

**COUNCIL**

**12 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**UNANSWERED QUESTIONS LETTER**

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**Democratic & Central Services**

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To: All Members of Council

Your ref:

Our Ref: A61/kjt/quest

Date: 28 September 2018

Dear Councillor

**COUNCIL MEETING –12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

At the above meeting, the thirty minutes of Question Time expired with questions 8 to 28 unanswered. Council Procedure Rule 11.6 requires that each Member of Council is sent responses to such questions.

**Q8** Councillor T Leadley - Will the Executive Board Member tell us if there is any intention to restore the Development Department's award winning planning reception service, which disappeared during the move from Leonardo to the Merrion Tower.

**A** Councillor R Lewis (Executive Member for (Regeneration, Transport & Planning) - The Development Enquiry Centre was previously provided at Leonardo Buildings, to service enquiries for City Development as a whole. As part of the Council's overall approach to improve services and to make better use of new technologies, with regard to planning these services are being delivered more effectively via other means. For example, the telephony function is being picked up by the Corporate Contact Centre in terms of calls other than complex calls, which are still being dealt with directly by the service. Central to this also is the provision of a comprehensive pre-application advisory service which is available to customers.

As a result, the Planning Service is offering a more cost effective and efficient model based on better web information, (which is due by the end of the year) so that members of the public can self-serve. This will include a new Tree Preservation Order mapping function, which will enhance customers' ability to access the information they need from anywhere.

As part of the corporate move towards self-service, the introduction of online payments and the ability to pay application fees by telephone this resulted in a significant reduction in the footfall of customers visiting the Leonardo reception area.

By providing a facility within the Leeds City Hub in the Merriam Annex our customers are still able to drop off documents, including planning applications, and pay cash fees into the Leeds Credit Union. Anyone with specific planning enquiries are directed towards a phone line through to the Contact Centre where staff trained to deal with Planning Enquiries can help them. Any complex inquiries can then be fed back to dedicated staff within our Technical and Customer Service area to provide specialist advice.

**Q9** Councillor J Heselwood - Please can the Executive Member update members on what Leeds City Council is doing to tackle period poverty in Leeds schools?

**A** Councillor J Pryor (Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment) - Child poverty has devastating impacts on children and societies. Poverty has severe short and long-term consequences, with children and young people who experience poverty facing a range of disadvantages through childhood and over their life course.

The number of children living in poverty has increased since 2011, with an increase of 200,000 between 2015 and 2016 alone; there is now an estimated 3.9 million children now living in poverty across the UK- 66% of whom live in families with at least one working parent.

In this context, many local authorities are working to reduce the impact of child poverty to the best of their ability, but given the constraints of national policy and ever-decreasing budgets, it is difficult to identify those interventions most likely to make a difference to children's and families' lives.

Over the past two years, national awareness around period poverty has been raised. Period poverty refers to having a lack of access to sanitary products due to financial constraints. Alongside the problems that girls and women who can't afford sanitary protection face, there are also issues of stigma and embarrassment around discussing menstruation. This can lead to a situation where girls can't afford sanitary protection, and are too embarrassed to discuss the problem- so there is a lack of data and research around this topic.

However, from local knowledge and feedback from foodbanks, we know that there is a problem with a lack of access, or lack of takeup, of sanitary protection, which derives from a lack of funds and stigma in accessing provision.

There isn't any agreed data around the extent of period poverty either in Leeds or the UK, and the data is often contested. Research from other sources quote:

- The average cost of a period is around £128 a year, or £10 a month
- One in seven girls (15 per cent) have also struggled to afford sanitary wear
- One in seven girls (14 per cent) have had to ask to borrow sanitary wear from a friend due to affordability issues
- More than one in ten girls (12%) has had to improvise sanitary wear due to affordability issues



- One in five (19%) of girls have changed to a less suitable sanitary product due to cost

Therefore, Leeds City Council is conducting a pilot study with Carr Manor Community School to work with the school, and pupils within the school, to discuss the prevalence of period poverty, and to explore the best ways to mitigate it.

Leeds City Council is also entering into partnership with the University of Leeds and The Children's Society, to work with children, young people, schools and settings in conducting research to investigate the impact of poverty on attendance. This research aims to provide a comprehensive, transparent and Leeds-specific understanding of children's experiences and priorities to deliver Leeds-specific solutions. It will focus on child poverty and well-being, with a specific interest in factors impacting school attendance.

The pilot scheme and the findings from the research will be used to generate ideas to tackling period poverty in Leeds that are informed by young peoples' perspectives on sustainable, long term solutions that both reduce the stigma around period poverty and to ensure that all young people can access sanitary protection when they need it.

**Q10** Councillor B Flynn - Could the Executive Member for Children and Families please provide details of the number of internal safeguarding inquiries carried out involving looked after children/children in care/vulnerable children who were considered at risk in each of the last two years up to 31/7/18?

**A** Councillor L Mulherin (Executive Member for Children and Families) – It was not clear exactly what information was being requested in this question, however information has been gathered on Section 47 (S47) investigations under the Children Act 1989, and Vulnerability and Risk Management Plans (VRMPs).

Section 47 investigations are standalone events triggered by an instance that the Local Authority is required to investigate (sometimes related to historical incidents and not necessarily tied to a child's period of care). From August 2016 to July 2017, the Council undertook 63 S47 investigations related to Looked After Children, which equates to 4.5% of the investigations overall. From August 2017 to July 2018, 43 S47 were undertaken related to Looked After Children – which equates to 2.4%.

The Council also undertakes VRMPs, which are put in place and reviewed as and when necessary. From August 2016 to July 2018, 118 Looked After Children had at least one VRMP, which equates to 34.4% of all VRMPs. It is not possible to disaggregate the VRMP figures into two separate years.

The use of S47 investigations across the country is fluctuating, with Leeds carrying out fewer than comparator Councils when considering the rate per ten thousand. However, these figures need to be considered in the context of our wider safeguarding system, including Early Help, the Front Door being staffed by qualified social workers and a concerted effort to reduce the number of Looked After Children and a safe and sustained reduction in Child Protection Plans.

**Q11** Councillor S Hamilton - Please can the Executive Member provide an update on the launch of the Street Support Team?



- A** Councillor D Coupar (Executive Member for Communities) - Everyone is entitled to feel safe in the city centre, and this team is one part of our response and commitment to being a compassionate city and looking after those most in need.

The new **Safer Leeds: Street Support Team** aims to significantly improve the daily focus, interventions and service delivery required to respond to complex issues relating to vulnerable street users and associated street activity.

This dedicated multidisciplinary team will have a common purpose of reducing the number of rough sleepers, safeguarding and protecting people in need, and tackling issues such as begging, criminality and anti-social behaviour that are often linked to street drinking and street drug misuse in the city centre.

Work has progressed at pace and 90% of the staff (team of 20 ~ a combination of existing and new resources) have been recruited over the summer with most now in place, with officers working around holidays and leave arrangements, such is the commitment of those involved.

Operational interim arrangements to deliver a more effective response have been put in place over the last couple of weeks and are working well with some positive results already achieved. One example being the move of one entrenched rough sleeper of 20 years into residential care, who has a range of physical and mental health issues.... and the good news, he is now thriving.

The full team will be up and running and be co-located in a refurbished space in the Trinity Centre by early October. We would like to note and thank the contribution of both Leeds BID and the Trinity Centre in making this space available and useable for the team.

A full update on Street Support can be seen in the Executive Board paper that was considered at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

- Q12** Councillor D Blackburn - How many households in Leeds regularly experience non-collection of their household waste on their allocated collection day due to access problems?

- A** Councillor M Rafique (Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles) - The service empties approximately 2.5 million bins a month across the city at peak presentation times. Whilst attention is often understandably on those occasions where a collection has been missed, we should remember that the vast majority of bins are collected regularly and routinely on 'bin day'. The reported collection rate for the most recent period was 99.89% of bins were collected on their scheduled day.



The number of households which regularly experience non-collection due to access issues will therefore be very low, but I accept this is an area on which both the Council and residents could do more to help. The service deals with access and parking issues on a daily basis and I both welcome and look forward to working with Members of the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board who are currently looking into this very issue. I understand Members of that Scrutiny Board visited crews last month to see for themselves the skill required by drivers to manoeuvre refuse collection vehicles through often very tight spaces. We'll all appreciate that can sometimes be beyond even the most skilled driver meaning some bins can't be accessed and emptied, but, working with Scrutiny Board, we will be exploring all options to increase accessibility to drive up collection performance even more.

**Q13** Councillor F Venner - Can the Executive Member for Children and Families comment on 'holiday hunger'?

**A** An increasing number of families who rely on free school meals during term time are experiencing what is referred to as 'holiday hunger' due to increased financial pressures. In a poll of 1,000 parents, the Trussell Trust charity found that 2 out of 5 parents worried about the extra costs associated with childcare during the school break. Last year, the Trussell Trust saw 5,000 more emergency food supplies given to children by foodbanks in July and August compared to the previous 2 months.

Aside from not receiving the proper nutrition they need, children experiencing 'holiday hunger' return to school in a worse educational, health and developmental state than before the Summer break – which has obvious implications for attainment, and could lead to children not reaching their potential.

In the wider context, there has been an overall increase in poverty across the country since 2010, with over a third of low to middle income families with children now living in poverty, which has risen from a quarter in the mid-2000s. The share of non-working families in poverty has actually fallen, demonstrating that families are struggling to make ends meet, even if they are in work. This has, in large part, been attributed to Government welfare reforms and because nationally, the level of income hasn't risen in line with the increased cost of living. The effects of poverty can have serious implications for a child's sense of self-worth, physical and emotional wellbeing and general development.

In Leeds, organisations such as Dance Action Zone Leeds are helping to tackle 'holiday hunger' by delivering school holiday camps in partnership with Leeds Community Foundation and Active Clubs Experience. The camps provide children with breakfast, lunch and dinner and deliver a range of activities that positively impact young people's wider health and wellbeing. In addition, the Child Poverty Impact Board has been established to work towards reducing the wider impact of poverty on children in the city to ensure that children and young people have the best start in life and reach their full potential.

**Q14** Councillor C Anderson - Does the Executive Member responsible for Development consider that the new process regarding future non-publication of public comments made in respect of planning applications will make the department less transparent



and that the reasons given for doing so have led the Council to take a sledgehammer to crack a nut?

- A** Councillor R Lewis (Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning) - The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 and came into force on 25 May 2018 and significantly strengthens provisions on the protection of individuals' personal data.

A recent case investigated by the Information Commissioner's Office in 2017 into Basildon Council's planning department publishing personal information on their online planning register resulted in a £150,000 fine, (the sanction under the GDPR is 20,000,000 Euros or up to 4% of annual worldwide turnover). This combined with the new legislation has led to planning services reviewing its processes in relation to publishing online comments made by the public.

Current resourcing levels and functionality of the Public Access software prevent the redaction and vetting of comments prior to placing online, putting the Council at risk of a breach and disclosure of personal information by publishing unvetted comments on Public Access.

The service is under no legal obligation to publish the comments online, but instead will make them available on written request. Whilst the service recognises that customers will not be immediately able to look at other people's comments, this does not in any way prejudice them from making their own personal comments. The change in process will safeguard that only valid planning comments are made publicly available, and that these comments do not contain personal information or perhaps libellous comments.

We recognise this change will be significant for some people, and have made sure it has been discussed and agreed by Members of Plans Panels across all parties.

- Q15** Councillor J Illingworth - Can the Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning comment on the upcoming rail fare increases?

- A** Councillor R Lewis (Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning) - The present situation with respect to the performance of the local rail operators in our region is indeed a cause concern but also more widely across the rail industry. Whilst it is acknowledged that significant investment in the rail industry is taking place with new trains in our region by three of our main operators, at this time it is hard to justify fare increases when what many passengers are looking for better value from the fares and season tickets they already hold and to ensure compensation does take place where services are falling below the standards expected. I am and will continue to work closely with members and officials at the Combined Authority to push hard for the better deal our communities need from their rail services and to press the senior staff at Network Rail in terms of their own performance as network manager on whom the operators are so dependent.

- Q16** Councillor N Harrington - Will the Executive member for planning please indicate what length of time is reasonable within KPI target ranges, for a planning application to be dealt with when designated for a decision by a planning officer?





- A** Councillor R Lewis (Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning) - The government has set targets for a range of planning applications but the main ones are, 8 weeks for 'minor' and 'other' applications, including extensions to houses, and 13 weeks for Major applications. The latter includes planning applications for 10 residential units or more or commercial development of 1000 sq.m. or more of floorspace.

There is specific provision within planning regulations for these time periods to be extended with the agreement of the applicant and it is important to note that it is government requirement that planning officers work positively and creatively with applicants to try and negotiate an acceptable development proposal. Within this framework for the last financial year the number of applications determined in time was 91% of Major applications, 84.3% of 'minor' and 88.2% of 'others'.

Leeds headline statistics for 2017-18:

- 5130 applications received, a 3.2% increase on the previous year
- 4,985 decisions were made
- 97.7% of decisions by officers under the delegation scheme
- 119 decisions by the Plans panel

**Q17** Councillor M Robinson –

- A** Councillor M Rafique (Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles) - The new Northern Forest is a 25 year vision to plant 50 million trees across the north of England. The aim is to develop a sustainable green/blue infrastructure, focusing upon planting appropriate varieties of trees and woodlands that link urban and rural areas stretching from Liverpool to Hull. The Northern Forest will be delivered through the Community Forests Trust (CFT) in partnership with the Woodland Trust (WT).

In turn the Northern Forest will link four existing Community Forests (all members of CFT) as follows:

- Mersey Forest;
- City of Trees (Greater Manchester);
- HEYwoods (Hull City Region),
- White Rose Forest (Leeds City Region)

It should be noted that the White Rose Forest is the body that will deliver the Leeds City Region component of the Northern Forest. The Northern Forest is the Woodland Trust corporate priority for England. This will maximise benefits such as natural flood defences, mitigation of air pollution and providing opportunities for improved health and wellbeing. The River Aire catchment will play a significant role and be at the forefront of the new Northern Forest.

Work is underway to establish a baseline position on the following:



- Current service policies and practice in relation to tree planting and maintenance
- Overlaps and relationships with current and planned infrastructure projects and extent to which they embrace tree planting and where further value can be added
- Scope of planning policy and asks of developments
- Areas of the city to target for short, medium and long term programmes including possible land acquisitions

This information is currently being reviewed and will help inform the strategy going forward. Initially it has identified that as a Council we are already engaged in a wide range of Green Infrastructure activities that are delivering new trees and woodland, some examples are as follows:

- Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2 (FAS2)
- Killingbeck Meadows Natural Flood Management Scheme (Growth Deal 3)
- South Bank City Centre Park
- A new green park at Thorpe Park
- 'Green Streets' principles in all Connecting Leeds and West Yorkshire Transport Fund projects (eg ELOR and City Centre Package)
- Mainstream Parks and Countryside service activities

### Ongoing work streams

#### **Naturalised Flood Management in the Wykebeck Valley**

Three 3 key sections of the valley have been selected as follows with each including woodland planting:

- Arthur's Rein Local Nature Reserve: Scheme will involve significant tree planting and creation of new wetland habitats. This work has now commenced.
- Killingbeck Fields Local Nature Reserve: This project will involve significant habitat creation – wet woodland (5,500 trees) and other tree planting, 6 x permanent small ponds, with aquatic and emergent plant communities, new wildflower meadow and creation of a new footpath/cycleway. When not required to hold back flood water, the habitats will be fully accessible to people as well as wildlife. Executive Board approval has been given for this scheme and full planning permission is in place.
- Halton Moor Local Nature Reserve: this involves large-scale habitat enrichment – tree and woodland planting, wildflower meadows along with improved public access and promotion. Funding is in place to deliver this work.

#### **Green Streets Principles including ELOR Advanced Projects**

Phase 1 of major highway improvement scheme following WYCA Endorsed green streets principles. To enhance green and blue infrastructure as part of overall scheme with in excess of 1500 new trees being planted including the aspiration to create a new wet woodland (4,444 trees) at Roundhay Park Lane junction.

Woodland creation schemes have also been developed including 3ha (13,500 trees) of urban woodland created December 2017 in Belle Isle (between M621 and John



Charles Academy). The main aim is to contribute to climate change adaptation and to mitigate exhaust emissions.

## District Wide Work

As part of the district wide study work is taking place to identify council land suitable for increasing tree cover by using existing data and planning maps that are available. The White Rose Forest group are working across services to initially identify council owned land and will be working with relevant services to undertake the due diligence required to confirm whether or not the land would be suitable for tree cover and the group are due to meet early October to discuss further with the hope to identify and confirm land that would be suitable to take forward.

Other areas of land that have been suggested to consider is land around key highway networks and vehicle routes in and out of the city centre and across Leeds, using the central reservation land and green areas next to highways. This has yet to be discussed in detail with highways and again will require the necessary due diligence work to see if the land would be suitable, however the project could potentially be a quick win project as part of the wider strategy work.

Alongside this there is a district-wide survey to be completed which will identify and map tree canopy cover across the district to provide a baseline percentage for tree canopy cover and an estimated number of trees. The information will also help to identify areas of high and low tree cover to help inform the strategy and vision going forward. It is anticipated that results will be made available in early 2019. (NB Leeds i-Tree Survey in Case Study 4).

**Q18** Councillor B Anderson - With reference to the funding of the East Leeds Orbital Road, could the Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning inform Council of the estimated "roof tax" cost for each new dwelling in the East Leeds Extension, how this will be levied, and whether it will include interest accrued on the capital sum, and could he confirm the estimated annual cost of maintenance based on a 2021 opening date?

**A** Councillor R Lewis (Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning) –  
a) 'Roof Tax' *[NB we are trying to move away from this term and using 'ELOR Contribution' instead]*

The Council has taken a leading role on the planning and delivery of the East Leeds Orbital Road in recognition that this will be the crucial enabling infrastructure that will support the delivery of around 5,000 new homes in the East Leeds Extension, the largest single allocated housing site in the city's Local Development Framework, improve traffic flow and journey times around East Leeds as well as introduce significant new facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. We have designed the scheme, secured planning approval and begun to acquire the necessary land including through the serving of a CPO earlier this year.



The Unitary Development Plan actually required developers to deliver the ELOR but it is of a scale and complexity that it requires public sector co-ordination to ensure it comes forward early and with certainty. The Council has secured significant public grant funding through the West Yorkshire Transport Fund for the upfront costs of the project and for related works to the Outer Ring Road. Executive Board has also agreed the principle of the Council using its powers of prudential borrowing should this be required to meet costs over the available grant. The road project is currently estimated as c£100m at outline design stage.

Although the initial capital costs of the scheme will be met in this way, Developers will be required ultimately to repay these to the Council through contributions secured under s106 legal agreements as part of planning approvals for the housing. This is a principle established in the UDP and in a recently adopted Supplementary Planning Document for the ELE and the Council is working closely with all the landowners and developers on this basis. These contributions will cover the costs of the scheme as incurred by the Council and interest accruing from the date of expenditure.

The precise figures to be secured in this way are still to be determined and will be derived from the final ELOR scheme cost and the number of dwellings that come forward through the planning process. Put simply there will be a contribution from the developers based on the proportion of overall costs attributable to each dwelling constructed. The Council has recently appointed a contractor for the first phases of the ELOR project and work is now underway to refine the detailed design to enable a robust cost estimate to be derived.

It should be recognised that the costs associated with delivering ELOR would in any case need to be met by the developers and be factored into the costs and values on the site. The Council's approach has served to enable this project and the related housing development to come forward much quicker than if left to the market to deliver.

*[NB - there is a perception that house prices will be unfairly increased as a result of the Council's approach – we actually providing a significant cash flow saving to developers by removing major up-front costs and enabling them to pay these as income comes in from house sales, that will make this as cost effective as possible]*

(b) Maintenance

ELOR is currently programmed to open in late 2021. The latest preliminary maintenance estimates generated and submitted as part of the outline business case (2015) totals £15,560,000 based on a 60 year life cycle.

The above assumes the following;

- £66,000 per year general maintenance (60 years)
- £1,600,000 Resurfacing cost (year 20)
- £8,400,000 Reconstruction cost (year 40)



- £1,600,000 Resurfacing cost (year 60)

These figures will be further developed during the design development phase (Phase 2) of the ELOR scheme and will require updating to incorporate current years costs.

**Q19** Councillor R Stephenson - Farmers and landowners in the Harewood Ward report an increase in fly-tipping on private land since the introduction of inert waste charges at Council waste and recycling centres. What measures will the Executive Member for Environment put in place to assist farmers with the additional cost of clearing such waste?

**A** Councillor M Rafique (Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles) - The vast majority of waste deposited at one of our eight Household Waste Sites is typical household waste and there is therefore no charge for 80% of the waste that residents bring here. Similar to many other Local Authorities, the charge we introduced is for building-type 'inert' wastes such as rubble, plasterboard and soil, which households may find they need to dispose of only from time to time. The experience of staff on our sites has been that the majority of residents using the sites have broadly accepted the charge for these infrequent deposits.

The vast majority of waste that we pick up on highways and Council owned land is not inert waste, and therefore our experience differs from that described by farmers in Harewood. The responsibility to remove flytipped waste on privately owned land, including farmland, remains with the landowner, with the Council responsible for that deposited on highways. The cost of clearing up flytipped waste across the city is significant and the Council shares the frustrations of other landowners who effectively pick up the tab of other peoples' criminal activity.

I have recently responded to correspondence from the Country Land and Business Association, a body seeking support to remove landowner liability to clear up flytipped waste on private land. I have replied that I would expect the default position would presumably be for the Local Authority to bear this cost and this would, undeniably, be significant and therefore one which I cannot support. Instead, officers will always be willing and able to work with other landowners to help identify the criminal element who fly tip on their land to either fine or prosecute those individuals and bring them to justice.

**Q20** Councillor M Robinson - The Leader of Council has previously set out 10 areas of responsibility that the administration would wish to see devolved in a future devolution deal. Can Council be updated on what progress has been made on each of these 10 areas?

**A** Councillor J Blake (Leader of Council) - On 5 March 2018, Leaders and representatives of the 18 local authorities in Yorkshire submitted a letter and the ten page One Yorkshire Devolution proposal document to the then Secretary of State (Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government), Sajid Javid MP. The full proposal document can be seen on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) website (link: <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/3120/yorkshire-devolution-agreement-submission-5th-march-2018.pdf>)



As stated in the proposal the “delivery of this devolution agreement is central to Yorkshire’s collective drive to unleash the full economic potential of a region with an established international brand, an economy twice the size of Wales and a population the same as Scotland.”

The One Yorkshire proposal seeks to deliver significant benefits to all communities (including rural, coastal and urban areas) and the wider UK economy, securing an ambitious deal for the widest possible Yorkshire geography, including Leeds City Region, drawing down from Whitehall a broad range of devolved powers and funding, including a £125m p.a. investment fund, in return for the election of a Yorkshire Mayor by May 2020.

The directly elected Yorkshire Mayor would have a clear economic leadership remit, including skills, business and trade and investment. These devolved powers and funding would be locally directed, improving living standards for communities in Yorkshire; closing the jobs gap with the UK average by delivering 200,000 additional jobs; boosting productivity via an extra £12bn of economic growth; and moving the region towards becoming a net contributor to the public purse.

Recent developments on devolution include the Secretary of State, James Brokenshire’s MP response to the One Yorkshire Leader’s 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 submission stating that: “Until the Sheffield City Region devolution deal is fully implemented, the Government is not prepared to enter into any discussion about wider devolution arrangements [across Yorkshire] that would include some or all of the Sheffield City Region authorities”.

One Yorkshire Leaders, including the Mayor of Sheffield City Region, met in York on 12 July 2018 and, noting the contents of the Secretary of State’s letter, resolved to continue with agreed preparations which will form the basis of the business case for a Yorkshire deal.

One Yorkshire Leaders also responded to the Secretary of State on 16 July 2018 (attached requesting the Secretary of State’s support in “...accelerating the delivery of the Sheffield City Region devolution deal whilst assuring those who want to join One Yorkshire that option will be available to them as early as 2020.”

Work will continue to further progress the proposals, which will identify specific place based investment Asks. These include developing and agreeing detailed governance arrangements for the operation of the proposed Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and demonstrating the economic case for One Yorkshire deal. Work is also underway to prepare a public facing version of the deal which communicates the proposals and benefits in plain English.

There is a clear and united vision for One Yorkshire Devolution, also backed by business, and the Government’s support is essential to help deliver the ambition on the timetable to elect a Mayor by 2020. Support from the Government is also vital to delivering the Sheffield City Region devolution deal whilst assuring that those who want to join One Yorkshire, will have the option available to them as early as 2020.



One Yorkshire Leaders have offered to meet with Secretary of State, James Brokenshire MP at any time to help make swift progress to deliver a deal which will secure the maximum possible economic and social benefits for all communities in Yorkshire and the country.

**Q21** Councillor R Stephenson - Will the Leader of Council congratulate the Conservative Government for reaffirming the UK's global leadership on animal welfare by announcing a ban on the sale of ivory in the UK, and will she emulate this leadership by arranging for ivory articles, currently exhibited in Leeds Civic Hall, to be removed from display?

**A** Councillor J Blake (Leader of Council) - On 3 April 2018 the Government confirmed its proposals to introduce a UK ban on ivory sales through primary legislation. The Council recognises the importance of this legislation, particularly in combating the illegal poaching of elephants. Government legislation outlines a number of exemptions regarding the sale of ivory, including 'commercial activities to, and between, museums which are accredited by Arts Council England, the Welsh Government, Museums and Galleries Scotland or the Northern Ireland Museums Council in the UK, or the International Council of Museums for museums outside the UK'. The Council will act accordingly, in line with the agreed legislation.

Historically, it has been the Lord Mayor in their year of office that receives or is presented with a particular gift (which may contain or be made of ivory) who would make the request for the item to be displayed in the Civic Hall cabinets. Some of these items are of particular historical relevance/importance dating back to the 1860s.

In recognition of this, the Council's policy regarding this matter will be consistent with national legislation.

**Q22** Councillor B Flynn - Could the Executive Member for Resources and Sustainability provide details of action planned by our officers to address the growing problems, including potential safeguarding of passengers, caused by cross border working in Leeds by the drivers of private hire vehicles and hackney carriages licensed in other local authority areas?

**A** Councillor J Lewis (Executive Member for Resources and Sustainability) - The purpose of taxi and private hire licensing is public safety. Leeds City Council and other licensing authorities have taken steps to address safety in their districts, however, the rise of cross-border working and the widespread use of smartphone based apps has changed the UK taxi and private hire industry, and it is now commonplace to see a vehicle licensed in one town or city, but working predominantly in another. It is my view that the change in legislation that took place in 2015 allowing cross border working has served to undermine public safety.

Leeds City Council has lobbied central government on the risks of drivers and operators who take advantage of licensing inconsistencies, and together with other authorities and professional bodies we have argued that national and legislative change is required. Regular and extensive cross border working does increase the supply of licensed vehicles in busy city centres, but it can be confusing for passengers to know which authority to complain to in the event of a problem, and it does increase the risk of drivers working whilst not licensed, not being insured, or driving a vehicle which doesn't meet safety standards.



Leeds City Council is working with West Yorkshire Police and with neighbouring authorities to inspect vehicles working across local authority borders. Our enforcement officers are equipped with powers to inspect vehicles and check drivers' details where they are licensed in elsewhere in West Yorkshire or in York. The same arrangement is in place in the other councils, and the councils also regularly conduct joint operations in other towns and cities. Our enforcement officers work alongside West Yorkshire Police Officers two nights a week, in order to encourage the co-operation of drivers.

**Q23** Councillor R Stephenson - Following receipt of a letter from General Lord Dannatt, in which he asked all local authorities to support the 'There But Not There' campaign by purchasing a 'Tommie' to commemorate those who fell in the First World War, can the Leader of Council confirm whether she instructed her officials to install a 'Tommie' to commemorate the Great War, or whether she simply ignored the request?

**A** Councillor J Blake (Leader of Council) - We are fully supportive of the Royal British Legion's work and the enormous contribution our Armed Forces make. We are signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant and are dedicated to ensuring that all ex-Armed Forces personnel living in Leeds can access a wide range of services and practical support. As we approach the centenary of the end of the First World War, we will be joining the rest of the UK in commemorating the sacrifices made by those who served. Plans are being finalised but we will let people in Leeds know how they can join in the commemoration activities nearer the time.

In relation to the 'There But Not There' campaign specifically, we understand that the Royal British Legion were disappointed that only a third of local authorities across the country had taken up their offer of purchasing one of their "Tommie" statues. However, the Council have no record of receiving any communications about the offer. Nevertheless, given the importance of this campaign, the Council would be happy to purchase a "Tommie" and install it at an appropriate location in the city and, through the Council's Armed Forces Champion, we will share the details of the campaign with Members of Community Committees for their consideration also.

**Q24** Councillor B Flynn - Could the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults please provide details of the number of internal safeguarding inquiries carried out involving vulnerable adults considered to be at risk in each of the last two years, up to 31/7/18, and how many of the inquiries involved adults in care homes?

**A** Councillor R Charlwood (Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults) – An inquiry is the initial questions that are undertaken in order to establish whether harm has been caused, whether the person needs to be made safe through a protection plan, speaking to the person to see what it is that they want (their outcomes) and who should take forward any investigation. The investigation is the formal look at what happened and will involve interviews, looking at case records, speaking to the person and writing a report. On some occasions a safeguarding case conference is held at which a decision is made to uphold or otherwise. This is usually where there is a staff member or provider where there are lessons that need to be learned and further actions taken to ensure that the other people who use the service are kept safe.

Please note the time period used is the last two full municipal year and then the four months up to the end of the July. Some caution is recognised with current year data given its provisional nature due to ongoing case work and not being subject to annual submission checks.





## A. S42 Safeguarding inquiries \*\*

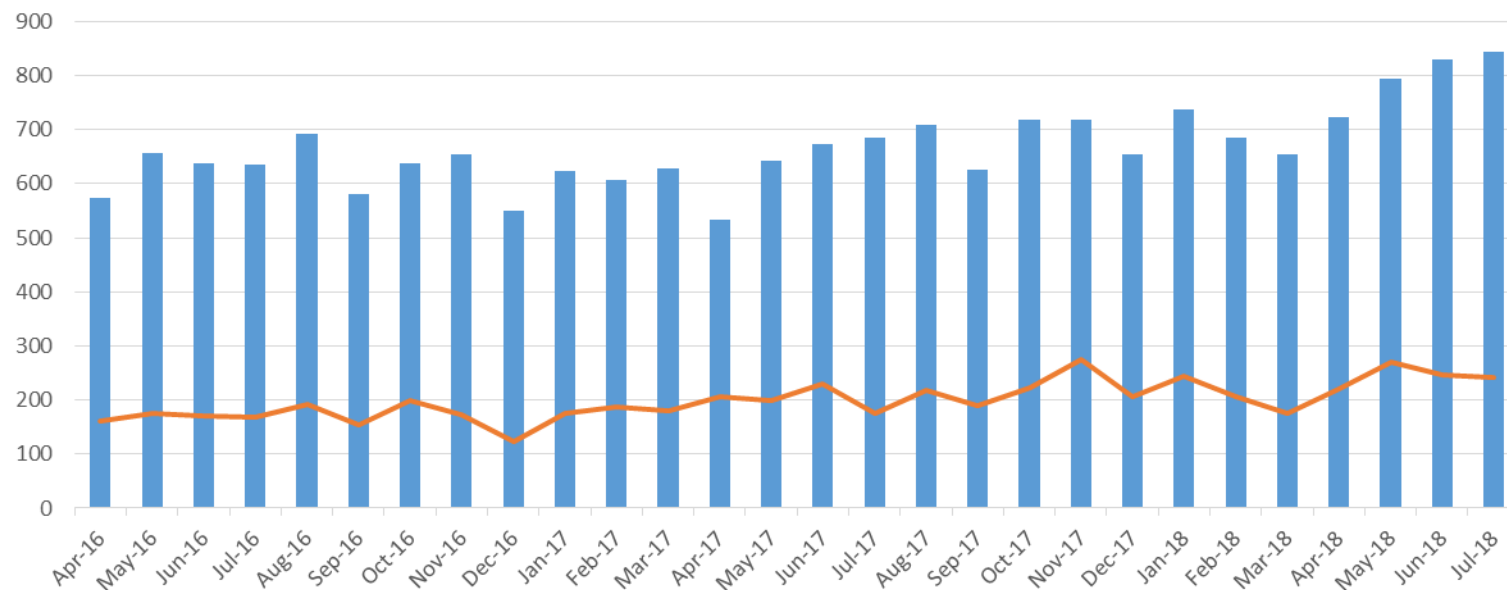
	All	From Care Homes*
2016-17	2633	805
2017-18	2495	861
2018-19 (April to July)	1223	580
Total 2016-17 to end of 07/2018	6351	2246

\*Nursing homes and Residential Care homes

\*\* The Care Act 2014 (Section 42) requires that each local authority must make inquiries, or cause others to do so, if it believes an adult is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect. An inquiry should establish whether any action needs to be taken to prevent or stop abuse or neglect, and if so, by whom.



### Safeguarding Referrals - Nos in Care Homes



	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18
Safeguarding Alerts/Referrals	574	657	637	636	691	580	637	655	550	623	607	628	533	642	673	685	708	625	718	719	654	738	685	653	722	795	830	843
In a Care Home	162	176	171	168	191	155	200	174	124	176	186	179	207	200	230	176	219	189	223	274	206	244	206	176	221	269	247	241

■ Safeguarding Alerts/Referrals
 — In a Care Home



Based on National Safeguarding Return and return definitions.

Counts of Safeguarding Activity	16/17	17/18	18/19**	
Total Number of Section 42 Safeguarding Inquiries*	2633	2495	1223	6351

\*Note: 166 other safeguarding inquiries in 2016/17 & 2017/18

\*\* Provisional in year data subject to revision before official submission

## National Safeguarding Return Care Homes, Nursing and Residential 2016/17 and 2017/18

Table SG2b	Concluded Section 42 Inquiries			Other Concluded Inquiries			Totals	
Counts of Inquiries by Location and Source of Risk	SOURCE OF RISK			SOURCE OF RISK				
	Service Provider	Other - Known to Individual	Other - Unknown to Individual	Service Provider	Other - Known to Individual	Other - Unknown to Individual	Total Section 42	Total Other
2016-17								
Care Home – Nursing	108	116	9	0	6	0	233	6
Care Home – Residential	239	303	30	6	9	2	572	17
2017-18								
Care Home – Nursing	111	122	10	0	1	0	243	1
Care Home – Residential	278	321	19	2	6	1	618	9



**2018-19** Note this is provisional in year data and will be subject to in year revision and year end data checks before becoming official data.

Row Labels	Safeguarding S42	Grand Total
Care Home – Permanent	412	412
Care Home – Temporary	35	35
Care Home with Nursing - Permanent	120	120
Care Home with Nursing - Temporary	13	13
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>580</b>

**Q25** Councillor M Robinson - Can the Executive Member for Community Safety outline what commitments have been secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner to enforce all 20mph zones in Leeds?

**A** Councillor D Coupar (Executive Member for Communities) - The OPCC and the Road Policing Unit have been engaged re enforcement of 20mph zones.

The Police and Crime Plan identifies road safety as a partner priority that the OPCC is committed to supporting. On his last public survey 40% of respondents identified it as a local community priority. The issues range from inconsiderate parking, speeding and dangerous driving.

In terms of 20mph zones the police operate to ACPO Guidelines dated 2013 which state speed enforcement should be used in areas of persistent and high harm speeding ie to address an evidence based casualty issue. Successful 20mph zones are generally self-enforcing through the existing conditions of the road together with measures such as traffic calming or signing, publicity and other information informing road users of the existence of the scheme. The guidelines go on to say to achieve compliance there should be no expectation on the police to provide additional enforcement beyond routine patrol activity unless this has been explicitly agreed locally (usually by the NPT). The overriding principle is that the speed limits should, wherever possible, be self-enforcing.

None of the above should preclude occasional ad hoc enforcement visits to anyone site during the course of an officer's tour of duty using pro laser hand held detection devices but this would be an operational decision not one taken or necessarily influenced by the PCC.

**Q26** Councillor B Flynn - Could the Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles provide details of the current waiting time for routine maintenance to be carried out on trees located on council property?

**A** Councillor M Rafique (Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles) - Any work that needs to be carried out on trees is determined following an inspection that allocates a category to each tree on a risk assessment basis as follows:

Category 1: Emergency completed within 24 hours

Category 2: Urgent completed within 7 working days



Category 3A: developing risk completed within 6 months  
Category 3B: developing risk completed within 18 months  
Category 4A: trees affecting health and wellbeing  
Category 4B: trees affecting quality of life  
Category 4: no unreasonable risks and therefore no mitigation required

The key timescales are for the category 1 and 2 risks which pose the greatest potential threat to life and property. Category 3A and 3B are target completion dates and these may slip to allow more the more urgent category 1 and 2 work to be completed.

As an indication of response rates achieved, over the last six months 79 category 1 trees have been identified of which 88% were addressed within 24 hours. Over the same time period there have been 153 category 2 tree operations completed of which 56% of these had the urgent work addressed in the timescale of 7 working days indicated. It should be noted however that category 1 and 2 work can often result from extreme weather events and therefore demand a comparatively large amount of work in a short timeframe.

In respect of category 3A and 3B trees, as an example on the most recent 41 trees where work is scheduled to take place over the next month, 68% will be completed within the target completion date indicated. As stated, it should be noted that completion dates are affected by emergency works that need to take priority.

**Q27** Councillor M Robinson - Can the Executive Member for Community Safety confirm how many knife crimes have taken place in Leeds in each year from 2012 to 2018?

**A** Councillor D Coupar (Executive Member for Communities) - Home Office Counting Rules state that a crime should have a 'knife' flag if **any instrument** used as a weapon is sharp and capable of piercing the skin. The offences include threats and any offence where the victim believes they are at risk of being assaulted with a sharp implement, whether or not one is actually seen to be in possession of the offender.

WYP Performance Review Team suggest that there should be a note of caution when seeking to comment on the apparent increase. In 2014/2015 new National Crime Recording Rules led to improved data integrity around crime recording and some of the increases should be attributed to improved recording – and not just an increased risk of victimisation.

In addition work done in local Schools through the deployment of safer schools officers has led to improved data and knife crime / incident recording. Anecdotally much of this crime would previously have gone unrecorded.

All that said, there is definitely a statistical increase in knife crime - just not to the degree that the stats would indicate.

Leeds Police supported by the Local Authority and local youth groups have developed knife crime initiatives and awareness campaigns supported by myself.

Work is also ongoing in Safer Leeds, the Communities Team and local community groups to develop additional youth engagement capacity in the city (including the development of Youth Hubs similar to 'Catch') to assist in prevention and problem solving work.



## Crime Data

2009	532
2010	553
2011	554
2012	443
2013	492
2014	478
2015	635
2016	713
2017	963
2018	560

**Q28** Councillor M Robinson - Can the Executive Member for Regeneration Transport and Planning outline what reviews have taken place to look at the effectiveness of existing 20mph zones in Leeds before blanket covering large areas of Leeds?

**A** Councillor R Lewis (Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning) - All the evidence indicates that slower speeds in local residential factors across the piece are a key factor in reducing existing casualty rates, preventing road injuries and reducing their severity. The 20 mph programmes in Leeds have evolved over many years to become more efficient and less intensively engineered whilst retaining their efficacy and monitoring programmes will remain in place as we work through the remaining programmes which have been approved for the city.

The monitoring and evaluation of schemes has been an important ongoing exercise. This evidence base has been drawn from an increasingly large scheme base as programmes have rolled forwards.

The effectiveness of the existing 20 mph speed limits has been monitored consistently for its impact on road traffic casualty figures. Schemes introduced before 2013 showed on average 43% reduction in all casualties; and around a 50% reduction is shown for vulnerable road users and children. The later schemes programme for 2013-2014 has shown, on average, 10 less slight casualties per year for the standard five year monitoring. Subsequent programmes continue to be monitored.

Impacts on traffic speeds also continue to be monitored. During 2012 Leeds approach was amended in line with the updated government guidance provided at that time. This evaluation in which “before” and “after” speeds were monitored of the initial trial 20 mph limit areas without traffic calming revealed reductions of around 1-2mph in areas where “before” speeds were close to 20mph which has been borne out by subsequent monitoring. Surveys have also confirmed that where “before” speeds were 24 mph or more and targeted traffic calming was provided, reductions of between 1.4 and 5.8 mph were achieved to bring speeds into line with the new speed limit.



An evaluation of the impact of 20 mph schemes on modal shift in 72 schools has also been undertaken. This has revealed a reduction in car travel for around half of the schools surveyed. However, it is harder to disentangle any effects of the reduced speed limit from other factors influencing modal choice that may be present, especially where a range of other promotional activities have taken place, a school expansion has taken place or other highway measures accompanied the 20 mph measures. Further monitoring of this aspect of behavioural changes is being undertaken.

Looking forward this success in reducing recorded injury accidents has now lead to an increased emphasis on the contribution that 20 mph limits can make in creating a safer and more liveable neighbourhood in line with Department for Transport advice.

There is still significant value in delivering new 20mph schemes in residential areas of Leeds since notwithstanding lower injury accident records, the evidence still indicates that confirms the benefits of achieving reduced speeds below 30 mph has for the number and severity of road injuries.

Yours sincerely

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



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