

COUNCIL

13 NOVEMBER 2019

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS LETTER

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Democratic & Central Services

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Date: 8 January 2020

To: All Members of Council

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL MEETING – 13TH NOVEMBER 2019

At the above meeting, the thirty minutes of Question Time expired with questions 10 to 38 unanswered. Council Procedure Rule 11.6 requires that each Member of Council is sent responses to such questions.

Q10 Councillor A Garthwaite - Could the Executive Member please comment on the Council's plans to encourage and expand recycling in Leeds?

A Councillor M Rafique (Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles) - There are a number of exciting plans to encourage and help residents of Leeds re-use and recycle more. These include:

Expansion of the hugely successful and innovative partnership with the charity Hubbub for the "recycling on the go" initiative in the city centre– with 60 new dedicated bins on the streets and 80 new bins inside places such as shopping centres. In the 8 months of the trial over 65,000 cans, 55,000 bottles and almost 600,000 coffee cups were collected for recycling. I am pleased to announce that the Council has agreed to continue to empty and take the bins for recycling as part of its city centre street cleansing offer, thus helping secure the continuation of this fantastic scheme.

I am also pleased to announce that the Council has been successful in bidding to two grants from the national Distributor Takeback Scheme, amounting to over £124,000. This will enable us to undertake activities and improve facilities to increase the amount of Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) we recycle by 130 tonnes and the amount that is re-used by 40 tonnes. We will be working on "amnesty" in schools, employing more staff at recycling sites, providing funding to our re-use partner charities to help with staffing and PAT testing and increase and improve our WEEE bring banks across the city.



We have begun trials at one of our Waste and Recycling sites, Kirkstall, to collect and dispose of polystyrene, crisp packets and coffee cups. If it's viable in terms of markets and cost we will be rolling out to other sites.

We are working even closer with our re-use partner charities in our Household Waste and Recycling sites to encourage better re-use of items that residents bring for disposal. In October we began a trial whereby volunteers from the charities work in the sites to help assist and advise residents about re-use and ensure items that may otherwise have gone in the skips are "rescued" and taken for resale/re-use.

We are planning to roll out even more glass and textile bank sites across the city. With the help of local councillors, new sites are already being identified in the Little London and Woodhouse and Hunslet and Riverside areas.

We continue to evolve and develop our social media content and promote and encourage other organisations and environmental groups across the city. Please encourage your constituents to follow our Facebook page "Leeds Recycles" for tips, links and advice on recycling and re-use.

Finally, I would also like to announce that following negotiations with our recycling contractor and a change in the markets, Leeds City Council is now able to accept most pots, tubs, trays and cartons in the green bin. This includes items such as fruit juice cartons, yoghurt pots, ice-cream/butter/margarine tubs and clear plastic trays for meat, fruit and veg. Although it's difficult to estimate accurately, we believe there could be up to 9,500 tonnes a year of plastic that residents are putting in their black bin which can now be recycled rather than burnt for heat/electricity.

The service will be providing an update to Community Committees over the next 2 months. This will provide opportunity for ideas for local initiatives to improve recycling to be discussed and supported locally through the Community Committees. I look forward to hearing about them.

Q11 Councillor P Wadsworth - Since the last Council meeting, analysis of missed bin collection data between 11th September - 28 October, shows that 550 streets have been listed on the End of Day Reports. Morley North and Harewood wards are top of the list. Will the Executive Member please explain what measures the refuse service will be implementing city-wide to back-up the crews out in the streets so that they can do their job properly?

A Councillor M Rafique (Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles) - Since the last Council meeting, the Council has successfully emptied and disposed of waste from over 4 million bins across the city. The promise to our residents is to do all we can to empty their bins on the scheduled day, but where we are unable to we will do so within a further 48 hours. That is a commitment that has been in place for a number of years.

The End of Day report is copied to ward councillors where there has been a problem completing a collection round in their ward for that day, The purpose of doing so is to help Councillors respond to any queries they get from constituents and to advise them to leave the bins out for collection within the next 2 days. Incomplete rounds are usually due to vehicle breakdowns, problems accessing streets due to parked cars, roadworks or other blockages, on the day staffing issues or extremes of weather.



During the period in question the service delivered 40 days of collections. The figure of 550 streets where a scheduled collection could not be made therefore averages about 14 streets each operational day. Many will have been part streets where access was restricted. This is within the context of 80,000 bins being successfully emptied each day in the second biggest Council in the UK.

In line with our service commitment, the vast majority of the streets that have been missed were then revisited the next day and the bins successfully emptied.

That said, we of course strive to reduce as much as possible the amount of missed collections on the scheduled day. To that end we are currently:

- undertaking the largest technical exercise for 8 years in redesigning the collection routes across the city – including better use of smaller refuse vehicles where access is often an issue and involving ward councillors in the process;
- investing in new fleet for the city – with 38 new, clean air compliant wagons due for delivery between now and Christmas;
- the development of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to tackle access problems caused by inconsiderate parking on street corners and some back streets;
- working collaboratively with Trade Unions to upskill and support our hard working front line staff;
- we have introduced a new Chargehand role in each refuse wagon and have recently given permanent contracts to 30 temporary front line staff.

Q12 Councillor C Campbell - Could the Executive Member inform the Council how many street gullies in the city are classed as “non runners” and agree to provide Members with ward based information (preferably a map)?

A Councillor L Mulherin (Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development) - Leeds City Council has over 147,000 gullies which are cleansed on a 2 yearly cycle. The service is currently 18 months in to its second cycle since transferring to Highways and Transportation and is ahead of schedule.

I would just like to acknowledge the Gullys team on being recognised for their outstanding work with their success in the Team Achievement Award at the Institute of Asset Management awards, beating two other shortlisted entries from IBM and National Grid.

Leeds City Council has over 147,000 gullies which are cleansed on a 2 yearly cycle. The service is currently 18 months in to its second cycle since transferring to Highways and Transportation and is ahead of schedule.



There are however a number of gullies which are classed as non-runners. This figure currently stands at 4,600 or 3.1% of the total number. The service is undertaking works to resolve these and looking to identify additional funding to help in reducing this number. Many need assistance from contractors as they require exploratory excavation and investigation to determine the cause of the blockage. Additionally, a considerable number are in hard to access locations such as busy junctions and carriageways with speed limits in excess of 30mph which necessitate the support of traffic management contractors to allow works to be progressed safely.

Information is held indicating the locations of all such gullies and a breakdown by ward can be provided if Members so wish.

Q13 Councillor A Garthwaite - Could the Executive member comment on the climate emergency nationally and locally?

A Councillor L Mulherin (Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development) - A complete report will be provided to January's Executive Board which will:

Since declaring a Climate Emergency in March, Leeds City Council has been working hard to engage with the city as part of the Big Leeds Climate Conversation and to develop a plan for the council and city.

A complete report will be brought to January's Executive Board which will fully brief members on this very important work. This report will include:

- a summary of the engagement activities undertaken with residents, businesses and members as part of the Big Leeds Climate Conversation;
- new insights into the carbon footprint of households in Leeds—collected in partnership with WWF—and a review of the willingness for pro-environmental behaviour change actions by residents;
- a roadmap for how Leeds can become a net-zero local authority by reducing emissions across our estate and fleet, offsetting our remaining emissions and generating clean energy, and by firmly embedding the climate emergency within the council's culture, governance and decision making structures;
- a consideration of how Leeds can become a net-zero city, including a summary of barriers, recommendations, and national asks that will be required to achieve that target

Q14 Councillor A Blackburn - Can you please give me an update on the Council's work to reduce single use plastics?

A Councillor M Rafique (Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles) - Executive Board received a full report in March this year on the work to implement the Council Resolution relating to our use of single use plastics. In that report, I was pleased to report on the considerable progress made and can confirm that continues through strong collaboration across a range of Council services and teams.



The Council Resolution of September 2018 has made a real difference in reducing the number and range of single use plastics in use through a review of activities on procurement, retailing, catering, events and the internal management of our buildings. The focus of the work in 2019 has been on single use plastics associated with food and drink, they being a significant proportion of the single use plastic that the Council and our contractors and operators use. The market for these items in alternative materials is more advanced, with confidence therefore that the alternative does deliver a true environmental benefit. The elimination of single use plastics will continue, but in line with the availability of sound alternatives in the UK which are known to deliver an environmental benefit. This is in line with the principles of the declared climate emergency in Leeds and the need for a proper focus on carbon reductions rather singularly focusing on the elimination of certain items per se.

A summary of the practical actions and changes made since September 2018 is detailed below.

Buildings managed by the Council

Merrion House, Civic Hall and St Georges House are no longer supplied with single-use plastics for food and drink. At Full Council, plastic bottles of water have been replaced by water served in reusable bottles and glasses. All water stations across the estate now offer only drinking glasses and all plastic cups have been removed. Hot drinks purchased in our museums and galleries use a compostable cup for takeaway purposes, although the majority of customers consume on site. Plastic drinks lids still remain, but are at least recycled, if left on site. Straws in these outlets are not routinely offered, but plastic straws have been moved to biodegradable materials. Disposable cutlery made of bamboo is available, however standard metal cutlery is the routine offer at these outlets.

In cafes run by Parks and Countryside, some plastic bottled drinks have been changed to either glass bottles or cans, both of which can be recycled and in the case of the glass bottles, reused. Bamboo-based coffee cups can be purchased at The Arium, with the plan to roll this out across the remaining four cafes operated by Parks and Countryside by the end of the year.

Within all of the afore-named outlets, only metal cutlery is used for food consumed on site. Work is continuing to replace the current plastic cutlery for takeaway food with a wood based alternative, intended to be in place before the end of 2019.

At Millennium Square, the Carriageworks and the Town Hall, work has been undertaken to source potential alternatives to plastic 'glasses' used by customers. We have now sourced several alternative products such as straws, spoons, paper cups and are now using PET (1) recyclable plastic 'glasses'. We are also looking into incorporating the deposit scheme for reusable plastic cups. All plastic glasses have now been removed from water urns and all tea / coffee at these venues is now served in crockery.

Catering activities.



Where Catering Leeds are the provider, work continues to ensure no single use plastics will be used by the meals service provision within schools, early years centres, adult social care homes and the commercial catering arm 'Flavour' by the end of the year. Activities in Catering to date include the removal of single use yoghurt pots and plastic disposables for staff catering.

In the High School Cafeteria service, Catering staff have met with students to discuss single use plastic and how best to address at very least, its reduced usage here. A range of alternatives are being considered in partnership with schools, with samples of alternatives now sourced.

Buffet trays used within commercial business are in the process of being switched to re-usable melamine trays. Also as part of this commercial offer, new individually packaged lunches will contain no single use plastics in their packaging. Compostable and recyclable sandwich and salad boxes are also being trialled to find out which are the most effective for future use.

Shops and retail.

Shops managed through the Parks and Countryside service are using paper bags for the sale of toys, gifts and other goods in paper bags rather than plastic. The very many plant pots used by Parks and Countryside are being transitioned to recyclable plastic material.

Museums and galleries have asked suppliers to consider the reduction of single use plastic items and are selecting suppliers who are working towards reducing plastics. A regular dialogue is being maintained with all the retail suppliers on reduction and alternative material sourcing for products within museums and galleries shops.

The Council has signed up to the 'Refill UK' scheme, thereby committing to all of its facilities being 'refill stations' and to provide free water to fill a drinks bottle, thus avoiding the need for consumers to purchase more plastic bottles which are likely to be single use.

Influencing commercial tenants.

Early in 2019, the Council wrote to all commercial tenants whose business involves the sale of food and drink to highlight the broad future direction on single use plastics. A survey was undertaken to help shape the support we give to traders to make improvements in this area. Consideration is being given to the inclusion of a requirement or expectation in letting policies that alternatives to single use plastics are used wherever reasonable and practicable. The Council will not expect tenants to operate above and beyond the current practice and level of elimination achieved across the Council.

There are 80 premises in the city centre which hold a street café license. The advisory section of the licence was changed in April to state that all holders of the licence should work to phase out all single-use plastic cups, bottles, cutlery, straws and food containers. Whilst unable to make this a requirement of the licence, it nevertheless gives a clear steer on the direction of travel and the City Centre Management team are looking at other ways to influence behaviours, including considering a discount on street café fees for those who have appropriate measures in place.



The market service has worked with its traders to encourage them to allow customers to bring their own packaging rather than taking a plastic bag etc. This started with a small number of traders but has grown throughout 2019 with traders acknowledging this as a potential commercial advantage and picking up the momentum by posting on their own social media about encouraging people to go plastic free.

Q15 Councillor N Walshaw - Can the Executive Member for Children and Families update Council on the outcome of the 2019 Make Your Mark Ballot?

A Councillor F Venner (Executive Member for Children and Families) – Make Your Mark is the largest youth consultation in the UK, where young people aged 11 to 18 are asked to choose one issue that is most important to them as a UK-wide, England-only and local issue, respectively. The top five issues are then debated by Members of Youth Parliament at the House of Commons where they decide on the national campaign for the year. This year's debate was held on Friday 8 November 2019.

11,828 young people from Leeds took part this year – around 17% of the city's youth population. The top UK-wide issues for children and young people in Leeds were: protect the environment (43%); tackling hate crime (18%); votes at 16 (16%); welcome refugees (14%); and make the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child statutory law (9%).

In terms of England-only issues, our children and young people voted their top issues as: put an end to knife crime (34%); mental health (23%); tackle child poverty (19%); curriculum to prepare us for life (15%); and stop street harassment (9%).

Young people in Leeds rated their top local issues as: littering (13%); recycling (10%); and public transport (9%). Nationally, the top issues for young people were: protect the environment; put an end to knife crime; mental health; tackling hate crime; and curriculum to prepare us for life.

In Leeds, we truly value the voice and influence of our young people and are committed to putting children and young people at the heart of everything we do. This commitment is reflected in Leeds' Children and Young People's Plan which outlines our ultimate ambition to make Leeds the best city for children and young people to grow up in.

We are already doing some fantastic work to address some of the issues that matter to our young people. In March 2019, Leeds City Council declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to make Leeds carbon neutral by 2030. In the near future I will also be working with Councillors Mulherin and Pryor to discuss how we can support and *work with* young people to ensure their voices on this important issue are heard – without the need for them to miss out on vital education.

We are doing a lot of work to support positive mental health through MindMate and a variety of other programmes with our valued partners. We have also made a commitment to tackling the impact of child poverty through our ambitious Child Poverty Strategy – 'Thriving'. This is just some of the work we are undertaking and we will continue to consult young people and involve them in the decisions that matter to them.



I encourage Ward Members to take note of what matters to their youngest residents and urge the Government, whoever that may be following December's General Election, to listen to the concerns of our children and young people and urgently take action to provide funding to support the provision of public services – so that these concerns can be better addressed both locally and nationally.

Q16 Councillor D Collins - Can the Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development confirm how many residential properties would need to be compulsory purchased for the Horsforth & Rawdon Greenbelt Link Road to be built, and if these residents have been contacted separately to the consultation earlier this year with additional information?

A Councillor L Mulherin (Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development) – A report to Executive Board on 7th January confirmed that the previously consulted highways connectivity options A, B and C have been discontinued.

Q17 Councillor J Bentley - As part of her commitment to reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality and increasing public transport patronage has the Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development ever considered introducing a Workplace Parking Levy scheme in Leeds?

A Councillor L Mulherin (Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development) - Working Parking Levies form part of the range of options available to local authorities for seeking to influence travel behaviour, environmental improvements and to support investment in our public transport. We will continue to review all aspects of our transport strategy afresh as we face the challenges of connectivity and mobility in the city region. The opportunity for the introduction of road user charging and workplace parking levies was offered in the Transport Act 2008, however to-date --the only two authorities to progress schemes were the cities of Durham and Nottingham. As a Council we remain interested in all innovations and opportunities and have embraced a Clean Air Zone for the city for example. We will be looking closely at all the policy instruments and tools available to us as we work to meet our climate challenge and achieve our Climate Emergency goals.

Q18 Councillor D Ragan - Please could the Executive Member for Communities provide an update on Hate Crime Awareness Week?

A Councillor D Coupar (Executive Member for Communities) - Hate Crime awareness week 2019 was launched on 14th October with Cllr Coupar and Paul Money presenting at United Responses conference on disability hate crime. Throughout the week numerous partnership working events took place including:

- Drop in sessions ran by Safer Leeds staff and Housing Leeds staff throughout the community hubs in the city.
- Third sector supported events at Leeds Kirkgate Market, Shantona Women's centre and Voluntary Action Leeds.
- Training delivered on Hate crime to N Power.



- Trans training package was delivered to West Yorkshire Police.
- Drop in session provided at Leeds Building Services raised awareness with front line contractors.
- Show Racism the Red Card event at the Civic Hall – very well attended session.

The whole campaign for National Hate Crime Awareness Week was promoted through social media with the hashtag #LeedsNoPlaceForHate making great impressions & retweets on twitter accounts across the city promoting the work of officers and partners. Overall the week was a huge success engaging and raising awareness across numerous locations across the city across Statutory, Third Sector, and private organisations.

Q19 Councillor M Robinson - Given the Leader of Council's support for a 10% pay rise for all council workers in Leeds, including the highest paid officers already earning over £100,000, would she tell me which government department she thinks should pay the bill for the £43.5 million needed to fund this?

A Councillor J Blake (Leader of Council) - The professionalism and dedication of council workers should be valued and recognised through fair pay. Despite Leeds City Council increasing pay for its lowest paid staff to the Living Wage Foundation rate, huge cuts by central government to the council's budget has seen pay fall by 22% of its value for the majority of council workers since 2010.

These are council workers who provide vital services to the city of Leeds, including keeping communities clean, looking after those in need, and keeping the city running. Without those workers, many services that residents rely on would not be delivered.

We therefore support the pay claim submitted by the GMB, Unison and Unite on behalf of council and school workers for a £10 an hour minimum wage, a 10% uplift across all NJC pay points in 2020/21, as well as a 2 hour reduction in the standard working week, an extra day's annual leave and a review of the workplace causes of stress and mental health issues.

The GMB, UNISON and Unite's claim would reverse the real terms pay cuts suffered by local authority staff since 2010 and we strongly agree with this. We recognise that continuing cuts to the council's budget means extra Government funding is needed to implement the pay claim. We therefore call on central Government to provide new money to fund the pay claim in full and ensure council workers receive the pay they deserve.

Q20 Councillor C Hall - Can the lead Member for Children's Services update the Council on the success or otherwise or the trialling of free sanitary products in three areas of the city as part of the Local Authority's bid to end period poverty?

Members have recently been asked to allocate about £500 per ward to community hubs for this purpose. It is an addition or replacement to the Local Authority's sum of £20,000.



A Councillor J Pryor (Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment) - Free period products are now being provided in schools, community hubs and libraries across Leeds. These products can be accessed by anyone who is in need of them. There are a mix of distribution methods, depending on the context of the school/ hub/ library. There is an ongoing assessment of the impact and take-up of this scheme. From early 2020, these products will be packaged in a design that has been created by a young person in Leeds. A competition was held for a packaging design, and there was a rigorous judging process, with the final design chosen by a panel of 11-13 year olds.

Children and Families allocated £20,000 to provide period products in schools. In addition, elected members have been asked if they would like to allocate £500 per ward for products to be provided in community hubs and libraries. This ensures that there is city wide provision, which is sustainable, local and available all year round.

Q21 Councillor D Cohen - Will the Executive Board Member for Environment & Active Lifestyles confirm when maintenance of Temple Newsam Golf Course was scaled back by the Parks and Countryside service?

A Councillor M Rafique (Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles) - I can confirm that the number of staff, plant and equipment used to maintain Temple Newsam Golf Course has not been reduced.

Q22 Councillor D Collins - Can the Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport, and Sustainable Development please provide an update on traffic surveys in Rawdon completed by Highways earlier this year?

A Councillor L Mulherin (Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development) - Traffic surveys were carried out in June 2019 at a series of locations in the vicinity of the airport, Rawdon, Yeadon and Horsforth. The surveys were primarily undertaken to improve the accuracy of the Leeds Transport Model 2 across an extended study area in NW Leeds, and to gain a better understanding of the current pattern of traffic movements on the roads around the airport, and distribution of traffic between different routes.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) surveys to enable were undertaken at:

- Access Entrances to Leeds Bradford Airport
- Whitehouse Lane Yeadon (east of A658 Harrogate Road Roundabout)
- Whitehouse Lane (west of junction with Scotland Lane)
- A658 Apperley Lane (south of B6152 Micklefield Lane Junction)
- A6120 Leeds Outer Ring Road (south of A65 Horsforth Roundabout)
- A65 New Road Side Horsforth (south east of A6120)

Furthermore, MCC turning count surveys were carried out at 10 junctions and 3 static ATCs were set up for 2 weeks continuously.

The survey data has been used to improve and validate the accuracy and performance of the Leeds Transport Model 2 across an extended study area. Use of the Leeds Transport Model 2 to appraise options for improved surface access to LBA is underway and nearing completion.



Q23 Councillor N Buckley - Will the Executive Board Member for Climate Change, Transport & Sustainable Development provide an update on timescales for projects that form part of the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme, and particularly works on the A6120 King Lane roundabout/Stonegate Road Junction?

A Councillor L Mulherin (Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development) - An update on timescales for projects that form part of the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme was provided to Scrutiny Board on 4th September 2019.

In update to this, of the 273m investment First are providing 284 new, low emission buses at their own cost; approximately 140 buses will be in operation by the end of 2019; £82m of work has already started on site at Elland Road Park & Ride, Stourton Park & Ride, The Headrow Gateway, A61S, Gloucester Terrace (A647), York Street (A58) and Moortown Corner (A61N). By April next year the A647, A65, A61N and The Corn Exchange Gateway will also be on site. This work will be completed in 2021 and deliver time savings and reliability on the new buses encouraging more people to shift to sustainable transport and help deliver our climate change carbon reduction targets.

In order to spend the £174m of funding from Department for Transport, a wide range of schemes have been promoted across three different package boards within the overall LPTIP programme. There is presently an internal review of the full LPTIP programme to address affordability and deliverability issues, this includes a regular review of all our projects through a prioritisation matrix - progression of each scheme is being closely monitored to ensure full spend is achieved by end of March 2021.

Because of the very tight timescales involved, it is critical there is flexibility across the programme to deal with any scheme delivery issues that might be arising. The latter includes feedback from public consultations, technical issues, construction costs, business case issues, ability to be constructed by March 2021 etc.

An important element involved in this ongoing process is to identify whether there is any over programming and/or slippage occurring across the package boards to enable consideration to be given to moving funding from one package to another.

In addition, other potential sources of funding and bidding processes are being identified to complement LPTIP funding to augment the Programme spend and/or allow schemes to progress alongside LPTIP schemes.

This whole review process is very much ongoing and will continue to be over the next few months; it is also including regular updates with DfT.

A further update is planned for the LPTIP Cross Party Meeting planned for 15th January 2020.

Q24 Councillor M Robinson - Will the Executive Board Member for Learning, Skills and Employment confirm how many children are being educated in Leeds City Council controlled schools compared to children being educated in academies in Leeds?



A Councillor J Pryor (Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment) –

	Reception to Key Stage 4	ALL
Total Academy, Free Schools & UTC	42844	48394
Total Community, Foundation, Voluntary Aided, & Voluntary Controlled	69176	76593

Based on: DFE Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2019 statistics, published 27 June 2019

Q25 Councillor J Shemilt - Given the proposed “Parkway Station” for Scotland Lane is nearly two miles on the road from the entrance to Leeds Bradford Airport, does the Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development agree that referring to it as an Airport Rail Link is misleading?

A Councillor L Mulherin (Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development) - The decision to support a new station on the Leeds-Harrogate rail line was taken after exhaustive study covering a full range of rail based connectivity options. This option which is some 1.4 miles from the terminal building was selected because it offers a technically achievable, value for money and deliverable opportunity to provide an early connection and access to the airport from the railway network. The station will be connected by its own road link to the airport complex by a dedicated shuttle bus which will provide prompt and quick access to the terminals. The station will marketed and badged as the station for the airport in a similar way to similar stations elsewhere in the UK. This Parkway will be nearer to the airport than Liverpool South Parkway is to Liverpool Airport. Alongside the existing bus services it is considered that this station will make a step change on the provision of sustainable public transport connectivity from the wider city region and beyond. It will support our ambition to move towards a much more environmentally sustainable airport in line with the wider activities contributing to the city’s Climate Emergency and also provide park and ride opportunities.

Q26 Councillor B Flynn - Can the Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment please provide the number of children leaving school each year with a learning disability and the percentage of these children who go into employment together with a breakdown of how many go into part time and full time work?

A Councillor J Pryor (Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment) – In Leeds almost 14% of children have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and for 1.9% of pupils these are sufficiently significant to be supported through a statutory, multi-agency ‘Education Health and Care Plan’ (EHCP). This proportion is well below the national average (2.9%) and that seen in similar areas (2.98%). However, the volume of EHCP’s has risen significantly over the last year with an 80% increase in assessments in the last 5 years. EHCP plans ceased for 49 pupils with learning disabilities or autism as the primary need in the 2018/19 academic year. 14 (33%) of those pupils have employment as their recorded destination.



SEND pupils are most likely to go to a sustained destination within a further education college. Of the 1,075 pupils with SEND leaving Key Stage 4 in 2015/16, 75% went onto a sustained education destination in 2016/17; the highest proportion (40%) sustained their destination at a further education college. The majority of pupils that attend a Leeds SILC remain in the sixth form Post 16 until they are 19. The small numbers of Key Stage 4 pupils means that a data breakdown below 'staying in education or entering employment' is not available due to the Department for Education's suppression rules.

Leeds City College is a key provider in the city and has the highest number of high needs learners nationally, supporting a total of 3,000 learners of all ages. Enrolments for the 2019/20 academic year include 1,690 young people aged 14 -25 years identified as SEND or having an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The College delivers a Foundation Study Programme promoting Independent Living, Community Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing and Employment Opportunities for learners from age 14. Each of these course options has a progressive and differentiated curriculum to meet individual needs. Predictive data is available for 60% of this current cohort which indicates that 83% will progress to another course within the college, 7% into employment and 10% will secure another positive outcome such as life skills and a move to independent living.

Q27 Councillor P Wadsworth - Does the Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles think that there are any lessons to be learned from the Aireborough Leisure Centre refurbishment project?

A Councillor M Rafique (Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles) - There are always areas for improvement in any project that is undertaken. When we are dealing with an old building such as Aireborough Leisure Centre there are always things which will be unexpected, however planning for these things can be difficult, especially when a building is in operation. The project team are undertaking a lessons learnt workshop with NPS on this project on the 19th November. However, we have already reviewed items such as building conditions surveys to ensure more specialist expertise are used for future Leisure Centre building condition surveys and over the last year or so additional investment has been and continues to be put in to the leisure centres to ensure the buildings are maintained with a planned approach. There has also been a programme board setup which includes the Director of City Development and additional expertise on projects to ensure the projects are well planned and resourced appropriately.

The lessons learnt workshop will ensure other items are fed in to future projects and the project board will be reviewing the items, however again when dealing with old buildings there will be at times some unexpected issues that can't be planned for and have to be reactive such as a lot of the issues at Aireborough.

Notwithstanding the above, key areas to focus on in the lessons learnt workshop will be:

Disaggregating the asbestos removal outside of the main contract and whether incorporating it into the main contractor's scope would have reduced the Council's risk profile?



Recognising the age of the property, should a risk not have been held against the project budget in case of unknown issues arising during the delivery of the scheme?

Q28 Councillor D Cohen - Will the Executive Board Member for Communities comment on the process by which the Council decided to discontinue fines for overdue books from the City's Library Service?

A Councillor D Coupar (Executive Member for Communities) - Library Services across the country have historically charged customers fines for the late return of library books, most only charge adults but in Leeds the fines also applied to children. The application of these fines is widely accepted as creating a barrier to using library services, with many citizens fearful of incurring debt. The practice of charging customers fines is being challenged with a number of library authorities having abandoned the practice over the last 12 months. Trafford Council was the first Council in the Country to remove fines in April 2018 and there are now 14 authorities that have followed suit, including Kirklees and Barnsley in our region.

Prior to this decision, fines in Leeds were charged per day per late item. The rate of fines was: Adults – 22p, Senior Citizens / concessions – 15p and Children (u16) – 10p per day. At these levels a child with 5 books on loan would accrue £3.50 in fines if they were all returned just a week late, demonstrating that even what might seem a small charge can quickly add up.

Whilst there is no specific income target for fines the removal of the fines does mean a reduction in overall income to the service. This has always been a challenge and has meant that Leeds has been unable to facilitate this change until now. It has been able to do it now for the following reasons:

The library service has reviewed the provision of the Library Management System (LMS) and it was agreed that a single supplier Framework Agreement would be implemented regionally. The regional procurement exercise has delivered savings compared to the previous contract which contribute to balancing the income position. The replacement LMS has now been procured and implemented (live mid-October 2019).

The new LMS would not have been able to notify people by text/telephone message regarding books about to become overdue as the old system did; although still available by e-mail, some customers without e-mail would face additional risks of attracting increasing fines. Removing the fines mitigates this issue and the saving from not sending text/voice messages contributes to balance the income position.

In 2020 the library self-issue machines will require replacement due to their age. The ability to take financial payments at these machines costs approximately £1800 per device of which the service manages almost 60; so circa £108k capital cost for replacement of this element. No longer charging fines removes the need to take payment at the self-issue machines and will save this cost as well as opening up a wider range of possible supplier provision when this function is re-tendered.

The removal of fines also means that the service saves approximately 1000 hours per annum of staff time in cash handling / banking from these 60 machines.

The service will also save approximately £8k per annum in postal charges for overdue items notifications.



The decision was taken by the Chief Officer Customer Access and Welfare as an administrative decision based on these factors and the overall cost of this service improvement to the Council falling within the limits of an administrative decision.

Q29 Councillor M Robinson - Would the Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles arrange for the car park next to Little Queen Street, accessed off Castle Street in Leeds City Centre, to be resurfaced and maintained to a better standard, as many users of the car park have reported that parts of it are nearly impassable?

A Councillor M Rafique (Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles) - The site being referred is the former International Pool site. The site is being used for temporary car parking and has been marketed for development and developers have been shortlisted to submit second stage bids. It is anticipated that a preferred and reserve bidder will be selected in early 2020, although the timescale for completion of the disposal will be dictated by the disposal terms and in particular whether the offer is subject to planning consent being secured or if the site is to be acquired on an unconditional basis. Until disposal the car park will remain operational and as such patch repairs will be undertaken where these are required.

Q30 Councillor J Taylor - In a reply to Horsforth & Rawdon Ward members on 30th June, and in an answer to a question at the last Full Council, the Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development advised that responses to the Airport Link Road consultation would be published in due course. When will they be available?

A Councillor L Mulherin (Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development) - Following consultation on the options for highway and rail connectivity to the airport and the North West Leeds Employment Hub the results have been analysed and a report is being concluded. This will contribute to a further report to the Executive Board on the future strategy and preferred approach to airport connectivity. It is anticipated that this report and the accompanying consultation feedback will be reported to Executive Board in January.

Q31 Councillor B Flynn - Can the Executive Member for Resources please provide the number of private hire vehicles licensed outside of Leeds that drop off passengers in the city on an average week?

A Councillor J Lewis (Executive Member for Resources) - It is not possible to provide a figure for the number of private hire vehicles that are licensed outside Leeds and drop off passengers within the Leeds area, although it is reasonable to estimate that several hundred vehicles licensed in other authorities are working regularly in the Leeds area, particularly late at night in Leeds city centre at weekends. While it has always been the case that vehicles outside Leeds have been able to drop off passengers in the City the 2015 Deregulation Act has enabled them to pick up work while here, a move the City Council has opposed.

The council has two sources of records of the 'out of town' vehicles:

- Those observed on the number plate recognition (NPR) system used by the officers in the council's taxi and private hire licensing team.



- Those where the vehicle or the driver were checked on street by officers in the council's taxi and private hire licensing team.

These figures were reported at the November Licensing Committee meeting, with 144 out of town vehicles observed by NPR and 104 vehicles checked on street.

It is highly likely that this level of vehicles observed and checked is a proportion of the actual number.

The council carries out regular night time enforcement activity, with officers working between eight and ten night shifts per month, and the council undertakes regular joint operations with West Yorkshire Police and neighbouring authorities, inspecting more than 2000 vehicles a year on street. On each of these, the officers have the discretion and powers to take enforcement action on vehicles licensed outside Leeds but in neighbouring authorities. Leeds City Council is also in regular contact with West Yorkshire Police and neighbouring authorities about drivers and vehicles who are unlicensed, suspended or likely to pose other risks to the travelling public.

Q32 Councillor M Robinson - Will the Executive Board Member for Climate Change, Transport & Sustainable Development support and implement a policy to introduce an electric car charging space at each Leeds school that doesn't already have one across the whole city?

A Councillor L Mulherin (Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development) - The Council will encourage schools to install vehicle charging infrastructure. Academies and Free Schools are able to access OLEV workplace funding to support the installation of charging points and will be required to as part of any school expansions in accordance with planning policy. For LCC maintained schools there are no specific budgets identified or grant funding available but charging infrastructure would again be delivered in line with planning policy as part of any expansion schemes.

Q33 Councillor R Stephenson - Is the Executive Member for Learning Skills and Employment satisfied with the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of Mill Field Primary School, a school maintained by Leeds City Council?

A Councillor J Pryor (Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment) - We are disappointed with the outcome of the Ofsted inspection and will continue to work with and support the school until they convert to academy status in order to secure the improvements required as swiftly as possible.

Q34 Councillor M Robinson - Can the Executive Board Member for Learning, Skills and Employment inform council how many children moved school from Leeds City Council controlled schools in 2018/19?

A Councillor J Pryor (Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment) - Please see the latest figures for children moving school at the end of Y6, Y11, Y12 and Y13 in Leeds.



2019 January School Census	Year 6	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Total Community, Foundation, Voluntary Aided & Voluntary Controlled	7489	2642	1175	936

Q35 Councillor B Flynn - Can the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults provide the current CQC inspection results up to 31/10/19 for all care homes for the over 65s broken down into residential homes and nursing homes and the percentages in each category?

A Councillor R Charlwood (Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults) - Please find below the CQC inspection results up to 31/10/19 for all care homes for the over 65s broken down into residential homes and nursing homes and the percentages in each category:

All Independent Sector Care Homes

88 care homes

CQC Rating	Number of care homes	Percentage of total
Outstanding	1	1.1%
Good	62	70.5%
Requires Improvement	13	14.8%
Inadequate	3	3.4%
Not Yet Rated	9	10.2%

All Independent Sector Care Homes + Leeds Council Care Homes + Green Lane Intermediate Care Centre

97 care homes

CQC Rating	Number of care homes	Percentage of total
Outstanding	1	1.0%
Good	71	73.2%
Requires Improvement	13	13.4%
Inadequate	3	3.1%
Not Yet Rated	9	9.3%

All Independent Sector Residential Care Homes

49 care homes

CQC Rating	Number of care homes	Percentage of total
Outstanding	0	0%
Good	39	79.6%
Requires Improvement	5	10.2%
Inadequate	0	0%
Not Yet Rated	5	10.2%



All Independent Sector Residential Care Homes + Leeds Council Residential Care Homes

54 care homes

CQC Rating	Number of care homes	Percentage of total
Outstanding	0	0%
Good	44	81.4%
Requires Improvement	5	9.3%
Inadequate	0	0%
Not Yet Rated	5	9.3%

All Independent Sector Nursing Care Homes

39 care homes

CQC Rating	Number of care homes	Percentage of total
Outstanding	1	2.6%
Good	23	59%
Requires Improvement	8	20.5%
Inadequate	3	7.7%
Not Yet Rated	4	10.2%

All Independent Sector Nursing Care Homes + Leeds Council Nursing Care Homes + Green Lane Intermediate Care Centre

43 care homes

CQC Rating	Number of care homes	Percentage of total
Outstanding	1	2.3%
Good	27	62.8%
Requires Improvement	8	18.6%
Inadequate	3	7%
Not Yet Rated	4	9.3%

Q36 Councillor R Stephenson - Is the Executive Member for Children and Families aware that the under-16s top-up card for travel on public transport to schools can only be topped up by visiting a physical shop, and there is no online top-up option, and does she regard this limitation as being compatible with the declared climate emergency?

A Councillor J Pryor (Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment) - Colleagues at WYCA have been contacted for advice on this issue and we are advised that:

There are many ways to add travel tickets to your MCard:

- Download the MCard App from the Google Play store to any Android Smartphone to top up anytime, anywhere.



- For Bus only or Bus and Rail Travel you can top up at any Bus Station MCard ticket machine. MCard Bus Station ticket machines can be found at: *Bradford Interchange, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds, Castleford, Pontefract, Dewsbury, Keighley and Wakefield.*
- *Top up at one of 700 Payzone outlets, look out for the MCard logo*

Visit a Bus Station Travel Centre

Q37 Councillor M Robinson - The Home Secretary has announced funding for each police officer to have a taser as part of their equipment. Will the Leader of Council write to the Police & Crime Commissioner to ensure that police officers in Leeds have this equipment to help protect themselves and citizens in Leeds?

A Councillor D Coupar (Executive Member for Communities) - At the end of September 2019 the Home Secretary announced £10m of additional funding that would potentially provide capacity for up to around 10,000 officers (just less than 10% of all police officers in England and Wales - not including British Transport Police) to be trained and equipped with Taser across forces in England and Wales.

At the present time Chief Constables are engaged in ongoing debate around the routine arming of officers with Taser and considering its impact on trust and confidence in policing (linked to the concept of policing communities by consent) balanced by the need to keep officers and the public safe.

At least one Chief Constable – Nick Adderley in Northamptonshire - has already publically stated his force is committed to routinely arming all front line officers (who express a personal choice to deploy with one) but a number of others are on record as saying they are opposed to a policy that would see every officer deploying with one.

The current position in West Yorkshire is that the Chief Officer team are engaged in this debate but are awaiting the findings of the review into Taser and its use, before making any further decisions. They are however increasing the number of trained officers in line with their West Yorkshire threat assessment, but have no immediate plans to move towards every officer deploying with Taser.

Q38 Councillor R Stephenson - Is the Executive Member for Children and Families confident that the Children's Transport Policy is compatible with the declaration of a climate emergency by Leeds City Council and WYCA?

A Councillor J Pryor (Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment) - The Education Act 1996 places a number of statutory duties on the council to provide transport assistance to eligible children. The Leeds City Council Children's Transport policy sets out the eligibility criteria that is applied in the fulfilment of these duties. Wherever possible, assistance is provided through the provision of a free bus pass for use on the public network. In some cases families choose for their children to attend a school more distant than the nearest suitable one, sometimes requiring the council, in partnership with WYCA, to provide subsidised school services. Additionally, more specialist arrangements are needed for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who are unable to travel independently. In these cases transport is provided by way of a fleet vehicle or a private vehicle, with a view to ensuring that children share vehicles wherever it is appropriate and safe for them to do so.



Arrangements are reviewed annually to ensure that optimum use is made of fleet versus tendered services.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Tomkinson
Principal Governance Officer

