

DEPUTATION ONE - LEEDS CHILDREN'S MAYOR REGARDING THE WINNING MANIFESTO – HAVE FUN, PLAY SAFE

THE LORD MAYOR: Amy Eckworth-Jones is the Children's Mayor and is a pupil at Strawberry Fields Primary School, Garforth. Can we all give her a big welcome. *(Applause)*

Good afternoon, Amy, and welcome to today's Council meeting. Please now make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and please begin by introducing the people in your deputation.

AMY ECKWORTH-JONES: Hello. My name is Amy Eckworth-Jones and I am from Strawberry Fields Primary School. I am here with my friends Isobel and Tallulah.

Have Fun and Play Safe. If I was Children's Mayor of Leeds I would create a social club or a safe area where kids could play games and hang out with their friends instead of being in danger on the roads with all the cars. There would be one of these areas, or a park, local to schools and homes so after school children can go and do whatever they want. There would be a secret supervisor that made sure that the park is kept under control. I know that many children want to feel like they are trusted and do not want it to feel like a military school. I promise that there will be something for everyone. If it was only a safe area (no park) then I would invest in some skipping ropes and other playground toys to play with.

Every two months there would be a fundraiser where people could donate things and we would have a sale. The money that we raise will go towards equipment and things that will make the club better. We could, if we raised enough money, maybe buy a canopy and do some art and creative projects.

Obviously teenagers would not want to do the same activities as the younger children, so we would have different sections. Furthermore, if there was an emergency the secret supervisor would be on hand to solve any problems, a little like play leaders in our school. This person will sort out improvements and feedback at meetings.

There will be a meeting every two weeks for the children to discuss how things are doing. In addition to the children coming who want to come, the parents of the children can come too. During this meeting we will need to hear children's innermost feelings.

I hope you can see how much I want this and that I can make a difference to Leeds. We can make Leeds a better place for everyone. Let's build the Leeds future together. Thank you for listening.

*(Standing ovation)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move that the matter be referred to the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.