

**A meeting of the Council will be held in the Civic Hall, Leeds on Wednesday, 28th January, 2009 at 1.30 pm**

**Members of the Council are invited to attend and transact the following business:**

**1. Minutes**

To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of interest from Members

**3. Communications**

To receive such communications as the Lord Mayor, the Leader, Members of the Executive Board or the Chief Executive consider appropriate

**4. Deputations**

To receive deputations in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10

**5. Reports**

To consider the following reports admitted to the agenda by (a) the Chief Executive and (b) the Director of Resources under Council Procedure Rule 2.2(f):

- (a) That the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) submitted in accordance with Executive Procedure Rule 1.4(b) and relating to the withdrawal of concurrent delegation to the Chief Officer (Children and Families) be noted.

**S BENTLEY**

- (b) That the report of the Director of Resources on the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2009/2010 for the purpose of calculating the Council Tax be approved.

**A CARTER**

**6. Questions**

To deal with questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11

**7. Recommendations of the General Purposes Committee**

That the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) on recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in relation to amendments to Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules be approved.

## **A CARTER**

### **8. Minutes**

That the minutes submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(o) be received.

## **A CARTER**

### **9. White Paper Motion - West Park Centre**

This council supports the continued use of the West Park Centre for youth and community work, and resolves to remove it from the list of sites for disposal.

## **J ILLINGWORTH**

### **10. White Paper Motion - Management of Yorkshire Post Newspapers**

This Council believes that local democracy and civic governance are strengthened and improved by quality local daily newspapers, and that the Yorkshire Evening Post is a Leeds institution whose contribution to the city is vital. This council also understands that the staff of the Yorkshire Evening Post and the Leeds based Yorkshire Post are currently engaged in negotiations with management at the newspaper to prevent compulsory redundancies and an imposed wage freeze.

Council notes that Johnston Press who own the Yorkshire Evening Post have pursued a high risk expansion policy which now sees them owe more than £460 million whilst the company's market value is only £77 million. Council believes that these financial decisions are responsible for the threat to jobs in Leeds. Council further notes that Johnston Group made a 29 per cent profit in 2007, and that they have an operating profit of £81.6 million on revenue of £293 million for January to June last year.

Council finally resolves that should negotiations fail they will offer all legitimate support for any industrial action that the National Union of Journalists, employed by Yorkshire Post Newspapers, sanction in order to fight these compulsory redundancies and the wage freeze. This council believes redundancies and wage freezes will damage the YEP.

## **K WAKEFIELD**

### **11. White Paper Motion - Tax Incentives for Renewable Energy Technologies**

This Council believes that tax incentives should be provided for householders who wish to supply carbon free energy to their homes by the use of renewable technologies. This council further believes that energy generated from these renewable sources should be purchased by utility companies at a fixed rate.

This Council resolves to ask the Council's Chief Executive and all Leeds MPs to make representations to the Government requesting that it introduces legislation which would enable taxpayers to offset the capital cost of installing renewable

energy technologies against their tax liabilities.

**J MONAGHAN**

**12. White Paper Motion - Regulation of Financial Services**

This Council notes the present crisis within the banking sector and its significant impact on many Leeds residents who work in the financial services industry as well as local tax payers.

This Council agrees that thorough root and branch reform of the regulatory processes is required to avoid a similar crisis occurring in the future.

This Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leeds MPs to demand a full review of the Financial Services Authority and all associated financial regulatory legislation.

**R FINNIGAN**

**13. White Paper Submitted Under the Provisions of Council Procedure Rule 3.1(d) - Non Return of Student Deposits**

Council notes with concern reports on the BBC's Watchdog programme concerning the non return of deposits to student tenants by landlords. In spite of a number of court rulings, Council notes that many students have still not had their deposits returned. Council regrets the damage that such situations bring to the reputation of Leeds as a student friendly city.

Council recognises the good work being done through the Leeds Landlord Accreditation Scheme, and Council will continue to look at ways in which it can use its existing powers to tackle these issues but believes that the government should introduce stronger legislation to allow Local Authorities to deal with this problem more effectively.

Council therefore asks the Council's Chief Executive to draw the attention of the Secretary of State to the case highlighted on the programme and to ask the government what further action it proposes to take to prevent landlords acting in the rogue manner claimed in the programme.

**M HAMILTON**

Chief Executive

NOTE – The order in which White Paper motions will be debated will be determined by Whips prior to the meeting