

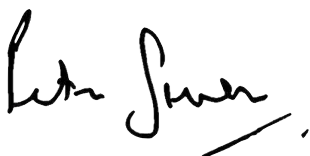
## Foreword 2015.

Neighbourhoods for Living has been very popular since its launch in 2003, this is its 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. This re-launch comes at an important time for our city. There is an ambitious target for Leeds to deliver 70,000 homes by 2028. We are aiming for Leeds to be the best city in UK with strong, sustainable economic growth, a suitable housing mix, and excellent places to live for existing and future residents. Our Core Strategy provides a strong basis for this endeavour setting out the over-arching policy framework which is supported by Neighbourhoods for Living, Supplementary Planning Documents, Neighbourhood Design Statements, and saved policies and documents.

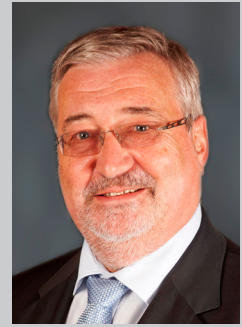
We want our partners to join with us to deliver the highest quality we can for the people of Leeds. We are looking for both quality and quantity in our delivery. Positive character and identity of individual places and communities is important to Leeds as it moves forward with delivery of housing growth. Over the past year I have initiated collaborative workshops, and the Council has been listening to stakeholders. We have engaged with developers, providers, design teams, Councillors, Council officers and other stakeholders to consider the key issues of delivery, and our Neighbourhood Planning processes are helping us understand people and places better. As a city, we have embarked on the Council housing growth programme representing some £73m investment in new housing which aims to deliver nearly 1000 new Council homes. This has led us to refresh our understanding of quality standards, and we developed these under 3 themes: design quality, space standards and energy efficiency standards. Together we are calling these themes the Leeds Housing Standard. This re-launch of Neighbourhoods for Living represents the 'design quality' ambition of the work, and provides further explanatory information following the participatory workshops.

The 'Neighbourhoods for Living Memoranda 2015' assists in providing clarity about key current issues of design quality and we are encouraging better working together. This enables more effective and efficient planning processes. Early involvement of key stakeholders is essential to good practice and we are emphasising this to assist developers deliver good, responsive and attractive schemes. We want to work together to complement the rich character of our city, towns, villages and suburbs, and continue to create the great legacy of producing places and houses that last and are worthy of future generations.

Please look at our Memoranda and refresh your knowledge of Neighbourhoods for Living, and make contact early in your consideration of proposed sites. We are open for business for quality schemes, and we have a strong vision to be the best city for new housing in UK, and we would love our partners and stakeholders to join us.



**Councillor Peter Gruen** (Deputy Leader of the Council/ Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning & Personnel)  
Leeds City Council, January 2015.



*Councillor Peter Gruen.*  
Deputy Leader  
of the Council /  
Executive Member  
for Neighbourhoods,  
Planning and  
Personnel.

## foreword February 2007

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER

*'Neighbourhoods for Living' was published in December 2003.*

*Over the past 4 years it has been well used by developers, designers and planners. We have distributed over 1000 copies and its success as a tool for us all to achieve better design is illustrated by the fact that the first print run has 'sold out'!*

*Good design is central to making successful places. Its value is acknowledged by developers and residents alike. In January 2005 our Executive Board adopted Ten Urban Design principles which underpin our work and these have become strong drivers for all our development work. Renaissance Leeds and the Vision processes with our partners in the Leeds Initiative are embedding the need for quality and character in all our neighbourhoods - creating places which we can all be proud of.*

*Leeds is thriving with development activity and we have important regeneration programmes emerging throughout the district. The 'sustainable communities' agenda is also central to what we do and it is appropriate that the national Academy for Sustainable Communities is located in Leeds.*

*In November 2005 we hosted a workshop with housebuilders, designers, interest groups, planners and decision-makers. This was constructive, interesting and enjoyable, and there was a clear desire to create design excellence, responding to local character.*

*We are committed to continuing to work with developers, designers, communities and other partners to deliver better ways of working together to protect and enhance our environment - to create places which will be well-used and well-loved by residents and visitors - 'neighbourhoods for living' that will last and be worthy of future generations.*

Note: the re-printed document remains unchanged apart from this new foreword and list of contacts at the back.

## original foreword

December 2003

*People want to live in Leeds. There is increasing demand for homes in our city and we must build appropriately to meet that need. We are all very aware of mistakes of the past in approaches to residential development. How do we make better places for us all to live in, both now and in the future?*

*This guide is about managing change. It is vital for us to develop sustainably - to protect what we value for future generations, to improve existing neighbourhoods and to create new places that will be attractive, safe and enjoyed for years to come.*

*Leeds has a unique range of settlements from leafy suburbs and villages to market towns, former mining towns, inner urban areas and a vibrant city centre. What gives different neighbourhoods their sense of identity? The answer is the variety of qualities and characteristics - landmarks, building styles, walking routes, spaces, landscape, local amenities etc. In this guide, the themes of **use, movement, space and form** have been used to develop key objectives and principles to help us understand these characteristics and so build better places to live.*

*Also, developers, architects, planners and landscape architects should work with communities to analyse sites and prepare proposals. This guide points towards the need for good multi-disciplinary design teams working together from the start of the process. This is a crucial ingredient for successful development.*

*I am confident this guide will achieve highest quality design in Leeds and better places to live for us all.*

COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH MINKIN

Former Executive Member for  
Development and Sustainability  
Chair of Leeds Architecture  
and Design Initiative

*Original foreword to previous versions of  
Neighbourhoods for Living*