

COUNCIL MEETING

10TH JANUARY 2018

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS LETTER

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Democratic & Central Services

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Date: 9 February 2018

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL MEETING – 10TH JANUARY 2018

At the above meeting, the thirty minutes of Question Time expired with questions 8 to 35 unanswered. Council Procedure Rule 11.6 requires that each Member of Council is sent responses to such questions.

Q8 Councillor S Arif - Recent media reports have highlighted the fact that nationally apprenticeship starts for May, June and July last year fell by 59% compared to the same period the previous year, according to figures published by the DfE. Can the Executive Member provide an update on the position in Leeds?

A The figures relate to the fall in the total number of apprenticeship starts across England during the quarter 4 period, May to July 2017, compared to the same period in the previous year. This follows the introduction of a number of changes including a revised funding system, the apprenticeship levy, from April 2017 and may reflect decisions by employers on whether to recruit apprentices and or reconfigure existing training programmes at a time of continued economic uncertainty relating to Brexit.

Based on the provisional figures for the full 2016/17 academic year published by the Department for Education, Leeds has seen only a 0.14% reduction in starts compared to the 2.8% reduction nationally.

Of the Core Cities, Leeds is the second to Birmingham in the total numbers of apprenticeship starts each year and is above the core city average for the percentage of Apprenticeship starts per head of population. Leeds has steadily increased apprentice starts year on year, which is not the case for Manchester, Sheffield and Newcastle which have recently fallen back to the 2013/14 levels.

As an employer, the Council has doubled the number of apprentices it employs and has in place a framework contract with training providers that will support further expansion.

Building on our support for the ground-breaking Leeds Legal Apprenticeship Scheme, partnership working with the FE and HE institutions and employers in the City has grown the sectoral offer to include new higher and degree level standards in digital and technology, chartered management and chartered surveying with further work underway in other disciplines including nursing and teaching – and the Council's work to ensure that all can benefit from apprenticeships by commissioning additional support to work with young people with autism and learning difficulties and underrepresented BME communities.

Our commitment to continue to make young people aware of the opportunities offered by apprenticeships will be supported by over 120 employers at the Leeds Apprenticeship Fair Monday 5th March 2018, the biggest event of its type in the North of England.

Q9 Councillor B Anderson - Could the Executive Member please provide details of all the options that have been considered with regard to creating a city-wide food waste service, including those that are actively being pursued and those that have been discounted?

A In seeking to identify the most efficient and effective means of rolling out food waste collections city-wide, the Council has considered three alternative options for the provision of this service:

- Collecting food waste weekly using a 23 litre bin, which is the model currently in place in Rothwell ward.
- Collecting food waste together with garden waste on a fortnightly basis
- Collecting food waste weekly in a separate compartment (or pod) on the same vehicle as that used for the black and/or green bins

In order to deliver a viable food waste collection service across the city, the council will need to secure sufficient processing capacity for the waste collected. At present, we do not believe enough capacity exists in the local area to process the amount of food waste that would be likely to be collected. We are therefore assessing the options for providing such capacity, either via stimulating the market locally and bringing forward merchant capacity, or via the council investing directly in processing capacity itself, either on its own, working with partners, or other neighbouring authorities.

Executive Board agreed to a full review of the Waste and Recycling Strategy for Leeds by autumn 2018. This will include the reassessment of these options alongside a range of other refuse and recycling options, as outlined in the Executive Board report.

Q10 Councillor C Campbell - Given the well reported £110 million executive bonus paid recently by Persimmon Homes, would the executive board member review all the council's dealings with Persimmon where they have claimed financial viability requires a council subsidy or that they cannot afford to meet council policy requirements?

A Persimmon is the country's largest housebuilder by volume and it is natural therefore that it would be developing or seeking to develop a number of sites in the Leeds as one of the biggest cities in the country. As any developer will state, each scheme is brought forward through the planning process on its own merits and with its own unique challenges and opportunities. It is right that as a Local Planning Authority we continue to assess each scheme on this basis, with an objective approach to ensure as far as possible the city achieves its planning policy objectives – it is for the planning process to determine whether any viability arguments put forward by developers are relevant and justified to reduce policy requirements on planning applications.

The Council is not in any case providing subsidy to Persimmon or any other developer. The Council is and should always be open to working with developers to identify funding or financing solutions where these would help the city deliver its housing and development objectives but only where this would be compliant with State Aid and other legislation and where value for money to the taxpayer can be guaranteed. We have always been fully transparent in taking such decisions through the Executive Board.

Q11 Councillor D Ragan - Given the publication of the Government strategy to improve social mobility, does the Executive Member have any comment to make on child poverty?

A Nationally, one in four children grows up in poverty, and, for these children, the impact on the chances of education and life success is profound.

In Leeds, the number of children growing up in poverty is increasing, with over 40,000 children living in areas ranked in the 10% most deprived, representing 29% of the 0-15 aged population; in 2012, this figure was 21.5%. Whilst the impact of poverty on children can be found in all areas of the city, it is concentrated in certain areas, with two wards in the Inner East and the Inner South having over 40% of children living in poverty. Almost 60% of families classified as in poverty contain at least one working parent or carer.

Child poverty is associated with poor outcomes for children and young people and for their families, not only in terms of health but also educational attainment and employment prospects. Education is key to improving social mobility and it is for this reason that the Children and Families Trust Board has changed our obsession on attendance to include achievement and attainment.

The attainment gap between children from rich and poor backgrounds is detectable from 22 months old, and this widens throughout the education system. Supporting children and families to mitigate both the causes and effects of poverty is integral to all our work, and Leeds has adopted a multi-agency response to support the children and families who experience poverty. All departments within children's services work with schools, education settings, clusters, AIP's, universities, third sector organisations, businesses and strategic partners to focus on improving the experiences of children and young people who are effected by poverty.

The Leeds Children and Young People's Plan is currently being refreshed, and challenging the scale and impact of poverty on families is a clear priority in this. To support this, the child poverty strategic group is being re-established with a reformed membership, which will comprise a city region approach and include representatives from public sector, third sector, private sector, community, education, academic and youth voice. This approach will enable us to work with communities and families to mitigate the impact of poverty on children's outcomes and support children's journey into a secure adulthood in a prosperous city.

Q12 Councillor M Iqbal - Please can the Executive Member comment on Government funding for Council Housing capital investment?

A The Council is committed to funding the investment strategy in our existing homes agreed by Executive Board in November 2017 and to the largest new build programme for more than thirty years.

These commitments have, however, been constrained by the Government's rent policy of reducing social housing rents by 1% for the 4 years from 2016/17 to 2019/20 and its continuing refusal to adjust its position on borrowing.

Implementing the rental policy equates to a loss of £20.5m in cash terms over the 4 year period, and a loss of £283m of estimated rental income over the 10 year period (2016/17 to 2024/25). The reduction was motivated by a desire to cut the housing benefit bill at the cost of improving homes and delivering more social housing. Ironically, council housing represents the most cost effective form of housing, so further reliance on private sector renting because of a lack of affordable housing only adds to the cost to the public purse.

Despite this reduction the latest Investment Strategy (excluding new homes) was received at Executive Board in November 2017 and this estimates that we will be investing, on average, £78m per annum in our housing stock. New priorities to improve the condition of multi storey blocks have been resourced, including a further programme of sprinkler installation. The Council will be seeking support for this from DCLG.

A Council Housing Growth programme £108.3m was established utilising ALMO reserves and surpluses generated through inflation related rented increases prior to the reductions being introduced. There is now only £3m of borrowing headroom available above the schemes to which we are committed to. Along with a number of other authorities, Leeds has consistently called for a removal of the cap, arguing the rental revenue stream allows for the prudential borrowing of sums that could be invested in the provision of housing. We are still awaiting the outcome of our housing bid to Government to raise our debt cap. Similarly we await the details of the 22 November 2017 budget announcement from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that local authorities 'in high-demand areas' will be invited to bid for increases in their caps from 2019/20. We will continue to use any opportunities we have available to deliver more homes.

Q13 Councillor C Anderson - Could the Executive Member responsible please advise what steps are being taken to encourage Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust (LTHT) to transfer some of their budget to our Adult Social Care budget in order to help offset the cost of services being provided in local areas through Council funded schemes and enterprises that the NHS would normally otherwise be providing, whether directly or indirectly?

A The simple answer in respect of 2017/18 is that there are currently no steps being taken that we are aware of to encourage Leeds Teaching Hospital (LTHT) to transfer some of their budget to Adult Social Care in order to offset the costs of services being provided in local areas through Council funded schemes and enterprises that the NHS would normally otherwise be providing, whether directly or indirectly.

The only exception to this could be the contribution that we have requested from all Health & Care Partners in the City towards Leeds Health and Care Plan Programme & Project Management Resource (c £250k pa).

It is true that in previous years LTHT/CCG's have received monies associated with 'Winter Pressures', some of which have been transferred to Adult Social Care to fund for example additional social work capacity, or additional equipment to support people in their own homes.

We have also received funding from CCG's as part of annual non-recurrent funding transfers associated with the 'Protection of Social Care Services' – a national condition of the Better Care Fund (BCF). This funding has supported a range of initiatives including provision of additional homecare services to avoid delayed transfers of care from the acute during times of pressure on acute beds.

These transfers of funding reflect the approach taken in Leeds to ensure the best use of the Leeds £ - whether that be the Health £ or the Social Care £.

Ironically, in 2017/18, following the receipt of additional non-recurrent 'Spring Budget Monies' by Adult Social Care (amounting to £14.7m in 2017/18 and £28.8m over 3 years), we have been able to reciprocate and have sponsored a number of invest to save bids made by LTHT and other partners to support transformation and realignment of system resources for the benefit of both Leeds citizens and the future Leeds £. These schemes include:

- **Frailty Unit** - £700k over 2 years – to reduce hospital admissions for people with frailty to be better supported within their own home
- **Hospital to Home Service** - £420k over 3 years – to support people to return home quicker from hospital following an admission.
- **Trusted Assessors** - £966k over 3 years – to support more joined up decision making within hospitals to ensure people get the right care more quickly
- **YAS Practitioners Scheme** - £500k over 2 years – to support more people in their local communities and avoid unnecessary demands being placed on A&E departments.

- **Virtual Respiratory Ward** - £628k over 2 years – to support people to live at home with their condition outside of a hospital environment via self-care and self-management

These bids total £3.2m. A further provision of £2m has been made to support both Health & Social Care priorities associated with the delivery of the Leeds Health and Care Plan in accordance with the Government's requirements for the use of this money:

'to be spent on adult social care and used for the purposes of meeting adult social care needs, reducing pressure on the NHS – including more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready – and stabilising the social care provider market'

Q14 Councillor J Bentley - Can the Executive member for children and families explain how schools ensure that children have had their MMR jabs before they attend school?

- A**
- GP practices in Leeds operate a call and recall system to ensure that all children are offered an MMR vaccine as part of their routine vaccination schedule, usually within a month of their first birthday. They will then be invited for a second injection of the vaccine before starting school, usually at 3 years and 4 months as children require two MMR vaccines to ensure maximum protection.
 - If a child misses an appointment then GP practices will proactively recall children to attend for a vaccination.
 - Health Visitors will also follow up where families have not presented to access childhood vaccinations to encourage them to do so.
 - For each child entering school at Reception (age 4/5) School Nursing will conduct a child health assessment. As part of this assessment school nursing will establish the immunisation status of each child. If a child is identified as requiring a MMR vaccine, or any vaccine, the child's GP will be informed by School Nursing to proactively follow up and offer vaccination.
 - Where a child has been identified as having special educational needs, or is on a child protection plan, School Nursing will contact the parents/carers of the child to advise that they should take the child to the GP practice for immunisation.
 - All school aged Looked after Children have a health needs assessment conducted by School Nursing, this is reviewed annually. The assessment will include immunisation status. The School Nurse will contact the carer of the child to advise if they should take the child to the GP practice to complete the MMR vaccination schedule.
 - In addition, the Leeds School Immunisation team will check the childhood immunisation status of all children in year 9 (aged 13/14) this includes MMR. If a child requires either MMR 1 or MMR 2 vaccine the School Immunisation team will offer this vaccine at that time.

Q15 Councillor S McKenna - Please can the Executive Member provide an update on the Brownfield Land Programme?

- A** The Council established its Brownfield Land Programme in 2013 identifying 29 previously developed and cleared sites with over 45ha of land in those parts of the city where there has been very limited private housebuilding in recent years, and where new approaches to the disposal of land were required to attract investment, stimulate development and to support regeneration.

In 2016 construction of new homes on the first two sites started in Seacroft, with developer Strata now close to completion of over 120 new homes on these. In Middleton Keepmoat Homes started construction of 100 homes across four sites in 2017, with completion anticipated in the next 18 months. And in 2017 a major land deal was signed separately with the two same developers for a scheme of over 900 homes across a package of 13 sites in Seacroft and Halton Moor – work has now started on the first 4 of these sites, with the first new homes due for completion in April and around 150 to be completed each year. The Council has also secured significant funding linked to the programme for new infrastructure that will improve the local highway network and create enhanced amenity areas.

In total the Brownfield Land Programme will deliver over 1,250 new homes over the next 5 years as part of regeneration plans for East and South Leeds, using previously developed land in locations close to existing amenities and facilities and bringing significant new investment to some of our priority neighbourhoods. The new homes will create new tenure choices for local people, helping them to get on the housing ladder.

The programme is an excellent example of the Council doing things differently to secure great outcomes for the city – by taking a joined up approach to engaging with local people, setting a regeneration vision, marketing land and engaging proactively with the development sector, we are now delivering homes, investment and job opportunities for local people in parts of the city most in need of these benefits.

- Q16** Councillor B Anderson - Does the Executive Member responsible share my concerns that the delay in introducing the enhanced refuse collection service in the Holtdales in my Ward is doing nothing to improve the Council's recycling performance?

- A** We are still keen to make sure that as many properties as possible across Leeds receive the enhanced recycling collection service that the majority of the city now benefits from, where both black and green bins are collected fortnightly.

It is still the intention, as agreed with Adel and Wharfedale Councillors, to introduce this enhanced recycling collection service into the Holtdale estate as part of the route redesign work that the waste service are undertaking. This change will however require a full redesign of the collection route in the area and, in order for collections to remain efficient will mean changes to collections in the surrounding area. This is a complicated piece of work and we want to make sure we get it right, so that it delivers the required efficiencies, and also improves services at the same time. We are therefore working closely with our frontline workforce and Trade Unions to make sure that any changes are deliverable and do not lead to any disruption for Leeds' residents.

- Q17** Councillor J Chapman - Can the Executive member for health inform council if there has been an increase in the number of malnutrition-related conditions like rickets diagnosed in children in Leeds and can she give us the numbers involved?

A Malnutrition encompasses a range of different conditions. For example, the National Diet and Nutrition Survey suggests that malnutrition concerns include: obesity; anaemia; vitamin D deficiency; high sugar consumption and subsequent poor oral health; and constipation due to low intakes of fibre. Obtaining data about levels of malnutrition within the population nationally and locally is therefore problematic. In order to accurately measure malnutrition, blood tests are required and these are only carried out where there is a clinical need to do so.

NHS Digital report that in West Yorkshire the number of rickets as a primary diagnosis over the last three years is as follows: 2013-14, 20 cases; 2014-15, 15 cases; and 2015-16, 10 cases. There is therefore no indication of an increase at West Yorkshire level.

Local hospital data for children under 5 years old shows that 101 admissions included Vitamin D among the reasons for admission, but it was the primary diagnosis in only 7. It should be noted that these 7 may not all be Leeds residents as the Leeds hospital is a regional centre. Approximately 2,400 children under the age of 5 were admitted to hospital in Leeds in 2014/2015. Thus, vitamin D is linked to around 0.003% of admissions as a primary diagnosis.

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) provides comprehensive information about the level of obesity and underweight in Leeds school children. All school children in Reception and Year 6 are weighed and measured each year. Coverage was 99% and 93% respectively in 2016-17. The graph below shows percentage prevalence of children underweight, overweight and obese.



The prevalence rates of underweight children are very low in comparison to the numbers of overweight and obese children. The latest figures for 2016-17 show 1.67% (162) children in Reception and 1.72%% (136) children in Year 6 were underweight. A child could be underweight for several reasons including poor diet and underlying medical conditions. There is no obvious trend over the 8 years of NCMP data collection.

Another condition linked to malnutrition is constipation. This is common in children, and estimates for the prevalence vary from 5% to 30% of children and young people, depending on the criteria used for diagnosis. The incidence is highest in toddlers and is a common reason for referral to secondary care.

The Leeds My Health, My School surveyed showed that only 27% of primary children and 15% of secondary children are having five portions of fruit and veg a day, and 90% all-aged school children are having 1-2 high energy drinks per day.

Q18 Councillor M Robinson - Can the Executive Board Member tell me when residents in the Harewood ward can expect Phase 2 Superfast Broadband to be confirmed and when they can start accessing high speed broadband?

A The current situation is that further deployment in Harewood is dependent on a revised deployment plan being agreed by the accountable body for the West Yorkshire & York superfast Broadband programme (West Yorkshire Combined Authority – WYCA) and the contractor BT Openreach. The deployment plan has been in discussion for some time due to a number of technical issues which relate to the principal funders (HM government through its Broadband UK division and European Structural Funds). It is the council's understanding that these issues are due to be resolved soon and once the plan is signed off it will be possible to confirm the details of future deployment in Harewood. For an update on deployment plans please contact John Bullivent, the Programme Manager for West Yorkshire & York Broadband at the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Over 90% of commercial & domestic premises in West Yorkshire have access to fibre broadband which offer the potential to receive superfast broadband speeds (defined as being 30mbps+). As a West Yorkshire partnership our superfast broadband programme (phase 1) rolled out access to fibre broadband to 67,500 premises between 2013-16. Our phase 2 programme aims to roll out access to a further 26,905 premises across West Yorkshire & York between 2016 to 2018.

Q19 Councillor S Lay - Given the concerns expressed by many residents that scheduling Christmas lights switch on events before Remembrance Day detracts from the solemnity of the latter occasion, would she be willing to consider amending the scheduling of these events in future years?

A Typically Remembrance Sunday falls on the Sunday before the annual switch-on event takes place. However the day and date of Remembrance Sunday varies each year and can be as early as 8 November and late as 14 November. As such there are occasions every few years when the calendar, and complexities of other events and activity in the city centre dictates that a compromise is required and the switch-on occurs first, as is the case in 2017 and 2018. Our approach is broadly in line with other cities.

The council does recognise the service and sacrifice of all those who served their country in the Armed Forces and that Remembrance Sunday (and Armistice Day) is one of the most important occasions in the Civic Calendar. All event infrastructure used for the switch-on event is removed by the Friday evening and officers work closely with the Lord Mayor's office to ensure that all commemoration events are respectively observed and not affected. The cenotaph is also protected with decorative railings so as to keep the area free and accessible at all times so people are able to pay their respects.

We will continue to take a range of views into account and review the arrangements annually.

Q20 Councillor C Anderson - Could the Executive Member responsible please advise when a consistent street cleansing service will be introduced in the city as some days the cleanliness of the city in early mornings is not a welcome sight but other days it is acceptable?

A Street cleansing demands vary across the city through differing quantities, types and locations of litter and other unwanted materials deposited by careless individuals and businesses. The resources available to clean the city are deployed according to where the need is greatest. Deployment decisions also take account of both the day of the week and time of day a visit is made in order to deliver the best possible street cleansing outcomes.

The deployment of street cleansing crews according to the many and varied conditions across the city of course results in some areas being attended to more frequently than others. Whilst the service routinely starts work early each day, not all areas can be visited then and cleansing operations will continue throughout the day seven days a week. As such, some areas will not be cleansed frequently enough or at the same time in order for all areas of the city to be consistently clean as the day commences. There will be times when litter is visible which I agree is not a welcome sight, but unless at unacceptable and unusually high levels, it will remain until the next intended cleanse.

Responsibility for street cleansing is delegated to Community Committees, allowing local decisions to be made about the focus of the street cleansing resource in place locally. This may be an issue which could be revisited by the Outer North West Community Committee if the issue and enquiry relates largely to the Adel & Wharfedale ward.

Q21 Councillor C Campbell - Given the parlous condition of the Council owned listed boundary wall at Farnley Lodge in Otley why can the Council not use the windfall receipt from an adjacent land sale to fund repairs?

A The establishment of a Capital Receipts Incentive Scheme (CRIS), approved by Executive Board in October 2011, is being administered under the WBI scheme. The key feature of CRIS is that 20% of each eligible receipt generated will be retained locally for re-investment, subject to a maximum per receipt of £100k, with 15% retained by the respective ward and 5% pooled across the council and distributed to Wards on the basis of need via community committees. Some receipts are excluded from the scheme and these are largely receipts that are already assumed to fund the council's budget or are earmarked in some other way to previous or future spend. Any

land sale valued less than £10,000 is, by statute definition, revenue income and is therefore not eligible for CRIS.

The £10k statutory limit is in the Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2003. Para 10 of the regulations 'Sums not to be treated as capital receipts' states that:

A sum received by a local authority which, apart from this regulation, would be a capital receipt by virtue of section 9(1) shall not be treated for the purposes of Chapter 1 of Part 1 as a capital receipt if the aggregate of all sums received or to be received by the authority in respect of the disposal of an interest in a capital asset, for which the sum is paid, does not exceed £10,000.

Notwithstanding the above, I have asked the Director of City Development and the Chief Financial Officer to look at this and to try and identify an approach that enables a financial contribution to be made to the repair of the wall.

Q22 Councillor B Anderson - Can the Executive Member responsible outline the discussions and conversations he has had with Yorkshire Water to improve the infrastructure to support the increased housing that will be developed over the coming years in the city?

A Yorkshire Water are a statutory consultee and as such have been involved throughout the Core Strategy, Natural Resources and Waste, Aire Valley Leeds and Site Allocations Plan processes and have raised no concerns with the scale of housing growth in Leeds. Their investment planning is done in full awareness of the scale of growth envisaged and they will provide for water supply at the time of individual planning applications (again a consultee) and construction supported by continued engagement with the Council on the delivery of pipelines to sites. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan supporting the above development plans is prepared in consultation with Yorkshire Water and outlines the future planned infrastructure provision in Leeds. Yorkshire Water will be consulted on future reviews of the IDP and development documents.

Adopted planning policies make provision for necessary infrastructure in response to new development and efficient use of natural resources:

Core Strategy (Spatial Policy 1: Location of Development and EN1: Climate Change and EN2: Sustainable Design and Construction).

Natural Resources and Waste DPD (WATER1: Water Efficiency and WATER2:

Protection of Water Quality).

Following a change in Government policy the water efficiency policy is being reviewed as part of the Core Strategy Review.

Q23 Councillor S Golton - Can the executive member give the reasons for taking smoking cessation services away from community pharmacies?

A Reducing smoking is one of the main priorities for Leeds and supporting smokers to stop is one part of a comprehensive approach that will improve health and help tackle health inequalities, which tobacco often perpetuates.

As community pharmacies are often people's first point of contact with health services, they are a valuable setting for referring and/or supporting smokers who want to stop smoking, particularly with advice on treatment. Pharmacies are often a key healthcare facility located in areas of high deprivation and so can play a vital role in improving the health of specific communities. This ready access makes community pharmacies an ideal location to provide opportunistic and brief advice.

In addition community pharmacies have provided two separate stop smoking services:

1. Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) voucher scheme – enabled pharmacies to supply NRT to clients who had been issued a voucher by a stop smoking advisor. As part of this contract LCC would pay a £3 dispensing fee for each voucher exchanged.

In 2017 a service review was undertaken as part of the procurement process, which highlighted that the NRT voucher scheme involved a significant monthly administration task in collating and processing the NRT vouchers from the pharmacists and additional costs, such as voucher exchange fees. In order to ensure improved efficiency saving, the proposed model is to introduce direct supply of NRT from the service (One You Leeds).

Direct supply of NRT achieves savings for LCC in comparison to pharmacy NRT supply and has the potential to reduce waste when linked with face-face support. It is also more convenient for the clients of the service to collect their treatment whilst attending a session rather than have to go to the pharmacist. Furthermore if treatment is issued weekly, this could potentially encourage people to return each week for their behavioural support session and maintain contact with the service

2. Stop Smoking Support – In addition to the NRT voucher scheme, 14 pharmacies had staff trained and accredited to be stop smoking advisors and offer clients advice and on-going support in stopping smoking, similar to GP practices

In line with the national picture there has been a decline in the use of these services such that only 38 people quit in a pharmacy setting in 2016/17. Therefore the council has changed its approach to way smoking cessation is to be delivered by incorporating the service within an integrated healthy living services, that aims to provide effective support for individuals to achieve and maintain behaviour change around unhealthy lifestyles.

However community pharmacies still have an important role referring and providing advice on treatment, as well as promoting wellbeing and supporting patients to live healthier lifestyles.

Q24 Councillor M Robinson - Can the Executive Board Member tell me what Council owned land has been identified in the Harewood Ward to be used to help flood prevention?

- A** Work is ongoing to assess the options for flood mitigation in the Lower Wharfe catchment. At this stage the work has not progressed to the level of detail that would provide an informed position on the use of council owned land. Once the option assessments have progressed to this stage ward member consultation will be undertaken to enable their views to be taken in to account with the detailed development of any proposals brought forward.
- Q25** Councillor J Bentley - Would the executive member tell us what proportion, if any, of the Council's recycled waste is exported to China and how will the Council ensure that it is dealt with appropriately if China imposes a ban on importing waste from overseas?
- A** All of the materials collected by the Council in the kerbside green bins go to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Beeston operated by the Council's contractor, HW Martin, for separation back out into the individual material streams.
- Although HW Martin have had consistent and reliable UK or EU based outlets for HDPE and PET plastic types, they have historically sent a significant proportion of our mixed paper, cardboard and carrier bags to China for reprocessing (representing 40.6% of all the recycled green bin materials by weight during 2016/17).
- However, in light of the increasing restrictions imposed by China, this proportion has steadily declined since this time, to the point that no materials have been exported to China since July 2017. HW Martin have now managed to secure alternative markets for these materials.
- In terms of the future, although the situation with China's increasing restrictions on the import of recyclables is a major issue for global markets, HW Martin is an experienced and respected contractor within the sector, and has shown its ability to secure alternative outlets and ensure continued recycling of the Council's kerbside collected materials. Central Government is also working with all sector stakeholders currently to explore measures to develop the UK's self-sufficiency in this area.
- Whilst it therefore seems unlikely in the foreseeable future that a situation will arise whereby markets for materials cannot be secured at all, the situation with China is serving to reduce the global value of these materials. This will continue to put pressure on the costs of local authority contracts for dealing with these materials, although HW Martin is currently still managing to achieve a good level of performance compared to the published industry indices.
- Q26** Councillor B Anderson - Can the Executive Member tell me what conversations have been had with the Police Commissioner to address the shortfall of police officers in outer north west area of the city and what proposals there are to utilise the substantial reserves the Police & Crime Commissioner holds?

- A** The Policing of Outer North West PWA in Leeds is currently managed by Inspector Andrew Loftus. Reporting to Inspector Loftus is PWA Sergeant Rowan Hesse, 5 ward officers and 19 PCSO's. There are currently no vacancies in either PC or PCSO posts. Whilst partnership funding of PCSO's within Horsforth Ward has decreased we have still maintained the same PCSO numbers in Outer North West. In relation to the new neighbourhood model the area will benefit from a dedicated Inspector who will work mainly days shifts, will not have a patrol team or critical incident management responsibility and will have much more time to look at long term problem solving with partners, the community and councillors etc. Officers and PCSO's in the area will also work a new shift pattern which better aligns them to tackle local demands.

Outer North West PWA is well managed with the resource currently allocated in this area and will benefit further from the dedicated inspector model and new shift pattern.

- Q27** Councillor J Bentley - Would the executive member explain why the Council has never used the Empty Dwellings Management Order process to bring long term unoccupied properties back into use?

- A** The Council has a very successful strategy and record from returning empty homes back into use which is nationally recognised. As part of the Core Strategy it has seen a net reduction of empty homes by over 2000 between 2012 and 2017. Every year over the same period the Council as a whole has returned on average 3000 long term empty homes every year back into occupation.

Since 2005 the Council has measured empty homes using national performance criteria to monitor trends in the city. Over this time there has been a significant reduction in empty homes and in November 2017 it was at its lowest level since 2005 when monitoring commenced, at 3091. This equates to 1.08% of the total housing stock.

Below shows the trends for the city since 2010:

March 2010 – 6721 based long term empty homes as per CPA criteria
March 2011 – 6494
March 2012 – 5776
March 2013 – 5627
March 2014 – 4747
March 2015 – 4532
March 2016 – 3777
March 2017 – 3340
November 2017 -3091

The Empty Management Dwelling Orders (EMDO) were introduced as part of the Housing Act 2004. They provide a power to Councils to take over the management of an empty dwelling for 7 years on behalf of the owner. A Council must be seen to use them as a last resort and must demonstrate the owner is not willing to bring the property back into use. A council has to produce a case to a Residential Tribunal for the granting of the order. For a tribunal to consider granting an order the property must usually be in the worst condition, have been empty for over 2 years and the proposed action must have the support of the community.

In practise the use of EDMO is complex, does not guarantee the return to use of the property, and generally does not offer value for money for the Council for the following reasons:

- The case that needs to be developed is the same in general terms and cost as for a compulsory purchase order (CPO). Whilst the EDMO means the original owner, who has not been willing to address their property, retains ownership, a CPO takes the ownership away and gives it to a new owner who will bring the property back into use. This guarantees that a property is brought back into use and removes ownership from an owner who has a record of leaving their property empty.
- For the first 12 months the Tribunal issues an Interim Management Order. This provides significant less power to the Council and means the original owner retains the ability to prevent it being let or any works to their property being undertaken.
- After 12 months the council needs to request that the interim order becomes a full management order which provides full management control of the property and allows the Council to deal with the property as its own. There is no guarantee that this will be granted as any owner can contest the request. If this is the case and the Council is not successful then it will in all likelihood have lost money in trying to address the issues in the first 12 months as this is where most of the initial costs are incurred.
- An EDMO is seen as rewarding poor owners as they retain ownership, have the property renovated and managed by the Council. After the 7 years the property is returned to them. There is no guarantee that they will retain occupation of the property or maintain it.
- If the EDMO is revoked or it comes to the end of its 7 year life the owner does not have to retain the existing tenants and can make all occupiers homeless, At this point the Council would be liable for their rehousing.
- It is not a cost effective option for the Council. In most cases it will cost the Council to manage another person's property. In Leeds it cost approximately £30k on average to renovate properties which are subject to CPO, and to manage a property by Housing Leeds costs around a further £3k per annum or £21k over a 7 year period. The cost to the Council for a typical EDMO would be £50/51K. Based on a typical 3 bedroom rent of £600per month over 7 years this would give an income of £50/51k assuming it was occupied for the full 7 years. Whilst on paper it appears that the Council would break even, in practice this is unlikely as the house would need to be fully occupied for the full 7 years generating the income, the cost of any case is at the Council's own cost, with no guarantees that it will be successful.
- To undertake an EDMO the Council would require both a revenue and capital budget to cover all initial costs with the hope of recovering all of the outlay via future rental income. As shown above, there is no guarantee this will occur thus resulting in a cost to the Council which is non recoverable from the owner.

- The legislation provides an owner with a number of exemptions which would prevent a Council obtaining an EDMO. By simply placing the property on the market for sale an owner can claim an exemption. The owner may have no intention of selling but can avoid an EDMO simply by placing the property on the market.

The Council has considered the use of EDMOs before but has chosen to return empty homes via other mechanisms. In the worst cases, the Council has used its CPO powers returning 35 properties to use in the last five years. In addition, the threat of their use often leads an owner to address their properties as they will lose ownership (although they do receive financial compensation based on market value). In cases where this is not sufficient to make an owner change their behaviour then the Council has a well-developed process for CPOs which has proved very successful in returning properties back into use.

The Council has also had a programme of buying properties through the HRA. Over 100 empty properties have been acquired for council housing in the last three years.

This was a well-intentioned piece of legislation which has unfortunately proved to be ineffective.

Q28 Councillor M Robinson - In April 2018 the Homelessness Reduction Act comes into force. Can the Executive Board Member for Communities explain what preparations and changes have been made to prepare for this?

A The Homelessness Reduction Act comes into force on 3 April 2018. The Act represents the most fundamental change to homeless law since 1977. The main changes to the Act are as follows:

- The definition of threatened with homelessness increases to likely to lose accommodation within 56 days from the current 28 days.
- The Act defines a person as being homeless as soon as a notice expires.
- The Act introduces a new duty to prevent homelessness for any eligible person (residency rights in UK) who is threatened with homelessness. Duty is in place for 56 days and authorities are required to assist so that accommodation remains available for occupation.
- The Act introduces a new duty to relieve homelessness for any eligible person who is homeless. Duty is in place for 56 days and authorities are required to assist so that accommodation becomes available for occupation.
- Every person will have a personalised housing plan setting out the options to prevent/relieve homelessness and the responsibilities of the applicant to maintain or secure accommodation.
- The existing duties to assess a temporary accommodation duty remain in place but will be preceded by the prevention or relief duties.

The impact of the Act on Leeds will be less than on other authorities due to the preventative approach which we have previously adopted.

The Leeds service is already geared towards homeless prevention with 80% of cases prevented. The Leeds Housing Options service already uses a personal housing plan. Leeds already defines a person as threatened with homelessness as soon as they receive a notice seeking possession, which is a minimum of two months in length. In Leeds we define a person as homeless as soon as they inform us they have been served a notice. Any delay in taking a homeless application merely reduces the opportunity to prevent homelessness.

The government has allocated Leeds £561k from a £71m pot from 2017/18 to 2019/20 to meet the 'new burdens' set out in the Act. It will be important to use the available funding to cover increases in service demand both in terms of staffing resources and, perhaps more importantly, to pay for homeless prevention options such as the cost of bonds to secure private rented accommodation.

Q29 Councillor B Anderson - Can the Executive Member outline the steps that her department is taking to resolve the demand for a new school in Adel & Wharfedale ward as planning officers have requested that two sites be set aside whilst her officers acknowledge that both sites will not be required

A The requirement for new school provision at both the housing sites of HG2-17 (Breary Lane East, Bramhope) and HG2-18 (Church Lane, Adel) is still part of the strategy for school place planning across the Adel and Wharfedale ward. The demand generated from both developments plus demographic growth across the ward is projected to yield an additional 2.5 to 3 forms of entry (75 – 90 additional primary school places each year) once these developments are fully established.

Whilst the local authority is responsible for sufficiency of school places, we are not allowed to open a school. Any new schools must be academies or free schools. Whilst it is still unclear when the DfE will announce the details and timescales for the next wave of free school applications, the options to deliver the new school still remain the same.

In addition to announcements from the DfE being a key factor, understanding the timeframe for when these housing developments are going to commence and the likely build rates, are also vital to the planning of school places within this ward. Officers within the School Place Planning Team will continue to monitor demographics of children aged under 5 and communicate the way forward with ward members and other key stakeholders, once there is a clearer picture.

Q30 Councillor M Robinson - In July 2017 and again in November 2017, I asked the Executive Board Member for Resources and Strategy about the publication of Leeds City Council's gender pay gap information. In July he told Council this would be fully published October, but in November this was changed to an indefinite date. Why has there been a change? Will he apologise to Council for missing his own deadline? And when will this important information be published by the Council?

A The information is available on Leeds City Council website.
<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/genderpaygap>

Q31 Councillor B Anderson - Can the Executive Member tell me what proposals the Council have for working with areas such as Adel and Pool which are going to benefit from the Tour de Yorkshire passing through their communities?

- A** We are delighted that this year's Tour de Yorkshire will finish in Leeds City Centre on Sunday May 6th and that both the men's and women's races will also pass through the Leeds boundary on Friday May 4th. The race operates on a 'rolling road closure' basis which is managed by the Police and officers have already written to all parish / town councils situated along the route to inform them. Further information will also be provided to those residents and businesses most affected when the race timings and essential traffic management measures are confirmed by the organisers and will be further backed up with advance notice signing along the route.

Communities, residents and businesses are encouraged to decorate the route with bunting etc and Welcome to Yorkshire, the race organiser, will deliver a number of business engagement / roadshow events to help local engagement. Officers have passed on the respective contact details for all parish / town councils situated along the route for the organiser to make contact directly and will also be available to offer any additional help and advice in an advisory capacity for organising any local events and activities.

- Q32** Councillor M Robinson - Can the Executive Member for Communities confirm if the Police in West Yorkshire are able to use/have powers to use "stinger" devices?

- A** West Yorkshire Police do have the option of either a "Stinger" or "Stop Stick" depending on the training of individual officers. Officers do have to be specifically trained and accredited to carry out this operational tactic. Most of this trained officers are located on our Roads Policing Teams, based from Wakefield. Some Private Protection Officers and Firearms Officers have authority to deploy Stop Sticks (slightly different to stinger but they perform the same function).

- Q33** Councillor M Robinson - Can the Executive Board Member for Environment and Sustainability say how many dangerous wild animal licences have been approved in Leeds?

- A** I can advise that there are currently two Dangerous Wild Animal Licences issued in Leeds.

Both licences are for breeds of hybrid cat in private ownership. The licences have been issued following inspection and approval by the Council's Environmental Health Team and a Veterinary Surgeon. Conditions of the licence are set out by DEFRA and require applicants to be a fit a proper person and for the animals to be kept in conditions to safeguard their welfare and present no risk to the public.

Licences must be renewed every two years and are subject to further inspections before renewal. The Council's website contains information on the regulations for keeping wild animals together with an online application form for people wishing to keep such animals.

There have been no complaints received regarding the welfare of the cats and we have received no reports of unlicensed wild animals being kept in Leeds. However, we recently received notification of one of the animals licensed, a hybrid savannah cat, having escaped from its registered address. The animal was reported missing to the licensing department at 5pm on the 10.01.2018 and the owner was contacted on the 11.01.18 for an update; the cat was reported as still missing. Advice was given to the owner, Local Authority management, West Yorkshire Police, and the press office were informed and kept updated. A risk assessment was carried out and the animal was

deemed to be a low risk hazard to the public. Following a press release being released on the 13th January the cat was sighted, captured and returned home.

Following the incident, the owner was informed of what action to take in the meantime and a visit was arranged for the 23rd January 2018. During the visit, the cat was seen, and advice was given to the owner of some alterations required to ensure the security of the enclosure and to avoid a repeat of the escape. A warning letter and an amended licence with additional conditions will be issued shortly to the owner.

Q34 Councillor M Robinson - Can the Executive Member for Communities confirm if there is still a quad bike unit within West Yorkshire Police? And are grants available to farmers or landowners to help protect their farms and public rights of way from use by those poaching or using quad bikes on the local byways?

A West Yorkshire Police do have an "Off Road" Motorcycle capability. In Leeds this small team works alongside Neighbourhood Colleagues based from Elland Road and Garforth. Leeds District has a very strong Farm Watch Partnership but currently there are no funds allocated for target hardening or crime prevention initiatives with local farmers.

Q35 Councillor R Stephenson - What action has the Leader of Council taken to remove the disgraced chair of her city-wide election campaign following the disclosure of offensive and insensitive comments made by him about individuals suffering with mental health issues?

A Cllr Stephenson is referred to the answer in the unanswered questions letter for the Full Council meeting of 8th November, when he previously asked about this issue, for the Leader's views on offensive and insensitive comments about people with mental health conditions. The Chair of the Labour Party's Local Campaign Forum in Leeds has resigned his position and is no longer in post.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Tomkinson
Principal Governance Officer

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