

BURY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING –9 DECEMBER 2015

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR ISHERWOOD CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.**)

Suggested answer to written Question 1 submitted by Councillor Bevan

- Q.** Can the Leader of the Council explain to residents why there have been several months delay in undertaking highway works near 314 Bolton Road West in Ramsbottom as it has been causing significant disruption and the current volume of rain and wintry weather is causing concern about flooding
- A.** **The blame for this falls squarely on the shoulders of the gas, electricity and telecoms companies who have breached a nearby culvert.**

Investigations have shown that the culvert has actually been compromised by multiple intrusions from these companies including 5 British Telecom ducts, a 9 inch gas main and 4 electricity cables.

Before the Council can repair the culvert these services have to be removed. The respective companies have taken responsibility for their intrusions into the culvert and are making arrangements to rectify the situation.

Given that one of the services is a high-voltage electricity cable and that there have been periods of prolonged wet weather and high water flow, it has not been safe to enter the culvert to undertake any works.

Once the companies have made the site safe then the Council will be able to repair the culvert and undertake any de-silting works that are required.

The Council is doing everything it can to persuade the companies to sort this situation out quickly. We have asked for the contact details of their executive officers so that Bury's Chief Executive can engage in direct discussions with them to request that they expedite their works due to the high levels of disruption and safety issues that are ongoing whilst this issue remains unresolved.

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COUNCIL MEETING –9 DECEMBER 2015

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR SHORI DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND HOUSING

ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 2 submitted by Councillor Mallon

- Q.** I appreciate the CSR is still being analysed and we wait the formal settlement. However, is the leader confident that we will finally get a “Fair Deal for Bury”?
- A.** **The CSR is still being analysed, and is throwing up more questions than answers at this stage.**

Analysis of the mainstream settlement suggests cuts nationally of 30.1% by 2019/20, however the picture for Bury suggests a cut of 32% - so I’m afraid Bury is still not getting a “fair deal”.

In addition, we are getting increasingly concerned about the impact upon other funding streams, e.g. changes being mooted to the New Homes Bonus, the Education Services Grant, Benefits Admin Grants, and new burdens such as the Apprenticeship Levy.

The reality is we will not know until the Settlement – which is expected next week.

To be in this uncertain position, so close to when we have to legally set the budget is frankly unacceptable.

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COUNCIL MEETING –9 DECEMBER 2015

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER RESOURCE AND REGULATION ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 3 submitted by Councillor Fitzwalter

- Q.** Will the Leader join me in celebrating the decision to overturn the appeal against Bury Council’s Planning Committee’s decision to refuse planning permission for the AD Plant in Ramsbottom? And does he agree that this is a good example of what can be achieved when local people and Bury’s Labour Council work together for a common purpose.
- A.** **After what was clearly a thorough Public Inquiry, the Secretary of State has dismissed the recent appeal for an AD Plant in Ramsbottom and effectively upheld the decision of the Council’s Planning Control Committee to refuse the application for planning permission.**

I am mindful that there are options still available to the applicant following this decision and as such, I am appropriately cautious. I am minded to suggest that all Members remain equally cautious.

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NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER RESOURCE AND REGULATION ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 4 submitted by Councillor Susan Southworth

Q. Greater Manchester Councils are currently consulting on growth options through the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. Could the Leader please comment on the nature of these options and what might the implications be for Bury?

A. **Consultation on three Strategic Options for housing and employment growth across Greater Manchester commenced on 9 November and will run to 11 January 2016.**

The outcome of the consultation will help to deliver an informed decision on the actual level of growth to be planned for when the draft Spatial Framework is consulted on, towards the end of next year. This will take account of responses received and any updated evidence.

At this stage, the Spatial Framework will seek to distribute the proposed level of growth across the ten districts. This will take account of the opportunities and constraints in each district. However, it is too early to understand what the implications will be for Bury, or indeed any of the other districts, until such time as the level of growth is agreed.

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NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER RESOURCE AND REGULATION ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 5 submitted by Councillor Roy Walker

- Q.** Could we be informed of the income from fines imposed on drivers in the bus lane on Bolton Road in Church Ward and by comparison the income from drivers contravening the bus lane regulations on Rochdale Road in East Ward in the 12 months up to 1st September 2015?
- A.** **The PCN (Penalty Charge Notice) income data is not collected in a format where this information can be supplied. Overall income from individual bus lanes is not known as we do not split the income stream down.**

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NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR SHORI DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND HOUSING

ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.**)

Suggested answer to written Question 6 submitted by Councillor Sarah Southworth

- Q.** Can the Leader confirm whether the proposed “Social Care Precept” would be sufficient to support the pressures facing Social Care Budgets in Bury?
- A.** **The Social Care Precept would yield approximately £1.3 million for Bury Council.**

This does not even begin to address the pressures that exist now in the Health & Social Care system let alone future pressures.

The situation stands to get even more critical as these pressures continue to rise as a result of demography, demand and expectation changes.

I would also make it clear that the Government is actually offering us nothing here – they have simply passed responsibility for this structural deficit onto Local Taxpayers.

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COUNCIL MEETING –9 DECEMBER 2015

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR BLACK

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER

ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 7 submitted by Councillor Holt

- Q.** It is encouraging to see that the Government is following the Council’s lead in promoting apprenticeships. However, what will be the financial impact of the proposed “Apprentice Levy” on the Council?
- A.** **Bury has led the way in terms of developing its apprentice programme – we have assisted over 100 young people, and this was recognised in the recent Sunday Telegraph awards for the top 50 employers where we were commended for our approach.**

So Yes, it is encouraging to see the Government recognising the importance of these schemes – albeit late in the day. We understand the Apprentice Levy is to be set at 0.5% of the paybill, and we understand it will apply to Local Authorities.

Whilst we fully support the development of apprenticeships, this will be a new financial burden approaching £0.5 million per annum.

This comes on top of reduced settlement funding, reduced grants and increasing demand pressures.

We will be lobbying for this new charge to be recognised in our funding settlement, however as always I expect this will not be addressed.

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NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR SIMPSON CABINET MEMBER HEALTH AND WELLBEING ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 8 submitted by Councillor Noel Bayley

- Q.** Can the Leader tell me what expected outcomes and economies of scale he would expect with one commissioning arm between Adult Social Care and the CCG?
- A.** **The joining up of commissioning functions is essential if we are to create financial efficiencies, reduce duplication and create a health and care system that is built around the needs of residents. However, significant and detailed work will have to be undertaken during the next 12 months to identify where any future savings may come from.**

For Bury, work is underway to consider the function of one commissioning organisation, with one coherent vision for Bury. The principle is to ensure a consistent message to both the people of Bury and providers working within the care and wellbeing sector in Bury.

It was agreed within a senior management workshop to work towards being one commissioning organisation for Bury.

The overall vision towards which both the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group are working has been defined as follows:

A Commissioning purpose that changes people's lifestyles and behaviours through high quality provision of:

- ***Education and Information***
- ***Prevention***
- ***Self care and self management***
- ***Care and support***

in order to maximise the number of people who live out their lives in the best possible way as determined by the individual

Further updates will be provided to Council as the work progresses over the coming months.

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COUNCIL MEETING –9 DECEMBER 2015

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR HENEGHAN CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FAMILIES AND CULTURE

ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 9 submitted by Councillor Pickstone

- Q.** Two years ago Council agreed a very welcome motion on the subject of homophobic bullying, particularly in our schools. I would be grateful if the Leader could provide members with an update on progress made on this issue?
- A.** **I am pleased to confirm there has been a great deal of work done over the past two years to seek to prevent and address homophobic bullying in schools**

As well as supporting schools with ideas and materials for PSHE lessons we developed a hate crime immersion day with one of our faith high schools. It involves partnership work which includes Greater Manchester Police. 8 of our secondary schools have received this input. It is now being rolled out year on year in these schools as an ongoing piece of education to address all 6 strands of hate crime.

Last year we organised a hate crime conference for both primary & secondary schools. It was attended by secondary pupils as well as professionals. The POG group (Proud of Gayness, which is supported by our Youth Service) delivered one of the workshops at the conference.

All of the primary schools received a free training pack aimed at year 6 pupils which addressed all forms of hate crime.

We are currently working with partners to form an inter school hate crime youth forum. We have just received confirmation from GMP for funding for £1000 to hold an event in February 2016 to coincide with LGBT history month.

Last year we ran our first transgender training day for professionals which was really well received. Whilst there is always more we can do we are putting very considerable effort into this agenda and we believe it is having some real impact.

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COUNCIL MEETING –9 DECEMBER 2015

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER RESOURCE AND REGULATION

ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 10 submitted by Councillor Gartside

Q. Will the Leader of the Council bring some festive cheer to the shoppers and businesses in Bury by allowing free parking in our town centre after 3pm in the run up to Christmas?

A **The Town Centre Car Parks are already very busy, implementing free after 3pm parking would not encourage extra footfall, it would just displace existing parkers.**

There would also be a substantial cost to the Council, equating to approximately 30% of pay and display revenue, and possibly more if parkers then opted to come into town later.

BURY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING –9 DECEMBER 2015

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR SHORI DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND HOUSING

ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 11 submitted by Councillor Quinn

- Q.** Can the Leader tell me what the anticipated costs will be of implementing the Living Wage, especially with regard to Adult Social Care which I believe will be the most affected Department and what we can do to mitigate this?
- A.** **This Council has always been committed to paying a fair wage, and this is demonstrated by the “Bury Wage” which we have introduced.**

Where initiatives such as the living wage proposals are applied nationally, they will have a significant impact on both our paybill, and the prices we pay for commissioned services.

We estimate there could be a combined impact in excess of £12 million by 2020.

Our main concern is how we are expected to fund these costs.

Local Authorities are lobbying the Government to have these costs recognised in the funding Settlement, however I expect we will have to absorb them – along with other funding reductions and cost pressures.

BURY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING –9 DECEMBER 2015

**NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR CONNOLLY
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET
QUESTION TIME**

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**Suggested answer to written Question 12 submitted by
Councillor Sarah Southworth**

- Q.** Would the Leader join me in congratulating the winners of the recent “Made in Bury Business Awards”, and agree that this event was an excellent showcase of talent and business in Bury?
- A.** **I wholeheartedly agree that this Council should congratulate all the winners of the 2015 Made in Bury Business Awards.**

Now in its third year, it has quickly become the highlight of the year for many of our businesses. The Made in Bury Business Awards are an important element of our commitment to supporting a stronger economy. Bury Council’s reputation amongst the businesses community is greatly enhanced by our continuous endeavour to foster excellent relationships and partnerships with Bury businesses.

This year alone we have sponsored the Made in Bury Business Fair, funded a dedicated Business Growth Advisor, hosted 4 business breakfasts and delivered a dedicated tendering master class to over 30 businesses. The Chief Executive and I have visited over 30 businesses and have been blown away by the fantastic, creative, entrepreneurial spirit that is spread right across our townships.

We intend that this relationship continues to thrive and demonstrates this Council's recognition that enterprise is vital to grow our economy, provide jobs and make Bury a wonderful place in which to live and work.

Finally our congratulations go not just to the winners but to all those companies large and small who make such a valuable contribution to our borough.

BURY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING –9 DECEMBER 2015

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR CONNOLLY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 13 submitted by Councillor Jones

- Q.** It is now almost 12 months since the Council achieved the prestigious Purple Flag status for Bury Town Centre. Could the Leader explain how has this been promoted and what happens next?
- A.** **In February Bury became the first, and only, town Centre in Greater Manchester to achieve Purple Flag accreditation. This award recognises the high standard achieved managing our Evening and Night Time Economy and diverse mix of venues, entertainment and events that appeal to all.**

Purple Flag is a positive initiative which provides a marketing opportunity Bury Town Centre’s evening and night time offer.

Since February this year our Purple Flag promotional campaign has included

- **Purple Flags outside Council Buildings**
- **Social media and website features**
- **Banners and posters at key locations,**
- **A joint Purple Flag/VisitBury information stand at the Bury Business Fair and at Bury Light Night.**
- **Businesses and venues in the town centre are displaying posters, branded beer mats and window stickers.**

A “light touch” renewal is required to maintain our accreditation after 12 months. This renewal, summarising our activities was submitted in October this year. A decision is expected in January 2016 following consideration by the ATCM (Association of Town Centre Management Assessors panel).

Our great strength in Bury is our strong partnership working with a range of key stakeholders and key venues. All of us are focussed on delivering a higher quality environment, with more visitors and lower crime and anti-social behaviour. We know that Bury is such a great place to visit during the daytime, and Purple Flag supports our local economy by extending that fabulous experience throughout the evening.

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NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR ISHERWOOD CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 14 submitted by Councillor Wright

- Q.** As the budget for leaf clearance has been reduced, will the Leader support a suggestion I recently put to Officers, that volunteers are now given permission to clear leaves on public pathways which are proving to be hazardous, especially for the elderly?
- A.** **The Council’s street cleaning workforce removes in excess of 100 tonnes of leaves from our footpaths and roads each year.**

The Council would be keen to work with voluntary groups who wish to work on self help schemes to improve their local communities including leaf clearance.

From a road safety perspective, volunteer groups would require briefing and induction regarding personal safety when working near the carriageway. Groups should contact the Council’s road safety team for advice and training before carrying out voluntary work.

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COUNCIL MEETING –9 DECEMBER 2015

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR SHORI

**DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE
AND HOUSING**

**ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET
QUESTION TIME**

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**Suggested answer to written Question 15 submitted by
Councillor O’Brien**

Q. What will be the impact on the Council of the proposed £600m reduction in the Education Services Grant?

A. **Firstly, I would like to commend the Chancellor, for achieving the mathematically impossible.**

The total ESG paid out nationally is £564 million, and yet he is proposing to cut £600 million by 2020 –maybe this is just a rounding – what’s £36 million between friends ?

On a serious note, Bury receives almost £3 million in ESG; this funds mainstream services which support the Council’s statutory education responsibilities.

Withdrawal of this funding will therefore have a significant effect in addition to the 32.0% cut we are experiencing to our substantive settlement.

BURY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING –9 DECEMBER 2015 NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR HENEGHAN CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FAMILIES AND CULTURE

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Suggested answer to written Question 16 submitted by Councillor Parnell

- Q.** Can the Leader provide an update on the work of the Children’s Rights Service?
- A.** **The purpose of the Bury Children’s Rights service is to give children and young people in care a voice. They are a small team (three) whose work includes:**
- **Visiting within 4 weeks all new (over 8 yrs) entrants into care, providing them a coming into care pack, they explain what being in care means, the arrangements for advocacy and the complaints procedure.**
 - **Supervision of 24 volunteers - who provide independent visiting services to 27 children.**
 - **Training of new volunteers.**
 - **Undertaking return interviews for any young people who ‘go missing from care’.**
 - **Supporting the Children in Care Council and the junior Children in Care Council – including arranging highly successful participation events e.g. the recent Halloween themed event.**

- **Training and supporting young people in care to deliver 'Total Respect' training' to professionals from a range of agencies - and also to deliver pre-approval foster carer training.**
- **Supporting and advocating for young people in the rare circumstance that a young person disagrees with their local authority care plan.**

During the course of 2015 Bury Children's Rights service has delivered a quality participation service despite the loss of two the team.

The service has been supported during this period by the youth participation service. Recruitment activity is underway and the service will become fully staffed early in the New Year.

The Leader has previously referred to the LILAC Review which looked at our work with Children and Young People in Care. They found in Bury 'a shared culture of participation throughout services for young people in care and care leavers' and they noted in particular that:

'Bury Children Right's Service has a high profile with young people, staff and carers and provides a strong driver to putting into practice the values and commitments from above'.

They are a small but every effective and very valuable service.

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Suggested answer to written Question 17 submitted by Councillor Hodgkinson

Q. Ramsbottom Town Centre road markings have been allowed to fade so badly that at several busy junctions there is no visible evidence they ever existed. Can the leader give assurances that road markings will be reinstated as a matter of urgency and maintained in future so that they never get into the appalling state that they are currently in?

A. **The condition of road markings is assessed as a part of our programme of routine Highway Safety Inspections.**

The reinstatement of road markings is considered on a needs basis taking into account highway safety and enforcement.

I am aware that instructions are currently with our external road markings contractor to reinstate several streets within Ramsbottom Town Centre and that these works are scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2016, subject to favourable weather condition.

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NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCE AND REGULATION ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 18 submitted by Councillor D’Albert

- Q.** Previously members have asked about the use of the ‘camera car’ to address illegal and unsafe parking outside of schools. Could the Leader please inform members if this is a use that is being considered?
- A.** **The CCTV car is currently utilised during peak and off peak periods to enforce bus lanes. At some point in the future we may look at investing in fixed CCTV equipment to enforce bus lanes. This would then free up the vehicle to carry out enforcement outside schools. In order to carry out this type of enforcement we will need to apply for a new approved device status for the vehicle from DfT. The current approval would not cover the variation in enforcement.**

I would also state that I cannot foresee any more schools being covered per occasion due to the small window of school start & finish times.

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COUNCIL MEETING –9 DECEMBER 2015 NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR HENEGHAN CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FAMILIES AND CULTURE

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Suggested answer to written Question 19 submitted by Councillor Walker

- Q.** How many foreign delegates (at £50-00 per head) attended the International Arts Conference hosted by the Sculpture Centre in 2014 ?
- A.** **The event which was held in 2014 was not an international art conference in 2014 - it was an international summer school. It was held in the Art Gallery rather than the Sculpture Centre.**

It was a workshop based week of training in how to work with galleries internationally. 18 participants attended of which 5 were from overseas (27%). The fee per head for attending the Summer School was £300 rather than £50. The Summer School was part of a bigger project in partnership with the University of London worth £17000 which was funded by The Arts & Humanities Research Council.

Such events show that Bury is establishing a national reputation for its work in promoting our art internationally.

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NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR SHORI DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND HOUSING ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 20 submitted by Councillor Gartside

- Q.** Does the Leader of the Council think it will be necessary to raise the level of Council Tax by 2% next February in order to cope with any adult social care budget shortfalls?
- A.** **The 2016/17 Council Tax will be set by Full Council on 24th February 2016.**

As I have already outlined, there is a lot of work to do before then to understand exactly what the Settlement means, and how other grants are affected.

Is 2% sufficient ?

No – this does not even address the pressures that exist in the system now.

And, I reiterate again – the Government is doing nothing to help Local Authorities with this precept – it is simply “passing the buck” to Local Taxpayers.

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NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR SIMPSON CABINET MEMBER HEALTH AND WELLBEING ITEM (6) – LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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Suggested answer to written Question 21 submitted by Councillor Pickstone

Q. Could the Leader inform members what proportion of home care visits in the last year are of 15 minutes or less, and what proportion of home care visits are 5 minutes or less?

A. **The following information is based on Electric Care Monitoring. On average there are 549,129 visits provided, 37% of which are 15 minutes or under and 4% of visits which are provided are 5 minutes or under. These visits are largely to monitor that medication has been taken by the customer or as a pop in visit to check on welfare.**

	ANNUAL VISITS	%
Total number of visits	549129	
Number of visits 15 minutes or under	201949	37%
Number of visits 5 minutes or under	22343	4%

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Suggested answer to written Question 22 submitted by Councillor D’Albert

Q. Could the Leader please inform members on how much money is being spent, either by the Council or through an approximation of any private sector support, on Christmas trees and decorations in each of the Borough’s towns?

A. **The Council provides 7 Christmas trees across the borough including lights. The cost for each tree including purchase, erection and dismantling is £750 for each tree. The cost for the tree lights including testing, installing, taking down and storage is £950 for each tree.**

Ramsbottom and Tottington businesses provide their own Christmas lights on a self help basis in the form of small illuminated Christmas trees fixed to premises throughout the 2 towns. We not have details of the cost of this works as the Council is not involved.

Radcliffe also has Christmas lighting on a self help basis which is organised by the Radcliffe Carnival Committee and funded through various contributions collected by the Committee.

The Rock Bury and Mill Gate Bury also provide their own Christmas lights and I do not have details of the funding.