



Democratic & Central Services

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To: All Members of Council

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL MEETING – 1ST APRIL 2015

At the above meeting, the thirty minutes of Question Time expired with questions 11 to 22 unanswered. Council Procedure Rule 11.6 requires that each Member of Council is sent responses to such questions.

Q11 Councillor S Lay - Could the Executive Board Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Personnel please advise council when the Local Lettings Policy for Otley will be published?

A The Council is committed to developing a new approach to local lettings policies which reflect the needs of local communities and will be called 'community lettings policies'.

The review will include consideration of existing local lettings policies and proposed local lettings policies such as the one proposed for Otley. Further consultation is expected to follow later this year.

Q12 Councillor C Macniven - Does the Executive Member have any concerns about the transfer of the Independent Living Fund to local authorities in June?

A Adult Social Care have been involved in the transfer of the Independent Living Fund for the last eighteen months and have worked hard to ensure joint review visits have been undertaken with ILF workers and social workers from Leeds.

In Leeds there are 47 recipients of ILF and all have been reviewed to date. Their care packages are now in place and will be reviewed by Adult Social Care as appropriate. There have been no complaints from the recipients about the review process or the level of service assessed.

It is worth mentioning that that we have worked hard to maintain people's current levels of support despite the fact that no infrastructure costs were passed to us. The budget for the care has been passed over but this is yet another workstream that we have had to absorb.

Q13 Councillor B Selby - Does the Executive Member believe the current funding allocation system enables Leeds and the North to meet their cultural ambitions?

A Leeds has demonstrated some phenomenal cultural achievements over recent years and continues to foster a highly creative cultural sector. We're blessed with some of the largest and most respected institutions in the country being based here, as well as an ever increasing network of smaller organisations showing what can be achieved with an innovative approach and effective use of the limited funds available. The Council itself has played a pivotal role in the development of the Leeds cultural scene and still maintains, for example, the largest local authority-run museum service in England in addition to providing significant grant funding to organisations demonstrating positive results in the city.

Despite this city's successes, opportunities are often limited by the funding sources available and the distribution of funding across England is far from equal. In 2012/13 51% of Arts Council England's £332million public funding budget was allocated in London alone. In addition to that, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport directly funded 16 major cultural organisations to the tune of £447million, but 90% of that money was spent in the capital too. All of this means that Londoners benefitted from £69 of cultural spending per head, while in the rest of the country that figure was just £4.58.

There is so much untapped potential in Leeds and Yorkshire. The cultural festival that preceded last year's Tour de France Grand Depart was evidence enough of what this region can achieve when thrown into the spotlight and equipped with the necessary resources. It's vitally important that as a nation we diversify and redistribute cultural funding to the regions. A developed and mature cultural landscape has implications far beyond a narrow sector-specific outlook. Culture plays a role in the kind of society we want to build, how outgoing and invigorated citizens are, and the calibre of business and investment we can draw into an area. Leeds' cultural ambition is enormous yet lack real empowerment to drive to the heights we are capable of. The city and the Council enjoy a productive and collegiate relationship with the Arts Council, but a willingness to re-examine the way in which public funds are distributed would only strengthen that partnership for the future.

Q14 Councillor A Lamb - Will the Executive Board Member for Health and Well Being support the efforts of Harewood and Wetherby Ward Members and the local MP in making Elmet and Rothwell the first dementia friendly constituency in the country?

A As members may be aware, Leeds was one of the first cities in the UK to sign up to be a Dementia Friendly city. The work falls into 3 broad categories:

- Increasing the number of individuals in the city to sign up to be Dementia Friends. The whole of the Health and Wellbeing Board

have undertaken the 45 minute training course and we are promoting the course across a range of organisations in the city.

- Getting companies and organisations to sign up to become Dementia Friendly. This involves the organisation developing an action plan on how it can improve. Organisations already signed up are as diverse as Leeds United (the first football club to join nationally), Premier cars and Yorkshire Ambulance. More recently the Police in Leeds became the first force in the country to display the Dementia Friends logo on its vehicles
- Getting communities to become Dementia Friendly - encouraging a community response, either through key individuals working with local people and services (such as of course Peter Smith in Rothwell) or through key local services, such as Neighbourhood Networks or faith groups leading the way. This can involve:
 - setting up Dementia Cafes (there are now 23 in Leeds) to getting local shops to join and display signs,
 - creating safe spaces and support for people with Dementia.

Many communities are now taking this approach, such as Beeston and Chapel Allerton to name but 2 – all of which enjoy the very active support of local Councillors.

- LCC jointly chair the Integrated Dementia Partnership with Leeds North CCG, who lead on this issue for the CCGs in the city. There have recently been some significant steps forward in relation to redesigning the dementia pathway. The CCG's have worked actively with the Local GP practices to achieve to the national dementia diagnosis rate per CCG at 67%. There has been an increase of over 25% in the last year with around 5,200 people now on registers, who have been identified earlier (note the majority of this was before the extra payment by Government) . There has also been an investment in Memory support workers who will be linked to each of the 13 neighbourhood teams and working with practices to improve diagnosis; an agreement for memory clinics to be moved to localities rather than a central hub ; a plan to adopt the year of care in primary care as an approach to supportive self-management ;and the development of a CQUIN for Care homes to increase diagnosis.

I am delighted to welcome and support the efforts of all elected members who are supporting Leeds' ambition to be a Dementia Friendly City.

Q15 Councillor S Lay - Does the Executive Board Member for Digital & Creative Technologies, Culture and Skills agree that the route chosen for the Tour de Yorkshire through the Otley and Yeadon ward is the most appropriate?

A The route for the Tour was suggested by the race organisers, Welcome to Yorkshire and Amaury Sports Organisation who have also completed a full risk assessment in partnership with officers from Highways. Following a request from Cllr Sandy Lay, officers were asked to re-consider the route in Otley in order to take the race through Otley Town centre itself. The route proposed by Councillor Lay was reviewed but considered unsuitable because it would require longer 'fixed' road closures which are more expensive and

would mean significantly greater disruption to residents and businesses. Should Leeds host the event again in future years it would be possible to look at any routes again in the light of the experience of May 3rd 2015, the future operating environment and the funding available.

Q16 Councillor N Dawson - How are the proposals to develop Morley Town Hall into a community hub progressing?"

A Morley Town Hall sits within the delivery of the second phase of Community Hubs programme, with the intention being to ensure that all of the Council's 'front facing' services are given an opportunity to relocate into such buildings.

This seeks to transform an underutilised asset into a public facing hub, where the people of Morley can have access to many Council services.

To this end, alongside the continued work of the One Stop Centre and the Registrars service, some key progress has been made recently with regard to the development of Morley Town Hall as a Community Hub including;

- The creation of a large open space that can now be used to provide extra service either by the Council or partners.
- The continued delivery of Citizens Advice Bureau services from the Town Hall.
- The introduction of free to use telephones for accessing Council and partner services such as StepChange Debt Charity, Citizens Advice Bureau and DWP.
- Installation of free to use Computers that can be used by members of the public to access service on-line.
- Creation a Loan Shop within the Town Hall to provide an affordable alternative to high cost lenders in the area.

Q17 Councillor B Urry - Will the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing join me in welcoming the decision of the Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care scrutiny board to look into Camhs and Tamhs services in Leeds

A The demand for both CAMHS and TAMHS in the city is more than is currently commissioned and provided for. This is recognised as both a national and local position.

There is national concern about the state of mental health services for children and young people. This is evidenced by the Chief Medical Officer's report (Our Children Deserve Better: Prevention Pays, 2012). The National Clinical Director for Children highlights this as a priority in her programme; in the establishment last year of a Health Select Committee to review current CAMHS provision and in the recent forming of a National Task Force for Children and young people's mental health and well-being. The taskforce is looking at how to improve the way children's mental health services are organised, commissioned and provided and how to make it easier for young

people to access help and support, including in schools, through voluntary organisations and online. Further details available via this [link](#)

This and locally identified concerns led to the agreement by the Integrated Commissioning Executive (ICE) to undertake a whole system review of CYP emotional wellbeing and mental health services in Leeds.

This parallel review has been led by the ICE undertaken by LSECCG. In September, ICE endorsed the need for a whole system review of children and young people (CYP) emotional wellbeing and mental health (EMH) services in Leeds. The recommendations from the review have been approved and shared with the Scrutiny Board for Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care and were considered by Scrutiny in March 2015.

It is currently a national estimate that only one in four children and young people who need a service receive one. Nationally there are long waiting lists and extremely high thresholds for referral into CAMHS.

Concerns about access to young people's mental health services locally had been raised with Healthwatch Leeds by members of the public and professionals. In November 2014, young people from YouthWatch voted it as their top priority as a theme to explore in more detail. Similar on-going concerns had been raised amongst the network of young people and professionals working with YoungMinds locally.

I welcome the decision of the Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care scrutiny board to look into CAMHS and TAMHS services in Leeds (Whole system review of CYP emotional wellbeing and mental health services in Leeds) at elected member's request. I am looking forward to Scrutiny's recommendations for how the service can be improved.

By delivering a locally coordinated whole system review, children and young people will be supported earlier, by the right people, in the right place. More children and young people will be seen and will have an improved experience of accessing support and services. Commissioners will have improved knowledge and assurance of the quality of the whole service offer, as well as use of and impact of the services.

Q18 Councillor B Flynn - Given that 1,913 respondents opposed the proposed changes to the sibling rule, will the Executive Board Member for Children and Families now rule out bringing forward changes to this rule in future school admission arrangements?

A The consultation was brought forward in response to specific circumstances that had arisen with regard to temporary increase in admissions numbers and their future impact. It was appropriate to reflect on the impact of those changes on the future application of the admissions policy, and whether any changes to the policy were needed, and it was agreed that this is not required at this point in time. More than half of all Leeds Schools are now their own admitting authority, and are not bound by Leeds City Council Admissions Policy. They may in future make changes to their policies which affect the ability of families to access good local schools. Supply and demand for school places will also be affected by changes to schools sizes, opening of new schools, changes to school sizes and other factors, many of which are again beyond the council's control. Legislation may change affecting what

admissions authorities may or may not include in their policies which affects families access to school places. It is not therefore appropriate to rule out future consultation entirely, but there are no proposals to reconsider this in the immediate future.

Q19 Councillor M Robinson - Will the Executive Board Member for Transport and Economy update the Council on his policy on white parking 'H-bar' lines?

A The regulations issued by the Department for Transport only permit us to lay 'keep clear' bar marking across driveways, pedestrian dropped kerb facilities and accesses which are not conspicuous. Unfortunately they do not permit them to be installed opposite a drive to remove or restrict parking.

If drive access is being obstructed then there is legislation in place which gives Local Authorities greater enforcement powers where parking occurs on a dropped footway/access. Section 86 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 imposes prohibitions on parking in such situations. Under this Act, a 'Keep Clear' road marking is not required and allows Local Authority Civil Enforcement Officers to take action and issue a penalty charge notice if an access is being obstructed.

Q20 Councillor A Castle - What plans does the Executive Board Member have for training and guidance to be given to staff at household waste sites during the initial weeks and months of the new waste permit system?

A The need to ensure that staff are appropriately trained to implement the new permit scheme is acknowledged, and all site staff have been fully briefed ahead of this week's start date. Household Waste Site staff also receive customer care training as a matter of course. It should be recognised that the Council already operates a permit scheme for commercial vehicles, and site staff are therefore well used to engaging with the public on similar restrictions to ensure both a robust and consistent approach, but also one that involves a sensible level of discretion and flexibility. However, the service will also provide a stronger supervisory and management presence initially at border sites to ensure that site staff are supported and that high levels of customer service are maintained.

Q21 Councillor M Robinson - Will the Leader of Council confirm the costs associated with holding the Romanian Elections in Leeds with the Civic Hall used as a polling station?

A They were charged £907.20 which they have paid in full

Q22 Councillor M Robinson - Will the Executive Board Member for Transport and Economy inform me of the capital and revenue budgets, number of staff and amount of office accommodation associated with the Council's City Signs Team?

A The City Signs Team has a managed revenue budget for 2015/16 that is expected to deliver a surplus of £174,500. The service has no capital budgets.

The service employs 5 posts directly in signs production. There is also a manager of the Signs and Print Unit who allocates their time between the signs unit, print unit, mailroom and records management facility.

The City Signs team is based in a unit at Limewood Approach, Seacroft. The unit measures 1,471 square meters and is owned by the council. The unit accommodates the signs unit as well as the print service and office accommodation.

Total Income generated in 2013/14 was £708,260 from the City Signs Team and £1,494,000 from Print facility, both of which are accommodated on the same site.

External income of £57k from Calderdale and Bradford councils was achieved in 13/14 that contributed to income achieved.

Yours sincerely

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