

COUNCIL MEETING – 13TH JANUARY 2021

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper Amendment	A1 to WP3	12/01/2020	12/01/2020

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

Delete all after “Council welcomes” in the second paragraph, and replace with:

“the government’s early development and roll out of vaccinations in the battle to suppress COVID-19, and commits to doing everything it can to help this programme run efficiently.

“Council notes that the government is continuing to provide a completely unprecedented level of financial support to help protect jobs and support businesses during the pandemic, including through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme.

“Council regrets attempts to politicise this national crisis by conflating the financial impact of COVID-19 on families with responsible management of the country’s finances over the last 10 years. Before the pandemic, the UK achieved the lowest levels of unemployment since records began, bolstered by reforms to the welfare system that make work pay. Council welcomes the fact that the government has also consistently supported the lowest-paid families, including by raising the living wage, ending the benefit freeze, increasing Universal Credit and Tax Credits by up to £20 a week, and in total putting another £9.3bn into the welfare system.

“Council welcomes the support of key partners to help address Holiday Hunger in Leeds, and notes the government’s £170m Covid Winter Grant Scheme and its £220m Holiday Activities and Food programme, with disadvantaged children able to get healthy food and take part in activities over summer, Christmas and Easter in 2021.

“Council notes that poverty is regrettably not a new phenomenon. Figures show that 22% of the population are currently defined as living in relative low income households after housing costs in the UK, whilst in 2000/01 it was 23% of the population across Great Britain. Council accepts that many families continue to struggle with poverty and that the current crisis has exacerbated these problems.

“Council notes that the government has committed to continue to assess how best to support low-income families, and will look at the economic and health context as it develops this year. Council also believes the ruling administration in Leeds needs to reassess its own strategy for tackling poverty, to see what more it can do to address this problem in light of the current challenges facing our communities. This should include re-examining some of this administration’s own decisions over the last few years which have had a negative financial impact on families living in poverty, such as increased charges for bulky and inert waste collections.”

Motion would read:

“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 government’s early development and roll out of vaccinations in the battle to suppress COVID-19, and commits to doing everything it can to help this programme run efficiently.

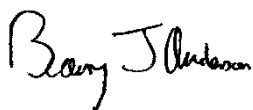
“Council notes that the government is continuing to provide a completely unprecedented level of financial support to help protect jobs and support businesses during the pandemic, including through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme.

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Councillor Barry Anderson

Deadlines for submission

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)
