

**Democratic & Central Services**

Governance Services

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Date: 13 December 2016

Dear Councillor

**COUNCIL MEETING – 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

At the above meeting, the thirty minutes of Question Time expired with question 1 been withdrawn and questions 12 to 45 unanswered. Council Procedure Rule 11.6 requires that each Member of Council is sent responses to such questions.

**Q12** Councillor S Golton - Does the executive member believe that Leeds has a transport problem?

**A** Of course there are challenges with traffic in Leeds, especially at peak times and if there are accidents or other incidents causing delays.

Decisions on Supertram and NGT have left a legacy of underinvestment in transport in Leeds which will require significant time and resource to fully rectify. Whilst NGT has been a significant focus in recent years, work has not stopped on other regional transport schemes. Recent achievements such as new rail stations at Kirkstall Forge and Apperley Bridge, and the new Leeds Station Southern Entrance, are proof of that fact.

We are currently undertaking a transport conversation in order to ensure that we listen to people's views before making any decisions on spending the £173.5 million. More than 8,000 questionnaire responses have been received, 10,000 postcards circulated, a further 352,000 postcards sent to individual households. Copies of the questionnaire have been made available to libraries, community hubs, community committees and access committees. A child-friendly survey has been circulated. Such has been the interest that we have extended the deadline for responses from September to 11 November.

We are seeking to make travelling in Leeds even better, especially through improved public transport and accessibility. We hope that all local civic leaders will join us in this aim.

**Q13** Councillor J Heselwood - Following the recent 'tent city' protest regarding homelessness, please can the Executive Member provide an overview of the support available in Leeds for those who are at risk of homelessness and those who are sleeping rough?

**A** The Council offers assistance to all people who are homeless or in housing need. Some key figures:

- In 2015/2016 we prevented homelessness (helped stay in existing home or make planned move) to 8,368 households. This equates to 25 preventions per 1,000 households. The national average in 2015/2016 was 8 preventions per 1,000 households.
- We have a range of preventions initiatives including a Sanctuary scheme (security measures for victims of DV), youth mediation service and private sector lettings scheme.
- The focus on prevention has meant that temporary accommodation levels are at a record low. We had 81 households in emergency accommodation at the end of September 2016. In comparison Birmingham had 1330 and Manchester 734.
- We do not use B&B establishments to house homeless families or young people.
- Using DCLG's national methodology, the latest rough sleeper count found 15 people, the lowest figure for all the core cities.

Rough sleeping is the most overt and acute form of homelessness and the reasons why people sleep rough are often complex and more related to health and dependency issues than the availability of housing.

The Council commissions a third sector organisation, CGL, to find and support rough sleepers with the ultimate aim of helping people off the streets. CGL staff go out at least three nights per week to find rough sleepers. During cold weather this goes up to 6 nights per week.

The Council commissions a range of supported housing services including St. George's Crypt which provides accommodation for 24 people (36 in cold weather) which means that no person needs to sleep rough in Leeds.

That said, the Council, is not complacent and continues to look at how services can be improved. We recognise that certain types of accommodation might not be the right options for people living on the streets: some people struggle, because of their support needs, to live in hostels. The Council, and partners, are therefore looking at how we might provide supported self-contained accommodation for rough sleepers.

**Q14** Councillor K Groves - Can the Executive Member update Council on apprenticeships within the organisation?

**A** The Council currently employs 229 apprentices. The majority (85%) are Intermediate level (Level 2, an entry requirement of 5 GCSEs) Apprenticeships. These numbers have been increased in the last 12 months as part of our preparations for Government Reforms on Apprenticeships; including the Apprenticeship Levy which comes into force in April 2017.

Specifically:

1. From April 2017 we will contribute to a levy – which means we have more choice and responsibility to determine and develop apprenticeships and how we employ apprentices into and within the organisation
2. Details are still being worked out by the DfE but basically – 0.5% payroll tax is levied and put in a digital account – which can then only be spent on training and assessment of apprentices with registered training providers – Previously providers received government grants and offered us apprentice training
3. Our estimated levy amount will be £2.6m. This together with a pending public sector target (of 2.3% of headcount) will put us in the spotlight as an employer to expand provision by approximately 100 additional Apprentices.
4. Expansion will cover 2 areas – new starters and training of existing staff (e.g. when promoted) and we are working with services on work-force planning for this
5. The need to expand the programme by offering opportunities to staff we hire and also to upskill existing staff presents major opportunities and challenges. This includes:
  - a. Access to considerable earmarked funding
  - b. A new way to offer employment and skills to our staff – developing different talents and filling succession needs
  - c. Supporting the More Jobs Better Jobs ethos – We can demonstrate to others that we can use apprentices to boost productivity, pay, diversity and fairness and recruit people from priority groups and disadvantaged areas
6. However expanding our approach requires us to:
  - a. Be better in terms of how we employ apprentices – linking this with work-force planning needs.
  - b. Work more effectively with learning providers – to commission what we need and get VFM, whilst supporting the sector in the city
  - c. Work with schools and voluntary and community groups to market the opportunities we have. Also to see how we can strengthen our relationship still further with partners in the further education sector in the city, and our supply chain for commissioned services.

Appendix 1 details plans regarding this and Appendix 2 details the number of Apprentices we currently employ.

**Q15** Councillor M Robinson - Will the Executive Board Member confirm if he will be looking to prudential borrowing and securing private sector investment to increase funds to secure and develop a truly ambitious 21st century transport system?

**A** We are examining the options for increasing the level of investment in transport. As part of this we are carefully considering the role and opportunities for prudential borrowing alongside seeking other public and private sector investment and contributions towards the plans. We are also reviewing the progress of other major work streams i.e. West Yorkshire Transport Fund, which contain some very significant schemes for the city.

As part of developing our plans we will also be looking at the synergies with investment in new developments and the opportunities they may provide such as where new rail stations may be considered and also where we can work with transport operators to leverage more investment in their networks and facilities, including where new revenues such as from park and ride may contribute to further enhancements.

**Q16** Councillor S Golton - How does the executive member justify subsidising elite sport whilst at the same time axing Leeds Let's Get Active?

**A** The Leeds Lets Get Active Scheme is a scheme aimed at offering free use of leisure centres typically an hour per day, plus a small community outreach programme. It was originally funded through Sport England and public Health (when public Health sat outside Leeds City Council), and was subsequently extended with funding from Public Health for a further year. Unfortunately due to the impacts of austerity funding for the programme has come under intense pressure and Public health are no longer able to support. Efforts were made to secure funding from other sources e.g Clinical Commissioning Groups, however this has not secured investment for the leisure centre element of the scheme.

Given the existing scheme had some very impressive outcomes ( eg 500,000 visits and 90,000 members) the Council is planning to continue the Leeds Lets Get Active scheme but withdrawing the free element of the Leisure programme and replacing it with a paid for variant, at a subsidised rate of £2 per session, or £10 per month or £120 per annum. This still represents excellent value for money and we are hopeful that this still removes the barrier to participation due to price. A free community offer will continue elsewhere in the city.

Clearly focussing on getting the inactive active is important for the council in its drive to address health inequalities and the continuation of the scheme from January 2017 (albeit in a revised format) will continue to contribute greatly to this aim. But the Council also has to take a rounded view of how the power of sport and physical activity can deliver on wider agendas and this includes our role as a core city and therefore economic drivers are also important to that role.

Our work to support elite sport is targeted and carefully considered. Our top athletes deserve the best opportunities and Leeds as a whole in turn benefits directly from their success. We work closely with National Governing Bodies of Sport, often securing direct funding support in the process, to deliver in partnership the development opportunities offered. For example the city's investment in Diving (Jack Laugher) and Triathlon (Alistair and Jonny Brownlee) is modest, quite often being officer time and support, but the outcomes for the city are incredibly powerful and they have a ripple effect. Illustrating this point, Leed's success in winning the hosting rights to the World Triathlon Series will be in

large part a consequence of the Brownlees success in Leeds. These events in turn generate civic pride and economic value to the city, as originally proved so well by the Tour De France, Grand Depart. Equally the retention of test match cricket in Leeds is a vital part of keeping Leeds on the World stage. Major events like this help Leeds project itself as a positive, progressive city where people want to live and work in and that businesses want to invest in.

Therefore the Council is not prioritising health inequalities over elite sport, rather it is taking a balanced and reasoned position based on impact across a range of its priorities.

**Q17** Councillor K Ritchie - Would the Executive Member like to comment on the announcement that Yorkshire is to host the 2019 Road World Championships?

**A** Leeds City Council is delighted to have supported the successful bid for Yorkshire to host the UCI Road World Championships in 2019 in Yorkshire and we anticipate playing a high profile role in the overall road race series.

Sport as a whole is vital to the city with Leeds Rhinos and Yorkshire Cricket leading the way. Above all, Leeds is a city where people are active participants - and Sport England research gives us the title of the most active big city in England.

Yorkshire and Leeds has a strong association with the World road race championships going right back to the 1960s where Beryl Burton earned two UCI Road World titles in 1960 and 1967 through to Lizzie Armistead winning the women's title in 2015.

The city has experienced a transformation since the Tour de France Grand depart, in terms of the enthusiasm of our residents to get out on the streets as spectators and the confidence that business has in our ability to deliver world class sporting events. In addition to the success of the Tour de Yorkshire, we brought the World Triathlon Series to Leeds and saw 80,000 people on the streets, making it the biggest triathlon event in the world since the 2012 Olympic Games.

Leeds is proud to be playing a central role in the positioning of Yorkshire as a truly world class venue and host for these mega sporting events.

**Q18** Councillor A Smart - Can the Executive Member please update Council on this year's Leeds Children's Mayor result?

**A** I am delighted to be able to tell Council that last night Grace Branford from Drighlington Primary School was elected the new Leeds Childrens Mayor for 2016/17.

3574 children and young people from across the city voted and thirty four schools participated this year. A panel of children and young people whittled down those 34 to the 12 final candidates.

The Children's Mayor competition is a fantastic way of teaching children about local democracy and showing them how their voice can be heard and listened to.

The manifestos all concern issues that matter to children and young people and by restricting voting to them we can ensure that it really is the voice of the young people that is heard.

Grace's manifesto was 'Be a good citizen – love thy neighbour' and centres around schools undertaking community project to help improve their local community.

I look forward to discussing how we can take Grace's ideas forward.

**Q19** Councillor R Stephenson - Following a funding commitment by the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the repair of Linton Bridge, can the Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning confirm that works to repair the bridge are on schedule for completion in summer next year?

**A** I can confirm that the repair of Linton Bridge is on track for the bridge to be re-opened in Summer 2017. The repairs have been our top priority for the structures team in Highways and Transportation since January and all procurement and delivery of activities to affect the repairs are on time and within budget at this stage. Of course this is a large and complex structure and we are entering the winter period. There is some allowance for unforeseen delays within the project but should we experience rainfall the likes of which we experienced last year or worse, snowfall or if the repairs reveal hidden problems then there may well be delays. The bridges team will continue to provide monthly updates as the repairs progress.

**Q20** Councillor J Bentley - Does the executive member welcome the High Court ruling that the government's current plans to improve air quality are so inadequate as to be illegal?

**A** I hope that the court ruling will accelerate the government's efforts to reduce air pollution nationally and underline the need for the government to lead on this instead of simply relying on local authorities to tackle poor air quality.

If the ruling leads to greater ambition at a national policy level as well as increased action including the introduction of measures such as a diesel scrappage scheme, vehicle taxation that advantages ultra-low emission vehicles, funding for infrastructure for new technologies as well as the required funding to support, then I do welcome the ruling but I do not believe that it will fundamentally change the action that the council is already taking.

The council is already in the process of undertaking its own review of the government's plans to guarantee that any measures that are proposed will ensure full compliance with air quality standards citywide.

Significant steps have been taken to improve air quality in Leeds through a number of projects such as extending the Elland Road Park and Ride scheme, investing in sustainable transport options such as the Cycle Superhighway and replacing the corporate fleet with zero or ultra-low emission vehicles.

Leeds will continue to work closely with DEFRA and the Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU), working in partnership with them to undertake a robust assessment of the current air quality standard across the city, as well as modelling and profiling of transport. Leeds have bid for and been awarded circa £150,000 to progress work on data collection, air quality modelling, transport modelling, and associated upgrades to servers and software.

The results of work on DEFRA's proposal for a Clean Air Zone in Leeds will be brought to Executive Board in the New Year. In order to meet air quality targets and to provide public health outcomes for Leeds citizens, the Council has developed the Leeds Air Quality Action Plan, which goes beyond the introduction of a zone. The aims of the plan include increasing the use of sustainable transport, cleaning the Councils own vehicle fleet, and raising public awareness of poor air quality.

**Q21** Councillor B Anderson - Is the Executive Member with responsibility for Highways concerned at the delay in implementing the 20mph zones in the Adel area?

**A** The scheme forms part of programme to cover all schools in the city with a 20 mph speed limit of which 157 schools have now been covered with a further 17 expected to be covered this year in 2016/17 including schemes in Holt Park and Bramhope within the Adel and Wharfedale ward . This programme has been prioritised in the first instance on locations and areas where a 20 mph speed limit would have the greatest casualty savings potential.

It has been possible to accelerate the programme through the opportunities offered through the City Connect project and the School Expansion programme so that it has now been possible to bring forward a scheme in Adel sooner than would have otherwise been possible with the resources available.

Following the acceleration, the scheme for Adel is in the programme and is expected to be delivered in 2017. Implementation of the proposals will depend on the outcome of the statutory public consultation.

**Q22** Councillor S Lay - Does the executive member think that the current Leeds waste management permit scheme is effective?

**A** **The Council is now operating two permit schemes for the use of its household waste sites:**

Commercial (or large) vehicle permit scheme

The commercial (or large) vehicle permit scheme was introduced in 2013 to deal with the problem of trade waste or excessive quantities of waste being tipped at our household waste sorting sites, primarily to address the significant costs to the Leeds taxpayer associated with dealing with this waste. This scheme prohibits altogether certain vehicle types, such as large vans, from entering our sites, but also classifies certain vehicle types that may use the sites but require permits. Leeds residents who are eligible can receive 12 permits a year. The introduction of this scheme saw a reduction in tonnages at the household waste sites and a saving of around £200k per annum in disposal costs.

Resident permit scheme

The Council also introduced a resident permit scheme in 2015 which effectively prohibited all non-Leeds residents from using our sites. It was not the Council's preference to go down this route, but with neighbouring councils such as Bradford, Wakefield and Kirklees already prohibiting Leeds residents from using their sites, Leeds was left bearing the cost burden of significant quantities of non-Leeds resident waste, and with no reciprocal arrangements offered.

However, with the introduction of the scheme, the Council has since agreed to retain its reciprocal arrangement with North Yorkshire for the use of our Thorp Arch site and their Tadcaster site, and we have not enforced the permit restrictions at the Ellar Ghyll site, but instead have agreed to recover a proportion of our costs from Bradford for their residents' use of the site.

Overall, it is difficult to quantify accurately the savings from the introduction of the resident permit scheme, since changes in tonnages received at the sites can be attributable to a range of factors. Furthermore, our flexibility to agree to common-sense arrangements with our neighbours for the sites where there is arguably the highest proportion of usage by non-Leeds residents has limited the full savings that might have been realised from prohibiting non-Leeds residents from our sites altogether. However, it should be noted that it is only due to Leeds City Council's readiness to implement the resident permit scheme that these arrangements (and the associated recovery of costs) have come forward with neighbours such as Bradford, thus creating a more equitable position for the allocation of disposal costs between authorities.

For these reasons, the permit schemes are deemed to have been effective.

**Q23** Councillor B Anderson - Does the Executive Member responsible for Planning share my concerns that his department is unable to provide an answer regarding the fundamental principle of Neighbourhood Planning being to allow communities to determine where development should take place?

**A** I don't share the concerns raised in the question, as the government's policy and guidance on neighbourhood planning is clearly set out in NPPF and NPPG:

*"if the local planning authority says that an area needs to grow, then communities cannot use neighbourhood planning to block the building of new homes and businesses; they can, however, use neighbourhood planning to influence the type, design, location and mix of new development ... neighbourhood plans must contribute to achieving sustainable development"*

The Council has also already published advice for local communities preparing neighbourhood plans:

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Leeds%20Neighbourhood%20Planning%20Guidance.pdf>

The Council is supporting over 30 communities in Leeds to neighbourhood and is nationally recognised for the quality of the support that it is providing. This has been reflected in Examiners Reports and in specific correspondence from individual Town & Parish Council's and Neighbourhood Forums, who have described the level of support to communities provided by the planning service (e.g. Collingham) as "brilliant" and "professional".

Most of the neighbourhood forums in Leeds are not pursuing the allocation of specific sites.

Whether the focus is general or specific, the government's Basic Conditions are the tests for neighbourhood planning - in particular, regard to national policy and general conformity with local strategic policy in considering the appropriate content of a neighbourhood plan. This means that neighbourhood plans are not prepared in a vacuum but must have regard to local and national circumstances, in particular the adopted core Strategy emerging Site Allocations Plan.



**Q24** Councillor S Lay - Does the executive member believe that Clause 21 of the Bus Services Bill will make it impossible for Leeds to ever truly take control of its bus route network by denying the council the ability to run buses should it wish to do so in the future?

**A** Leeds City Council is not a Local Transport Authority, that service being provided through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority in our area and therefore does not have powers in relation to bus services. Nevertheless, the Bus Services Bill should be an opportunity to give authorities like the West Yorkshire Combined Authority greater powers to plan and regulate West Yorkshire's local bus services. The Bill proposes a range of measures and powers, which will enable authorities to be more effective in influencing local bus services. However, there are aspects of the detailed provisions which could limit its impact in our area. The Bill is currently in the House of Lords and a number of amendments have been tabled including to Clause 21 that restricts the ability of relevant authorities to form new bus companies; this particular amendment would therefore preclude WYCA (and LCC) from setting up their own bus company but does not undermine the ability of Transport Authorities to franchise such services.

Our aspiration is for the people of Leeds to enjoy the best possible quality of bus services possible and to this end we are working hard to establish a strong forward looking strategy capable of providing for the transformation of the role of bus in this city's transport system. We will continue to encourage the government to make sure any new legislation keeps all the opportunities we need available to us in seeking to achieve this goal.

**Q25** Councillor B Anderson - Would the Executive Member responsible for Planning outline to Council what steps he is proposing to take to protect all areas of Leeds that will be adversely affected by their recently failed legal challenge in the Courts over the Miller Homes/Grove Road decision?

**A** In June 2016, the City Council received a decision from the Secretary of State (SoS), that an appeal at Grove Road, Boston Spa had been allowed. Because the decision was the complete opposite of the SoS's and High Court's decision at Bagley Lane, the Council has tried to challenge the decision in the High Court. On 17th October, the Council's renewal application to challenge this decision was dismissed.

This is clearly a disappointing outcome for the Council and an implication of the decision is that the SoS has found that the City Council does not currently have a 5 year supply of housing land, within the context of national planning guidance. The City Council is also awaiting the outcome of other planning Section 78 appeals on these issues.

The Council is taking a series of positive and proactive steps, including a wide range of initiatives already underway, to secure the regeneration of brownfield land across the City and the management of housing growth and delivery through a plan-led approach, to provide the homes we need.

The Council has already submitted the Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan for examination and intends to submit the Site Allocations Plan for examination in the first quarter of next year. As well as dealing with the merits of site specific applications, the Council is also committed to review the Core Strategy Housing requirement, with a report to be considered at the next meeting of the Development Plan Panel (22<sup>nd</sup> November), setting out the approach and timetable.

At a national level also, the Council is continuing to press for changes to the planning system to ensure that it is locally led and focused upon meeting local priorities, needs and circumstances – rather than top down and ‘one size fits all’.

**Q26** Councillor S Lay - Could the executive member tell members what the council is doing to reduce the significant traffic congestion now affecting Otley? -

**A** The long term transportation strategy for Otley is based ultimately on the completion of the Eastern Relief Road, which would provide significant relief for through traffic using the A659 route through the town centre and consequently provide the opportunity for a rethink of traffic management in the town. This scheme has been identified alongside the Local Development Framework housing site allocation to the east of Otley and as something that would ultimately be funded from the development of the site through which it would pass. Without such development previous work has indicated that a strong business case for other funding would be difficult to make for this scheme.

It is recognised that the through traffic using the A659 Wharfe Valley route has little choice and thus the main crossroads at Manor Square has always been a significant traffic bottleneck as it is pivotal to movement in the town. Whilst there is some relief for the South-North direction using other roads such as Crossgate to bypass this location, this is something that has been managed and not encouraged given the use of residential streets.

The scope of new surveys have been agreed with a potential developer (which includes counts at key junctions in the town centre) and these will be modelled and considered to demonstrate the wider benefits such a scheme would have within Otley to ease the current traffic pressures. These will be used as part of the forward planning for improving the situation in Otley

**Q27** Councillor B Anderson - Is the Executive Member responsible for Community Safety aware of the concerns expressed about both Police and PCSO numbers in the Outer North West and what is she planning to do to provide the necessary reassurance to residents?

**A** The Executive Member is aware of the vacancy position for both PCs and PCSOs and the concerns expressed by front line members of staff. At present there are no PC vacancies within Outer North West (ONW) but 4 PCSO vacancies. Currently there are 100 PCs in training and on active PCSO recruitment process. Training and recruitment takes time but it is anticipated that numbers will be at full strength by this time next year across the District.

Engagement continues with local residents through PACT meetings and forums and local issues are addressed and discussed at the partnership tasking meetings. During the tasking meetings joint police and partnership responses are developed. The response to local priorities and threats are managed and coordinated through the ONW sergeant who directs resources to ensure that no part of the ONW is neglected.

**Q28** Councillor S Lay - With the continuing Better Lives Programme could the executive member inform members if any discussions formally or informally have taken place with regards Spring Garden's Care Home in Otley?

**A** Response as set out in Executive Board September 2011 report, see reference to recommendation regarding Spring Gardens.

‘2.5 - To agree the decommissioning of Spring Gardens at a future date and on completion of new build residential care facilities in Otley respectively ‘

In completion of new build, the council is working to deliver new build facilities through its Older People's Housing Prospectus which was published in Autumn 2015 following a report to Executive Board in November 2015. The most significant opportunity for new build accommodation relates to the former Ashfield Works site at which there is significant interest from specialist providers of Older Peoples Housing.

Current indicative profile of demand and need:				
Outer North West Locality	Adel & Wharfedale	Guiselley & Rawdon	Horsforth	Otley & Yeadon
Leeds Housing Register Waiting List 75+ Age Range	30	33	47	190
Current Under / Over Supply of Extra Care	-54	54	-40	-57
Current under / over supply of Care Beds without Nursing	23	-2	0	9
Current under / over supply of Care Beds with Nursing	-97	-8	-54	-103

*N.B. Figures in red indicate an under supply*

**Q29** Councillor M Robinson - Can the Executive Board Member confirm how many unoccupied garages are owned by Housing Leeds and how many more have become occupied or unoccupied since the end of the 2014-15 municipal year?

**A** **There are currently 2,326 unoccupied.**

Since the 1st April 2015 - 471 have become unoccupied.

Since 1st April 2015 - 249 have been let.

Net increase in unoccupied garages since 1st April 2015 – 222

Housing Leeds has already recognised that there is a need for a strategic review of garages across the City and is already undertaking a significant piece of work to develop a strategy for the future use of garages.

This work includes a review of each individual garage and will include;

- site survey of each individual site
- analysis of turnover rates and vacancy levels
- potential levels of future income and investment requirements
- potential for alternative use on an individual site by site basis

As part of this process an initial high level review has been undertaken of all sites containing council built garages and looked at the condition of the site and the garage buildings along with high level demand analysis.

From the analysis, options to improve and promote garage occupancy will be taken forward when there is potential demand. In cases where garages are proving unviable, demolition and alternative uses for the land will be considered.

**Q30** Councillor S Lay - Can the Leader of Council inform members if the council is intending to implement the 2% adult social care precept this year?

**A** Ultimately matters relating to Council Tax and any increases in it, are reserved for full Council, and for 2017/18, this will be considered alongside proposals for the 2017/18 budget at the February 2017 budget meeting of Council. However, whilst not binding upon Council, for planning purposes the Council's medium term financial strategy for the 3 years 2017/18 to 2019/20 approved by the Executive Board at its meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 does assume that the Council Tax is increased by the 2% Adult Social Care precept for each of the 3 years covered by the strategy.

**Q31** Councillor S Lay - Would the Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning comment on whether he thinks initiatives being developed in Birmingham to address land banking could be applied in Leeds?

**A** The amount of sites with planning permission not coming forward is an issue for Leeds especially on brownfield land. There is currently outstanding capacity for over 15,000 new homes with planning permission on 317 brownfield sites with 190 of these yet to start construction.

The NPPG sets out that local authorities should incentivise the bringing of brownfield sites back into use. The Council is actively engaged with this already, through a range of interventions aimed at place-making in the inner area are which are designed to act as catalysts to further improve and stimulate the housing markets in regeneration areas. The Council has a Housing Growth Team which works across planning, regeneration, asset management and housing to identify and implement interventions to stimulate housing growth primarily in areas in need of regeneration. Through the Private Sector Acceleration Programme, the team brings together resources to work with developers, providers of affordable homes and landowners in addition to delivery of the Council's own housing construction programme into a single co-ordinated approach.

There is a resulting emphasis on those sites which require intervention to unlock or speed up delivery by marrying up other investment streams and exploring infrastructure funding opportunities through the Homes and Communities Agency and Leeds Local Enterprise Partnership to capture resources for housing growth in Leeds.

The initiative by Birmingham City Council to use compulsory purchase powers is designed for sites that are not being brought forward despite having residential permission in place. Although this is yet to be tested, it is likely to be tried on smaller sites first. The hope is that an early successful use of the power may encourage developers to avoid compulsory purchase and for previously stalled developments to start building. Of course, a similar initiative could be applied in Leeds and we are ready to use compulsory purchase powers where necessary, however, we need to be mindful of the resource implications for the process, which can be onerous.

**Q32** Councillor S Lay - Can the executive member outline what the council is planning to do to support Leeds Teaching Hospitals 'Winter Bed Planning' this coming winter?

- A**
- Adult Social Care has been prioritising the issue of hospital discharge and working actively with system leaders and the Hospital Trust to develop better pathways and more effective systems. There is a new team within the hospital , the Integrated Discharge Team, with whom we work very closely to support the process of discharge.
  - Adult Social Care are proving additional Social Work capacity in the Hospital Social Work Team for 16 weeks (2 additional Social Workers with the aim of reducing the need for the Neighbourhood Team Social Workers to come to the hospital as this can add delay)
  - There will be a Reablement supervisor sited with the Integrated Discharge Service to ease communication with HSW and SkILS service, and prioritise appropriate discharges
  - This year has seen the development of improved communication between LTHT and ASC via operational discharge meetings, enabling the very complex discharges to be dealt with in a more timely way
  - We are promoting Greater partnership working in relation to those deemed as a 'stranded patient' ie those who have been in hospital for greater than 7 days– using the Safer Patient Bundle, which is a nationally recognised tool , LTHT should be able to identify these and the Hospital Social Work team can then work with the IDS to facilitate Multi-Disciplinary Team conversations and onward movement
  - Continued offer of transitional beds within our in-house services and in the independent sector for those awaiting a home care package; and an offer of temporary beds for those waiting for home of choice. This supports people to leave hospital instead of waiting in a valued bed
  - Through various senior leader ship meetings, we actively work with CCG commissioners, and health providers to ensure a whole system response to the issue of admission avoidance and safe, quick discharge where appropriate

**Q33** Councillor M Robinson - Can the Executive Board member for Children and Families inform council of the average progress 8 and GCSE scores across local authority run schools in Leeds?

**A** Attainment 8 measures the achievement of a pupil across eight subjects, providing a summary of their achievements at the end of statutory school age. The performance of Leeds schools on this measure is above that for schools in core cities, but below statistical neighbours. The rate of increase in Leeds has been 1.5 points, compared to a rate of increase of 1.3 nationally for the state-funded sector.

The provisional national average Attainment 8 result is 49.9, which equates to just below a grade C. Eight local authority schools have average Attainment 8 results above the provisional result for England, which means the average grade for children attending these schools is a grade C.

Progress 8 is a measure for local authorities and for schools which captures the progress a pupil makes from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. Progress 8 is a

relative measure, which means that the overall national score remains the same between years. 2016 is the first year in which Progress 8 scores have been published for all state-funded schools.

Performance in Leeds is better than for core cities and statistical neighbours, but remains below the national result. On the new Progress 8 measure Leeds is in the third quartile nationally. For the 19 local authority schools, provisional data shows that eight schools are below the average in progress 8, nine schools are close to national average, and two are above average.

**Q34** Councillor S Lay - Could the executive member inform members of what discussions have taken place with Otley Courthouse regards the current lease of rooms to the Citizens Advice Bureau in Otley?

**A** This property is let on a 25 year lease from 5 November 2003 to The Courthouse Project (Otley) Limited and as such they manage and deal with underlettings at the property.

Asset Management has not been involved in any direct discussions with the Courthouse Project (Otley) Ltd with regard to the CAB's occupation.

**Q35** Councillor M Robinson - Can the Executive Member look at securing specific time in the highways department work plan to tackle the encroachment of verges onto footpaths to ensure these assets of the council remain accessible and safe for pedestrians and in good repair?

**A** The trimming back of verges that encroach onto footways is already undertaken on an ad-hoc basis as it is brought to the attention of Highways, Parks and Countryside and/or Locality teams. The council as a whole would like to do more of this type of work but it is a matter of priorities and funding to how far this could extend. Trimming back verges is a labour intensive operation and the development of a programme for such works would require resources to be taken away from other essential maintenance activities. I agree that the footways bounding verges should remain accessible and safe for pedestrians to use and wherever verge encroachment is an issue I will ask officers to consider such works in and amongst their other priorities for safe road and footway maintenance.

**Q36** Councillor S Lay - Will the executive member assure members that the people of Otley will be consulted before any decisions take place as to the future of the Otley Civic Centre?

**A** The City Council as owner of the property is investigating the strength of the interest and offers received for the Civic Centre to determine if any of the parties has the ability and resources to take on the refurbishment. The City Council will make a decision on the future of the building shortly and the ward members for Otley and Yeadon will be fully consulted before any decision is taken.

In addition, further comments will be able to be made should a proposal be brought through the planning system.

**Q37** Councillor R Stephenson - Is the Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning satisfied with the standard of work carried out by contractors during the recent resurfacing of the A58 through Collingham?

**A** The resurfacing work carried out at Collingham was part of a planned programme of surface treatment works to extend the life of a number of roads throughout Leeds.

The work was carried out by a competent contractor but I am aware that there was an issue on the Collingham site caused by excessive dust which affected local residents and businesses.

I can confirm that Highways officers have been monitoring the site ever since it was completed and it is performing as would be expected. There are a couple of very small areas which may require further work but this is not un-common on surface dressing sites. On the whole despite the excessive dust the treatment appears to have worked.

I have asked the Highway's officers responsible for the works to keep monitoring the site for signs of failure and to keep me informed if there is any significant change in the condition of the road.

**Q38** Councillor S Lay - Will the executive member reassure members and residents of Otley that there are has no plans to sell off the Civic Centre in Otley despite what he said in the local paper in September?

**A** The City Council has no use for the building it is sensible that the building should be disposed of. You are aware that the City Council is in discussion with three parties to determine whether they have soundly formulated proposals for the property and the ability to undertake the refurbishment. One of the parties would accept a long lease from the City Council in which case the Council would retain its freehold interest, but the other parties have requested to acquire the freehold, in which case the City Council would have no future interest in the property. Discussions are continuing with these parties who submitted an interest in the property after it was openly advertised seeking expressions of interest.

**Q39** Councillor R Stephenson - Can the Leader of Council detail how many times she has met, or has formally requested to meet, the new Secretary of State for International Trade to discuss trade opportunities for businesses in Leeds?

**A** International trade and investment is hugely important to Leeds, and supports thousands of jobs. According to the EY Attractiveness Survey, in the last year Leeds had the second highest number of inward investment projects of any major UK city outside London. I had several meetings with the previous Secretary of State for Business to discuss how we can secure investment in Leeds in the North.

A letter was sent to the new Secretary of State from the LEP to welcome his appointment and to establish open communication in relation to inward investment opportunities following the EU referendum.

Several discussions have also been held with senior Department of International Trade officials. I met in August with the DiT lead in the north of England. In September, Leeds hosted a visit of the trade and investment leads from the UK's overseas embassies and High Commissions from around the world. In the last three months we have also hosted visits and held discussions from trade delegations, investors and DiT officials from The U.S., Canada, Australia, Singapore, China, and Estonia.

I can assure you that I see promoting Leeds for trade and investment as a major priority to create and safeguard jobs.

**Q40** Councillor S Lay - Could the executive member reassure members that any plans for the Ashfield Works site in Otley will only progress if the development is consistent with and complementary to the historic conservation area within which it is sited?

**A** The Ashfield works site comprises land in Otley which is partly in Council ownership and is currently subject to pre-application proposals for a comprehensive mixed use redevelopment scheme encompassing land on both sides of Westgate in Otley town centre.. The whole of the site is within the Otley Conservation Area, and when considering any planning application that affects a Conservation Area, a local planning authority must have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the area. In this regard there will be an extensive public consultation exercise on the proposals and a number of meetings have been held and will continue to be held with Ward Members as the scheme develops. Achieving a development which is complementary to the historic character of the area will be a prime consideration in this process, and the ultimate decision on the appropriateness of the design of any scheme will rest with elected members when a development proposal is eventually presented to a Plans Panel for consideration.

**Q41** Councillor R Stephenson - Will the Leader of Council confirm the Council's support for Heathrow Airport expansion, which is predicted to bring up to £9billion in economic benefits to Yorkshire and 11,000 new jobs?

**A** Members will recognise that Leeds Bradford Airport plays an important role as an international gateway to Leeds and makes a significant contribution to its economy. For this reason it is important that Leeds Bradford is well connected to international hub airports to ensure that it can support the best route network possible. For this reason I think it's important to resolve the question of how London should expand its airport capacity, which in turn will help domestic connections to London to grow. Now that a decision has been made on this issue, it is clearly important to mitigate the environmental impacts wherever possible.

**Q42** Councillor R Downes - Could the executive member comment on the recent reduction in both frequency and reliability of buses serving both Yeadon & Otley, why there was no consultation carried out on the proposed changes and what they think the council can do to apply pressure to the bus companies to improve punctuality?

**A** It is understood that between Saturday 29th and Monday 31st October a number of planned public transport changes were made to bus services across West Yorkshire, including those serving Yeadon & Otley. Following the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA)'s supported services review for Otley, a number of routes were revised to ensure those which remain meet their support services criteria and provide good value for public funds.

Consultation on such public transport changes is undertaken by the operators concerned and by WYCA. In this instance the matter has been raised with WYCA who have confirmed their approach was consistent with other reviews of supported services in Leeds and Kirklees. It is the practice of WYCA after every sizeable service change to review its processes so that lessons can be learnt and implemented for the future, in this



case the extent and timeliness of the consultation. Feedback from Members and the community is also regularly made to WYCA by City Council officers..

Bus service reliability and punctuality is widely understood to be a key issue for bus users who need to be confident with their services. There can be a range of causes for this some of which may be outside the operators control. However at a practical level officers at WYCA with support from Council officers seek to understand the issues and causes and work with operators on resolution and learning. It is also recognised that the quality of service can vary significantly and the Council has been working closely with WYCA during the preparation and consultation on the new Bus Strategy for West Yorkshire. This sets out a bold ambition for making a step change in the quality of our bus services part of which must be a new and stronger working relationship with the bus operators.

**Q43** Councillor M Robinson - Can the Executive Board member outline what is planned to mark national anti-bullying week (14th-18th November 2016) and the work already taking place to tackle bullying in Leeds?

**A** National Anti-bullying Week takes place 14 to 18 November 2016. In support of this, many schools organise their own events/focus, which is usually an assembly followed up with some lessons.

The **Health and Wellbeing Service** (part of children's services) support Anti-bullying Week by promoting the national resource pack to all Leeds schools (<http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/>). Details of this resource are also shared at the PSHE and Healthy Schools network meeting, after which the information and link are sent to all schools via the headteacher's e-bulletin.

The Health and Wellbeing Service also manages the **My Health My School online survey for pupils** in Years 5, 6 (primary) 7, 9 and 11 (secondary). Last academic year over 9000 children and young people completed the survey. The data is used at individual school level to inform schools about their:

- PSHE curriculum, ensuring that it is needs-led
- Policy, ensuring that schools have a pupil friendly version of their anti-bullying policy, which includes a clear school definition of what bullying is
- Practice, ensuring that pupils are aware of the procedures and protocols if they report an incident.
- Provision, ensuring that schools think about what prevention work and practice is in place which supports the anti-bullying agenda.

MindMate curriculum (a mental health scheme of work) for primary and secondary schools, includes lessons to address all forms of bullying and pupils / students are taught skills around tolerance, diversity and anti-stigma.

Also, as part of the MindMate Champions programme, schools or settings need to have an up to date anti-bullying policy, evidence of delivering anti-bullying in their curriculum

and stringent procedures to tackle incidents of bullying to achieve MindMate friendly status. Schools and settings will evidence through completing the self-evaluation of the SEMH section of the School Health Check (online Healthy Schools programme tool) their curriculum, policy, practice and provision.

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Service are developing a training course on homophobic bullying based on Stonewall resources and their train the trainer package, which may be offered as part of the MindMate Champions programme.

**Q44** Councillor G Wilkinson - Will the Executive Board Member responsible please tell me when CCTV will be installed in the Old Station car park in Wetherby?

**A** The camera installation has been completed, however to enable monitoring and recording the site needs to be serviced by a fibre optic cable. The installation of the fibre optic cable by British Telecom has faced significant delay and is still pending civil works to complete the cable ducting as this requires a dig on private land.

BT is attempting to gain permission from the land owner and until this has been granted they are unable to provide a completion date.

We are maintaining pressure on British Telecom to complete the overdue work and have escalated the issues to the British Telecom account manager. Regular updates are being requested.

Cllr Wilkinson will be updated as and when there is further progress to report.

**Q45** Councillor M Robinson - As part of the ELOR scheme will the Executive Board member support and bring forward plans to create a strategic gap and registered park between Scholes and the ELOR to create a "green buffer" and protected green space for the benefit of residents in the East of the City?

**A** The East Leeds Orbital Road scheme will provide the major road infrastructure that will help unlock development the East Leeds Extension housing area, which has been allocated for development since the 2006 UDP Review. The allocated housing land is located on the north eastern edge of the existing urban area and is defined at its outer edge by the Green Belt. This already provides for a strategic gap between the future development area and the village of Scholes. There are no proposals for a change in the Green Belt status of this land through the Council's Site Allocations Plan. We've always been clear that ELOR will define the outer edge of the built up area of Leeds.

However the ELOR scheme will be brought forward with reference to its urban fringe situation, to minimise its impact on the countryside to the north. As Cllr Robinson will be aware, the Council undertook a wide ranging public consultation last winter, including engagement with ward members, Barwick and Scholes Parish Council and other residents in Scholes, at which proposals for the ELOR were put forward and discussed, including the line of route around the edge of the East Leeds Extension and substantial landscaping works that will accompany it to ensure the road sits well in the countryside setting with measures to limit its visual and acoustic impact, providing the 'Green Buffer' referred to. Within this it is intended to deliver a network of connected paths along the outside of the ELE linked across ELOR by appropriate crossing points including bridges to existing Public Rights of Way. It will also include orbital pedestrian and cycle

connections around this part of the city linking into Roundhay Park to the west and the new Green Park to the east.

As part of the first housing scheme that has come forward in the ELE at the Northern Quadrant, a country park has been agreed for part of the Green Belt land between ELOR and Thorner Lane. The scope for a similar approach at those parts of the East Leeds Extension close to Scholes can be explored with the applicants and landowners as planning applications for new housing come forward through the planning process over the next few years. This will be guided by a Development Framework for the middle and southern parts of ELE closest to Scholes, which was also the subject of initial consultation last winter and is currently in preparation and due to go to further public consultation in the near future.

Yours sincerely

**Kevin Tomkinson**  
**Principal Governance Officer**