

Democratic & Central Services

Governance Services

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To: All Members of Council

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Our Ref: A61/kjt/quest

Date 6 August 2014

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL MEETING – 2ND JULY 2014

At the above meeting, the thirty minutes of Question Time expired with questions 9 to 11 and 13 to 25 unanswered. Council Procedure Rule 11.6 requires that each Member of Council is sent responses to such questions.

Q9 Councillor M Robinson - Does the Executive Board Member for Skills agree with me that the proposed reductions at Leeds City College, including the cutting of Spanish and ICT courses at Deacon House, have serious implications for the city's ambitions to encourage lifelong learning?

A The Spanish courses delivered in Seacroft by Leeds City College will come to an end in July. This provision is currently funded under the Council's Community Learning Programme. The decision by the College is in response to significant reductions in core funding for adult learning in recent years leading to the closure of some venues and reductions in staff resources. The college will refocus provision in remaining venues including increasing group size and opening hours, to meet the needs of priority groups including unemployed people. The Council will continue to work with the College to respond to the impact of their proposals on local communities and to ensure sufficient opportunities exist for older people to engage in learning activities going forward. The Council is not aware of any proposed cuts to ICT activities delivered by the College. We are also looking at the possibility of alternative providers for this service in the city.

Q10 Councillor S Lay - What does the Executive Board member for Transport & the Economy think can be done to make semi-rural communities like Otley more 'business' competitive as they are increasingly seen as 'dormitory' and 'commuter' towns supplying workers and jobs to larger communities like Leeds, Bradford & Harrogate?

A It is important that we support businesses and job creation across all parts of Leeds District. We are doing this by providing finance to businesses that are expanding through the Leeds City Region Business Growth Programme, helping link businesses to sources of advice, supporting town centre improvement projects, and seeking to ensure there is the right supply of sites and premises for businesses.

The number of jobs in Otley and Yeadon ward actually increased by 8% between 2009 and 2012 (from 10,019 to 10,882 jobs), which was at a higher rate than for Leeds District as a whole (source: National Statistics, Business Register Employment Survey – 2012 is the latest year for which data is available).

The Leeds City Council Economic Development team has provided support and advice, including the offer of an interest free loan, to the Otley Business Improvement District, which is an excellent initiative. We have also provided to the Otley BID free packs to businesses with materials to “dress” their premises for the Tour De France.

We run the district market at Otley which supports many small independent businesses and attracts shoppers into the town.

The preferred developer has now been selected for the proposed redevelopment of the Council owned Ashfield Works site which includes a food store, retail units and residential which will improve the critical mass of the retail offer in the town, provide further dwellings and redevelop a derelict site.

Through the Leeds Manufacturing project, and Business Growth Programme, which we run across Leeds District, which provides capital grants to businesses that are expanding, we are supporting firms across Leeds District. A great example is **Craftsman Tools of Otley**, to who we have awarded £95k in grants and provided wider support. This family-led firm, which specialises in toolholding, workholding and sub-contract machining, now has a workforce of 63, including six full-time apprentices, and continues to invest in the business, in technology and its workforce. The company expanded its Otley site, adding an extra 5,000 sq ft of production space and investing over £500,000 in new machinery. This has enabled an increase in production capacity, turnover, new product development and jobs.

Q11 Councillor N Dawson - Could the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Personnel confirm what actions have been taken to stop unauthorised work at Valley Road in Morley?

A The actions taken to deal with unauthorised work at Valley Road, Morley have included the serving of 2 temporary stop notices and going to the High Court in Leeds for an injunction which resulted in an undertaking being given to the court by the owner not to occupy the land or do further work without planning approval. This is an unprecedented and strong response by the Labour Administration. I want to thank Cllr Dawson for his help and support through this period.

Q13 Councillor S Golton - What, if anything, prevents the Council from installing double yellow lines as well as hatched lines outside schools to deter dangerous parking?

A The City Council has the authority to install either double yellow lines or School Keep Clear (Zig Zag) markings outside schools to prevent parking. Historically School Keep Clear markings were introduced without a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to enable officers to be reactive to requests and to assist the Police to manage parking behaviours around schools. Due to these advisory markings being enforced by the Police there was not a need for a Traffic Regulation Order to apply to support any proposed prosecution.

However since Leeds City Council applied to enforce its own parking restriction through the decriminalisation process under the Traffic Management Act, the School Keep Clear markings need to be supported by a TRO for the City Council to enforce the restriction and we have a current programme to formalise all these historical school markings under a TRO.

Double yellow lines can be introduced but at the present time they need to be supported by a TRO which is a timely legal procedure which can often take up to 12 months from conception to implementation. However the Department for Transport (DfT) have recently proposed to relax this provision which will allow local authorities to introduce single and double yellow lines at their own discretion without the need for a formal legal order. The City Council has supported this proposal as part of an ongoing consultation process with the DfT. At present there is no indication when this relaxation will be introduced. A review is planned to understand how this new provision should be exercised to compliment work already ongoing.

Q14 Councillor B Anderson - Does the Executive Member for Cleaner Safer and Stronger Communities have any plans for additional investment in the gully cleansing service so that it can be brought back at least to the timeframe that was in operation in the city prior to the service reduction measures?

A

- Recent years actual spend for gulley cleansing operations (staffing & transport costs):

12/13	£767k
13/14	£795k (inclusive of one-off £60k misc transport cost)
14/15 (projected)	£751k (£30k reduction on overtime & agency spend from 12/13)
- 20 staff and five gulley tankers operate across the city. The service operates on a shift basis, providing operational cover from approx. 7.00am to 3.30pm, 7 days a week. At any one time, 10 staff will be at work on 5 gulley tankers.
- The floods in Leeds of 2004 and 2005 prompted the creation of the corporate Water Asset Management Group with funding allocated to complete a number of projects. The gully cleansing work was further enhanced through this funding and in 2011, after which, five gully tankers were in use, each crewed by two people. These five gulley tankers and staff numbers remain in place today.
- The service has been consulting on proposals to bring the gulley cleansing service together under one manager and for the work to be transferred to the management of Highways & Transportation Services. Whilst these proposals remains under consideration, there has been wide (but not unanimous) support for gulley cleansing to be undertaken on a city-wide basis. It is intended that such a move will allow greater productivity and an increased frequency of cleansing of the normal gullies across the city.

- As part of the deficit reduction programme the Council seen its formula grant from Central Government reduce by around 30% since 2010. However, this front line service has been maintained and has been exempt from such reductions.

Q15 Councillor S Lay - Can the Executive Board member for Health & Well Being tell members how much of the Leeds Health economy pound is thought to be spent in neighbouring health trusts and local authorities? In particular is she aware that in my ward Harrogate District Hospital are now running a number of clinics out of Yeadon Health Centre potentially taking even more money out of the city. What does she think our healthcare partners need to do to ensure residents are choosing Leeds based providers rather than out of area providers?

A The three Leeds Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) all have contracts with Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT) and Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (and indeed with a number of other hospitals around the locality where some Leeds patients end up either through choice or as emergencies).

Patients can access the full range of NHS Services at HDFT where these are published on choose and book or where they access these as non-elective attendances.

The NHS Constitution page 63-page 66 sets out a patient's right to participate in decision making about their own healthcare .

Leeds spend at other acute hospital that we hold a contract with Core activity only not including Specialist activity.

All figure based on 13.14 outturn

Acute Hospital Contracts	Leeds North CCG	Leeds S+E CCG	Leeds West CCG
Airedale NHS Foundation Trust	£296,548	£0	£922,209
Bradford Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	£0	£384,517	£3,997,435
Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	£757,385	£115,615	£248,233
Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust	£20,098,679	£1,650,191	£5,387,432
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	£699,168	£14,044,690	£12,283,199
TOTAL	£21,851,780	£16,195,013	£22,838,508

Included within Harrogate Value is £147K for activity at Yeadon Health Centre .This activity includes General Surgery, Urology and Trauma & Orthopaedic.

Further information- LTHT Income from CCGs outside Leeds including Core and Specialist activity is below, please note also that the bulk of Leeds CCGs Specialist activity takes place at LTHT as this is the main specialist hospital within the region.

Leeds Teaching Hospital Income from CCGs Outside Leeds is £307M

Q16 Councillor B Anderson - Can the Executive Member with responsibility for Highways please advise when Highways will be issuing their new Highways Maintenance policy for consideration by elected members?

- A** Highways and Transportation are currently looking at the highway maintenance strategy to make sure of the best use of resources in these challenging times. The focus of the review is on how the planned maintenance programme is established with particular reference to road and treatment selection. Officers are putting together options to be available for Members to consider in September this year.
- Q17** Councillor S Bentley- Can the Executive Board Member for Transport & Economy explain why there is general road surveying and why are trees being marked along the route of the proposed NGT scheme while the public inquiry is in session and there will be no decision for some 18 months?
- A** The NGT Scheme has been given the approval of Council. As a major infrastructure project there is a significant amount of due diligence and checking that has to take place to ensure that the scheme keeps to programme. On that basis the NGT route was surveyed at the start of the current phase of the project and this is being redone in greater detail to enable a digital ground model of the route to be created and to update the type and condition of trees. This information will ultimately form part of the contract data needed for the procurement of NGT, in particular to enable the bidders to carry out the detail design of the scheme. The marking on the trees is for surveying purposes and does not mean it will be affected by NGT. Trees will not be felled for NGT prior to full approval of the scheme. This work needs to be undertaken now to meet the procurement timescales and may be required to substantiate information at the public inquiry .
- Q18** Councillor B Anderson - Can the Executive Member for Cleaner, Stronger and Safer Communities update Council on the current position in terms of the implementation of the new working practices in street cleansing?
- A** The proposals are to undertake cleansing and enforcement work on a zonal basis, allowing small teams to work in one of 21 zones, building up local knowledge and a good rapport with the local community served.
- One Council service will be responsible for cleansing all public areas including Council estates, thereby reducing issues around land ownership identification before action.
- Staff will work to a simplified job descriptions which are flexible and allow local discretion to get on & do whatever it is that needs doing.
- Very local supervision will be put into place, to ensure optimum deployment and quality of work.
- The service has been consulting staff and trade union colleagues these proposals for approximately 6 months. The work has proved complicated, not least because of the scale and ambition of the proposals, but also because groups from various parts of the organisation (including ex-ALMOs) are being brought together into one team, on the same job descriptions and salary grades.
- This work is coming to a conclusion now and final proposals will be made within a few weeks, followed by implementation thereafter.

Q19 Councillor S Lay - Does the Exec Board member for Neighbourhoods, Planning & Personnel agree that before large developments are proposed for communities all reasonable efforts by the Council should be made to allow dissenting voices to be heard? In particular would he agree that those opposed to the Council's development proposals such as the 'east of Otley development' should be allowed to place petitions in local libraries?

A East of Otley Housing proposal is an allocated housing site in the adopted UDP Review 2006 and has been through a lengthy process to get to that stage including public consultation and examination before a Planning Inspector. There are discussions about the development with the developer but these are at an early stage and a formal pre application process which would include public consultation and presentation to Plans Panel has not yet taken place. The public should be encouraged to comment at the pre application process when it is up and running and then through the normal channels.

Q20 Councillor B Anderson - Is the Executive Member with responsibility for grass cutting happy that the quality of the cut and the after cut customer relations are up to the standards he would expect?

A Weather conditions have been exceptional in 2014 with higher rainfall than usual, combined with a mild winter, lack of frost and a warm spring. Rainfall in 2014 was 95% higher between January and May compared to the average of the previous 4 years.

This has caused vigorous grass growth that is taller than usual making it more difficult and slower to cut. Cutting also generates a larger volume of arisings when mown, leading to clumping, and creates further difficulties in clearing grass off paths when wet.

Every major grounds maintenance contract in the country has been impacted by such weather conditions this year, and Leeds is an example of one of the largest of these type of contract.

A recovery plan has been implemented during June to reduce the mowing interval from 12 to 10 working days at no additional cost to the Council, with the contractor working overtime during weekday evenings and on weekends. This is proving successful.

Ward members and the public have been kept informed of the issues and actions taken to address them. Information was also placed on the Council website and the contact centre was provided with a suitable narrative to provide a response to enquiries received from the public.

When enquiries are referred to officers managing the contract, it is usual practice to either visit and inspect the site and/or to make contact with the enquirer with a view to resolving any issues.

The contract is at a review point and the Council is considering how it may make allowances for exceptional weather conditions going forward.

It should be noted that there has been a saving of over £0.5m to the Council for the same level of specification compared to the previous contract.

Q21 Councillor S Lay - Does the Executive Board member for Cleaner, Stronger and Safer Communities agree that blocked gully's continue to cause concern for our communities, and what proposals can he bring forward to improve their clearance?

A This is a delegated function and Community Committees and Environment Sub Groups can prioritise this work in and amongst itself but also across other cleansing work priorities. This opportunity hasn't been used in recent times as it relates to resource provision and prioritisation in Adel & Wharfedale and Otley & Yeadon.

Service requests in WNW on gulley cleansing have been received from Cllrs Anderson & Lay (only) this year. The number of service requests responded to for each ward in 2012 and 2013 are shown in the table below.

The one tanker designated for use in WNW is currently working to a ward programme of an approximate 18 – 24 month cycle (across the 13 wards). In addition, the hot spot team deal with gullies in locations of regular flooding and these are attended to with greater frequency. Urgent referrals and problematic gullies on high speed roads are also cleared by the hot spot team.

The programmed gullies (excl hot spots) were cleared in Otley & Yeadon in April 2013. Adel & Wharfedale Ward was last completed in April 2012 and will be visited again next month.

The service has been consulting on proposals to bring the gulley cleansing service together under one manager and for the work to be transferred to the management of Highways & Transportation Services. Whilst these proposals remains under consideration, there has been wide (but not unanimous) support for gulley cleansing to be undertaken on a city-wide basis. It is intended that such a move will allow greater productivity and an increased frequency of cleansing of the normal gullies across the city.

	Calendar Year 2012				Calendar Year 2013			
	EAST	SOUTH	WEST	Total	EAST	SOUTH	WEST	Total
Adel & Warfedale	1		49	50			79	79
Alwoodley	30			30	31			31
Ardsley & Robin Hood		28		30		10		10
Armley			20	20			47	47
Beeston & Holbeck		40		41		52		52
Bramley & Stanningley			19	19			75	75
Burmantofts & Richmond Hill	60	5		65	61			61
Calverley & Farsley			52	52			73	73
Chapel Allerton	68			68	36			36
City & Hunslet	3	41	2	48		161		161
Crossgates & Whinmoor	7	21		30		5		5
Farnley & Wortley		1	33	34			45	45
Garforth & Swillington	2	63		66		5		5
Gipton & Harehills	61	1		62	51			51
Guiseley & Rawdon			51	51			66	66
Harewood	129	1		130	102			102
Headingley			11	11			19	19
Horsforth		2	34	36			84	84
Hyde Park & Woodhouse			16	16			23	23
Killingbeck & Seacroft	18	2		20	22			22
Kippax & Methley	2	51		54		3		3

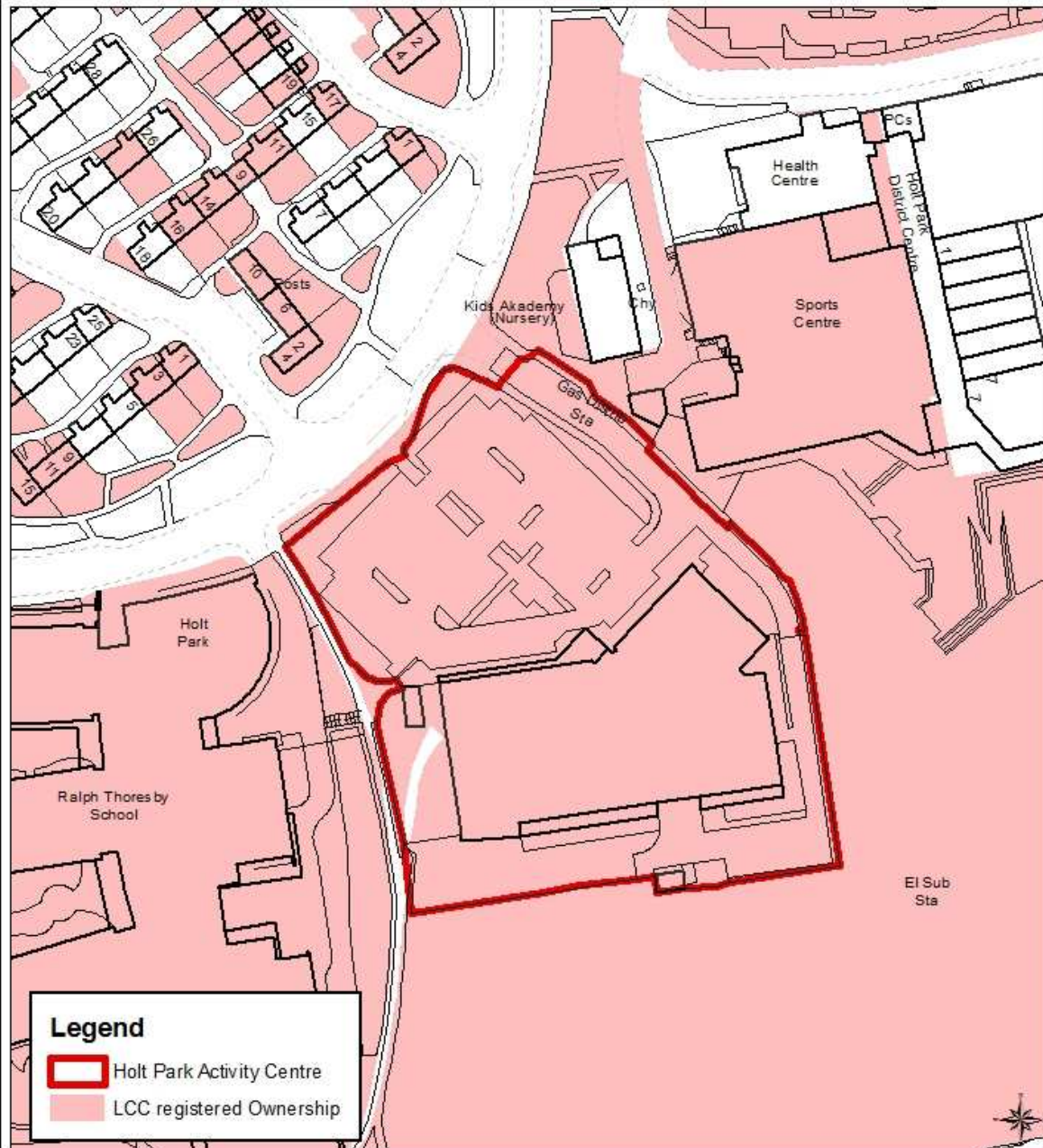
Kirkstall			22	22			43	43
Middleton Park		32		32		34		34
Moortown	44		1	45	24			24
Morley North	1	36		39		12		12
Morley South		39		40		8		8
Otley & Yeadon	1		69	70			84	84
Pudsey			17	17			44	44
Rothwell		30		33		17		17
Roundhay	44			44	31			31
Temple Newsam		40		40		3		3
Weetwood	6	1	37	44			60	60
Wetherby	87			87	69			69
Grand Total	564	434	433	1446	427	310	742	1479

Q22 Councillor B Anderson - Can the Executive Member with responsibility for Holt Park Active please outline who they think is responsible for which areas both within Holt Park Active and directly adjoining in terms of maintenance, cleansing and general upkeep?

A 'The boundary of the Holt Park Active Centre is shown as a red line on the attached plan. Under the PFI contract, Interserve Facility Management is responsible for the maintenance, cleaning and general upkeep of the grounds and building within the red line boundary. The contract for this is managed by Sport & Active Lifestyles' on behalf of Leeds City Council.

The area outlined in pink on the plan below surrounding the Holt Park Active Centre is owned by LCC and the management of this space falls within Children's Services (Ralph Thoresby School), Parks and Countryside (public open space) and Civic Enterprise Leeds (buildings and cleared land).

HOLT PARK ACTIVITY CENTRE HOLT PARK LEEDS 16



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Ordnance Survey LA100019567

PREP BY M CORDINGLEY
DATE SAVED: 01/07/2014
OS No SE2539NE
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PLAN No 17709

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Q23 Councillor Anderson - Will the Executive Member for Cleaner, Safer and Stronger Communities inform me when the Refuse Collection Department will bring forward a cohesive and clearly set out strategy for brown bins to be provided for new properties in the city?

- A** The current garden waste collection routes are full to capacity and it is currently not possible to add new properties to these routes, without risking the failure of existing collections.

The service has budgetary provision for an additional garden waste route from the commencement of the garden waste service in March 2015. However, technical capacity is also needed to fully review and redesign the existing garden waste routes to deliver the most efficient routes which maximise collection productivity and minimise travel time. Currently this technical capacity is being fully utilised, completing the roll out of Alternate Weekly Collections

As such the service will bring forward a cohesive and clearly set out strategy for brown bins to be provided for new properties across the city, prior to End November 2014 and the ceasing of the garden waste service for the winter period. Residents can then be informed of how and when the service is to be provided during 2015.

- Q24** Councillor G Latty - Will the Leader of the Council provide an update on the Council's plans for commemorating the First World War?

1. The Commemoration of the First World War, over four years, is being planned across a number of Directorates with the focus on Museums and Galleries and the Library and Information Service. Arts Development, Events, the Chief Executive's team, Parks and Countryside and Children's Services are all involved in developing the programme.
2. The programme will reflect the national programme being led by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.
3. The emphasis will be on paying tribute to the people of Leeds who gave their lives and served their country at home and abroad. The programme will be inclusive across all our communities, dealing sensitively with the issues raised and the broader themes of war and peace. There will be a particular focus on bringing the stories of the war to the young people of the city.
4. The Council is working closely with the University of Leeds. Their 'Legacies of War' is a significant research programme examining the historical, cultural and social legacies of the war.
5. Partnerships also include Leeds' twin cities Lille and Siegen as well as arts and cultural organisations across the city, regional and local museums, and faith and community groups, many of whom have significant programmes of their own.
6. A report on the council's programme will be presented to Executive Board on 16 July, with a detailed appendix outlining key activities.
7. Highlights of the Council's programme
8. Museums and Galleries:
 - But Not Forgotten – City Museum: exhibition to be launched on 4th August.
 - Reflection and Remembrance ceremony at the War Memorial on Victoria Gardens, 4th August. Including the unveiling of the Leeds First World War Light.
 - Dressed for Battle, and Duty Calls – Lotherton Hall; Love and War – City Museum.
 - MyLearning website hosting free online learning resources for schools.

- The young people's group – the Preservative Party, who have developed a Facebook Timeline on WW1 revealing their own research. This will form the basis of an exhibition in 2016.
9. Library and Information Service:
- 'Aspects and Images of Leeds' - an Arts Council exhibition which is part of the national Digital War Memorial project. It relates to Gledhow Hall when it was a military hospital and focuses on the digitisation of the scrapbook of the Matron – part of the Library's collection.
 - A writing workshop for schools delivered by Sir Andrew Motion – October 2014.
 - Family history workshops; author talks; outreach to schools via the School Library Service and book displays.
10. Parks and Countryside:
- Parks and Countryside will receive commemorative paving stones from the Department for Communities and Local Government for soldiers who were awarded the Victoria Cross in the First World War and had strong connections with Leeds. These will be placed in the city at sites to be agreed with the families of the recipients.
 - Officers have been working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to install signage at each cemetery in Leeds that contains war graves and to develop interpretation at the Harehills and Lawnswood cemeteries in particular.
 - Projects are developing around the story of the Blackburn aircraft factory.
 - Establishment of a memorial garden in Horsforth.
 - Supporting the dedication of the new Bramley Park war memorial.
11. Other joint projects:
- An open day for the city on 27th September 2014 in the City Museum, organised in partnership with the University of Leeds and the Yorkshire Post. People will be invited to bring their family memorabilia for expert comment, and invited to tell their stories. There will be a panel discussion and stalls and displays from groups across the city.
 - Proposals are in development to mark the 4th August 2014, the day when war was declared. Members will be directly consulted on this following the Tour de France.
 - Services are supporting teachers in the city by making information and resources available and providing specific training.
 - Telling the story of the Barnbow Munitions Factory, including the important contribution made by female munitions workers.
 - Commemorating the Leeds Pals, so many of whom lost their lives on the first day of the Battle of the Somme – 1st July 2016.
12. Consultation and engagement
- Engagement with young people is a key focus of the Council's programme.
 - Throughout the development of the programme partnerships will be fostered widely across the city with community groups.
 - A programme of consultation is being followed by curatorial staff of the Museums service. As part of their partnerships with a range of organisations they are consulting on correct and recommended procedures about how to deal sensitively with issues around the themes of war.
 - During the development of the programme, the Leader of the Council, the Chair of the cross party Armed Forces group and appropriate lead members have been consulted and are being made aware of progress.

Q25 Councillor Cohen - Will the Executive Board Member for Digital & Creative Technology, Culture & Skills provide more details on her plans to review Library opening hours?

A The Library service needs to look at how things could be done differently to provide an even more efficient service to our customers. We are considering a wide range of options to manage the long-term sustainability of the service and contribute to a required saving of approximately £500k, these include library opening hours and the overall library structure; as well as the opportunities for closer working with other services that the Community Hubs might offer. There is a focus on looking at innovative ways of using libraries to best meet the needs of service users. The service is currently undertaking consultations with Elected members, staff and the public on how the impact of reduced opening hours on customers can be minimised. This is an important part of the process to ensure that any local issues are identified before progressing further.

The consultation is due to be concluded in September and proposals will be brought again to ward members where needed. An Executive Board report should then be expected in the Autumn.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Tomkinson
Principal Governance Officer