = 214 | HC WAV = 214 | HC WAV = 214 |
| PH WAV = 206 | PH WAV = 184 | PH WAV = 129 | PH WAV = 124 |
| Total = 420 | Total = 398 | Total = 343 | Total = 338 |

This shows that there has been a reduction in Private Hire WAV vehicles.

Private Hire taxis make their own decisions about what vehicles to purchase and the Council cannot therefore directly influence their purchasing decisions. We do however discuss disability access with the taxi trade at our regular meetings with them and will make sure this is on the agenda for next time. Having spoken to West Yorkshire and York managers it does appear that this is a trend all are experiencing.

Regarding the CAZ, the same level of grant is available for PH vehicles as for HC carriage vehicles and from the number above you can see that there has been no change in the latter.

The Council limits the number of HC vehicles and monitors/sets this limit via an unmet demand survey, to establish the public demand for HC services.

The latest Unmet Demand report highlighted that there had been an increase in the number of disabled people utilising HC services, all of the HC demand is being met by the current number of HC licenses issued.

Officers from the HCPH Licensing Service meet with stakeholders from disability groups on a regular basis. This is facilitated through the BMDC Mobility Planning Group, where representatives and community groups from the districts disabled community can speak with the service and other Council Departments in person. This facilitates an opportunity to submit any issues or trends that require attention.

In addition, the Service has a complaints procedure, with a team of Compliance and Reviewing Officers, who will be tasked to investigate any complaints of discrimination.

Where there is clear and compelling evidence or discrimination appropriate enforcement action is taken. This can include additional training, prosecution for offences and/or revocation of a licence.

Compliance officers are employed by the HCPH Licensing Service to patrol and carry out spot checks on HC/PH vehicles, operators and drivers. This includes checking the equipment used to secure a wheelchair, checking the complaints logs recorded at operating premises and can include test purchase operations.

Complaints recorded by the HCPH Licensing Service regarding disability or discrimination are infrequent and low.

50. Councillor Debbie Davies

As a survey conducted on behalf of the council, showed that only 16% of respondents who travel along Manchester Road into Bradford would use a park and ride scheme, would the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder explain the justification for spending £20m on this?

Response

The proposals for a South Bradford Park and Ride (P&R) are a long-standing aspiration of the Council and now form part of the wider Transforming Cities Fund programme of transport interventions in the city centre aimed at encouraging greater use of more sustainable transport modes, rather than the use of the private car.

One major change which is being implemented in the city centre is the demolition of the former NCP car park on Hall Ings which has seen a reduction in the number of parking space in the city centre itself. We can anticipate further reductions in car parks as the City Village project and Jacob's Well are developed. The P&R scheme was developed as part of the TCF programme to provide an alternative parking facility to both offset the loss of city centre parking with an equivalent provision but also encourage greater modal shift for commuters near to the motorway network.

The attractiveness of any park and ride provision is not expected to be immediately obvious to consultees until all the TCF changes have been implemented and an initial level of support of 16% of respondents at this early stage indicates a healthy baseline from which to build a viable intervention upon. We would also expect demand to increase as more of our regeneration projects are delivered, increasing demand in the city centre. For instance, Bradford Live is expected to attract 300,000 people a year to the district. Positioning a Park & Ride scheme in the south of the district will also complement Odsal stadium and the events that take place there, creating local demand for parking capacity that can be met through this project.

The allocation of funding to the P&R scheme of £20m includes for the development of improvements to Manchester Road to aid bi-directional bus movements as well as creation of high-quality cycling infrastructure; the park and ride element itself is only a proportion of this wider scheme.

As the development of the P&R proposals has now reached a level of maturity where further consultation can take place, and transformation of the city centre is already well underway, the Council again has the opportunity to gauge the level of public support for the proposals within the wider, changing context of transport movement around the city centre.

51. Councillor Allison Coates

Further to possibly disingenuous obfuscations at the last full council meeting, would the Leader of the Council be so kind as to confirm that the replacement of the temporary Air Quality Programme Director post by the permanent post of Assistant Director, Sustainability which is to be CAZ funded is not evidence of an "as of yet unannounced" council policy, that the CAZ will long outlive the targets which were used to justify its creation?

Response

The council has been clear that once the Government removes the Ministerial Direction requiring the council to implement a Charging Class C Clean Air Zone then the CAZ will be removed.

The temporary 3-year contract of the Director of Air Quality Programmes comes to an end at the end of March 2024 and Council HR rules prevent the contract being extended so advertising the post for recruitment is necessary. The new permanent post will be for an Assistant Director Sustainability.

52. Councillor Sally Birch

Further to the replacement of the temporary Air Quality Programme Director post by the permanent post of Assistant Director, Sustainability which is to be CAZ funded, would the Leader of the Council be so kind as to confirm that the Labour Council has is no intention of introducing car parking fees based on vehicle emissions, of the type which have recently been described as “the next stage in councils cleaning up British roads by making it less appealing to drive older and more polluting vehicles”, whilst resulting in drivers who cannot afford to buy newer vehicles experiencing (as in Bath & North East Somerset) an increase of as much as from £1.50 to £2.50 per hour in parking costs?

Response

The Council has no plans to introduce emission-based parking charges.

53. Councillor Martin Love

Given that the Council has passed a number of motions in the last few years highlighting the danger of problem gambling, does the Leader of Council think that it is appropriate to use officer time to facilitate the filming of a TV commercial for an online bookmaker?

Response

Bradford is proud to be a City of Film. It's a great success story for our district within our wider ambitions to encourage culture-led regeneration. Films, TV series and content of many different types and themes have been filmed in our district. In July a production company (Pulse TV Productions) approached officers of Highways Service to implement a temporary road closure of William Henry Street and Caroline Street to facilitate filming. In line with Council processes the cost of promotion of the closure, implementation of the temporary traffic management and manning of the closure during the day was fully funded by the filming company directly.

As with all council operations, the Highways Service seeks to continually improve how we work with film companies to derive maximum long-term benefit for the district while mitigating short-term practical disruption. Highways officers are committed to ensuring Ward Members are fully consulted on the highways impact of any proposed filming in their wards.

The subject matter of films and TV content that are shot in the district will inevitably attract different views from across the chamber. As you say we have passed motions about the serious issue of problem gambling raising specific and important issues around the need for responsible business practices in that industry, which we stand by. Whilst holding businesses and partners in the district to account in that way, highways officers don't generally get involved in judging the content of any adverts requested to be filmed in the district. We are committed to supporting our district's growing reputation as a location for film which in turn supports jobs, regeneration and culture for our residents and businesses.

54. Councillor Caroline Whitaker

Does the leader of the council agree that all officers should have fully up to date contact details on Bradnet? There are many officers that do not include mobile numbers or even a direct landline number in their entry. This is a frustration not only for ward councillors but also, I am told for other officers trying to make contact with their colleagues.

Response

It is very important that contact details are up to date so that the right person can deal with the right query in the least possible time. It is particularly important now that many officers work in a hybrid pattern. Not having this information to date increases double handling of calls and avoidable contact. I will ask senior managers to ensure that all staff ensure that their contact information is available and is up to date.

55. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Will the Leader of Council please update us on the Council's plans to roll out the availability of on-street EV charging, including via the district's street lights, and especially in relation to neighbourhoods like Saltaire where there is very limited off-road parking for residents?

Response

On-street charging is a difficult issue due to the safety concerns raised by trailing cables across the public highway. Potential solutions such as trenches across the footpath raise further questions about future maintenance, safety and public realm clutter. In addition, Northern Powergrid have confirmed that much of their infrastructure that powers street lighting columns is not capable of providing the energy that would be required to charge a car.

Therefore, although we remain keen to consider potential solutions to on-street charging, at the moment our approach is to maximise publicly available charge points in areas where off-street provision remains an issue.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority has been provisionally allocated up to £14,326,000 capital under the UK Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund. LEVI Funding is to support the roll out of electric vehicle charging points particularly for neighbourhoods where there isn't off street parking, charge points are likely to be on street or hubs within neighbourhoods.

The scheme is likely to fund in the region of 155-270 charge points in our district and work is ongoing to develop a shortlist of sites that can then be shared with relevant ward members.

56. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

I have received many complaints about the length of time it takes for the Contact Centre to answer the telephone. How many calls are made to the Councils Contact Centre, what is the average length of time it took for the call to be answered, what is the longest length a caller has had to wait and how many callers hang up before their call is answered?

Response

I have assumed that this about calls to the line for reporting visible services issues such as waste, highways and fly tipping etc - 431000. During week commencing 10th October, the team answered 86% of calls (2,160 made, 1,848 answered and 312 abandoned). There can be a number of reasons why a call is abandoned, for example if a resident is informed via automated message that the query can be handled online and switches channels. The average wait for a call to be answered was under 2 minutes and the longest individual wait time was 9 minutes, 33 seconds (this specific case coincided with Britannia House needing to be evacuated). The Council is committed to excellent customer service and has launched a transformation project aimed at making best use of technology to deal with simple queries and to consolidate contact management across the Council.

57. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

How many children with an Education Health and Care Plan who are of compulsory school age are awaiting provision of a place in school?

Response

As of 31st October 2023, there are 6,232 children with an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan in the Bradford District. Of this group of children with an EHC plan there are four children currently not on a school roll. These children are currently being assessed and consultations are ongoing for these children for a school place.

58. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

How many appeals have there been against the Councils refusal to assess a child's needs or to issue an Education, Health and Care Plan? Of those that went to a hearing how many how many tribunals sided with families either in whole or in part?

Response

In 2023 up to 27th October 2023, there have been 1,787 requests for an Education Health and Care Plan in Bradford. As of 17th October, 380 applications were found not to meet the threshold for an EHC plan by the Council and were refused. Of those 380 cases, there have been 48 tribunals against the Council's refusal to assess a child's needs or to issue an Education, Health and Care Plan that have been found in favour of the parent.

59. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Leader of the Council confirm whether she is concerned that the success of the Piece Hall in nearby Halifax as a music venue will impact on the success of the entertainment venue being developed in the Odeon?

Response

No, and neither is the NEC Group who will operate the venue. The Piece Hall, although seen as a permanent building, is an external venue and effectively part of the national festival season where indoor venues' music output historically reduces anyway and NEC would not have expected to see those acts at Bradford Live in that period. Although the Piece Hall has established a great relationship with the promoter there and are clearly trying to increase the number of events per year, NEC also have a good relationship with that promoter from their arena content in Birmingham and they have already expressed excitement about another venue operating in their capacity range. It is worth bearing in mind that the Piece Hall only runs a set number of concerts in certain months of the year compared to the high number of events Bradford Live will host throughout the year.

60. Councillor Julie Glentworth

Further to 2 sets of road works very near to each other in Keighley on 9th & 10th Sept when the whole of the town centre was snarled up for many hours, would the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder, enlighten us to how the situation arose and that the incident was not indicative of what can be expected due to possibly inadequate measures in place for scheduling works by different utility companies?

Response

Across the date span provided there were 39 different road works sites progressing in the entire Keighley area and without specific location details for the works in question it is difficult to ascertain the exact cause of the problem described.

As with any Highway Authority in the country, our Network Resilience Team operates an all-streets Highway Permit scheme for road and streetworks, which means that Utility Companies are mandated to ensure that all work is assessed and coordinated by Bradford MDC as necessary across the district before works commence. As such direct clashes are usually avoided.

Emergencies do occur from time to time (gas leaks/bursts/loss of power supply) and, if such an emergency occurs outside of normal working hours (Monday to Friday, 07:30-18:00), utility companies are permitted to undertake works immediately without prior coordination checks to make the site safe and/or to restore services. Within the 39 sites mentioned above 10 such emergency responses were undertaken/live during the dates given.

61. Councillor Mike Pollard

How much net income (i.e. after the Council's capital financing costs sitting in the Revenue Budget are taken into account), will One City Park generate in a year, on the optimistic assumption that it is swiftly fully let?

Response

With annual building and management costs covered by tenants' service-charge payments and an assumption of the building being 100% let at projected full market rents, the One City Park building would provide a gross income of approximately £1.2m and after deduction of capital finance costs and interest it will generate an average net income of £560k p.a. These figures will alter year on year due to fluctuations in the property market, finance costs, void costs and the cost of any lease incentives needed to secure lettings.

62. Councillor Matt Edwards

Given the issues with anti-social behaviour in vehicles Bradford has a PSPO to tackle this issue. Will the portfolio holders confirm that officers across customer facing departments including (but not limited to): customer service, social media teams, environmental health, neighbourhoods and Safer Bradford are aware on how to handle complaints that would be covered by the PSPO to ensure members of the public are referred to the right place (i.e. Safer Bradford)?

Response

The PSPO to combat the anti-social use of motor vehicles has been well publicised and teams briefed on it in the past. A briefing note has/is being sent out to all public facing teams.

63. Councillor Anna Watson

Will the Leader of the Council reassure us that schools which put forward ambitious schemes to reduce air pollution from traffic and improve the health of children through the Clean Air School Grants Programme will have the support from all Council departments, especially the Department of Place and Health and Well-being, to bring in any measures proposed?

Response

The Council has received many expressions of interest from schools in the £500,000 Clean Air Schools Programme (CASP) funding programme and schools are now working on their detailed plans which can be taken forward within the funding allocation for each school.

The Council is recruiting five new Environmental Wardens who will work with schools in improving traffic emissions around schools and all Environmental Wardens have been trained to enforce Anti-Idling legislation.

The Sustainability Service is also recruiting a Schools Engagement Officer who will be engaging with schools and supporting activities to improve air quality and sustainability around schools.

This is funded by the Clean Air Zone revenue.

64. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Will the Leader of Council please update us on what is being done to ensure that businesses retrieve their trade waste bins after collection from the pavement on Saltaire Road by the junction with Mount Place – a recurrent issue that has now dragged on for several years?

Response

There appears to be a mixture of domestic (Council) bins and trade waste bins from private sector companies. Waste Services are not directly involved, nor have powers to enforce bins are moved but will visit the area and speak to businesses and residents.

65. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

What plans does the Council have to roll out EV charging points to using the new lighting columns in areas where there is only on street parking available?

Response

Northern Powergrid have recently indicated that most of their infrastructure that provide the power for street lighting is unsuitable for EV charging. As their cables were only designed to have the capacity to support the lighting when they were installed, at the time before EV charging was needed.

However the local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Funding will be used to support the roll out of electric vehicle charging points particularly for neighbourhoods where there isn't off street parking, charge points are likely to be on street or hubs within neighbourhoods having their own grid connection rather than connected from Street Lighting.

The scheme is likely to fund in the region of 155-270 charge points in our district.

66. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

How many members of Council staff are absent from work due to their involvement in a disciplinary process?

Response

There are currently 34 open absences cases where the employee is absent from work and is the subject of an open disciplinary case.

67. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

What plans are there to publish the Agenda Papers, Decisions and Minutes of Bradford Children's Improvement Board?

Response

This is a board Chaired by the Commissioner, who is contracted by the DfE. The main purpose of the Board is to oversee the work of the Improvement Plan which is published and discussed in Children's Overview & Scrutiny.

68. Councillor Julie Glentworth

In light of the ever-increasing number of residents contacting elected members regarding dangerous driving, would the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder, confirm whether there are any plans to create a central record of these, to allow the incorporation of these into the criteria for prioritising road safety works, whilst increasing / accelerating the installation of appropriate traffic calming measures, to reflect the perceived increased dangers?

Response

This already happens through the West Yorkshire Police. Information relating to dangerous driving and its enforcement remains a matter for West Yorkshire Police and not the Council, as does the recording of road accidents. Where the police attend a road traffic incident an assessment of contributory factors giving rise to the accident is made and this information is shared with Council officers. Often a range of contributory factors, of which dangerous or inappropriate driving behaviour is one, are considered when assessing and developing road safety programmes for implementation.

69. Councillor Mike Pollard

In light of the National Education Union General Secretary Daniel Kebede, telling a fringe meeting of the TUC, that their members would not comply with the proposed anti-strike law intended to guarantee minimum service levels in sectors such as education, before going so far as to state that, "Should any one of the NEU members get sacked, the next time we take strike action we will close that school until they are reinstated", could the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills inform members of whether he considers the provision of at least minimum service levels for the education of children, to be more important than industrial relations disputes between adults?

Response

The education of children is a priority for us all in the Council and in all circumstances, where there is a potential for the education of children to be disrupted, steps are taken to mitigate the impact of any disruption. This is determined by individual schools (LA maintained schools are guided by the LA) and MATs. However, the LA provides advice and support to all schools on steps that can be taken to minimise the impact on the education of children and young people.

70. Councillor Bob Felstead

In a press release dated September 9th, an article regarding the funding of derelict sites in areas like Bradford, failed to meet a BCR of a 1 to 1 return on investment in key areas of the City of Bradford. It is noted that 4 projects on brownfield meet the criteria set by DLUHC and that these are for 2 Incommunities projects for social

housing, one in Bingley and the other on Manchester Road, plus redevelopment of Galem House in Goitside and the conversion of a building on Canal Road into apartments. Nowhere in the press release is any detail of the 'Top of the Town project' that's set to deliver 1,000 affordable homes. Could the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Regeneration provide detail of how far short of achieving a BCR of 1 this key project is from the mark in percentage terms? Secondly, does this figure include or exclude the sale of the land at or below cost to appointed developer(s), and finally does this represent good value to Bradford Council's council tax-payer and to the tax-payer?

Response

The Top of Town site forms part of the Council's City Village proposals to create a new residential community at the heart of the city centre providing up to 1,000 new homes. The emerging scheme is at the early masterplanning stage and is expected to be able to provide more detailed proposals and plans for public consultation on the coming 4-6 months. Whilst early discussions are taking place with public sector partners about possible future funding for the scheme there is insufficient detail of the proposals and outcomes to be delivered to calculate Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) rating at this stage and this will emerge when a formal funding application is submitted.

In terms of the Member's second query, it is understood that any requisite BCR assessment should take into account land payments as a public sector income for the sale of Council land within the scheme that should be deducted from costs to produce a 'net' public sector cost figure which feeds into the BCR. In this way, the impact of such a land sale would be properly reflected in demonstrating the value for money of the public sector investment.

71. Councillor Matt Edwards

Is the portfolio holder able to confirm when the concrete blocks illegally placed in the lay-by on Tong Lane will actually be removed?

Response

The removal of the blocks on the layby of Tong Lane is currently on the active enforcement list. However, due to the nature of these obstructions it requires use of specialist plant to carry out the physical removal as they cannot be removed with any vehicles used by the Highway Enforcement team. These specialist vehicles, and the operatives trained in their use, are being provided by the Highways Delivery Unit and must be diverted from their other day-to-day duties to carry out the enforcement which adversely impacts delivery of capital works. For this reason, their use is typically limited to weekends where these knock-on impacts do not occur.

Currently, the planned removal of these items will take place in early November, however this is contingent upon other duties of the Highway Delivery Unit (winter maintenance) not taking precedence.

72. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Will the Leader of Council please update us on what is being done to prevent Council owned parks and green spaces in Shipley from being used by Dog Trainers in ways that endanger other park users and their pets?

Response

If dog trainers are acting in a way that endangers park users and their pets, the Dog Warden Services are contacted immediately with a view to investigating and taking any necessary action. Neighbourhood Wardens also have powers to deal with dogs that are not on a lead or owners that are not in control of their animal dependent on the specific dog control order at that park. Friends of Park groups also act as our eyes and ears on this issue.

We would urge any member of the public to report such instances of dangerous dogs or owners not in control of their animal. We are aware of one particular incident in the Shipley area with regards a dog trainer and the Dog Warden Service has dealt with this accordingly. The Shipley Area Office and the Dog Warden Service are seeking advice from legal as to what further action should be taken.

73. Councillor Matt Edwards

Can the portfolio holder provide an update about the Council's actions to try and combat anti-social behaviour on City Park and around Tyrrel Street - especially anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol and other drug misuse? Do they agree that with the City of Culture rapidly approaching this urgently needs addressing?

Response

The Council/Police Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Team liaise closely with partners and refer perpetrators to the ASB panel as appropriate. As well as considering enforcement measures, this process will often consider support options. One key perpetrator has recently entered detox and will be moving on into a rehabilitation process. This has resulted in reduced calls to services regarding their behaviour. Others via the ASB Panel are receiving support through Early Help and third sector support.

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Officers confiscate alcohol from offenders and pour it away. In addition, a number of Fixed Penalty Notices for breach of the anti-social use of alcohol PSPO have been issued in recent months.

In September a consultation stakeholder event was held to support development of a City Centre Community Safety Strategy. The Strategy is being written during October and November and will provide a more comprehensive approach to tackling crime and community safety in the city centre, including ASB and building an improved perception of safety in the city centre.

74. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

How much funding has Bradford Children and Families Trust secured from the DFEE, what can the funding be spent on and over what timescale?

Response

The DfE has provided £10.8m of funding for 23/24 to enable the Trust to deliver improvement work and administrative set-up costs for the first year.

75. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Is there any part of the contract with Bradford Children and Families Trust that relies on achieving targets to receive financial reward? If there is what are the targets and the rewards that can be achieved?

Response

No. This is not part of the contract. The purpose of the Trust is to ensure that the quality and timeliness of services are improved.

76. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Is the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services confident that Bradford Children and Families Trust has secured the financial base and the resources required to expedite the sustainable improvement required to deliver outstanding services to children and their families?

Response

The Contract Sum for the Trust was discussed and agreed with the Trust and DfE prior to the contracts being signed and the Trust going live on 1st April 2023. However, the Trust is currently forecasting a budget pressure this year.

77. Councillor Bob Felstead

Will the Leader of the Council confirm whether the Labour Group is supportive of Leeds / Bradford Airport's application, for permission from Leeds City Council to scrap the current restrictions on the total number of flights allowed between the hours of 11pm and 7am?

Response

As set out in the response to question 25 - Leeds City 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. However, due to the public interest, Leeds Council decided to undertake a call for evidence. In these circumstances, it would not be appropriate for the Council to make a formal response in support or against the applications. However, if the Council has any evidence linked to the applications it will determine whether it is appropriate to share with Leeds City Council in the context of the relevant legal process and tests.

78. Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

Further to the then Leader of the Council expressing concerns back in 2013, can the current Leader of the Council provide an update regarding the measures taken to ensure that the council's art collection is not under-valued and what steps have been taken to address any issue found in the valuation?

Response

Following the review of the collection which took place in 2013 officers are currently in the process of undertaking a refresh valuation of the art collection.

Tenants Auctioneers have recently been commissioned to review all the fine art valuations that were carried out in 2013, along with a review of the wider art collections to capture any artworks that have potentially increased in value.

All artworks that go out on loan are valued for insurance purposes prior to leaving the museum building. This, in addition to transportation, and any necessary conservation work, is completed at the expense of the organisation loaning the work.

79. Councillor Debbie Davies

Would the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder, confirm whether he supports and whether there are any plans to introduce, a Work Place Parking Levy for the city centre?

Response

A workplace parking levy (WPL) is a charge made by a local authority on larger employers for the number of parking spaces provided for employees. All money raised from a WPL must be ring-fenced for investment in local transport improvements.

There are no plans to introduce a workplace parking levy in Bradford.

80. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Will the Leader of Council please assure us that there will be no further inexcusable delays in finalising the future of the Active Travel Neighbourhood in Saltaire?

Response

As confirmed by officers who recently met with the Shipley members, a final meeting has been arranged for 8 November to agree the final designs for the Active Travel Neighbourhood in Saltaire based on the findings of the consultation on the proposals. The agreed design outcome of this meeting will form the basis for the signing and sealing of the experimental traffic order which must be completed by January 2024.

81. Councillor Kevin Warnes

Will the Leader of Council please explain when the Council will remove the trailers on Leyburn Grove that partly obstruct the pavement and adversely affect the amenity of residents on that street, and which have been the subject of correspondence for many months between the ward councillors and the highways enforcement team?

Response

The removal of the two trailers will be undertaken within the next seven business days following serving of notice advising of the Council's intention to remove them from the highway.

82. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

Is the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services satisfied that the arrangements for a child or young person who requires hospitalisation due to mental ill health will meet the needs of that child or young person in a manner that we would expect for our own children?

Response

Arrangements regarding the admission into hospital for any child with mental health needs is undertaken, led and overseen by the Health Service.

83. Councillor Mike Pollard

Can the Leader give me assurance that CBMDC has not engaged in / allowed workforce practices that have created, or could create, any Trades Union pressure with regard to pay equality issues?

Response

Governance and assurance checks are in place for job evaluation and grading. Assurance has been given that what has been reported in other councils that have had equal pay issues, does not happen here. The Council works within Local Government pay and grading and has been undertaking a programme of work which Trade Unions are engaged with on job evaluation and grading systems review.

84. Councillor Chris Herd

Would the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing kindly advise members of the sum saved by the council via the new care provider contract, detailed in the new care provider letter sent out to each individual client and publicly reassure service users that the new contracts have not been awarded to providers that have or have previously had employee or familial ties or connections to BMDC?

Response

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. The process was run as a single competitive open tender and follows the legislative guidance for a procedure of this type. All members of the evaluation panel are required to sign a Declaration of Interests document. Clause 5 (below) addresses this and I can confirm that no notices were received.

'I confirm that I do not have any actual, or potential, conflict of interest in relation to the evaluation with any of the organisations listed below.' In the event that such a conflict arises, prompt notice of the actual, or potential, conflict of interest will be given to the Project Manager.'

85. Councillor Chris Herd

As Bradford Council are rumoured to be instructing previous adult social care providers that are losing their contracts, to provide documents including the client need assessments carried out by the current provider for each individual client that is moving care providers and it is a requirement of the CQC that the new care provider carry out their own assessment prior to starting the provision of care to the new client, would the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing kindly reassure members that there is nothing amiss?

Response

As part of their current and future contracts, providers are required to submit their latest support plans for each client. This is to facilitate continuity of care. The new care provider will then carry out a new assessment and arrange a visit with any new staff as part of the handover.

To ensure there are no communication difficulties, the council is facilitating a process whereby providers send care/support plans directly to the council for all service users allocated to transfer to other locality providers. The department then collates this data and sends the relevant information to the allocated providers.

The purpose of this is to streamline information sharing between providers, but also to request and share information in line with legislative requirements around Council-managed support packages.

86. Councillor Chris Herd

Would the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing kindly reassure members that there is no substance to suggestions that the council is misusing its influence to persuade carers working for existing council care suppliers to jump ship to a new care provider, awarded a council contract?

Response

The transfer of staff is a provider-to-provider process and the Council does not directly influence the recruitment of staff. We would expect all providers to follow the TUPE process which they are legally bound to, and that all staff have full information and understand their rights under employment law, so that they are able to make an informed decision.

87. Councillor Allison Coates

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport confirm that there will be sufficient car parking provision in the city centre once Bradford Live is open, if evening events are also being held at the Alhambra and St Georges Hall at the same time?

Response

There is a number of private car park operators in the city centre in addition to Bradford Council owned car parks and the Bradford Live team are comfortable with

the level of parking provision currently in the city centre. While some people need to drive to attend events there are of course other options such as bus, taxi and train and the venue being in the heart of the city centre will help facilitate this.

88. Councillor Andrew Loy

Council officers recently stated that there are no plans to replant two trees which the Council removed from Bolling Road. Does the Portfolio Holder agree that this is unacceptable and can he confirm when the trees will be replanted?

Response

Could I begin by referring Cllr Loy to the answer he received from officers on 3rd October 2023, for which he thanked the officer for clarifying the situation at Bolling Road:

“We do aim to replant where practicable. Some of the existing sites, particularly in areas like Ilkley are prohibitively expensive to replant so we look for and propose other sites in the area as we are surveying. The policy with tree pits such as the ones on Bolling Road is to seal them and allow the roots to rot over a period of time, it would be a major exercise to excavate the area and remove live roots. We are currently reviewing our policy for community tree sponsorship.”

I would add and underline it is our policy as a Council to replant where it is practical to do so within existing resources and we are conscious of the importance of street trees and make every effort to maintain numbers wherever possible. Unfortunately, pavement widths, above and below ground services, the cost of stump removal and tree pit construction often physically prevent replanting in exactly the same location. The most cost-effective solution is to plant in locations where there is room for the tree to grow without affecting services, the highway, or neighbouring properties. This planting season we will replant eight trees in Ilkley Ward in addition to the 15 already replaced over the last few years.

89. Councillor Andrew Loy

Would the Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder kindly confirm how much Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income has the Council received from developments in Ilkley ward over the past 5 years and what expenditure has there been from CIL receipts in Ilkley over the same period?

Response

The Ilkley developments that have generated a payment and the amount paid since CIL was adopted in July 2017 are detailed below. Please note the column “Amount to strategic pot after deductions for spend” is the balance after the neighbourhood sum has been deducted and the 5% administration fee that the Council retains to help cover the costs of administering CIL.

| Planning application | Site address | Amount paid | Amount to strategic pot after | Financial year received |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|

| | | | deductions for spend | |
|----------------|---|------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 18/03379/FUL | Ashburn House, 2 Parish Ghyll Drive, Ilkley | £300.00 | £242.25 | 2019/2020 |
| 18/04913/FUL | Site at Manley Grove, Ilkley | £15,788.81 | £12,749.46 | 2019/2020 |
| 19/02903/FUL | Gib Field, Ben Rhydding Drive, Ilkley | £4,858.95 | £3,923.60 | 2019/2020 |
| 17/06546/FUL | 20 Victoria Avenue, Ilkley | £21,600.00 | £17,442.00 | 2020/2021 |
| 19/01525/FUL | Highfield Old Barn, Hangingstone Road, Ilkley | £2,223.78 | £1,795.70 | 2020/2021 |
| 19/03247/FUL | 39 Skipton Road, Ilkley | £15,455.25 | £12,480.12 | 2020/2021 |
| 19/03247/FUL | 39 Skipton Road, Ilkley | £15,455.25 | £12,480.12 | 2020/2021 |
| 19/03395/MAF | 11 Chantry Drive, Ilkley | £24,628.32 | £19,887.37 | 2020/2021 |
| 19/03395/MAF | 11 Chantry Drive, Ilkley | £24,628.32 | £19,887.37 | 2020/2021 |
| 19/03395/NMA01 | 11 Chantry Drive, Ilkley | £1,985.31 | £1,603.14 | 2020/2021 |
| 19/05309/FUL | 9 Leeds Road, Ilkley | £26,840.14 | £21,673.41 | 2020/2021 |
| 19/01710/MAF | 27 Kings Road, Ilkley | £58,518.67 | £47,253.83 | 2021/2022 |
| 20/03038/FUL | 104 Bolling Road, Ilkley | £8,988.48 | £7,258.20 | 2021/2022 |
| 20/01753/FUL | 9 Clifton Road, Ilkley | £25,487.93 | £20,581.50 | 2021/2022 |
| 19/01710/MAF | 27 Kings Road, Ilkley | £58,518.67 | £47,253.83 | 2021/2022 |
| 20/01753/FUL | 9 Clifton Road, Ilkley | £25,487.94 | £20,581.51 | 2021/2022 |

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 21/04577/FUL | 6 St Margarets Terrace, Ilkley | £652.03 | £526.52 | 2021/2022 |
| 18/01342/FUL | The Sidings, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley | £19,550.00 | £13,929.38 | 2022/2023 |
| 22/00246/FUL | Lloyds TSB, Brook Street, Ilkley | £13,930.07 | £9,925.17 | 2022/2023 |
| 18/03853/MAR | Land off Ashlands Road, Ilkley | £153,329.37 | £109,247.18 | 2023/2023* |
| 20/01753/NMA02 | 9 Clifton Road, Ilkley | £14,915.14 | £10,627.04 | 2023/2024* |

* The 2023/2024 CIL payments have not yet been allocated for spend as these allocation take place annually in July and so the payments received 2023/2024 so far will be included in the July 2024 Executive report for allocation.

Where there is more than one line for the same development on the table above, this is because the CIL has been paid in instalments and each line is one instalment.

CIL funds are allocated by the Executive Committee for spend, the allocations take place annually in July. CIL receipts can be spent anywhere across the Bradford District and thus far have been primarily used to fund school places and the Council's Play Strategy in addition to areas like libraries and meeting legal requirements on biodiversity. Therefore they are rarely allocated to a location-specific project but instead distributed more strategically. If you would like to read the CIL Executive report that details which departments have received CIL allocations, please view the Committee reports and minutes for the Executive Committee in July 2019, July 2020, July 2021, July 2022 and July 2023.

The Education department has used some of the CIL allocation to help fund schemes within the Ilkley ward with an allocation of £125,605.45 towards the All Saints CE Primary School expansion scheme.

In addition to the allocations made by Executive for spend, Ilkley Town Council has received funds from the above development. The amounts transferred to the Town Council for each year is:

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| 2019/2020 | £3,142.16 |
| October 2020 | £6,012.54 |
| April 2021 | £16,227.21 |
| October 2021 | £11,631.98 |
| April 2022 | £12,698.79 |
| October 2023 | £42,061.13 |

The spend of these monies is down to the Town Council.

90. Councillor Andrew Loy

Could the Leader of the Council confirm what the Council can do to accelerate the rollout of fibre broadband?

Response

The rollout of fibre broadband across the district is already extensive with companies such as BT, Virgin Media, City Fibre, BRSK and other infrastructure providers carrying out significant work programmes in recent years. As infrastructure roll out is customer demand led and funded privately by each company the Authority works with each provider on a case by case basis as workstreams are derived to ensure that infrastructure placement works are fully coordinated and that street works are expedited as quickly as possible in accordance with expected national standards. The capacity for further/faster roll out of infrastructure depends on a number of factors including – but not limited to – each company’s workforce availability, quality of workmanship and their ability to programme works in a structured and efficient manner.

Whilst significant areas of the City and District of Bradford have benefited from a full fibre investment in the last 3 to 4 years (District of Bradford currently stands at 62.18%), certain areas of the District and in particular around the City Centre have yet to benefit from such an investment. The reasons are varied why the market will overlook certain areas, from not commercially viable, to prioritising investment in large cities, to ducting infrastructure requiring significant investment.

Recognising this issue, we have as a Council been actively engaged with the fibre market in promoting investment within the City Centre and across the District, with a particular focus on addressing the demands of businesses. We have procured ThinkBroadBand Data and secured up-to-date connectivity information from the Open Market Reviews conducted by BDUK to build up an accurate picture of connectivity across the District. This is currently being mapped and will be continually monitored and updated to provide intelligence in our active engagement with the Telcos on priority areas for intervention, for business need, for citizen need and in readiness for City of Culture.

Furthermore, we are currently working with BDUK as one of four UK Urban Not Spot Pilots whereby we are exploring how urban areas which are not benefiting from fibre investment can be addressed. In this respect BDUK has undertaken an Open Market Review (engagement with the fibre carrier market) the results of which are imminent and will drive further investment from DSIT.

We have also been active in preparing the District for 5G investment by creating a Small Cell Licence Agreement to provide access to our street assets to accelerate 5G deployment and ensure Bradford is not overlooked as the Mobile carriers now look north to deploy their 5G rollout plans.

A report will be going to CMT on 15th November outlining the “state of play” across the District and the actions we are taking, with recommendations on 4 interventions:

- Satellite Connectivity for rural areas;

- City Centre “OpenRAN” 5G mobile network;
- Urban Not Spot Vouchers to augment the BDUK pilot work;
- LoRaWAN expansion (IOT Network).

These will be funded from the Super-Connected Cities Budget.

Other potential interventions are being looked at for the Worth Valley area with a business case being developed for WYCA matched funding.

91. Councillor Bob Felstead

Could the Leader of the Council confirm whether there is any truth to the rumour that some Barristers’ Chambers are not prepared to undertake work on behalf of Bradford MDC, in relation to Children’s Services and / or other matters, due to concerns regarding the council’s methodology / policy regarding payments for preparation time or any other time necessary to do the work effectively?

Response

There is no evidence to suggest Barrister Chambers are refusing to do Bradford MDC work for the reasons suggested however, regionally West Yorkshire Councils (not just Bradford) do on occasion experience difficulties securing availability of counsel to do their work due to demand.