

**COUNCIL MEETING – 26 JANUARY 2022
 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.40**

QUESTION NO.	QUESTION FROM	QUESTION TO	QUESTION
1/21	Mrs J Slater	The Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services	<p>In referring to Section 17(11) of the Children's Act which states that a child is disabled if the child is blind or deaf, and that any deaf child is a "child in need".</p> <p>As such the local authority holds a duty of care to each Deaf/Hearing Impaired child, some of which can be achieved by supporting said families with British Sign Language courses.</p> <p>At present families are offered free Family Sign Language courses which are basic BSL, however these will only give parents the ability to establish building blocks of communication.....they are not sufficient to enable them to keep pace with their child's BSL development as they grow older. In addition, parents with only basic BSL will be ill equipped to support the child who does not develop speech or the ability to lip read effectively so that they are able to meet their language development milestones.</p> <p>Many parents who wish to engage more fully with BSL find they are restricted because of the high costs involved for BSL courses.</p> <p>Are there any plans for Middlesbrough Council to provide advanced BSL courses for the parents of deaf/hearing impaired children under their S17(11) duty, as other local authorities have done?"</p>
2/21	Mr A Newton	Executive Member for Environment, Finance and Governance	<p>In regards to the underpass on Trimdon Avenue.</p> <p>Will the money be put forward to allow the lighting be replaced in the Trimdon Avenue underpass? As lots of residents are feeling unsafe.</p>