

**Leeds City Centre 2020  
Where we are now.**

Theme	Project	Progress
<b>Welcoming</b>	Promote the diversity of the city centre through events and education	Welcome Group being established focusing on people feeling welcome and safe with close links to Public Realm work. Events Group to be established if required following development of Events Strategy. Santa's grotto introduced on Briggate as part of Festive Leeds 08. Successful learning programme at cultural venues eg Leeds Grand Theatre, Art Gallery and Crime and Punishment at Town Hall aimed at bringing people to city centre who otherwise wouldn't come here.
	Create new easy to follow maps and signs	Base city centre map being produced and locations for integrated wayfinding units being identified.
	Continue to reduce crime	City Centre Community Safety Partnership tackling range of crimes, Business Against Crime In Leeds membership growing, Street Chaplains operating Friday and Saturday nights. Taxi marshalling operated in run up to Christmas.
	Increase number of our city centre ambassadors	Three were in post in Jan 08 rising to five by April 09.
	Improve the quality of the public realm and information at key arrival points.	Property Forum Quality Places and Spaces sub group being formally used as sounding board on Public Realm inc arrival points, maintenance and cleansing. Meetings held and way forward being agreed. Public Arts Group established and a number of developers have agreed to commission public art as part of new buildings. Success of Accumulator, a new seating commissioned for Albion Place and Art Installation in Howard Assembly Room.
	Improve accessibility to and within the city centre	Inner ring road completed; East Leeds link road due to complete early 2009 Two new pedestrian bridges on the River Aire. New southern entrance planned for train station.

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<b>Cultural City Centre</b>	Develop an Arena, refurbish City Varieties	Preferred and reserve Arena sites selected, operator appointed. City Varieties refurbishment programmed to start 2009. Grand Theatre and Assembly Room restoration complete and formal opening on 16 <sup>th</sup> January
	Keep the new Museum invigorated and responsive to changing needs with regular visiting exhibitions.	Footfall higher than anticipated, and Museum receiving good reviews. Innovative exhibition plan in place for the museum.
	Improve access to culture for young people	Leeds is one of only 10 authorities to gain Find Your Talent funding which will investigate ways to improve young peoples access to culture, including accessing many of the city centre venues. There is £2.5m available over 3 years. New website design for young people is due March 2009 which will include information on all cultural opportunities they can access. New learning officers in major Heritage venues and innovative learning programmes being introduced. 'Breeze has talent' event discovered some seriously good talent amongst young people in Leeds and they are now being mentored by key artists eg drummer with Embrace. Leeds Youth Opera performed in Shopping Centres during December 08.
	Organise the Jane Tomlinson Run for Life, photographic exhibitions, theatre, dance, music and opera.	On going. Increased participation in Jane Tomlinson Run for Life,
	Extend and expand the Art Gallery and Central Library	The new exhibition gallery held its first major exhibition – Stubbs - which was a great success. Lyons Gallery refurbished. Plan to develop the Lecture theatre and the Terrace Bar during 2009
	Maximise opportunities arising from 2012, including	Culture working group of key opinion formers in the city developing plans.

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<b>Cultural City Centre (cont)</b>	becoming a Live site as we build from Beijing 2008 to London 2012.	Negotiations ongoing with LOCOG regarding a live site
	Bring new events of national and international significance	Proposals being developed; Arena will also help to deliver this.

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<b>Quality Environment</b>	Encourage high quality design in new buildings and continue to support The Leeds Award for Architecture.	On going
	Continue to refurbish the central pedestrian area to a higher standard	Albion Place repaving completed, public art seating and tree installation due Jan 2009 - March 2009, refurbishment of Lands Lane and Central Square (outside WH Smith's) programmed.
	Make Leeds Europe's Cleanest City;	On going incremental improvements including new litter bins being fitted and chewing gum treatment being trailed.
	Declutter the city centre and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its lighting.	Lighting progressed as streets refurbished; removal of street clutter also being piloted in 3 areas. A full survey of three sites has been carried out. Full report being produced on what can be removed or replaced with different form of 'barrier' eg could guardrail near the Mandella gardens be replaced with raised planters? Large numbers of signs and poles have been removed as a by product of city centre surveys carried out to ensure all parking signs and lines were legal. Officers are looking innovatively at future traffic schemes to ensure options which could minimise clutter are identified.

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<b>Well Connected</b>	Improve Public Transport and introduce tram-trains	Council and Metro made joint bid for funding under the Govt's Transport Innovation Fund
	Complete the Inner Ring Road (IRR) and the East Leeds Link (ELL) Road	IRR completed Nov 2008; ELL Road to be completed early 2009
	Create a southern access to the railway station	Designs being completed, anticipated completion Summer 2010, subject to planning permission
	Create park and ride facilities for city centre commuters and visitors	Being progressed subject to site acquisition/funding
	Have more bridges across the river	One opened on Whitehall Road scheme, another in place at Granary Wharf
	Use the internet and mobile phone technology to provide information on where to go, how to get there and what to do.	Leedscast mobile phone system using Bluetooth technology in place and more transmitter pods being located. <a href="http://www.citycentreleeds.org">http://www.citycentreleeds.org</a> website revamped. BreezeLeeds website being redeveloped for young people to improve their knowledge about what is available for them
	Encourage employers to recruit from surrounding communities.	Ongoing, at present however job losses are more of an issue than recruitment although schemes such as the Arena will present opportunities.

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<b>Legible</b>	Create new easy to follow maps and an improved signage system.	New base walking map to be created March 2009, signage and maps on streets to be improved during 2009/10
	Improve the quality of streets, by repaving and maintaining them and taking away unnecessary clutter.	Refurbishment of pedestrian area ongoing, pilot removal of street clutter ongoing.
	Put in more benches and trees	Five new sculptured benches and trees in Albion Place 2009 and more seating and trees planned for Land's Lane

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<b>Legible (cont)</b>	Improve access to and from the train station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility of reducing traffic lanes outside the station being investigated, southern entrance being designed and planned.</li> <li>• A draft proposal has been agreed between the Council (Urban Design, UTC and Highway Development) and Metro.</li> <li>• Metro are currently undertaking the preliminary design work.</li> <li>• It is anticipated that a draft scheme, together with estimated costs, timescales and funding will be prepared by February 2009.</li> </ul>

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<b>Liveable</b>	Create a city centre park.	Report on feasibility and funding being made to Council's Executive Board in February 09; if approved consultation with key stakeholders Easter 2009.
	Plant more trees on our streets.	On going
	Continue working with partners on the River Aire to improve accessibility, develop a stewardship scheme and encourage more activity on the waterfront.	On going, first waterfront festival organised in the summer 08. Shopping Week finale with Channel Four's Gok Wan drew large crowds to Clarence Dock in Oct 08. Waterfront Association and Aire Action Leeds now well established with good representation.
	Increase the range of activities and facilities (eg Arena, Museum, Waterfront festival).	Preferred and reserve Arena sites chosen. Museum been a great success with footfall higher than expected, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Waterfront festival planned.
	Encourage a broader mix of housing	Ongoing through the planning process, however due to the economic downturn some new schemes being put on hold or redesigned to remove housing element.

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<b>Business Friendly</b>	Promote Leeds at national and international trade shows and conferences including MAPIC, (retail) MIPIM (property) and elsewhere	Leeds in Milan in October 08, Leeds at MAPIC and MIPIM in 2008.
	Provide sector support eg. promoting Leeds as a financial centre, striving to encourage more independent retail in the city centre, helping businesses to source local labour, supporting creative industries.	Ongoing
	Hold Shopping Week, Festive Leeds and Taste food festival each year to help retailers and restaurants promote their offers, to draw more visitors to the city centre, to encourage repeat visits and to increase dwell time.	Shopping Week and Festive Leeds offers both expanded, first Taste festival held. Shopping Week nominated for an Association of Town Centre Managers award.
	Build on the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) to improve skills and enterprise.	LEGI proving very successful
	Provide useful and timely intelligence to businesses	Ongoing through Leeds Initiative, the Chamber and Council services. This is becoming increasingly important as the economic downturn deepens.

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<b>Sustainable</b>	Improve the local authority's own environmental performance in the city centre and encourage others to do so to address climate change and reduce running costs; eg building to a BREEAM excellent standard.	On going
	Improve public transport.	See above
	Address flood alleviation in ways that minimise costs and functional disruption while maximising benefits.	On going. This will be a critical issue for all city centre stakeholders.
	Work with the Environment	Ongoing

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<b>Sustainable (cont)</b>	Agency and others to improve biodiversity on the river and canal and remove barriers to fish.	
	Develop local decentralised energy solutions to the city centre's power, heating and cooling needs.	Feasibility work ongoing
	Create a city workshop and room to enable investors, the community and other stakeholders to work together to promote the sustainable development of Leeds.	Created and being well used.