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Unanswered Questions Letter

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Agenda Item 9



Democratic & Central Services

Governance Services

1st Floor (West)

Civic Hall

Leeds LS1 1UR

Contact Name: Kevin Tomkinson

e-mail: Kevin.tomkinson@leeds.gov.uk

Direct Line: (0113) 2474357

To: All Members of Council

Your ref:

Our Ref: A61/kjt/quest

Date: 21 July 2016

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL MEETING – 29TH JUNE 2016

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

Q11 Councillor J Bentley - Given that Weetwood has the poorest result of any ward in Leeds in terms of parents being allocated places at their preferred primary school, what is the executive member doing to improve primary school provision in Weetwood?

A Following a stakeholder event in 2015 to look at primary school places across the Weetwood ward, children's services have been working hard to ensure short and long term solutions are put in place to meeting the growing demand from the local population. For September 2016, an additional bulge cohort of 15 places was agreed at Iveson Primary School; although these places did not fill on offer day in April there is an expectation that these will fill during the year. The governing body of Iveson, as a trust school, has also proposed to permanently expand the published admission number from 45 to 60.

Other options are being investigated including St Chads CE Primary school which is a very popular and oversubscribed school close to the demographic pressure, which would serve the ward well.

We are also aware of a free school group, Grassroots Primary, who are considering submitting an application in September to the EFA (Education Funding Agency), to open a two form of entry free school in either the Weetwood or Adel & Wharfedale



wards. At present we are not aware of the group securing land to accommodate a school, but we will continue to work closely with them.

Additional primary places have been created in surrounding wards which has helped ease the pressure in Weetwood. These include Hawksworth Wood in Kirkstall ward, Carr Manor in the Moortown ward and Brudenell in the Headingley ward.

Q12 Councillor J Pryor - Please can the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults comment on the recent Public Accounts Committee Report on social care?

A This is a very timely report, coming a year after the implementation of the Care Act 2014, and as the Council implements a strengths based approach to social care which has at its heart the values of choice, control and independence for older and disabled people.

The report notes that, if implemented well, personal budgets can give adults greater choice and control over how their care and support is delivered than traditional block contracts. It also notes these achievements are in the context of some significant challenges around the overall funding for adult social care, the fragility of care markets and the ability to recruit and retain appropriately qualified staff.

Funding - the National Perspective

The report shares the concerns of local authorities that funding cuts and wage pressures will make it hard to fulfil Care Act obligations. The Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to take into account the wellbeing of all adults living in their local area. The Nuffield Trust, the Health Foundation and the King's Fund estimate there is likely to be an adult social care funding gap of between £2 - £2.7 billion by 2019-20. The Local Government Association predicts an even worse funding gap of £4.3 bn by 2020.

It is clear from the annual ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) budget survey that the cuts to adult social care are deepening. There has been five years of funding reductions nationally totalling £4.6 billion and representing 31% of real terms net budgets to Councils. Last year adult social care budgets reduced nationally by a further £0.5bn in cash terms. Taking growth in the numbers of older and disabled people into account, this meant that an additional £1.1bn alone would be needed to provide the same level as service as last year.

There are now 420,000 fewer people receiving social care services since 2009/10 and of those still supported, a significant number will get less care. Most Directors expect that still fewer people will get access to services over the next two years. Over the same time period the NHS has received an increase of 19.3%, which is to be celebrated, but the money transferred from the NHS to social care via mechanisms such as the Better Care Fund is not enough to mitigate the reductions.

Allowing councils to levy an additional 2% precept to fund pressures in social care sets a very dangerous precedent of shifting a proportion of funding of what should be a nationally funded service, as is the NHS, to local authorities. Indeed the way funding formula for councils is comprised, means the councils with the greatest need are able to raise the least amount. We will see an increasingly unfair society where those who can afford it will arrange private formal care with others reliant on family and friends for their care.



Fragility of care markets/ workforce

There is genuine concern in some parts of the country that the care market is not sustainable. (The vote to leave the EU makes this worse as social care in some areas is very reliant on migrant labour). It is important to pay a fair fee for care as a guarantee of quality and Leeds is proud that it has signed up to the Ethical Care Charter to ensure local home care staff are paid the Leeds 'Living Wage' of £8.01, are paid for their travel time and have access to training and development in their caring role.

In Leeds we are proud of our award winning We Care Academy which recruits people with the right values to work in adult social care and then supports their development to ensure they remain working in the sector.

The Leeds Context

Since the introduction of self-directed support there have been year on year increases in the numbers of service users receiving a personal budget in Leeds. During 2015/16 Leeds Adult Social Care provided personal budgets to 95% of service users who met the criteria for receiving long term community based services - this equates to 6,702 people. The 5% who don't receive a personal budget are largely people who have accessed long term services via partner agencies in health and have not been subject to a formal assessment or review process in which a budget is allocated and agreed. In addition 19% of people who received long term community based services received a type of personal budget called a direct payment, this equates to 1,135 people. This includes people receiving their budget wholly, or partly, as a cash payment so that they can purchase their own support. (Comparator average is 23%). It is the intention of Adult Social Care to support an increase in the number of people who are able to take their allocated budget in the form of a Direct Payment.

The current trend in social care is that we are supporting less people each year but more intensively, i.e. average size of care package is increasing, as a result of higher support needs. This means that Adult Social Care is being successful in supporting more people to remain independent, but when people do come into adult social care services, their needs are higher. The table below shows the reduction in numbers of people supported each year, which is consistent with national trend.

2011/12	9069
2012/13	8912
2013/14	8836
2014/15	7311
2015/16	7146

Adult Social Care has a total net budget of £201.340 m in 2016/17. There are savings to be achieved this year of £22.996m of which £12.7m is income from NHS (balance of £10.296m). The proportion of the council's expenditure that is spent on adult social care is steadily increasing and is now at 41.6%.

- Q13** Councillor S McKenna - Does the Executive Member for Planning think that affordable housing schemes should be refused planning permission?



A Of course each case needs to be considered on its own merits. However, I am very concerned about reports that the Secretary of State has overturned a local planning decision on a Council housing scheme in Ipswich. In this scheme for 94 homes on brownfield land, in part of a wider development area, the Secretary of State denied planning permission on the grounds that it won't "create inclusive and mixed communities". This was after his own Inspector recommended approval for this scheme.

Leeds has a very clear need for affordable housing in many parts of the city. In my opinion, this decision is very concerning for any authority with ambitions to help meet this need.

It also shows, once again, the power of the Secretary of State to overturn planning applications made locally.

Alongside the prioritisation of Starter Homes and significant increases in Right to Buy, I am concerned that decisions such as this will mean that truly affordable housing will reduce and diminish.

Q14 Councillor B Anderson - Is the Executive Board Member for Communities content with the Council's performance on bringing empty properties back into use?

A The Council first started recording the number of empty (non-council housing) homes in 2005. The focus has been on reducing the number of long-term empty homes which are defined as those that have been empty for at least 6 months. The number of long-term empty homes has reduced from 12,000 in 2005 to 3,593 at the end of May 2016 – a reduction of 70%. 3,593 equates to 1.32% of the Leeds housing stock. The Council agreed a target to reduce the number of long-term empty homes by a minimum of 2,000 in the time period beginning of April 2012 to the end of March 2017. The net reduction at the end of May 2016 was 2,183 and, whilst the number could fluctuate in the remaining 10 months of the year, we are very confident that the target will not only be met but exceeded.

Empty homes are a wasted resource and the 2000 net reduction target is linked to the new house building target (66,000 by 2028) included in the Core Strategy. A failure to meet (or get close to) the target could increase the pressure to increase the house building target with the accompanying call for additional release of green field and green belt land for development.

The reduction in empty homes has been achieved through a number of routes including council tax charging, investment in areas such as Cross Green, intensive work by the empty property team on target areas and the partnerships with organisations such as Canopy, LATCH, GIPSIL and the Empty Homes Doctor.

Empty homes work targeted detailed geographical areas over specified periods of time. The outcomes of these initiatives are:

- Nowells, Burmantofts - In June 2013 there were 44 empty homes with 4 remaining empty, all subject to ongoing action by the service.
- Edinburghs, Armley - In April 2014 there were 45 empty homes with 1 remaining empty home which is subject to the continued action by the service.



- Recreations, Holbeck - In April 2015 there were 70 empty properties; 50 were back into use by June 2016 and work is ongoing in this area.

In both the Nowell's and Armley more empty homes were brought back into use than the original number found to be empty. This was due to homes becoming empty during the period the approach was in each area. These new empty homes were also targeted by the Council to ensure that they did not become long term empty homes that blighted the neighbourhood.

In terms of bringing empty homes back into use as part of the council housing growth programme, the Council secured grant funding for a programme of bringing 120 long terms empty properties into use over the period to 2018. The programme has so far achieved 58 acquisitions, currently 11 are in conveyancing and 4 are about to start on site. In addition the programme includes the conversion of some former community centres into 11 properties.

Voids within Housing Leeds continue to remain low. As of the 27th June 2016 (week 12) Housing Leeds have 414 voids in total which equates to 0.73% of voids untenanted compared to this time last year where we had 568 voids which equated to 1.00% untenanted. This includes properties re-let as of that week, new build properties, PFI and buys backs.

Currently we only have 3 properties that have been void for over 6 months. These are three bedsit sheltered properties that are proving to be unpopular and we are looking at alternative methods of marketing these.

Q15 Councillor C Townsley - Could the executive member for children's services please advise council as to why her department was pursuing talks with the Education Funding Agency last November on the potential acquisition of the Horsforth Campus site, despite indications that this proposal may be unfeasible because of decisions taken by the council over the preceding year?

A Officers in Childrens Services were not pursuing discussions with the EFA in November. The EFA contacted the local authority in October last year to advise us that they were seeking to make targeted acquisitions of land, ahead of any free school proposals, that were in areas where there was a high need for places. In a phone call held jointly with Childrens Services and City Development officers in November a small number of areas of the city were raised, one of which was Horsforth.

It is the case that the owner of the Horsforth Campus site, Leeds City College, was pursuing a planning application for housing development on their site. As the Local Planning Authority, Leeds City Council considered the application on its merits and in the context of national and local planning policies. This process is separate to any potential acquisition of the site by the EFA for education purposes.

In March of this year Horsforth Academy submitted a free school proposal for a post 16 free school naming the Horsforth campus site. Notwithstanding the planning application made by the land owner, council officers facilitated an introduction between the EFA and Leeds City College, by providing contact details at the College to the EFA to ensure that the potential for the site to be acquired for education purposes could be explored.



Q16 Councillor A Hussain - Would the Executive Member for Communities be able to update me on our activities in partnership with the Leeds Credit Union?

A Working with Leeds Credit Union to provide affordable credit services:

The total value of loans to Credit Union members in the Quarter from Oct-Dec 2015 was £2.7m. This compares to £2.3m in same quarter of 2014 and £1.9m in 2013. Between 2013 to 2015, these figures show that lending has increased by almost 40%. The value of loans to financially excluded residents continues to increase – some of these residents may have otherwise used high cost lenders.

A recent study (April 2016) analysed the demographic profile of credit union members. The study found that over 60% of credit union adult members live in the top 10% and 20% most deprived super output areas (SOA's) in Leeds. In addition the study found that almost 10,000 LCCU members are Housing Leeds tenants and of these tenants 77% of them live in the top 10% and 20% SOA's. This clearly illustrates that the credit union is providing services to residents in areas that the Council see as a priority in the Best Council Plan.

Executive Board received and endorsed a report in October 2015 setting out the long term strategic partnership between the Council and Leeds Credit Union. The report contained details of initiatives the Credit Union has been working on in partnership with the Council in an effort to tackle poverty, along with future ambitions. Current initiatives included:

- Operating from the Community Hub and One Stop Centre network across the city, providing locally based financial services to those most in need.
- Launching two branches of "Your Loan Shop" on Roundhay Road and at the Compton Centre to provide a more affordable option than the high cost cash shops.
- The launch of "Your Homeware Shop" brand and the development of services to provide white goods and household items for low weekly payments.
- Working with Housing Leeds to deliver a citywide Money Management and Budgeting Service. The service is primarily focused at Housing tenants who are in arrears and struggling to pay their rent due to low incomes or poor money management.

Since October 2015 the following initiatives have been progressed:

- A new online payday product which offers a short term loan at affordable credit union rates.
- The new school savings club in primary schools across Leeds, using a web portal. As an incentive to encourage new clubs to open, £10 will be deposited into each account for pupils entering Key Stage 2 (Year 3). This is conditional upon the primary school agreeing to open and run a credit union school savings club. This initiative is currently being promoted via an animation which has been produced to show in schools. The club would make parents aware of the Credit Union.



- Development of a more comprehensive web based household goods purchasing option for residents.
- The Credit Union launched their new website early June 2016, which is also mobile/tablet friendly and contains an improved calculator and online banking section. The new site includes new improved features such as a loan decisions tool and a membership form which integrates an ID check.

Q17 Councillor A Sobel - With the news that globally, atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide will be above 400 parts per million this year, please could the Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability update members on Leeds' approach to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality?

A With the news that globally, atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide will be above 400 parts per million this year, please could the Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability update members on Leeds' approach to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality?

Leeds City Council is committed to tackling climate change and improving air quality. The Leader of the Council last year committed to a long term goal for the city to become carbon neutral by 2050. We have committed in the interim to reducing carbon emissions by 40% from the 2005 baseline by 2020 – we are half way there. We know that poor air quality in the city contributes to premature deaths and has a significant day to day impact on many with respiratory problems. The Council is committed to reducing nitrogen dioxide levels below 40 micrograms in all areas of Leeds and to reduce particulate matter emissions by 20% from their 2010 levels by 2020.

These commitments are being pursued through a series of practical projects.

- we plan to build a district heating network that will run from the Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility to the city centre and to the Lincoln Green area of the City (reducing carbon emissions by c. 17,000T per year with the potential to increase as the network expands and more low carbon heat sources connect)
 - *A procurement for the conversion of 30+ multi storey blocks and another procurement for the spine network that will connect the RERF to the city centre have already commenced and are due to be completed by the end of the year.*
- Installation of a compressed natural gas station to support the conversion of the Council's Refuse Collection vehicles and vans as well as other vehicles across the city, estimated to reduce carbon emissions of vehicles that convert by circa 30% as well as reducing the emissions that contribute to poor air quality by approximately 90%.
 - *Soft market testing has been undertaken and there is significant market interest. We are currently in the process of negotiating a suitable piece of land and then will start the competitive process*

There is also a list of other initiatives that are being developed to reduce emissions that focus more directly on the Council's buildings and fleet:



- Commencement of a 10 year energy efficiency investment programme in multi-storey blocks, including looking at localised district heating;
- An evaluation of new to market 'Budget' LED lanterns will be undertaken with a view to introduce 3000 to the portfolio. An estimated consumption saving of 928,125kWhs per annum through these conversions has been made.
- Improved energy management of corporate buildings via the increased use of energy data and Building Energy Management Systems;
- Continued investment in corporate buildings;
- The LCC corporate travel plan will be reviewed with the objective of changing travel practice across all Council Services to provide safe and sustainable commuting and business travel activity particularly sustainable travel choices for our employees utilising schemes such as the Cycle Superhighway.
- The fleet replacement programme will be reviewed annually to ensure that lower emission vehicles are considered for all vehicles due for replacement. By 2020/21 it is anticipated that 25% of the Council's fleet will have been replaced by alternative fuel or low emission vehicles. We now have 78 alternative fuel vehicles on our fleet, 43 of which are electric.
- Installation of an electric vehicle charging network to support the Council's vehicles;
- In support the air quality action plan, the council is undertaking further modelling and feasibility work to ascertain what solution is required for the city to achieve targets 2020. The proposed approach will be brought back to Exec Board in early 2017.

Q18 Councillor M Robinson - Is the Executive Board Member comfortable that residents and businesses in Linton and Collingham will have to wait a minimum of 18 months for a key local bridge to be repaired?

A The disruption and inconvenience to the community is a concern to us all and as a result I have made the repairs to Linton Bridge the number one priority for the Bridges team since it was damaged in December.

Previous information has been issued which explains the processes followed to date and the need in particular to wait for high waters to recede following Storm Eva and for the movement of the structure to stop and be monitored to ensure the safety of workers on site.

It should also be noted that funding for the repairs were not confirmed by Government until 17.3.16 and that up to that point the Council had funded the preliminary works of the scheme. In total the final scheme is currently estimated to cost £4.5m.



The Ward Members have been kept fully informed throughout. The first phase was to carry out stabilisation works which involved the construction of a temporary haul road on private land. These works have now been completed and permanent repairs are due to start in July. It is appreciated that whilst there is no major work on-going at the bridge it may appear that little is happening but engineers are working tirelessly behind the scenes to design an appropriate and safe repair and work is underway to prepare the fabrication of arch support.

Following Executive Board approval this month, the repairs are due to start in earnest in July and continue until reopening expected Summer 2017. We will do everything we can to finish the repairs as soon as possible but this is an extensive listed structure and the complexity of the repairs cannot be underestimated. The true extent of the damage will not be entirely understood until work starts and so the risk of delays beyond Summer 2016 cannot be ruled out.

To assist the community a free shuttle bus has been provided since the week after the bridge was closed. Following feedback from the public meeting in April Metro have extended the schedule.

Q19 Councillor S Bentley - With the site of the former West Park Centre now being put up for sale to a developer, will the council honour its commitment given in June 2013 that up to £800,000 of the sale proceeds will be available to meet the needs of the remaining users which may include the provision of a new build community facility or investment in an existing community building?

A The West Park Centre was last in use in November 2012 when it was initially closed as a temporary measure. Unfortunately that closure turned out to be permanent. Immediately following the closure officers in City Development and Children's Services worked closely with the centre's users to identify suitable alternative accommodation. In July 2013 the decision was taken by Executive Board to close the centre permanently. Part of that decision included that *"the Council makes available up to £0.8m of capital, financed from the receipt from the sale of the West Park Centre site, should it be required, to deliver solutions to meet the needs of the former users identified in paragraph 3.26 of the report [there were only five such users] which may include the provision of a new build community facility or investment in an existing community building in the area and that the Executive Member for Leisure and Skills takes the lead role in the consultation process"*.

In June 2014 a report was submitted to Executive Board which updated them on the identified users alternative accommodation. This showed that three of the groups were satisfactorily operating from St Chad's Church and Parish Centre in Headingley, one group had found what it considered to be the best compromise and one of the groups had folded (although not due to the closure of the West Park Centre). The same report acknowledged that the West Park Centre Campaign Group had an ambition to find a new venue to replicate the 'arts hub' atmosphere of the West Park Centre and that if a proper proposal could be developed then Executive Board could consider that proposal, although this would be different to the specific purpose of the £0.8m made available if required in July 2013.

The West Park Centre closed nearly four years ago and the users have been satisfactorily relocated. We committed £0.8m to reprovide for those users if required but they have found other places and no request or business case to support re-provision has been forthcoming.



Q20 Councillor B Anderson - Does the Executive Member responsible believe they have sufficient resources to enforce double yellow line offences in the outer areas of the city?

A The parking enforcement team covers the whole of the district. There are 70 uniformed officers carrying out various shifts up to 4am. On average there are 12 patrols a day that cover the outer areas.

The patrol areas are organised around district centres and staff are directed to locations, but there is flexibility in where staff are deployed and patrol areas vary as necessary. The key priorities for enforcement in the outer areas are schools, shopping districts and other hot spots such as railway stations. The public is encouraged to report areas where they feel additional enforcement attention is needed to deal with congestion and obstructions for example. The service also works with Ward Members to identify problem areas and plan patrols accordingly. Although most enforcement in the outer areas is during the day, later patrols are arranged when necessary. Where appropriate, we work with the Police who retain the power to deal with offences such as obstruction and pavement parking.

Q21 Councillor M Robinson - What action has the council taken to ensure the roll out of superfast broadband to white spot communities across Leeds?

A The Council has been working to improve the roll out of broadband infrastructure since 2013.

The Council has played a proactive role in the delivery of two government funded broadband programmes:

The West Yorkshire Broadband Programme (Superfast West Yorkshire).

This programme has been working with BT to improve fibre broadband infrastructure across West Yorkshire. Phase 1 has now been completed bringing fibre broadband to an additional 65,000 premises across the West Yorkshire Intervention area. Phase 2 of the programme covering parts of West Yorkshire and York is currently at the planning stage. The Council is currently working with partners to obtain additional funding from European Structural Funds to enhance this programme. We are awaiting certainty and clarity on this from the Government as a result of the EU referendum.

The Super Connected Cities Programme

This programme has provided vouchers worth up to £3,000 to small/medium sized businesses (SMEs) to improve their access to superfast broadband. The programme supported 5,500 businesses across West and South Yorkshire, with 1855 SMEs supported in Leeds.

The Council has also sought to encourage private sector investment from broadband providers. For example the Council is currently working with Virgin Media to encourage Virgin to invest in upgraded broadband services in parts of Leeds as part of their national "Project Lightning" investment project.

Q22 Councillor B Anderson - Would the Executive member responsible explain how bus lanes are enforced on bank holidays?



A Bus Lane enforcement is carried out according to the Traffic Regulation Orders which stipulate the times of operation for each restriction in each location. These times are determined by Highways Services in consultation with bus operators in order to meet the needs of the City's transport network. Enforcement is carried out using a camera system that captures video of each potential offence. This video is then viewed by an operator who decides whether a penalty charge notice should be issued. In Leeds, as in other cities, bus lanes are enforced on Bank Holidays as buses continue to operate on these days. The lanes are also used by taxis and emergency vehicles. Most traffic restrictions apply at set times of the day and these dictate the enforcement activities and operations of the Civic Enforcement Officers in Parking Services.

Q23 Councillor M Robinson - How much has the council paid out in compensation and settlement payments to those people who have damaged their vehicles in pot holes in the last financial year?

A The total value of compensation paid in respect of damage to vehicles caused by potholes during the financial year 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016, was £28,649.70.

Q24 Councillor B Anderson - Does the Executive Member responsible feel it is wrong to neglect listed buildings within the Council's ownership?

A Leeds City Council is committed to protecting the city's built heritage and acknowledges that listed buildings are an irreplaceable resource that contribute to the vitality of the city and help reinforce its unique sense of community and place.

The Council owns 123 buildings or structures that are listed, across operational and non-operational uses. The Civic Estate in the city centre is a prime example of the Council's success in maintaining the majority of its buildings and conserving them in a manner appropriate to their significance.

The Council made specific provision of £5m in the capital programme from 2014/15 for maintenance and repair of our heritage assets. In recognition of the needs posed by our substantial stock and some of the challenges posed, consideration is now being given to a further £1.5m per annum to this budget over the next 10 years, subject to additional survey and analysis work.

Of the Council's assets 21 (17%) are considered to be at risk, a situation that often arises due to the difficulty in achieving appropriate reuse without affecting the special interest or character of the asset. Viability issues and the dearth of funding to bridge any deficit often result in 'mothballing' of buildings until the situation changes and a sustainable end use can be found.

In some instances it may be the case that LCC should divest itself of the ownership of the asset to allow third parties such as developers to provide for sustainable re-use and conservation.

In other cases repair is reliant totally on the capital budget and can be beyond the Council's immediate means, which requires external funding from sources such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England. These bids can take a number of years to put together and usually require match funding.



For some of our listed assets there have in the past been issues relating to lack of staff who are skilled in traditional construction techniques. The Council is proactively promoting heritage property skills through its Re-Making Leeds training project. This has already funded a number of year-long work based training placements, supplemented by expert training, in order to improve the heritage construction capacity within the council.

Q25 Councillor M Robinson - Will the Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability update the council on the works taken to tackle air pollution levels and the work of the climate change committee of Leeds City Council?

A With the news that globally, atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide will be above 400 parts per million this year, please could the Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability update members on Leeds' approach to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality?

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- In support the air quality action plan, the council is undertaking further modelling and feasibility work to ascertain what solution is required for the city to achieve targets 2020. The proposed approach will be brought back to Exec Board in early 2017.

Members have previously met, chaired by Cllr Sobel, to discuss climate change and affordable warmth. I intend to draw this work together into a new working group which will focus on climate change and air quality.

Q26 Councillor B Anderson - Is the Executive Member responsible satisfied that his staff are supporting the development of Neighbourhood Plans in a constructive and open manner?

A Yes, within the context of national guidance and the overall development plan process in Leeds, I am satisfied that officers are supporting the process of Neighbourhood Plans across the District. Notwithstanding the considerable resource constraints upon the Council, excellent progress is being made in supporting communities across Town and Parish Council's and Neighbourhood Forums, in providing advice and support in a timely and effective manner. This is evidenced by the following range of activity:

- 35 Neighbourhood Areas designated,
- 13 Neighbourhood Forums designated,



- Pre-submission draft consultations (Reg 14) expected soon - Kippax, Adel, Alwoodley, possibly Headingley, Wetherby, Oulton and Woodlesford,
- 3 pre-submission draft consultations (Reg 14) currently being undertaken (East Keswick, Holbeck, Bardsey cum Ripton),
- 2 pre-submission draft consultations (Reg 14) recently closed (Boston Spa, Barwick in Elmet & Scholes),
- 2 plan proposals (draft plans) submitted for examination (Clifford, Collingham),
- 1 examiner being sourced and Reg 16 (publicising a plan proposal) consultation being arranged in partnership with the parish council (Collingham),
- 1 examiner appointed and Reg 16 consultation closed (Clifford). Examination expected mid to late July,
- 1 referendum (Linton) – overwhelming support for the plan proposal. (Currently subject to an appeal at the Court of Appeal following the refusal of an application for judicial review by the High Court where the application was considered to be totally without merit).
- The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans bring with them responsibilities, both for the Council and Neighbourhood Planning groups in meeting technical requirements and in facilitating the process in a constructive and open manner. In supporting the Linton Parish Council in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, the examiner made the following comment,

“From consideration of the evidence, it is clear to me that there was positive, collaborative working between Collingham and Linton Parish Council and Leeds City Council. Such a collaborative approach has full regard to national advice and is to be highly commended. It enables a neighbourhood plan to benefit from shared knowledge, skills and experience, helping to provide strong foundations for policy making. I consider that the Linton Neighbourhood Plan demonstrates best practice in this regard.”

Q27 Councillor M Robinson - How many additional people in Leeds joined the electoral role from 1st January 2016 to the final date of registering to vote for the European referendum and from which wards?

A The January Register of Electors was published on 4th January 2016. The Register used for the EU Referendum was published on 20th June 2016. There was an increase of 34,070 new electors registered during that period. The total electorate for Leeds is now 561,395, the highest it has ever been.

A breakdown by ward now follows

Ward	4 January 2016 elector	20 June 2016 electorate	Difference
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	ate		
Adel & Wharfedale	15,551	16,091	540
Alwoodley	17,412	18,004	592
Ardsley & Robin Hood	16,999	17,658	659
Armley	16,508	17,650	1,142
Beeston & Holbeck	14,520	15,422	902
Bramley & Stanningley	15,747	16,539	792
Burmantofts & Richmond Hill	14,450	15,468	1,018
Calverley & Farsley	17,441	18,239	798
Chapel Allerton	16,453	17,756	1,303
City & Hunslet	18,405	21,430	3,025
Cross Gates & Whinmoor	17,449	18,294	845
Farnley & Wortley	17,303	18,006	703
Garforth & Swillington	16,016	16,494	478
Gipton & Harehills	15,118	16,128	1,010
Guiseley & Rawdon	17,943	18,740	797
Harewood	14,879	15,420	541
Headingley	8,897	12,301	3,404
Horsforth	16,682	17,591	909
Hyde Park & Woodhouse	11,942	15,050	3,108
Killingbeck & Seacroft	16,143	16,857	714
Kippax & Methley	15,982	16,579	597
Kirkstall	14,143	15,754	1,611
Middleton Park	18,366	19,245	879
Moortown	17,006	17,700	694
Morley North	17,275	18,061	786
Morley South	16,240	16,947	707
Otley & Yeadon	17,170	17,878	708
Pudsey	17,093	17,938	845
Rothwell	15,428	16,069	641
Roundhay	16,840	17,670	830
Temple Newsam	16,035	16,669	634
Weetwood	14,377	15,696	1,319
Wetherby	15,512	16,051	539
Totals	527,325	561,395	34,070

Q28 Councillor B Anderson - Is it still the Administration's policy that they will not maintain the brown bin service in the winter months despite demand from residents especially in the outer areas of the city?

A Stopping the garden waste service at the end of November for the winter balances the cost of providing a service with a significant reduction in demand during the winter months.

The service's budget is based on the kerbside service ceasing for 3 months during the winter period when demand for the service is low. Garden Waste Collection staff are redeployed into the service over this period, to reduce reliance on agency and overtime cover and therefore spend. These savings have already been taken account of in the



service's budget for the year. Amending the timescale would therefore incur additional operational costs and unnecessary spend to communicate such a revision to residents.

We estimate that the additional cost to the Council of running the 12 garden waste routes for the winter period would be at least £450,000 per year excluding the cost of any communications that would be necessary.

Given the budget position of the council we do not therefore have any plans to expand the collection of brown bins over the winter months.

Q29 Councillor M Robinson - Could the Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability confirm how many trees were cut down in Leeds last year?

A In 2015 the Council's Forestry Section completed 698 scheduled pieces of work that involved the felling and removal of 1,120 non-woodland trees (this includes the removal of trees that failed and fell over). The Council, however, is active in ensuring that there is a strong programme of tree planting in the city.

- (i) Housing Leeds have committed to funding the replacement of each HL tree (plus suitable establishment management) that is felled with a suitable species of tree in a more suitable location. 300 new HL trees were planted in 2015/16.
- (ii) LCC Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan (2013) - Policy LAND 2 (page 61) states that any tree removed as part of a development should be replaced on a 3 for 1 basis.
- (iii) Last year, working with internal and external partners, plus ward members, 26,308 trees were planted. Major initiatives included:
 - Water Haigh Natural Flood Management Scheme (Woodlesford) – 10,000 trees
 - Temple Newsam Estate bordering Leeds Enterprise Zone – 12,000 trees – funded through partnership with the charity Trees for Cities (funders included Mondegreen and Velvet).
 - Sovereign Square – 20 large trees funding directly by the Council

A63 corridor (Enterprise Zone) – 144 large trees and 2,000 whips – funded through a national government scheme.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Tomkinson
Principal Governance Officer

