

COUNCIL
19 January 2016

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. **Councillor Lee**

Do we know what the cost to the District of the recent floods will be and what support we are likely to receive from the Government?

Answer

It is not yet possible to provide a final estimate the cost to the District of the Boxing Day floods although the initial estimate is around £5m.

A Flood Recovery Group, chaired by the Chief Executive, is meeting weekly to oversee the District's recovery efforts. The focus at present is to ensure the Government Funded schemes are distributed to residents and business affected and I expect this work to remain our priority for sometime yet.

Along side this a record is being kept of costs incurred by the Council and it is our intention to recoup these via the Government's Bellwin Scheme.

This will only cover the Council's costs and does not measure in anyway the horrendous cost to our residents and businesses, many who have had to leave their homes and property.

2. **Councillor Heseltine**

Would the Leader of the Council agree with me that the community effort in the Boxing Day floods and the aftermath that followed was invaluable to the recovery efforts and would he also join me in thanking the hundreds of volunteers and businesses from across the district and beyond who so selflessly gave time, materials and services?

Answer

The response of local people to the floods was phenomenal. We know that Bradford, Shipley, Keighley and Bingley are places with long standing traditions of people looking out for each other, of mutual support and community resilience and the support for those affected by flooding has proven this in spades.

If there is any good to come out of what were for some people catastrophic and traumatic events, it is that the District has been shown in its true light with people from all backgrounds and all communities coming together to help one another and showing some remarkable displays of friendship, solidarity and generosity. I am very proud, as I am sure all Members are, to be associated with communities that show such selflessness and determination to help others to get back on their feet. We should also extend our thanks to the many people who came from outside the District to offer their help and support.

On behalf of the Council I would like to thank all those individuals and businesses who volunteered time, materials and effort to assist in the recovery.

3. Councillor Reid

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Transport - Will the Council or the Combined Authority be publishing an explanation of the final delays in the opening of Apperley Bridge Rail Station, which led to connecting bus services being advertised by Metro three months before they actually started and trains stopping at Apperley Bridge from December 13 without any times in the printed timetable?

Answer

Construction work on the station and associated access road and junction was largely completed on time. The final approval process involves preparation of a case to demonstrate that the station is safe to open to acceptance bodies internal and external to Network Rail, up to the independent Office of Rail and Road (ORR). This is a standard process. All these organisations specify a minimum time period for assessment and review. Network Rail started the certification process before completion of the infrastructure with the intent that it would be completed in parallel.

However, being an iterative and relatively new process it took them longer than they had anticipated to obtain the agreement of the approval bodies, which led to the risk that final sign off from ORR would not be received in time to open the station prior to Christmas becoming significant. Following pressure from West Yorkshire Combined Authority at the highest level to Network Rail and Department for Transport all bodies agreed to speed the review process to allow station opening in December. Final approval to open the station was received on the afternoon of Friday 11 December and the station opened on 13 December. This notice period coupled with the risk of not receiving approval on time was clearly insufficient to re print timetables and posters in time for the opening

Supplementary Question

This is helpful. I am very happy to accept the explanation of the pre-Christmas public transport pantomime that we had in North East Bradford. Just one point of clarification about the iterative and relatively new process in the second paragraph. What is the novelty? I know it took us ten years to get a new station open but opening a new station is nothing new. Is it the mysterious doings of the Office of Rail and Road? Is it them that's seriously embarrassed the Combined Authority or is it Network Rail or is it the Department for Transport or is it all of them?

Councillor Val Slater

I think it is a bit of mixture of both. There was a new process in which previously the safety certificate was given by one body. This new process involved three different bodies and you will forgive me if I cannot remember the name of them all and Network Rail in their timetable hadn't taken into account the length of time it takes to liaise with three different bodies and to get the ducks as it were lined up. It is something that we took very seriously and I can assure you that myself and officers and members on the Combined Authority were pushing very hard and I managed to speak to Stuart Andrew MP who is the PPS for the Transport Minister, advise him of the ridiculous situation we are in and lo and behold a few days later it was sold. Perhaps I can take together with Stuart a bit of credit for that one.

4. **Councillor Love**

Can the Leader of Council please give us an update on the situation regarding the relocation of the Bradford Soup Run?

Answer

The Bradford Soup Run is a charity that provides food and clothing to homeless people each Friday night. The Soup Run operates from a temporary building on Portland Street / Britannia Mills. Since the identification of the Britannia Mills Car Park as a potential location for the new City Centre Sports Facility it has been recognised that it will be necessary at some point prior to the development of the site to relocate the Soup Run.

Representatives of the Soup Run have had a number of communications with the Council to lobby their position and to request a significant improvement to the facilities as part of the relocation.

A letter making a relocation offer to the Britannia Street car Park has been made to the Bradford Soup Run w/c 4th January.

It is estimated that there will be no construction taking place on the development site for approximately 12 months. It is the intention of the Council to agree a mutually convenient time to re-locate the soup kitchen in that timeframe.

Supplementary Question

I realise the figures will not be available to hand necessarily but would the Leader be able to supply us with details of the difference in cost between what the Bradford Soup Run are asking for and what the Council is offering?

Councillor Green

I will get them to you.

5. **Councillor Farley**

Can the Leader provide an update on the proposed development at East Parade and will he give a commitment that the Council and its officers will work with the developers to get the best deal for Keighley as was the case for the Broadway development?

Answer

Absolutely. Stainsby Grange Company will not be able to deliver the intended development in Keighley. This was covered in the recent Scrutiny report on Regeneration in Keighley and has been widely reported.

However through their regular progress enquiries about the site officers spoke to an agent of a party interested in the site late 2015 (23rd November) and I discussed this interest with the developer's agent directly on 27 November. The agent was keen to make contact with key stakeholders.

Following the discussion I asked the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Culture, Mike Cowlam, to identify a team to help the scheme progress and this has been done. The team includes staff who worked on delivering the Broadway scheme with Westfield.

Contact on 11th January indicated that we should expect confirmation around the end of January that a new owner is in place that intends to bring forward a scheme.

6. **Councillor Greenwood**

What support is the Council offering to householders and businesses affected by the December floods?

Answer

There was a fantastic community response to the flooding in all affected areas and from across the District. Communities came together to help each other and Council and partner services endeavoured to support these efforts whilst ensuring the District's infrastructure was secured and returned to normal as quickly as possible.

Council Wardens worked alongside Police, Fire and Army colleagues to visit homes, assist with clear up, distribute sandbags, provide reassurance and signpost to additional help.

Skips were distributed across the District and Household Waste and Recycling Centres were opened for additional hours and accepted flood damaged goods free of charge.

Parking restrictions have been temporarily lifted in affected areas to enable recovery to operate uninhibited.

The Council has also confirmed a range of financial support packages which are available for households and businesses severely affected by the recent floods in the city.

Help for householders

For householders affected, a new Community Recovery Scheme has been set up which will provide £500 per household to help with recovery costs, such as provision of temporary accommodation. In addition anyone who was severely affected will not have to pay Council Tax for at least three months. After this time, anyone who is still unable to live in their home due to flood damage, will continue to benefit from this exemption

Help for businesses

For businesses affected, there is a Business Support Scheme for small and medium sized businesses to help those affected recover from the impacts of the floods. In addition any business whose trade was adversely affected by the floods will not have to pay Business Rates for at least three months. Like Council Tax, this will continue if the property is still not capable of use due to flood damage.

As a further measure, a grant scheme that provides up to £5,000 per property flooded to make properties more resilient to future flooding is being developed. This would apply to either households or businesses. The Local Enterprise Partnership/ West Yorkshire Combined Authority have also established a Business Flood Recovery Fund to support eligible businesses with capital investment to return to their pre-flood level of operation. The Fund is designed to be a next-stage progression for selected businesses from the Business Recovery and Flood Resilience Grants currently being administered by Councils across Leeds City Region.

7. **Councillor Cooke**

In the light of recent flood events, is the Leader of the Council content that the Council's planning policies in respect of flood mitigation and alleviation on housing sites are sufficiently robust?

Answer

The current practices we employ reflect both guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework and the British Standard Code of Practice for Assessing and Managing Flood Risk in Development and the British Standard Code of Practice for Surface Water Management for Development Sites. These codes of practice anticipate in general terms events of the magnitude we have seen recently. It is anticipated that both Government and the Environment Agency will be reviewing their policies and guidance and we will reflect on our own when we have these outcomes. The motions tabled at today's meeting of Council will also require a comprehensive review to be undertaken that takes account of all related factors.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer which sets out the national picture in respect of that. There are current RUDP policies relating to onsite flood management and the policy. My concern is a specific example in my ward which is in Crack Lane in Wilsden where the consequences of development remain a bit of a problem, shall we say, in terms of this issue. It is not just in the consequence of the wider flooding over the Christmas period. This has been a problem that pre-dates that, in other words, relates to that. So it is the extent to which issues like that are being adequately addressed in our current planning policies. If they are not then hopefully we will get an assurance that we will be able to pick those things up in any future development of planning policies with the district especially given public concerns about flooding.

Councillor Val Slater

We will obviously keep it under review. I think it is important. There was a new system called Sustainable Urban Drainage, SUDs, that was brought into consideration, I think probably about 18 months ago, although the timetable kept moving forwards and backwards and people are meant to look at mitigation when they are looking at planning applications. It was very interesting in the recent floods, the real problem that Leeds had in Kirkstall and I was advised Yorkshire Post rang them up and said we are doing a story about the flooding at your new station at Kirkstall Forge and the answer was "it is not flooded". "But we are doing a story, it is flooded, all Kirkstall is flooded." In actual fact that is a good example because as part of the planning possible flooding was taken into consideration and a channel was dug which worked and that station was not flooded. So there can be mitigation and that is one of the things that the developers and officers should be working on.

8. Councillor Jabar

Could the Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care update me on the Troubled Families Programme, the targets achieved and the impact it has made on families?

Answer

Bradford's Families First -part of the Troubled Families programme and the impact of phase 1 are:-

- 93% of families (out of a total of 1,760 families) made significant improvements in their lives which included -
- 64% reduction in offending
- 37% reduction in anti social behaviour
- 78% reduction in unauthorised absence from school
- 17% made progress into training and preparation for work
- 16% entered work and came off benefits.

- In addition 78% of families have sustained these improvements over the life of the programme.

Phase 2 which started in April 2015 aims to identify and deliver interventions to 5,990 families by March 2020.

This phase will be measured against a locally agreed payment by results targets. Work is underway to deliver this demanding programme which is being mainstreamed by its inclusion in the Council's Children's Services 'Journey to Excellence' transition programme.

The September 2015 payment by results claim showed 21 families had made significant progress - 13 had moved into work and 9 families had met all the relevant outcomes linked to the Bradford's Families First outcome plan.

9. **Councillor Dunbar**

Can the Leader inform us of the implications for the District of the Local Government Financial Settlement?

Answer

As expected the Local Government Financial Settlement confirmed the direction of travel of further cash cuts to local government, most of these are front loaded onto the next couple of years. The presentation of local government finances in the settlement has once again been done in a way which makes comparisons and interpretation between different years very difficult.

The settlement itself only really provides details of two sources of funding for the Council – the Revenue Support Grant and the Top Up Grant for business rates. These figures show a reduction of £26m in 2016/17 for these two funding sources alone. This is roughly in line with the Council's own estimate of reductions in these grants.

In addition national announcements do not translate easily into the impact at local authority level so until further detail is released it is impossible to assess the actual impact on other sources of funding from central government.

For example the Education Services Grant has been cut by 11.5% or £750k.

Public Health Grant is to face further cuts nationally of 3.9% per annum in real terms over the next four years but the allocations to individual local authorities are still unknown. For Bradford the cut may be more or less than the national average. [If Bradford suffered the national average cut this equates to £1m p.a.]

An improved Better Care Fund has been announced but the distribution of this has still to be decided.

A consultation is to take place on the future working of the New Homes Bonus as there is a national saving of £800m to be achieved on this fund so that it can be redirected to social care. So any increase in Better Care Funding is being partly paid by a reduction in the New Homes Bonus. [Bradford is expected to receive £11m in New Homes Bonus in 2016/17.]

It is evident from the Government's calculations that it forecasts Councils to increase Council tax every year over the period of the Spending Review.

It was announced that Councils with social care responsibilities can raise Council Tax by up to 2% above the normal referendum limit of 1.99% but the money raised from this social care precept has to be spent on Adult Social Care. Nevertheless, the estimated cost pressures facing social care are more than double the £3.1m that could be raised in Bradford from this precept.

It has been widely announced that by the end of this parliament that local government will be able to retain 100% of business rates but this will come with new burdens. Those new burdens have not been set out. The position is further complicated by the 2017 revaluation of business rates which will mean the Top Up Grant will have to be reset. The impact of the revaluation is unknown.

Then we have additional announcements such as the Apprenticeship Levy which will cost the Council approximately £1m per annum. (Excluding schools who will be expected to foot their own bill)

Another big announcement was the offer of a four year settlement for local authorities that choose to take up the offer, providing they have an efficiency plan in place. The four year indicative figures are subject to changes in inflation, changes to functions and unforeseen events. It is very difficult therefore to know whether the offer has any real substance.

To sum up, the settlement confirmed on-going cuts to local government finance but it is still too early to assess the direct impact on Bradford Council's finances as many key funding sources still have no detail. At the moment there is nothing to suggest that our medium term financial planning is unsound in that core grant is being removed and new funding will be matched with new burdens.

Supplementary Question

Clearly this answer provides a very bleak picture. I just wondered if the Leader could comment on reports that Conservative MPs in Conservative controlled shire councils are lobbying government hard to reduce their proportion of the cuts and if this does happen what impact will it have on authorities like ours and other urban areas?

Councillor Green

It has been widely reported over the last few days that there is a threat of a rebellion by certain government MPs who feel that the shire and county councils have been disproportionately hit under the Comprehensive Spending Review. I have to say that when I heard that I was somewhat gobsmacked given the experience of the northern cities over the past few years where the cuts that we have had to face have been disproportionate and provable. I think that it is vitally important for Bradford given what we know is already coming even if the Comprehensive Spending Review stands as it is, the cuts that we are going to have to face, that we have a cross party campaign to make sure that our MPs and all our elected Members of whichever party are making representations to ensure that no further cuts are imposed on Bradford to the detriment of the people that we all represent and I would ask all party leaders here, particularly those with representatives in Parliament, to make sure that we start a fight back against what appears to be a concerted effort to take further money from Bradford and other cities in the north.

10. Councillor Martin Smith

Could the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning & Transportation provide details of the number homes allocated in the RUDP for development on sites subject to recent or historical flooding, or at serious risk of flooding?

Answer

Data is still coming in from householders affected by the Boxing Day floods, Council Officers and 3rd parties. Survey work is still ongoing to accurately map the full impact. In general terms the locations affected reflect the varying intensity of rainfall across the district and as a consequence future events could give an entirely different distribution. This aside, early analysis seems to suggest that the extent of river flooding was broadly concurrent with the Environment Agency's flood zone 3. In other areas water damage has been caused as a result of excessive surface water run off caused by the already saturated ground and in some cases asset failure.

Given the complexities and the fact that the data we have is still not complete it is too early to be able to fully analyse which remaining development sites identified in the Replacement Unitary Development Plan (RUDP) have been affected and to what extent. This aside, the RUDP is in the process of being replaced by a new Local Plan which will involve the need to identify new development allocations in line with the Core Strategy. To this end the Council will shortly be starting the process of consulting on the Site Allocations issues and options. From then on there will be a detailed process of site appraisal which will involve taking information from technical studies such as the latest Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) as well as information provided by communities and from the various statutory undertakers before any decisions are taken on which will be the best most sustainable sites for new development, using the most up to date information and guidelines available. The full timescale for finalising the Local Plan will take at least 2 to 3 years.

Supplementary Question

Could you say when the Council's risk assessment document will include an item on flooding as this should be reviewed yearly and was not in the risk document at Corporate (Overview and) Scrutiny (Committee) before Christmas?

Councillor Green

The risk assessment document highlighted was written clearly before what happened on Boxing Day and whilst there are areas of this district that have always been subject to flooding and at threat of flooding in terms of, if you like, the district risk assessment it was not seen as high a risk for the district as those items that have been included. I think we will always review the risk register and given the outcome of the Boxing Day floods we will look at that again but it is a professional document but I have asked the Chief Executive as we prepare the next risk register to look at including the floods should it be seen as one of those top ten risks for the district.

11. Councillor Azam

Can the Leader provide a breakdown of the total business rates collected in each ward in the District?

Answer

This information is only available based on administrative areas. These are made up of Electoral Wards as they were in 1993 and any Parish Councils that exist. Although they do not match to the current Electoral Wards, many of them have similar boundaries. Work has recently been completed to report collection of Council Tax by the current Wards. The next phase of work is to do the same for Business Rates.

	Business Rates collected in 2014/15	% of total
University	£23,085,780	16.9%
Bowling	£12,210,641	8.9%
Undercliffe	£11,854,461	8.7%
Tong	£11,838,625	8.7%
Keighley South	£7,864,593	5.8%
Keighley North	£7,653,055	5.6%
Shiplay East	£6,040,194	4.4%
Wyke	£5,452,053	4.0%
Little Horton	£5,057,350	3.7%
Ilkley/Burley/Menston	£4,330,293	3.2%
Odsal	£3,943,682	2.9%
Eccleshill	£3,808,800	2.8%
Bradford Moor	£3,677,416	2.7%
Idle/Wrose	£3,351,777	2.5%
Great Horton	£3,061,998	2.2%
Bingley	£3,056,919	2.2%
Baildon	£2,509,416	1.8%
Queensbury/Clayton	£2,436,820	1.8%
Toller	£2,087,038	1.5%
Steeton	£1,578,777	1.2%
Shiplay West	£1,385,079	1.0%
Wibsey	£1,293,783	0.9%
Heaton	£1,092,052	0.8%
Silsden	£991,700	0.7%
Rombalds	£906,353	0.7%
Thornton	£835,519	0.6%
Keighley West	£772,770	0.6%
Wilsden/Bingley Rural	£744,684	0.5%
Bolton	£608,336	0.4%
Haworth	£480,367	0.4%
Wilsden	£365,718	0.3%
Clayton	£325,853	0.2%
Burley In Wharfedale	£324,377	0.2%
Wrose	£293,526	0.2%
Denholme	£268,832	0.2%
Menston	£262,129	0.2%
Addingham	£228,781	0.2%
Cullingworth	£217,842	0.2%
Keighley Bogthorn Exley & Oakworth	£191,438	0.1%
Oxenhope	£125,324	0.1%

Sandy Lane

£56,324

0.0%

TOTAL

£136,670,475

Supplementary Question

The former University Ward now known as the City Ward and three other Bradford wards contribute over 40% of all the business rates collected and over £20m more than the whole of Keighley and Shipley constituencies. Total business rates in Bradford East, South and West are six times higher than Shipley and Keighley. Does the Leader believe that business rates raised in those wards should be detained solely for the investment in those wards or does he think that this would be as classed as that idea that Council tax should be reinvested on the basis that areas that pay the most would get the most back?

Councillor Green

The bottom line is that if you want to have a society that works and that functions a system of taxation and redistribution is at the core of it. Just because your ward Councillor Azam happens to raise 17% of business rates does not mean that we will spend 17% of business rates in your ward. We will spend that money across the district where it is needed and where it is best for the people of this district. In the same way that we will spend Council tax from wherever it is collected where it will do the greatest good and those people that simply believe that the money raised should be spent where it is raised it is really saying it is every man and woman for themselves and devil take the hindmost. That is not an ideology that I will support, this is not an ideology that this Council will, I hope, support. We believe that those people who need help and assistance from the state should get help and assistance from the state wherever they live and those that can most afford to put into that assistance shall put in most. It is as simple as that.

12. Councillor Fear

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport and Sustainability - With the changes in bin collection and the associated encouragement for households to increase use of their recycling bins for the disposal of recyclable household waste, will the Council review the policy of only plastic bottles being the only plastic that can be recycled in these bins?

Answer

Currently the Council's policy on recycled plastic bottles includes all type of plastic bottles whether from the bathroom, bedroom or kitchen; shampoo bottles, all types of cleaning bottles including bottles with gun levers and all types of drink bottles but does exclude; yoghurt pots, carrier bags, plastic food trays, margarine/butter tubs and salad boxes. The reason this type of plastic is currently excluded is due to the grade of the plastic which has less well developed market outlets, and the level of contamination arising from such unwashed plastics. However, the procurement currently underway is looking at a longer term solution for the disposal of our residual waste which may include additional plastic types in recycling.

13. Councillor Khadim Hussain

What measures have previously been implemented to control the flow of and risk of flooding from surface water in the Devonshire Park, Spring Gardens Lane and Skipton Road area of Keighley?

Answer

As part of a European Interreg project in 2006 grassed areas within Devonshire Park were reprofiled to intercept overland flows from areas both within and above the park, some of which had large additional volumes of storage built in. Flows down the adjacent Mayfield Road were also intercepted into a trench trough system, both areas were connected into a watercourse in Spring Gardens Lane. These works have been successful in reducing the amount of runoff onto North Street and adjacent streets. As part of another European Interreg project we were able to undertake some investigation of areas in the Hollins Lane, Greenhead School and Cliffe Castle areas which were contributing to flooding on Skipton Road and the adjacent Arctic Street, however funding was not available to enable works to be carried out.

Monies have since been obtained for 2016/2017 to allow further analysis work to be done to enable a bid to be made for monies to carry out works.

Supplementary Question

Before I ask a supplementary can I through the Chief Executive thank the Council staff for the support they have provided in Keighley during the flooding and also I would like to thank my own portfolio holder who was there throughout the holiday so a big thank you for that. I appreciate the question is partly answered and it is reassuring that in 2016/17 there may be potential money coming into Keighley but my concern would be more immediate. In the short term what will be done to ensure that we do not have a repeat over Christmas?

Councillor Val Slater

Thank you Councillor Hussain. My colleague Councillor Ellis sits on the flood committees including something called the West Yorkshire Partnership and he tells me that a bid has already been put forward to deal with the particular issue that you highlight in this question. I think it is an absence of any drain at all coming down that particular road and we will be waiting to hear whether or not we are successful in getting that money. But in the short term Councillor Sunderland mentioned the flood resilience grant and that is the kind of thing that we can look at in the scheme to see if there is anything that can either be done with individual households or together as a community to stop future flooding. We do need it if we do not get the money from the Partnership or from the Yorkshire and Humber Flood and Coastal Committee or whichever one it has gone to.

14. Councillor Whiteley

The Government has awarded £30,000 to Bradford Council to support Burley in Wharfedale's Neighbourhood Plan. I understand that £20,000 has already been drawn down by this Council. Please can the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning & Transportation outline how this money has been spent or will be spent, to directly support the process in Burley in Wharfedale?

Answer

Councillor Whiteley is incorrect in her assertion that the Council has already drawn down £20,000 of the available government funding, in relation to the Burley in Wharfedale neighbourhood plan. In fact only £5,000 has been drawn down for this purpose to date.

The funding is by application at appropriate stages of the preparation process. For all areas, the basic level of funding is £30,000 per neighbourhood plan area. The first payment of £5,000 is made following designation of the neighbourhood area. The second payment of £5,000 will be made when the final pre-examination version of the neighbourhood plan is publicised by the local planning authority prior to examination. The

third payment of £20,000 will be made on successful completion of the neighbourhood planning examination. The purpose of the funding is to cover the additional burdens on local authorities as a result of the Localism Act 2011

The payments recognise the local planning authority officer time to provide advice and assistance to communities in taking forward their neighbourhood plans and costs for examinations and referendums. In this respect the first payment is linked to ongoing support being provided by the Council as a neighbourhood plan is being prepared. The second payment supports the consultation on the publication of the neighbourhood plan and the final payment covers the cost of the independent examination and cost of the referendum.

So far the first £5,000 has been drawn down following designation of the Burley in Wharfedale Neighbourhood Area and has been used to cover costs of providing staff support and advice. The remaining £25,000 will be applied for at the appropriate stage depending on the progress of the Burley Neighbourhood plan.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the detailed answer. I will pass that to Burley & Wharfedale Parish Council. However I understand Bradford planners received a draft Burley & Wharfedale Neighbourhood Plan on 31 December with a request to complete the strategic environmental assessment section of the plan by Friday 29 January. The Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations state that a public authority must respond to request for information within 20 working days. Can I have an assurance that the strategic environmental assessment will be completed and returned to Burley Parish Council by the 29 January?

Councillor Val Slater

I was not aware of that. I am not quite sure whether it is the responsibility of the Council or whether it is the responsibility of the people doing the neighbourhood plan. I have been informed by officers that some of the work that has been done by the Parish Council isn't actually fulfilling all the requirements that is needed as part of the neighbourhood plan but if we have held things up then obviously I will sort it out and I will get officers to speak to whoever is doing the neighbourhood plan if it is actually their responsibility or job to do.

15. Councillor Shaheen

Could you give Members an update on the Council's response to the recent Government consultation on the inspection of supplementary schools?

Answer

Safeguarding children, in all types of settings, is a key priority for Bradford Council. Bradford has a strong history of engaging and supporting all of its community organisations to help them discharge effectively their responsibilities for safeguarding children; the Council and its partner agencies respond promptly to concerns about children's safety and welfare in whatever settings.

The key concern with the consultation document is that it seems to focus solely on supplementary out of school settings and is focussed on the Prevent strategy. Bradford Council believes that this document should essentially be about safeguarding and well being and should apply to all settings irrespective of their religion, cultural persuasion or whether they provide extra-curricular academic and non-academic activities. The Council

is supportive of registration irrespective of the time spent in the settings, proportionate regulation and appropriate intervention. We are fully supportive of regulation focussing on: safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people; appointment of suitable staff; ensuring premises are safe; and that corporal punishment is not acceptable. However, we would prefer the focus on curriculum to have a more positive emphasis.

The regulatory and inspection responsibilities, however, should not sit with the Local Authority as this would be a key significant change in national education and childcare policy, whereby those responsibilities rest with external national agencies. The Council has a clear role in working with its partners and communities to provide appropriate development and support to all our organisations which is a key strength of the district of Bradford. Any new arrangements for registration, regulation, intervention and development support would require significant resources.

16. Councillor Khadim Hussain

There have been some recent national reports that some academy schools are turning down applications from pupils with special educational needs. Can the Portfolio Holder reassure us that this is not the case in Bradford District and will she undertake to write to the Regional Schools Commissioner to express the view that this is a practise that should not be allowed to take root here in any of our schools?

Answer

As part of the statutory assessment process and the development of an Education Health and Care Plan the local authority will seek parental preferences for school(s). As defined in the SEND 0-25 Code of Practice the local authority is then required to consult with those schools. Schools have to respond within 15 days and if they feel they are unable to meet a pupil's needs they are required to give reasons why this is the case. The LA would then review the reasons given and decide whether the school should be directed to admit the pupil.

If an academy wishes to appeal against a direction from the LA to admit a pupil they would have to appeal to the Secretary of State.

It should be noted that there have been no instances where academies in Bradford are turning down applications from pupils with SEN. If however this became an issue the Portfolio Holder is committed to raising it with the Regional Schools Commissioner.

17. Councillor Cooke

Does the Deputy Leader of the Council agree that where the Council's taxi licensing requirements reduce the resale value of the vehicles involved, the vehicle owners should be compensated?

Answer

No. The provision of hackney carriage and private hire services are businesses with the licensed vehicle being the business asset. Vehicles are required to meet specified construction and use, safety and signage criteria in order to be licensed and these evolve over time to ensure the vehicles remains safe and in accordance with agreed policy. All licensed vehicles are licensed 24 hours per day 7 days per week and may not be driven by a non licensed person. When purchasing a vehicle to be licensed the proprietor is fully aware that the vehicle will be subjected to very much higher than normal mileage and

associated wear and tear and these should be factored into the vehicle's depreciation. Taking into account all of the factors facing a licensed vehicle there are no licensing conditions which would significantly reduce the resale value and as such no question of compensation.

18. Councillor Jabar

With the proposed housing project North Side Road, can the Portfolio Holder tell me if any consideration has been given to the impact that this housing development will have on the already overflowing traffic. Whether or not there are steps that can be taken to mitigate the effects?

Answer

I can confirm that in common with all planning applications full consideration was given by Highways officers to the traffic impacts of this housing development site prior to it being considered by the planning panel.

I can also confirm that the predicted net impact on traffic volumes at this location was a negative one – that is there is predicted to be less traffic - when compared to the previous traffic volumes associated with the sites former industrial usage.

Therefore in accordance with planning legislation as there is no net increase in traffic associated with this housing development the Council is unable to require the developer to provide mitigation measures.

19. Councillor Shaheen

What support is available to support parents through the schools admissions process, particularly those parents who are not IT literate or have other literacy problems?

Answer

Parents are sent a comprehensive booklet regarding the process and a letter outlining how they apply online. They can also view an online video demonstrating how they apply online. Parents can make an appointment to visit the Admissions Team who can help them fill in the form and schools are also able to help parents to fill in forms and many schools can apply online on their behalf.

Sessions are held in primary schools for parents applying for secondary schools to help and advise them through the process and Admissions staff attend open evenings to help and advise parents on the process.

There have been press releases and a radio advert campaign for Reception admission this year and there are plans to roll out further opportunities for parents to be supported to apply online through schools and through the Admissions Team in future years. The Admissions Team work closely with the Communications Team to look at new opportunities to reach parents through different approaches and ensure that support is available to help them apply online and on time.

20. Councillor Fear

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Transport - How many decisions of the Planning Panels or the Regulatory and Appeals Committee to refuse planning permission have been challenged via public inquiry, appeal to the planning inspectorate

or judicial review in the last five years and how many times has the Council successfully defended its position?

Answer

Planning Panel Decisions with corresponding Appeals

Planning Panel	No of Appeal Decisions	Public Inquiry Total	Public Inquiry Allowed	Hearing Total	Hearing Allowed	Written Reps	Written Reps Allowed	Householder Total	Householder Allowed
2010/11	18	2	2	1	1	13	6	2	0
2011/12	9	0	0	2	1	4	0	3	0
2012/13	8	1	1	0	0	6	1	1	0
2013/14	11	1	0	0	0	8	6	2	1
2014/15	10	0	0	0	0	10	5	0	0
2015/16	9	0	0	0	0	8	5	1	1
Total	65	4	3	3	2	49	23	9	2

Regulatory & Appeals Decisions with corresponding appeals

Regulatory & Appeals	No of Appeal Decisions	Public Inquiry	Public Inquiry Allowed	Hearing Total	Hearing Allowed	Written Reps	Written Reps Allowed
2010/11	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
2011/12	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
2012/13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2013/14	3	1	1	0	0	2	1
2014/15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015/16	4	1	1	1	1	2	2
Total	9	2	2	1	1	6	5

Decisions with Judicial review

Judicial Review Decisions	Judicial Review granted	Judicial Review Fails	Judicial review in progress
8	4	1	3

21. Councillor Miller

Can the Leader of the Council please provide the name and position of all members of the West Yorkshire Casualty Reduction Partnership?

Answer

The following are key members of the West Yorkshire Casualty Reduction Partnership:

- Simon D'Vali, Bradford (Chair)
- Zafar Iqbal, WYP (Programme Manager)
- Assistant Chief Constable Mark Milsom, WYP (Member)
- Elizabeth Twitchett, Kirklees (Member)
- Carl Sabine, Kirklees (Member and Maintenance lead)
- Paul Stephenson, Wakefield (Member)
- Paul Foster, Leeds (Member)
- Graham Fisher (Finance)
- Peter Stubbs, Calderdale (Member)

In addition to these key members there are approximately 30 additional members of ancillary staff.

Supplementary Question

Leader thank you for this answer. Perhaps you can explain to me what key members mean? Does this mean there are other attendees that are not key but additionally I have searched for minutes for this representative body that has no Councillors on. Just trying to find out what their budget is because obviously someone has got to sign it off so who actually holds the budget and who signs it off?

Councillor Val Slater

I do not know the answer to that but I will find out but I suspect seeing as it is a partnership with the police and one of the Assistant Chief Constables is on there and as I explained at the last Council meeting the money to fund it comes out of the fines that people get when they are caught speeding and they go on the speed awareness courses which are run by the police and administered by Kirklees so I guess that it is probably the police but I will follow it up and let you know.

22. Councillor Dunbar

Bearing in mind the cultural significance the Brontës play in the district in what ways can the Council support the Bicentenary of Charlotte's birth, especially in Thornton, where the story of the Brontës really began?

Answer

2016 is a very exciting year for Haworth & Bronte Country as it sees the first of the bicentenaries of the births of each of the Bronte siblings. Charlotte in 2016, Branwell in 2017, Emily in 2018 and Anne in 2020. In 2019, it will be the 200th anniversary of Patrick accepting his invitation to take up his post at Haworth Parsonage. The Brontë Society unveiled some of its plans for this year's bicentenary of the birth of Charlotte Brontë at a special event at her birthplace in Thornton. They are to launch a website for Brontë200, highlighting the Society's five year programme of events celebrating the bicentenaries of the Brontë siblings.

The Brontës have made Haworth famous and it attracts many overseas visitors from Japan, the USA, Canada and Europe, It's expected that these events will attract many more visitors to Haworth and the wider district. Visit Bradford will promote all events and activities associated with this bicentenary on visitbradford.com and via social media, including Face book and twitter. It's also mentioned in the 2016 Bradford & District Visitor Guide, which has a print run of 20,000 and is also downloadable on www.visitbradford.com

Supplementary Question

I just wondered if the Portfolio Holder could acknowledge the success and significance of Thornton & Allerton's Michael Stewart played in the Brontë Stones Project in the recent Arts Council funding success for the Bradford Literature Festival?

Councillor Hinchcliffe

I am really pleased that Michael Stewart has managed to get that funding through. He has tried before and not got it through and this time as part of a larger bid we are very pleased to see that. Worth noting Bradford Literature Festival has just got £450,000, I

think it is from the Arts Council, to run projects so we are really pleased with their success. Fantastic. Thank you.

23. **Councillor Farley**

Can the Leader provide us with the following information:

- Council investment in services, facilities and infrastructure in Keighley and Ilkley and their surrounding areas over the last five years including investment secured through third parties such as the lottery, WYCA etc;
- Any further investment that is currently proposed;
- The services and facilities the Council provides in those areas;
- Any other initiatives that have or are being undertaken by the Council either alone or in partnership to support Keighley's local services, community and economy?

Answer

It is not possible to provide a fully comprehensive and itemised picture of all Council investment, spending and provision in Keighley and Ilkley because of its size and scope and the difficulties in breaking service expenditure down to this geographic level.

However Keighley and Ilkley benefit from the full range of Council services available to everyone who needs them in the Bradford District. For example, much of the Council's net budget goes on child protection, children in care, looking after vulnerable adults with multiple disabilities and enabling the elderly to live independent lives in their own homes. This support is not offered by the Council based on where you live. If you need the support, no matter where you live you get the support.

Much of the remaining budget is spent on universal services used by everyone wherever they live such as refuse collection, recycling, street cleaning and highways maintenance or on services like planning or drainage that are available to everyone as and when they need them.

The Council continues to maintain facilities, services and support specific to Keighley and Shipley including:-

- 3 libraries and 1 community managed library.
- 2 indoor pools and 1 outdoor swimming pool.
- Keighley Leisure Centre, Marley activity and coaching centre.
- 9 of the District's 36 parks, 37 recreation grounds, 23 play areas, 7 skate/BMX parks, 37 rugby and football pitches, 11 bowling greens, 3 multi activity communal areas, 2 cricket pitches and 10 tennis courts.
- 8 Cemeteries / crematoria.
- Advice and support to all of the maintained schools and school governors in the Keighley and Ilkley area.
- 4 directly managed Children's Centres with services also provided at a further 3 locations.
- 6 Youth & community centres with youth services also delivered from another 7 locations. Youth work staff also provide services in Schools, support Tier 1 NEET young people, vulnerable young people, young people with disabilities and other specialist work with young people across a wide variety of locations.
- 8 Wardens, 20 street cleansing staff, 19 cleansing vehicles.
- Cliffe Castle museum, 2 visitor information centres and 4 public halls.

- Keighley Market.
- Public toilets in Haworth and Ilkley.
- Management of significant areas of woodland across the area.
- Area office and ward officers helping to support local communities.

The Council has also provided funding to encourage visitors and tourism to the district's town and city centres through the Bradford Visitor Fund. Events such as the Ilkley Summer Festival and the Ilkley Film festival have taken place in recent years and have been supported by funding from the Council. In addition, the Council also set aside some funding from the Visitor Fund to support activities in the area related to the Tour de France in 2014.

The recent successful ballot to establish a Business Improvement District in Keighley means that over £1.4m will be raised through a business rate levy to support a range of activity to promote and strengthen the economy of the town centre.

Other recent investment and support includes:

- Keighley Town Heritage improvement programme.
- £2.9m investment since 2011 in skills and employment through Skills for Work and Work Choice; 274 job starts through Council funded schemes and 43 apprenticeships through the ATA and the Hub.
- Significant £7m investment to improve traffic congestion at Hard Ings Lane, Keighley and ongoing work to address town centre congestion.
- £370,000 refurbishment of Cliffe Castle Museum.
- Investment in new boilers at Keighley Pool.
- Support to develop the Keighley Business Improvement District.
- £600,000 work on Haworth Main Street.
- Refurbishment of Silsden Town Hall
- Capital investment in Victoria Hall, Keighley and King's Hall Ilkley.
- An Industrial Centre of Excellence developing the skills of young people to meet the needs of local employers.
- Helping to bring the Tour De France to Keighley, Haworth, Silsden, Ilkley and Addingham.
- Investment in various schools including the expansion of primary school places at Ingrow and Victoria Schools.
- Affordable homes programme in Ilkley.
- Investment in the Clockhouse respite centre and Meadowlea Community Home, Ilkley.
- Capital work at Nell Bank Outdoor Centre.

Planned and proposed measures include:

- Proposed new extra care housing for older and vulnerable adults at the former Bronte School site in Keighley and the construction of 26 affordable homes at Braithwaite Road.
- Over £300,000 Council contribution to secure the £4.5m overhaul of Cliffe Castle Park and buildings.
- The Council is involved in the construction of a community hub providing a one stop shop for health, DWP, Police and Council services to the public.
- Holden Park Multi Use Community Area and associated footpaths - £110,000 of Yorventure funding

- Improvements at Holden Park, East Morton Rec, Cross Roads Park and a £100,000 Play Area development scheme working with local community groups in Braithwaite.
- In terms of businesses in the area, the Council is introducing a new scheme to support businesses who move in to empty properties or a listed building by reducing the amount of rates they will pay for a period of time.

The Government's ongoing policy of subjecting local authority funding to massive and unsustainable funding cuts will affect all parts of the District including Keighley and Ilkley. The Council will however continue to work with local people, partners and business to do what it can to address the current and future needs of both towns.

24. Councillor Martin Smith

Can the Leader of the Council please provide a list detailing the number of staff involved in West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) operations, on what projects and the timescale of the various pieces of work upon which this time is used?

Answer

Cross council records matching officer involvement against the overall amount of WYCA related work areas are not kept as WYCA (and Local Enterprise Partnership) work is part and parcel of the way that key strategic, investment, delivery, monitoring and reporting work is undertaken.

Approximately 43 staff, in the Department of Regeneration, ranging from Senior Management through to technical specialists, are engaged in supporting various elements of Combined Authority related work including member and senior management support, transport strategy, investment planning, project development, strategic economic development, housing and planning, skills and employment.

The City Solicitor has advised that in addition to those 43 officers advice from the Legal Department is provided as and when required to Council officers dealing with WYCA matters.

Project / Operations Role	Timescale
<i>WY+TF Officer Steering Group</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Bradford Station Gateways Project Board</i>	<i>2014-2021</i>
<i>TPAG Officer representative</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>WY+TF Forster Square Station Improvement</i>	<i>2014-2021</i>
<i>WY+TF Tong Street</i>	<i>2014-2019</i>
<i>WY+TF Hard Ings Road</i>	<i>2014-2019</i>
<i>WY+TF Harrogate Road / New Line junction</i>	<i>2014-2018</i>
<i>WY+TF Bradford to Shipley Corridor Improvements</i>	<i>2014-2020</i>
<i>WY+TF Peer Review Panel Member</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>WY+TF Officer Steering Group</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>WY+TF Forster Square Station Improvement</i>	<i>2014-2021</i>
<i>WY+TF Tong Street</i>	<i>2014-2021</i>
<i>WY+TF Tong Street</i>	<i>2014-2021</i>

Project / Operations Role	Timescale
WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2018
WY+TF Tong Street	2014-2021
WY+TF Tong Street WY+TF Harrogate Road / New Line Junction WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2021
WY+TF Tong Street	2014-2021
WY+TF Tong Street WY+TF Harrogate Road / New Line Junction WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2021 2014-2018 2014-2018
WY+TF Tong Street	2014-2021
WY+TF Forster Square Station Improvement WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2021 2014-2018
WY+TF Forster Square Station Improvement	2014-2021
WY+TF Forster Square Station Improvement	2014-2021
WY+TF Forster Square Station Improvement	2014-2021
WY+TF Harrogate Road / New Line Junction WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2018 2014-2018
WY+TF Harrogate Road / New Line Junction WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2018 2014-2018
WY+TF Harrogate Road / New Line Junction WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2018 2014-2018
WY+TF Harrogate Road / New Line Junction	2014-2018
WY+TF Harrogate Road / New Line Junction WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2018 2014-2018
WY+TF Harrogate Road / New Line Junction	2014-2018
WY+TF Harrogate Road / New Line Junction	2014-2018
WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2018
WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2018
WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2018
WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2018
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WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2018
WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2018
WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2018
WY+TF Hard Ings Road	2014-2018

<i>Project / Operations Role</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
<i>WY+TF Hard Ings Road</i>	<i>2014-2018</i>
<i>Directors of Development</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Economic Development Officers Group</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Member and Senior Management support</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Inward Investment Officers Group</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>City Region Technical Assistance Group</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>One, City Park project development</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Canal Road Corridor project development</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Enterprise Zone project development</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>SME Growth Manager (50% funded by WYCA)</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>SME Growth Manager (50% funded by WYCA)</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>LCR/HCA Joint Board</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>LCR Executive Officers Group (Housing)</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>LCR Green Economy Officers Group</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>LCR Housing</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer but could we be advised of the cost of our officers' commitment to West Yorkshire Joint Authority relative to housing, transport and planning because we do believe that there is a lack of governance here on us Members knowing exactly what is going on with the West Yorkshire Joint Authority.

Councillor Green

I am not sure that we keep an hours sheet. We do not get people to clock in and out in that sense. This is part of people's day jobs when we are looking at trying to secure investment into the Bradford district and linking up that investment with investment in other parts of the Combined Authority. If we have not got officers and/or Members in the room then we have got no voice and we have got no influence so as far as I am concerned it is part of the officer day job, it is not part of something totally different. In terms of knowing what is going on in the Combined Authority I would point out that the minutes are published, that your group has representation or your party has representation on all the committees and your group has representation on certainly the transport committee and I believe as an alternate on the full Combined Authority and therefore will get all the papers and paperwork. I do take it that as we move towards possibly a devolution one of the key things that we have got to do is to make sure how we communicate with district councillors from whatever we have got in the West Yorkshire or Leeds City Region area and I think that is something that any constituent authority has really got to take on board and make sure that we feedback. The important thing though is that each group, even if we do not, who has got representation also has a duty to feedback to their own Members as well as each Member being able to get information through the Combined Authority and we are looking at that.

25. Councillor Dunbar

A report released by Government in December 2015 on the cruel bedroom tax revealed that people were cutting back on food and heating their homes as well as going into debt to find the extra rent. How many people in Bradford are currently affected by the Bedroom Tax?

Answer

There are currently 2,712 households who have had a reduction in their Housing Benefits entitlement due to the Social Sector Size Criteria; 2,230 of whom are classed as having 1 bedroom too many for their needs and 482 are classed as having 2 or more bedrooms for their needs.

When the size criteria was introduced in April 2013, there were 3,564 Bradford households who had their Housing Benefits entitlement reduced.

The Council is using the Discretionary Hardship Scheme to help those families most affected by the reductions. In the full year 2014/15, £400,000 was awarded to households affected by the change. Whilst this is helpful, it is only a small amount of the total benefit lost, which was c£2m in that same year

26. Councillor Shaheen

Some parents and pupils are not getting offered a place at any of their five preferred Secondary Schools. Can the portfolio holder tell us what the Council is doing to ensure that as many people as possible get a place at one of their five preferred schools?

Answer

All Councillors receive casework from constituents whose children have not been allocated their school of choice. This is obviously distressing for parents. However looking at the overall figures, on the offer day 1st March 2015 95% of parents received 1 of their 5 preferences, 91% received one of their top 3. However there is still work to do to make sure parents understand the process and therefore avoid the potential distress. For example, 400 applications were received after the deadline and, therefore, places were allocated for these based on the remaining places available. 20% of applicants only preferred one school and, therefore, limited their chances.

The Council has created in excess of 8000 extra places at primary level over the last five years and is currently planning for expansion at secondary level where extra places will be required within the next three years. The Council has recently launched a new strategy for school improvement to enable schools to support each other more effectively and to increase the popularity of all secondary schools. In addition the school admission team is providing information online and in leaflets and booklets to give details of individual school admission policies and for previous years the actual number of applications made for each school to give parents/carers an idea of how popular a school is and whether they are likely to be oversubscribed. The school admissions team is also providing information to parents/carers at secondary school open evening to encourage parents/carers to make informed preferences and to make full use of the five preferences they have before the deadline for school places of 31st October each year.

27. Councillor Miller

Could the Leader of the Council confirm the number, cost and locations of any senior management away days, along with details of who attended?

Answer

During the last 12 months, a total of seven Corporate Management Team development sessions have taken place. All of these sessions, full day (five sessions) or half day (two sessions), have been held within Bradford District, either at Council offices, or at the offices of our Partners, and have not incurred room hire charges. Facilitation and development costs have been incurred totalling £14,579.48. Facilitation for some of these sessions has been provided by Greengage Consulting Ltd.

Greengage specialises in the development of senior leadership teams across the public sector. Their clients include Oldham, Calderdale and Cheshire East Councils and Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust.

With the exception of two sessions in December 2015 which also included the Assistant Directors of the Council (a total of 22 attendees) and the Future Leaders programme applicants (104 attendees) each session has been attended by between 8-10 members of CMT.

The sessions with CMT have focused on developing the strategic leadership and management capability of the Senior Leadership team following the arrival of the new Chief Executive in August 2015.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Leader. A very good use of Council taxpayers' money and obviously I will look forward to the strategic leadership that is happening. Maybe you can keep us informed.

Councillor Green

Sarcasm was always one of your great traits Councillor Miller. If you have got anything positive to add or to ask I will be more than happy to answer otherwise I shall treat it with the contempt that it deserves.

28. Councillor Dunbar

Considering the wealth of local music talent in Bradford would the development of a designated music strategy to support local artists and venues be supported?

Answer

The Council has provided a range of opportunities for local musicians to showcase their talents through festivals and events including Bradford Festival. Our Music and Arts Service through the Music Education Hub working with partners also provides opportunities for post 18 students mainly in rock and pop although this is not linked to any funding received. We are happy to support the development of a designated music strategy for the district but this would have resource implications, both staff and funding, to make it happen. The Music Education Hub regularly post any musical offers available to musicians right across the district on their website www.bradfordmusiconline.co.uk

The coming together of like minded musicians, venues and music providers wishing to develop a music strategy for the district is positively encouraged with the Council providing advice but sadly without resource the Council could not take the lead on developing one.

29. Councillor Nicola Pollard

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care - Is the true cost of care really £13 per hour (p/h)? Can the Portfolio Holder provide a breakdown of the figures to show how the Council arrived at this amount which is 50p above the previous 'estimate'. Can he also confirm that the assessment was carried out by an independent third party and engaged a range of providers as recommended in government guidelines?

Answer

The Council is currently working with providers to prepare a service specification for the delivery of domiciliary care, which will in turn lead to a procurement exercise to secure a framework contract with the sector into the future. The process of preparing this specification includes detailed analysis of the cost of care including the implications of the new living wage rate. The work being undertaken with the sector involves the collection of provider costs to inform decisions in respect of the cost of care and in turn how the Council will support residents to be able to buy the support from a quality, sustainable and innovative market place.

The £12.50 rate which previously applied was set following work by an external consultant engaged by the Council and was based upon research and benchmarking work. Following consultation with individual providers, during which certain issues such as "lost" travel time between attendances were discussed, the advice of the consultant was accepted and the hourly rate set at £12.50 although the Council retained the discretion (subject to management approval) to pay more if the circumstances of a particular case required it.

The additional 50p increase to the £13 p/h the Council currently pays to providers of domiciliary care rate was set by the Interim Strategic Director and applies until this process is complete. This followed a series of meetings and discussions with providers and also representatives of the Bradford Care Association. This rate was set at a higher rate than previously applied to reflect the statutory increase in the National Minimum Wage which came into effect on 1 October 2015 and inflation. A detailed breakdown cannot be provided at this time because the setting of the £13p/h temporary has been the subject of a legal dispute.

30. Councillor Dunbar

Would the Leader acknowledge and support junior doctors in our district and across the country in their struggles against a government offer of a contract that does not provide sufficient safeguards for them and their patients either now or in the future?

Answer

I support efforts to maximise patient safety and the quality of care which should be at the heart of any measures to change or reform health services. I am not convinced that the contract on offer to junior doctors, with its inherent requirement for them to work excessively long hours or be spread more thinly across 7 days, will secure either of these priorities. If there are to be 24/7 services over and above those already provided then these need to be properly funded so that we have more doctors instead of risking patient safety by adding more pressure to junior doctors who are already working flat out.

The Government needs to listen to the concerns that are being raised and work with doctors to negotiate a solution.

31. Councillor Davies

Can the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Culture detail how the comprehensive study on the teaching of Maths, commissioned by Bradford Primary Improvement Partnership (BPIP), has been used to improve the teaching of Maths across the district?

Answer

Every BPIP school and other interested bodies received a copy of the booklet produced from this research study. Schools involved in the project delivered a workshop for a group of “requires improvement” schools as well as workshops in their own schools for practitioners to learn from their best practice.

Two of the schools involved also delivered a workshop at the Head teachers’ conference in September 2014. Lapage offered school to school support to 3 schools where maths was an area needing improvement. The three schools’ maths results improved in 2015 (from 68% in 2014 to 94% in one school, from 75% to 80% in another and from 70% to 86% in the third one). Maths workshops were also delivered for NQTs during 2014-15 using the best practice from one of the schools involved in the research.

32. Councillor Dunbar

What plans do the Council have to celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) History month in February?

Answer

The Council's Community Engagement team works closely with the Equity Partnership to deliver a range of activities throughout the year for the LGBT community. Unfortunately due to limited capacity within the partnership it is not possible to create a programme of activities for LGBT History Month and the Partnership is concentrating its efforts by contributing to other events within the district such as Incommunities awareness session (Free to be) around supporting social care needs of older LGBT tenants and the LGB Network who are providing an information stall at an event hosted by Bradford College.

Supplementary Question

I just want to ask the Portfolio Holder if he could provide a breakdown by Council Directorate at a later time of the support given to the LGBT community in Bradford?

Councillor Green

We can certainly breakdown that specific if that is what you are asking and we will see if we can get you that information. I think also though you have got to be careful in doing that because there will also be some more generic budget that will touch if you like several specific communities but we will get you the information we can.

33. Councillor Martin Smith

Could the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning & Transportation confirm the number of brownfield sites available for homes and industrial/commercial uses and how many of these homes are included in the Core Strategy, objective assessment of housing need?

Answer

In line with Government guidance, the Council has produced a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) which assesses the extent, nature and geographical spread of sites which are potentially deliverable in the short term (within the next 5 years) or developable in the medium to long term. The total supply of

plots on deliverable or developable brownfield sites amounts to 15,190 dwellings. A further 5263 dwellings could be developed on mixed sites (part green field part brown field). The total capacity of brownfield and mixed sites represents just under 50% of the 42,100 new homes needed district wide over the period to 2030.

In terms of employment land there are currently 45 available sites incorporating 96.22 hectares of land allocated in the RUDP for employment purposes. Of these, 27 are brownfield sites and constitute 31.57 hectares. 18 sites are greenfield incorporating 64.65 hectares.

The Core Strategy Objective Assessment of need has nothing to do with land supply and is not determined in light of it - it is an assessment of how many new homes will be needed to meet the district's population over the period to 2030 carried out in a manner compliant with the Government's National Planning Practice Guidance and taking into account household and demographic projections, and economic and housing market trends and signals.

34. Councillor Swallow

Can the Portfolio Holder comment upon steps being taken to build on the progress made in Bradford with the crisis care concordat, and advise how many patients are required to be placed out side of Bradford in the last 12 months as compared to the review 12 months ago?

Answer

The Crisis Care Concordat multi Agency partnership continues to drive and lead improvement to mental health services across the region. The Bradford and Airedale partnership and action plan has been highlighted nationally as good practice. A summary of the progress made since last year is:

1. The First Response Crisis Service is now set up and operational. It is now 24 hours and all ages.
2. We have successfully applied to be part of a mental health West Yorkshire urgent care vanguard with NHS England. Priorities are : A and E liaison; suicide prevention; crisis support; a reduction in out of area placements etc
3. The BMDC Approved Mental Health Professional duty service is integrated with First Response as are LA mental health social care service and joint working with the Emergency Duty Team.
4. The Intensive Home Treatment service has been redesigned as an alternative to acute care.
5. The Psychiatric Liaison service has been expanded including a social worker and linked to First Response. We are now looking to expand it to a 24 hour service as part of the Vanguard bid.
6. An LA/NHS police hub project has been set up with the Police and Crime commissioner to support vulnerable people coming to the attention of the police.
7. Criminal Justice Nurses are now part of First Response and in the police custody area. In addition we are intending to link all criminal justice services together to improve services.
8. We have a partnership with housing so that a housing worker is part of First Response and we are working with providers on people who are hard to place or at risk of eviction due to MH issues.
9. We are developing a multi agency children's crisis care concordat that will link to 'Future in Mind and a crisis care pathway for children and young people.

10. We have set up a very successful 'Sanctuary' project with MIND and are working on a 'safe space cafe' as an alternative to A and E.
11. Our health based places of safety have been redesigned.

There have been no out of area placements for people needing non specialist acute beds for 5 months. Use of S136 MHA is down. Number of MH service users using A and E is down. Number of MH service users in police custody is down. Satisfaction of the police with MH services is up.

We will continue to develop and progress this agenda over 2016.

35. Councillor Cooke

Can the Leader of the Council confirm whether staff with administration access to the Council's social media accounts are provided with training in their use, how are the accounts monitored and is there published guidance for staff on the appropriate use of these accounts?

Answer

Training for staff

All staff with administration access to the Council's corporate social media accounts - Twitter (@bradfordmdc) and Facebook (/bradfordmdc) – have received appropriate training in the use of those accounts.

There are a number of social media accounts administered and managed by individual departments and services for their own more specific audiences. Some are very well managed with large numbers of followers; others are used infrequently and have a very small number of followers.

The Public Affairs and Communications Service does not have the capacity or resources to routinely train staff in other services to set up or use their social media accounts, although advice and support is provided if requested. All employees who manage a Council social media account are encouraged to take part in the Digital Communications Working Group, which is a focus for spreading peer training in social media skills across the Council.

The Digital Communications Working Group meets monthly and is run by an officer from Public Affairs and Communications. The group is also a forum for exchanging new ideas and best practice, disseminating guidance, and sharing information about relevant developments in digital communications.

Monitoring accounts

@bradfordmdc and /bradfordmdc are monitored and used daily for posts and re-tweets relating to Council or related partner information, and responding to enquiries as appropriate. This is carried out on a rota basis by Public Affairs and Communications Service staff, in association with Contact Centre staff who deal with customer service enquiries/issues.

Staff setting up new social media accounts are required to get them authorised by their Assistant Director and register them with the Public Affairs and Communications Service. The Public Affairs and Communications Service does not have the resources to actively monitor all service managed accounts on a regular basis, nor would that necessarily be

desirable. However Public Affairs and Communications does carry out periodic audits of all Council social media accounts to check they are being maintained.

Published guidance for staff

There is published guidance for staff available on the Council's corporate intranet:

- Social Media Protocols
- Best Practice Guidelines for Managing a Social Media Site
- Social Media Response Guidelines.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. However given that Council has got over 50 active Facebook and Twitter accounts plus accounts on other social media and plus a set of blogs and so on, does the Leader agree that there is now, I will not use the word proliferation because as people know I am quite in favour of these things, is there not still a risk that without proper guidance and training and an insistence on the proprieties being observed these accounts for whatever reason could be misused deliberately or accidentally and can you assure me that steps will be taken to make sure that that risk is minimised if not completely eliminated?

Councillor Green

I was tempted to tweet you an answer. I understand what you are saying but I also think that we have to trust the officers to be professional. We do try and provide as much training and support to the individuals providing that account and we have to remember that our communications team has like the rest of the Council taken hits over the years and therefore we do not have the resources we used to have to really keep on top of everything. The interesting thing is that the concerns that have been raised with me about any accounts, and they have not been massive, they have been about language and grammar mainly rather than content have been raised by elected Members because we tend to follow them all and I think most officers are aware of that and therefore are not going to do anything barking mad. I accept what you are saying and we will continue to try and monitor and train and make sure that we keep it as high a standard as possible.

36. Councillor Martin Smith

Could the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning & Transportation confirm the number of redundant residential accommodation units over what are now lock up shops and whether there are any grants available for refurbishing these many properties into lettable homes?

Answer

The Revenues and Benefits system holds data regarding empty domestic properties in the district; however the type of domestic property is not identified within the system. Therefore we have no record of whether the empty dwelling is situated above a shop.

However, all owners of residential properties, including flats that have been empty for a 12 month period receive a letter offering advice and assistance from the Empty Homes and Loans Team.

An Empty Property Loan (EPL) is available for individuals who own a property that has been empty for more than six months (long term empty) and works are required to bring it back into use. The loan is an equity release product and is secured as a legal charge against the empty property. The maximum loan term is five years. The amount borrowed can range from £2,000 - £30,000. A condition of the loan is that the property is occupied as a home or sold within 6 months.

Where an owner of a long term empty property is not eligible for the Council's Empty Property Loan (because they do not have enough equity in the property) they may be eligible for Empty Property Assistance.

Supplementary Question

Could we be advised of when the EPL was last publicised or presented to those properties vacant over six months as listed on the Council tax lists?

Councillor Val Slater

I will get back to you on that.

37. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

What consideration will the Leader give to vet suppliers to the Council to ensure that the Council does not do business with suppliers who have committed tax avoidance?

Answer

Where an offence has been committed by a supplier and may reasonably be regarded as impacting on the ability of that supplier to deliver the contract in question, the Council can, and does, disqualify such suppliers from a Council tender processes.

However, whilst it may be unsavoury, tax avoidance – the minimisation of tax within the law – is not an offence. Legally, therefore, the Council would not be justified in excluding a bidder from a Council tender process on the basis that it believed it was guilty of tax avoidance.

Practically, the Council has over 10,000 suppliers and does not have either the powers or the resources to investigate their tax affairs – that is the role of HMRC. But even HMRC cannot prosecute for tax avoidance; only for tax evasion

38. Councillor Cooke

Could the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning & Transportation, inform colleagues of any representations that the Council has made to seek an appeal decision, following the public inquiry in June 2015, into the refusal of housing development at land adjacent to Haworth Road and Turf Lane, Cullingworth?

Answer

The case officer for this appeal has made numerous calls/emails to the Planning Inspectorate chasing progress for this appeal but unfortunately the Inspectorate has been unable to indicate when the appeal decision will be made citing illness for the Inspector who attended the Appeal Hearing in June 2015. The Planning Inspectorate has indicated recently that a decision is now imminent although clearly the Inspectorate will not meet their 22 week target for determination of this type of appeal.

Supplementary Question

Can I thank you for the answer and thank the officers for their efforts in seeking to get a resolution to this? I have written to Members of Parliament and the Minister and tried to have some communication with the planning inspectorate. This inquiry took place in June last year and since then although we know the reason why the planning inspectorate has dragged its feet and dragged its feet which is not in the interests of residents, it is not in the interests of the housing association who made the application and perhaps the

Portfolio Holder would like to join us in putting some pressure on PIns to get their finger out and either reconvene the inquiry or issue a decision.

Councillor Val Slater

I would Councillor Cooke but I need to apologise to you because this is not the most up to date answer. I noticed a revision came in and it has not been printed and I understand a decision has been released by the Planning Inspector. Unfortunately I cannot remember what it was but I will get that information to you as soon as possible but it was amended to say “we have been told it is here”.

39. Councillor Nicola Pollard

To ask the Portfolio Holder how many days of NHS bed capacity have been lost because of problems with social care packages each month for the last three years?

Answer

The Total number of delayed days Social Care has been wholly responsible for in the last 2 years is 2,004. The ‘Acute’ figure in the main relates to Airedale and BRI hospitals, the ‘non-Acute’ generally refers to mental health beds. In 2014/15 there was an error in the reporting of the non-acute figure, that is it being overstated. The figures for 2015/16 are not yet confirmed and therefore not included in the table below.

	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	TOTAL
Acute	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Non Acute	180	103	85	116	212	55	66	187	84	143	41	86	1358
	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Total
Acute	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	1	0	28
Non Acute	87	74	39	54	45	78	48	53	1	68	57	10	614