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UNANSWERED QUESTIONS LETTER – 22 MARCH 2023

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Agenda Item 8



Legal and Democratic Services

Governance Services

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Date: 5 April 2023

To: All Members of Council

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL MEETING – 22nd March 2023

At the above meeting, the thirty minutes of Question Time expired with questions 8 to 33 were unanswered. Council Procedure Rule 11.6 requires that each Member of Council is sent responses to such questions.

Q8 Councillor N Sharpe – Could the Executive Member please provide an update on recent work done by the Councils gritting team?

A Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate

Our gritting teams have again provided this crucial service in a timely and appropriate manner throughout the winter. Having been on standby continuously from the start of November they have, so far, been required to carry out a full precautionary grit on over 50 occasions, spreading 12000t of salt on 45,000 miles/72,000 km of the Leeds network. We were particularly indebted to this resilient team over the recent period of snow when they completed no less than 8 treatments in a 24-hour period, including a secondary route run, when they gritted the more minor estate roads. The fact that we were able to keep traffic moving safely on our roads during this period is testament to them.

Furthermore, in November 2022, they attended a number of schools to launch a 'Name the Gritter' competition, and then prior to the recent snowfall earlier this month, the team



attended 8 local schools to congratulate all 12 winners on the names they picked for the fleet, and to inform them about gritters and winter safety. The sessions have been positively received/reviewed around Leeds.

Q9 Councillor E Carlisle – Whilst absolutely applauding the intention behind the Warm Spaces campaign in Leeds, it seems that – in many if not most cases – uptake for this scheme has been low. Can the Executive Member for Communities tell me what, if any, steps Council are taking to review the project, and what have we learnt for the future?

A Executive Member for Communities

As of Tuesday 20th March, Third Sector warm spaces in Leeds reported a total of 26,137 unique visits and they have made 1,762 signposting referrals. This figure is based on daily sessional reports estimating the number of visitors to warm spaces and the inter-disciplinary team leading the work believe it to be a conservative estimate.

In addition, whilst Council-run Community Hub and Libraries can't count unique visitors who have accessed the building for the warm spaces provision only, we can state that over 100,000 hot drinks have been provided at the council's Hubs and Libraries since the inception of the scheme in October.

We're not aware of any concerns that uptake for the scheme has been low, but if Councillor Carlisle has concerns at low numbers of visitors in warm spaces in his ward, I'm happy to meet him to discuss this and see what we can do together to promote them.

In terms of reviewing the provision, the Warm Spaces Team have completed monthly 'temperature check' surveys to understand more about how the spaces are being used and the second check is currently in progress. What we have learned so far is the potential for the spaces to reduce social isolation and have a positive impact on community resilience and signpost residents to services.

We've received a case study from a third sector organisation on referring a resident for extra support:

"One of our visitors is an elderly lady who is usually at home by herself during the day. We recently had to call an ambulance for her while she was visiting our Warm Space after she suffered from intense pain in her chest. Our sessional staff member went with her to the hospital, and through our working with a partner organisation, we were able to signpost her to further support via their ENHANCE program.

"A support worker from the partner organisation came to our Warm Space to visit her and make an assessment, and will be providing her with one-to-one support, including



accompanying her to hospital appointments, helping her with grocery shopping, preparing meals, cleaning and assisting with benefits and claim applications and other social support.

“As our Warm Space visitor is elderly and does not have family or any extra support at home during the day, this will be extremely beneficial for both her mental and physical health. She is very happy and excited to be receiving this support, which she would not have known about or had access to if it were not for our referral.”

We are receiving growing evidence that the investment in community facilities has had a positive impact on reducing social isolation. Many third sector Warm Spaces have used investment to develop activities that bring people together. We've had a further case study from the third sector on this:

“We knew a lady in her late 30s to be very socially isolated. She lives alone in a small flat and is often feeling uneasy or scared to go out on her own, particularly when its dark or later into the evening.

“She wasn't interested in coming into our Warm Space initially. She said she would feel uncomfortable sitting with strangers even though we had books to read, TV to watch and board games available.

“A few other people had asked for a craft session, so we looked in this. We're now working with another charity to offer the free craft activity during our warm sessions. It's been going for 2 sessions so far with further 6 planned. After some encouragement the lady decided to give it a try. She's attended both and is starting to talk to and make friends again with some of the other participants. We have visibly noticed it is really helping with her confidence.”

The Warm Spaces team is currently surveying existing Warm Spaces to gauge what opportunities exist to sustain activity which enhances social connection between people into the future.

Q10 Councillor H Bithell – Please can the Executive Member for Public Health & Active Lifestyles advise on Leeds becoming a Fast Track City and joining a global partnership of cities working towards ending the HIV epidemic by 2030?

A Executive Member for Public Health and Active Lifestyles

We are proud to be the first city in the Yorkshire & Humber Region to become a Fast Track City joining London, Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool, Brighton and Cardiff; alongside Scotland as the first Fast Track Country; and over 300 cities globally, to work towards a shared commitment to ending the global HIV epidemic by 2030.

Cllr Lewis and I have signed both the Paris Declaration & Sevilla Declaration during HIV Testing week on behalf of the Council and the City, galvanising our commitment not only to end the global HIV epidemic but also to expand this to other blood borne viruses such as TB



and Viral Hepatitis that have similar routes of transmission and often effect the same communities.

Our ambitions are clear:

- Zero new transmissions within our city
- Zero people unaware of their positive status
- Zero people living with a blood-borne virus unable to access effective treatment
- Zero stigma

The landscape of HIV/AIDS and other blood borne viruses has changed in many ways, beyond recognition over the last four decades. There have been ground-breaking medical advances in relation to prevention, testing and treatment.

40 years ago, when we saw the first diagnosis of HIV in the UK, HIV/AIDS was classed as a terminal illness, there was no treatment available, very little understanding and research around prevention and transmission routes. Hospitals such as the LGI had designated wards where people living with HIV and AIDs received palliative and end of life care.

Fast forward to present day, HIV is defined as a long-term health condition, finger prick HIV tests are available online and within the community for free, highly effective treatment is available for people living with HIV reducing viral loads to the point where they are undetectable and untransmittable; and the publicly funded preventative HIV drug PrEP after many years of research and campaigning is free via Sexual Health services - significantly reducing the users' chance of getting HIV.

There is certainly a lot to celebrate, yet despite these advances we know that within our city there continues to be people newly diagnosed with HIV, with over half of these people diagnosed at a later stage of infection: increasing their chances of serious ill health and even death.

People living in areas of deprivation and people from migrated populations are over-represented in these late diagnosis rates and under-represented within people accessing the preventative drug PrEP in particular Women and Transfolk.

We know that stigma and misinformation around HIV lives on within communities, the media and within health and care services.

As system partners we are committed and determined and have been for many years, to work together, to go above and beyond in terms of community-based HIV testing opportunities, targeted outreach for most at risk populations to promote risk reduction and health promotion messages which normalise and destigmatise HIV testing as well as innovation around clinical interventions such as the pilot of opt out blood borne virus screening for all new patients within primary care and people accessing A&E.

There is still so much more that we can do as a city and together as partners- still too many missed opportunities for prevention and early diagnosis. Becoming a Fast Track City will help focus our efforts even further in achieving these ambitions.

I'm particularly passionate about our signing of the Sevilla Declaration as this emphasises our commitment as a city, to working with people and communities who are most effected by blood borne viruses to truly understand their lived experiences of stigma, misinformation and barriers when accessing services and support and to work this human insight into the core of our work.



Q11 Councillor M Robinson – Can the Executive Member please tell Council if they believe the current public transport arrangements to Leeds Bradford Airport are suitable for a modern 21st Century city?

A Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate

It is without doubt that public transport connections to LBA could be improved. The Council and the Combined Authority are working closely together to improve the sustainable transport options for access to the airport.

In the Mass Transit Vision for West Yorkshire there are identified proposals to connect Leeds Bradford Airport to both Leeds and Bradford city centres. This vision sets out our level of ambition to deliver a step change in public transport to the airport and across the whole of West Yorkshire. We continue to highlight the need for this investment to the Department for Transport.

The airport Parkway Station is being developed by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority as part of the West Yorkshire Transport Fund Programme.

- WYCA are continuing to develop the full business case and planning documentation with anticipated submission late 2023/early 2024.
- LCC recently consulted on a package of improvements to Scotland lane & Whitehouse Lane to improve connections between the proposed parkway rail station, the proposed North West Leeds Employment Hub and the airport terminal, and to provide walking and cycling facilities. The public and stakeholder feedback will now be analysed with the intention of bringing forward early phases of this work to be delivered ahead of the parkway station opening.

Ahead of these major public transport improvements the bus services to the airport have been enhanced in recent years through planning conditions for the airport expansion.

As part of the 2009 S106 agreement for the airport, there is the opportunity to improve the public transport further should passenger numbers exceed 5m per annum. Specifically the S106 states,

“not later than 12 months of the annual passenger throughput at the Airport under the Planning Permission exceeding 4.5 mppa LBIA shall submit a planning application together with full supporting information including a transport assessment, draft travel plan and heads of terms for a planning obligation for such further development at the Airport requiring express planning permission as would be necessary to facilitate an annual passenger throughput in excess of 5 mppa.”



On the basis that the passenger throughput reaches this trigger, the Council will liaise with LBA to determine the future improvements to public transport as part of the transport assessment required.

Q12 Councillor R Downes – Could the lead member responsible advise whether or not it's consultation contract, currently with Commonplace, will be put out to tender later this year when the current contract ends?

A Executive Member for Resources

The current contract with Commonplace Ltd is a 3-year contract to March 2024 with the option to extend for 2 x 12 months. A decision on next steps whether to extend or initiate a new tendering exercise will be taken later in the year. Discussions will be held with relevant teams including Central Procurement.

Q13 Councillor S Hamilton – I understand that the housing service is developing a closer working relationship with hospitals to prevent bed blocking, would the Executive Member for Environment and Housing please elaborate on this?

A Executive Member for Environment and Housing

In August 2020 at the height of the pandemic, the Government introduced a national push to reduce delayed hospital discharge and published the 'Hospital discharge service policy and operating model' which details the discharge requirements for all NHS trusts, community interest companies, private care providers of acute, community beds and community health services and social care staff in England.

In response to this government publication, Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust (LTHT) has formed the Transfer of Care (TOC) hub at St James Hospital. The TOC Hub, is a team of staff based in the hospital, dedicated to improving the flow of patients out of the hospital when they are ready for discharge. This move has been to centralise the 'discharge operation' across all the hospitals in the Trust to provide a more streamlined and effective approach to discharging patients from the hospital in a timely manner.

'Better Homes for Health and Wellbeing' is one of the Council's 2022 Breakthrough Priorities, as set out in our Best City Ambition and 3 pillar strategies for Leeds. This work also aligns with the aims and objectives included in the revised Leeds Housing Strategy April 2022.

One of the main priority projects identified has been to improve the pathways for patients that are fit to leave hospital but have their discharge delayed due to housing issues. This breakthrough priority has provided a fantastic opportunity for close partnership working between with the Council and LTHT to improve housing discharge pathways and reduce 'bed blocking' in the hospitals. A move to decrease the level of delayed discharge meets both the Council's and Trust's strategic aims and while having a huge financial saving also addresses



the evidence that staying in hospital for longer than required drives adverse outcomes for patients.

It has become clear that the Hospitals just need to engage with one point of contact at the Council. In turn, dedicated housing caseworkers could use their knowledge of the Council's structure, policies and procedures to expedite referrals to the correct teams and services within the Council to provide solutions with the required expediency.

To meet this challenge, the Council are introducing two brand new **hospital caseworker** posts to provide a dedicated pathway for all delayed hospital cases where housing issues are preventing discharge. The postholders are funded by the Council and work for the Health & Housing Service within Housing Leeds, however, these housing officers will be based at the TOC Hub at St James hospital. As well as housing pathways, it is envisaged that these Caseworkers will be involved with facilitating two-way learning/education exercises between housing and health services to improve future partnership working.

The officers will work alongside the discharge team at St James and visit patients to take the housing service directly onto the hospital wards. The caseworkers will collect and collate information and act as a triage to assess the correct housing support required. Practically every housing discharge case requires a bespoke solution, and it is envisaged these caseworkers will be working with a wide variety of stakeholders within the hospital setting as well as the full range of housing and social care services at the Council.

These two posts should be going out to advert within the next week and it is hoped postholders will be in position in April/May 2023.

It is envisaged that when these posts have become fully established, it is likely there will be a need to increase the resources in this team. It is hoped these officers will have an immediate impact and provide evidence for a 'spend to save' initiative towards 'bed blocking'. Initial discussions have already been held regarding funding from health budgets to further support the team in the future.

'Delayed discharge' has been a major issue for many years costing the NHS millions of pounds each year in lost bed space in all hospitals up and down the country. It is hoped that the creation of a 'Housing Caseworker team' working with the TOC Hub could see the first big 'step change' in improving the discharge pathway for patients who need support with their housing and home care.

Q14 Councillor A Forsaith - As blocked gutters can lead to damp problems in properties, could the Executive Member for Environment and Housing inform the Council about the programme for the routine cleaning out of gutters on all of our housing stock?

A Executive Member for Environment and Housing

It is acknowledged that blocked and leaking guttering can lead to damp problems in homes. There isn't a routine programme in place specifically for this across the city and the need for costly access equipment, as well as the level of resource required to deliver



this, would make it difficult to demonstrate the overall value for money of such a programme. Gutter clearance is undertaken as standard as part of the councils cyclical painting programme and our teams and contractors know that when responding to reports of blocked guttering, adjoining guttering is also checked and where appropriate, cleaned, to reduce the chances of future issues occurring. We also seek to batch up homes/blocks and clean the guttering on a mini-programme where we identify that the guttering in a location is a particular issue.

Q15 Councillor J Dowson – Could the Executive Member please update Council on the services offered in our libraries?

A Executive Member for Communities

We have 36 community hub and library venues located in the heart of communities, plus the central library in the city centre; these are currently delivering the Council's contribution to the city-wide warm spaces provision.

Each of these spaces provide books, with a free service to order in books located at another of our libraries.

Our customers can also access a wide range of e-books and 'story-tapes' (as we used to call them) online, downloaded to their own portable device; the same can be done with an extensive range of newspapers, magazines and comics.

These free services are hugely important for the city, especially at times when families are struggling financially.

Many people will already be aware of these services, but the full offer of Leeds Libraries is much greater.

Leeds Libraries **support Digital Inclusion and Creative Digital activity** – ranging from free provision of computers and wi-fi across all libraries, as well as a co-ordinated programme of digital skills learning sessions and drop-ins, through to Studio12 (our film, music and broadcast media production studio for young people) and The Drawing Room and the development of community Creator Spaces – providing computerised sewing machines, 3D printing, etc. There is also an online learning portal with tutorials from downloading an e-book to using the NHS app.

For people looking to start or grow their own business there is the **Business and Intellectual Property centre** where customers can get 121 support and guidance, research the marketplace, and learn how to protect their ideas. Our city's entrepreneurs can get support through workshops and talks delivered by industry professionals.

Our libraries support **health and wellbeing** through great collections on a variety of health issues, including mental health through our Reading Well collection; and have been developing the concept of social tables where anyone can join in a social activity or conversation. More recently the service has introduced **wellbeing pods** at 8 libraries through funding from the NHS; these use our welcoming library spaces for the delivery of clinical services in a community-based setting, and also enable connection with relevant library



offers, for example supporting maternal mental health and wellbeing, and early speech language and communication.

There is a growing offer of **events and activities for Children and Families**, in addition to the regular story and rhyme times in libraries, one highlight is the annual Festive Show, The Storymaker's Apprentice, which sold over 1500 tickets, attracting both family and school audiences. The service also delivers an extensive range of author visits and performances in support of the Healthy Holidays programme.

Two notable additions to services for the year are the introduction of mini-Playboxes at a number of libraries – these are packed with fun and engaging self-serve activities for children under five and their families to enjoy in the library – and the re-launch of the Leeds Book Award.

Programming for adults is just as extensive with a wide range of **art, music and cultural activities**, these have included the Sound Mind festival, and events supporting and promoting smaller independent publishers.

Q16 Councillor B Flynn – Can the Executive Member for Resources please advise how much the additional equipment (for example, technology, telephones, furniture and anything else necessary) to facilitate working from home has cost the Council since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic?

A Executive Member for Resources

Where possible existing equipment and furniture was used to minimise costs. The total estimated additional cost is £301k, of which £197k was for ICT equipment and £104k was for furniture.

Q17 Councillor R Downes – As the Leeds marathon nears there are now hundreds of runners each weekend preparing by running the course. The A660 from Otley to the Dynley Arms has slippery detritus and also broken and missing safety barriers separating pedestrians from the busy road. Could the footpath be made safe as a matter of urgency please?

A Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate

I can confirm that colleagues from the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team have been contacted and will visit the location with a view to cleaning and removing any detritus, in this area, specifically the A660 from Otley to Dyneley Arms and A658 from Dyneley Arms to Pool.

The Rob Burrow Marathon will use the A660 route through the Dyneley Arms junction.



With reference to the A658, we are currently in the process of sourcing a new permanent replacement for the old concrete barriers as our suppliers no longer manufacture them. In order to make the area safer in the meantime a more substantial water filled barrier will be installed, these are expected to be in place within the next 4-6 weeks.

The team are actively pursuing a permanent replacement/solution for these barriers and local Ward Members will be updated with progress.

Q18 Councillor R Stephenson – Can the Executive Member for Adults and Children’s Social Care and Health Partnerships confirm what assessment process is adopted to verify the age of unaccompanied child asylum claims?

A Executive Member for Adults and Children’s Social Care and Health Partnerships

The local authority follows home office guidance in determining the age of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people. The Merton-compliant age assessment is undertaken by 2 qualified social workers who have received the relevant and specialist training in this area.

Q19 Councillor D Chapman – As Parks & Countryside were originally budgeting to charge for parking at Rothwell Country Park in 2023/24 they must have had a plan to reopen the car park. Can the Executive Member responsible confirm when we can expect that to happen?

A Executive Member for Public Health and Active Lifestyles

In conjunction with developing proposals for car parking charges, the service was in parallel developing proposals to enhance car parking provision by using the revenue that would be generated to support capital investment in car parking facilities. In addition, Rothwell Country Park was an integral part of the council’s Levelling Up bid submission for this constituency. Within that, consideration was given to concept proposals for the site which included proposals for how visitors access the site. Regrettably, that bid was unsuccessful and reopening car parking at this location is not feasible without sustainable capital funding and therefore there are no immediate plans to do so.

Q20 Councillor M Robinson – Can the Leader of Council confirm if his administration supports the introduction of speed cameras on the ELOR?

A Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate

The West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership have very recently (20th February 2023) launched their new Speed Enforcement Strategy which includes the adoption of new speed camera deployment criteria. This is in advance of, but in line with, a delayed Department for Transport review and follows proactive partnership work between the Police and colleagues from Traffic Engineering, Highways and Transportation at Leeds City Council (LCC).

Following this launch, LCC submitted the East Leeds Orbital Route (ELOR) for speed camera enforcement evaluation and I am pleased to report that the route met the new deployment criteria for mobile speed camera enforcement.

As part of the construction of the ELOR route, vehicle hard standings were constructed along the route. These provide safe off carriageway parking areas for the Police and/ or the West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership to deploy their vehicles to provide speed enforcement action.

I can confirm that mobile speed enforcement commenced along ELOR on Monday 20th March 2023.

Up to this point, speed enforcement has been carried out along ELOR using undercover police surveillance.

Q21 Councillor R Downes – When will automated bookings be available for the Leeds Sailing and Activity Centre?

A Executive Member for Public Health and Active Lifestyles

The online booking system will be uploaded for the May half term activities, the team are currently on with building the programme in to the system to enabled customers to book online. Due to some of the health and safety requirements needed for the activities at the sailing centre they are more complex that regular bookings across the leisure centres meaning not all activities will be available online straight away.

Q22 Councillor B Anderson – Noting the possible government plan to require housing managers to have nationally recognised housing qualifications, will the Executive Member for Environment and Housing show leadership by mandating this for relevant staff before it is legally required?

A Executive Member for Environment and Housing

On 26 February 2023 the Housing Secretary announced that through a proposed amendment to the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill, social housing managers will be required to gain professional housing qualifications. Under the proposals, senior managers will be required to



gain the Chartered Institute of Housing's (CIH) Level 4 Certificate in Housing and senior executives will need a Level 5. We are awaiting more detail about these proposals, including the details of which roles will be affected and whether other related qualifications will be accepted, before mandating this for all staff. Over many years, Leeds City Council has supported staff to complete CIH qualifications. Since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in 2017 a number of staff have been supported to carry out Level 2-4 CIH qualifications, with 33 staff having now fully completed these qualifications.

Q23 Councillor R Downes – When will any Leeds 2023 events be unveiled in Otley & Yeadon ward - there are none showing on the website?

A Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education

The programme guide for Part 2 of the Leeds 2023 Year of Culture will be available the week commencing 3 April, as both a physical and online guide. The guide will cover events taking place between 1 May and 31 August and will include events taking place as part of the "My LEEDS Summer" project, one in each ward, including an event for Otley and Yeadon on 6 July. In addition, schools from Otley and Yeadon wards are getting involved in the Year of Culture programme in the following ways:

Westgate Primary School: have applied to participate in Children's Day at Roundhay Park on 14 July.

Otley All Saints CE Primary School: Taking part in Leeds Piano Competition's "One Small Step" piano tour - activity part-funded by Leeds 2023.

Otley Prince Henry's Grammar School: Will be Leeds 2023's partner school for Leeds Language Week in November 2023.

Q24 Councillor M Robinson – Can the Leader of Council confirm the total amount of council tax billed to residents and properties in the Harewood ward in the municipal year 2021-22?

A Leader of Council

The gross amount billed in the Harewood ward in 2021/22 was £18,272,082.56. After taking account of exemptions, discounts and Council Tax Support the net amount payable in the Harewood ward in the municipal year 2021-22 was £16,497,763.56.



Q25 Councillor R Downes – Could the lead member responsible advise how Leeds 2023 is currently performing against its KPIs and whether it expects to achieve them?

A Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education

Leeds 2023 have ambitious KPIs which demonstrate the scale of the impact they hope to achieve and they form part of the research and evaluation being carried out by The Audience Agency. Leeds 2023 reports regular progress against the KPIs to its Board of Trustees and to the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board. Whereas it is possible to track progress against some of the KPIs (such as fundraising and volunteering which are well on track), the economic impact will not be evaluated before the end of the year and will be reported through established channels.

Q26 Councillor R Stephenson – Can the Executive Member for Adults and Children’s Social Care and Health Partnerships confirm how many unregulated placements, eg AirB&Bs, are being used in Leeds and how the number has increased or decreased on last year?

A Executive Member for Adults and Children’s Social Care and Health Partnerships

We currently have 4 children under the age of 16 living in unregulated placements. There is a national crisis in respect of placements for children, consequently we have seen a small increase in the past 12 months. We have a clear, robust decision-making process that is followed when approval is sought to place a child in an unregulated placement. Close managerial oversight is given in each situation and both the Executive Member for Adult and Children’s Social Care and Health Partnerships and Ofsted are informed.

Q27 Councillor R Downes – Could the lead member responsible advise when recruitment will be completed for the Leeds Sailing and Activity Centre and will there be a full-time watersports instructor, qualified to a senior level in addition to the existing manager to allow for cover at all times?

A Executive Member for Public Health and Active Lifestyles

The post for a seasonal Watersports Instructor has been approved and will be advertised this week with the plan to have the post filled in May 2023.

Q28 Councillor M Robinson – Vehicles parking on the pavement can be dangerous for pedestrians, children, wheelchair users and those with prams. Will the Executive Member please outline what steps the Council is taking to address this issue?



A Executive Member for Environment and Housing

Pavement parking is not an absolute Council responsibility and we have no general power to enforce against it. It is not illegal unless it constitutes obstruction which is a Police responsibility. Parking restrictions can be introduced on pavements by means of TRO with the appropriate signs and lines, and if this is done the Parking enforcement team can enforce through the issue of Penalty Charge Notices. We will however always work with the police and local communities to try to problem-solve in relation to this type of issue.

Q29 Councillor N Buckley – Will the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate welcome the additional £6.84m for West Yorkshire to fix potholes announced by the Chancellor in his Budget last week?

A Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate

The Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate welcomes the additional £6,484,800 for West Yorkshire announced by the Chancellor in his Budget last week to spend on maintaining and improving the network. The specific allocation for Leeds will be awarded on a formula basis, primarily on road length. We anticipate the allocation could be in the region of £1.9m.

However, it is important to note that the cost of clearing the UK pothole backlog has reached a record high of £14billion – up nearly £1.5billion on last year. The £200M announced by Government does not begin to approach the funding required to allow local authorities to address this problem

Highways Maintenance budgets are now established from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), which is a 5-year funding settlement. Following considerable engagement including with all Community Committees in recent months, based on the CRSTS allocations, the highways maintenance programmes are well developed for this period, particularly the early years of the programme. Whilst additional funding is always welcomed, an earlier announcement or incorporation within CRSTS would have allowed for improved forward planning and coordination of works.

The additional funding announced will allow for an increased number of schemes to be delivered during 23/24, but most likely in 24/25.

Q30 Councillor M Robinson – To ask the Executive Member for Communities, what steps is the Council taking to tackle dog fouling across Leeds?

A Executive Member for Environment and Housing



Using the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act (2014) the Council introduced a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in 2021 that covers the whole of the city. The PSPO creates a criminal offence to not pick up dog poo left by a dog in all public spaces. The PSPO also states that if you are the person in charge of a dog, you need to carry a poo bag or similar to clear up after the dog. There is extensive signage across the city detailing this. A fixed penalty notice (FPN) can be issued for a breach of the PSPO as an alternative to prosecution. There are also other provisions in the PSPO around responsible dog ownership including a requirement for dogs to be on a lead in certain areas (or when directed), dog exclusion areas and limits on the numbers of dogs being walked by a single person.

The PSPO primarily serves as a deterrent and to help change behaviours of those dog owners who do not control or clean up after their dogs.

Enforcement of the dog fouling PSPO is shared between the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team and Environmental Health's dog wardens. The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team has 30 enforcement staff trained and authorised to deal with any offences witnessed, as well as the dog wardens (3.5 officers in post). The Council will also consider taking action from information received by a member of the public who see a dog walker not clean up after their dog (if they are willing to provide a statement and there is sufficient information to identify the perpetrator).

The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team service in excess of 4,000 litter bins city wide that accept dog poo bags as well as general litter. These are in addition to the numerous dog poo bins in place in parks and open spaces across the city services by Parks and Countryside staff.

Signs and information are also used in local hotspot areas to raise awareness. Officers also support and engage with ward members and Parish Councils on localised dog fouling campaigns. For example, in response to concerns raised about dog fouling, campaigns have more recently taken place in localised areas in Pudsey and Farnley and Wortley (education, and signage), Springfield Park in Morley, Aldwalton Moor in Drighlington, Football Fields on Street Lane in Gildersome and Hesketh Lane Recreation Ground (patrols and education). Community Committees have the ability to discuss and negotiate prioritisation of work with their local CNT and in liaison with the Dog Warden service within the resources available.

The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team also cleans up report of dog fouling on the public highway.

Q31 Councillor R Stephenson – To ask the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate, how many ultra-low emission vehicle permits were issued by the council in the last year?

A Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate

In the year 2022/23 we issued 344 ULEV permits.



Q32 Councillor M Robinson – In January 2023 an alleged terror attack was successfully foiled outside St James' Hospital. This is a sad reminder of the ongoing threat of terrorism and radicalisation. Will the Executive Member for Communities please detail what steps are the council taking to address radicalisation in Leeds?

A Executive Member for Resources

The council delivers a range of partnership activity designed to build resilience within communities against radicalisation and extremism.

Channel is an early intervention multi-agency panel designed to safeguard vulnerable individuals from being drawn into extremist or terrorist behaviour.

The Channel Panel is chaired by the local authority and works with multi-agency partners to collectively assess the risk to an individual and decide whether an intervention is necessary. If a Channel intervention is required, the Panel works with local partners to develop an appropriate individualised support package.

The Prevent Team within the Safer Stronger Communities Team delivers several projects across the city that engage with local communities, schools, and front-line professionals. These are designed to raise awareness of the range of ideologies and groups that seek to recruit and radicalise vulnerable individuals, alongside the tactics that are used to target vulnerable individuals.

Since 2015 the council has had a statutory obligation to deliver the Prevent Duty. The Prevent Duty requires all local authorities to undertake a robust assessment of the risks of radicalisation in the local area, and produce a proportionate partnership action plan to tackle these risks.

Every year, the Home Office assesses the effectiveness of our Prevent delivery against a series of benchmarks designed to enable local authorities and their partners to assess Prevent delivery in their local area against statutory requirements and best practice delivery. Leeds has surpassed delivery expectations outlined in the benchmarks to mitigate specific local risks and is regarded as one of the highest performing local authorities in the country.

However, we are not complacent and know that as ideologies and extremist groups evolve, so will we need to respond and adapt our delivery according to the level of risk.

Q33 Councillor M Robinson – Will the Executive Member please update Council on how many cases of dangerous dogs were reported to the Council's dog wardens since 2020?

A Executive Member for Environment and Housing



Since Jan 1st 2020 to date the Council have received the following requests for service in relation to Dangerous Dogs

- Dangerous Dog At Large – 110
- Dog Attacking Human – 401
- Dog Attacking Animal – 641

Yours sincerely

Kevin Tomkinson
Deputy Head of Democratic Services



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