

COUNCIL

Tuesday 12 March 2024

MEMBER QUESTION TIME – PART 1

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. Councillor Caroline Firth

How can community groups across the district get involved and start preparing for the UK City of Culture year?

Response

Bradford Culture Company Ltd, the primary delivery agency for the UK City of Culture programme, is working very closely with many partners across the district to ensure that all communities can get involved. The Culture Company owns a specific workstream to engage with all residents and groups in every ward and area.

There has been a recent call from the company for The BD25 Community Connector posts, which are key to the success of the Bradford 2025 Engagement Programme. Starting in spring 2024, the programme will foster and celebrate the creativity to be found in communities across the whole district, bringing the expertise of creative professionals to enrich and develop that creativity. The BD25 Community Connectors will liaise with local groups and grassroots organisations to support people's access to the Engagement Programme and Bradford 2025 activity. The BD25 Community Connectors will be based at a host organisation in their area and will foster meaningful relationships with local community groups and organisations across the whole of their area. Information and further detail will be cascaded over the coming months, setting out how local communities can become more involved.

2. Councillor Andrew Loy

Would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, confirm the current annual cost of clearing up fly-tipping in the district, the average cost per fly tip clean-up and confirm that a full cost and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) had taken place before the proposal to close the tips was put forward, to inform projections regarding the number, cost and environmental damage of fly tips that the council should anticipate in the coming year, should the closures take place and can he provide members with sight of any such EIA?

Response

This answer is being provided by Cllr Ferriby as Portfolio Holder for Healthy People & Places, which covers the Environmental Enforcement service.

There has been no direct link noted with HWRC closures and fly-tipping. The act of fly-tipping is illegal and there are various options available to residents for

waste disposal and/or collection. We will continue to monitor fly-tipping hotspots and tonnage and work with Enforcement colleagues as necessary.

The overall disposal costs for the combined waste-streams for the last few years are shown below for comparison. These costs include costs of removing fly tipping but are not exclusively about fly-tipping. As well as fly-tipping there are also other elements of the waste stream included such as litter picks, community clean ups and waste from commercial work that the council has completed.

2018/19 – 4,004 tonnes and £500k disposal

2019/20 – 3,877 tonnes and £484k disposal

2020/21 – 4,675 tonnes and £617k disposal

2021/22 – 4,940 tonnes and £584k disposal

2022/23 – 4,775 tonnes and £596k disposal

2023/24 – 4,530 tonnes and £566k disposal (forecast)

The collection costs for the two dedicated fly-tipping vehicles and crews are circa £240k per year.

From December 2023 we have been separating out the data so that the sub-set within the above data for fly-tipping clearance is clearly differentiated in future.

When working up the proposal to close HWRCs the council calculated the internal haulage impact of HGV movements and the WRAP study provided the benchmark of HWRC provision. It also provided us with property numbers within a radius of each site and showed us that we had double the provision of comparator councils per 100,000 residents. We also liaised with the Clean Air Zone team on this who looked at the vehicle movements and determined that there was going to be minimal impact. Legal and Planning were consulted as part of this process.

Environmental Impact Assessment is a planning tool, designed to be used for new construction projects, not for closures of facilities. For example a new supermarket will conduct an EIA when in the process of planning.

3. Councillor Matt Edwards

Can the portfolio holder confirm if the Council still operate a process for clearing unadopted back alleys and snickets?

Response

The Council has no obligation or budget to clear private land unless recovering costs from the land-owner(s). In some areas, there are clear signs of residents, landlords and businesses fly-tipping in back-alleys, unadopted streets etc. as they know the waste will be removed for free. We are currently looking at options to ensure budget is used for Council responsibilities and enforcement powers and cost recovery is used for private land clearances where necessary. We will be

working with residents to provide education on correct methods of waste storage and disposal and will also be continuing “days of action” and “community clean-ups”, where budget allows. Where commercial waste is involved, we will be seeking cost recovery accordingly.

More details are at <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/report-issues/report-fly-tipping/>

4. Councillor Alun Griffiths

Does the Leader of Council have confidence in the chairs of the Bradford East Area Committee and the Bradford Planning Panel?

Response

Yes.

5. Councillor Luke Majkowski

Can the portfolio holder please advise me why Bradford Council’s Planning Enforcement Team are consistently dismissing cases as inconvenient to pursue even though there is a clear breach of planning regulation.

I have at least 5 recent examples of planning regulation breaches within the Queensbury Ward.

Response

A breach of planning control is defined in section 171A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as:

- the carrying out of development without the required planning permission; or
- failing to comply with any condition or limitation subject to which planning permission has been granted.

The Council’s Planning Enforcement Team is a small team who deal with over 1,000 enforcement cases each year. Officers must assess and prioritise each potential planning breach on the merits of the complaint/investigation. Where a technical breach may be relatively minor, it is not likely to be expedient to pursue relative to the harm it might cause. When the council carries out this test it does so taking into account planning law and national planning practice guidance. This is in common with the practice of most local authorities.

If you want to send me details of the recent examples I am happy to discuss them with officers to provide more information on why these specific cases were not taken forward.

6. Councillor Marcus Dearden

Will the leader join me in welcoming the decision to fully fund the highways scheme to install average speed check cameras and the reduction in the speed limit to 50mph along the Fred Hoyle way, otherwise known as the Bingley

bypass. Since being elected three years ago the speeding along with the noise pollution have been a constant annoyance for the residents of Bingley and an issue I have raised throughout that time.

Response

I know Cllr Dearden that you have been single-minded in pushing progress on this matter and we are all pleased with the decision to install Bradford's first Average Speed Camera scheme on Fred Hoyle Way. The project includes extending the enforcement on the A650 to Keighley (Marley Stadium), where the speed limit will remain at 70mph. Anti-social driving behaviour leading to speeding and noise pollution has been a problem at this location with representations being made by the police, the public and local councillors from Bingley and Keighley East. The installation will include partnership working with the police to ensure adjacent routes to the A650 are monitored and enforced.

7. Councillor Marcus Dearden

Given the decision by the promoter and Bradford & Bingley Rugby club not to hold the Bingley weekender event this year, an event which plays an important role for Bingley, will the Council commit to working with local councillors and the event organisers to look at options for how the event can be held again as part of our UK City of Culture year in 2025?

Response

This decision not to hold the event this year will be sad news for the festival goers and local businesses due to the loss of the economic benefits this private operator event brings to Bingley each year. There has been a considerable amount of change in the outdoor event industry over the past few years and the promoter would have considered all options carefully before making the final decision. The Council is not in a position to step in and run the event, however, the opportunities that City of Culture status 2025 will bring means that we are keen to maximise the number of key events taking place across the district throughout the year. We have already raised this with the City of Culture team and everyone is keen to engage with the promoter and local councillors with a view to securing a high quality event during 2025.

8. Councillor Chris Hayden

We have all seen in the news nationally that too many children are missing vital school days and we know the impact this has on their future outcomes. As a ward councillor I am also aware of many children in Eccleshill that miss large swathes of their education and this causes me great concern. I believe that we need to actively identify some of the root causes and problems within the existing structure to ensure that we don't allow this problem to become embedded. Would the Executive support a deep dive into young people out of education across Bradford to identify some solutions that we can work towards in collaboration with a variety of local organisations, schools and our own youth services?

Response

The Education Safeguarding team welcomes the information released by the DfE on 29th February 2024 that Government guidance [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance)

attendance has been updated and will become statutory from 18th August 2024. The team will continue to work to fulfil the statutory responsibilities within the guidance which can be summed up as follows:

- To provide advice, support and networking for professionals and schools across the district
- To have an Attendance Support Team offering a termly meeting with ALL schools to discuss attendance
- To coordinate support for children, particularly those who are severely absent
- To continue to consider the full range of prosecution options on behalf of schools for poor attendance

The Education Safeguarding team has coordinated a range of initiatives over the last 18 months including a well-attended multiagency School Attendance conference at Valley Parade, an Attendance Charter launch alongside partners including academy trusts and the DfE, and a revised Staged Intervention Approach to Poor School Attendance. The team will continue to use the termly Targeting Support meetings with all schools to look very carefully at personalised interventions for children who are persistently and severely absent from school. Support is coordinated across a range of partners including the Bradford Children and Families Trust, police, health and the voluntary sector where necessary.

Where children are not on the roll of a school, the CME and EHE teams work tirelessly to understand firstly if the child is in receipt of a suitable education otherwise, and secondly, to secure education if this is not in place, through legal interventions if necessary and ultimately referrals to the Bradford Children and Families Trust where this lack of education is likely to cause significant harm.

9. Councillor Caroline Firth

When is the collapsed wall on Keighley footpath 11 – at the rear of the council's Stockbridge depot – going to be fixed so the path can reopen?

Response

Ground investigations to enable the reconstruction of the wall have been completed recently and we are awaiting the test results and the report.

With this information we can proceed with the design and the contract award as soon as possible subject to funding.

10. Councillor Russell Brown

Would the Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills please confirm how many government funded apprenticeships are provided by the Council and can he please provide details of what trades they are learning?

Response

Bradford Council is not eligible to receive government funding for apprenticeships so the Council has no apprenticeships that have been funded by the government. The council recognises the wider benefits of apprenticeships for the district building stronger, more resilient communities while supporting individual career development and economic vitality. Additionally, as a large employer, apprenticeships enable Bradford Council to develop a skilled workforce, foster innovation and deliver better services to our local communities. As such, Bradford Council is committed to ensuring that there are a wide range of apprenticeship opportunities right across the Council. Since April 2017, Bradford has funded 1,228 apprenticeships within the Council on 119 different types of apprenticeships and trades. Currently there are 198 employees undertaking apprenticeship training on 48 different types of apprenticeships including adult care, carpentry and joinery, accountancy, building services engineering, administration, civil engineering, construction, early years practitioner, production chef, and youth work (please find attached the full current apprenticeship numbers by type of apprenticeships).

11. Councillor Safina Kauser

Will the leader of the council and the portfolio holder for Culture join me in congratulating the BD2025 City of Culture team for their inclusion of young people. I welcome the opportunities created for our young people like the apprenticeships and also the youth panel. It gives us some confidence that our young people will be able to make a positive contribution and be involved in the decision making process. Can I be assured that once BD2025 has passed we will continue to invest in our young people and create opportunities to involve them in the decision making process of all our services?

Response

I totally agree with Councillor Kauser and congratulate the BD25 team and our own officers in relation to the fantastic work that they have undertaken to provide opportunities for our young people. As the youngest District in the country, it is fundamental to us to ensure that we continue to maximise the opportunities for our young people as part of the legacy of UK City of Culture status. The growth in the cultural sector that 2025 will bring, together with our exciting programme of regeneration, will be harnessed in order to ensure that there even further opportunities for training and employment for all young residents of Bradford District. Similarly, the views of our young people are critical to the shaping and provision of the council's services that they will access as young people and indeed through their lives. We are committed to ensuring effective engagement with our young people so that they can fully contribute to the decision making process moving forward.

12. Councillor Chris Hayden

Would the Leader join me in celebrating the opening of the brand new state of the art Community Diagnostic Centre in Eccleshill? I am thrilled that this facility has

opened in my Ward and will benefit my residents. I welcome this approach and would love to see it rolled out across the District.

Response

The opening of Eccleshill Community Diagnostic Centre is a testament to our commitment to improving health and care services for the people of Bradford District and wider. It will provide fair and equitable care delivery across the region, acting as a convenient one-stop-shop that allows patients to receive all diagnostic tests in one visit and help cut hospital waiting lists.

We are delighted to have this new state-of-the-art Community Diagnostic Centre open in Eccleshill. The centre is the first of its kind in West Yorkshire that will provide approximately 80,000 additional diagnostic appointments into the district each year, diagnosing conditions such as cancer and heart diseases more quickly. Open 7 days a week and equipped with the latest technology such as MRI, X-Ray and CT scans the new centre provides easier and quicker access to tests as well as reducing outpatient referrals and attendances at hospital. It is so important that additional capacity is made available to support faster diagnoses of cancers, improve outcomes and help save lives.

Across Bradford District and Craven, the difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas is up to 10 years, with many premature deaths of heart disease and cancer in some deprived areas noticeably higher. In December 2023, over 13,000 people living in Bradford District and Craven were waiting for diagnostic tests with 27 percent waiting six weeks or more. Our NHS colleagues recognises the value of community based diagnostics and continue to work with the national teams to explore the opportunity for additional investment of this kind into district.

This new diagnostic centre will help reduce waiting times, high demand for diagnostic testing and improve access to treatment. The diagnostic centre is located next to Ashcroft Surgery, Kamsons Pharmacy, Eccleshill Community Hospital and shares a building with Westcliffe Health Innovations who deliver diagnostic services in areas such as gastroenterology and gynaecology and extends the offer of high quality care in the community and away from busy hospitals.

13. Councillor Caroline Whitaker

Can the portfolio holder confirm that the land off Elliott Street in Silsden (ARN – 00275) included in the asset disposal plan will be only the part agreed by the Executive in October 2022 and that the Council is still intending to pursue an Asset Transfer with The Hive for most of the site?

Response

The Executive decision made in October 2022 related to the land off Elliott Street, which is subject to an Asset of Community Value listing, committed to transferring the majority of the land to The Hive with a strip along Taylor Avenue developed for housing.

The intention very much remains as per the Executive decision in October 2022.

14. Councillor Mohsin Hussain

Will the portfolio holder provide an update on the Keighley Towns Fund schemes?

Response

The Keighley Towns Fund schemes are progressing well and will make a very positive difference to the Keighley area. Listed below are some highlights:

Development Investment Fund

- Providence Park

Construction work continues on site, though the developer is reporting a slight delay of four weeks to programme, due to inclement weather in late 2023. Progress has since been made and the developer expects to claw some time back. Work on Unit C Manufacturing Hub started in January, with the work on the foundations and steel frame complete. Completion of Unit C is due in October 2024 though the remainder of the units are on course for completion in June 2024.

- Beechcliffe

The contract with the principal contractor has been signed and sealed. The site investigation works will take three weeks, commencing 12th February. These works are undertaken as part of the feasibility stage with the report due in summer 2024. This work will enable an indicative scheme layout to be drawn up and costs provided for the scheme. A planning application would follow this stage. The Sustrans route through the site will be retained, though the exact path the route takes may require amending. The site will also be subject to biodiversity rules through the Planning Process.

- Town Centre & Infrastructure Improvements

Low Street - Phase 2 is complete. The public realm on Low Street is now much improved, creating a much nicer look and feel to the high street in this area of Keighley town centre.

Connectivity Study/Public Realm Improvements

Procurement of a specialist to deliver the 'Keighley Transport/Connectivity Study' is complete. Initial meetings have been held with the specialist. The final report is expected mid-2024.

The Transport/Connectivity Study will determine priorities and options for the Public Realm Improvements. The public realm works are likely to focus on Cavendish Street and the links to and from the railway station, bus station, new Health and Wellbeing Centre on North Street (Project J), and retail/commercial core of the town centre. However, an options appraisal to explore potential Public Realm Improvements will run in parallel with the study.

Active Travel/Infrastructure Improvements

Improvements to footpaths and cycle lanes have been made at Ingrow Lane, Bradford Road, Thwaites Brow Road, Long Lee and Swine Lane.

Activity Update & Timescales

The majority of the Infrastructure Improvements project are being procured and delivered by the Highways Maintenance (North) Team.

Ingrow Lane, Bracken Bank (footway improvements on a route to school) is complete.

Bradford Road, Keighley (improvements to footway links to railway station) has been awarded to a contractor who has yet to confirm their acceptance. Structures Team are investigating some issues with the bridge. The Street Lighting Team are investigating issues with lighting column mounts.

Thwaites Brow Road (repairs and replacement of stone sett surface) started on site in w/c 22 January 2024 and is due to complete in March 2024. A specialist contractor has been procured for the stone setts (310m² of replacement setts needed). The scope of works needed has grown following site investigations showing deterioration of the setts.

Swine Lane (carriageway widening/improvement) will be designed in conjunction with Traffic and Road Safety Team. There will be some new carriageway construction and possible utility diversions. Delivery is projected to take place in early 2024.

Long Lee and the rights of way from Hillside is being developed with the Countryside and Right of Way Team. This project is also being informed by feedback from local Ward Councillors and their constituents, to ensure best use of resources.

Real Time Bus Info

Delivery of seven sites of real time bus information is complete in Keighley. The installations were funded via Towns Fund and delivered via West Yorkshire Combined Authority, who manage the bus stops infrastructure.

Capital Assistance to Business Growth

A total of 60 Expressions of Interest have been received, of which 15 were rejected, with 20 applications received. Based on the number of applications and anticipated grant amounts of pending applications, the forecast spend as of January 2023 is at £643,470.59, with a private sector match of £3,481,412.68 and 66 jobs to be created.

Community Grant Scheme

This is a programme of 11 projects designed to fund essential repairs, refurbishment and upgrades to ensure their continuity. Projects that are at the final planning stages include Keighley Cougars (£2.25m), Haworth Village Hall

(£1.1m), Woodville Activity Centre (£155,000) and The Good Shepherd Centre (£130,000). Projects that are underway include the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway (£415,000), Sangat Centre (£230,000) and River Worth Friends (£50,000). Projects completed include Keighley Healthy Living (£85,000), Haworth Toilets (£130,000), Old School Room (£120,000) and Central Hall (£152,100).

Keighley Art & Film Festival

Outputs delivered through events are planned across the entire Towns Fund programme. The Mega Drawing Box event was very successful and well received by the community as was the I am Brill event.

Keighley Community Health & Wellbeing Centre

Work has now progressed across all key workstreams to move the project forward following formal approval during Summer 2023. Further work on the programme and design has been undertaken. Confirmation of stakeholder involvement prior to detailed design has been sought, and formal Governance arrangements including the Project Board have been re-established. The Commercial workstream has also been re-established and is considering formal advice on commercial options to enable the most viable option offering best value for money to be determined. A detailed Programme highlighting milestones, and critical path activity has been finalised, alongside an updated Risk Register, all of which are presented at monthly Project Board meetings to give assurance and oversight.

15. Councillor Ian Parsons

Would the Executive support the Great British Spring Clean, taking place between 15th – 31st March 2024, an event that Friends of Ravenscliffe Woods will be partaking in? This will be an opportunity to litter pick and to deal with the scourge of fly-tipping and to send a message to our citizens about the importance of keeping our environment litter-free.

Response

We will look to support where resources and budget allow us to do so and where the land is Council-owned. We are currently collating information of similar requests and looking to work with land-owners where possible. Our thanks to yourself and the Friends of Ravenscliffe Woods for organising.

16. Councillor Debbie Davies

Can the Deputy Leader of the Council please explain why a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation wasn't set up to manage Ingleborough Hall and Buckden House as per the instructions of the Executive at a meeting in September 2013?

Response

The Executive did agree to an exploration of developing a trust for Ingleborough Hall and Buckden House as a single trust arrangement – regrettably whilst this was extensively explored, and much work was done in speaking to people and organisations about this, there was little eventual interest in the outdoor centres standing alone in a Trust or in 2 separate trusts (i.e. one for Ingleborough and one for Buckden).

17. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

Now we've entered a new phase of the Transforming Cities works will the portfolio holder give an update on what work will be completed when over the coming weeks and months?

Response

As part of the on-going commitment to keep regular updates in the public arena the Council, together with its contractor Balfour Beatty, produce a weekly construction newsletter of all the forthcoming activity for the Transforming Cities Fund programme. This is available on the publicly accessible website www.future-bradford.co.uk and all Councillors and members of the public can register for its newsletter so that they can stay fully informed about what activities are planned for the week ahead.

Currently work on the 'outer ring' of junction improvements, which are part of the city centre cycling and walking scheme are drawing to a close and work is transferring to the central core elements. The past couple of weeks has also seen the commencement of demolition of the NCP car park which has necessitated the partial closure of Hall Ings to protect users whilst demolition takes place. Eastbound traffic is still able to use Hall Ings temporarily ahead of its full closure later this year.

Works on Sunbridge Road are continuing on both sides of the road to the footpaths and cycle lanes whilst work on Westgate and Godwin Street continues to create the new central reservation.

Work is nearing completion on Croft Street and on the northern side of Senior Way to create new lanes for traffic. Work is also nearing completion on the northern side of Lower Kirkgate, opposite M&S with work to the southern side of the road, adjacent to Broadway Centre to construct a new cycleway and footway.

Obviously, this is only a very high-level summary of the works which are currently on-going and more detailed information is available on the Future-Bradford website. While these works are taking place, disruption is inevitable, but we can assure councillors that this is monitored daily, and every effort is being made to minimise disruption wherever possible.

18. Councillor Riaz Ahmed

In the Budget, the proposal to bring in a charge for residents and visitor parking permits was highlighted as having a disproportionate impact on low income, disabled or older residents. The mitigation outlined was that further consultation

would be needed. Can the portfolio holder set out how and when this further consultation will take place, and can they also assure residents that all who reside in a residents parking permit area will be included.

Response

The legal order will be advertised as part of the standard process for dealing with Traffic Regulation Orders, at which point residents have the opportunity to submit comments as part of the objection process which will be tabled for response. The date for the advertisement has not yet been confirmed.

19. Councillor Caroline Firth

Can the portfolio holder give an update about work taking place to shore up the river bank in Marley, where the old Victorian tip is falling into the river?

Response

A scheme to reinstate the riverbank at Marley has been designed and will be implemented this spring when river levels allow works to be undertaken from the river bed. Enabling works started this month and include the removal of the trees within the working area along the bank. A reinstatement plan, including tree planting to replace those lost, will be implemented as part of the scheme.

20. Councillor Ian Parsons

Would the executive join me in thanking the great work that is carried out by Youth Services in Eccleshill Ward and especially that of Nicky Lannen at Ravenscliffe Youth and Community Centre? Presentations to the Bradford East Area Panel have shown the vital work that the Youth Service does in developing our young people to be active and informed citizens. Youth Services in Bradford are carrying out vital work providing opportunities to thousands of our young people.

Response

The Youth Teams deserve all the praise and recognition. Thank you for the opportunity to highlight their fantastic work. Please pass on our thanks to Nicky Lannen and the Youth Service team in the ward. The Youth Service are an intrinsic part to our Neighbourhoods and Localities offer, often the only teams working frontline with young people in schools and community settings, they offer a trusted relationship with some of our most disenfranchised young people, helping to turn lives around. The prevention and early intervention occurring day in and day out in our youth and community settings ensures that very specialist high cost services are able to target finite resources to those that need it the most.

21. Councillor Ian Parsons

The Gateway Community Centre, the Rockwell Community Centre and Eccleshill Mechanics Institute are vital parts of the provision offered by the voluntary community sector in Eccleshill Ward. Would the executive join me in thanking

them for their previous achievements and offer them our full support and encouragement for the future. Do you believe that supporting the VCS remains a priority even during difficult financial times?

Response

We've seen first hand the great work that Gateway, Rockwell and Eccleshill Mechanics do in the ward and are happy to join our thanks to yours for the work they do. Vibrant and resilient community buildings where a multitude of community activity takes place is the life blood of any strong and cohesive community, provision like this and others across the District provide valuable spaces for social interaction, cultural exchange and shared values. They encourage and foster inclusivity, education and the development of prevention and early intervention activities that help and support reducing the burden on Health and Social care across the system. Supporting the VCS will remain a priority acknowledging the unprecedented financial pressures we are under.

22. Councillor Bob Felstead

Further to stating at the Full Council Meeting of 12 December 2023, that the Council had informed WYCA about the proposal to sell Wortley Curve as soon it became aware, would the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport be so kind as to clarify exactly when this was?

Response

I believe the Wortley Curve was actually discussed at the January meeting of Council. The Leader of Council raised the matter directly with WYCA officers in December 2023, and I can confirm that Bradford Council transport officers had also raised the matter of the proposal by Railway Paths Ltd to sell the Wortley Curve, with WYCA officers, on the 3 January 2024. The member will no doubt be aware that the Curve was then bought by Network Rail at a cost of £47,000, as they confirmed in early February. This could allow its reinstatement as part of the Leeds to Bradford rail upgrade should it be required, though it should be stressed there are no firm plans for this and it very much remains a long-term potential project.

23. Councillor Matt Edwards

There is a camera currently located on a high-profile building in Holmewood has been successful helping the Police tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental enforcement teams catch fly tippers. Given the potential to raise revenues through fines and reduce the costs associated with clearing fly-tipping, would the portfolio holder be willing to commit to similar cameras being installed on nearby buildings?

Response

The Environmental Enforcement Team will continue to attempt to deploy CCTV at locations across the district where fly tipping is a problem. However, this is dependent on several factors such as frequency of fly tipping (hotspots), ability to

identify offenders, suitable infrastructure and connectivity to support installation of cameras. Any revenue generated through issuing fines will be reinvested into the prevention, detection and enforcement of environmental crime.

24. Councillor Safina Kauser

Can the portfolio holder advise how many people are currently awaiting either an adult or child OT adaptations assessment and what the current waiting times are? How do they compare to previous years? I am concerned about the impact this is having on individuals awaiting assessment especially children with severe disabilities?

Response

1. Adult social care operate a prioritisation policy whereby people who need immediate support from OTs for their safety are seen within 24 hours, people who are deemed urgent because they are leaving hospital or are at significant risk of harm are assessed within one week, and everyone else is part of our 'waiting well' scheme where we provide information and advice on alternatives and keep in touch with them until an OT can assess. Some people in priority three are currently waiting up to one year.
2. We have changed our operating model and have moved more OT resource into our Independence Advice Hub. This means we resolve people's small-equipment needs up-front. To demonstrate this we conducted 156 direct provision assessments in 2021 and 3,352 in 2023. This means the priority 3 waiting list is not being added to.
3. We have partnered with an OT agency to reduce the overall number of people on our waiting well list during the next six months.

Adults

2023 – 1,097 people waiting, oldest case on list 26/01/2022.

2024 – 570 people waiting, oldest case on list 02/03/2023.

Childrens

2023 – 152 children waiting, oldest case 26/01/2022

2024 – 47 children waiting, oldest case 16/11/2023

25. Councillor Aneela Ahmed

It was great to see a piece of Bradford's heritage being restored as the gates to Darley Street Market. Can the portfolio holder give an update on progress at the site?

Response

There are two sets of gates to be restored and relocated at Darley Street Market. One set is to be located within the public realm to the southern boundary they include an overthrow. The framework to hold the gates has been installed on site

and the gates and overthrow are currently being restored by a specialist company in Bristol which will include re-painting. The gates will be returned to site and fitted to the frame as part of the follow-on fit out works during the summer. A second set of gates are due to fitted to the top floor within the food court area a location has been identified and structural fixings are currently being finalised for final detail. Theses gates are also due to be fixed in place as part of the follow-on fit out stage during the summer.

The construction works at the Darley Street Market are now coming to a close and the contractor is due to hand the building to the Council at the end of April. Once the building has been handed over to the Council the fit out of the Market stalls and the Food Court will commence together with the installation of the big screen and heritage features. The Market will ready to open in Autumn 2024.

26. Councillor Tariq Hussain

How can people volunteer to take part in the UK City of Culture year?

Response

Bradford Culture Company Ltd is leading on the development of the volunteering programme and are actively seeking volunteers at present. People wishing to volunteer should contact the company via the following email address; volunteering@bradford2025.co.uk

27. Councillor Tariq Hussain

Will the Leader give an update on the latest position regarding the Interchange bus station.

Response

Structural surveys of the Interchange building are continuing to be carried out by WYCA appointed consultants. We understand WYCA are carrying out the surveys in two parts. The first of these, which has been completed, is to recommend a programme of further structural test surveys over the structure and any specialist surveys which will be required. The second phase of testing will comprise the more detailed assessment.

28. Councillor Debbie Davies

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport clarify why Richard Whiteley Drive and Firth Wood Avenue in Baildon haven't been made adopted highways when the development was completed about 6 years ago, especially as the site is owned by Bradford Council?

Response

Council officers are aware of the mentioned roads not having adopted highway status. Investigations are ongoing to determine whether these roads can be adopted with any associated works or not. It is not uncommon for development sites to be in this position for their initial period of construction and

occupation. The development still needs sign off by Yorkshire Water. Council officers will chase up Yorkshire Water to see how quickly they can expedite their processes.

29. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

How many children were given a secondary school place which was one of their preferences this year?

Response

The annual applications to secondary schools has now been completed and parents were informed of school places for their children on the 1 March 2024. The cohort for 2023 is similar to last year and Bradford's parents have continued to receive less 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 offering places in line with parental preferences. Despite the increased level of demand for places in Bradford's schools, the percentage of parents receiving their 1st preference is similar to last year, a decrease of only 0.55%. Last year was the highest number of 1st preference allocations in 8 years. Preference allocations are detailed in the table below:

Preference Allocations	2024 allocations %	2023 allocations %
1 st	79.30	79.85
2 nd	8.54	8.14
3 rd	3.32	3.28
4 th	1.71	2.11
5 th	1.41	1.34
Against preference	5.72	5.28
Total	8,140 pupils	8,183 pupils

30. Councillor Mohammed Shafiq

The public health minister Andrea Leadsom had positive things to say about the work being done at our Family Hubs after she visited Bradford recently. Will the Leader outline how the council and our partners are working to support families with children of a very young age to help get them the best start in life?

Response

The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme works collaboratively across our Trust, Health and VCS partners to ensure families are supported from the earliest point in their child's journey. With services offered from pregnancy, with a particular focus on the first 1001 days from conception until the child is 2 years old. Our services deliver across Pillar 1 (Pre-conception & maternity) and Pillar 2 (Universal prevention and early intervention) as identified by the Children, young people and families health and care partnership board.

The Start for Life programme delivers across four key funded strands; parenting, perinatal mental health and parent infant relationships, infant feeding and early language and the home learning environment. Providing vital support for families, engaging them in their communities and supporting Family Hubs to become an embedded resource for families.

31. Councillor Matt Edwards

Given the issues at the former Holme View Care Home in Holmewood following the sale by Bradford Council, will any conditions be added to the sales proposed under any Asset Disposal Programme to ensure any sites sold do not cause similar issues for residents, enforcement teams and the emergency services in the future?

Response

The Council needs to balance the requirement to generate capital receipts and the need to ensure that any sales are progressed with the overarching interests of residents. After the issues at the Holme View Care Home we reviewed our disposal processes to try to ensure that wherever possible there were robust measures/conditions contained within the disposal to push for a quicker development of the site. There is a limit to how much we can do but our new Disposals Strategy will also consider carefully how we can best utilise what powers we do have when disposing of assets to minimise the risk of a site falling into disrepair after disposal.

32. Councillor Brendan Stubbs

It has been more than 6 months since members were told that the instillation of new traffic lights on the Junction of Moorside Road and Harrogate Road were being held up due to discussions between the Council and the Developer of the new housing off Moorside Road. Can the portfolio holder explain if this has now been resolved and what is the timetable for the lights to be installed.

Response

These outstanding matters have now been resolved and the Council and the developer are pushing ahead to get the legal agreement completed as quickly as possible to allow work to start on site. No firm date has yet been set but local Councillors will be informed when that date is known.

33. Councillor Chris Herd

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport please provide details of the annual number and cost of fly tips for the last 3 years, from Hill House Edge Lane and along the Bradford District section of Nab Water Lane, Oxenhope?

Response

This answer is being provided by Cllr Ferriby as Portfolio Holder for Healthy People & Places, which covers the Environmental Enforcement service.

The data is not captured at this level. For efficiency, the collection vehicles collect waste from multiple wards/areas before tipping off a combined load. Please also refer to the answer to Q2 for more information on this subject.