

# Public Document Pack

## UNANSWERED QUESTIONS LETTER - JULY 2023

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# Agenda Item 9



## Legal and Democratic Services

Governance Services

1<sup>st</sup> Floor (West)

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Leeds LS1 1UR

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Your ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 25 July 2023

To: All Members of Council

Dear Councillor

### **COUNCIL MEETING – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

At the above meeting Council Procedure Rules 3.2 and 11.4 (a) were suspended to allow responses to all questions to be received in writing after the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.6.

**Q1** Councillor A Lamb – Will the Executive Member responsible for Planning, please update Council on the number of public comments submitted to the planning portal that have been removed/redacted or otherwise amended by Council Officers, as well as the total number of public comments submitted, since January 1st 2023?

**A** Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

I can confirm that the planning service received 3,504 third party comments submitted via the planning portal (public access) from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023. A three-year average number of comments received = c9,700 per year. This equates to 186 per week or 37 per day.

All of the comments received had to be checked prior to publication and 100% of all comments have some basic redaction- to remove name details.

Comments are not “standard” and can range from a number of paragraphs to a number of pages. 100% of comments need reading comprehensively to check for GDPR compliance and redacting appropriately. Around 15% of comments were returned to the commenter as being unacceptable (approx. 1,455). Publication of just one of the comments would have put the Council at risk of being in breach of GDPR, despite disclaimers being put in place. This risk is significant and real. Basildon Council have been fined £150k by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a data breach.



In addition to comments submitted via the planning portal, we also received 648 comments submitted by email or letter. The majority of these will have been redacted as they contained the personal email address or a name / signature by nature of the way they have been submitted to us.

**Q2** Councillor C Hart-Brooke – Can the Executive Member responsible for Planning confirm how much of the Shadow Chancellor's plans for basing future economic growth on a housing development boom, delivered through reintroducing mandatory house building targets on local councils and ripping up rules protecting the greenbelt, is the result of discussions with her party colleagues running Leeds City Council?

**A** Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

As described in the question, I do not recognise the approach outlined and this is certainly not the approach to inclusive growth, health and well-being and tackling the climate emergency being led by the Council across the District. This Council does however recognise the fundamental impact the current housing crisis is having and the critical need to deliver much needed affordable homes within our communities.

The City Council's plan-led approach and adopted Policies is therefore set within this overall context. The current planning system (as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework) says that local authorities should, "*support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of Homes*" and that "*it is important that a sufficient amount and variety of land can come forward where it is needed*". The Government also advocates that, "*strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment*". This has always been the case in Leeds, where our Plans have been supported by local evidence, via a Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Household Survey. The Government's current guidance also sets mandatory house building targets via a national standard method to set the starting point for housing and that major cities should aim to accommodate a 35% urban uplift. This is all to meet the Government's continued stated ambition to deliver over 300,000 homes a year within this Parliament

**Q3** Councillor E Flint – Can the Executive Member comment on the position for school staff across the country, including Leeds, who are pregnant and risk reducing their maternity pay if they take part in strike action?

**A** Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education

Dependent on the teachers length of service and when the child is born, there may be an impact on the Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) for some pregnant staff. HR have confirmed that the position is:

- Eligibility for SMP is calculated on 26 continuous weeks service.
- SMP payable is calculated on average pay during the 8-week period prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> week before the baby is born. All 8 weeks are counted, including weeks where a strike occurs, but any days on strike will result in loss of pay for that day.

After consultation with officers in HR and Legal services, these are statutory calculations set out in the national regulations and neither the LA nor schools have any discretion in how they are applied.



I have written to the Secretary of State for Education, requesting that this be looked at as a matter of urgency as I do not believe it right that a teacher taking maternity leave is hit twice financially if she decides to take strike action. I am yet to receive a response.

**Q4** Councillor O Newton – We all know that Leeds has a large proportion of back-to-back terrace houses, without a garage or driveway. What is the Executive Member doing across our City to meet this huge gap where people are unable to even consider an electric vehicle due to the difficulties with on-street vehicle charging?

**A** Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Spaces

This year we have secured additional funding for delivery of charge point projects at a Combined Authority basis (in line with govt policy on this) – firstly with £1.5m for LEVI pilot funding, followed with a further LEVI allocation for West Yorkshire of £14,326,000 in capital funding, which will be awarded in two tranches (23/24 and 24/25) and is designed to support installs over the 5 years. This grant funding will be enhanced with further private investment from the charge point sector as part of the delivery of projects utilising the LEVI grant, so we anticipate that the total value of the infrastructure to be installed through the LEVI schemes will be circa £25-£30m across the region.

The LEVI funding has fixed criteria that has a material impact on the kind of charge point delivery that it can facilitate. The scope of the funding is as per the table below (from the Office of Zero Emission Vehicles – OZEV, the funding body), which means that primarily it is designed to support residents who lack off street parking with providing near to home charging, both off and on street.

**Scope of LEVI capital fund**

Applicants must show that the majority of chargepoints will benefit these users:	These users can also benefit from LEVI projects where there is sound commercial reasoning, but a minority of chargepoints must solely benefit them:	Applicants <u>cannot</u> include chargepoints for these uses:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Residents without off-street parking</b> e.g. without a drive</li> </ul> <p>This could more specifically include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents using local authority supported car clubs</li> <li>• Commuting residents where the majority do not have off-street parking, e.g. car park near those homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourists/customers/visitors/non-residential commuters, e.g. car park and ride</li> <li>• Private Hire Vehicle (PHV)/ taxi drivers using ranks</li> <li>• Commercial vehicle drivers (including cars and vans), excluding at the businesses' address</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off-street residential chargepoints e.g. on a persons drive</li> <li>• Workplace chargepoints</li> <li>• Rapid chargepoints along motorways and non-residential A-roads</li> <li>• Chargepoints for buses</li> <li>• Chargepoints for blue light services</li> <li>• Chargepoints for heavy goods vehicles</li> </ul>

This funding will support the delivery of city scale charging across the region focused on supporting those in areas of housing such as terraced or high rise homes where domestic charging isn't possible due to the lack of drives or garages. Additionally infrastructure such as rapid charge hubs, super chargers at key locations and so on are projected to be delivered commercially with this type of provision being consulted on by the charge point sector at third party sites that will support in-journey or destination charging. As such areas with higher density of terraced, high rise or other housing that typically lack driveways or garages will be targeted with on street and off street installs where suitable and in line with Highways & Transport approval.



This will supplement work already undertaken in delivery of a rapid charge network in partnership with GeniePoint and delivery of fast charge hubs in residential areas using ORCS funding that have also focused on supporting charge point delivery in areas with terraced or high rise housing. There are already over 500 public charge points in Leeds with the number increasing steadily, with thousands of private charge points at workplaces as well as in homes where householders do benefit from having off street locations to charge.

We are working regionally to determine site selection processes and have secured resource from Leeds University to work over the summer to establish a data led approach to identifying sites that meet the OZEV criteria for charging – this is based on housing type, grid connectivity, pre-existing density of public charging provision and so on, so that we can identify where this type of near to home charging is needed. We are also working closely with the Highways & Transport service on establishing design guidance for on street charging – with aspects such as pavement width, location of signage, TRO's, bay size, distance from kerb of chargers, build-out design and so on all being established by this service team so that the wider Connecting Leeds Strategy informs this process.

**Q5** Councillor A Scopes – Please could the Executive Member update on the development of the new children's home 'Acorn2' (Field Terrace)?

**A** Executive Member for Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships

Field Terrace, known during development as Acorn Lodge 2, is our new children's home specifically designed to support vulnerable young people with additional needs. Handover of the building to Leeds Children and Families is scheduled for Monday 17/07/2023 which is two weeks later than planned due to snagging issues associated with the inclement weather and outdoor working.

Managerial oversight for the internal operational set up will be from Rainbow House and will support the submission for Ofsted registration. Recruitment is on track with advertisements circulated. A robust staffing plan is needed and there is a strong commitment to this, with other council teams providing support and Rainbow House staff are attending local recruitment fairs to promote the new service.

Field Terrace has been designed to support the most vulnerable young people with additional needs who also present significant challenges both to staff and their living environment through intense behaviours. Discussions are ongoing with the placements team (reviewing out of area placements), Child Health and Disability Team (CHAD), and other professionals to identify those who would benefit from living and being supported there. Full occupancy and opening is projected for September 2023. This allows for supported visits through August and a smooth transition for young people, families, and staff.

**Q6** Councillor B Anderson – Can the Executive Member responsible for Highways and Transportation advise why there has been very poor coordination between the proposed works at Harewood Bridge, the works on the Dyneley Arms and other associated schemes in the north of the city?

**A** Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

Coordination of the scheme programmes against other works on the network has been adjusted continually as the schemes have progressed, always with the aim of minimising disruption. The works have been fully coordinated between the delivery teams and Network



Management to ensure both the completion of the Dyneley Arms scheme and the need to undertake the critical Harewood Bridge scheme during the school summer holidays.

During the Dyneley Arms works, there have been both emergency and unplanned works undertaken in the surrounding area, for example, Yorkshire Water had an emergency water leak in March. These were handled quickly and with due diligence, with the delivery team and Network Management working collaboratively with third parties to ensure disruption was again kept to a minimum.

Local Ward members have been regularly updated via organised teams call through Connecting Leeds, plus frequent emails with additional information supplied. Residents and businesses have received hand delivered letters providing opportunities for feedback and to ask questions. Key stakeholders, such as LBIA have also been kept updated of progress.

**Q7** Councillor S Golton - Bradford City of Culture 2025 has secured £10 million from the Government, £5 million from Arts Council England, and £4.95 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Can Cllr Pryor tell us what the equivalent amount is from each of the above organisations that the members of the Leeds 2023 Year of Culture Board have secured?

**A** Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education

The Government have declined to provide any direct funding for Leeds 2023, despite direct requests.

However, Leeds City Council's own contribution to Leeds 2023 has managed to leverage in further funding to our city from a variety of sources which brings **total fundraising to date to £8,769,559.**

- The National Lottery Heritage Fund has contributed **£2.5M**
- Arts Council England has contributed **£1.53M** which included two grants awarded through the Cultural Recovery Fund amounting to **£642K** which was administered by Arts Council England but came from DCMS.

This does not take into account grants made by Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund directly to Leeds based organisations to deliver activities associated with our Year of Culture.

To achieve this level of investment without the official designation of UK City of Culture or European Capital of Culture is a fantastic achievement and LEEDS 2023 continue to make applications to Arts Council England (£150K application pending) and to fundraise.

**Q8** Councillor D Jenkins– Can the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles comment on the Government's Public Health Grant to Leeds City Council?

**A** Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles

Recently the Health Equality North published a report, *Health Equity North: 2023*, which found a worrying pattern of lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and worse health and wellbeing in the North of England:

- People born in the North can expect to live at least one year less than the English average.



- Of the 72 local authorities in the North of England, 52 (72%) have lower levels of very good or good health than the national average.
- The North has higher rates of bad/very bad health with 5.9% in Yorkshire and the Humber reporting bad/very bad health – compared to the English average of 5.3%.
- The North has higher rates of economic inactivity due to ill health or disability: 4.7% in Yorkshire and the Humber compared to the English average of 4.1%.
- The top five local authorities with the highest levels of economic inactivity due to long-term sickness or disability are in the North.

And yet despite this context of stagnating life expectancy, widening health inequalities, and the negative impacts of both the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis, the Government has once again given Leeds a reduced amount of Public Health Grant.

This reflects an ongoing trend of under resourcing a department that is so vital to our resident’s health and wellbeing. Since 2013, we’ve had either funding cuts or real terms cuts, taking inflation into account.

And Leeds is not alone, the latest figures from The Health Foundation show there has been a real terms reduction in Public Health spend per head by 26% since 2015/6 across all areas nationally.

Our Public Health department do an incredible job across a wide range of issues, such as:

- dealing with deadly virus and disease outbreaks;
- increasing important vaccine uptake across the city;
- commissioning:
  - vital mental health services;
  - transformative drug and alcohol misuse intervention;
  - much needed support to help people stop smoking

To name but a few.

Referring back to the Health Equality North report, they recommend that “long term increases in Public Health funding to local authorities and Integrated Care Systems need to be made and ring fenced...” and to “prioritise the development of an integrated, national health inequalities strategy”.

I would like to echo this call to arms. Cllr Lewis, Cllr Venner and I have written to the Department for Health and Social Care demanding they publish their white paper on health disparities. The Government need to prioritise Public Health, as we are doing in Leeds with our Marmot City Approach. Public Health is everyone’s business and it needs to be a focus – as we look to reverse the damaging impact of austerity on our country.

**Q9** Councillor E Carlisle – Further to previous discussions about a potential hotel levy for Leeds, is the Executive Member as delighted as we are to see that our friends in Manchester have introduced such a levy, within their Business Improvement District, set to raise £3m per year for their fair city? The Executive Member was concerned that it wasn’t possible, but might we now reconsider whether it’s something the Council might push for, here in Leeds, via the BID, after all?





**A** Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education

To clarify the discussion from Budget Council, there was never a concern that such a levy was possible or not, but rather an acknowledgment that it remains the case that the Council does not have the legal powers itself to set a hotel levy, only a BID could.

The disagreement in budget council was over the Green Party proposal to spend £20,000 on a feasibility study on a question to which we already knew the answer.

That said, the Destination Marketing and International Relations Team is looking at the options that are available within the existing legal framework, which could include the creation of an Accommodation BID as a potential mechanism to consider.

As Councillor Carlisle will appreciate, BIDs are set up to serve their levy payers and are independent from Council control, so any money raised through a BID would remain with them.

**Q10** Councillor J Heselwood – Please could the Executive Member for Housing provide an update on the number of void properties in the city?

**A** Executive Member for Housing

The number of voids within Housing Leeds is continuing to reduce following the pressure caused by the pandemic. Void numbers now stand at 1.4 percent ( 727 properties ) , a reduction of over 25 percent in the last 12 months and the service expects these numbers to continue to reduce to circa 1% by the end of the summer.

This improvement has been brought about by increasing capacity within teams responsible within the service, increasing contractor capacity and where needed carry out works around new tenants when there has been urgent need to house them quickly.

**Q11** Councillor C Anderson – Can the Executive Member responsible for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles please update me on the extra care housing proposals they were bringing forward, which ones they would anticipate coming to fruition, and which ones they now feel will need to be mothballed?

**A** Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles

The Council has been working with a consortium comprising of Lovell Later Living and Home Group to deliver three extra care housing schemes in the city. Two schemes have already opened and a third is currently being constructed.

The first scheme called Amblers Orchard is located in East Ardsley, which has 63 homes and was opened in January 2021. A second scheme in Seacroft opened in September 2022, and was named Greenmill Gardens with 64 homes.

The final scheme is in Rothwell, with construction starting in July 2022, and is on track to complete in January 2024. The scheme will consist of 62 homes and has been named The Sycamores. Under the terms of the agreement, Home Group will own and manage the schemes, with the Council having nominations rights for up to 60 years.



The Farrar Lane site in Holt Park was originally envisaged to be developed by the consortium who would consider up to four sites. The Farrar Lane site consideration has continued to face viability challenges for the consortium, and as such, colleagues in City Development are currently working on a wider masterplan for the wider site, which includes the continued consideration of extra care housing.

**Q12** Councillor S Hamilton – Please can the Executive Member provide an update on the city-wide PSPO?

**A** Executive Member for Resources

Leeds City Council and Safer Leeds has recognised the impact vehicle related nuisance is having upon residents and visitors, no one should have to put up with this kind of anti-social behaviour and, as such, it's a priority for us in our community safety strategy.

Lots of great work has already been done on this agenda and I'm aware of many instances of effective partnership activity taking place to address issues in local communities and disrupt those involved in such activity including the large-scale motor cycle ride out type activity that we have previously seen in the city.

That said, we know this issue causes significant concern in local communities and are therefore always seeking to exploit new opportunities to innovate and be even more effective. It's clear we need to focus on a holistic long-term solution to tackle this behaviour, working with all partners and local people and indeed those people who may get drawn into this type of anti-social behaviour without our intervention.

Our initial approach focuses on education and engagement, with enforcement used where necessary to bring an end to the behaviour and prevent re-offending. This will involve West Yorkshire Police officers educating and engaging with the public around vehicle related nuisance to ensure that vehicles are used safely and not in a way that could cause people harassment, alarm or distress.

In terms of the Public Space Protection Order, through our Safer Stronger Communities Team, supported by our Safer Roads partnership we recently launched a public consultation on vehicle nuisance and dangerous driving. We gave residents the opportunity to feed in their views on a proposed new city-wide Public Space Protection Order which aims to prohibit dangerous driving and vehicle nuisance in public areas across Leeds and we received 4009 responses to the consultation in total, which shows the impact this type of behaviour is having.

The most common types of nuisances reported to the police, council and referenced in the consultation exercise were issues that included nuisance in relation to quad bikes being driven dangerously, without helmets, wearing balaclavas and being driven on green spaces causing fear for members of the public. Loud music emanating from cars and noise from the revving of engines has also been raised as a concern.

All proposed prohibitions had high levels of support with the prohibition 'Causing danger to other road users including pedestrians' receiving the highest level of support (98%) followed by 'Performing stunts' (96%).

Following the overwhelming response, new powers to tackle vehicle related anti-social behaviour across the city are now in force. The city-wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is aimed at prohibiting dangerous driving and vehicle nuisance in public areas in



communities across Leeds. A Public Space Protection order is intended to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour in a local area that is having is detrimental to a community's quality of life

The PSPO is the first of its kind for Leeds, and whilst this is not a substitute for existing criminal legislation, people will be prohibited from engaging in and promoting activities which are likely to cause a danger to the public, which includes 'car cruising' events. Where a motor vehicle is used in a careless, inconsiderate manner or is ridden off road causing or likely to cause alarm, distress, or annoyance to any member of the public, police have powers to stop the rider or driver.

A breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence which is subject to either a fixed penalty notice of up to £100 or a fine on conviction of up to £1000.

Having this kind of PSPO in place is a step forward and will ensure that the Police and Council have the necessary full range of available powers to stop this kind of anti-social use of vehicles.

**Q13** Councillor P Stables – In France, they have just announced that by the end of next year all of the nation's 25,000 most senior civil servants will have been trained in the principles behind their ecological transition. Given that one of the three pillars of our Best City Ambition is achieving Zero Carbon, would you agree that all Council Members should undergo Carbon Literacy training to equip them to better understand the impact of any decision we take on our carbon emissions and more generally on sustainability. In fact we could go even further and recommend that all elected parish and town councillors across the city undergo this training.

**A** Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space

Leeds City Council agrees that it is important for Members to have a good understanding of the impacts of climate change, and to know how the decisions that we take as individuals, in our communities, and in our Council positions, either contribute—or help to mitigate—our individual and city's contribution to this global problem.

Independently accredited Carbon Literacy training is one proven way of improving knowledge. The council has previously shared opportunities for Members to participate in accredited Carbon Literacy training via the LGA, free of charge, as recently as earlier this year as part of the Member training offer. We intend to share further opportunities when they become available in future.

I would also highlight that there are many other opportunities for Members to improve their understanding and knowledge and engage with these issues. All members will have recently been invited by the Chair of the council's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee to get involved with one or more of the Committee's four working groups. The working groups not only enable any Member to learn more in detail about different climate-related issues but are also an opportunity to help inform both council policy and the Committee's work.

**Q14** Councillor S Burke – Can the Executive Member comment on the recent School Condition Survey published by the National Audit Office and its relevance to schools in Leeds?

**A** Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education



The National Audit Office noted that the DfE is accountable for providing those bodies responsible for school buildings with the funding and support to enable them to meet their responsibility to ensure school buildings are safe and well maintained. Following years of underinvestment, the estate's overall condition is declining and around 700,000 pupils are learning in a school that the responsible body or DfE believes needs major rebuilding or refurbishment. Most seriously, DfE recognises significant safety concerns across the estate, and has escalated these concerns to the government risk register.

Although it has made progress in the last year, DfE currently lacks comprehensive information on the extent and severity of these safety issues, which would allow it to develop a longer-term plan to address them. DfE has improved its understanding of the general condition of school buildings. This has helped it to allocate funding based on better estimates, and target schools assessed to be in the poorest condition. However, there is a significant gap between the funding available and that which DfE assesses it needs to achieve its aim for school buildings to be safe and in a good condition for those who learn and work there. Funding is also often used for urgent repairs rather than planned maintenance which, as DfE itself acknowledges, risks not offering good long-term value for money.

Leeds have been successful with a small number of bids in the School Rebuilding Programme to replace some of the schools with the most urgent need for whole school or block replacement. Unfortunately there is still no timeline from the DfE as to when these are scheduled to take place. One school on this list has this week had water leaking through the roof that requires urgent replacement.

We have previously written to the Secretary of State about the inadequate funding for maintaining school buildings, however there has been an inflexible approach. We welcome the DfE Rebuilding Programme and have requested that we self deliver the schemes which could then be brought forward more quickly, however as yet they have not agreed this approach.

**Q15** Councillor B Anderson – Can the Leader of Council please provide a list of all of the grants and other funding received from the Government in the last financial year for every department throughout the Council?

**A** Leader of Council



Leeds City Council  
Government Grants R

Details, taken from the 2022/23 draft statement of accounts, of all of the grants and funding receivable by Council are contained in the attached analysis.

Most if not all of the revenue and capital grants received in 2022/23 have been awarded, or are ringfenced for, specific purposes. This means that there is no discretion with regard to re-directing the grants for alternative use.

**Q16** Councillor J Dowson – Can the Executive Member comment on the government's plans to force refugees, including those in Leeds, to share hotel rooms?

**A** Executive Member for Communities



This is an inhumane policy of cruel treatment against people who have already suffered incredible hardship, designed solely to grab cheap headlines.

We have grave concerns about this and the impact that it will have on those fleeing conflict and persecution and seek sanctuary in our city.

I am also concerned about the increased demand and impact on services and partners as a result of these proposals.

The council has raised a number of concerns directly with the Home Office and Mears (who is the organisation that is commissioned by the Home Office to provide asylum accommodation).

Earlier this month we brought together partners and services across the council and city, to raise these concerns bringing together emergency services such as the police and Fire Service, alongside representations from housing, health, social care, and children's services.

In our conversation with the Home Office and Mears, we have raised serious concerns about the proposal for room sharing between asylum seekers, and the significant challenges this will bring particularly in relation to safeguarding and the well-being of asylum seekers.

The council and our partners will continue to advocate in the best interests of those seeking asylum to ensure that there is minimal impact on them and the services that seek to support them, and urge the Home Office to reconsider their proposals.

In doing so, we hope to create a climate of compassion and welcoming, rather than one of uncertainty and fear.

**Q17** Councillor B Anderson – Can the Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space please advise what steps they are taking to ensure that bins that are missed but not showing up on the end of day report will be recorded and sent to elected members?

**A** Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space

The council currently send out 74 crews to empty about 83,000 bins every day; which equates to half a million bins a week.

The service provides, without fail, a report at the end of each collection day, including Saturdays, that is emailed to all relevant elected members listing the streets it has not been possible to collect the bins from that day.

This includes detail on what colour bin was uncollected, the reason why and a commitment, subject to resources, to revisiting those streets within the next 2 working days to attempt a collection of the missed bins.

This helps elected members deal with any complaints/enquiries that may then come their way or in some cases to be proactive in posting the information on social media to help residents. The information is of course also critical to planning the next day's work and what needs recovering where resources allow.

The report is created using information gathered by the in-cab units used by the crew Chargehands (drivers) as they record and complete their route for the day. Occasionally



either an incab unit isn't working as it should or the crew is using a hire vehicle that isn't equipped with the technology, in which case the Chargehand will manually record the missed street. It is then input from the sheet once it is received back at the depot/office in time for the end of day report.

A missed street would fail to appear on the report if it has either not been recorded on the incab unit or manually on the route's "task sheet". This would normally be down a Chargehand not realising a particular street should have been collected that day or simply forgetting to record the fact a street was missed. This tends to happen more when the Chargehand is covering an unfamiliar route due to the usual driver being off work. In both these cases supportive conversations take place with the member of staff so they understand the consequences of unreported missed collections and any further training can be provided.

The service and IDS have invested considerable resources in improving the reliability of the end of day reporting in recent times. This includes support for staff through appraisals objectives and in-cab unit training and the purchase of upgraded, portable incab units that can be now used in hire vehicles. The second and final phase of the incab unit upgrade is currently being progressed with 50 units ordered and awaiting delivery. Once completed, the units should help provide a more reliable, real-time picture during the working day of route completions.

**Q18** Councillor K Dye – Please can the Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space give an update on progress towards the net zero target?

**A** Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space

Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019 extensive work has been done towards achieving citywide net zero emissions by 2030. Leeds City Council has delivered climate-related schemes worth hundreds of millions of pounds, published a plan to halve the authority's own carbon footprint by 2025, and begun updating some of the authority's most significant policy documents (such as the Connecting Leeds transport strategy, Housing Strategy, skills strategy, and Local Plan) to ensure they support work to mitigate and adapt to the changing climate.

Our vision is for Leeds to become **the first net zero city in the country, with abundant and thriving local wildlife, and the district best prepared for future climate impacts.**

Climate action is one of the three pillars of our Best City Ambition. Our BCA ambition is that: *"In 2030 Leeds will have made rapid progress towards carbon neutrality, reducing our impact on the planet and doing so in a fair way which improves standards of living in all the city's communities."*

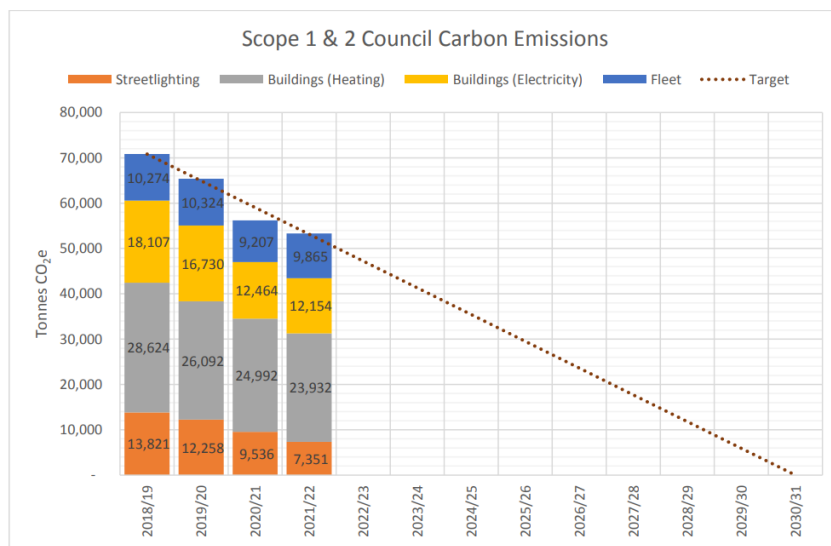
Consideration of a decision's impact on our Zero Carbon ambition is also embedded into the council's formal decision-making processes.

Leeds City Council was recognised in 2022 as one of 122 city authorities across the world leading the way on climate action as part of a list published by renowned international authority, the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). Leeds joins the likes of New York, Paris, Melbourne, Tokyo, Buenos Aires, and Cape Town on the organisation's 2022 A List. Of more than 1,000 global cities that received a rating this year only 12% received an 'A' grade. Leeds was among those cities being celebrated for showing that urgent and impactful climate action—from ambitious emissions reduction targets to building resilience against climate



change—is achievable at a global level. However, this action will need to go further and faster in future years for Leeds to retain this ‘A’ grade.

The below chart illustrates how these figures correspond to the trajectory required to achieve the net zero ambition. This shows the council to be on track, noting that the range of measures being implemented by the council as summarised in the sections below will need to be supported by major national policy, infrastructure and funding measures if this rate of progress is to be maintained.



In addition to identifying scope 1 and 2 emissions, the council is committed to looking at how it can reduce its scope 3 emissions, the measuring of which is somewhat challenging and labour intensive.

However, we have started to capture more accurate data for some of our spend categories as shown in the table below. This will enable us to monitor specific areas and develop action plans to reduce scope 3 emissions. Food emissions will be calculated every 3 years rather than annually due to the level of resource required to undertake this exercise

	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2018/19		Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2019/20		Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2020/21		Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2021/22
Grey Fleet (car mileage claims)	1,232		1,246		587		858
Business Travel (other)	173		199		24		56
Water	n/a		229		158		156
	<b>Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e 2018/19<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Food weight (Tonnes)</b>	<b>Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e 2019/20<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Food weight (Tonnes)</b>	<b>Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e 2020/21<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Food weight (Tonnes)</b>	Not calculated
Food total	8,671	2,741	7,535	2,494	4,990	2,138	

The below highlight the work that we have undertaken to date and our current position within various sectors.



The council will continue to reduce the energy it uses by investing in technologies such as solar PV panels, LED lighting, and alternative heating sources. For example, the LED streetlighting programme roll out has also continued at pace, further reducing energy usage.

In terms of fleet the council already has what is believed to be the largest electric vehicle fleet of any local authority in the UK, with 384 electric vehicles and its first electric Refuse Collection Vehicles due to arrive on fleet this year.

Last year saw us focus on food and its emissions, with a draft food strategy published in the autumn, consultation into the new year and the amended food strategy adopted at Executive Board in March this year. Earlier this month we held the Leeds Food Strategy Action Workshop which saw representatives from multiple sectors come together to prioritise the previously identified actions and the next steps in progressing these.

Our Net Zero Housing Plan sets out how Leeds City Council will accelerate the transition to net zero across housing of all tenures so that all Leeds residents can benefit from healthy, comfortable and affordable homes as quickly as possible. It supports the high level aims and targets contained in the Best City Ambition and the Housing Strategy

Leeds PIPES is a £49million project delivered by Leeds City Council in partnership with Vital Energi to transform the lives of local residents and the community by reducing carbon emissions, improving air quality and combatting the high rates of fuel poverty.

The multi-phase scheme takes heat from the nearby Recycling & Energy Recovery Facility (RERF) and converts it into affordable, reliable and low carbon heat and hot water which is distributed to a range of buildings across the city

It is set to become one of the UK's largest heat networks in the future. Nearly 2,000 homes, commercial and public buildings have already connected including the likes of Beckett Wing of St James' Hospital. Leeds Combined Court Centre and Leeds Magistrates' Court are the latest buildings to announce plans to connect to the scheme. The two buildings will connect as part of a wider programme of green upgrades over the next year.

We have also previously committed more than £100 million towards the delivery of social housing decarbonisation projects as part of its Capital Housing Investment Programme—incorporating a mix of external and Housing Revenue Account funding—with around 5,000 council properties currently expected to benefit.

Planning plays a key role in supporting the standard of new build across the city and ensuring retrofit will not be required. In July 2021 the council carried out initial statutory public consultation on a Local Plan Update, which will update planning policies for carbon reduction, flood risk, green infrastructure (including biodiversity), place making and sustainable infrastructure. More recently, the proposed policies were developed and consulted between October and December 2022.

The changes required to transition the city towards a net zero economy will not be possible without widespread public support and behaviour changes from residents and organisations alike. Public communications and engagement have three fundamental roles: enabling the





successful delivery of projects, explaining climate policy, and engaging the public on the changes that they can take (whether individual or organisational) to help accelerate climate action.

In addition to targeted, project-specific communications support the council continues to work with partners to engage citizens and businesses through a range of approaches. A dedicated monthly e-newsletter highlights regular updates and opportunities for climate action to nearly 7,000 subscribers.

The council continues to take a wide range of actions to achieve net zero operations as an organisation and as a local authority contributes significantly to the city's progress towards its net zero target. The annual report published for Executive Board updates on the work that is underway in achieving its net-zero target. The latest version of which can be located [here](#).

When councillors from all parties voted to declare a climate emergency in 2019, they were clear that the pace of progress towards our goals would not be solely determined by local action. **Many of the resources and powers to take the decisions needed to realise our ambitious climate goals are still not held by the council.**

Leeds City Council will continue to lead by example, seeking to do everything within the powers and resources that we do have to progress climate action. We are also committed to working collaboratively with our city partners, communities, and other levels of government to maximise our impact.

**Q19** Councillor M Robinson – With childcare costs being a significant share of many household budgets, what is Leeds City Council doing to help these families at a time of rising household bills?

**A** Executive Member for Communities

Leeds City Council and partners have been recognised for the work carried out to reduce poverty and inequality and address financial inclusion for many years and have employed an effective collaborative and co-ordinated approach. This was further highlighted in the [LGA Peer Review](#) in November 2022, which recognised the strength of partnership and shared ambitions within the city. This collaborative partnership approach has been the basis for the response to the cost-of-living crisis.

Since September 2022 the Council and partners have been working on an integrated city-wide welfare support approach, to mitigate as far as possible the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis. This has involved establishing strategic and operational groups with representatives from the Council, health, third sector and the Department for Work and Pensions and have expanded to include other key partners where appropriate such as West Yorkshire Fire Service.

The work areas and actions emerging from the meetings have focussed on ensuring that there is awareness and understanding of the support available, developing practical support which enhances existing services, and ensuring the short-term funding available is coordinated and maximised. Full and detailed reports have already been provided to Executive Board in [October 2022](#), [March 2023](#) and a further update will be provided at the July 2023 meeting. These reports detail the activities undertaken under each of the areas of focus for task and finish groups.



In terms of supporting families the following activities have been highlighted:

- Launching the **Together Leeds Cost of Living webpage** [www.leeds.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/costofliving) which is a one stop shop for all cost-of-living information and advice.
- Promotion of **free and low cost activities**, particularly for families, through social media accounts.
- Providing **training and awareness sessions** to Children's Services and social care on where and how families can access support and advice.
- Funding Zero Waste Leeds to run a **winter coat** donations scheme. Overall, between October 2022 – March 2023, 6,269 items of winter clothing were donated and redistributed, with estimated total savings (based on average costs per item) of £132,803.00. Many of these to families with children. Linked to this is the **Leeds School Uniform Exchange** which covers 90% of schools across Leeds.
- Allocating our £7.1m from the **Household Support Fund (HSF)** between last October and March so that approximately 45% of the funding supported households with children and young people.
- In an extension to this funding from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 Leeds will receiving 14.2m. The following approach has been agreed with full details found [here](#) and summary below:
  - o Direct cash awards for all households in receipt of Council Tax Support who are on the lowest incomes in the city, households with children will receive £100, with payments due to be made in late autumn.
  - o Additional payments for Housing Benefit recipients who have missed out on the DWP Cost of Living payments. This will be administered in January 2024.
  - o Childrens and Young people's services have been allocated £500k, and plans are being drawn up, previously this has supported a range of projects including 0-5's in low income households, care leavers, families accessing via section 17 and foster carers.
  - o Funding for the third sector through Voluntary Action Leeds, the Leeds Food Aid Network, Forum Central, and advice agencies. Childrens charities such as Zarach and Leeds Baby Bank will receive funding to support their clients.

In addition, we support the **Healthy Holidays Leeds** programme of end of term holiday clubs (Easter, Summer and Christmas) principally targeted at children and young people in receipt of benefits related free school meals and including those identifying as having a special educational need or disability. HAF provision aims to provide physical and enriching activities together with a predominantly hot meal to eligible children and young people. The £3.5m programme seeks to promote nutritional education and healthy lifestyle messages as well as offering opportunities to signpost families to additional sources of support. In Leeds, the Programme for 2023 has continued, as in previous years, with provision being funded and delivered through schools, third sector organisations and Council Provision through Community Hubs and Breeze. For Easter 5330 children attended over 100 clubs, with 29,542 portions of food distributed. For summer the aim is to reach 10,000 children and people, across 112 clubs. In addition, activity days provided through Herd Farm, West Leeds Activity Centre, Parks and Countryside and Catch Up Swimming are offered with a view to increasing participation levels and progress in this lifesaving skill. Nutritional education and additional food support remains a key element of Healthy Holidays within Leeds.



**Q20** Councillor A Maloney – Please can the Executive Member provide an update on the Healthy street work around the recreations and how it fits alongside other projects in that area?

**A** Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space

The recent street improvement scheme included widened footpaths, enhanced green space, tree planting and segregated cycle facilities as well as traffic calming measures, junction closures and a zebra crossing outside Ingram Road primary school. The changes have delivered a reduction in car usage (in particular anti-social behaviour) and created a greater sense of place encouraging increased activity through children playing and residents spending time with each other. The scheme also provides people in the Recreations easier access to employment and education opportunities in the city centre by linking in with two major infrastructure projects – the recently-completed Elland Road cycle superhighway and Ingram Distributor cycling and walking route.

This scheme also connects into the proposed Holbeck Sports Hub proposals on the old Matthew Murray school site to further promote active lifestyles for local residents.

There are a number of additional projects and programmes that are connected to the improvements in the physical environment of the area including, for example, a Play Streets Enablement Project, led by Kidz Klub that facilitated Play Streets within Recreations, Ingram Road Primary obtaining Out of Hours funding to open up facilities for recreational activity out of school time and Holbeck Moor Junior Football Club now accessing the School supporting over 120 local children to participate each week.

**Q21** Councillor B Anderson – Can the Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space please advise whether all of Leeds City Council’s refuse collection vehicles have the required technology to quickly and accurately report missed bins, and if not, what is the timescale for meeting this aspiration?

**A** Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space

The service and IDS have invested considerable resources in improving the reliability of the end of day reporting in recent times. This includes support for staff through appraisals objectives and in-cab unit training and the purchase of upgraded, portable incab units that can be now used in hire vehicles.

The second and final phase of the incab unit upgrade is currently being progressed with 50 units ordered and awaiting delivery. Once completed, the units should help provide a more reliable, real-time picture during the working day of route completions.

**Q22** Councillor B Anderson – Can the Executive Member for Sustainable Development & Infrastructure please update Council on the initiatives they are bringing forward to the Police to work in partnership to improve speed limit adherence and road safety in the city?

**A** Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

Last year, on average every month, 46 people were killed or seriously injured on Leeds’ roads; 117 across West Yorkshire. Everyone who uses the public highway across Leeds and West Yorkshire is urged to take extra care and be responsible for their actions.



When the adoption of the Leeds Vision Zero Strategy and Action Plan was considered and approved by the Council's Executive Board in September 2022, it laid out the need to work more closely in partnership in West Yorkshire Police and other partners. Leeds Safe Roads Partnership has established new governance and has recently established regular subgroup (6 weekly) meetings based on the 5 pillars; Safe Behaviours and People, Safe Roads, Safe Speeds, Safe Vehicles and Post Collision Learning and Care. The Partnership will meet quarterly to discuss progress and agree on work/priorities to be targeted against action plan. Police are represented across all the subgroups.

Leeds Safe Roads Partnership Education Subgroup has been set up and has membership from WYP who report back on the different types of road safety education they deliver across Leeds.

Operation SPARC (Supporting Partnership Action to Reduce Road Casualties) – funding has been agreed to support police overtime focusing on 'fatal 5' offences such as careless driving, drink and drug driving, not wearing a seatbelt, excessive speed and distracted driving including mobile phone use. This overtime will be deployed in areas where high rates of collisions occur.

Operation Close Pass involving cyclists and for the first time, horse riders will be implemented on Leeds roads to educate drivers from August 2023. This initiative will involve police cyclists, mounted police and members of the Influencing Travel Behaviour Team. Drivers driving too close will be offered enforcement or education out at the roadside when observed driving too close.

Road Safety Communications via social media and Variable Speed Messaging Boards (VMS) sited across the city are used to promote regular and targeted road safety messages in line with Police Chief Commissioner's Calendar. Such communications at a local, regional and national level are going to be key in the success of Vision Zero initiatives.

West Yorkshire Safe Roads Partnership and West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership updated the Speed Camera Criteria in February 2023. A programme of installation of Average Speed Cameras is included in the Safer Roads allocation through the CRSTS as well as the installation of hard standing for mobile speed cameras. These changes are having a positive impact in terms of responding to local community road safety concerns and the level of enforcement able to be undertaken. The first permanent average speed camera system will be installed on the Outer Ring Road later this year.

Leeds City Council officers and the Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure attend key West Yorkshire meetings to drive forward Vision Zero.

**Q23** Councillor S Firth – Would the Executive Member for Housing provide a full breakdown of the number of recorded unauthorised Traveller encampments in each ward in 2022/23 and related cost to Gypsy & Traveller Services and other departments involved?

**A** Executive Member for Housing

Between the periods of April 2022 and March 2023 there have been a total of 101 roadside encampments.

80 on Leeds City Council land, 21 on private land.

By ward



<b>Killingbeck &amp; Seacroft</b>	1
<b>Rothwell</b>	4
<b>Cross Gates &amp; Whinmoor</b>	14
<b>Wetherby</b>	3
<b>Temple Newsam</b>	7
<b>Calverley &amp; Farsley</b>	4
<b>Adel &amp; Wharfedale</b>	2
<b>Gipton &amp; Harehills</b>	6
<b>Hunslet &amp; Riverside</b>	5
<b>Middleton Park</b>	7
<b>Roundhay</b>	3
<b>Kirkstall</b>	7
<b>Armley</b>	6
<b>Beeston &amp; Holbeck</b>	6
<b>Morley North</b>	4
<b>Bramley &amp; Stanningley</b>	2
<b>Ardsley &amp; Robin Hood</b>	1
<b>Kippax &amp; Methley</b>	9
<b>Burmantofts &amp; Richmond Hill</b>	5
<b>Garforth &amp; Swillington</b>	2
<b>Little London &amp; Woodhouse</b>	2
<b>Harewood</b>	1

We are currently collating the annual costs attached to these, they can be provided once complete.

**Q24** Councillor B Anderson – The Executive Member for grass cutting will have noticed there are still a large number of complaints coming in about relaxed mowing. What reassurance and message can they give to explain to residents what the strategy of relaxed mowing is, particularly in relation to cyclists and pedestrians where verges and sightlines not being cut back is a major hazard?

**A** Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space

Relaxed mowing within the highway is primarily undertaken along high-speed arterial routes where pedestrian/non-motorised use is separated from live lanes by a soft margin and crossing points are controlled by traffic lights. Reducing mowing intensity and allowing grassed areas to revert to more semi-natural conditions provides an improved habitat for urban pollinator insects and small mammals. Grass cutting adjacent to these roads has become an annual visit in late summer timed to reflect seasonal growth patterns aiming to encourage the formation of native wildflower species seed stock within the verge.



There have been no changes to sight line locations or mowing frequencies which are in accordance with highway safety guidelines as before. This includes relevant areas near roundabouts which are cut more frequently and crossing points which are not traffic controlled that receive more regular cutbacks to maintain visibility. Any other areas where relaxed mowing takes place are where members of the community have made a specific request and locations have been deemed safe and suitable.

**Q25** Councillor B Anderson – Can the Executive Member for Sustainable Development & Infrastructure please advise, by Ward, what the backlog of highway maintenance is?

**A** Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

The backlog of Highway Maintenance for Leeds currently stands at approximately £195M. This is broken down by ward in the below information, as requested.

### Highway Maintenance Backlog per Ward July 2023

Ward	Estimated Backlog Cost (£)
Adel and Wharfedale	£5,877,630.67
Alwoodley	£4,904,601.13
Ardsley and Robin Hood	£4,246,863.31
Armley	£7,060,994.88
Beeston and Holbeck	£10,901,445.24
Bramley and Stanningley	£5,634,414.98
Burmantofts Richmond Hill	£5,520,472.85
Calverley and Farsley	£5,093,193.43
Chapel Allerton	£6,012,372.17
Cross Gates and Whinmoor	£4,369,617.00
Farnley and Wortley	£6,010,868.50
Garforth and Swillington	£5,612,501.71
Gipton and Harehills	£5,434,801.50
Guiseley and Rawdon	£3,258,810.44
Harewood	£6,649,749.30
Headingley and Hyde Park	£7,292,146.15
Horsforth	£4,851,318.56
Hunslet and Riverside	£9,459,370.90
Killingbeck and Seacroft	£4,810,683.82
Kippax and Methley	£4,132,825.14
Kirkstall	£6,849,705.02
Little London Woodhouse	£9,720,498.34
Middleton Park	£5,933,811.25
Moortown	£4,680,270.17
Morley North	£5,051,269.02
Morley South	£6,817,235.93
Otley and Yeadon	£4,989,523.71
Pudsey	£5,433,423.46
Rothwell	£6,272,955.08
Roundhay	£6,292,208.75
Temple Newsam	£3,395,965.23



Weetwood	£6,988,074.22
Wetherby	£5,950,932.72
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£195,510,554.58</b>

**Q26** Councillor C Anderson – Will the Executive Member responsible for Highways and Transportation please apologise to Adel & Wharfedale residents for the absolute debacle that has been the reconfiguration of the Dyneley Arms, work that is now 3 months overdue for completion?

**A** Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

Works started on site in September 2022 and were originally programmed for completion at the end of April 2023.

A number of utility diversions were required as part of the works, and our Contractor, Colas, worked collaboratively with each one to minimise disruption. This included activities such as digging trial holes and trenches on their behalf, undertaking ducting and box work on their behalf, backfilling and reinstating trenching and providing traffic management for the utility providers. This approach was generally successful although BT have acknowledged programming issues due to national resource issues and other operational issues.

Night-time surfacing and lining work is to be undertaken between Monday 10th July and Friday 14th July, plus Monday 17th July (8pm to 5.30am). A closure of the A658 will be required to provide a safe working area for the Contractors, but the A660 and all footways will remain open at all times. Diversion routes for the closures have been planned and signed. The night-time closures have been agreed in coordination with our Contractor and Network Management, as it was seen as the best solution to provide minimal disruption to the network. Following this, from Monday 17th to Friday 21st July, the signal company has been programmed to commission the new signals and undertake slot cutting. This will ensure that the junction will be fully complete and operational by Monday 24th July, before the Harewood Bridge scheme starts in the school summer holidays as planned

With regard to minimising disruption, prior to the works starting we placed information boards in various strategic locations around the region to inform and warn of the possible delays. We have also used the VMS signs and social media to report key milestones or updates. The use of the temporary traffic signals have also been restricted to be between 9.30am and 3.30pm, when traffic flows are lighter. We have also been observing and monitoring traffic flows daily and adjusting the timing of the signals to suit. Unfortunately, any change to one approach can have an immediate effect on the other approaches, plus queues also fluctuate on different approaches at different times, therefore any changes have had to be small to keep queues balanced. Our Network Management team have also monitored other works in the area to avoid overlaps, or we have worked collaboratively when emergency work was required.

Local Ward members have been regularly updated via organised teams call through Connecting Leeds, plus frequent emails with additional information supplied. Residents and businesses have received hand delivered letters providing opportunities for feedback and to ask questions. Key stakeholders, such as LBIA have also been kept updated of progress.



**Q27** Councillor S Firth – Could the Executive Member for Communities please update Council as to when repairs to Crossgates Library on Farm Road will be completed and the building reopened to the public?

**A** Executive Member for Communities

Plans for Crossgates Library have had to be reviewed in light of the NHS withdrawing from the proposals and the increasing financial challenge facing the Council.

A review is underway, including consultation with ward members, about both the Community Hub and Library service delivery options as well as possible solutions for the building, but at this point no formal decisions have been taken.

**Q28** Councillor B Anderson – Can the Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space advise of the actions they are going to take to reduce the backlog of requested rights of way and the establishment of new requests for rights of way and definitive footpaths?

**A** Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space

The Public Rights of Way team seek to balance work on applications for Public Path Orders, local land charge and definitive map searches, with statutory work in keeping the definitive map under review which includes determining applications for modification orders. The recruitment of suitably qualified and experienced staff remains a priority and is progressing to ensure that workload demands can be met in line with budget constraints.

**Q29** Councillor S Firth – Could the Executive Member for Sustainable Development & Infrastructure confirm when the new speed limits proposed for Leeds Road and Skeltons Lane will be implemented?

**A** Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

The Speed Limit order for Skelton's Lane has now been fully processed. The current programme is for the new signage to be installed on site in the next six weeks.

**Q30** Councillor B Anderson – Can the Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space please update Council on the most recent timescales for delivering the route review and when dates for meeting with Ward members will start to be put in diaries?

**A** Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space

A significant number of actions have been successfully progressed in relation to the overall review of the service; including end of day reporting improvements, investment in and updating of in-cab technology, the build and move to a new centralised depot and office with improved ways of working, city wide route review and implementation for garden waste collections, and delivery of a Traffic Regulation Order to reduce access issues.

The remaining task is to complete the city-wide review, redesign and delivery of new kerbside residual (black bin) and dry recycling (green bin) routes.





The various staff, union and Member engagement, consultation and data/information gathering processes and technical modelling work are almost complete, and the first draft of the new routes will shortly be produced. These maps need to be sense checked with operational staff, to provide final opportunity to identify any anomalies thrown up by the routes generated by the routing software.

The maps will then be provided to all ward members to look at, with further opportunity to comment before they are considered as final versions.

The service will provide a number of options for ward members to see/comment on the final draft maps – including drop in sessions at the Civic Hall, provision of hard or electronic copies/links, a Teams meeting, or attendance at an existing ward member meeting. This is planned for August/September. Communications will be sent to all ward members shortly, including details on the drop in sessions dates during August and September.

**Q31** Councillor C Anderson – Can the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles please update me on what is being done to encourage parents to ensure that their babies and children are being vaccinated against preventable childhood diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella in light of a recent drop in numbers of babies and children being presented for vaccination?

**A** Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles

Vaccines are the most effective way to prevent infectious diseases and protect ourselves and our children against ill health. In England recent data from the UK Health Security agency (UKHSA) shows that uptake for the 6-1 (hexavalent) vaccine (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, haemophilus influenza type b (Hib), hepatitis B) has dropped to 94%, below the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendation of 95%. Data for Leeds also shows a similar trend with uptake falling below the 95% target.

In England the latest data shows MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccination uptake has dropped to the lowest level in a decade. Coverage of the first dose of MMR vaccine in 2-years-olds has dropped below 90%. Coverage for the 2 doses of MMR vaccine in 5-year-olds in England is currently 85.5%. This is well below the 95% WHO's target needed to achieve and sustain measles elimination. This means that more than 1 in 10 children under the age of 5 are not fully protected from measles and are at risk of catching it. Data for Leeds also shows a similar trend with uptake falling below the 95% target.

**Current initiatives to improve uptake of childhood immunisations with a specific focus on MMR vaccination.**

The NHS and partners in Leeds have a strong history of working together with services and communities to deliver successful vaccination programmes. As a system we support all national and regional catch-up campaigns for MMR.

Leeds is working hard to increase uptake of all routine childhood immunisations and there are many initiatives underway to support this. High priority work is continuing to increase uptake of the MMR vaccination amongst the eligible population as well as the healthcare workforce. NHS England leads work programmes to increase vaccine uptake of MMR1 and MMR2 with the ambition of reaching 95% coverage. NHSE have allocated funding to support various initiatives to improve uptake, increase awareness and reduce health inequalities in relation to the MMR vaccination. These include:



- Allocated funding to NHS Leeds Integrated Care Board (ICB) to support this ambition in Leeds; part of which has been utilised to employ a number of vaccine coordinators based in the eight lowest uptake Primary Care Networks (PCNs), supporting families (with telephone calls/home visits) who are overdue or have missed their vaccination appointments. Vaccine Coordinators work with families to overcome any barriers preventing them from attending appointments by linking them with other community support organisations. Support can include helping with transport, childcare, interpretation or translation services, access to the internet to support booking appointments or finding information.
- Allocated funding to York Road PCN to pilot vaccination sessions in Children's Centres to target unvaccinated children (MMR 1 & 2) between the ages 1-5.
- Allocated funding to Leeds Child Health Information Service to run a targeted measles postcard mailout to all unimmunised children in the city aged 16 - 22 months.

All services that we work with are being supported and encouraged to increase uptake in childhood immunisations.

### **Programmes of work to increase uptake of childhood immunisations:**

- An extended access clinic is being piloted in one PCN area, with the aim of increasing access by offering MMR vaccination appointments on a Saturday; this model will be reviewed and replicated in other areas of the city if well utilised.
- A variety of social media assets have been distributed to various settings in Leeds, including Primary Care, hospitals, universities and early years/schools.
- NHS Leeds ICB working with Leeds Public Health and partners are using vaccine uptake data to identify practices and communities with low immunisation uptake and are focusing interventions with certain communities or targeting certain inclusion groups. Examples of targeted interventions include scripts created (alongside NHS Leeds Community Health nursing teams) with key information on measles/MMR translated into Romanian/Czech and Slovak to support the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Team to promote messages.
- Leeds City Council (LCC) Public Health have created translated spoken messages in 5 most spoken languages with information about vaccines, how to book an appointment etc.
- World Immunisation week in April this year was used as an opportunity to promote positive vaccine messages to the public via social media channels across the course of the week.
- LCC Public Health team have developed a workforce training video resource, sharing awareness of the importance of the childhood vaccination schedule, including MMR.
- This Summer, LCC Public Health team are working with NHS Leeds Community Health school nursing teams attending community engagement events to raise awareness and build trust in childhood immunisations. The NHS Leeds Community Health school nursing team are also offering opportunistic MMR vaccinations alongside the Year 8/Year 9 missed immunisations at their community catch up clinics.
- The eight PCNs with the lowest uptake in primary immunisations and MMR vaccination have been provided funding to support community engagement and patient education activities.
- Some PCNs are delivering initiatives such as joint 'Mum to be' awareness groups with community midwifery colleagues or starting the messaging around the importance of childhood vaccination early with pregnant patients using congratulations cards.
- Vaccine & Screening confidence training has been circulated amongst our wider partners to build confidence around engaging people in meaningful conversations



about vaccinations and their importance, as well as the delivery of training to Community Champions and Migrant Access workers to raise awareness of vaccinations to local communities to promote uptake.

- Finally, planning is underway in partnership with NHS Leeds Community Health and Bevan Healthcare to utilise an existing outreach nurse to support target communities around key health protection issues such as Scabies and MMR uptake.

**Q32** Councillor S Firth – Will the Executive Member for Sustainable Development & Infrastructure commit to installing accessible barriers, bollards or boulders across each entrance to the bridleway, cycle tracks, footpaths and spurs along the East Leeds Orbital Route (ELOR), and stop enabling anti-social behaviour, criminal activity and illegal Traveller camps to continue?

**A** Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

The ELOR team have been in constant dialogue with colleagues in Parks and Countryside, Highways Maintenance and Traveller Services to address the issue of Traveller encampments on Council land without consent. Measures to protect the Council's land have been taken at various locations across the scheme; these measures include bollards, padlocked gates, and boulders.

Some of these measures have been repeatedly vandalised. When this has happened, we have undertaken remedial work as soon as reasonably practicable. We will continue to monitor 'hotspots' across the site and take proportionate action where necessary, whilst also being mindful of access requirements at these locations.

Yours sincerely

**Kevin Tomkinson**  
**Deputy Head of Democratic Services**



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