

COUNCIL MEETING – 13TH JANUARY 2021

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP3	4/1/21	5/1/21

Submitted by:	Councillor Debra Coupar
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Communities)
Relevant Director	Director of Communities and Environment

On behalf of the people of Leeds, this Council recognises the invaluable work of so many local organisations and individuals, and in particular expresses our huge gratitude to our key workers for their phenomenal dedication and sacrifices during this long period of intense pressure.

Council welcomes the development and roll out of vaccinations in the battle to suppress COVID-19, but recognises that significant challenges still remain.

Council recognises one of the biggest challenges is the huge increase in poverty in Leeds caused by 10 years of austerity and the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, demonstrated by the fact over 70,000 people in Leeds now claim Universal Credit.

Council welcomes local work undertaken to mitigate the impact of Covid 19 on our communities but believes the Government’s confusing and inconsistent implementation of restrictions in response to COVID-19 has contributed to the loss of jobs and rise in Universal Credit claimants.

Council shares the concerns of organisations in Leeds, including Trade Unions, who are concerned by the Government’s plan to reverse the £20 uplift in Universal Credit, which would see support for unemployed people fall to its lowest level in real terms since 1990-91. Council is particularly concerned by the impact this will have on child poverty, with 35,000 children in Leeds currently living in poverty.

Council welcomes the support of key partners to help address Holiday Hunger in Leeds, including the provision of tens of thousands of food parcels to those in need since the start of the pandemic, although Council believes the provision of such support demonstrates a colossal failure at national Government level to tackle poverty.

Council requests the Chief Executive write on Council’s behalf to the Secretary of State to call for the Government to make the £20 uplift in Universal Credit permanent as a first step in helping to address poverty, and for the Government to then develop an urgent national strategy with funding to address the poverty emergency blighting our communities.

White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
Amendments - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting
(including references back)

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)
