

**Report of the Director of Children’s Services and Director of City Development**

**Report to Executive Board**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

**Subject: Response to the Full Council Deputation by the Leeds Children’s Mayor, Charlotte Williams: Life Cycle of Leeds**



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

This report provides a response to the deputation presented to Full Council on 15 January 2014 entitled ‘Life Cycle of Leeds’. The report was presented by Charlotte Williams from Rufford Park primary school who was the winner of the annual Leeds Children’s Mayor competition. The competition involved writing a ‘manifesto’ on an important issue for children and young people in Leeds, with a focus of helping to make the city more ‘child friendly’, with the winning entry being presented to Full Council in the form of a deputation.

The full deputation is attached at appendix 1. It highlights both the importance of children and young people being able to move around the city safely and the importance of promoting cycling to children and young people.

Officers have given consideration to Charlotte’s proposals and have looked carefully at the opportunities, viability and costs associated with implementing her wishes. The deputation has highlighted the desire to increase the opportunities to cycle safely around the city through cycle paths, especially to school as well as providing safe ‘lock up’ areas and the opportunity to introduce ‘borrow a bike’ scheme.

Charlotte’s proposals are important and timely given the wider context of developments in the city and the region:

- Within Leeds, children and young people consistently identify safe transport as one of their highest priorities to improve their lives. Improving opportunities for cycling is

a key way in which this could be achieved and contributes to all five of the outcomes in the Children and Young People's Plan.

- Increasing cycling contributes to the best council and best city priorities of both making Leeds a Child Friendly City and achieving sustainable economic growth.
- Leeds is part of the successful partnership that has won £18.1 million of Department for Transport funding, and contributed a further £10.89 million to develop the City Connect cycle project. Charlotte's manifesto is a timely reminder of the importance of involving children and young people in the current consultation on this key project and other cycle path developments.
- At the state of the city transport event held in November 2013, an increase in the number of cyclists in the city and particularly in young people cycling to schools was seen as a priority issue. Encouraging more people to make more trips by bicycle is a priority in the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (WYLTP) and there is a commitment to on-going investment in achieving this at each implementation stage of the plan.
- With the Grand Depart and the Tour de France coming to Leeds and Yorkshire in the summer of 2014 there is a unique opportunity to embed a lasting legacy around cycling in Leeds and the region. A significant amount of activity is already taking place to realise this opportunity and this report highlights aspects of this and emphasises the importance of maximising this opportunity as recognised within Charlotte's manifesto.
- The Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Board are currently doing a review of the Tour De France and have asked to look at legacy in the new municipal year.

## **Recommendations**

- It is recommended to Executive Board that:
  - (i) A letter is written to Charlotte on behalf of the Board, thanking her for highlighting her vision for improving cycling opportunities for children and young people in Leeds and offering her the Boards congratulations on being elected as Children's Lord Mayor.
  - (ii) That Leeds City Council works with key partners to ensure children and young people are explicitly given the opportunity to contribute to any consultation and development of significant new cycle paths and facilities in the city, including the 'City Connect' project and on-going developments as part of the WYLTP implementation.
  - (iii) Charlotte is invited to meet with key members and officers involved in managing the Tour de France as well as those who are responsible for and ensuring there is a sustainable legacy post July 2014.
  - (iv) That members and officers consider Charlotte's wishes of:
    - (a) promoting cycling for children and young people

(b) ensuring children and young people can make safe journeys around the city

(c) considering developing further cycling paths to places like schools and leisure centres and into the city centre

(d) providing more safe 'lock up' places for bikes in schools, parks and in the centre of Leeds

(e) supporting potential opportunities for raising funds through sponsorship

(f) ensuring Charlotte's wishes are considered at all stages throughout the planning process of delivering a successful Tour de France 2014 and build them into the legacy as and when appropriate.

## **1.0 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report provides a response to the deputation presented to Full Council on 12 January 2014, entitled 'Life Cycle of Leeds'. The report was presented by Charlotte Williams, the winner of the Leeds Children's Mayor competition. The competition involved writing a 'manifesto' on an important issue for children and young people in Leeds with the winning entry being presented to Full Council in the form of a deputation. The important issue chosen was improving the safety and cycling opportunities for children and young people in Leeds.
- 1.2 This report acknowledges the timeliness and importance of Charlotte's manifesto, in contributing to the best council and best city ambitions, in putting the voice of children and young people at the heart of key transport developments in the city (notably the City Connect cycle project) and in the year when the Tour de France comes to the region and presents a unique opportunity to create a legacy and lasting enthusiasm around cycling.

## **2 Background information**

### The Leeds Children's Mayor

- 2.1 The Leeds Children's Lord Mayor Programme is a local democratic awareness campaign that has taken place in Leeds since 2003. The programme is organised and delivered by a partnership of staff from both Democratic Services and Children's Services. It was formally known as "Mayor for a Day".
- 2.2 The purpose of the programme is to actively engage young people in democratic systems as this is the key to establishing long term democratic involvement for our city. It is an opportunity for schools to encourage and support pupils to be aspirational and recognise that their actions can influence change.
- 2.3 The theme for this year's manifestos was around making Leeds a more child friendly city. Participants could base their manifestos around themes within the child friendly Leeds vision.
- 2.4 In total, children from 28 Leeds primary schools sent in entries. These were shortlisted to a final ten by a panel of elected members, Leeds Youth Councillors, Members of Youth Parliament and the outgoing 2012-2013 Children's Mayor.
- 2.5 The ten finalists had their manifestos uploaded to the popular Breeze website for a three week voting period. In total 6879 votes were cast representing an increase of over 300% on the previous year.
- 2.6 The final ten candidates were invited to an election results evening at the Civic Hall on 7 November 2013 to read their manifestos in the council chamber, have tea with the Lord Mayor and to receive a commemorative certificate. The winner was announced as Charlotte Williams from Rufford Park Primary School. Charlotte then participated in the Christmas lights switch on with celebrities from the music and entertainment world.

## A Key Time for Cycling in Leeds and the Region

- 2.7 Charlotte Williams manifesto comes at a particularly important and timely moment for the development of cycling in the region and the city. Data from Sustrans and the Department of Transport indicates that children and young people's aspirations to cycle to school and for leisure are not matched by the number of children and young people who do so. The popularity of Charlotte's manifesto amongst her peers supports this. There is a growing aspiration across the city and the region to improve opportunities for and openness to cycling, highlighted by the partnership formed to ensure a lasting legacy from the Tour de France and the wider investment in sustainable transport across the region.
- 2.8 Charlotte's manifesto should therefore be seen in the context of a number of wider considerations, including:
- That Leeds' children and young people consistently identify safe transport amongst their highest priorities to improve their lives. Improving opportunities for cycling is a key way in which this could be achieved and contributes to all five of the outcomes in the Children and Young People's Plan.
  - Increasing cycling contributes to the best council and best city priorities of both making Leeds a Child Friendly City and achieving sustainable economic growth.
  - Leeds is part of the successful partnership that has won £18.1 million of Department for Transport funding, and contributed a further £10.89 million to develop the City Connect cycle project (discussed further below). Charlotte's manifesto is a timely reminder of the importance of involving children and young people in the current consultation on this key project and other cycle path developments.
  - At the state of the city transport event held in November 2013, an increase in the number of cyclists in the city and particularly in young people cycling to schools was seen as a priority issue. Encouraging more people to make more trips by bicycle is a priority in the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (WYLTP) and there is a commitment to on-going investment in achieving this at each implementation stage of the plan.
  - The Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Board are currently doing a review of the Tour De France and have asked to look at legacy in the new municipal year.
- 2.9 All of which highlight the potential for progress and impact there is around cycling in the city, but equally that there are still significant steps needed to make the step change that Charlotte's manifesto calls for. Given this range of developments Charlotte's manifesto is a reminder to give children and young people a key role in developments already happening around cycling in the city and a voice in planning those to come given the on-going investment in this area. Strong partnership working with schools is already beginning to do this, but there are opportunities to do more.

- 2.10 The City Connect project will deliver and promote a brand new cycle “super highway” crossing Leeds to Bradford city centre which will be supported by local 20 mph speed limits and the improvement of the Leeds-Liverpool canal towpath and the promotion of active, healthy travel opportunities it will offer. This major new investment will build on the significant work that has already taken place in the city with ongoing investment the Core Cycle Network for Leeds of 17 local routes. Other facilities already provided for cyclists in the city include the expansion of cycle parking and a range of other local initiatives such as cycle lanes and measures at traffic signals and cycle paths in some parks. In schools a long running programme of cycle training has been supported by travel plans which include investment in cycle parking and other initiatives such as Scoot to School to support active lifestyles and promote road safety, The Access to Education project in collaboration with Sustrans and supported by the Local Sustainable Transport Fund is demonstrating how sustainable transport, cycling and walking can be developed at several pilot schools in the city.
- 2.11 2014 is a key year to progress work around cycling given the unique opportunity offered by the Tour de France.

### **3.0 Main issues**

#### Opportunities from the Tour de France

- 3.1 The Tour de France is the largest, annual sporting festival in the world, with billions watching worldwide and tens of thousands lining the route and with the city playing host to over two thousand journalists from over thirty five different countries.
- 3.2 The Grand Depart 2014 promises to be the most eagerly awaited event of the year and the opportunities presented to Leeds by hosting another prestigious event are unique. It will provide a platform to show Leeds can stage a major world class event to a global audience. To reinforce this high profile, the city needs to capture the ambitions of a huge range of stakeholders and ensure there is a meaningful and transformational legacy for cycling across Leeds.
- 3.3 Hosting the 2014 Grand Depart of the Tour de France enables us to leave a lasting legacy for cycling in Leeds. Our shared regional legacy plan 'Get Yorkshire Cycling' has the vision for Leeds and the region to be recognised as a great region for safe cycling, inspiring more people to cycle more often.
- 3.4 Children and young people consistently highlight transport as one of their key priorities and in addition to Charlotte's manifesto, on 'Take over Day' many young people shared their ideas about shaping the cycling infrastructure in the city and beyond.
- 3.5 The city already offers children and young people a variety of opportunities to take part in sport, exercise and other initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles and we are keen to build on this, particularly in the year that the Tour de France comes to Leeds. Children's services are playing a key role with schools, offering opportunities for children and young people to participate in cycle related activities. An education resource pack has been produced for schools across the region to provide information and advice to help them capitalise on the interest in

the Tour. This also includes details about where children and young people can access bicycles, join riding clubs and find cycle routes.

3.6 More broadly the Children's Services 'Tour de France' project group are promoting a whole range of cycling activities and opportunities for all children and young people to get involved whilst supporting the teaching and learning, celebration and ensuring a legacy is in place once the Tour has moved on. These include:

- Accessible cycling at Lineham and Herd Farm (for children with disabilities aged over 10).
- Adapted bike sessions at the John Charles Centre for Sport
- The Leeds schools active travel project
- Cycling activity programmes at Lineham Farm, Herd Farm and the Armley Lazr Centre.
- Inspirational and motivational presentations for school children by world record breaking cyclists.

3.7 This is in partnership with or addition to the work of other key partners in the city who work to promote and support cycling amongst children and young people. All of which aims to create the foundations for an increased awareness of, interest in and confidence around cycling in the city, which will then complement the wider developments discussed earlier in this report. Charlotte's input about how this can be achieved in discussion with the Project Group would be very welcomed.

3.8 Clear leadership, management and governance arrangements are in place to ensure every available opportunity is offered to every child and young person to get involved through schools, voluntary groups and well established cycling and non-cycling partnerships across the city.

3.9 Leeds City Council is committed to ensuring cycling opportunities from Tour De France are not lost for young people and to that end it is an integral function of the cycle legacy group chaired by the Head of Sport and Active Lifestyles, City Development. As part of the wider "Cycle Yorkshire" legacy plan, this group is working across city council directorates and external partners to develop a sustainable cycle legacy framework for Leeds. The group is identifying and developing the city's ambitions, bringing together the work that is currently being delivered and offering a focus and a steer on future funding requirements, potential sources of funding and delivery targets. A progress report is to be brought to Executive Board in May 2014.

## **4. Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 The Leeds Children's Mayor competition is in itself a valuable opportunity to consult with children and young people and gather a range of views about how to improve

the city. In taking our ambitions forward to make our city child friendly through our children and young people's plan whilst being healthy and having fun growing up consultation is a key principle which we subscribe to as we aspire to fulfil our priorities.

## **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 There are no specific considerations under this heading.

## **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 Leeds has set out a clear ambition to become the best city for children and young people to grow up in this is underpinned by the outcomes and priorities in the city's Children and Young People's Plan. The Children's Mayor's manifesto supports many of the Council's cross directorate policies as well being key to improving the long term outcomes and vision for the city.

## **4.4 Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 As part of our child friendly ambitions there is a real opportunity to further increase children and young people's access to improving cycling opportunities. These opportunities need to be considered in current inward investment plans for the city and to ensure the Tour de France provides long term sustainability and longevity. This has to be done in a way that recognises the resource investment and is balanced against the expectations in the current economic climate. Significant investment is currently being made in the cycle network in the city, it will be critical that this is done in a way that involves children and young people and is accessible and safe for them.

## **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 There are no specific considerations under this heading.

## **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 There are no specific considerations under this heading.

## **5 Conclusions**

5.1.1 The Leeds Children's Mayor competition provides a valuable opportunity for children and young people across the city to consider and highlight issues that are particularly important to them. At a time when the city and the region are becoming excited about the arrival of the Tour de France and investment in cycling is increasing it is the time to galvanise all of our resources and support the vision into a reality from the manifesto of Charlotte Williams. Charlotte's manifesto highlights the importance of providing safe, healthy cycling opportunities to all those who would like to take them up. In the context of our child friendly city ambitions and the year of the Tour de France in our region there will never be a better opportunity to seize, shape and influence a legacy that will remain with us and our children for a long time.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 It is recommended to Executive Board that:



- (i) a letter is written to Charlotte on behalf of the Board, thanking her for highlighting her vision for improving cycling opportunities for children and young people in Leeds and offering her the Boards congratulations on being elected as Children's Lord Mayor.
- (ii) That Leeds City Council works with key partners to ensure children and young people are explicitly given the opportunity to contribute to any consultation and development of significant new cycle paths and facilities in the city, including the 'City Connect' project and on-going developments as part of the WYLTP implementation.
- (iii) Charlotte is invited to meet with key members and officers involved in managing the Tour de France as well as those who are responsible for and ensuring there is a sustainable legacy post July 2014.
- (iv) That members and officers consider Charlotte's wishes of:
  - (a) promoting cycling for children and young people
  - (b) ensuring children and young people can make safe journeys around the city
  - (c) considering developing further cycling paths to places like schools and leisure centres and into the city centre
  - (d) providing more safe 'lock up' places for bikes in schools, parks and in the centre of Leeds
  - (e) supporting potential opportunities for raising funds through sponsorship
  - (f) ensuring Charlotte's wishes are considered at all stages throughout the planning process of delivering a successful Tour de France 2014 and build them into the legacy as and when appropriate.

## **7. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.