

## DEPUTATION ONE – LEEDS CHILDREN'S MAYOR

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon, Charlotte. It is nice to see you again. Welcome to today's Council meeting. We would like you to make your speech to Council for about five minutes, no more, and can you begin by introducing your deputation.

CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS (Leeds Children's Mayor 2013/14): My name is Charlotte, this is Lauren, Nyanna and Paige.

As the Children's Mayor of Leeds I want to help promote cycling for children. My manifesto is linked to the wish, children and young people can make safe journeys around the city. I was inspired by Dame Sarah Storey and the fact that she perceived and pursued her career even with a disabled hand. It made me realise that I should pick up a bike, as it is very good exercise and a super way to get around.

To achieve this, I would like to promote cycling in ways such as cycle paths to places like schools, leisure centres and the centre of Leeds so that children and young people can safely get to where they would like to be without causing pollution. To make this convenient I would also provide safe lock-up areas in schools, parks and the centre of Leeds.

If children did not have a bike they would be able to borrow a bike. Edinburgh, London and York all have 'Borrow-a-bike' stands where you can (as the name suggests) borrow a bike for under £5 per person, with family discounts of £15 for four. To raise some of the money for this project we could organise a sponsored cycle race for children and near each cycle lock up area would be posters with a sponsor like ASDA or Barclays. Hopefully the income from this project would mean that we could pursue this idea and over the years Leeds could build up a fantastic, safe cycle network.

Furthermore, this would be a good idea because if we could raise the money it would inspire our children and also help to remove pollution in our environment, resulting in the reduction of some illnesses and creating a fitter, happier and healthy Leeds.

With the Tour de France starting in Leeds this year, this scheme would be a great opportunity to sponsor both international and local cyclists and will encourage the children of Leeds to pedal to success.

I welcome this opportunity to work with both the Lord Mayor and the Councillors of Leeds to achieve my wish.

Thank you for listening. (Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Charlotte, well said. I am now going to ask Councillor Harper to speak.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: I move that the matter be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I certainly second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. All those in favour? *(A vote was taken)* I think that is unanimous, Charlotte.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thanks for attending, thanks for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the consideration of the Council which your comments will receive. Thank you again, and good afternoon. *(Applause)*