

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 20 March 2019

AGENDA ITEM 14 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

**(1) Question by Councillor Greaves to The Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board –
Councillor Kendrick**

"Whilst I am hugely appreciative of the hard work and dedication of YAS and of the front line ambulance crews and the really difficult work that they do, I have grave concerns over the response times for ambulances across the rural area.

The limited data that I have shows appalling rates in the valleys areas and I am concerned that these poor local rates are lost as it is the whole service stats for the County that are reported publicly.

2 years ago I helped in the fight against YAS's plans to reduce cover at the rural area ambulance station in Honley and we succeeded in retaining cover, but we are still left with unacceptable response times.

YAS fail the "attend 50% of the highest-risk Category 1 calls within 7 minute" target across the Colne, Dearne and Holme Valleys and the response rates get poorer the further up the valleys.

With the exception of Honley (where the rural ambulance station is based) YAS also fail the "attend 90% of all Category 1 calls within 15 minutes" target across the valleys area.

Attendance times regularly exceed 20 minutes for the highest-risk category 1 emergency calls - and far longer for moderate to low risk calls.

Understandably, in recent years the focus has been on the future of HRI and A&E, but Ambulance response times are a real issue in the rural area right now - the valleys area has a population of almost 100,000 people - we are not an isolated little village on the hills.

We have lower ambulance cover, a larger geographical area, poor road links, longer arrival times and longer A&E journey times compared to almost anywhere else in West Yorkshire, but YAS seem to focus their efforts on urban areas.

Because of this our residents may end up paying for these delays with their life - what does it matter where your A&E is, or how good it is, if you do not make it in time?

Has the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board seen data about the response times in the Huddersfield area and, if she has, what is her view?"

The Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board to respond

(2) Question by Councillor Stewart-Turner to The Leader of the Council – Councillor Pandor

“In October 2009, the Council passed a Motion to work towards Fairtrade Status for Huddersfield, and subsequently Kirklees. The Motion resolved that Cabinet should work with the community and other local organisations towards the award of Fairtrade Town status for Huddersfield, and subsequently Kirklees, and supporting the establishment of a Fairtrade Steering Group for Huddersfield and subsequently Kirklees. Since the motion was agreed I have represented the Council on the local network. The Council has always been the lead for Huddersfield, and without a Huddersfield group, Kirklees will lose its Fairtrade status. It has been a struggle to maintain sufficient support from the Council for the Kirklees Fairtrade Forum over recent years.

Can the Leader tell me whether Council wants to maintain Fairtrade status for Huddersfield, and subsequently Kirklees? If yes, how will the Council be represented following the forthcoming local election?”

The Leader of the Council to respond

(3) Question by Councillor McGuin to The Cabinet Member for Learning & Aspiration – Councillor Ahmed

“For how long has the Local Authority known that Almondbury Community school was not "viable" economically?”

The Cabinet Member to respond

(4) Question by Councillor McGuin to The Cabinet Member for Economy – Councillor McBride

“When the Local Plan was passed and a 1000 new houses planned in the Almondbury ward, was it known Almondbury Community School would close for Secondary provision?”

The Cabinet Member to respond

(5) Question by Councillor McGuin to The Cabinet Member for Corporate – Councillor Turner

“When will library services be moved to the former surestart centre in Almondbury?”

The Cabinet Member to respond

(6) Question by Councillor McGuin to The Cabinet Member for Corporate – Councillor Turner

“How far off are we from knowing the future of Tolson Museum?”

The Cabinet Member to respond

(7) Question by Councillor Holmes to The Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment – Councillor Mather

“How many incidents of fly tipping were there for the year January 2015 to December 2015, for the whole of Kirklees and also for the Liversedge & Gomersal Ward?”

The Cabinet Member to respond

(8) Question by Councillor Holmes to The Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment – Councillor Mather

“How many incidents of fly tipping for the year January 2018 to December 2018 for the whole of Kirklees, and also for the Liversedge & Gomersal Ward?”

The Cabinet Member to respond

(9) Question by Councillor Iredale to The Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment – Councillor Mather

“One of my residents has been subject to a number of cases of fly tipping just outside their property this year. What measures does Kirklees Council take in tackling fly-tipping black spots outside private residences?”

The Cabinet Member to respond

(10) Question by Councillor Bolt to The Leader of the Council – Councillor Pandor

“Does the Leader agree that common courtesy should be shown by those in positions of responsibility? What standards does he set and expect from those he appoints with regards to responding to enquiries from residents?”

The Leader of the Council to respond