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Dear Councillor

COUNCIL MEETING – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2015

At the above meeting, the thirty minutes of Question Time expired with questions 11 to 29 unanswered. Council Procedure Rule 11.6 requires that each Member of Council is sent responses to such questions.

Q11 Councillor A Lamb - Is the Executive Board Member for Children and Families satisfied with the performance of NPS with regard to school expansion projects?

A In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.3(b) this question has been answered by Cllr R Lewis.

"Members will be aware that Leeds City Council is a partner in a Joint Venture Company with Norfolk Property Services to provide architectural services to Leeds City Council. As part of this arrangement they provide services to support our school expansion programme. Overall the programme is £68m with 14 schemes to be delivered in 2015 and the significant majority on programme and in budget. In fact since 2010 the Council has delivered some 119 school expansion projects at a total cost of £129m spend against total budget allocation of £133.5m.

That said, like any major programme being delivered within a turbulent construction market there will inevitably be design issues that arise and we must do all we can to address them.

In that context I would agree that there have been issues with the performance of NPS Leeds on specific schemes. In recognising this the Director of City Development and the Chief officer for Projects, Programmes and Procurement will be meeting with senior representatives of the NPS parent group to identify how performance can be improved in the short term."

Q12 Councillor J Bentley - Could the Executive Member for Environmental Protection and Community Safety please confirm the current status of the negotiations with the police around the number and role of PCSOs in Leeds after March 2016?

A The negotiations regarding the number and deployment of PCSO's within Leeds from April 2016 are not finalised but a number of principles are now clear. The Police and PCC have reaffirmed their support for PCSOs. They will continue to play an important part in Neighbourhood Policing across West Yorkshire. At present, within Leeds, there is a core number of PCSOs which are fully paid for by the Police. This number is likely to reduce. The distribution across West Yorkshire will be determined by a broad demand analysis undertaken by the Police in conjunction with Leeds University. In addition to the core group, local authorities have contributed to the costs of some PCSOs, with Leeds providing 20% of the funding for 165 PCSOs distributed across the 33 wards. The PCC has indicated that he will continue to support joint funded PCSOs but will require a higher contribution from local authorities or other sponsoring partners. This clearly has significant implications. If the contribution required is 50%, this would increase the Council's costs by £1.5m to retain present numbers. If the Council maintains its current level of spend, only 67 PCSOs could be afforded. Given that it is unlikely that the Council will be able to increase spend at a time when it is facing further funding reductions, it is highly likely that there will be less Council sponsored PCSOs from April 2016.

Over the coming weeks we will work with the Police on a model that both organisations can afford which seeks to preserve some of the essential elements of Neighbourhood Policing and builds on successful partnership initiatives, such as utilising PCSOs to tackle noise nuisance. Council, however, should be aware that the funding reductions faced by both the Police and the Council are not without consequences and the current numbers and model for deployment are very likely to change.

Q13 Councillor N Walshaw - Can the Executive Member for Environmental Protection and Community Safety update Council on efforts to reduce the impact of noise nuisance in some of the city's worst affected areas?

A Noise nuisance occurs across many areas of the city. However Headlingley, Hyde Park and Burley are the worst affected areas.

In September 2014, Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team (LASBT) implemented a new procedure to tackle the problem of noise from properties in the Headingley, Hyde Park and Burley areas of Leeds. The aim was to deal with the issues more effectively in order to provide a better response to local residents who suffer from these problems often on a daily basis. Between September 2014 and May 2015, Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Out of Hours Response Team which operates from 6pm to 4am, seven days week received a total of 842 calls about anti-social behaviour from within the LS6 area and LASBT received complaints about 454 separate student properties.

Noise Abatement Notices were served on 111 student properties following witnessed incidents of statutory noise nuisance. Following breaches of noise abatement notices, seizures of noise equipment were carried out at student properties on 7 occasions.

The project culminated in a joint West Yorkshire Police/LASBT operation on the last day of term where LASBT Police Link Officers, LASBT Case Officers and West

Yorkshire Police Neighbourhood Team/PCSOs were deployed from 7pm and 4am to proactively deal with large parties.

Community engagement has taken place through a variety of methods;

- Attendance at resident forums and meetings providing regular briefings and updates

- Regular contact with key community representatives
- Significant press coverage about positive action taken

Resident feedback has been extremely positive about the proactive approach taken over the past academic year. Customer satisfaction surveys have contained the following comments;
"Thank you so much for all your help, I and the rest of our house really appreciate it"

"I am so happy with the service provided. Thank you so much for resolving this annoying problem"

"That's positive action as far as I'm concerned, as it's hopefully a deterrent, and it's really reassuring to know that our concerns are being taken seriously"

"We really do value your assistance and appreciate LASBT taking this matter completely seriously"

"I have to say I am very impressed with your high-level approach to everything – It really does make a huge difference especially to the vulnerable. Thank you again – you've been amazing"

"A big improvement in ASB and noise service in the last year"

"I, and my neighbours, very much appreciate what you have done"

"It's great that the Council has now achieved a co-ordinated effort to deal with this problem. We appreciate what you have done"

"First, may I thank you on behalf of our Neighbourhood Association, for all the good work you have done, and for the other things you are doing to curb anti-social behaviour. It is all greatly appreciated"

Looking Forward – Student Changeover 2015/16

LASBT has a service improvement plan in place to ensure it continues to provide an effective and efficient response to anti-social behaviour from student properties. A key element of this is to improve partnership working with the Universities who are integral to the long-term preventative approach to tackle anti-social behaviour amongst the student population.

In 2015/16 LASBT intend;

- To continue the proactive approach working closely with the Out of Hours Team and to continue having a dedicated case officer to deal with all student-related anti-social behaviour.

- To plan joint operations with West Yorkshire Police during high demand periods. For example during the two weeks of Freshers, LASBT will be deploying additional out of hours resources and ensuring one OOH van is ring-fenced to the area. It will be manned by case officers alongside a PCSO.

- To make full use of available legislation including the use of closure powers to provide immediate respite for the community when appropriate and to use Community Protection Notices including the issuing of fixed penalty notices for breaches.

- To publicise any enforcement action taken unless specific vulnerabilities have been identified.

- To encourage Leeds Universities to take a zero tolerance stance to students who are responsible for significant or repeat incidents of anti-social behaviour including instigating formal disciplinary proceedings for any breaches of Noise Abatement Notices, Community Protection Notices and Closure Notices/Orders.

- To identify best practise from Universities across the country and encourage Leeds Universities to take a strong preventative approach through a variety of different media.

- To work more closely with private landlords and letting agents to encourage and support them in taking appropriate and speedy action against students who are responsible for significant or repeat incidents of anti-social behaviour including instigating tenancy action for any breaches of Noise Abatement Notices, Community Protection Notices and Closure Notices/Orders.

- To continue to develop and improve links with the local community to provide reassurance and to raise awareness of council reporting methods

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Q14 Councillor D Blackburn - Bearing in mind that it is almost certain that Central Government will substantially cut the Feed in Tariff be in October. Can the appropriate Executive Member tell Council what the effect would be on the current Council House Solar Panel scheme of a large cut in FITS

A The FIT rate between October and December has already been announced and will equal a 3.5% reduction in the FIT rates. This had already been anticipated as this is in line with standard degression. This means that the current scheme of 1,000 Council Houses will be fulfilled before December. However, the Government is currently consulting on further changes to FITs that will reduce the rate by approximately 90% after December 2016, making it financially unviable to carry out any further PV schemes.

Q15 Councillor J Jarosz - Will the Executive Member for Health, Adults and Wellbeing please update Council on the recently launched initiative for smokefree playgrounds across the city?

A Following local consultation with community members, as well as support from the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults, the council is introducing a voluntary smoking ban in children's playgrounds from 2016. This links closely with the Child Friendly City agenda and the Executive Member for Children has also been involved.

As part of this process of bringing this ban into force, a competition was run in conjunction with the Yorkshire Evening Post over the summer inviting local children to help design the no smoking signs to be displayed in all 183 council-owned children's play areas in Leeds. Around 150 designs were received and winning designs will be chosen by the 18th September. A panel including elected members, public health and communications experts will select winning designs which will be used as part of the launch for smokefree playgrounds in the city and campaigning. We plan to have the smokefree playgrounds signs in place in the new year.

Q16 Councillor B Anderson - Does the Executive member with responsibility for planning share my concern that the traffic assessments being done around the individual sites proposed within the Site Allocations Plan have not been carried out to date and in fact his department is of the view that due to the strategic nature of the model the release of detailed figures for individual junctions would not be appropriate?

A The Site Allocations Plan has been prepared within the context of the Core Strategy, adopted by the City Council in November 2014. The SAP has been prepared with supporting technical information, including a series of Background Papers, which will form part of the consultation material. As described in the Highways Background Paper, the Leeds Transport Model (LTM) has been used to model the cumulative effect of the Site Allocations Plan and it is not intended to model detailed outcomes for individual junctions.

The site requirements for each allocated site, refers to locations where developments have a direct or cumulative impact. Once feasibility works have been completed, and the SAP public consultation results known, further model tests will be undertaken to inform the submission that will be taken to public examination. Notwithstanding the outcomes of this process, an allocated site will still be subject to further examination at the time of a planning application being submitted. Sites of a significant size will be required to examine their impact on the highway network local to the site at that time, including the effects on specific parts of the highway network and provide appropriate mitigation as necessary.

Q17 Councillor B Cleasby - Could the Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning tell me why the proposed Woodside Station does not feature in proposed local travel plans?

A For a number of years there has been an aspiration for a new station on the Leeds Harrogate line as well as seeing the route as whole improved, including greater route capacity and new trains. In part this may be addressed through the work by Rail North for a new rail franchise and the wider work of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to develop a new Single Transport Plan alongside the pan-regional role of Transport for North.

At the present time a new station is not included within the Local Transport Plan programme and is not within the current priorities for new stations in West Yorkshire as there is currently no viable business and operational case for funding and building a new station. However, the present plans in the local area include the imminent completion of the new stations at Kirkstall Forge and Apperley Bridge and the anticipated decision on the Leeds NGT trolleybus scheme, both of which will provide significant new transit capacity in the local area. In addition the Combined Authority has also recently given approval to progress a package of station car park enhancements schemes which includes additional capacity at Horsforth station.

The wider work of the Combined Authority with the Council will help to establish the longer term strategy and business case for providing and funding improvements to the Harrogate line. As part of this, the future case for a new station in the Horsforth area will be reconsidered. In the meantime the area of land needed for station is continues to be protected to ensure it remains available as future transport plans are developed and plans for the adjacent development site are considered.

Q18 Councillor M Robinson - Does the Executive Board Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults believe that it is possible to support the smoke-free Breathe 2025 campaign whilst also condoning a £180.5m investment in tobacco companies?

A Smoking is the largest cause of preventable premature death in Leeds and the largest single factor driving health inequalities. This is why we are committed to continuing to support smoking cessation services to ensure people live longer and have healthier lives, as one of the outcomes we are working towards through the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. We are also supporting the Yorkshire & Humber Breathe 2025 campaign and its vision to see the next generation of children born and raised in places free from tobacco and where smoking is unusual.

As with nearly all local authority pension funds, that of West Yorkshire invests in tobacco companies. In April 2014 the Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board published a legal opinion from Nigel Giffin QC on these investments. In summarising Giffin's advice, the Board stated on its website that: "an administering authority may choose to take into account the public health implications of tobacco investment but only if the results of such consideration is the replacement of these investments with assets producing a similar return".

This is a challenging area which, it should be noted, goes beyond any single pension fund and would apply equally to NHS as well as Local Government Pension Scheme investments. The Secretary of State (DCLG) has the power to make regulations directly that Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds divest from tobacco stocks. I have written to the LGPS Advisory Board Commissioning and the NHS Business Services Authority, calling for a review of tobacco industry investments having regard to wider public policy objectives, including this Government's obligations under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, plus the reasons for divestment decisions by other countries, such as New Zealand and Norway.

As Cllr Robinson will know, the West Yorkshire Pension Fund is not run by Leeds City Council but rather a Board of Trustees and I trust that he is also drawing his concerns to the Trust Board for their attention.

Q19 Councillor S Bentley - Could the Executive Member for Health please confirm the number of school nurses currently working in schools across Leeds and could she also confirm that the administration will safeguard the number of and working arrangements of these school nurses from the effects of the in-year public health cuts recently announced by the government?

A Leeds City Council commissions the school nursing service from Leeds Community Healthcare. The current number of employed qualified nurses is 39.17 WTE. In addition, there are 13.12 WTE Health Care Assistants.

The Department of Health has issued a consultation document on how the in-year public health cuts are to be implemented. That document made clear that all public health services commissioned by local authorities are potentially in scope for the cuts. The consultation period is now over and the Council awaits a decision from the Department of Health on the exact level of cuts that will be imposed, therefore the administration is not able to say whether the school nursing service will or will not be effected by the Government cuts to the public health grant.

Q20 Councillor B Flynn - Does the Executive Board Member for Resources and Strategy believe that the process for awarding contracts through PPPU is robust enough to ensure that contractors' work is effectively monitored and disruption to local people is minimised?

A I am satisfied that the process for awarding contracts on behalf of the council is very robust, and the collaborative approach between Children's Services, the PPPU, other partners and contractors has delivered over £100m of investment into the school estate and over 1400 additional school places since 2010.

The Council's Procurement Strategy provides that Directorates are accountable for their procurement activity, with PPPU providing a central source of expertise advice and support. Directorates are responsible for contract management and monitoring arrangements for the contracts they procure. NPS Leeds support the development (and monitoring) of such contract documentation where they are engaged. All construction contracts have the facility to specify maximum working hours, and planning requirements may also require working within specified hours, subject to consent being obtained in each case for working outside those hours.

Q21 Councillor S Bentley - Does the Executive Member for Environmental Protection and Community Safety share my concerns about the harmful effects of laughing gas and the worryingly swift increase in use amongst the city's younger residents and can he confirm that he is doing everything within his power to mitigate these risks, following the lead of councils such as Lambeth who have used PSPO powers to ban the use and supply of legal highs such as NO_x?

A Whilst having legitimate uses 'Laughing Gas' or Nitrous oxide (NO2), is the second most popular recreational drug amongst young people and (given it can have serious side effects including low blood pressure and heart attacks with 17 deaths being recorded nationally between 2006 and 2012), is a real cause for concern in cities across the UK.

The problems seen in other cities (such as the organised sale and distribution of NO2 from balloons and canisters outside nightclubs that led to the Lambeth PSPO), have not occurred in Leeds and there is little if any visible use that might justify ASB powers

as a proportionate response. Indeed only one report of outdoor sale in Leeds city centre exists from last year and the swift arrest of those responsible prevented any recurrence. The gas is however sold from all five of the Leeds 'Head Shops', is widely available and has long been prevalent within our student community particularly. Recent Trading Standards work to address door to door leafleting offering the gas for sale by delivery has taken place in Headingley but (whilst work is ongoing to collate specific data from a range of partnership sources), anecdotally there is no suggestion that use of the gas is on the increase in Leeds.

As one of a raft of New Psychoactive Substances NO2 is the subject of a comprehensive Safer Leeds delivery plan and whilst new legislation (the Psychoactive Substances Bill), due to come into force early next year may offer a solution, in the meantime a range of other powers are considered as and when appropriate:

Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014, The most relevant powers in the legislation for dealing with the sale of NPS are likely to be community protection notices (CPNs), public spaces protection orders (PSPOs), and the powers to close premises. LASBAT used this legislation against a headshop and following a letter to the owners and landlords in March 2014 the premises subsequently stopped selling NPS.

General Product (Safety) Regulations 2005 (GPSR), legislation used by Safer Leeds in partnership with WY Trading Standards in May 2015 to suspend NPS products worth circa £100k from four headshops in Leeds. This has significantly reduced the availability of NPS in Leeds, the court case is on 29th October 2015 and will be a first for Leeds and first for West Yorkshire if successful.

Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, use of civil injunctions could be considered where premises have failed to abide by GPSR.

Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs) CPRs cover the use of misleading descriptions of consumer goods or services. Though not yet used in Leeds, one local authority Trading Standards has tried this but the courts rejected the application.

Enterprise Act 2002 - This area of law however remains unexplored at the moment, and would require a council to bring a test case to establish whether the courts supported the use of the Enterprise Act in this way.

Intoxicating Substances Supply Act 1985 – one retailer has been successfully prosecuted in Leeds for the sale of NPS to a child under 18 being an "intoxicating substance" similar to glue or solvents.

Other work ongoing to mitigate the threat of NO2 includes:

- Safer Schools Officers all given training on NPS to cascade in schools.
- Education and awareness training ongoing e.g. Forward Leeds have stalls at Leeds Fresher's in Sept 2015
- Area Community Safety Coordinators have held events on NPS awareness (ongoing)

- Leeds Festival again agreed to ban all NPS at their event and this included training all stewards

- All Leeds District staff have been given a training input on NPS to increase wareness/intelligence submissions

- Intelligence is gathered via Operation Nightshot, and we are awaiting the analytical teams report on use across Leeds

- Leeds innovative use of legislation leads the way in terms of enforcement and continually looks at all options to tackle NPS with partners in WY Trading Standards

- Static advertising for sales of Nitrous Oxide have been disrupted by interventions by LCC Planning department

Q22 Councillor B Anderson - Does the Leader of Council agree with the comments attributed to our Chief Executive at a recent RTPI event when he celebrated "The compactness of our cities and how close the rurality of Yorkshire is"?

A Close ties with our neighbouring cities are important for Leeds. It is both a privilege and an asset to have the rurality of Yorkshire on our doorstep, some of which we are fortunate enough to have within the boundaries of Leeds City Council.

Q23 Councillor S Lay - When will brown bin provision be expanded in Otley?

A As it stands we have rolled out garden waste collections to all identified appropriate households in the city that can be accessed with a standard (26 tonne) refuse collection vehicle.

To date we have not delivered the service to any properties that are serviced using non-standard (smaller or narrower) collection vehicles. The properties in Otley that do not have collections fall into this cohort. In addition properties on bag collections for black or green collections are not able to be provided with the service as the service is undertaken using a wheeled bin.
There are approximately 15,000-20,000 properties on these two types of collections; however it is likely that a large proportion of these will not have gardens, e.g. high rise and communal properties.

The service has very limited capacity on routes with non-standard vehicles, and a very limited number of these smaller vehicles. As it stands the service has no budget for additional vehicles to roll-out any further services. Any expansion of garden waste collections would therefore need to be done using existing capacity on routes.

The latest phase of fortnightly collections has been rolled out to those properties serviced by these smaller vehicles. This has released a very small amount of capacity into the service, however there is not enough capacity to cover all the properties who would be eligible for a garden waste collection. At present we therefore have no plans to roll-out the service any further.

Q24 Councillor B Anderson - Is the Executive member with responsibility for planning concerned, like me, that there are no proposed drop in planning exhibitions in the Adel & Wharfedale Ward during the Council's proposed site allocation plan consultation period?

A Consultation on the Site Allocations Plan & the Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan is due to start on 22nd September for an 8 week period. As with past consultation on the Core Strategy and Site Allocations Plan Issues & Options, a series of exhibitions has been planned to provide coverage across the district, accepting that resources mean that we are not able to provide exhibitions in every individual community. We have however, planned 15 drop in events covering each Housing Market Characteristic Area and also within the City Centre.

Whilst further exhibitions will not therefore be possible officers will again try to assist Members by providing appropriate material should Members themselves wish to arrange meetings in their wards and I understand that Cllr Anderson is planning to arrange his own events.

In addition to the drop in events, the consultation will include an on line comments form and mapping information (accessed via the City Council's web site), the distribution of material via the City Council's network of libraries and One Stop Centres, liaison with locality co-ordinators and the use of social media. Given the resource intensive nature of this process and to assist with future stages, emphasis is being placed upon receiving comments via the online form, although paper copies of the form will be made available.

Q25 Councillor S Lay - What is the council doing to discourage cycling on pavements?

A Cycling on footways is strongly discouraged where there is no designated provision for this. Work has been progressing for some years to provide improved facilities both on and off the carriageway for cyclists, for example most recently significant developments include City Connect, Cycle Network Route 9 and widespread local 20mph schemes.

Ultimately where other measures have failed it is of course illegal and the police have powers to enforce and issue fixed penalty notices, although they would only exercise this as a last resort and are encouraged to take a sensitive, proportionate and measured approach. However, generally speaking the effort is being directed at providing better facilities and positive education is a key measure in reducing this inappropriate behaviour by a small minority of cyclists.

It is also recognised that initiatives and campaigns to educate and deter such behaviour are important and the West Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership have developed a "Considerate Cycling Campaign" using a series of videos and other initiatives aimed at cyclists to tackle this issue.and the behaviour of a small minority. The campaign tackles a range of situations where cyclists are perceived to be in conflict with other road users such as; footways, shared space, pedestrian areas, traffic lights, group riding and lighting. The videos were originally aired on Made in Leeds TV, and are on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/UrbanCyclingGuide).

Other supporting activity is also undertaken using a variety of promotional material such as Saddle covers which are distributed across urban areas in the district and at events. Cycling on pavements is also covered in Cycle Safety leaflets distributed to

the public. The issue is also something regularly discussed with the cycling community and groups.

Q26 Councillor B Anderson - Does the Executive Member for Environmental Enforcement share my concerns that enforcement action is very patchy throughout the city and that a more uniform commitment to it would help set appropriate standards?

A This response is provided with the presumption that "enforcement" relates to environmental enforcement such as for flytipping, dog fouling, littering etc and not other types of enforcement within this portfolio (for example environmental health actions relating to food businesses and workplaces).

There is an uneven level of enforcement and enforcement resource deployed across the city as this work and its provision is managed according to need. The level of activity in Adel is rightly different to that in Armley, for example.

Each year, Community Committees agree a Service Level Agreement on the focus needed by Locality Teams serving their areas. This allows a formal review of the subject areas for attention but also the approaches to be taken to bring about the greatest improvement in the local environment according to what works best locally. These discussions generally work on the basis that a minimum level of activity is expected, whether that is enforcement, cleansing or education, but the proportions are for debate and agreement by each Community Committee according to Council resources, but importantly, that also offered by local communities.

A balance of approaches taken will always be necessary and whilst traditionally this has largely encompassed enforcement alongside cleansing and education work, the Council is also seeking to optimise the input of local communities. This can take various forms and the examples of the community based dog fouling initiatives in place now & to be showcased soon at to Community Committees are a good example.

Whilst enforcement activity has its place, it is but one tool to bring about behaviour change. We have taken a strong line on enforcing for environmental offences and will continue to do so. Other Local Authorities already look to Leeds on this and have mirrored similar enforcement models such as that operating in the city centre to address littering. It is no surprise that the levels of enforcement here are significantly different to those of our outer suburbs. In this location, the instances of littering are significantly greater and the challenge to bring litter under control means a dedicated resource is justified and works well here. That has proved not to be the case in other parts of the city when a similar approach has been trialled. In contrast, the city centre environment is one where the actions of a local community are likely to have less of an impact than would be the case in the outer areas.

It is right that the levels of enforcement differ across the city whilst ever there are differing levels of need and different approaches which will work in some areas more than others.

Q27 Councillor S Lay - Can the Leader of Council tell me what the tourism and marketing budgets for Otley are?

A VisitLeeds is Leeds City Council's destination management service which drives value and impact of the Leeds visitor economy across leisure and conferencing to target national and international markets and sectors, maximising the sector's contribution to

jobs and growth. The core operational budget for this service is £200k per annum which is centred around delivery of national and international marketing and PR campaigns, digital platforms and reach, conference and travel trades proactive sales, a destination conference desk, research and hosted buyer programs. VisitLeeds is proactive in sourcing access to external funding from third party organisations including VisitEngland, VisitBritain and LeedsBID which extensively augments the core budget. External funds require third party in kind and cash match and as such, VisitLeeds works with numerous private and third party sector organisations to leverage required support and amplify the initial core funding it receives. Due to the nature of core and third party funds, we do not ring fence budget for particular locations unless funding allows this and there are specific areas of development or change of strategic significance which is relevant to visitors.

Leeds City Council North East community hub accommodates the Otley Tourist Information Centre within the Library and One Stop Centre. The centre does not have an operating budget, no income is received and the costs for running this are covered through the Library and the One Stop Centre presently. There is a meeting scheduled with Otley and Yeadon Ward members this week to discuss Community Hub developments in Otley which includes the TIC.

Leeds City Council Markets provides support for Otley and Yeadon markets and funds events at district markets which typically includes fund rides, face painters, entertainers, street team, giveaways for traders to give to customers. Markets promote Otley as part of the wider portfolio through website and social media channels as part of the Experience Leeds Markets brand, and are already currently in discussion with the BID as to how each can integrate better with the other to increase the variety and vibrancy of the offer in Otley.

Otley has a business improvement district which Leeds City Council City Centre Management has historically provided support with facilitating pre BID meetings, ballot process, data management, and facilitating levy collections periods. The BID has a part-time BID Co-ordinator and we are open to requests for further support as and when the need arises.

Q28 Councillor B Anderson - Who does the Executive member with responsibility for policy on verge parking and replacing grass verges blame for the current lack of a policy despite requests for one?

A There is a current grass verges policy which was incorporated in to the Highways Maintenance Policy Statement and Plan 2005 after the City Services Scrutiny Board made its recommendations in 2004.

The current policy focusses on how damaged verges should be considered when undertaking highway maintenance. It also considers the wider issues of on-street parking and the desire wherever possible to encourage off-street parking to reduce the demand for parking within the streets.

The current policy does not deal with the funding of the improvement of verges where parking is acceptable and does not deal with the wider issues of whether or not to restrict on-street parking by traffic regulation order or other means of enforcement. These are issues for debate in individual circumstances which could not easily become subjects of a policy.

The current intention is to develop a discussion paper later this calendar year. It will discuss the wider issues of conflicting needs of residents and the wider community and the various options for repair, improvement and enforcement.

This is a year later than promised. Priorities have had to be made to ensure that the overall asset management strategy for the repair of roads and pavements provides the best use of resources and latterly to ensure the strategy aligns with the Department for Transport's view so as to maximise our grant income in future years.

Q29 Councillor S Lay - Could the Executive Member for Environmental Protection and Community Safety tell me how many visits dog wardens have made to each community of Otley and Yeadon in the last year and how many fines were issued?

A Dog related service requests are not only dealt with by dog wardens, regular enforcement officers (Environmental Action Officers) also deal with a high number of dog-related service issues, as do cleansing crews. Dog wardens predominantly deal with strays, and other dog related issues such as reports of dogs of leads or dangerous dogs, they also carry out patrols as and when they have opportunity or as agreed through local environmental sub-groups as do Environmental Action Officers.

During the period 01/09/14 to 31/08/2015 the service dealt with over 500 enforcement jobs in the Otley & Yeadon Ward of which 60 jobs related to dog related issues. 19 of these 60 jobs resulted in Dog wardens or Environmental Action Officers taking some form of action on Otley & Yeadon communities as follows:

Albion Street Otley (2 jobs); Weston Lane Otley; Carlton Lane Otley; Cross Green Otley (2 jobs); The Whartons Otley; Weston Drive Otley; Bremner Street Otley; Westgate Otley (2 jobs); Guycroft Otley; Cambridge Drive Otley; East Busk Lane Otley; Crow Lane Otley; Caxton Road Otley; Scarborough Road Otley; Raywood Close Yeadon, and, Queensway Yeadon.

41 dog related jobs initially raised for dog warden or environmental action officers resulted in cleansing crews attending and removing dog foul.

Proactive patrols by dog wardens and environmental action officers also took place in communities in Otley & Yeadon as follows: Otley Chevin 5 patrols; Wharfe Meadows park 7 patrols; West Busk Lane 2 patrols, and, Yeadon Tarn 10 patrols.

It should be noted that dog wardens, environmental action officers and cleansing staff are also visiting communities in Otley & Yeadon on a daily basis and whilst may not be specifically patrolling for dog related offences they may observe offences whilst visiting the area for other purposes.

Unfortunately, no FPN's for dog fouling issues have been issued in Otley and Yeadon ward in last 12 months. Dog fouling is predominantly an opportunist crime, patrolling has been found to have very limited effect in terms of catching perpetrators and we are currently looking to introduce more community based and resident-led initiatives in hot-spots across the city including Otley & Yeadon.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Tomkinson
Principal Governance Officer