

DEPUTATION ONE – LEEDS CHILDREN’S MAYOR

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon 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.

OLIVER LARKING: Good afternoon. I am Oliver Larking from Bardsey Primary School, aged ten. This is my friend, James.

If I was Children’s Mayor of Leeds I would promote a scheme to encourage children and their families to get outside, get some fresh air and get fit and healthy. My manifesto is based on the wish - there are places and spaces to play and things to do that are open to all in all areas of Leeds.

My idea is called Open Aire Active Zone.

I was inspired by the London 2012 Olympics and how fit and healthy all the athletes that took part are.

We already have play parks in our towns and villages in Leeds and I think we should have an area for exercise joined on to these parks. This area will be “Open Aire” but have a roof cover like a sail on stilts around the zone to provide shelter from the rain and mean that people have not got the excuse of bad weather to get outside and exercise.

The zone will have a few pieces of gym equipment that will be mechanical - not electronic, because they are outside. The equipment will be like a rower, a stepper, and a cross trainer etc. It is basically like a small gym but it is outside and it is for free. The Council will provide the equipment to start with and they may be able to get some National Lottery money to help pay for it.

Each zone will be next to a playing field as well so that other activities can be organised by the zone manager. These can be things like family rounders matches

or table tennis tournaments. These will be advertised with posters around the zone so that people will get to know about them and join in.

One idea I had was to have a notice board type box on each piece of equipment to use as advertising space. The box would have a locking lid and the advertising poster can be changed by the zone manager. A local business makes a poster advertising their business and when someone is on the equipment they can read about it. The local business will pay a small sum of money, say £10 per week, to have their poster on the equipment and it helps to provide some income and fund the active zone.

I think this idea will get whole families out and about together. (Standing ovation)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, I move that the matter be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Graham Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: Seconded, Lord Mayor.

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

Thank you, Oliver, for attending this afternoon and for giving such an excellent speech. Thank you for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the consideration that your comments will receive. Good afternoon. (Applause)