

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on

Wednesday, 2nd July 2014

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC HALL,
LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR
(COUNCILLOR D CONGREVE)

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2nd JULY 2014

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon everyone. Councillors and members of the public, welcome to the Council meeting. Can I ask members to switch off or put on silent their mobile phones while they are in the Chamber and, as I announced earlier, if any mobile phone goes off, that member will have to pay a fine of £20 into my charity. I am an expensive Lord Mayor! If it is for the children's charity then it is well worth it.

Can I also remind members that the meeting will be Webcast, just a little reminder.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: I move on to Announcements and it is my great pleasure to announce some of the Yorkshire people who were honoured in the Queen's Birthday List.

First and foremost, Councillor Andrew Carter (*Applause*) who has been awarded, not before time, the CBE for services to Local Government.

I will name some of the other ones now:

Stephanie Burras CBE, services to business in Yorkshire;
Sally Bolton OBE, services to rugby league;
Martin Binks MBE, services to music;
The Rev Canon Charles Dobbin MBE, services to community cohesion in Leeds and West Yorkshire;
June Perkin BEM, services to the community through The Growing Zone in Kippax;
Mary Roe BEM, for charitable services;
Monica Walker BEM, services to older people;
Susan Yardley BEM, services to the community In Leeds.

ITEM 1 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 9th JUNE 2014

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I now turn to Item 1, which is Minutes of the meeting of 9th June 2014. Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move that the Minutes be approved.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. (*A vote was taken*) That is clearly CARRIED.

ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 2, Declarations of Interest. Have any members got any disclosable pecuniary interests to declare? It does not look as if there are any.

ITEM 3 - COMMUNICATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 3, Communications. Chief Executive.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. There have been communications received in relation to White Papers including one from Nick Bowles, the Planning Minister, and these have been circulated to members.

ITEM 4 - DEPUTATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 4 is Deputations. Chief Executive.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yes, Lord Mayor, there are two Deputations; one, Friends of Leeds Kirkgate Market; and two, young people regarding apprenticeships in Leeds.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move that the Deputations be received.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I call for the vote? *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED. Now we move on to Deputations. The first Deputation is the Friends of Leeds Kirkgate Market.

DEPUTATION ONE – FRIENDS OF LEEDS KIRKGATE MARKET

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.

SPEAKER: Well, we are the Friends of Leeds Kirkgate Market and here we are again. We have been doing this for a number of years now. Nothing seems to have changed, a lot of noises have been made but there is no actual positive action been taken.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind Leeds City Council of their commitment to address poverty, which is to provide health and wellbeing for the people of Leeds. We agree this is a key commitment and we can all work together and do this by providing access to affordable fruit and veg.

I would like to take this opportunity to show you a quick price comparison – this is why we are here, to show the difference.

From a High Street supermarket – and I would like to say it is not one of the little stores round the corner which put 20% extra on – *this (Showed two bags of potatoes)* is £1 at a High Street supermarket. *That* is £1 at Leeds Market.

50 pence, Leeds Market; £1 High Street supermarket (*Showed two bags of oranges*)

This is £1 at the market, £2 supermarket. (Showed two punnets of strawberries)

This is the best bit, some nice little cherries - £1, £1. (Showed two punnets of cherries)

You guys can actually see the difference. I actually spent £5.75 at the supermarket, £4.91 at the market and I also managed to get a quarter of a pound of fresh mushrooms. You can see the difference and why it is so important to the people of Leeds to ensure we can provide access to this fruit and veg.

It is not just fruit and veg; we have meat as well. You have also got to take into account you buy meat from a supermarket, it is probably reared in Czechoslovakia, it has to be dissected over there, it comes over to England, it goes through the process of being chopped up, put into little packs, cellophaned, again distribution centre and then it is straight down to a supermarket. I think you will find that anything in Leeds Market was sat in a field in Yorkshire a couple of days ago going “Moo” to passers by.

You can see the importance of all this. I would also like to say, friends of Kirkgate Market, we have done a survey and we found some of the most poorest areas use the market to get affordable fruit, veg, meat and fish. Please also take into account on a morning if you are walking round Leeds you will see all the little vans flying around from the market. The majority of the restaurants in Leeds use the market for their suppliers.

There has been a bit of a fiasco lately regarding the car park. Here is a little bit we wrote. The closure of the market’s car park to make way for construction of yet another shopping centre is an example of the double standards in this city. Neither Anderson nor the city planned for the impact this would have on market trade. When it finally closed, instead of alternative parking arrangements being clearly displayed, nothing was made available. There was one sign; it was upside down.

Indeed, even the sign that appeared upside down, when that appeared the NCP car park put up their prices.

The management did actually turn round and say “We have made the public aware”. They did this by putting something on their internet website. I do not know about you guys but I do not always look at Leeds City Council Kirkgate Market website before I go into town for a bag of spuds.

Now then, what is going wrong with it all? Trade is 40% down, as seen on Look North recently. What has really happened is, about eight years ago the rents got doubled. A lot of the traders, they had to remortgage their houses thinking it is going to change, it is going to change. It has not changed and one by one everything has gone. You used to be able to go in there and buy anything. If you wanted a 19th Century French officers outfit you could go in there and say, “Well, what size chest?” It was like E-bay only with real people and we are losing it all. It is all slowly going. It used to make £2m profit a year; it is now making £1m profit a year, but it is still £1m profit which is easing the taxpayer.

What has been put into place to try and stop all this? All the traders have recently received a letter saying they are going to put on a new Kirkgate Management Board, which consists of six Councillors, two indoor traders, one outdoor trader and three independent advisers. However, further down the letter it says, "The Board's remit would not include the ability to make decisions on behalf of the Council. These remain with Executive Board and any delegated powers held by officers." So they have no real powers. What is the point? You are just making people happy by just saying these things.

How can it be made better? Let us be honest, lower rents. Bring it down, raise some standards...

THE LORD MAYOR: Could you wind up your speech, please? The red light is on.

SPEAKER: I do apologise. Basically, let us get some standards, let us lower the rent, let us put some money in and, more importantly, let us get some management in there who want to make it work. Thank you for your time. We are the Friends of Leeds Kirkgate Market. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you very much. Councillor Nash.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

Thank you for attending and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the consideration which your comments will receive. Good afternoon.

SPEAKER: Thank you for your time.

THE LORD MAYOR: The second Deputation is young people regarding apprenticeships in Leeds.

DEPUTATION TWO – YOUNG PEOPLE REGARDING APPRENTICESHIPS IN LEEDS

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.

MS B BEAL: Lord Mayor, Members of the Council, I am Bethany Beal and with me I have Grace Dean and Rachel Lythe from Leeds Grand Theatre.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

You may have seen the video on your website that Grace and I appear in about apprenticeships and the work that we do at Leeds Grand Theatre. We have been incredibly fortunate but I know that many young people struggle with the transition from school to college, university and work and our plea to the Council is to strengthen the support to young people to guide their choices at this important point in their lives.

To demonstrate the point –I want to tell you our stories. I always knew that I wanted to work in theatre but I was not really sure in what way. I applied for Theatre Studies courses on UCAS despite knowing that I did not actually want to go to university but I thought a degree was my only option to get into theatre because that was the only option presented to me by my Sixth Form.

After finishing my A-levels, I decided to listen to my gut and not go to university. Instead I tried to get a job at a theatre, which was difficult as they either required degrees (which I did not have) or experience (which I also did not have) and volunteering was not an option as I did not want to rely my mum and dad to financially support me. So in the end I had to resort to being a part-time shelf stacker at Marks & Spencer and I thought I would be stuck in a career that I did not want to be in forever.

I was really excited when I saw the vacancy for the apprenticeship at Leeds Grand Theatre because it was a way of gaining both experience and a qualification in the industry that I wanted to work in. I was even more excited when I got the phone call from the theatre to say that I was successful in the interview and that they had chosen me as one of their apprentices.

I had such a fantastic experience doing my apprenticeship in Cultural Venue Operations under the guidance of the Learning Team at The Grand and Leeds City College. What I loved most about the course was that it was very practical and I was actually doing things; I was delivering tours, supporting workshops, creating learning resources rather than being sat in a lecture hall writing notes.

The apprentice vacancy was for a year so I decided to squeeze in as much as possible, therefore I seized the opportunity to gain experience in other departments such as Finance, Technical and Front of House and that is when I discovered that my analytical and numeracy skills and passion for theatre were really suited for the Finance department, which is something I had not even considered before, probably because I did not want to admit that I love maths and numbers – but I do, I really do.

Then a vacancy for a Finance Assistant came up so I jumped at the chance to apply for it. I was chosen for an interview and, thanks to all the transferable skills I acquired during my apprenticeship, I got the job.

Now I am working in my dream job which combines my two greatest loves – theatre and maths - and it enabled me to become a home owner at the age of 20, and it is all thanks to Leeds Grand Theatre offering apprenticeships which gave me the chance to gain experience in the arts sector, work towards a useful and relevant qualification and help me realise and achieve what I want to do in life.

Grace's desire to work in theatre began when she joined the City Varieties Youth Theatre, rehearsed at The Grand and performed at the Varieties. She remembers walking into the Varieties for the first time at eleven years old and that was it, she was hooked. She went on to complete her exams, included history and drama – two of her greatest interests. She worked really hard and achieved three As at A-Level.

Academically, university seemed like the obvious next step and Grace always knew university was not going to be the route that she would take. Grace is not afraid of hard work and she was willing to start at entry level and work her way up so, having made that decision, she decided to move to Paris and play Mickey Mouse at Disneyland. Having learned some valuable life lessons, she was ready to take on a new challenge and look for her first role in the theatre industry back home.

After many emails and phone calls to staff at the theatre, Grace landed her first job working backstage as a dresser. Whilst working in this role the opportunity arose to apply for an apprenticeship with the Learning Team. Initially, Grace did not think that she would be eligible because she thought they were for younger people or that apprenticeships replaced GCSEs and A Levels but, not only was she eligible, it was perfect.

She would be taught all about the history of the two venues she had always loved and then learn how to share this in interesting ways. She put her heart and soul into the interview and was lucky enough to be offered the apprenticeship. Over two years on, Grace now delivers a wide range of learning activities and there is no typical day in her job.

It is great to know that due to the success of our apprenticeship, the Learning Team are enhancing their skills and training programme and it is great that we will both be able to have a hand in supporting other young people to explore alternative routes into the industry and hopefully achieve their goals.

We are grateful for the opportunity we had to undertake an apprenticeship, acquire new skills and progress at this early stage in our careers. We know from the work we are doing with the Council that much is being done to promote apprenticeships to employers, young people, their parents and their schools.

While we champion apprenticeships and agree more needs to be done to promote this route into work, our ask of the Council and its partners is that it takes every opportunity to provide more easy to understand information on the changing jobs market to help school students and the young unemployed, their parents and their teachers to make better informed choices about their future learning, skills and employment based on their needs and on all the options available to them.

Thank you. (*Standing ovation*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. (*A vote was taken*) That is clearly CARRIED.

Thank you for attending and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the consideration which your comments will receive. Good afternoon to you. (*Applause*)

ITEM 5 – REPORT ON APPOINTMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 5- Report on Appointments. Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move that the Report of the City Solicitor on Appointments be approved.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I will put it to the vote. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED.

ITEM 6 – SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 6 is Scrutiny Annual Report. Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am very pleased to be able to introduce the Scrutiny Annual Report. Sometimes it is almost like a duty to move a report but on this occasion I have genuine pleasure because I think this report - and I hope colleagues will have had the opportunity to read it – is an excellent report and it shows how far the Scrutiny process has come and matured in this Council.

I want to thank all the Chairs and all the Members across the Council for their work in Scrutiny and, of course, all the officers who very diligently and conscientiously prepare the reports and also mastermind some of the proceedings very carefully.

What has impressed me as I looked through the report was the many diverse areas that the Executive has been scrutinised on and in many cases now there is a greater insight, I think, from Exec Board colleagues to utilise Scrutiny earlier to help formulate views and policies rather than to report retrospectively and say, “Well, how did we do?”

“How did we do?” is still important in terms of performance and your assessments but I can think of every single Scrutiny Board that has made a difference in terms of their determination of particular issues.

In the areas where I have responsibility I know that the Resources Scrutiny Board were relentless in terms of agency staff, overhead costs and ensuring that Directors were made much more accountable for what is a very significant spend.

In Councillor Anderson's Board, he took on and his colleagues took on a very important piece of work around PCSOs which led to some combustible and interesting meetings but at the end of it – and that is the issue about Scrutiny, is it not, at the end of it – there was a significant report, a great debate within and, thanks to the Leader, outside of Council and we were able to settle on a unanimous way forward.

I think the other Scrutiny Boards – and I will not take up more time because I know people want to get on to other issues later on today – also have some significant successes to their credit.

Looking forward to the next year, I want you to build on that success, continue to be brave and tackle issues where perhaps in the past people have feared to tread, look outwardly from the Council. There are lots of areas where there is joint responsibility and accountability and where you can hold us properly to account.

I am happy to move the Annual Report.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I second.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Paulene Grahame.

COUNCILLOR P GRAHAME: Thank you, Lord Mayor. There is no denying the huge challenge we have faced as a Council over the last year dealing with yet more cuts to our budget. However, I am proud that Leeds City Council has continued to have big aspirations for our city and has shown a determination to maximise the impact we can make on the lives of residents with the resources we do have available.

We have found ways of working to deliver better outcomes for residents at the same time as making savings. It has been hard and, sadly, not all services can be protected but where we have been able to change the way we do business, we have made the most of these opportunities.

Scrutiny has a vital role to play in shaping changes to the way we work. As a critical friend we have challenged officers and Executive Board Members to make sure residents and communities remain at the heart of what we do.

A great example of the impact of our work is the Call Centre. We made clear recommendations about the future of funding for the Call Centre. We anticipated problems with the service and foresaw increased activity and, as a result, encouraged directorates to develop stronger working relationships with the Contact Centre. We have challenged the use of agency staff and overtime across the Council and underlined the importance of closely monitoring where objectives are and are not achieved.

Looking more broadly, Board Members wanted to support the drive to tackle poverty and inequality in this city. That is why we have prioritised enquiries into payday loan companies, producing recommendations that now form part of our Council Plan.

We fought hard to ensure consistent accurate advice is provided to people hit hardest by welfare reforms. We examined the possibility of room reclassification and successfully ensured a contingency fund is available to the Contact Centre to deal with the spikes in activity resulting from Government welfare reforms.

I know the work of our Board makes a difference to people in Leeds. I want to thank officers who have supported us and I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that the next year will undoubtedly present. Councillor Gruen, we look forward to some interesting enquiries. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Firstly I would like by thanking Councillor Rafique and those Members who clearly worked on key enquiries this year and we look forward to continuing those on our Board.

I have been asked to speak about the approach going forward for the Scrutiny Board. The Board looks forward to working with other Scrutiny Boards and undertaking reviews on cost-cutting issues such as asset management and Leeds Housing Standard.

The Sustainable Economy and Culture Board will look to add value for flatter structures and integrated ways of working in line with the City Priority Plan and their obsessions, which are maximising growth, becoming a low carbon city, enjoying an active and creative city.

At yesterday's Board we decided to talk about two key areas of work and we have identified those to go on the work programme. This will focus on Jobs and Skills. We will take a helicopter view on Jobs and Skills across all directorates within the Council. We will look at third sector organisations and private sector to ensure that the connectivity is there for those people who desperately need work.

We will look at the emerging opportunities in retail, engineering, construction, textiles, food and drink, finance, business, healthcare and medical technology. We need to focus on these areas because we know that over the next decade 500,000 positions will be available in these industries.

The second piece of work we decided on was to look at the cultural offer as it stands at the moment and incorporate looking at the sports and leisure offer. We will do some pre-decision working on Scrutiny on the Capital of Culture work and we will learn lessons from Glasgow, who held it in 1990, and Liverpool in 2008. We will also do one important piece of Scrutiny work on district heating. Ongoing work will include Tour de France legacy, Let's Get Active Leeds and 20mph zones. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I first of all thank every single member of the Scrutiny Board who has been on with me in the last year and also those who have substituted as well, and hopefully they all enjoyed it as much as I did in the enquiries that we did. If you come on to my Scrutiny Board you work damn hard and you do deserve the reward by thanks for what you have done.

Also, it would be remiss of me not to thank Angela personally for keeping me on the right track and privately telling me on a number of occasions when I am doing things wrong, but c'est la vie.

Can I also reflect back some of the views that Councillor Gruen mentioned as well, that on our Scrutiny Board we do have the trust of both of the Exec Members that reported through to us. They trust us to talk about and to get briefed on a number of issues that are controversial and they have also enabled us to do a lot of pre-decision enquiries this year which has meant that we have informed things.

This year what have we looked at? We have looked at domestic violence and I challenge any member of the Scrutiny Board not to be affected by some of the evidence that we had before us and to see what has been happening. We have also looked into tackling extremism. We looked at the revised Hate Crime Strategy. We looked at what we could do about illegal money lending. We looked, as Councillor Gruen said, about the role of PCSOs. We have also had a watching brief on the roll out of AWC, Alternate Weekly Collections, and our debate and ongoing debate about the number of education staff and in terms of waste doctors. Recycling, we have been keeping an eye on that as well.

Next year, I give due notice, is going to be equally as challenging both in work terms and in terms of the things we are going to look into. We are going to look into prostitution, we are going to look into safeguarding issues in terms of migration, in particular human trafficking. We are also going to be looking into the waste strategy so there are some meaty subjects that affect us all in this city in terms of the way forward that we all want this city to be a success. Thank you, Lord Mayor.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor John Procter.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I guess this is my opportunity to sing the praises of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Board - officially, Lord Mayor, the most interesting and exciting Scrutiny Board in the whole of the Council. It must be the case because Councillor Paulene Grahame is not just content with her own Scrutiny Board, she volunteers for double punishment and comes and sits on my Scrutiny Board as well, such is the enjoyment. I hear she is trying to learn from my left – I could not possibly comment. My life would not be worth living on the Scrutiny Board either!

Anyway, Lord Mayor, I cannot help but be a little bit concerned when I heard Councillor Gruen sing the praises of the work of Scrutiny Board. That seems to me we have all got to collectively try harder because the role, clearly, of Scrutiny is not only to keep an eye on the officer corps – very important, Chief Executive – but also to keep an eye on the Executive of Council. Effectively, it is the only committee, series of committees of Council that enable all of us to keep an eye on what effectively is a very small select group of members who sit on the Executive Board. What I said to the new members of my Scrutiny Board was, that is precisely our job. Our job is not to go easy on people from our own Party or anything like that, it is to get into the ribs of the varying issues.

I am not quite so sure that Councillor Gruen and Councillor Lewis trust our Scrutiny Board, Councillor Anderson. I would like to think that they are wary of us and I think that their performance at our last meeting would echo that.

I will close by giving some thanks, Lord Mayor. We lost three members of our Scrutiny Board last year: Councillor Lay, who gave a great contribution to the work we did in terms of housing growth; also Councillor Atha, due to retirement, of course; but someone who will be perhaps the most missed from our Scrutiny Board is Councillor Vonnie Morgan, who actually kept reminding us, at every meeting, I might say, about the pressing issues and pressing needs of inner city regeneration and as that is one of the major focuses of our Board, she did a sterling job. Councillor Morgan, you will have to pass the baton on to another one of your colleagues who now sits on our Scrutiny Board. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am not a Scrutiny Board Chair but I am a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board. I am only mentioning this because the Health and Wellbeing Board is looking at some really big issues facing our city and virtually every month at some point there is a headline like *that (showing newspaper)* in the Yorkshire Evening Post which talks about a new challenge facing our NHS facilities and the health hierarchy in the city. Some of the biggest challenges that we have got is integrating our social care and our health services to get them to work together, to align budgets, and I am impressed – it is quite scary being on that Board because the agendas are so huge but I am impressed, and that is why I am speaking now, by the commitment that has been

shown not just by the new Chair – and I am not sure many Members understand that the Chairs of Scrutiny Boards do not just turn up and sit behind a chair and Chair the meeting. They do hours and hours and hours of briefings. I know that Paulene Grahame, for instance, is at every Executive Board so that if she is scrutinising decisions that are made at that Executive Board, she actually understands how those decisions were made and what was intended to come out of those decisions and does not just rely on an agenda paper to inform of those decisions. I know that Councillor Debra Coupar has made a commitment to attend every Health and Wellbeing Board that she can, every meeting of that, so that she can get the same understanding and then take that back to the members of her Board to support them to scrutinise most effectively.

I think it is particularly crucial at this stage because there is so much to take in between the Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Scrutiny Board. We need a very close relationship to understand who takes on what at what time so that we are not duplicating and we actually get really good outcomes for our city in a really short period of time.

I just wanted to say thank you, as a member of that Health and Wellbeing Board, to know that that relationship is there and it is ongoing. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: I thought when Councillor Golton was getting up that he was going to thank his colleague, Councillor Chapman, for all the work that she had done in terms of Children's Scrutiny so perhaps on his behalf and Council's behalf I would like to do that.

Also, I agree with Councillor Procter. I think he should keep a very careful eye on members of the Executive Board, in particular Councillor Andrew Carter and Councillor Stewart Golton. I agree entirely that they need to have a firm grip on them.

Thank you for all your comments. I think Scrutiny Boards will continue to be challenging and we are right to be wary but also optimistic and confident in the work they do. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Gruen. I thought someone might have mentioned this but I would like to point out the hard work and how we should be grateful to those Members who have worked on the Armed Forces work. They carried out a lot of work and the day went with precision, so I think we should all thank them as well. (*Applause*)

I am now going to call for the vote on the Scrutiny Annual Report. (*A vote was taken*) That is clearly CARRIED.

ITEM 7 – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 7 is Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances. Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: I move in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: I second, Lord Mayor, and reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor, there are many cities stuck with urban myths they cannot get rid of. No doubt some folk believe that you have to take care when going to the toilet in New York in case you get bitten by one of the crocodiles that live in the sewers. Leeds's own urban myth is that its population is much bigger than it really is. People have been counted more or less officially even though they do not exist and this is set out in paragraph 4 on page 29 of this report and again in paragraph 6 on page 30. According to the report, Leeds has nearly 800,000 people, 798,800 to be precise. It may be in a race with Birmingham to see which can be the bigger.

Although this is demonstrably a myth, a body chaired by as distinguished a figure as Sir Rodney Brooke clearly believes in it. In fact, at the 2011 census the population of Leeds was 715,470, not nearly 800,000 and that was an increase of 5% since 2001, not 11.6%.

What is the importance of this? Does it mean that Keith Wakefield is being paid too much or is he trying to build a replica of Birmingham in our green and pleasant land? Even if he was it probably would not make much difference in itself. The real importance which affects us all is that through its Local Development Framework Site Allocations process, based on those inflated population estimates, Leeds has adopted a target of finding land for 74,000 new dwellings by 2028 to accommodate many tens of thousands of people who have been proved by the 2011 census not to exist, and further population growth beyond that which will not exist in the future.

The LDF is as misinformed as Sir Rodney and his colleagues. It is stuck with the same myth.

As Members are beginning to see through the LDF Site Allocations process, we will have to make largely unnecessary inroads into our urban green spaces and green belt all around the city to meet these targets. Once lost, green spaces and green belt are unlikely to be regained.

The most relevant 2011 census data were published in the Spring of 2013. By now they should have been passed on to Sir Rodney and his team. All the targets and other figures within the LDF could and should have been adjusted in time for the LDF Core Strategy hearings in October 2013. I managed that in an afternoon and I am sure that our officers could have done the same if they had been asked to do so. If they had they could have sent Sir Rodney a copy and reassured him that it would be safe to put New York back on his holiday list. Thank you, Lord Mayor.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: In the last debate we talked about how sometimes it is as important how a decision is made as much as what decision is made and I have been warned in the past do not talk about money, it is vulgar and you will never get applause for it.

On this occasion this report has come back to us from the IRP. It does not have a narrative. Previously when we have discussed our remuneration as Councillors we have actually worked together very effectively and we did take a 3%

pay cut, I seem to remember, when we realised that we had to tighten our belts a lot as a Council and show common purpose with the employees of the Council in terms of some of the challenges that were there.

This report does not actually have any narrative attached to it and most Members are not aware of the reason for it coming to us, and I am just wanting to make a plea that when we do this exercise in the future, we do actually ensure that it is not just a top-down decision that comes from the Executive, gets sent to the IRP for approval and then comes back to the Council, and that those who are affected by it do have input to actually talk about what is involved. It is all about job descriptions, it is all about how we carry on our role as Councillors, whether it is in our local capacity but also in those capacities where we have special responsibilities.

We have had a Commission for Local Government recently which talked about how we really need to do things differently and at each level we can offer our own gifts. There has been a big issue in the past about parity of esteem between the Executive and Scrutiny. Not involving Scrutiny in work such as this does not help that and I think that is, as I said, an opportunity which is lost. We have had examples today from the Tour de France and I have to say for some of us that were there last night at the Victoria Gate, when it comes to attracting inward investment and partnership from the private sector, joint party working is essential to making that happen to create the stability for those decisions to be made. Maybe the Opposition should be brought in to discuss these things before they get decided.

When, of course, we are looking into our neighbourhoods and we are making different decisions and we need to work differently as a Council because there is less resource to go round we might just do it differently. Scrutiny is there to forensically look at how decisions are made within departments, within teams, see if we can do things differently and save money but also our Local Councillors do so on the local level and Area Chairs have a role in taking that forward.

I do see that that has been referred to here because of the...

THE LORD MAYOR: Red light, Councillor Golton, please finish.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: I will leave it at that, thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Wakefield to sum up.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I do not know whether to praise Tom Leadley for his abuse of it or to criticise him but that was all about planning, Tom, so well done and there will be another opportunity later on.

As we know, the Independent Remuneration Panel does not involved elected Members. It is done at arm's length. If anybody has read the report, then you will see that what they recognise is this Council has rejected their advice consistently, year after year, that Members since 2010 have actually taken a wage freeze alongside millions of other public sector employees, particularly those on low wages, and that is the right thing I think all Parties agree.

I think the process that Stewart has got concerns about, it is probably because he has misread the process or he does not understand. What they have tried to say is that they have taken a view of responsibilities as they have changed and, as you know, for years they said Leaders should be paid on the same level as Back Bench MPs. We have rejected that firmly along with other things, but what they have done is used the argument about responsibilities and changes. You have got

the one about Community Committees, they are taking on increasing responsibilities and therefore they have been given additional money.

You have also got the argument about some, like the Standards Committee, not taking on the responsibilities and duties and they have been lowered along with other colleagues on Police and so on.

I think the important thing is to recognise that it is a difficult thing for Members to do and Independent Remuneration do argue that if you want to retain democracy, if you want to retain diversity then you have to try to remunerate people, particularly young people, so there is a reasonable amount of career with them. I think that is a really important point.

The overall review of these which you have been consulted on, according to Councillor Gruen, and he was the one that read this, you were consulted on, you were told about Area Committees – if not you and Councillor Gruen need to talk because he is telling me one thing and I am listening to your body language but the important thing about this is that overall we made decisions that saved £30,000 on Members allowances. I think in this climate we have to show that sympathy, that empathy with public sector workers.

Of course there is a good argument to increase certain people, of course there is a good argument not to do anything but I think we have to recognise the changing world of elected Members, particularly in Community Committees, some of those also on regulatory committees and so on and try to let these experts guide us into a reasonable and fair account.

I think the positive news is that this Council has saved £30,000 as a result of the Independent Remuneration Panel. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: I will now call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED.

ITEM 8 - QUESTIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move on to Questions where, for a period of 30 minutes Members of the Council can ask questions of the Executive. Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: Lord Mayor, I was going to ask the leave of Council to swap two of our questions round but, as Councillor Robinson has not yet arrived – I expected him to be slightly late – I will not be asking for that permission.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: I think technically I do not second that one.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: Can the Executive member with responsibility for Planning please confirm that he is now willing to look again at the interim PAS release housing policy brought forward by his administration in the light of recent events?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR P GRUEN: I think this is a question which goes to the heart of the Core Strategy and I am very pleased to report to Council that since we last met we have made very significant progress as one of the few Councils, it seems, where the Core Strategy is proceeding towards an imminent report from the Inspector and we believe we are heading towards adopting a sound plan later this year.

Of course, the Core Strategy and everything within it has been agreed by nearly all Members of Council and I am very pleased to say that this administration has led the way in saying that we have a strategy of building on brown field land first and that the Inspector has agreed that in the first five years 65% of building should be brown field land.

Of course, as Councillor Anderson insinuates, colleagues and I will very carefully continue to monitor and review all aspects of the Core Strategy.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: Does Councillor Gruen agree with me that there has been an error of judgment by someone in that neither the Leader of the Opposition and, as far as I know, the Leaders of the other Parties and also the Development Plans Panel were not advised of letters that have been sent from his officers to Mr Thickett pointing out that the population growth figure which was based in 2008 of 144,000 is now down to only, in the 2012 figures, 81,800, which means we could potentially be around about 40% over-supplying houses, and does he not think that at least the Leader of the major Opposition Party and the Development Plans Panel deserved to be told this information rather than finding out by information being passed by residents and members of the public to us?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR P GRUEN: I am amazed that you and other Members seem not to understand the process by which we immediately put on to our website all correspondence between ourselves and the Inspector and that has been the process and that is how residents have clearly found out what is happening.

You also do not seem to understand that there are regular discussions between the major Parties on the Council about all the issues associated with the Core Strategy.

All these issues come before, at one time or another, the working group that we have and no doubt if there are issues that people feel need to be aired in more detail then we can do that and we have a meeting coming up very shortly.

No, I do not agree with your comments and I think we have explained very carefully that as we are on the point of wanting to adopt the Core Strategy, we are not going to be railroaded and delayed by other issues. Most of all, representing the kind of ward you do and the comments you made only last week in the Site Allocations meeting, I am staggered that you would contemplate anything that delays us in having a sound Core Strategy adopted by Council.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Could the Executive Board member for Transport and the Economy explain what criteria are being used for identifying the next wave of street lights to be switched off overnight and how much has been saved so far as a result of the first phase being implemented?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. The criteria for selection of street lights to be switched off was approved by Executive Board in June 2013, and I think you will have been there, Stewart. Part-night switching is avoided and this is the key bit, on roads with a significant road traffic accident record during the proposed switch-off period; in areas with above average of crime during the proposed switch-off period; in areas with a police record of frequent antisocial behaviour during the proposed switch-off period; in areas provided with CCTV Local Authority Police surveillance equipment; in areas with sheltered housing and other residences accommodating vulnerable people; around 24 hour operational emergency services sites including hospitals; formal pedestrian crossings, subways and enclosed footpaths and alleyways where one end links to a street that is lit all night; where there are potential hazards on the highway such as roundabouts, central carriageway island, chicanes and traffic calming features; where public transport stops are in use during the proposed period of switch-off. That is it.

Since October 2013, 1,240 street lights have been converted to be switched off between 12.00 midnight and 5.30am. The savings made since October 2013 are £21,500. Projected and current number of lights converted to part-night operation for a full year will save £63,000 per annum.

The roll out across the city is a two-and-a-half year programme and we plan to have 8,000 lights converted by April 2016. When all are in place we predict energy savings of £150,000 per year at current energy prices.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton, supplementary?

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. The portfolio holder has just identified what areas will be measured but did not include any measures so that my residents can actually understand whether or not they qualify to have their street lights switched off.

Could the portfolio holder tell me when his department is actually going to provide thresholds so that this can occur?

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: To be honest I am not sure what Stewart means by "thresholds". I think the main thrust is that we are doing it on main roads currently, we will be doing it across, as I say, larger residential areas in the coming months to finish off the programme and I know you have been in frequent contact with our officers about quite how we measure this and the officers have had very long, detailed conversations with you about it – or that is what they tell me.

Just to reassure you, I have not had one single complaint from a resident about our part-night switch off, not one single one. I have had some correspondence from people in Rothwell who emailed me to say that there had been a burglary on a street where we were going to switch off the lights and we had not actually switched them off and that was clearly to them proof that I was wrong. I am sorry, I just do not get that. We are clearly monitoring wherever we are switching lights off but, as I say, there do not seem to be any huge problems at the moment and I do not envisage any. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James McKenna.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Would the Executive Member please update Council on the progress made on both the Kirkgate Market Management Board proposals and the £12.3m refurbishment plans for the market?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am pleased to advise Council that since Executive Board agreed at its meeting on 2nd April to authorise the balance of the proposed expenditure of £10.8m on the proposed improvements and refurbishment of Kirkgate Market, good progress has been made in moving the project forward and I would take the opportunity to outline what has been happening in the intervening period.

Design progress. We have retained the MPS Group Leeds supported by specialist advisers to continue to provide a multidisciplinary design service to develop the scheme proposals to the completion of RIBA Stage E with a view to such proposals being completed early September 2014. In order to help inform both the design proposals and the phasing arrangements, we have procured contractor build ability advice whereby a contractor has provided a design team with practical advice to ensure that the works may be undertaken safely whilst causing minimum disruption to both traders and customers.

In terms of moving the project forward, the indicative programme is as follows. It is intended to submit a planning and listed building application to the Planning Authority by mid July which, all being well, would result in planning and listed building consent being granted in October; contractor procurement for the improvement and refurbishment works has commenced; contractors from the YORbuild Framework have been invited to tender for the works with the first stage tender to be submitted later this month. The programme envisages that the preferred contractor would be appointed by mid-September 2014.

Subject to the preferred contractor being appointed then, the intention would be for the contractor to work with the design team sufficient to submit a second stage tender towards the end of the year with works to start on site in the New Year.

In terms of the Management Board I am pleased to advise Council that the two ballots for the trader reps on to the new Management Board has commenced. It is proposed to have two traders from the indoor market and one trader from the outdoor market on the Management Board. We have retained UK Engage to manage both ballots on behalf of the Council. They are an independent company under contract to the City Council.

Nomination packs have been sent to all traders with a tenancy or permanent stall at Kirkgate Market asking them to either self-nominate or nominate another trader with their consent. Trader nominations to the Market Management Board need to be submitted by 11th July.

Election of the trader representatives to the Market Management Board will close in mid-August and the cost of retaining UK Engage to supervise the process has been around £7,000.

Can I just take this opportunity to give a little other information on an offer we are making for discounted parking for Kirkgate Market shoppers from today. People spending £5 at the market will be able to reduce the cost of an up to two hour stay when using the nearby NCP car park by £2. Market customers will pay £3.60 for a stay of up to two hours in the 600 space car park on New York Street. Shoppers can validate their NCP tickets at the Market's Information Centre at the bottom of Row J on production of receipts totally £5 from Kirkgate Market traders dated the same day. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary question? No.
Councillor Stuart McKenna.

COUNCILLOR S McKENNA: Thank you, Lord Mayor. With the Tour de France Grand Départ taking place this weekend, can the Executive Member responsible tell us, are we ready and what can we expect?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Yeadon.

COUNCILLOR YEADON: Thank you. If you had not noticed, we have got a bit of a bike race going on and are we ready? I think we are as ready as we can be. The amount of work preparation and planning that has gone in over the past 18 months has been incredible and I really want to take this opportunity to thank all the staff cross the Council and all the departments who have contributed to it because the commitment and dedication that they have put in over the past 18 months has been incredible and I have been incredibly proud to see the work of the partnership.

I also would like to thank all Members of the Council for their appropriate constructive criticism when it was needed, your patience when we were passing on information to you and the support that we have received from everyone. It is really appreciated and I think the work and the partnership through both the staff and Members will make Saturday an incredible race.

What do we expect? Hopefully you can see all round the city that we are more or less there. We have got yellow bikes up cranes, we have got yellow jumpers on statues and we have got yellow flowers nearly everywhere. If you did not know that there was something going on then you are certainly missing something.

We have had concerts on Victoria Gardens, we have got the bicycle display in the museum and the West Yorkshire Playhouse is honouring Beryl Burton in the play which is currently being staged, which is absolutely fantastic if you have the opportunity to go and see it.

There is more to come. Yesterday I went on a tour of the Press Centre, which is down on Wellington Place, which will be home to 2,000 international journalists and it is incredible, it is huge, massive, it is a village in itself and that will be there until Friday when they start taking it down and time to move somewhere else.

The riders' parade will be tomorrow night and there is an open invitation to Members by the Lord Mayor to come and experience that down in Millennium Square. On Saturday will be the big day. At nine o'clock the publicity caravan will lead them outside the art gallery and at eleven o'clock the race will begin.

There is entertainment on the streets. There will be drumming groups, a panda on a tricycle – and if you cannot make it in for the Grand Départ you could make it in for that. Leeds will be seen by billions of people across the world in almost 200 countries worldwide and it is expected to be watched by 3.5 billion people.

We expect the benefits to the city and to the region to be in the realms of £100m and the legacy will hopefully be the biggest benefit to the city. If we can encourage more young people and children to get on to their bikes as well as many other people as possible, that will surely make a race to remember.

Thank you to all of you for your support, thank you to the staff who have made it so far and I hope to see as many of you as possible over the next few days. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary, Councillor McKenna?
No. Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Does the Executive Board Member for Children and Families agree with me that the recent figures, both nationally and locally, on young people not in education, employment or training are a positive sign for the UK economy?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Yes, thank you, Councillor Lamb. I think the really positive thing about this Council, this city, is that we are all united in our desire to get more young people back into work and I think the focus that we have had across the city engaging with our partners has been a real testament to the determination that we have got to put more of our young people back into work. It is obviously a top priority of the Council and an obsession of Children's Services.

One of the things we need to highlight is in Leeds the success of the Devolved Youth Contract. Really powerful statistics, of 900 starts three-quarters have progressed into employment, education and training. We need to compare that with the national figures which are really nowhere near as good and I think it is another demonstration that if we are given the powers to do things locally we can really make a difference.

I think it is fair to say on a national level it is a more patchy situation. Obviously we have got the average figures but once you actually delve down into Local Authority areas it is mixed and I think that is where I would put the health warning. What I will say, moving into improving the economic situation, we have to get the aspects of youth unemployment right – absolutely the basic cornerstone of the regeneration of our communities. Young people in our communities have disproportionately suffered as a result of the austerity in this country and everything we do needs to be to support them to get back into work and to get the skills they need to profit from the many opportunities that come their way. Thank you.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary, Councillor Lamb?

COUNCILLOR LAMB: I do, Lord Mayor. Thank you for that answer. Does the Executive Board Member agree with my frustration that so many of the young people that are still not in education, employment or training, having spent a decade in education under a Labour Government, do not have the skills they need to take up the thousands of jobs that are on offer in this city and the City Region, and does she agree with me that we should look to London success in promoting and embracing the use of free schools and academies to improve educational outcomes in our city? Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: A very creative use of a supplementary question. Can I just say, the actual reality in the last three years there has been a 19% reduction in the amount of money going into further education and skills in this country. What we have got to do is get in and reprioritise and make sure that the funding goes into that sector to make sure.

If you talk to business, we are facing a skills crisis. In this year alone there has been a 3% fall in the overall budget coming from Government. The focus from

this Government has all been around academic qualifications. Where is the emphasis on vocational, on the 50% who are not going to go to university, and what a terrible decision to take independence and guidance away from our young people and to make it the responsibility of our schools. This is not the way forward to get young people back into work.

We have an enormous amount to do and I look forward, quite frankly, to a new Government next year that is going to put vocational education at the heart of its policies. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Sue Bentley.

COUNCILLOR S BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Is the Executive Board Member for Cleaner, Stronger and Safer Communities committed to maintaining safety and personal security of old people in their own homes?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Happy to give that assurance in terms of the commitment to safety and security. I am sure there will be a supplementary so I will leave it there and let us see how this one pans out, shall we, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Supplementary, Councillor Bentley?

COUNCILLOR S BENTLEY: Certainly. Thank you, Lord Mayor, and thank you, Councillor Dobson. I do need to apologise because you have taken over Safer, it was really a Safer sort of question but actually my supplementary is really aimed at Councillor Gruen's portfolio as he deals with housing which may make it a bit difficult, so I do apologise. I do not know who wants to deal with this.

In that case I am assuming that you would agree that door chains are a first line of security for some of our elderly folk living in their homes. Can you please explain then why I have been advised that we do not fit chains on uPVC doors which we are actually installing in all our Council property? They can fit chains on wooden doors but not uPVC ones so I would like someone to give me an answer to that, please.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Well, we are all crossing over a tad here. Obviously, Councillor Bentley, I cannot give you the actual specifics on that as I think you have quite rightly said it would fall under my friend and colleague Councillor Gruen's portfolio.

What I will say in terms of the safety measures that we do go to to improve older people's homes, we fast track repairs, we make sure they are done promptly and on time, the new Eurolock system that we are adding to homes is a of a much higher standard than previously done and, of course, in adaptations to make people's homes safer and more secure we place a great emphasis as a Council on that.

I would also like to take this opportunity in the very early days of finding my feet with the new portfolio and some of the great work that is going on with Safer Leeds, a great partnership that is paying real dividends for people in Leeds. Actually it is not only heartening that people are more secure in their homes these days, the figures are amazing for Leeds – a 75% reduction in burglaries over ten years. That

gives us the opportunity to do a lot more focused work and really get to grips with some of the underlying issues facing the city.

Whilst I cannot give you the specifics that you would like on this occasion, I am sure that after the meeting you can put them to Councillor Gruen who will no doubt be happy to take them up for you. It really has been a steep learning curve in these first few weeks but, as I say, when I look at what I believe to be probably the safest and securest partnership in the city between the City Council and West Yorkshire Police, I really think there is a great degree of optimism both in terms of safety and security of all our residents of Leeds, Lord Mayor. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cummins.

COUNCILLOR CUMMINS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Could the Executive Member for Adult Social Care update Council on the Care Bill Implementation Grant?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: Thank you, Lord Mayor and, Lord Mayor, you will be pleased to hear I will not be making any jokes at your expense today, hopefully.

Can I thank Councillor Cummins for her question. The Care Act has now received Royal Assent and is the first major piece of legislation in social care in over 60 years. The implications for the Council are very significant indeed and we are taking a paper to the next Executive Board to outline some of the implications, but they do include implementing the Care Cap and tracking people's individual care costs, the new duties to self-funders, new carer's assessments and a new carer's entitlement to receive services. Then there is a new duty to provide information and advice to make it easier for people to negotiate their way through the system.

We are in the process of trying to assess the likely financial cost of the Care Act for the Council but it is fair to say it will run into millions. Both the LGA and ADAS have been lobbying hard for the Government to help Councils with the cost of the Care Act.

We received a letter from the Government on 6th May telling us we would receive a grant to help fund the significant reforms associated with implementing the Care Act. Instead of allocating funding on population size or on need, they have given every Local Authority £125,000. We are getting the same as West Berkshire with a population of 154,000; the same as Windsor and Maidenhead with a population of 145,000; same as Surrey Heath with a population of 86,000; or Rutland with a population of 36,000.

Whilst any funding to help with these new burdens is welcome, the £125,000 is a drop in the ocean in terms of the costs associated with implementing the Care Act in Leeds. It is a shame the Government could not apply a more thought-through approach to allocating this funding. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: No supplementary. Councillor Selby.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Could the Chair of the Combined Authority Transport Committee provide his view on the Chancellor's recent announcement regarding HS3?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Councillor Selby, an excellent question. I think if you look back at many of the strategic documents that gather dust on the shelves, whether it is The Northern Way or our own City Region Transport Strategy from five years ago, we have always recognised that east-west links are as important to us as north-south links so, of course, we welcome the Government's warm words.

What is not there is the money to do anything about it or a programme to see when it has happened and I think we are going to have to continue the lobbying we have already done to reach this stage to make sure we actually see the Government's actions matching up to their words.

Again, I would reflect on the fact that at the moment they might have some grand ambitions but we are seeing a prospectus for the Trans-Pennine rail franchise which sees parts of West Yorkshire like Garforth and Dewsbury having reduced services to Manchester and Manchester airport, and also big cities like Bradford completely missed off the electrification programme – again, areas we are lobbying on.

I think it is a recognition of what is important to us and we need to continue lobbying as we have done on HS2 to demonstrate that we are not actually passive recipients of these Government schemes, we are actually going to get the right thing for the North, the right thing for West Yorkshire and the right things for Leeds.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary question? Thank you, Councillor Selby. We now move on to Question 12 on the green paper on page 7, the question in the name of Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Could the Executive Member with responsibility for street lighting update the Council on the part-night street lighting switch off programme and the amount of savings made to date?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have got totally confused by this because the number seems to have gone all over the shop, but I think this is probably the same answer as we gave earlier but I will repeat it just to make people happy.

Savings made since October 2013 are £21,500. Reducing the current number of lights converted to part-night operation for a full year will save 63 grand per annum at current energy prices. The programme is being introduced in two places, phase 1 being the higher wattage street lights on the main roads; phase 2 is all other lights. Plans are being delivered ward by ward across the city for phase 1 and the same pattern will be repeated for phase 2 lights.

Lights converted to date have all been part of phase 1. Plans for 25 out of 33 wards are being prepared and lights are being converted in 20 of those. Phase 2 is commencing in the next few months with plans being prepared now in discussion with ward Members in the first ward, Adel and Wharfedale, planned before the end of July. The roll-out for both phases across the city is a two-and-a-half year programme and we plan to have 8,000 lights converted by April 2016. When all are in place, we predict energy savings of £150,000 per year at current energy prices. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Do you have a supplementary question, Councillor Wadsworth?

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you, Lord Mayor. With the criteria in mind outlined in question 2 when the programme moves to residential streets, clearly the criteria will need to be changed. Does the Executive Member have confidence that there will be no complaints from Leeds residents or the emergency services?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Actually some of the streets already done have residents on them, although not a huge number.

I think the lessons of where we have got so far have been of the officers listening very carefully to what ward Members have said. Sometimes I think the ward Members' concerns have been a little over the top but far be it from me to comment because we have not done it in Pudsey yet. I think we have been very sensitive in the programme. I have seen your letters in the local papers trying to summon up a bit of concern about it.

I think if we are all honest about this we have a big issue about expenditure and we have to look at how we save money in ways that do not affect residents and this has to be something that is in the mix but at the same time I do understand the sensitivities of people who are worried about safety.

As far as we can we will try to ensure that residents go with us on this one but up to now things have gone very well. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. We have now reached the end of Question time. Any questions not answered, Members will receive a written response.

ITEM 9 - MINUTES

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to page 10 of the Order Paper and it is on to Item 9, the Minutes. Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: I move in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I second and I reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash again.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move this in the terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. (*A vote was taken*) That is clearly CARRIED.

Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: Lord Mayor, I would like to move that under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 13.2(c) that the order of business be changed

so that the reference back in the name of Councillor Andrew Carter falling within the Transport and the Economy Portfolio of the Executive Board Minutes, be heard first within the Executive Board minutes, prior to the Adult Social Care portfolio.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly LOST.

- (a) **Executive Board**
- (i) Adult Social Care

THE LORD MAYOR: I now invite comments on Minutes and we start with the Executive Board Adult Social Care. Councillor Venner, who is making her maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR VENNER: My Lord Mayor, I will speak on the issue of loneliness and isolation covered in the report Age Friendly Leeds, Minute number 23.

Loneliness and social isolation among older people was recently described as one of the blights of the 21st Century by Councillor Adam Ogilvie. The number of over 65s in Leeds living on their own is predicted to rise by 13% between 2012 and 2020 to over 47,000 people.

Loneliness is incredibly bad for people's health. It can be as harmful as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, it can increase the risk of high blood pressure and lonely individuals are at much higher risk of the onset of disability.

I am aware from my own work in mental health charity Leeds Survivor Led Crisis Services that loneliness and isolation can also have a devastating impact on mental health. It can put people at higher risk of cognitive decline, it can increase the risk of dementia and lonely people are at much higher risk of developing depression. In fact, I would go as far as to say that loneliness and isolation literally kills people. It is not a coincidence that in the audit suicides in Leeds between 2008 and 2010, living alone was identified as a particular risk factor.

Loneliness and isolation can also result in people needing to make more use of public services like the NHS and Adult Social Care. According to the National Campaign Against Loneliness, lonely people are more likely to visit their GP and use medication, more likely to attend A&E and have an increased risk of needing long-term care. Loneliness and isolation are also very high presenting issues in my service when chronic loneliness has precipitated a mental health crisis.

Work on tackling isolation amongst older people has been made a priority in Leeds by Adult Social Care and Public Health teams. The excellent work in our city done by the Neighbourhood Networks has recently received national acclaim. However, we cannot be complacent as the figures outlined demonstrate.

Working with Leeds Older People's Forum, Leeds has got to the second stage of the bidding process for £6m over six years for projects tackling loneliness and isolation. The Executive Board report describes this as one of the most significant pieces of work in Leeds to help combat loneliness and isolation.

The issue of social isolation and loneliness is an increasing problem in Leeds for people of all ages, including older people. It can have a devastating impact on

people's lives and even cause people to take their own life. Leeds has recognised this in prioritising work on this agenda and hopefully the Big Lottery bid will be successful. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Age Friendly Leeds, a fantastic aspiration for the city and one that, of course, is driven by Adult Social Care.

However, its implementation will require some joint working. We are also a very ambitious city in terms of trying to be child friendly and occasionally we have examples where the two confront each other and we need to find solutions. I will give you a small example.

In my area, of course, we have a lot of elderly people that are being encouraged to stay in their own home because it is good for them, it is good for their wellbeing, it is being age friendly and to do so we provide adaptations and one of those is to provide a wet room. Most of those older people have actually brought up families in those homes and once they have moved on from that home, whether it is into residential care or elsewhere, we have a family home that needs to be child friendly for those families that are bringing up children. However, too often they are not afforded even having a bath and they are told "You need to keep that wet room, we spent a lot of money on it and it is there so that we can be age friendly", so occasionally we need to confront some hard choices and make sure that when we are making things compatible for one part of our society, we are making them easily adapted to actually suit another part of our society.

When it comes to joining up and signing up to Age Friendly Leeds, these are stratifications that have been put in by the World Health Organisation and they give you a handy checklist in terms of what you should be achieving to enable you to qualify to be an age friendly city. One of those is that roads are well maintained, well covered drains and good lighting.

Now, they also provide reasons behind this and one of them is research which shows that approximately 24.6% of those aged 50 to 64 go out one to four times a month between midnight and 6.00am. Switching off their street lights might actually stop us becoming an age friendly city. It is just a warning to those departments that are making decisions in silo that actually they need to be talking a little bit better to some of their colleagues elsewhere who have ambitions.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Downes.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Picking up on Councillor Golton there with the World Health Organisation checklist, there are some 17 items to check for for an age friendly city. May I say that I really would like Leeds to become one, but I think there is an awful lot of work to be done.

If I look down some of the transportation issues, the first item on the checklist is that "Public transportation costs are consistent, clearly displayed and affordable." If we look at consistent, if I get on a bus in my ward I can pay differing fares to go to the same location, so we are currently not consistent. Clearly displayed – I wonder how many people in this Chamber actually know the cost of a bus or where to find it and quite often if you actually want to find the cost of a journey you have to ask the driver. It has been my experience that I have been charged two separate fares for the same journey from the same company. Occasionally even the drivers do not know the fares. We have got quite a challenge just on that alone.

Item 2, "Public transport is reliable and frequent, including at night and on weekends and holidays." Our services at weekends and holidays is a reduced service for public transport but as far as reliable and frequent is concerned, that is also a challenge because our public transport network is neither in certain areas.

The night travel, for example, if you come into Leeds from London, as I have done many times, and I am nearly on the 50 to 64 category (not quite) but as I come back from London and you want to get back to Otley and the train has missed the connecting train by two minutes, so you go out of the station and you try to catch the 33A and you find that you have missed that by a couple of minutes, so you go across Leeds to catch the X84 and you have missed that by a couple of minutes, so you end up going back to the station to catch the train because there is a period of about 50 minutes in the evening where there is no public transport out to my ward, to Otley. At the moment I think we are failing on many of these issues.

A third point, "All city areas and services are accessible by public transport with good connections and well marked routes and vehicles." Again, that is a challenge. I looked at the Metro journey planner today to try and go from the LGI to Jimmy's, for an older person who cannot walk that distance and it is suggested you go by foot. There is not a clear public transport option for that journey on a bus. From my ward if you want to go to Jimmy's your only option on public transport is to come into Leeds first and then go out again, so whilst connections into Leeds are good, connections across the city and around the city are very poor.

I think that whilst I welcome us moving towards an age friendly city, there is an awful lot to be done, particularly on public transport. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Downes. Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor, I would just like to comment briefly on Minute 23. I think, Lord Mayor, it is incredibly sad that today we are having to talk about loneliness and isolation in our old people. We have just been talking earlier about the Tour de France and how about as a city we can organise the biggest bike race in history but we do not know where all the lonely and isolated old people are. That is a fact – we do not.

I have in my own ward tried taking this situation seriously. I have talked to my doctor about what he does about people who come to him who are old, lonely, isolated. I talk to AVSED, Neighbourhood Network about what they do. It is surprising how infrequently those two get together and in actual fact I discovered that there is no formal way of doctors' practices notifying Neighbourhood Networks when they have somebody they are a bit worried about, so I am trying to get a pro forma that our doctors can use to, if they have somebody in that sort of situation, they can just email across to AVSED who can make contact. It does not mean that they will be able to actually do a great deal about it always because our Neighbourhood Networks often, with the money they have got, are up to their eyeballs in the work that they have to do, but at least it is doing something.

What I would like to say is, I totally support Age Friendly Leeds but it will not happen if we as Councillors who, let us face it, are supposed to be caring individuals, if we do not ourselves do something about it in our own wards and I think that we can, by working with our Neighbourhood Networks, by working with our medical practices, we can with a bit of luck try and make a difference in this situation which I personally, as somebody of years that are advancing, as you might say, I have no desire to be a lonely, isolated old man so I would like to make sure that we have got

the situation in place where that does not happen, not just to me but to anybody. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wilford.

COUNCILLOR WILFORD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I want to talk about Minute 23 with regards to dementia.

I am the Manager of a Day Centre for older people living with dementia and we work in partnership with other agencies in the best interests of the client group. Two years ago I completed a degree in dementia studies and I have an obvious interest in dementia and how people are treated in the wider community.

A diagnosis of dementia is fraught with anxiety, for example, where to access support and signposting to appropriate services. These appear to be the main issues of carers and for people living with dementia.

Negative attitudes need to be replaced by positivity in our interactions with dementia. I believe things will change on the publication of the National Dementia Strategy and its recommendations, followed by the setting up of the Dementia Alliance, but older people living with dementia are still isolated.

I personally welcome a dementia friendly Leeds and believe tackling social isolation and loneliness is a priority. Older people living with dementia are vulnerable adults and the stigma of dementia requires challenging. In my experience, we need to engage with dementia and raise awareness collectively, working together on behalf of the individuals in the city of Leeds to promote social inclusion and wellbeing.

I am delighted with the efforts the City of Leeds is making to value and care for older people living with dementia and, of course, their carers. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ogilvie to sum up, please.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I thank all of our speakers for their comments, particularly Councillor Venner for her maiden speech. Councillor Venner is actually right about the devastating impact that loneliness and social isolation can have on people's health and wellbeing and I know she brings her experience of her work in mental health. She describes the detrimental effects of loneliness and social isolation on mental health. I know all of us who serve on the Health and Wellbeing Board are absolutely determined that the work we are doing to try to improve the outcomes on mental health must succeed.

Councillor Golton, I think the point you raise about the different bits of the Council have a role in tackling, helping us to become age friendly, I think it is the point that I made at Exec Board. It is not just an issue for Adult Social Care, it is not just an issue for Children's Services for child friendly. We have actually got to try and create a city that is accessible and friendly to people of all ages and that requires all the different bits of the Council, whether it be Housing, whether it be Planning, whether it be Highways, Economic Development, to play their part. I agree with you on that.

Councillor Downes, I am sorry to hear about your travails travelling on public transport. I have a little less sympathy, however, given the Tory/Lib Dem Government has, as I understand it, significantly cut spending for local transport, I think by something around 28%. That is not terribly helpful. You were the Chair of

Metro at the time, I think. I do agree that we cannot take anything for granted, there is a lot more that we need to do.

Councillor Latty, your point about how do we reach people who are lonely and socially isolated in our communities. One piece of work that I have asked Dennis Holmes to do is to try and map across the city where older people are, pulling in information that we have got in Adult Social Care but every bit of the Council, whether it be revenues, whether it be different bits that the Council have information on where older people are. I think we should be able to pool that information and actually then be able to go down to the street level and know where older people are so that we can actually target that both as Area Committees but also to share that information with our Neighbourhood Networks and GPs.

You are absolutely right, we need to get GPs engaged with this agenda. I know the work at Garforth NET, I think they are probably the first Neighbourhood Network to actually get their GPs engaged in this agenda, but a lot more to do on that point.

Councillor Wilford, I welcome your comments on dementia. We are particularly keen to have a conversation with you. We have got a lot of good work going on across the city as we try and roll out dementia friendly communities. As many Members know, Rothwell was the first community to become dementia friendly thanks to the good work of Peter Smith and his volunteers there. We pay tribute to him. Peter is helping other communities across the city to become dementia friendly, including Middleton, Chapel Allerton, Beeston and Holbeck and Otley. He is also helping work with police and bus companies to try and get them to be more dementia friendly.

Each and every one of us has a role to play. We can all become dementia friends or, as I have done, you can become dementia champions so you can run dementia friend awareness sessions.

Yes, a lot of work going on in the city and we I am really pleased that the WHO have chosen us as one of only seven members of their network but we do have a lot more work to do and I hope that all Members will engage in that agenda. Thank you. *(Applause)*

(ii) Health and Wellbeing

THE LORD MAYOR: The Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Ritchie, and it is Councillor Ritchie's maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. As a Bramley man born and bred it is a real privilege to have been elected to serve in my own Bramley and Stanningley ward. My work has already started alongside my excellent Labour colleagues to make the ward the best suburb in the best city.

I wish to speak on Minute 5, page 5 of the additional Minutes, on the report on the first year of the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board.

Colleagues, it is shocking to read of the life expectancy gap between the least and the most deprived areas of the city, around twelve years for men and eight years for women. Tackling health inequalities is vital to ensure the future prosperity of our city by giving everybody the opportunity to contribute and share in its success.

I am pleased over the last twelve months the Health and Wellbeing Board has recognised this with a strong focus on the wider determinants of health and the

underlying causes of health inequality. One aspect of this has been through its support of the Leeds Let's Get Active Scheme.

A key factor in tackling health inequality is supporting people to lead active lifestyles by improving access to exercise. Exercise is a major contributor to good health by reducing the chances of developing debilitating health conditions and disease and is proven to improve mental health.

In my own ward of Bramley, which has pockets of deprivation among the 10% most deprived areas in England, we have 900 people who are registered to Leeds Let's Get Active who have made over 4,000 visits to the leisure centre sessions across the city. It is great to see the community run Bramley Baths engaging with the programme with the free gym sessions being particularly well attended. Augmented by their programme of innovative and enjoyable ways of encouraging people to take up physical activity, such as the themed swimming sessions and the variety of fitness classes available, it is proving to be a positive contributor to improving the health and wellbeing of our residents. I am grateful for all the excellent work of the staff and volunteers who have made it work. I hope we can work together to introduce a swimming session to the programme at Bramley Baths in the near future.

Increasing levels of physical activity is a vital part of creating healthier communities and reducing health inequalities. I am delighted the economic barrier to participate has been removed, thanks to this great scheme supported by the Labour-led Leeds City Council plus Sport England and delivered in Bramley thanks to the community owned and run Bramley Baths.

My Lord Mayor, comrades and colleagues, let us get into our communities, promote the scheme and encourage participation. Exercise and physical activity are a great way to feel better, gain health benefits and have fun. Leeds, let's get active. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Urry.

COUNCILLOR URRY: I speak to Minute 5 of the extra pack. As new Lead Members for Homelessness, taking over from John Hardy, I have a very hard act to follow but the work is supported by an immensely dedicated team. In the small hours of last Friday I saw some of this by joining staff from Housing Options and CRI on the street searching the city for homeless people. That night alone the outreach teams found and offered help to 13 people. Lord Mayor, Leeds would have many more rough sleepers without this constant but largely unseen and unacknowledged work.

A key issue for the Health and Wellbeing Board is combating poverty through the healthcare system by ensuring that the people in most need receive the care that they need. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy seeks to improve the health of the poorest fastest. In Leeds there is still a major gap between the best and the worst health and this is nowhere more extreme than in the homeless population.

Long-term secure accommodation is essential to good health for life, while homelessness leads to a vicious cycle of poor health and poor life outcomes. One of the outstanding examples of work supported by the Health and Wellbeing Board to address the health of the homeless is the Homeless Accommodation Leeds Pathway, HALP. This programme is run by Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust in conjunction with a number of third sector organisations, including CRI, Outreach with people on the street, Foundation providing resettlement and housing support, and St George's Crypt, providing emergency accommodation for rough sleepers.

The Leeds Community Foundation run the York Street practice which is the health centre for homeless people and asylum seekers, so they are ideally placed for identifying at risk people and looking after their ongoing health needs. To help work with people who are homeless and of no fixed dwelling, people living in hostels, people who lodge with and between friends and people at risk of becoming homeless.

HALP aims to tackle the problem of poor health amongst the homeless community and joins up parts of the support system by responding to hospital staff when they identify patients who are homeless or at risk of it, undertaking needs assessments of at risk patients, referring patients to emergency accommodation at the Crypt and referring at risk patients to ongoing health support via the York Street practice. Early evidence has shown improvements to health outcomes for homeless people admitted to our hospitals, including a reduction in readmissions and length of stay.

From its launch in November 2013, HALP has seen and signposted 105 people and found various forms of accommodation for 45. This is one great example of the joined up approach to healthcare promoted and co-funded by the Health and Wellbeing Board which is making a positive difference to people's lives and health outcomes. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: Lord Mayor, I am also speaking under the Health and Wellbeing paper, Leeds – Best City for Health and Wellbeing.

Earlier this year the Leeds Let's be Food Smart campaign took place to coincide with the national Change 4 Life Programme. Part of this campaign included a smart swap scheme with selected schools across the city.

Smart swaps is a way of encouraging children to swap unhealthy packed lunch items for more healthy alternatives so, for example, water instead of sugar-laden juices, or some breakfast for no breakfast or, in my case, more breakfast for some breakfast. Children were given the target of maintaining these swaps for a month and of keeping track of them via a totaliser. In Leeds, this campaign was run by our own Public Health team and also with the Public Health England organisation and the focus was on schools in deprived areas and places like Armley were obviously beneficiaries of this decision.

As part of the campaign prizes were offered for both individuals and organisations and Wingate Primary School in Armley won the Leeds Rugby Foundation Smart Swap prize and that meant that we got to see Ronnie the Rhino, which obviously we would all love to do, and he came to assembly and congratulated the kids in assembly, etc.

Really happy that (a) this scheme happened and that Armley was able to benefit from it but obviously it is not just about initiatives such as smart swaps. Also we have heard today about the Tour and the Grand Départ that is happening on Saturday and I know that Armley schools were also involved in the Temple Newsam mini-tour yesterday. I was actually at ACES, which is the Armley Cluster, this morning and a couple of teachers who were there yesterday with their kids from Armley spoke with literally tears in their eyes about the impact that had on children in Armley.

I think we have got to have a multi-faceted approach to Health and Wellbeing in Leeds. I think Leeds is absolutely getting it right and hopefully children, especially

those in Armley and other inner city wards, will benefit from those fantastic initiatives, so well done, Leeds. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Sue Bentley.

COUNCILLOR S BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am speaking on Minute 5, page 5, on the first year's report of the Health and Wellbeing Board which has made some notable achievements.

I would like to remind Members of Council that part of the Liberal Democrat's budget proposals were based on improving wellbeing and healthy outdoor activity by financially supporting bowling greens, allotments – which are used by many elderly residents – more cycling facilities and having a fund to retain open spaces in communities.

I believe that the best start in life you can give any child is a healthy one. One of the four commitments of the Health and Wellbeing Board is to ensure that every child will have the best start in life. In her Annual Report in 2012 Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer of the UK, highlighted that as many as 40% of children nationwide have Vitamin D below the recommended healthy level.

Vitamin D deficiency causes rickets where developing bones soften which can lead to bowed legs, weak lower body movement and curvature of the spine. It can, however, be avoided by having a healthy diet, plenty of outside exercise and 15 minutes of sunlight a day but I think that is something that we need to work on as a longer term solution and that requires a wider cultural shift.

Presently free vitamins are only available to children whose parents are on benefits but Dame Sally judged this to be ineffective and called for these supplements to be universally available.

The Liberal Democrats will continue to press for all our children from six months to their fourth birthday to have the free health start vitamins and for just £430,000, which is just over half the underspend in the Public Health Directorate this year, this administration could do that, if it wanted to.

The Council is endeavouring to become the best city, a child friendly city and wishes to reduce health inequalities across the city and where better to start than with the young. This would be a very small but very important investment in our children's future and the future of our city. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I also would like to comment on Minute 5 and just state that I have actually changed my speech or comments based on yesterday's CQC Inspection report for Leeds Teaching Hospitals so I am going to talk a little bit about that and big up the staff, really.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of LTH and in particular the staff at Wharfedale Hospital in Otley on achieving a "Good" rating in their recent Care Quality Commission inspection. Their hard work, dedication and care ensures that thousands of residents across this city receive high quality care and treatment.

We know areas of improvement are noted and needed but I have every faith in the new senior leadership team at LTH who are working on these improvements. I was also pleased to note that the reports find that staff morale had improved and that they had greater belief in the new team.

Since being elected, Members will know that I am a passionate proponent for the use of the wonderful facilities at Otley, so I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the proposed increased services being planned for Wharfedale. LTH working in collaboration and in alliance with Harrogate District Hospital will be increasing endoscopy, orthopaedic, gynaecology and urology services.

I am, however, a little concerned with regards to the increasing presence of Harrogate, hence my question to the Exec Member that I will get a written reply for. This is not a criticism of them who, along with the service provided by them at Yeadon Health Centre, suggests that our providers and partners in the city appear to be retreating from Outer North West.

Can I ask that the Exec Member in her role as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board works with our partners to ensure that they understand their responsibility to provide services to all members of the city and in all areas of the city.

Finally, recently Councillor Graham Latty and I were in a meeting when we were informed that LTH was looking to close another seven wards. We know the challenges that LTH has and I am also being informed that she and the new Chair of the Scrutiny Board, Councillor Coupar, have had meetings with LTH with regards to these. Could she update Members of the plans or what she has been informed of? Thanks.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I also refer you to page 5 of the supplementary papers, Minute 5.

We can all agree that one of our major health problems today, not just in Leeds but nationally, is obesity and the drastic effect that it has on the health and wellbeing of all the people who are affected and are in that condition. I think we can also further agree that this is a national issue and most of the solutions to this are national solutions.

The Health and Wellbeing Board, amongst all others, agrees that where at all possible we should focus on those things which can be changed locally or can be improved locally, especially as one of the objectives of the Board is to support more people to choose healthier lifestyles.

The media has recently been full of stories about the amount of sugar in fast foods and fizzy drinks and the fact that that creates all sorts of ill health, and the Government's own adviser on obesity has confirmed that a can of cola contains nine teaspoons of sugar and a can of something called Fanta Grape contains eleven teaspoons. One bottle of this stuff has enough sugar contained in it to have someone's whole intake for a day.

I actually bought *these* tins and bottles 100 yards away the other day, inside the LGI. This is the point I wanted to make. This is inside one of our major hospitals. When I went to the till to pay for them the girl said, "Would you like two bars of chocolate for the price of one? It is a special offer." This is right inside one of our major hospitals.

This one is called Relentless Energy so I might save that (*laughter*) but *this* one is called Mountain Dew. If anybody has been on a mountain and the dew is that colour, I think they are in the wrong place. (*laughter*)

When I have enquired previously about how we can get rid of these things I have been told two reasons why nothing can change. Number one, it is an income stream. That is not just an acceptable thing to say, not for a hospital. I can think of lots of things we can sell in hospitals that would be even more profitable than these but it is just not appropriate. Number two, the suppliers are very big companies and they tell us what we can have. Lord Mayor, I have to say that in 40 years in the private sector, it is the customers who decide what they want to buy and not the suppliers who tell them what they can have.

Leeds Teaching Hospitals alone have a huge buying power and a huge influence.

THE LORD MAYOR: Red light, Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: I am sorry, I will just finish by saying, Lord Mayor, that the whole point about this is that we should get rid of these drinks inside our hospitals. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Mulherin to sum up, please.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I thank all of the speakers for their contributions, especially Councillor Ritchie who has made his maiden speech, and a very good one it was as well. I am delighted to hear that 900 people in Bramley have registered with Leeds Let's Get Active, that is the aim of the scheme is to get people in our most deprived communities in particular physically active because we know that that will make a huge difference to health outcomes in those areas and removing the barriers of cost around access we think will be crucially important in places like Bramley. We look forward to the results of the research that has taken place alongside the scheme and we hope that the findings of that will support continuance of it, so thank you.

The overarching ambition of the Health and Wellbeing Board is to improve the health of the poorest the fastest. It ties in with the comments that both Councillor Ritchie and Councillor Urry and Councillor Lowe in particular have made. It is an all age strategy, it is for people who are old and young and those of us in between so again thank you to all of you for your contributions around children and older people.

You have made reference in your contributions to the commitments of the Health and Wellbeing Board so I will not go through them again here, but just to say that encouraging people to make healthier lifestyle choices is essential to improving health outcomes in the city and again I would like to echo Councillor Lowe's comments and thanks Leeds Rhinos for their support of the Smart Swaps campaign and providing real encouragement for children in the city - 5,731 children in Leeds signed up to the scheme which was the greatest uptake of all the Public Health England areas involved, so again it is a great credit to Leeds and to the partnership we have with our schools in the city that we were able to achieve that.

I would like just to quickly echo the comments Councillor Urry made around the HALP scheme. Housing is crucial to people's health and wellbeing. Poor housing and having no fixed abode is a significant underlying cause of ill health and joining up care around different organisations in the city, which is what we are aiming to do through the Health and Wellbeing Board, working with partners in all areas to identify health needs of patients and ensure that they receive the care they need is what we have received Integrated Pioneer Status for, so we have been recognised for doing that and we need to continue to build on that work as we go into our second year as a Health and Wellbeing Board.

Councillor Lay, you commented on the CQC report. I would like to welcome the improvements that Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust are making to staffing numbers to ensure that safety and healthcare improves at the hospital and I would also like to welcome the proposal we have from the Health and Wellbeing Board which we will be discussing later today to bring providers on to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Now that we have a strategy in place which is agreed across all of the different partners on the Board, it is essential that we have the providers there too to implement the strategy and deliver the improvements that we want to see.

I will be getting a written reply to Councillor Lay with regard to the question he asked specifically about Yeadon Health Centre where an NHS provider is delivering services to local residents in the Leeds district. I believe that Councillor Coupar, the new Chair of the Health Scrutiny Board, is looking to reintroduce the Health Service Development's Working Group, which is a very catchy title but essentially is where the providers bring their proposals for reconfiguration to discuss directly with Councillors so that they can be properly scrutinised.

What can the Health and Wellbeing Board change locally? I look forward to Councillor Buckley raising the issues around the sale of unhealthy drinks and snacks at the Trust at the Health and Wellbeing Board. Certainly I am sure Public Health would be very keen to support any efforts to improve smart swaps in the hospital as well as in our schools.

I think that is pretty much everything apart from the vitamins. There is a review taking place into the benefits of vitamins nationally which is expected to report later in the year and Public Health will be reviewing that proposal in light of the findings of the national review. Thank you. *(Applause)*

(iii) Leader of Council's Portfolio/Finance and Inequality

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. We move on to the Leader of Council's Portfolio/Finance and Inequality. Councillor Hyde.

COUNCILLOR HYDE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Speaking on Minute 24 page 19, Lord Mayor. The purpose of standing up today is very brief comments, really.

The first comment is actually to thank officers. In this Chamber it is very rare, although we have had lots of thanks today for officers, Finance Officers in this Authority are superb, and I would just like to pass on my thanks and the administration's thanks for their hard work. Also, our Chief Officer and the other Chief Officers in the departments. The outturn that we have today shows their diligence and their hard work in keeping this Council on track.

I would just like to comment on, in the report there is £7m earmarked reserves. £5m by this administration through the reserves will be put into Better Lives in Adult Social Services for this year's budget and £1.7m into CAMHS for Children's Services, £200,000 to manage the Challenger programmes and £653,000 to support the deficit in the Grand Theatre.

I just wish to express the view that I support the views expressed by Councillor Wakefield and the concerns raised by Councillor Carter at the Executive Board in regards to the Better Future and Governance arrangements for the Grand Theatre as I think it is one of the jewels in this city and earlier today we have had apprentices in from the Grand so it is important that that is looked after in some way. I know the Leader at the Exec Board gave assurances that that would happen.

The report also shows earmarked reserves of £36m in schools and £25m in the general reserves or, in other words, to this Council, 18 days' running of this Authority.

This Outturn Report actually shows that this administration and the Council delivers, even in difficult times when we have budget restraints and budget pressures. A lot has been achieved, as this report says, but more cuts and budget pressures are to come, I am afraid. SIGOMA was telling me the other day that it is looking now to 2020 before we may get these budget cuts stopped – Heaven forbid. This is even likely it is going to happen and the North/South divide will still be evident in the future. We have had many discussions in this Chamber and I think we all agree from all sides that we do need to try and sort out the North/South disparity in funding between Authorities.

This Council time after time has proved its innovation...

THE LORD MAYOR: Red light, Councillor Graham (*sic*), could you wind up please.

COUNCILLOR HYDE: I will wind up, Lord Mayor. Just to say that out of Whitehall at the moment we seem to be getting elected Mayors and merged Authorities and a lot of Local Authorities now being dusted off off those Whitehall shelves. Just to say, Lord Mayor, that...

THE LORD MAYOR: Please sit down, Councillor. He should have increased the speed! Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to comment on Minutes 24 and 223, please, with regards to the Better Care Fund.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the renewed focus that the Health and Wellbeing Board and the city in general has taken to its integration work through the Better Care Fund and how this has brought and created joined-up holistic care for the citizens and patients of this city.

Can I, however, provide one warning, if I may? This city has a propensity to concentrate services within the outer ring at the detriment of residents on the edge of the city and in its major settlements. When the city talks local it seems to mean an area the size of Leeds. This is not how our communities see themselves. They consider "local" to be within their area and close to them.

In my ward we are seeing progress with regards Adult Social Care to this localism but we do not see our healthcare partners delivering a similar approach, an approach currently being advocated by the new Chief of NHS England, Simon Stevens, who wants to see a much more local model of community care. We currently do not do this.

As an example of this is the current situation where two of my residents, one of whom is Alderman Graham Kirkland, a former member of this Chamber – and he has given me permission to mention this – and an Otley GP for 40 years, has been recovering following a recent illness in a care home in Burmantofts because there is no suitable facility in Otley or nearby but there is, and Members will not be surprised if I once again highlight the perfectly suitable facility within sight of Graham's house – that is Wharfedale Hospital – and yet he is recovering many, many miles away.

I guess this is not really about Wharfedale in the end but about continuing centralisation of services in the city rather than an acute service in the city acting as a hub with a network of health facilities dotted around the city acting as spokes.

In conclusion, I would like to ask the Leader and the Exec Member for Health to ensure that the benefits of integration benefit all of our communities whether in Otley, Yeadon, Morley, Wetherby, Rothwell, wherever. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Jarosz.

COUNCILLOR JAROSZ: I want to speak on Minute 25 in the extra pack regarding the Best Council Plan, specifically on apprenticeships and job creation.

The provision of employment and training opportunities is a huge priority for this administration and as we heard from that wonderful deputation, we are undertaking a huge range of activities to support the progression of apprenticeships in the city.

As Community Committee Chair for Outer West, I was delighted at the massive success of the West area apprenticeship event held last November. It has been replicated in Leeds in February this year and will be repeated in the South of Leeds in September. At these events real employers were offering real opportunities and young people were provided with solid advice to point them in the right direction. Along with these roadshow events we have also held city-wide apprenticeship fairs, such as the one in the Town Hall last week, which have proved to be hugely popular with young people, parents, carers and businesses alike.

What I would like to take on is something that the Deputation mentioned that I feel we have tackled in the Outer West and that is the transition from school to work. In the 1960s when I left school – that is giving away my age, isn't it! – it did not matter, you just wandered out of school, you did not know what you wanted to do but there was always a job there. I started working in Leeds City Libraries, actually, and when I got fed up of that I just went to another job. Life is not like that now so what we feel that we should be doing and – Councillor Coulson has just entered - what Councillor Coulson did was...

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: He was at school in the 1860s! *(laughter)*

COUNCILLOR JAROSZ: ...got real employers into schools so that they could actually get people thinking, get pupils thinking about what they were going to do and where they were going to go. We did this at Crawshaw school particularly and it was about getting employers into those schools, getting the pupils thinking and getting them working on what they were going to do.

We need to re-write perceptions of apprenticeships. They do not only cover a small number of sectors for young people but rather to cover a huge range of service areas including manufacturing, health and even the legal sector for which we, alongside our partners, have recently launched the Leeds Legal Apprenticeship Scheme.

THE LORD MAYOR: Red light, Councillor Jarosz.

COUNCILLOR JAROSZ: As you can see, we are confident we are in a position to help people in Leeds to move on with this agenda. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Jarosz. Councillor Smart, who is making her maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR SMART: My Lord Mayor, I will be speaking on the Best Council Plan and its objective to deliver the Better Lives Programme as covered in Minute 25.

The Better Lives Programme aims to help people with care and support needs enjoy better lives. One of the programmes particular areas of focus is on promoting and supporting enterprise in the care market to increase capacity and choice between the supporting volunteers, social enterprises and user-led organisations.

As a city we are fortunate that 37 volunteer-led Neighbourhood Networks have developed over the last 20 years to provide city-wide coverage. They are especially well placed to help tackle social isolation and loneliness among older people in their own communities. Armley ward is well served in this regard as its older residents can choose to receive support from Armley Helping Hands. This is an organisation that has done some fantastic work in recent years in terms of helping older people in Armley maintain their own independent lives.

Neighbourhood Networks and the Local Links Scheme have received national attention in recent months. They have been featured on the Radio 4 Today programme and were recently visited by officials from the Cabinet Office. Last week the work of the Networks featured heavily in the Condition of Britain, a report published by the Institute for Public Policy Research. The IPPR's report recommended that the Government should support the development of Neighbourhood Networks and local Care Co-ordination Schemes across the country, a ringing endorsement for the fantastic work going on in Leeds.

Perhaps this should make us realise how fortunate we are in Leeds to have such wonderful organisations helping support people in this city. It is so important that we as a Council are actively supporting these kind of community-led initiatives which have a real impact on people's daily lives. More importantly, we also need to remember the selfless contributions made by other 2,000 volunteers to help the Networks be so effective, as well as the many Councillors across the city who support their own local Networks. That is why it is such an important thing that we have identified supporting the Networks and the Local Links project as a priority for the Council in the Best Council Plan. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Sobel.

COUNCILLOR SOBEL: Lord Mayor, I wish to speak to Executive Board Minute 25. The Best Council Plan Strategic Document sets out great vision for the future of our city and our citizens. It is ambitious and speaks to the values of fairness and equality which the Council leadership has embodied in these toughest of times.

The Best Council Plans first objective is supporting communities and tackling poverty. Unfortunately the Council is operating in the context of a national political climate which the evidence suggests makes the objective very hard to achieve. No group has felt this more than disabled people. The scrapping of Disability Living Allowance has seen disabled people forced to demeaning medical testing, with many having their benefits reduced or withdrawn. It has meant a huge backlog in assessments for its replacement, the Personal Independence Payment. There has been continued testing of claimants on Employment Support Allowance, using tests which have already been found to be unfit for purpose, which have led to people with terminal illness being found fit for work and having benefits reduced. We have heard

in this Chamber many times about the impact of the bedroom tax on disabled people. Disabled people are having to apply for discretionary payments to cover these costs. We have also heard how the budget for those payments has been slashed this year, meaning even the prospect of staying in their own home has been taken away from them.

Faced with all this, many disabled people have risen to the challenge. Having been declared fit for work they have returned to study at one of our city's fine institutions, the University of Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan University and Leeds Trinity University. When they are at university they can apply for Disabled Students Allowance. This is three elements – the equipment allowance, non-medical help and a general allowance. Without this assistance it is not possible for those students to progress on their courses, to gain qualifications and hopefully move into work, which I am sure we on all sides of the Chamber and politics would want to see happen.

Now the Government is planning to hit this allowance too. On 7th April BIS announced a change to Disabled Students Allowance and it is being debated right now in Parliament. They are planning to cut DSA, gutting a support allowance vital to many students. Disabled students in every Leeds City Council ward will be affected and possibly unable to continue their studies and progress into work. Even under the current system I have a constituent who has had to wait months to get confirmation of her DSA. She thought she would have to quit her course. Continuing has become increasingly difficult without the support DSA gave her. There will be many more people like her under the new system.

The Government are pushing responsibility to the universities to support students but, like Leeds City Council, universities have had huge cuts year on year. The university has had another 6% cut this year, so how are they going to find the money, and if these students cannot finish their studies, how can they find work? The cuts to DSA are a cut too far and go against the stated policy of the Best Council Plan.

I call on the Executive to work with universities and student unions in our city's universities, first to call on the Government to drop this policy but also to give students likely to be hit by these cuts in the Council work programme for people with disabilities. I know that our leadership in Leeds really cares about disabled people, about them reaching their potential. Our actions through programmes like Better Lives through Enterprise continue to show this. Vince Cable and David Willets may want to consign disabled people to a bleak future; I know we in this Chamber will not. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Well timed, Councillor Sobel. Councillor Ingham.

COUNCILLOR INGHAM: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, I am speaking on Minute 25, page 20 of the extra papers, the Best Council Plan. There is no doubt that empty homes have a part to play in meeting our ambitions for housing, especially given the challenge of around 23,000 people being on our waiting list.

I am therefore proud that as a Council we are supporting enterprise about bringing empty homes back into use especially when this is community focused.

In Burmantofts and Richmond Hill we have more than our fair share of empty homes. I therefore support the actions taken to bring empty homes back into use. Around 3,200 of these properties are brought back in Leeds every year. The benefits of bringing an empty home back into use are felt by all of us in the community but the greatest cost, risk and potential benefit is rightly held by the property owner. This is why we have to seek to engage with owners where possible. Leeds Empties have

been supported by the Council to do just this and have been successful in bringing a number of empty homes back into use. 22% of their work in 2013 was in Burmantofts and Richmond Hill, showing both the size of the work to be done and their commitment to helping property owners.

Leeds Empties looks to empower owners to undertake work themselves wherever possible. However, there are times when owners are unwilling or unable to undertake these works. In some cases this represents an opportunity for the Council as some of the homes may be suitable to be purchased. Refurbishing an empty property will, in many cases, be cheaper than building a new Council house but what we will have at the end is a Council home appropriate for a family. There are some suitable homes in the Cross Green Selective Licensing Area and I and my fellow ward Members will continue to push for this in our area.

Returning long-term empty properties to use does make a significant difference to our areas. I am therefore proud that we have convinced the Core Strategy Inspector to include bringing empty homes back into use as part of our way of meeting housing need.

I hope we shall continue this good work on empty homes. It cannot meet all of our ambitions for housing but it will certainly help us to become the best Council in the UK. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Before I do try to respond to some of these points, can I on behalf of the Labour Group congratulate Councillor Carter on his award of the CBE. *(Applause)*

I said at Executive Board that it is fully deserved for somebody who has led his Party for 40 years, which is as long as Ceausescu led Romania. *(laughter)* He really deserves the CBE and not the bullet! In all seriousness, congratulations because I know that we do have our differences but, as you have said on many occasions, you are somebody who is committed to Local Government and I look forward to our debate later on on that.

In terms of the comments, firstly, Councillor Hyde has raised something that I think we have all felt that this Authority has a strength with and that is our financial officers, backed up by our corporate officers who, since 2010, have actually managed £200m-worth of cuts and alongside working with staff and unions, I am pleased to say that we have not had one day's strike over this. I think people get how tough it is and the changes that we need to make and we have done.

I was reading an article today and saying that in Europe the austerity has now almost finished. In places like Portugal, Greece and Ireland they have actually said no more cuts to the public sector. They have actually suffered for the first four or five years so it does make you wonder why we are still continuing with cuts up to 2017 when Local Government has taken more than its fair share of that. It is time to think is this ideology or is it economics? I think many of us this side would say this is about ideological vindictive behaviour towards Local Government and public services and it is certainly not economically justified. If Portugal and Dublin and Greece and Spain can start to think about putting public services back into action, why isn't this country?

I think really we have to look beyond that debate as well. I am pleased to say that I was at Ed Miliband's presentation yesterday at the Airedale and one of the things that is catching the mood of many people in this country is how do you finance

Local Government and the offer of allowing Local Authorities to keep their business rate is one way through the begging bowl, the cloth cap and actually getting Local Authority more autonomous, more financially self-sufficient and being able to fund the services that the people of Leeds want. I look forward to that.

Again, just to echo Councillor Hyde's comments, appreciation to all the officers of this Council for steering us through. Sadly, we have still got £47m next year to find. Sadly, we look as if we could be going on to 2017, 43%.

On the Grand, on the issue of the Grand Theatre, yes, there will be a paper at the next Executive Board. That has already been drawn up, that has already been discussed and I think we have to try and do two things. The Grand Theatre is one of our great assets. It is one of the things that makes this city attractive. It is unique in the things that it does but we can no longer afford management that allows deficit to just be accepted by the Council and I promise the Council that I will come back (or we will come back) with Councillor Yeadon's portfolio with a radical alternative.

The issue on the Better Care fund I think is a really big one. In short, Sandy, we are with no new money still a long way off the integration. Neighbourhood Networks are important, they are absolutely superb, as you say nationally recognised but if we are not kidding ourselves, we need to say something about the funding of the Health Service. Nearly every Government adviser, nearly every Think Tank is telling us that the Health Service is actually on the edge of financial collapse and for us to lose the NHS of this country, something we should be immensely proud of, would be a real political tragedy.

I will just try and go through on the Deputation. Can I just say to Councillor Lamb, one of the problems why we do not get more apprenticeships is that places like academies and free schools and other schools, I have to say, block genuine advice to young people trying to get apprenticeships. What we really need is intervention, Government intervention, to allow young people to get the opportunities that you heard today and get them independent advice so they can take the apprenticeships that we really need in this country. Thank you, Lord Mayor.
(Applause)

(iv) Development & the Economy/Transport and the Economy

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. We now move on to Development and the Economy/Transport and the Economy portfolio. Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: My Lord Mayor, just before you turn the dreaded traffic lights on, can I very briefly respond to both yourself and Councillor Wakefield and thank you and, indeed, the whole Council very much for the kind words and the applause. I am truly grateful for the support I have had over the years from Members of all sides and officers and I am very conscious that without that support, particularly when I was Council Leader, I would not have received this honour. I am also very conscious of the fact that without the support for over 40 years of my constituents, many of whom are not necessarily of my political persuasion, the same applies and I am truly grateful to all of you and it is a debt of gratitude I think it is almost impossible to repay. Thank you very much indeed for your kind words today but also for the very many messages I have had, cards, what have you, which I have greatly appreciated. Thank you very much indeed.

If I now may return to the business of politics, the Reference Back in my name is there for one reason and one reason only, to make this Council take a decision next month at the Executive Board about the proposal before us for the Khalsa Academy on the Fir Tree site in Leeds. I was very disappointed to hear some

of the comments made at the Executive Board, and I will go back to those in a moment.

For me, the veracity – truthfulness - of statements made in the Executive Board, which is the prime decision making body of this Council, is paramount, absolutely paramount. We can have our disagreements about academies, about free schools but when it comes to looking at a report then what is said has to be factual, it has to be right even if we all disagree ultimately with the contents of the report, and I regret to say that was not the case at the Executive Board last Wednesday. I quote from Councillor Judith Blake:

“There have been no discussions with us about what is proposed.”

I now refer to an email of 19th November, sent to me:

“My team and I, along with colleagues from City Development, have been working with the Education Funding Agency on supporting the Khalsa Science Academy with acquiring a permanent site at Fir Tree. This is a development that makes a lot of sense to both the school and the subsequent provision of nursery provision at the Sikh Centre. Negotiations have been taking place over the last few weeks and a joint paper between Children’s and City Development is scheduled to go to the December Executive Board meeting to confirm the asset. The matter has been progressed as quickly as possible.”

That is at complete variance with Councillor Blake’s statement.

I am afraid, my Lord Mayor, I do not believe that neither Councillor Lewis nor Councillor Blake were aware of those discussions. It beggars belief if they were.

I gave Councillor Blake the opportunity in Exec Board to alter what she had said. She did not take that opportunity. I give her that opportunity again today. This is very serious stuff. I expect to have an explanation, this Council deserves to have an explanation and the community that is promoting this academy - which is not interested in politics, it is interested in providing an educational establishment – has a right to feel insulted unless this statement is put right because it simply is not correct and it will not do. It is taking us back to the days in the 1980s of the now MP Councillor Trickett when reports used to come to us and no-one knew who had written them. It will not do. I am surprised.

It is not about the Government taking away Fir Tree from this Council, it is about truthfulness in the decision making process and I expect answers, my Lord Mayor. That is why I am moving the Reference Back. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that formally, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR: BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I just make it clear that the decision at Exec Board on this paper was for further information to be sought and for a report to be brought back to Executive Board.

I am very disappointed in Councillor Carter's comments; a complete and utter misrepresentation of what I said at Executive Board. The whole issue that we are discussing here is the fact that free schools do not have to come to the Local Authority for submission, they can go ahead and, indeed, some free schools have done that. We have just had approval from the Garforth SPT for a free school that none of us knew anything about and he has completely distorted the nature of the discussion at Executive Board.

Khalsa Academy got approval to become a free school in September 2013 and the difficulty we have got with other free schools in the city, for example Lighthouse, who got permission to become a free school in 2012, is they get permission but they have got no sites allocated for them. This puts them in an incredibly difficult position and, yes, we have talked to Khalsa about the different options, about whether there is a space in Chapeltown, about whether there is potential with the Elmete site. These are discussions that happen all the time.

The point at issue with this paper and the reason why it is on Councillor Lewis's portfolio is because the Government has introduced new legislation which means that the Council has to hand over former education sites that have been used for education within eight years at nil consideration. They do not give us any money and it is quite right that development colleagues question whether this is best value for the people of Leeds, whether it is best value in terms of our commitment in education and those are the things that we are looking at.

Local Authorities up and down the country are up in arms about this. It does not matter if they are Tory, they are Lib Dem, they are all coming up with the issue about local determination is the best way to decide where we put our places for young people. Those are the conversations that we have with free school providers who come and talk to us on a regular basis and work with us closely. It is exceptionally difficult when decisions that should be made locally are imposed on us by National Government. This is not appropriate and Local Government up and down the country are united in saying that where we have free schools, academies coming in, it should happen with consultation with the local community. I feel desperately sorry for the providers who do not have accommodation for their schools.

I think you are trying to defend the indefensible. Andrew, you are a real proponent of Local government and that is what we are here to do, to protect the needs of young people in this city. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor, that is just not good enough. That is an appalling response and a deliberate attempt to once again divert attention from what the real issue is. I would welcome and we would welcome on this side a debate on free schools and academies and their merits or not. That is not what this Reference back is about.

This is about whether or not Executive Board Members give reliable and accurate information to their colleagues when they are asked to make decisions. Councillor Blake has had two opportunities to correct something she said which was not true. She has not taken either opportunity to do that.

She told Executive Board that there had been no discussions about this site. They were the words, Councillor Carter read them out. I have got copies of a briefing that I have had. Councillor Carter has got copies of briefings that he has had from January of this year, from November of last year. This has been going on for a long, long time and the impression was given that this was done behind closed doors, that

the Council knows nothing about it. It is simply not true. It is not acceptable that Executive Board Members come and mislead their colleagues.

There are two possibilities here. Either Councillor Blake is completely incompetent and is not aware of what is going on in her department. Her department has been promoting this. I have got copies of my briefings where they have said they believe the establishment of the Khalsa Academy in the locality would have a significant beneficial effect on school places in the area. They have been promoting and pushing this for some time. It is a huge irony that the way that this building, that has been stood empty for the last six years, the best way for it under a Labour Council, it has been stood empty near one of the most deprived communities in our city and it is going to be a free school that brings it back into community use. It is the irony of all ironies but that is not the debate. It is about truthfulness, it is about honesty and I am afraid either Councillor Blake is completely misleading her Executive Board colleagues and this Council or she is totally incompetent. Either way, I do not think she is fit to hold the office that she is in. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harrand.

COUNCILLOR LYONS: We know which way we are going now.

COUNCILLOR HARRAND: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I wish to speak about the Khalsa Academy and I do not wish in any sense to divert attention from the previous two speakers, who have made one or two of the most important speeches of the afternoon. I hope that people involved with those will go away and read about them.

Councillors in Alwoodley, the three of us, are in favour of the Khalsa Educational Trust opening in Fir Tree School, and you put that at the head of the consultation report when you do that. We think it is a good idea and we are in favour of it.

You would think in the present educational and financial situation the city finds itself in, the idea of a group of energetic, enthusiastic people wanting to use the building for educational means and public access would be attractive to Council. We thought that the Director of Children's Services would be part of a group of energetic and enthusiastic people who want to use the building for educational purposes and public services.

The Khalsa people are the first people to come up with a real, credible, financially sound reason to use, a purpose for those buildings, for years and years.

There are two reasons you can be against it. You can be against it because you do not like the educational governance of the place. One day we will get clarification of the Labour Party policy on educational governance of places like that. Anybody who understands the Labour Party policy on free schools and academies please write to me because I reckon I would get about 40 or 50 different versions if you all told me. That is not a credible reason when there are children who need education.

The second thing is that you seem to have got on to the idea that there was a lot of money to be made, there was £900,000 which we have somehow been deprived of and that if we had just played our cards right we could have had that money in the bank and we could have sold it to developers. That was never a starter. For years there has been no possibility of this site being used for anything but educational purposes.

If the sort of governance does not register, does not persuade you, the financial justification for it is perfectly clear and perfectly straight. Legislation is legislation. You might not like that this is the law of the land; this is the law of the land. It is up to you to change the government, if you think you can. I suspect they will not change the Education policy when you have done that.

I will finish where I started. The Councillors of Alwoodley are in favour of the Khalsa Educational Trust taking over in Fir Tree and hope there are no more obstacles provided by people opposite to that taking place. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake has asked for a personal explanation on some material part of an earlier speech which may appear to have been misunderstood. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It is under Rule 14.16.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I just want to say to Council, for Councillor Lamb to make the comments he did when he was not there, I think I stand on my record.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: This is not explaining.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: It is just outrageous to take a misinterpretation of the point and put it forward.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: This is not personal explanation.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: I just want to explain to Council that I have been misrepresented by Councillor Lamb who was not there, he is working on hearsay and he does not have any understanding of what happened. *(Applause)*

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: That does not explain why it has been misrepresented.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you for your help, Councillor Procter. Councillor Richard Lewis to sum up.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. This is the weirdest Reference Back I can ever remember in this Council Chamber because it is a Reference Back on a decision that was not taken. It is a Reference Back where the Executive Board asked for additional information and I would have expected that to come back to the next meeting. We have a Reference Back – Reference Backs, you use them when you have got a serious issue where a decision has been taken by the Exec Board you do not like.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: You mean that is not serious? I disagree with you.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: The Exec Board did not take a decision so this is, to quote Boris Johnson, this is bonkers. Obviously you are wanting a debate on free schools – well, that should take place after Exec Board has made a decision on this and we can debate it all but we did not have the debate in Exec Board, we have not had all the information, you clearly are not happy with the information that you have

got, we were asking for more so when we have got that you take a decision, then we have a barney in here.

I just want to take issue with a couple of things and one is Councillor Lamb. "This building has stood empty for six years because of a Labour Council." We did not have a Labour Council in 2008. It has not stood empty since 2008, it was used up until 2011, so who is honest? Who is honest, Councillor Lamb? *(Applause)* You are very happy to accuse Judith of telling lies but when it comes down to it you are quite happy getting up in this Chamber and telling your own, so let us be a bit sensible about this.

Just one other issue I will raise. Legislation – the problem is, there is not any legislation and we have had these discussions with the DFE and their cohorts about whether they have the powers to just take over, so Matthew Murray, they came to us and said "Give it to us" and we said, "No, where's your powers?" "We haven't got any but you should give it to us." "No, bugger off, will you." *(laughter)*

Again with this we have had this discussion, "What are your powers?" Letters have gone back and forth, "Please tell us", and that is why we have got to this situation where they have actually said "Well, we have not got any powers, we can have a scheme by which we will take the school" but I think that is why I want a debate on it. What is the view of this Council about the Government coming in and saying, "We want that building for nowt, you give it to us or else."

That is not about localism in my book – maybe in your books but it ain't in mine. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: I have a request from Councillor Lamb for a personal explanation. Councillor Lamb, it is not on the substance of whether something is right or wrong, it is to do with some misunderstanding of what you said earlier.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Absolutely, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I have to hear it but that was not a personal explanation from Councillor Blake. I hope yours is.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Unlike Councillor Blake I understand what a point of explanation is. I have just been accused of saying something that I did not say, or perhaps people misunderstood what I said. It was said that I said a building has stood empty for six years. It has not had an occupant for six years, it has not had reliable occupants for six years. Under a Labour Council it has not had community use and that was the point that I was trying to make, Lord Mayor, that the community have been trying to use that facility, they have been unable to do so. *(interruption)*

THE LORD MAYOR: I think we are into a speech now. I am going to move the vote. I call for the vote on the Reference Back in the name of Councillor Carter. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly LOST.

We now continue with the Minutes and it is Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am speaking on Minute 6 of the extra pack. I am speaking to welcome the Executive Board Report and their response to a deputation to Council from members of my ward in March, the Meanwood Road Safety Campaign for concerned parents and children at St Urban's School on Tongue Lane, one of four schools on this short road.

For some time Councillors have had many complaints about traffic on this road. More recently, since the Waitrose development, this problem also includes Church Lane, which connects Tongue Lane to Waitrose and the ring road.

The volume of traffic up this stretch of road has undoubtedly increased even though, as the report states, there have been significant improvements in terms of speed reduction already. I would suggest that even 5% of drivers speeding or driving badly could make any road appear dangerous to pedestrians while not really affecting the mean speed very much.

Ward Members will continue to give local support where we can but we really, really welcome the priority given by Executive Board to the following: bringing forward the 20mph zone, as we are rolling out around all schools; increasing police enforcement so that the 20mph zone is actually kept to; there is going to be more effective liaison with the schools on the road to see what needs to happen; they are going to look at pedestrian refuges to enhance safety, especially at the mini-roundabout, which is particularly difficult to cross for elderly residents; and reviewing the road markings on the road. This is very encouraging and we would really welcome that from a ward Member point of view.

I would further ask that we just take Church Lane into account as it is part of the same problem in terms of contributing to traffic volume in the school area.

We are supportive of the aims of the campaign and we really welcome and thank the Executive for this action and taking the campaign so seriously. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am speaking today on Minute 8 of the extra pack regarding the Beckhill Neighbourhood Framework. I want to start by setting the scene and it will not come as a surprise to many of you because you will have similar areas in your own wards. The Beckhills is one of those very strangely laid out estates built in the 60s, 70s, with open plan front gardens, no roads and drives to the front, long ginnels – I think you get the picture. The layout is a labyrinth of houses at different angles and different sizes, you need a piece of string when you go in to be able to get back out again. It is also built on the side of a very steep hill resulting in a totally inappropriate bad rubbish collection which always causes us problems.

Despite various decency schemes the infrastructure has remained unchanged, the maintenance of green areas, paths, fences, external painting and repairs are a battle and it is a battle that we are actually losing.

It has suffered from social changes, social challenges, deprivation and dereliction and in 2007 the heart of the community was ripped out when the local primary school was closed and subsequently demolished, leaving a multi-use games area stranded behind closed and locked gates. This was followed a year or so later by the only shop on the estate closing. The gradual decanting of residents from the lower part of the estate to allow for demolition has meant residents had to ensure the ills of living next to a derelict and decaying site.

With a crime rate of 133 per 1,000 compared with 94 for the rest of Leeds the residents have endured some headline grabbing incidents including shootings, murders and, only a few weeks ago, a stabbing. 9.5% of the working age population on the Beckhills claim Job Seekers Allowance, more than double the Leeds figure, and 6.5% of young people also claim JSA.

As well as physical improvement work needs to be and is ongoing with the police, employment and skills. With improvements to the area including new housing, new green space, new play areas and improvements to street lighting and footpaths, the Beckhills area can be transformed. What is vital is that the residents themselves help to lead these improvements.

Just because you live in an area like this it does not mean to say you have not got big aspirations for both yourself and your children. This is where the consultation with local people comes in, not only a paper exercise but one that is truly inclusive, one that engages and listens to everyone.

I hope it is now clear to you why it is so important that we invest in the neighbourhood. The Neighbourhood Framework is a fantastic vehicle for change and inclusive consultation is both vital and welcome, Richard. There is, however, a saying, talk is cheap. As a ward Councillor what I am asking for is that we also have firm action on the Beckhills. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor MacNiven.

COUNCILLOR MacNIVEN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I speak on Minute 11 of the extra pack. It is estimated that up to 60,000 people in Leeds use high interest lenders, including 22,500 who may take out payday loans at 272% APR. The campaign to take a stand against high cost lenders is pivotal to the Council's aim to break the cycle of poverty by giving poorer residents of Leeds access to lower cost lending. Tackling financial exclusion has long been a priority but it is even more so now due to the current economic climate, the cuts to the welfare benefit arrangements and the increasing number of high interest lenders.

Leeds City Council is taking active measures to counter the activities of payday high cost lenders. The Council has facilitated a city wide publicity campaign featuring major Leeds sporting teams, has banned lender websites from Council computers accessed by the public, has developed an accessible financial advice centre for the city.

Fundamental to our work to counter the activities of high interest lenders is the support given by the Council to Leeds City Credit Union to build capacity, increase lending share and to disrupt the high cost lending market in Leeds. Credit Union membership stands at 21,777, a 5% increase since December 2012. £1.9m was lent by the Credit Union between September and December 2013, 25% higher than in the same quarter in 2012.

To further advance our cause to disrupt the high interest lenders, we welcome the property arrangements agreed by the Executive Board that 265 and 269 Roundhay Road will swap ownership from Leeds City Council to the Credit Union. This will enable the establishment of a low cost Credit Union lending bank in a prominent location in a high need area. This swap endorses the Council's stand against high cost lenders, confirms commitment to supporting people in areas of need. The Credit Union loan shop will be the first loan shop of its kind in the city run on ethical lines and excitingly it is planned to replicate this throughout the city. The purpose of the Council is to support Leeds Credit Union to build capacity, increasing its share of lending to disrupt the high cost lending market, which is estimated at £90m in Leeds. If everyone using high cost credit in Leeds has access to affordable lending sources, the costs of lending could be reduced by a whopping £60m in a year. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Speaking on Minute 12 in the extra pack about the Aire Valley Enterprise Zone Park and Ride Proposal Update.

Lord Mayor, I think it is a very important paper that has come to the Executive Board. What we are starting to see now is a very clear approach by this Council and this administration and getting to grips with the need for park and ride in this city. We know that park and ride at railway stations is incredibly popular, we know that people want that simple and easy journey into the city centre where they do not have to drive round and round looking for a parking space. We know it works, we know it is popular with people. It reduces congestion and it means that our roads, particularly at peak times, can still be used by businesses that want to get freight round.

That is why when it came to rail based park and ride we were very keen to fight off the Government's completely unjustified proposals to start charging at railway stations and use that money not to put into extra transport investment but just to bail out George Osborne and the Treasury.

It was right that we fought off that proposal and absolutely right as an administration we are working here on new park and ride for the city.

We opened a new site recently at Elland Road, which I think is probably the most exciting thing to have happened at Elland Road for a while (*laughter*) and I think we are now moving on. We have seen there where we had to put the money in not just to a car park but in a proper high quality bus service with wi-fi on the buses for people like Councillor Wakefield who are always playing on their smart phones. (*laughter*) We have put that quality service in and we want to see it repeated again and again across the city so we have got a proper transport infrastructure there and obviously schemes like NGT and other schemes bring even more park and ride into the city.

I think this is a great step forward, we are all very keen to see park and ride move forward and I hope this is not just a scheme that stands on its own but the start of a much greater programme of investment, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Davey.

COUNCILLOR DAVEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. This afternoon I am wanting to speak about Minute 225 on page 45 regarding the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme.

If any of us need a reminder of the devastating impact of flooding, we only need to cast our minds back to last year to those images on the TV screens showing the various small towns along the Thames Valley which were submerged under water. However dreadful those images were, what we have really got to think about is the potential impact of flooding in our city centre which, of course, is my ward, and any flooding would be on a completely different scale.

Most of you will remember that we were only centimetres away from flooding in 2000 with further near misses in 2004, 2007 and 2008. The threat from flooding in the city centre is ever present and could be catastrophic to residents and businesses alike. The Environment Agency estimates that 3,500 residential and commercial properties are at risk and that £400m of direct damage would be caused by a major flood in Leeds.

Having listened to my constituents' concerns, I am delighted that this innovative scheme is now moving forward to offer both residents and businesses much needed protection and peace of mind with minimal disruption.

The final outcome addresses local concerns using cutting edge innovation and technology and delivering schemes like this shows Leeds is a forward thinking city and the protection of the flood defences is also influencing plans for the regeneration of the south bank which I am sure is nothing but positive for this city. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dunn.

COUNCILLOR DUNN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to comment on Minute 226, page 47, Business Improvement Districts.

The success story of this city is down to the partnership formed with this Council, both past and present. This in turn has brought big business to have confidence in Leeds, making the city an economic powerhouse, but complacency should not be allowed to set in and whilst new super modern areas like Trinity Centre, First Direct Arena and the proposed Victoria Gate and Sovereign Square are and will be great assets, the rest of the city centre, including the shopping streets, office quarters, public spaces and gateways, need to be of the same quality.

A Business Improvement District, or BID, for short, would allow the business community to set a levy, a voluntary levy, on businesses in the city centre with around 1% or 1.5% of the business rate but this I think will be voluntary and the smaller businesses will, of course, be excluded. If they reach a certain standard the smaller businesses will be included in this. This, of course, will benefit our night time economy. Our night time economy is the envy of most Authorities and this would enhance security, CCTV etc.

The BID would allow enhanced service that the Council alone could not provide, especially in the light of funding reductions. Small businesses would benefit from the extra services but will not have to pay if they fall below a certain threshold.

Lord Mayor, the City business community are our partners and our future and we should embrace this forward thinking initiative and make the bond which has been formed even stronger. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor, I have some sympathy with the Friends of Kirkgate Market when they came to give their presentation earlier. A few weeks ago when I was Mayor of Morley I went to Halifax Town Hall at the invitation of the Mayor of Calderdale. Halifax has one of the best of all the Victorian Town Halls in the West Riding, it was designed by Sir Charles Barry, the architect to the Houses of Parliament. Unfortunately there the Council Chamber had had a fall of plaster and it was filled with builders' scaffolding and protective boards, though it was being used for Council meetings.

Anyway, while I was in Halifax I went to the market, which was the model for Leeds Kirkgate Market. It had the same architects, Leeming and Leeming, there are many similarities including small details such as cast iron supporting brackets in the shape of dragons but perhaps they overbought in Halifax and had to use them up in Leeds.

The striking difference was that the Halifax market hall was fully occupied, it was well stocked, well used and obviously prosperous, which is in contrast to Leeds Kirkgate which has many empty units, some occupied units which are poorly stocked, it is not very well used and it is not particularly prosperous. It has been under decline under successive administrations for at least 30 years. Halifax market is, admittedly, smaller than Leeds Kirkgate but I suspect that in proportion to the size of the town it is probably at least as big, possibly even bigger.

The investments in the fabric of Leeds Kirkgate Market are welcome and they are overdue but on its own they will not put right the long history of neglect and mismanagement which the market has suffered. It is to be hoped that the new Kirkgate Market Board will do a lot better though really, as the Friends of Kirkgate Market said, it is not a management board, it will be an informal advisory board with no management or decision-making powers, so we will have to see whether it makes any difference and it could start by having a trip out to Halifax to see what they are doing there. Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

- (b) Area/Community Committees
- (i) North West (Inner) Area Committee

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you very much. It is now 4.30 and we move on to other Minutes and we start with the Area Community Committees and it is North West (Inner). Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR S BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am speaking on Minute 48, page 329, on the West Park Centre.

I am sure we would all agree that the closure and demolition of this well loved and one of the best used centres in the city has had a huge impact on the numerous music, cultural and local community groups that met there regularly.

It is disappointing to note that, despite reassurances from the Council that it would assist in finding suitable alternative accommodation, there are five musical group users who are still struggling to find large secure storage for their instruments.

The Yorkshire Association for Music and Special Educational Needs known as YAMSEN, has had to compromise with a church hall hardly big enough for the 70 adults who attend there weekly. These service users in particular miss the opportunity to mix with all the people involved in the other cultural activities.

While most groups have made the best in their less than perfect new homes, one still remains homeless. That is the Leeds Talking Newspaper and it has been most affected of all the groups. Its future is in jeopardy and it has not found suitable premises for its recording equipment. This has left about 100 blind people in Leeds without a talking newspaper, which used to keep them updated with all the local news.

It has recently been suggested that the Eleanor Lupton Centre should be used as an alternative home for some of these groups and Asset Management has been asked to look at this and other potential properties, so perhaps Councillor Akhtar could give us an update.

The Weetwood Councillors welcome the Executive Board's decision for the £800,000 from the sale of land to be used to resolve the accommodation problems for the former users. However, no amount of money can compensate for the loss of the camaraderie of these cultural organisations all working in the same building and I find it ironic that this unique cultural centre that evolved over many years and which

will be very difficult to replicate, was demolished in the year when the Council is considering a bid to be European Capital [of Culture] of the Year in 2023. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Pryor, and Councillor Pryor is making his maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Lord Mayor, I would like to comment on page 331, Minute 52, the Wellbeing and Youth Fund Allocation.

It is a very worthwhile project and I am pleased we are continuing to fund this in the face of budgetary pressures. As we get older we can start to lose our independence and run the risk of social isolation, as everyone is not fortunate enough to have family and friends living nearby. As we heard from Councillor Venner before, some of the health impacts from loneliness can include an increased risk of dementia and depression.

Tackling social isolation is key to becoming an age-friendly city, again something that has already been discussed but something we are absolutely committed to here in Leeds.

To tackle social isolation we must rely on local knowledge, local projects and local volunteers. One of these groups is the Older Wiser Local Seniors, or OWLS, a project that runs in Kirkstall, my own ward of Headingley, Hyde Park and Woodhouse, and Weetwood.

The project aims to promote healthy lifestyles and help to reduce health inequalities by providing a weekly and fortnightly shopping service. At a time when health inequalities across Leeds are so vast, as Councillor Ritchie was talking about before, it is imperative that we do everything we can to remedy this and OWLS is a small part of that larger jigsaw.

A minibus collects people from their homes, takes them to a local supermarket and drops them off home again, but it is not just about shopping. Enough time is given for socialising, a cup of tea and a chat with friends and groups are taken shopping at the same time to allow friendships to develop over time and it helps to reduce the opportunity for people to become isolated.

The service will be provided with the help of volunteer support. Volunteers are a vital part of this city and I applaud the efforts of OWLS to ensure that no member of the local community is forgotten or left to suffer health inequalities due to their age.

It is vital that the new Community Committees continue to support projects such as this, which may seem small but make a huge difference to the lives of people right across the city. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gerry Harper.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to speak on Minute 52, page 331, regarding the funding of the Inner North West Area Committee to Hyde Park Unity Day and also about the Little London Community Hub.

The Inner North West Area Committee has once again been able to fund £5,000 towards this year's Hyde Park Unity Day, which takes place on 27th July, along with some MICE money from local members. Unity Day is an annual highlight for the community run by local volunteers which brings together neighbours and

fosters community cohesion. It showcases the best of our community and shows what we can do together to put on a super event which caters for all tastes. It is a fine example of the talent available in the Leeds 6 area and is something everyone who is involved should be proud of.

This year there will be a huge variety of activities including music events, a dog show, food, trade stalls and performances – I do not know what the dog show is all about! – and performances from local bands. Last year over 6,000 people attended, which is fantastic and shows how popular this event has become. It has grown every year from a few hundred and now we have a few thousand. We have over 150 volunteers who work extremely hard throughout the year to organise and run the event and I would like to say a big thank you to them all because without them this event would not have moved on.

I am also delighted about the plans for the Little London Community Hub, which has been approved by the recent Executive Board. The Community Hub will help to further improve services for Little London and bring together vital resources into a single location. This will place the Housing Office and Community Centre in the same building and create a modern, well-equipped and flexible space to suit a variety of needs. We hope even more local groups will be able to make use of the facility once it is completed. Our new shops have already been taken over recently at the side of the former Housing Office and this will help keep essential jobs in the community and also to create new ones.

The expansion of the Little London Primary School will also provide essential school places and link the school with the nearby Children's Centre and the retention of the existing green space ensures children remain at the heart of our redevelopment in the Little London area. Also, the PFI work on the refurbishment of the Council properties in the area is moving on at a pace and if you go down and have a look at it, it is beginning to look fantastic. The area is definitely picking up.

It is great news that the Council is moving forward on the establishment of Community Hubs throughout Leeds. They improve frontline services and increase collaborative working in the city. I am really looking forward to seeing the Little London development progress over the following months and I am sure that my fellow Councillors and all Councillors will welcome this news as this will help to strengthen our local community. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you very much. Councillor Towler.

COUNCILLOR TOWLER: Lord Mayor, I am speaking on Minute 53 on page 333 and I would like to focus on the importance of joint working and the impact it can have on people's health and wellbeing. It is especially important in Hyde Park, Burley and Little London which have some of the lowest life expectancy rates in Leeds, around six years behind averages elsewhere in the Inner North West Area and well below national levels.

Joint working is vital in addressing this and we have been presented with some excellent examples of Public Health, Leeds West Clinical Commission Group and community groups working together with the Inner North West Area Committee to improve the lives of local residents.

The Inner North West Area Committee has been focusing on the health and wellbeing of black and minority ethnic communities in the area to ensure their quality of life is improved. This includes targeted work with Public Health, through Trading Standards and the NHS Smoking Cessation Services to address niche tobacco such as sada, which are popular in Asian communities. This project was shortlisted for

this year's Achieving Excellence in Public Health Local Government Chronicle award and has had successful outcomes.

The Area Committee has recently provided almost £11,000 towards projects in Hyde Park and elsewhere. The Behno Women's Group has received nearly £6,000 for their project to promote health living amongst local BME women, which will help them organise exercise classes and healthy cooking lessons. The committee provided £5,000 to Public Health's project to promote healthy lifestyles amongst taxi drivers and those who work in fast food outlets whose working patterns can prevent them from leading healthier lives. Public Health has also provided £5,000 to each of these projects.

These projects link into the wider effects of the Council and its partners, such as Leeds Let's Get Active which has done a great job so far running more than 83,000 free leisure sessions. Locally we have supported Woodsley Road Girls' Youth Group to deliver physical activity sessions and a six session course for disabled people with long-term health problems run by Bueno(?)

These projects are supported by a huge range of stakeholders, including public health and local GP practices. The work we are undertaking goes on and there will no doubt be challenges in the months ahead but I hope I have highlighted the excellent work already undertaken to help improve the health and wellbeing of residents in my ward and I am sure this is being mirrored throughout Leeds.

I am hopeful we will continue to work together and we will see further progress in the months and years to come. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walker.

COUNCILLOR WALKER: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. I am speaking on Minute 54, page 334, the Children's Services Update Report.

I would like to start by saying that I welcome these regular Children's Services Update Reports. They are essential to help us see where our areas are, where we are making progress and which area there is more to be done.

Each part of the city is different and it is useful to be able to focus down on the specifics and take into account local differences. For instance, in Inner North West the number of pupils persistently absent from secondary school has reduced by 33%. This is the largest reduction across all Area Committees and means that we have an additional 81 pupils where they should be, and that is in school.

If we are serious about ensuring better outcomes for our children and our young people, then we need to make sure they are in school gaining the qualifications and skills they will need to fulfil their potential in later life.

We have also seen a reduction in the number of looked after children that is greater than the city trend. This, again, is to be welcomed and shows that the continued investment in this area is making a real difference to the day to day lives of the most vulnerable children and young people in Leeds.

Our NEET numbers are up by almost 20% which does seem worrying, but the number of "not knowns" has reduced by 26%, so we need to remember that a reduction in the "not knowns" can impact on NEET figures as young people switch from one to another. This is clearly, though, an area we need to focus on if we are to see a reduction in both numbers.

I mentioned it earlier but I am particularly keen that we push forward with the identification of local priorities to sit alongside the three obsessions. It is vitally important that we continue to recognise the huge difference local knowledge and collaborative working can make.

I think these reports show that, as a city, we are moving in the right direction and I hope that every Community Committee, as they are now known, keeps the focus on improving outcomes for children and young people in their areas. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Akhtar to sum up.

COUNCILLOR AKHTAR: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. It is great to see much evidence of the importance of integrated working to support our communities throughout the Inner City North West Area.

I am looking forward to another year as Chair for the Inner North West Area Committee and continue to support the great range of fantastic groups helping our communities. Change to the Community Committees looking forward to developing their new remit and engaging more with the public to ensure that the service we provide meets the local people's needs.

Response to Councillor – fantastic we have once again been able to provide £5,000 to the year's Hyde Park Unity Day taking place in August. It has become highlighted for the summer, over 6,000 people went last year and to organise the committee since 2008 we have funded the organisation with £36,000. Councillor Harper is right to point out that this is a fantastic example of local community coming together to put up another great day for the area with the help of Council, police and the community groups. Over 150 volunteers do such a brilliant job.

I also welcome the recent approval of Little London Community Hub. I was disappointed when in 2010 the plans for the Hub had been taken out from the PFI plan but I am delighted the Council has remained committed to the scheme. This is another example how we must work together by providing a room with the equipped community space suitable for the variety of different people's needs, retaining local jobs and providing such a needed additional school space. The Hub will ensure that Little London has the vibrant centre and will complement the excellent work done by the Improved Neighbourhood Estate and PFI scheme.

The Area Committee has also committed £10,000 to the Leeds Hindu Charitable Trust to ensure their community centre can also better cater for the local residents.

Can I also welcome Councillor Pryor's remarks – Councillor Pryor spoke really well, even though I am going through a cold period and sometimes I wish that my younger days were there. You are absolutely right about the organisation and the fantastic work they have been carrying out. Their work shows the important role the Neighbourhood Networks have supporting throughout the city. The city would be at a real loss if these groups did not exist, especially in these difficult times. The second year we have been supporting the door-to-door supermarket shopping. Last year 28 elderly people made use of the service, many being picked up and taken to the local supermarket. Others, who were not able to, had their own shopping done by the 14 volunteers who supported the project all year round. Their effort must be commended.

Of those asked, 100% were satisfied with the service. Councillor Pryor is right to say that not only does it help elderly people to do their shopping, it also gives them the chance to see and chat with the friendly face.

Response to Councillor Towler, great progress made in working closely with the Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group and community organisation and the local health services to ensure the health and wellbeing in my ward is improved.

The support that we have given to help the BME community to improve health and wellbeing standards must be commended. In total the Area Committee has committed £36,000 to support the local BME community, including supporting arts groups Eastern Media and arts network Young Minds, to help those kids off street.

Response to Councillor Walker, there are great numbers of challenges in this area with regards to children and young people, but it is great to see things are moving in the right direction, as Councillor Walker has said already. It is brilliant that it has been such a significant reduction in the numbers of persistent truant pupils now down by a third. Secondary school attendance has risen by 1%, which is higher than the city trend though the primary school attendance is down. The numbers of children aged ten to 17 committing an offence is down 6%. Now such a committee has Lead Members for Children's Services we will make sure that improving outcome and service for the children and the young people is always a priority.

Links to Little London Community Hub, as Councillor Harper has said earlier, school places increasing and part of the development and the new community space for children and the young people can use, the commitment to retain the green spaces in the development area.

With regard to Councillor Bentley's remarks, officers originally contacted each user group and worked closely with them to ensure they found an alternative accommodation. Officers have confirmed that they have had no contact from any user group regarding accommodation needs for months. The group highlighted in the report that went, and I am sure the Area Committee did see it as well.

What we have got to understand, my Lord Mayor, is it has not just been one organisation that was affected but there were 30-plus organisations which were affected and it was not easy for this administration to find everybody, re-house everybody as quickly as possible but we did our best.

THE LORD MAYOR: Red light, Councillor Akhtar, could you wind up, please?

COUNCILLOR AKHTAR: Can I also, on the final note, my Lord Mayor, I would like to thank the officers' commitment to see those organisations finding new homes. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: I now call upon Councillor Wakefield to exercise his right of final reply. It is now 4.50.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: This is probably one of the most difficult summing up jobs I have had but there have been such a range of excellent contributions and, without being patronising, I thought the maiden speeches were really superb and high quality. *(Applause)* Speaking as a young Councillor, it is good that we are getting the young joining, my age, and contributing to democracy!

Let me try, though, because I thought the start of the afternoon, when we had a maiden speech from Councillor Venner and the summing up from Ogilvie and others during the course of the day really raised the biggest challenge we face. We do have, or we will have, 130,000 people over 65. That is great news but the downside to that is the 40% will have dementia. I did like the comments, and I have read the report from Councillor Ogilvie's Executive Board, that says places like Beeston, Middleton, Chapel Allerton, Rothwell, are starting that, but we really have got to do a lot more – not just us. Councillor Ogilvie is right, all of us here, but outside as well, the private sector, the voluntary sector and us as a community. I do take the point about some of us, that has been made, about taking that challenge out to our Area Committees, or our Community Committees now.

One of the things that frustrates me in this Chamber is that we have that kind of serious debate and then we get to trivialising with Councillor Golton. I am positive he is going to be a Parliamentary candidate. You know why? At Executive Board he starts doing political announcements, what the Coalition Government has done. In all seriousness, he does contribute to the dementia but instead of saying that about Rothwell he talks about the lights again. What he never has said in this Chamber is why his Coalition Government have cut so much from our budget which makes it that we have to do those kind of things to protect our elderly services. You make the choice or start joining in and start asking for extra resources from this Government to fund our elderly.

The same with Councillor Downes. I think I know more about his trips to Leeds and London than I did about the issue he was going on about, I have to say. Listen, Ryk, you have been Chair, you were Chair in 2011 and 2012. They cut the budget by 28%. Did you come in here and express any concern? Guess what – not a word.

We come in here and we trivialise it and that is a great shame because it really is a really important debate and we do have YEP and others joining in on that.

I will say something else. We are now changing the Health Service as we know it from reactive to proactive, from institutional care to community care and that is going to transform the whole way that we deal with services. It changes the nature of the individual and state and so on. There is a lot we can do about social capital, Neighbourhood Networks that Councillor Smart and others have spoken about.

The things that Councillor Ritchie so passionately spoke about, about Be Active, is just in the area that we need to concentrate, being proactive with young people, engaging with them. Councillor Ritchie, I admire your passionate enthusiasm for Bramley but actually Be Active has gone much further than the borders of Bramley, you might want to know, and has gone into Armley. *(laughter)* I know there is brotherhood and spirit and friendship and all that but actually it just shows you the impact of what you can do. 77,000 people have registered to Be Active; 18,000 of those are from Armley, so we really do have the potential to transform communities who do not visit sports centres and look after their health and address inequality.

The same with the things, I think, that Councillor MacNiven talked about, the first shop to tackle high interest lenders in Roundhay. Great, right location, right things.

Councillor Lowe's comments about food. When you look at the statistics of child poverty, 45% in Hyde Park, 43% in Burmantofts, 40% in South Leeds, we have got a massive challenge. That is a start but it has to be joined up with everything else.

Councillor Dunn, this is the biggest BID I think in the country, about Business Improvement Districts. We need to improve investment, we need to improve to go to work, we need to make sure that, as the business sector says, people find it attractive so in September, with the backing of the Chamber of Business, we hope we get the go-ahead for that.

I want to spend some time about the debate we had and some of the social text I have read about the Fir Tree School. It is absolutely right we can have a philosophical discussion about whether we agree with free schools or not. Personally, I think things like free schools for dyslexia or Asperger's or anything like that, autism, I have got some sympathy with it because it is focused but I am not a free school person *per se*. What I do not like reading on social media as I have done, by Councillor Cohen, is actually personalising abuse in the social media against Councillor Blake asking if she is incompetent or transparent. This is a person who has a free school with 17 pupils costing £3.4m and yet he has the audacity to do something on social media but not stand up in this Chamber and justify it. Councillor Cohen, you ought to be ashamed of your social media behaviour.

Richard was bang on. This was not about philosophy or education. This was about the Council's assets and whether we should actually let them go without any discussion. It was a non-decision so I am very puzzled because I think there is nobody in this Chamber that would usually question Councillor Blake's integrity. You can disagree with her, you can dislike her, you can do anything but I think when you start (*interruption*) – I think you have got to be the right person, sorry, but when you start personally abusing people for political reasons, that is what I find totally unacceptable.

Councillor Lamb, I know he has finished being the Mayor of Wetherby and probably he has gone back to his street fighting days but frankly I thought his personal attack on Councillor Blake was totally uncalled for, unnecessary and rather thuggish and in line with some of some of the political misogyny that his Party carries out in Parliament. I think, Councillor Lamb, you are an intelligent lad but you do not win arguments by abusing women. I think you should again reflect on some of those comments.

My understanding of Executive Board is that there was discussions about conversations taking place and that we had not got a clear picture, so we wanted more information. Let us not get deflected. The truth is simple, as Councillor Richard Lewis said. We have an asset belonging to the people of Leeds worth £900,000, nearly a million pounds. We are supposed to be the guardians of the people's assets and money. We have a threat from this Government to come in, take it away, give it to the free school with no recompense – no recompense – for the people of Leeds or for Leeds City Council. What you have heard is a deflection from that debate. I do not think anybody here would stand up and say "Yes, we should give away £1m without any recompense for the people of Leeds" and that is what I think is wrong, that is what I think we should have debated about this free school.

Let us not get deflected, let us keep to the issues. The issue was, do we want to have a gun to our heads telling us that we have to give it up without proper discussion and debate? I would say this, that if you really believe in localism, if you really believe in democracy then that should be an issue for local Members and local Council and the debate should be had here, not outside of here.

I move the Minutes, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Wakefield. I now call for the vote on the motion to receive the Minutes. (*A vote was taken*) That is clearly CARRIED.

I think we will have a break for tea now, unless Members wish to carry on! I will invite members of the public in the gallery to come and join us for a cup of tea. Could you all be back here for 5.20, or try, please. Thank you.

(Short break)

ITEM 10 – BACK BENCH COMMUNITY CONCERNS

THE LORD MAYOR: We are now on pages 15 and we move on to Item 10, Back Bench Community Concerns. Councillor Dawson.

(1) Back Bench Community Concern

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: Thank you. My Lord Mayor, I would like to raise an issue about a house in central Morley that is used as bail accommodation. My concern is the impact that this is having on the quality of life of local residents in the area.

Since August 2012 residents on High Street in Morley have had to live with this poorly supervised bail accommodation in their community. The following are just some of the incidents that have occurred in the last two years. Loud music is regularly played until three, four or five o'clock in the morning. There is obvious drug use at the premises, drug dealing. Local people, including children, have seen bail residents using needles to inject drugs. There has been damage to residents' property when they have complained. A regular sight at the bail accommodation is residents urinating, defecating in the garden, also, shall we say, committing lewd acts in public. They also have the habit of shouting vile abuse at strangers.

The bail accommodation residents frequently have overnight visitors, which is against the rules. The area is littered with glass and rubbish, windows have been broken several times and there have been long delays before the landlord has repaired them.

The bail house has become a magnet for others and attracts undesirables. Householders living nearby call this the party house. There is always something happening day and night, night and day.

There have been some very worrying incidents. A nine year old child was asked to go to watch a movie by a bail resident and offered sweets to do so. The child refused. The adult involved then absconded and is still on the run from the police and from Stonham.

The bail accommodation is run by a company called Stonham, who have a contract with the Ministry of Justice and manage around 200 such properties in the UK. Local householders try to report activities to Stonham but generally the response is slow or not at all. Any telephone calls after five o'clock go straight to an answering machine. Visits from staff are infrequent. Inevitably within minutes of a supervisor leaving, the antisocial behaviour will recommence.

In response to an enquiry from Ed Balls MP Stonham said there have been only four reported incidents since the hostel opened in 2012. What they forgot to mention is that it is almost impossible to log any incidents, there is no direct line to a person who will speak to you, the website is impossible to manage and management visits are infrequent.

What needs to be done? The hostel is in the wrong place. It is a terraced house in the centre of Morley, the address is High Street. It is close to two schools, it is a central location and is surrounded by residential properties. I have a concern about the whole arrangement. The public, in my view, pays twice. The bail accommodation is funded by taxpayers and the hard working taxpayers in Morley are suffering the consequences.

On the other hand, there are two groups who are benefiting from this. Stonham are making a profit on this contract and so is the landlord, who has a guaranteed rent.

I know we have a duty to rehabilitate and give people chances and acclimatise people who have been in prison but not to the detriment of hard working people whose quality of life is being destroyed. People who work hard, cause no bother, do the right thing now find themselves having to sneak into their own homes to avoid confrontation with the residents of the bail hostel. They are unable to sell their property, they avoid inviting friends and relatives to the house partly out of fear and partly out of embarrassment.

Would the people in this Chamber tolerate living next door to neighbours such as this? No. I do not think the community living in High Street Morley should have to tolerate this either. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson to reply.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to thank my colleague, Neil, to bringing this matter to my attention and also, on behalf of his community for really raising what is quite a serious and significant issue.

First of all, the downside, what cannot be done. Because this is not a bail hostel *per se*, it is not within our gift to close it and certainly, because of the planning and the way planning is framed, it has not been a change of use – it was a house, it remains a house and that presents difficulties in itself.

I am also quite pleased that Neil has actually said what do we do as a city when people are either on bail or released from prison and working towards integration in society? Of course we have to make sure there is adequate provision for people and I think we would all accept that and it is the right and proper thing to do, but when it brims over into criminality, when it brims over into antisocial behaviour, I think it is incumbent upon us to act with our partners, with West Yorkshire Police and address that particular issue.

I have done some kind of backtracking as to where we are and I understand there was a meeting that was held recently involving West Yorkshire Police and the Antisocial Behaviour team who spoke to Stonham again and basically said in quite stark terms, “You have got to get your act together.”

We have powers and I will be ensuring from here on in, and I can give Council this assurance, that we will be using them through the Antisocial Behaviour team, the Environmental Health team – if there is noise nuisance we will address it. If there is the amount of damage and litter and debris on the streets, what I will be saying to my officers is obviously clean it up and make sure that the people of Morley have those assurances but also who are we enforcing against? If it is clearly from that property, we can and should, under Environmental Acts going back to 1990, take the measures against Stonham.

I do not want to make it an issue about us and them and us going in heavy handed to deal with a problem. However, if that is what it takes to make people understand their broader responsibilities to the community of Morley and the people of Leeds, that is what we will do because I think Councillor Dawson has made the point very clearly, ordinary people, hard working people, taxpayers are effectively paying twice.

This is a Ministry of Justice scheme, they sponsor it, it is their policy and, as has been made clear, Stonham are benefiting from that but who else is? At the moment nobody and actually, if you take it one stage further, I would also suggest the people who are in residence there are gaining very little and having very little in terms of support that they will need to go forward, so it is a complex picture all round but certainly one I think as an administration and departmentally through Safer Leeds and our internal Environmental Health teams and people, we will be taking this matter seriously going forward.

I would like to invite Councillor Dawson to come and take a briefing with me, along with Safer Leeds colleagues and people from Environmental Health. We will see what can be done in the short term but I would like to give the assurances I am not happy with what I have heard and we will be dealing with it thoroughly and properly. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

(2) Back Bench Community Concern

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. We now move on to the second Back Bench Community Concern, Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor, I wish to speak on an issue that, although it affects all wards, was recently brought to public attention by the headteacher of a school in Chapel Allerton so I want to take this opportunity to raise his concerns.

I am talking about the introduction of free school meals for children in Key Stage 1. I would like to make it clear that I support this policy and I think it is a fantastic idea. Any initiative that helps ensure children receive a healthy and filling meal while at school should be welcomed and I think that everyone in this Chamber agrees with that sentiment. We know that children who are well nourished do better at school, have better outcomes and are more likely to make healthy lifestyle choices. It is particularly important in areas such as mine where families have felt the biggest impact of the Government's austerity measures. Welfare reform has seen families plunged into poverty. 30% of children in Chapel Allerton live in poverty compared to 22% across Leeds. The introduction of free school meals in Reception, Years 1 and 2, is much needed policy that would have a huge impact on these children.

Lord Mayor, what concerns me is the fact that this scheme is not, as it was claimed to be, fully funded. Schools in my ward and, indeed, across the city, have agreed to 50/50 matched funding to ensure that the policy can be implemented in September. When this was raised recently, amazingly a DFE spokesperson said that Leeds could use its schools' maintenance funding to plug the gap. I have serious concerns that it is considered acceptable to suggest using maintenance funding for what was supposed to be a flagship, fully funded scheme. Schools cannot afford to transfer funds like this. If the money from maintenance is used for school meals, how will vital maintenance be funded? I know Councillor Taylor will talk specifically about the school in the ward where she is a Governor, so I will hand over to Councillor Taylor. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Taylor.

COUNCILLOR TAYLOR: Thanks, Councillor Rafique. I would like to speak as a Governor at Mill Field Primary School and I have to say that they are concerned amongst the school community that the free school meals are not fully funded as promised.

I think that we are lucky that the schools in Leeds agreed with the 50/50 matched funding as they are organised and positive impact these meals will have on children. However, I do think it is true to say that at my school, and I am sure schools across the city, there is a feeling of having been misled, not by the Local Authority but by the Government.

I know that both Children's Services and the Catering Service have been working extremely hard to put the measures into place to ensure that this policy can be implemented from September. I know that at Mill Field School we are very grateful for this support we have received and we recognise that this is a lot to push through in a very short amount of time and with inadequate resources.

Another issue that has been raised at my school is the fact that the school will only be funded at an 87% take up rate. The funding is allocated in two stages, one to cover the autumn and spring terms and one to cover the summer term. The first payment will be at 87%, the second will be adjusted to reflect actual take up. This could see the school have to make up the shortfall for the first two terms from their own budgets.

I know my school is also concerned about having to have extra lunchtime sittings, bringing the increased staff costs. These costs are not covered in the £2.30 per child per meal. The general feeling is one of a wonderful worthwhile policy but one that has not had the particular thought through.

I just do not believe that there has been enough support from the Government to help the Local Authority push this programme through. The success of this programme will not have been achieved by anyone in London; the success of this programme will be a reflection of the hard work and joint working of Local Authorities and schools up and down the country who have worked extremely tirelessly and hard to deliver. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake to respond.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Thank you both, Councillor Rafique and Councillor Taylor, for bringing this very important issue to Council's attention. I think you both made the point very clearly about the importance with which we take this issue and actually supporting the policy of introducing free school meals for all children at Key Stage 1. We have discussed on many occasions in this Council and through the Public Health debates all the evidence of the importance of good quality food for our young people.

I have to say, research from around the country gives a very worrying picture showing that almost two-thirds of State primaries are not prepared for the introduction of free school meals in September. I would like to pay tribute, I think as you have reflected, of the work of officers going out to our schools and working with every single school to try and make sure that we can honour the commitment to the children of this city.

The real scandal is the fact that it was promoted as a fully funded scheme. We have worked with schools, as you have highlighted in your ward, to make sure

that we can deliver the scheme but the only way we can do it is by schools actually contributing on a 50/50 basis towards the cost of the capital outlay. The work has been phenomenal and we are on track for most of the schools in the city but we have about 18 schools where we know we will not be able to get the necessary capital works in place for September and we are working to bring in interim arrangements for the year.

The difficulty all of us have got and the concern that you are reflecting is that there is the capital cost of getting the kitchens but there is also the real problem that the Government did not factor in in terms of space. How many kids can they have in the dining hall on any one day? The fact that they are going to have to split the lunch hour and the real concern that some young people will still continue to bring in packed lunches. I am afraid some of our schools, because of the difficulties they are facing, are saying that the pupils will be eating packed lunches in classrooms so that they can cope. This has not been introduced by the Government in a prepared, well ordered way but I want to reassure everyone that in Leeds we are doing everything we possibly can to assist the schools.

I would just like all Members to really reach out into their communities to make sure that every young child in the city takes up the offer and the opportunity to have a free school meal where they can. There are too many young people who are coming into school hungry and we know that for some young people they come in on a Monday morning and they have not eaten all weekend. This is a really important issue and thank you for raising the concern. As I say, if you have any more concerns about the particular schools in your area do let us know but we will do everything we can to make sure that every Key Stage 1 child has a free school meal from September. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

(3) Back Bench Community Concern

THE LORD MAYOR: We have the third Back Bench Community Concern, Councillor Downes.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am speaking about CCTV coverage in Otley and Yeadon and my colleague, Councillor Cleasby, will take over regarding Horsforth.

In Otley and Yeadon we have a total of eight CCTV cameras that are funded by the Area Committee and as I looked through the list of what other Area Committees commitments are, Otley on its own is higher than any other area, any other specific area. When you add Yeadon on to it, it is a huge burden for the ward Councillors.

CCTV cameras are supported by the police and by the community and it helps people feel secure. However, last year when we were presented with our bill for our area funding it had risen dramatically, apparently due to an error. One of the concerns I have got is that there does not seem to be a level playing field amongst what Area Committees have to pay, or Community Committees, I should say, what we have to pay, and there is a difference there. We were told that one of the reasons why we have to pay more is that we are further away from the centre and it should not be based on your location but should be averaged out.

Having said that, I also look at the costs that the Council is paying for CCTV for line rental to BT and feel that it is excessive and when BT contact you about your own local bill as a resident, it is amazing what discounts you can get. This year I managed to renegotiate my bill down considerably and I think that is something that I would like to ask the Council to look at to see if they can get improvements in that

contract because the lines have been there, there are installed and we should be seeing some saving there which then can be passed on to Area Committee.

I would also actually say why are the Area Committees having to fund them? It would be nice if it was a central corporate function to free up the money for the Area Committee to use in other areas to help support the local community with their Wellbeing budget, so we are really strapped with our funding, having to commit over £10,000 each year to the maintenance and viewing of the CCTV cameras. It is something I would like to ask be looked at to see if those can be reduced through various different means.

I will now hand over to Councillor Cleasby.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cleasby.

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: Thank you. I will be as quick as I can, Council. Council, I have shown concerns for years about the inadequate monitoring of CCTV cameras. Incidents are not reported by control and in Horsforth we have more than our share of armed robberies. We have a camera on the corner of Featherbank Avenue and the A65. For years motorists have been going up this one way street, past the camera the wrong way and past Featherbank Primary School the wrong way. I have asked for them to monitor this but CCTV control are adamant that this kind of information cannot be released, even to the police, which is nonsense, and I have the emails to show this.

The cameras have seen nothing. Last month Highways succumbed to our pressure and did a survey. It showed an average of 17 vehicles a day going the wrong way in this one way street past the primary school. In the seven years since I first showed my concern, therefore, in excess of 43,000 vehicles could have passed this camera and not been recorded by the centre. Imagine my surprise when last week Horsforth actually appeared in the City Report, and I read - this was 15/06/14 at 23.56, "Observed two males outside the King's Arms public house, Town Street, Horsforth, both drinking alcohol out of glass. One male puts his glass into his pocket after finishing the contents. Both walk down the road and get into a vehicle being driven by a female, black Seat registration..."

I am sure, Lord Mayor, and Mark, if the Horsforth cameras are being monitored, surely somebody now – and I am going to be careful with the rest of my words – surely now somebody is taking the glass. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson to respond.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would just, I suppose, to open up to in reply to Ryk, this to me represents the down side of Back Bench Community Concerns because in terms of what a locality does or does not spend in terms of supporting the CCTV initiative, is there a better deal out there, have we looked into it, these are all questions, and I am sure the same applied to Councillor Gruen before I took the portfolio, if brought forward they would have been addressed. I would have hoped to have been able to come to this Council this afternoon and if those specifics had been put to me I would have been hoping to give some answers, or at least give a commitment firmer than what I am able to offer this evening.

The bottom line is, Ryk, I do not know the answers to those queries. Certainly in terms of Area Committees and localities, what I will say is the beauty of locality working is you set your own priorities, you have your own dedicated budgets and you choose how to spend them. If there are anomalies, certainly that is something that needs to be looked at and addressed in terms of who is paying what

in different localities and if there is an issue there, that is certainly worthy of our attention.

I would say, though, Area Committees are hard strapped for funding and would rather spend it on something else, it would come from the core. Wouldn't we all, right across the piece, but where have you been for four years, Ryk? We are trying to do more for less and we are asking more of the new Committees going forward and actually to make those tougher decisions for yourselves in the Community Forums. Again, I have no easy answer to that one.

Brian, the only thing I would say about CCTV is it is well worth a trip out to Middleton because when you do what you see is an extremely slick operation. When you speak to partners in Safer Leeds they will always say the same thing; no one part of the machinery of policing and the work we do around CCTV control, it is just part of an overall picture of addressing criminality, wrongdoing, traffic offences. What CCTV does not do, you do not have one person constantly manning each camera because there are several hundred in the city and actually when I was there, it is such a slick operation, it is a multi-agency operation and you see criminality in action and you see the slick response to get the right team to the right event at the right time.

All I would say is, whilst it is not a universal cure all, it is hugely important. What Sam Miller said to me is what we have got in the tool box, what we have got in the arsenal to address low level crime and other sorts of offences, such as the Highways one.

Interestingly, I did have a bit of feedback about the Featherbank incident and actually came out of that for me was a very clear understanding from Highways that take the issue to Highways, they dealt with it. Was the CCTV a massive player in that? I do not know but what I would not like to think is that we use CCTV or any other mechanism as the be all and the end all, because obviously we have all got recourse on to departments who will deal with these matters individually.

Just to sum up, I would strongly urge that you take a trip up to Middleton, see the operation in action. It is slick, it is worthwhile and it is certainly worthwhile keeping them funded.

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: I have got the tee-shirt, Mark.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you very much, "I have got the tee-shirt", whatever that means. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

(4) Back Bench Community Concern

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Dobson. We are on to the fourth Back Bench Community Concern, Councillor Wilkinson.

COUNCILLOR WILKINSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Like most Members of Council we are experiencing speeding traffic and inconsiderate parking issues at a primary school on Hallfield Lane in Wetherby. Two years ago the speed limit was reduced to 20 miles an hour. However, there are issues of road users not obeying these limits, raising road safety concerns. The local police are carrying out regular speed checks which show numerous examples to be 50% over the speed limit.

The road outside the school is a through route and is highly congested, which is heightened at school opening and closing times. This includes cars parking on both sides of the road, including the pavements, making it difficult to cross safely and

narrowing the road for other road users. A number of incidents have been reported including pedestrians having near misses with oncoming traffic. This has resulted in demands by parents for a visible pedestrian crossing on the road. This would, hopefully, reduce traffic speeds and provide a safe crossing point for children and parents. However, only last week the school crossing attendant resigned due to the verbal abuse she was subjected to by irate motorists.

A campaign for better safety restrictions is ongoing from parents and pupils outside the school, aiming to encourage road users to reduce their speed. The issue has received media attention from both the press and television with particular focus on the current campaign for better road safety.

A further speed survey by Highways commenced yesterday so when this has been concluded and the results known, please could I ask Highways to deal with this as a matter of urgency. A pedestrian crossing is needed at this location, together with other road safety measures. I would add that we have two other primary schools in Wetherby on through routes and both have pedestrian crossings. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you, Lord Mayor. This is not a problem that is unique to Wetherby. Even within our ward we have got other areas that have got similar problems. Deepdale Community Centre and Children's Centre is one example. It is not a problem that is unique to the rest of the city and I am sure there are Members throughout who have been lobbied for pedestrian crossings. I have to say and commend Councillor Lewis and his officers, they have been very quick on the mark to respond to this and have met with ward Members and tried to do what they can to support.

I did want to widen the issue a little bit because again I doubt there is a Member here who has not had a discussion with constituents where the conversation has gone along the lines of, "Are you telling me that someone has to die before we can get something done on this piece of road?" I accept there is only so much money, I understand that it is prioritised to areas where there have been accidents in the past but we all know with our local knowledge there are places that are accidents waiting to happen and there is potential to fix it. I hope perhaps Councillor Lewis might take the option to work with us and explore better ways of trying to fund and find solutions faster for areas that we can see locally are problems but perhaps the evidence of previous accidents is not there. There have been accidents in this location, Hallfield Lane; we very much hope that we will be able to find a solution and Highways have been very accommodating, we hope we will be able to see a crossing there soon and similarly in Boston Spa, but there are so many other places that we would like to be able to put measures in place and I am sure Members across the Chamber have got similar concerns in their areas and I do not have the answers to this but I wonder if perhaps we can get together and see if we can find a solution and a way forward. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis to respond.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I think Councillor Lamb is right in that all of us have similar issues in our wards and we have those discussions and we have that emotional appeal from people, which is always, "Does an accident have to happen?" and it puts us in a very difficult position, because there is no answer to that, is there? There is never something that is rational or helpful that you say to somebody in that position.

My understanding of this particular school is that when discussions took place a while back with Helen Franklin and Howard Claxton with ward Members, I think, the officers wanted to put in what is described in my notes as being “vertical measures”, vertical measures being speed humps of some kind. The ward Members were not happy with that and so I think Highways officers did what they could to accommodate the view of local Members and that to me is key, that we do try to listen to what ward Members say, not just say we are going to do something regardless. It perhaps meant that something could have been put in earlier that might have actually had an impact. It is not a matter to me of hindsight is wonderful, I fully understand that ward Members have a view on these things, but it might have avoided this issue.

As it is, I think Highways, as you said, have been absolutely on the ball, have responded quickly not on the basis of press publicity but because it has been a local issue and I always see local issues of this kind as being of utmost importance to all Members and that the work is being done, the surveys have been done. Hopefully we can come to a conclusion as to what the right measure is. I think regardless of Members dislike of humps of one kind or another it may well be that that is the best answer in this location. Clearly parents are agitated, we need to get back to them as quickly as we can and if it is humps, it is something that we can deliver fairly quickly and hopefully over the summer and move on from this particular problem. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

ITEM 11 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PUBS

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. We now move on to White Papers, which is the final segment of the meeting. We have three White Papers this evening for debate. Each debate will last for no more than 30 minutes and will conclude with votes on the motion and any amendments.

Item 11 is the White Paper motion in the name of Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. I was requested, actually, by a member of CAMRA to look at tabling this White Paper and I just wonder in starting, if I could ask Councillor Lewis, has he actually read the White Paper? Did he write the amendment? I have never known an amendment to a White Paper before where you remove any reference to the organisation that is championing the campaign, which happens to be CAMRA.

I wonder while I am talking if Councillor Lewis might like to consider whether he wants to withdraw his amendment because this is not a campaign from Leeds City Council. It is a campaign from an independent body to the Government to seek some relaxations and some amendments which would have a very beneficial effect.

The resolution is a resolution that in the most part has been tabled and supported across political parties in various Councils over the country, not least in West Yorkshire, but here in Leeds the Labour Group want to delete any reference to the organisation running the campaign, being CAMRA, and put in a paragraph which, on its own I have no problem with. As a stand-alone White Paper I would be happy to support it, but it is not a stand-alone White Paper. It is an amendment which deletes any reference to the organisation running the campaign. Richard, it is downright stupid. It cannot have been thought through properly. Whoever has advised you wants their head examining.

We should be supporting an independent organisation in CAMRA in what they are seeking to persuade the Government to do. Who do you think the

Government is more likely to listen to lobbying them – CAMRA or a Labour majority on Leeds City Council? You can answer the question for yourself.

To be frank, if this is indeed your amendment, Richard, you surprise me. It is just downright daft and it should not be on the Order Paper. We should be voting on the White Paper that I have proposed and Councillor Campbell will second which supports the campaign being waged by CAMRA, not a political organisation and you not only have amended the White Paper but you have actually removed any reference to the organisation who are promoting it nationally, indeed, being supported by all sorts of organisations, including the only daily newspaper that thinks Ed Miliband is likely to be Prime Minister, the Daily Mirror, and you delete the whole lot.

Richard, I cannot believe it. You astound me if you are going to leave this amendment there. Bring it as a separate White Paper and we will vote for it but do not amend this White Paper. What are the members of CAMRA going to think? Elsewhere in the country all party get together and support a resolution like this; you amend it and remove CAMRA's name. It is quite unbelievable.

Members of the Council, I ask you to, for once every one of you, vote for commonsense and vote for the resolution. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I had a little feeling of déjà vu when I read the resolution because I thought to myself, good Heavens, has Councillor Greg Mulholland returned to us. *(laughter)*

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Point of personal explanation!

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: I think Members will recall that there was always a warm relationship between the then Councillor Mulholland and Councillor Carter and they were always keen to work together for the good of the community *(laughter)* and for the good of the beer drinkers of Leeds.

Let us look at this issue. There is a considerable issue in relation to the loss of community pubs. I suppose it is fair to say that economic factors do mean that occasionally pubs close and occasionally pubs open but generally we have seen over the last five, ten years a wholesale, I was going to say a swathe cut through community pubs. It is not just in those little villages where you can sell them off for a nice cottage. Actually within Leeds, and you have all seen it in your wards, a lot of those estate pubs which were the centre of the estate, and built at the centre of the estate, have disappeared in the form of Asda Locals or Tesco Locals or convenience stores. That community, that centre for a community has disappeared.

I think the Council must accept some responsibility because the Council has singularly failed to identify locals as assets of community value, which we could have done but we do not seem to have done that, we do not seem to have been proactive in that, in my opinion.

The pubcos who own most of these pubs are based on an economic model which does not really have much to do with beer drinking; it is actually to do with profit. I think it is fair to say that because of that profit driven motive and the way they manage their businesses they are, in fact, property companies whose business is to sell them.

Just quickly on Richard's amendment, and I have to agree somewhat with Andrew in that we have transferred the discussion into a subject that we would all agree with. There is too much issue with this clustering of particular types of businesses and as you know, Lord Mayor, because it affected your ward in relation to hot food takeaways, we would like to have a policy and that is probably the right Act of Parliament to do that with, but we are actually talking about the Sustainable Communities Act. If you take out the reference to that you lose the whole basis of the discussion because that is the process by which you can do this.

If we decide that we are not going to support CAMRA, which if the Labour vote goes through will happen, and we are not going to...

THE LORD MAYOR: Red light, Councillor Campbell, please wind up.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Last sentence - we are not going to support the Sustainable Communities Act, then in effect we have said we are not going to support the process of maintaining community pubs. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. John Illingworth brought this up a few months back as an issue and I think we had quite a good discussion about what has been driving this. I think it is a long-term issue, it has been going on for many years and I think in many places we just did not notice it. I was thinking of some beloved pubs of my youth that have disappeared and perhaps Mick Lyons will remember some in Cross Green like the Spring Close, Fisherman's Huts, the Cross Green – they were dodgy pubs, weren't they, but they were nice.

Some areas, you have lost a huge number of pubs in a very short period of time but almost nobody noticed. It only seems to be more recently that people have kind of twigged that there is a problem going on. The street where I used to live, we lost four out of our five pubs in about five years but having lived opposite one, you could see exactly why it happened and it is not something where an easy planning solution of well, let's ensure that we have a vote on this, is going to make a blind bit of difference to anything because what drives it is something fairly basic and that is pubs are like post offices and local shops – we all want them, we all think they are wonderful but we don't use them because our habits have changed, we tend not to drink in pubs. There are a lot of reasons behind it – it is the cost of beer in pubs, it is about the rise of the pubcos, that model that Colin was talking about that does not work, the fact that there are bars that have sprung up not far from where those pubs used to be so people just drink in a different way. I might regret that. I did get a shock when I went down Boar Lane to where the Whip used to be, if anybody can remember the Whip, and it has been transformed into a chi-chi bar and you just feel like part of your youth has been ripped away. It is very sad to see but that is what people want. It is not about what I want, it is not about having pubs in aspic that we just leave and say "Isn't that wonderful, we have got a pub." People have to use them for them to work and that is my concern about the White Paper as came through.

We have an issue in that there are a lot of pubs on estates and this goes back to how estates were planned many years ago. You had the shops, you had the post office probably and you had the pub. Those pubs had huge footprints and look what happens. You have got it run by a pubco or you have got it run by somebody who may have bought the pub over the internet, effectively, and it is just getting an income from the guy who is running the place and at some stage that pub just goes downhill and downhill and it is just no longer sustainable. So what happens? It probably gets shuttered for a few years, there is no other ideas as to what to do with

it because of where it is, it is in the wrong place, it is not catering for anybody, so what happens? We get somebody coming in and saying "Right, let us put some houses there" and for us that is probably the only solution because there is not a solution that says to a lot of the pubs that we know. David will know the pub on the estate, the Tongue estate, exactly the same. Who was going to turn that back into a pub that would work? Nobody. Who was going to turn the Boar's Head on Roker Lane into a pub that people would use? You could say that for dozens of pubs across the city, they are not pubs that can work for anybody economically.

The reason the pub trade is dead, you see it in those big banners that go across, "Would you like to run this pub?" You do not have to advertise a job that well if it is a good job, if it is a job that is paying anything decent and the problem is for many people running pubs that they are not even on the minimum wage.

It is about economics, it is about whether we as people want to use pubs, not about a planning issue. Ryk, I am sorry about that but you would even see it with pubs in Otley where they have gone down and there is no other use for them, Summer Cross for one. For all the drinking and friends like Greg Mulholland and all the rest of them, it does not make a blind bit of difference. This is about economics and about having an answer to that problem. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: It was successful when it closed.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: You are talking rubbish

COUNCILLOR LAY: It is pubco models.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Try and save it, Peter.

COUNCILLOR P GRUEN: I am only going to speak on two specific issues of the White Paper. The first is to say we experience in our ward exactly what everybody else does, pubs closing - too many, too quickly. In Swardcliffe we have recently had the famous and loved Squinting Cat, which is now closed; the Whinmoor, which is closed; the Staging Post, which is as good as closed; and other pubs as good as closed. Ryk actually is right, why have they closed? Because they no longer have any trade, they get into disrepair, there are all sorts of other activities that allegedly, I have to say, take place in or in the vicinity of those premises and they then become infamous and the local neighbourhoods and local residents actually want to get shut of them. They become eyesores so we have lost those.

Again, Richard's analysis is entirely right, we are probably going to use some of them for affordable housing or housing for the elderly, which is much more in tune with what local people want.

The second reason for me wanting to make a contribution to this debate is around the planning issues because that is the paragraph which talks about local control of decision-making. Again, I am sure that paragraph is not in the slightest offensive to Andrew and he would actually agree with it.

The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order is actively working against trying to save some of those pubs because what do people do, they turn them and cluster them round into betting shops and payday lenders and that is the last thing that we want them to turn into. There are genuine difficulties, I think, around the issue that Andrew has rightly raised and I hope you will bear some consideration of the points I have just made.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Thank you. I want to describe the decline of a public house that was once the hub of the community in Middleton Park ward. The Middleton Arms with its grand frontage was an iconic building and it opened in 1934. It was described as a reformed pub. It was very much part of the community. There was a hotel, it had a large ballroom, it had tearooms, it had a billiard lounge, smoke room, it had outside terraces, it had gardens, tennis courts and a bowling green as well as a bar. It served the community well, living on the new Middleton estate. In fact, lots of people had their wedding receptions there, including Councillor Dunn. It also served as a church while the church was being rebuilt. It even had its own transport links and I think we are missing a trick here, James, because the tram went from Hunslet to Belle Isle and Middleton and stopped in many places. We have still got the lines down if you need them!

In the 1970s and 1980s the pub attracted a different type of clientele and it was known as the Miggy Arms. It gained a reputation for fights and dislike of non-locals and people know that is divisive and it causes many problems.

In many Government reports it always says that a pub is very much a part of the community. When a pub has gone to where the Middleton Arms went, it was not very much part of the community for the people who had to live on top of it and we cannot have that type of antisocial behaviour. However, I do recognise from the pubs and clubs in our ward, the Belle Isle Club, where many people that is their only social outlet and we have got lots of pubs in Hunslet that are still surviving but they are struggling.

They are in competition with supermarkets and the big organisations that are opening up and expanding across the market towns and town centres. These large chains will continue to expand and dominate the market. In a place like Leeds that is expanding we will expect more to move in. I support them because they are a growth industry and they are very important part of the economy. They actually employ 949,000 people of which 300,000 are under the age of 25.

However, I do recognise the social value of pubs and clubs that are wanted in their communities and in rural areas and I urge the Government to give us more powers to preserve these places. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you, Lord Mayor. As a tenant of an Enterprise Inns pub I know a little bit about this industry, certainly more than Councillor Lewis who showed his complete ignorance for the subject in both his comments and the White Paper he has put down. There are two White Papers here that could have had unanimous support across this Chamber; instead we have one that will not get unanimous support. It is a slap in the face to every publican across this city. It is a real shame that you have gone down – it is not too late to go back, withdraw your paper, bring it back another time and I am sure it will have support on this side and right across the Chamber.

That said, I was delighted when Councillor Carter showed me that he was proposing to put this down. Having worked through the most difficult recession in living memory and tried to build a business in the pub trade in that time, I know how challenging it is. The pub company model has got an awful lot to answer for. This campaign by CAMRA, there is not a silver bullet to fix the problem with the pub trade

but the series of measures outlined in here could make a real difference to communities.

One thing that has not been spoken about is, we spoke earlier in the debate today about isolation of older people. In both rural communities like mine, remote places, and inner city areas, it is often the local pub that is the only place that people can regularly go and socialise and stay in contact. Successful pubs, as I have learned, you have to immerse yourself in the community, you have to get to know the people around about you. In my area when the snow comes in the winter, and the ice, and there are many frail, elderly, single people living on their own, they cannot get out anywhere, it is the pub that makes sure they have got some milk and bread and food and that they are warm and that they have got somewhere to go and it is the same, I suspect, in many inner city areas as well.

The problem with the pub companies is, they are not pub companies, they are property companies. They are interested in protecting their property portfolios. I know the way they structure the book value of their pubs. They take the value of the building, they take the value of the lease, they take the value of the beer that they expect to sell over the length of the lease and that is their book value. It is about three times - the level of borrowing they have is about three times the actual asset value and they are desperate to get anybody, anybody who can rustle together the few thousand pounds to have a deposit to put down to run the pubs. That is why we end up with unsuitable people running them. They are not interested in vetting them, they are not interested if they can make a profit or if they are commercially viable; they just want someone in there for a few weeks and months that can keep selling beer, keep the doors open and it just does not work. It has to change and there is a real opportunity today for this Council to make a stand together.

Please, Richard, I plead with you, plead with you on behalf of every publican in this city, take this paper away, bring it back another day and we will support it. Let us send a message to the pub companies and to the Government as with one voice, as Leeds City Council, to say that we are behind the community pubs in this city. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It seems to me that there are two debates going on here. Some of us are talking about the CAMRA campaign and some others are talking about effectively planning issues after they are shut down.

The fact is, pubs are being killed by those pub companies. It mentions in here about what the Chancellor has done. I do not praise the Chancellor very often but he has knocked a penny a pint off (he should have knocked more off, mind you but he only knocked a penny a pint off). There is a local pub in my ward that has a tenant in that is owned by one of these pub companies. In the last two years when the penny a pint got knocked off, 10p went on bitter and 15p went on lager. None of that went to the landlady. That all went to the pub company and her rent went up. When the Chancellor knocked a penny off this time, the beer went up 10p and the lager went up 15p and nowt went to the landlady and when she retires, which will not be long, that very decent pub will likely shut down because nobody can survive on what they are earning and they are losing custom because they are selling the product at too dear a price.

There are other pubs that are very successful. One, probably half a mile away, is very successful but it is not owned by one of those companies. The thing is,

what we have to do is do something to stop that tide and that is what the CAMRA campaign is about.

Clearly, things have changed. Working men's clubs are shutting down because society has changed and that is probably nothing to do with prices, and some pubs have shut down because people have changed how they do it and other kinds of pubs have become successful because they are catering for that market. We cannot do anything about that and we should not do anything about that because that is the right way forward. Things change with time.

We have got to do something about the tide and it means we have got to support the CAMRA campaign and that is what this debate should be about. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Downes.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you, Lord Mayor. First of all I would like to add our Party's congratulations to Councillor Carter for his CBE.

You asked what a CAMRA member would think. Well, as a card carrying CAMRA member I support what you are doing. It could have come from me to put this forward. I am disappointed that CAMRA's name has been removed by the opposition and I wonder whether part of that is to do with the fact that it was not mentioned in the papers but talking of papers, What's Brewing that has just come through my door this weekend has an article about this on the front page and, of course, there is a picture of Greg Mulholland, MP, who has been a leading Parliamentary light on this. That may have coloured the opposition's views because he is associated with the CAMRA campaign. Behind that there are MPs of all parties behind this. This is not a party campaign.

If we just talk about a few things, it is the pubcos, it is the way they conduct their business that we are arguing against. It is interesting because actually it is a very capitalist way of conducting business, so for the Labour Party to take that out actually quite amazes me. They are supporting capitalism by default.

We would support your White Paper and we would like to see the two stitched together and vote for both but it is so important to actually understand the reason behind the White Paper. Yes, we do not want to see pubs converted to other things but you need to stop them closing in the first place and we need to back the CAMRA campaign, which is an independent campaign.

Talking of something like the Summer Cross in Otley, you missed the point, Richard. The Summer Cross was actually very successful, it was making money, it was a good community pub in the community. When I moved to Otley there were three community pubs – there is one left, the other two have closed. The Summer Cross is still derelict, it was sold to a property developer who, when the timing is right, will decide to cash in the money. This is what it is all about, it is about pubcos running such a high charge to landlords they cannot make the money, so therefore when they cannot make the money they then realise their investment by selling their pubs for profit for development. That is what it is about.

We see the Black Horse in Otley has been opened and closed many times and the model just is not there for it to be successful. Somebody I know wanted to take it on but the pubco's terms were so tough that they said, "I cannot make a profit out of it. I could actually make a profit out of it." In Otley we have got more pubs in the centre than most places. Many are still very successful. They are the ones that have changed their business model, the smaller independents that have turned over

to real ale and are making different offers and putting on live music. They are the ones that are successful because they change with the times. Pubs can change with the times but not if they are pubco pubs because pubcos tell them what they have got to do and they are putting the pubs out of business. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: Well, I do despair sometimes as to what is the point of us being here because the quality of some of the debates, this is being telecast out there. What do the members of the public think who have lost their local pub recently? What do they think when they have lost the place where they used to be able to meet and have a friendly chat? Where were they when they could sit there with a pint with their friends and talk things through? What are they going to do when places like Wetherspoons can actually sell their alcohol for a lower price than a lot of these pubs can actually buy it?

Yes, I do enjoy a pint, for those who are not already aware, and yes, I like to make sure I get value for money but there is a difference between value for money and taking it. We need pubs in this country, we need the CAMRA campaign to be a success because if we do not have a success we are all up the you-know-what.

We have got to get behind CAMRA, show that we are united in this. Today the people of Leeds are going to think this Council does not agree on this way forward. It is a disgrace the way it has been conducted and unfortunately, Richard, I do have to put the blame, if it was you that brought forward the amendment, the tenor of the debate was carried forward from that. It has not been successful.

I would urge a lot of the Labour Members who privately do back the CAMRA campaign to actually back Councillor Carter in what he is doing today. I support the White Paper, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter to sum up.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Lord Mayor, I will round up where I started. We have not taken the vote yet, Richard has still got the opportunity to withdraw this ill-thought out, ill-prepared and ill-presented amendment.

It is not my job to stop Members of the Labour Group making fools of themselves, but I ask you, what will the publicans of this city, what will the members of CAMRA in this city think if this Council cannot do what numerous other Councils have done around the country and back a resolution backing the CAMRA campaign, designed to protect publicans, to ensure that there is some sort of pause when pubs do become empty and they just cannot be converted into the sorts of things you referred to in your amendment but I have also referred to in the resolution.

Above all, what will they think when we are talking about backing a national campaign that this Council actually puts in an amendment that withdraws any mention of the organisation running the campaign, CAMRA; any mention of what they are trying to achieve nationally and getting all-party support all over the country for, but oh no, not in Leeds.

I am sorry, think carefully. If you do not vote for the resolution you ought to be ashamed of yourselves. It is another sad day for this city. Denis Healey had a wonderful saying: "When you find yourself in a hole, the first thing you stop doing is digging." Councillor Lewis and Councillor Gruen have dug and dug and dug until they are almost invisible.

I have to say, I take my hat off to Councillor Gruen for trying to bale Councillor Lewis out. I am astonished at Richard. I still do not believe he worded the amendment and I certainly do not think he understood what the person who did had done.

You have a chance to redeem it. It is time to speak up for the publicans of this city, speak up for CAMRA and back a national campaign. I will tell you what I shall do, if you vote against it, I shall ask the other Party Leaders to join with me in sending a letter to the Government supporting CAMRA's campaign. You will not be on the letter. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to the vote.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Go on, withdraw the amendment. You know it makes sense.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: We know who wrote it, Richard. You do not need to worry. The dead hand of Whitehall.

THE LORD MAYOR: Members of Council, we are going to a recorded vote. The first vote is in the name of Councillor Richard Lewis, which is the amendment.

*(A recorded vote was held on the amendment
in the name of Councillor R Lewis)*

THE LORD MAYOR: There are 89 Members present; 60 "Yes" votes in support of the amendment, 21 abstentions and eight against the amendment, so the amendment is CARRIED.

We now go to vote on the substantive motion which, of course, was the amendment in the name of Councillor Lewis. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

ITEM 12 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – LOW EMISSION ZONES

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move on to Item 12, the White Paper Motion in the name of Jonathan Bentley.

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. As it says in the motion for this White Paper, a recent Public Health England report lists Leeds as one of the worst places for air pollution in the country and goes on to say that approximately 300 deaths a year in the city, something like 5.5% of all deaths, are a direct result of poor air quality. Although this is a recent report, the impact of air quality on the health of the community and on premature death has been known for some time.

That is why over three years ago members of the Liberal Democrat Group, supported by the Green Party, brought a White Paper to Council and Council unanimously resolved to undertake a feasibility study into low emission zones for the city. Three years ago - 350 deaths a year. Nothing has yet been proposed by the administration with regard to the feasibility of low emission zones.

We are simply coming back and saying we think you have had long enough, we need to see something soon and we need some action.

I know work has been going on but it has just not been given the weight and the resource that such an important initiative needs. The only money that has been put into this study is a £50,000 grant from the Government – not Council resources,

Council decided it was not going to spend any of its own resources on this. A relatively small grant to address an issue that was contributing to the death of 350 Leeds citizens a year.

Because so little money has been available, I have heard reports that monitoring equipment was not of the right quality, there have been delays in getting work completed. Compare that with what we spend on road safety - quite rightly, a huge priority in this city, as we have heard already through Community Concerns. Road accidents account for 15 deaths and two or three hundred serious injuries a year but they are visible, they are tangible, they get attention, they get priority. A single road safety scheme can cost 20 or 30 thousand pounds. Poor air quality is invisible, the 350 deaths are not seen as a tangible effect of pollution and therefore it just does not get the attention or priority.

Over that same three year period we have spent as a Council over £1m on excess mileage charges to Council officers using vehicles probably contributing to the poor air quality and, of course, the impact of pollution is on our poorest communities, high density housing in the inner city on the main arterial routes.

Now the results of a six year study from King's College University of London has shown that air pollution in Britain's cities is stunting the growth of children's lungs, reducing capacity by 5% or more and this damage starts even before the child is born, whilst they are still in the womb. It is another factor of health inequality.

We have had lots in the debate today about health initiatives, around obesity, smoking, the effects of poverty, etc, but I would hope to see more emphasis and Public Health funding on issues of poor air quality and pollution. There seems little in our Public Health plans for substantial, practical measures to improve the air quality. This needs to be taken seriously and urgently. We need to get the feasibility report out...

THE LORD MAYOR: Red light, Councillor Bentley, please wind up.

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: ...and we want to see the commitment from across the Council and from our Public Health budget that once we get this report something will be done. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson to move an amendment.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am moving the amendment on behalf of the Labour administration because actually, Councillor Bentley, nobody is going to disagree. We are not going to split hairs around public health and the impact on people's health in Leeds and in the debate you will hear more on that from colleagues on this side of the Chamber, but the reason we are moving the amendment, quite simply, is I am not convinced that the paper you have put before Council demonstrates the aspiration of this Council around air quality and low emission zones and I certainly do not think it is representative and a fair reflection on the work that has been going on and undertaken since 2011.

It is only last month when a delegation of Chinese delegates came to Leeds to look at some of the work we have been doing on air quality and want to learn from cities like Leeds in partnership around some of the initiatives, and we went to see Dr James Tate up at the university there. Some of the information that James was

giving us was fantastic and will form part of an extremely detailed study and there is the nub of this. It is detailed complex work that has been ongoing for three years. I can give Council the assurance it will be completed within this calendar year.

Actually, when you look at the health impact and you look at how we are being measured as a city at the moment, currently we have a lot of the problems that every other large industrial major city in the western world has. We are measured on the NO₂s. The NO₂s, frankly, in pockets, are not good, around motorways, around arterial routes where there is heavy build up of traffic and HGVs we definitely do not meet those targets. What we are doing, as a city I think, and it is a partnership approach with Bradford and also the university, funded by DEFRA, we accept that, is to actually look at some of the really complex problems over and above the NO₂ emission and try and drill down what is happening in the city and what we are going to be doing over the next many years, hopefully, to address them.

The PM_{2.5} emissions that are being looked at are actually the really problematic stuff and what James has already told me is, our systems around transport, how we move people about the city currently are not working. I will say this to Council, some of the things that actually come out of this study are going to be quite difficult for us as a Council going forward and we are going to have to make difficult decisions around balancing our Transport policy, our Health policy, the economy and how these things thread together.

It will not be a simple piece of work and the study will actually be a start, a springboard for a piece of work that I think will take us forward for decades and more.

Actually, I am going to say something that will probably get jeers of derision from that side of the Chamber, certainly, but one thing that James did tell me, he said, "Look at the A660 corridor and the emission, the catalytic converters on buses never warm up properly because they stop and start all the way down the route and we need a modern transport system that does not rely on diesel and catalytic converters." I am going to talk about NGT. You are going to turn round and say you want to involve and expand on the Public Health agenda. Actually, an integrated modern transport system will be part of the delivery process to doing that so, yes, you will have the report by the turn of the year. Some of it might actually be quite uncomfortable reading for this Council but we are going to have to get to grips with these issues, we are going to have to do it collaboratively, we are going to have to do it collegiately as a Council. I think we have got the answers that are going to come forward that are going to give us the food for thought going forward.

This is not an attempt just to put an amendment down for the hell of it. We know where we are going, we know what we need to do and we are going to get the strategic steer of travel from this document to help us do that so please support the amendment. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coulson.

COUNCILLOR COULSON: Formally second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth to move the second amendment.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have pleasure in moving this amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group.

We recognise the recent report on poor air quality and at the end of the day good air quality is a benefit to everybody, whether we are in schools, whether at work or whether at leisure in the city and we have spent a lot of time this last couple of

weeks sprucing up the city for the Tour de France, and I do not expect our visitors will really know about air quality because we are not in a position where we have got smogs every day and we have to do that sort of thing.

There is a recent report which was produced for Councillor Mulherin last month, in June, which does talk about what Councillor Dobson has just been talking about. The problems are not necessarily with our P10 particulates but they are with our nitro dioxide levels and they are predominantly from older diesel engines, and that is what we need to eradicate from the city. Those are predominantly heavy goods vehicles and buses.

Our Group are not convinced that low carbon zones are a good policy because if you had a city centre one, it could be seen as a cash cow and charging would be passed on to businesses and they would pass it on to the general public, and it could affect the operations of things like the Arena and Trinity.

If you have an arterial route zone people just move around the arterial zone and move, if you have it down the A660 they would move on to the A65; if you had it down the A65 they would move somewhere else, so people try to divert around them, so they are counter productive.

We need to look at road hauliers and particularly bus operators. Councillor Dobson does talk about NGT and I think NGT is a long-term solution. I think there is much more we could do with public transport

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: You could drive a smaller car, Paul, to start with, that is a monster!

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: It is a new diesel engine.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: It is like a bloody bus!

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Take a look at this report. It actually tells you that older diesel engines there are the real problem. New diesel engines are much more energy efficient and give less pollution. I will not be put off.

The Chancellor announced in April a £500m package for ultra low emission vehicles and I do not think the administration has really taken advantage of that. All I have really seen out of that is some electric charging points for vehicles in the Woodhouse Lane car park. I have not seen anything else come through from the administration. We could have actually introduced all electric buses on the Elland Road park and ride, it would have been an ideal trial to try all electric buses.

In summary, what we would like the administration to do is make better use of the Government funding, work with bus operators to improve fuel efficient and electric buses and encourage people to use public transport more. Public transport is very expensive in this city and we need to encourage people to it, particularly the park and rides. Possibly, and maybe I need to declare an interest here because I am a diesel driver, the park and ride was free for diesel car users. That may be something that could be trialled within the city.

We are also concerned that the motion passed by full Council in 2011 really has not been implemented. We have really not done a great deal except a few surveys and we really need to press on with it, but we are not convinced that low emission zones are the way forward. I hope you support our amendment.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR LATTY: I formally second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Urry.

COUNCILLOR URRY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I completely endorse the need to reduce pollution of all kinds. Councillor Bentley knows of my wish to work across parties to that end.

The Labour amendment reflects our concern to address air pollution. Focusing on low emission zones, while necessary, is not enough. The PHE paper hardly mentions LEZs and does not suggest them as a one stroke air quality solution for Leeds. That is not to say it is unnecessary but Section 2.2 is clear that the quoted 350 figure that you produce for attributable deaths is actually completely notional based on the national formula reflecting age, co-morbidity and other factors. It really says that people already suffering chronic respiratory conditions may be disproportionately affected by particulate pollution from all sources and that earlier deaths may occur. No single death can be directly attributed to this but it is certainly an indicator that we must address as a city; one premature death is too many.

We need to complete our modelling to demonstrate the benefits from an LEZ and this must take account of all the health and economic issues linked banning any class of vehicle or changing the vehicle mix.

Quite honestly, the idea of the Conservative amendment again can only be a part of the solution but there is a much bigger problem that we have not mentioned. The PHE report is about particulate pollution; it is not about climate change but we know the most recent IPCC report provides overwhelming evidence that climate change is happening and that human actions are mainly responsible. Disruptive weather patterns around the world should be ringing alarm bells everywhere, even though the BBC goes on giving equal time to the flat earth deniers. We have to move the debate away from whether there will be climate change to the best way to cut all emission locally, nationally and internationally and how to mitigate those changes that we cannot now stop.

Council is committed to a 40% reduction in greenhouse emissions across the city and much has been done – Wrap Up Leeds, the Green Deal and the Energy Companies Obligation, District Heating Schemes now being scoped, the City Region Strategic Heat Programme, the Leeds Cycle Network and conversion of many Council vehicles to biogas. More could have been done on solar generation, had the Treasury not sabotaged the Feed In Tariff incentives, and we can do much more including on sustainable transport, including an electric car recharging infrastructure, building design, energy distribution and storage, renewable energy generation including on Council property and, yes, low emission zones possibly and low emission vehicles too. It is all necessary.

Councillors, I think that this agenda is far too important for party politics. I hope that locally all parties will work together on how best to develop our city policies on pollution overall on these wider issues for a sustainable future. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Castle.

COUNCILLOR CASTLE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. First of all may I apologies to everybody whose speech I have coughed through this afternoon. I suspect I am about to cough through my own! It is nothing to do with poor quality air but

everything to do with a visit from my three year old granddaughter last week who had a heavy cold and has gone back to Brighton but left the cold behind.

I wish to support Councillor Wadsworth's amendment. Nine urban areas of the UK have been named by the World Health Organisation for breaching safe health levels of air quality and I regret that Leeds is one of them. Reduced air pollution indeed brings health and environmental benefits to Leeds communities, especially those in inner city areas. However, I find it difficult to support Councillor Bentley's White Paper motion for three reasons.

First of all, the negative cost implications for businesses as they are forced to upgrade their fleet of vehicles or pay heavy fines. Secondly, the negative impact on schools and youth groups that own an elderly minibus that would not be compliant with the new standards. Thirdly, I am not convinced that the zones work. Drivers may simply avoid the zones and transfer the pollution elsewhere.

I am putting forward three suggestions of other options to address air pollution. First of all, to encourage people to buy ultra low emission vehicles, why do we not offer reduced cost parking to the drivers of such vehicles? Secondly, we need to increase the number of stations so that more people can commute by train. We are getting two more stations but I can think of other sites around the city that would be suitable and we need to lobby for them. Thirdly, we need to increase the number of park and ride schemes. We have got a new one but we still cannot compete with York.

Thank you, Lord Mayor. I support Councillor Wadsworth's amendment.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Lord Mayor, I must say, I have had an interesting weekend over this. I have never been courted by so many people, apart from Conservatives for obvious reasons and I obviously will not agree with them.
(laughter)

As Councillor Dobson described me once, I am his critical friend. I have got to say, the present administration have done a lot and I have pushed Councillor Dobson as much as I could do to do that and he has responded, but I think, as was brought to my attention and reminded me by the Liberal Democrats, the motion that brought this about was three years ago. We have had three years where we have made little progress and I think the Liberal Democrat motion does us all a favour and reminds us of that commitment we made. I have got to say, I am happy to see that, as Councillor Dobson says, we will have something coming forward before the end of this year and I think that is good, but I think this is the time when I need to be your critical friend and say, let's get on with it. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. First of all I would just like to say that from a Public Health perspective I welcome the focus on air quality today. It is one of many areas of concern to Public Health. If people are wondering what impact air quality has on people's health, in the short term exposure to air pollutants exacerbates asthma, lung function, increases hospital admissions for respiratory and cardiovascular disease and over the long term exposure to air pollution also increases the risk of mortality. It is a very serious business and there is a lot already taking place in the city to try to improve air quality in Leeds.

Some of the measures that we are already undertaking, as Councillor Dobson would say, ensuring that houses are energy efficient. The work that we are doing to improve public transport, trying to get our public transport providers in the city to improve what they do and the work that we are doing ourselves, more directly. That street design is appealing and safe for pedestrians and cyclists and, as we embark on the house building targets for the future it is absolutely essential that we build into our new communities and new estates for the future measures that will ensure that active transport, whether people are walking or cycling to school or work or their local shopping facilities, are there to encourage people to get out of their cars and walk or cycle. Also, measures to ensure that waste is well managed. All of these have a direct impact on air quality in the city.

In Public Health we are very keen to encourage active transport, whether it is walking or cycling, and we are also keen to support measures taking place across the Council to address emissions of the Council's own vehicle fleet.

The elements of air quality and what Public Health are doing to improve it. Air quality has formed a significant part of the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2013 and a key recommendation of that report was to establish a Health Protection Board for the city. That Health Protection Board has now been established under the Health and Wellbeing Board and it includes representation from Public Health and Environmental Health officers.

I will just sum up by saying I look forward to your report, specifically on low emission zones coming to Executive Board in the autumn, but I would welcome consideration too of the wider measures that will improve air quality in Leeds and its impact on communities in Leeds now and in the future. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Jonathan Bentley to sum up.

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. First of all I would like to thank Councillor Dobson for informing us that the report will be eventually produced and giving a commitment to later this year. I will come to his amendment in a moment.

I think really we are all on the same page on this one, we are all going at it from a slightly different piece but I think someone said they do not want to bring politics into it and I think we do have a combined view.

What this paper is about was really the failure of the administration to produce something that it said it would do in a timely way and we have now got the commitment and so let us move on and that is fine.

Just on some of those other issues, I think it is an amalgam. Low emission vehicles, the work that is being in Public Health, they all play their part but low emissions zones is something that we promised to look at and something that we have got to do.

I do not want to pre-empt what they are. We are saying it is going to cost money to do this, cost money to do that. We do not know until we have seen the feasibility study because low emission zones take different forms in different cities. Sometimes they only impact on one area, sometimes they impact on certain types of vehicle, etc, and it may be a cost, it may be a cost to the taxpayer, it may be a cost to the business community but not doing it is a huge cost – a huge cost to the National Health Service, a huge cost to our Public Health.

I am a great supporter of low emission vehicles. I would like to see a lot of low emission buses, I would like to see them down the A660, preferably not tied to cables on overhead gantries and unsightly wires. We do not need the NGT to do that.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: The Government needs to change its mind, then.

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: We do not need NGT for that either. In fact, talk about NGT, if you were at the Public Enquiry you would have heard experts who are supporting NGT telling us it does not reduce emissions. In fact, it does not reduce congestion in vehicles on the A660 apart from if you are in the trolleybus and in fact part of the business case was the increased fuel duty you get from the increased emissions of cars stuck on the A660, so the NGT is not going to solve this. Low emission buses might, electric buses might and you do not need NGT for that, you could have those next week.

Just to take Councillor Urry's point, I understand that the 350 deaths is an index more than anything else, but it is an index we are still 50% above the average of that index across the whole of the UK and that includes the distorted effect of London and the south-east, so it is a serious issue and we must not be complacent and self-congratulatory, we have got to understand there is a lot more to be done and I look forward to the report and a lot more emphasis, a lot more resources going into the future. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to the vote. The first vote is the amendment in the name of Councillor Dobson. *(Applause)* That is clearly CARRIED.

We now vote on the second amendment in the name of Councillor Wadsworth. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly LOST.

We now vote on the substantive motion which was the amendment in the name of Councillor Dobson. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED.

ITEM 13 – WHITE PAPER MOTION - HEALTH

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to the last White Paper and it is in the name of Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. A recent poll found that less than one in four people now trust the Government with our NHS. In just four years this Government has brought the NHS from its highest satisfaction ratings to a service that is now on its knees. Waiting times are rising, the funding gap is widening, demand is soaring and cash strapped hospitals, GPs, community and social care services are struggling to meet the needs of local populations.

Last month, 300,000 people arrived at hospital A&E departments in one week – the highest number on record. The A&E four hour waiting time was missed nationally for the 49th consecutive week and there is a budget shortfall for the NHS of £2b next year alone.

It is not just the Labour Party Members and supporters who are saying that. Senior figures in the Tory and Lib Dem parties agree. Paul Burstow, a former Lib Dem Health Minister, said he believed the NHS needed an extra £15b in the next five years if you do not want the system to collapse during the course of the next Parliament – his words, not mine.

Stephen Dorrell, a former Conservative Health Secretary, and Sarah Woolaston, the new Conservative Chair of the Health Select Committee and former GP, agree that the NHS needs a funding boost if patients are not to suffer.

The pressures on our National Health Service are unprecedented in its 66 year history. It is a mark of the NHS's success that people are generally living longer, many of them with long-term conditions, and as hard-working staff in our NHS strive to meet these demands, the NHS is also subjected to cuts and funding.

Locally that translates to a £650m gap between demand and funding across our health and social care in Leeds. Both NHS allocations and Local Authority grants from the Government have been cut in this city, putting unbearable pressures on the system.

As stated previously in this Chamber, great work is taking place in Leeds through our Health and Wellbeing Board to integrate care around the needs of people, not organisations. There is real buy-in across the system to the concept of the Leeds pound. There is real recognition that only by working together will we be able to meet the challenges ahead. There are now plans in place across the partnership to meet our joint Health and Wellbeing strategy but they will still leave a £150m gap between demand and the resource to meet it.

We now intend to bring representatives of the main NHS Trusts in Leeds on to our Health and Wellbeing Board to strengthen that partnership working even further. Our White Paper is not calling for a further top-down reorganisation of the NHS. Staff and patients have suffered enough in the last few years from a costly and damaging reorganisation that David Cameron had promised would not happen, with over 4,000 staff in the NHS laid off and then re-hired, many on six figure salaries. The Health and Social Care Act fragmented commissioning of NHS services. Some services are still falling between the gaps and the Department of Health is chasing around with bills to be paid for the transfer of services from one part of the system to another.

This Government's reforms put private profits ahead of patient care, tying the NHS up in competition law, paying lawyers instead of putting money into patient services. Despite damaging headlines and failings in parts of the system in recent years, the nation is rightly proud of a health service that provides publicly funded universal care free at the point of need. People in Britain want an accountable NHS where resources go into improving outcomes and patients' experience, not into private profits.

I welcome recent proposals for CCGs to commission services that will lead to greater local accountability but I firmly believe that bringing commissioning back together and a local Health and Wellbeing Board where elected members, third sector and Healthwatch are round the table, would lead to a greater public involvement in designing services for the future and a greater degree of public scrutiny in that decision making.

There is a real need to rebuilt public trust in our NHS after the damage that has been done in recent years. Putting patients' needs before private profits, bringing commissioning back together under local Health and Wellbeing Boards, investing in a system to meet the changing needs of our population and re-establishing the Secretary of State's duty to provide and secure a comprehensive health service would help us achieve that. I move the White Paper, Lord Mayor.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Taylor.

COUNCILLOR TAYLOR: Second, Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In moving our amendment let me begin by reminding Members opposite that every Conservative Government has supported the principle of an NHS free at the point of need. In addition, Conservatives have also continuously sought to improve the health of the nation as a whole rather than talking politics about it, as so often happens from the Party opposite, as just happened now.

The Labour motion calls for the 2012 Health and Social Care Act to be repealed but also supports the work of the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board. The Act created the Board in the first place (*laughter*) not to mention the Better Care Fund, the whole impetus of which is to get health and social care providers to work more efficiently in the modern world. She would abolish the very things that she says she supports. It is completely incoherent.

They say they want to support the principles of 66 years ago and call for the Secretary of State to provide everything. A modern Government can provide and commission services. The Secretary of State is still accountable under this system. It is 2014, not 1948. We need to harness what is best in the NHS free at the point of need with modern attitudes towards providing services. The world has moved on in the last 66 years and got better.

The motion also speaks of irresponsible leadership by the Government since 2010. I cannot believe they have actually said this because the hypocrisy is just breathtaking. The Labour Opposition in Parliament has voted time and again against the extra spending which has taken place on the NHS. If she wants to talk about irresponsible leadership, let us look at Wales, where Labour has actually been in charge. What has happened there? One: waiting times are the worst in the United Kingdom. Two: 42% of people wait six weeks for diagnostic tests compared to under 2% in England. Three: death rates are higher than in the rest of the United Kingdom. Four: the Welsh Ambulance Service is failing response target. With all this they still managed to overspend by £60m.

Labour tells us it would be a wonderful world if they were in charge of the country. Here is the actual result – it is chaos, it is a mess in Wales. I am not even going to mention the ghastly events of Stafford Hospital or the £12b waste on the IT fiasco.

The 2012 Act introduced needed changes like, number one, GPs and professionals given real budgets to buy care; two, centralised decision-making devolved to local Board; and three, obesity, smoking and alcohol abuse to the responsibility of local Councils. In other words, a modern approach, doctors in charge instead of the dead hand of bureaucrats and politicians.

This is not 1948, life expectancy, drugs, treatment, it is another world. Yes, an NHS free at the point of need but modern, progressive and better. 400,000 more operations, 6,000 more doctors, more nurses and 18,000 fewer bureaucrats. I move this amendment. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. To be fair, Councillor Buckley has made my speech for me...

COUNCILLOR: Sit down then, Stewart!

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Quite while you're ahead!

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: ...but, following the tradition of Councillor Mulherin, I will go to the bitter end. *(laughter)*

It is quite plain that this is – I got told off earlier by Councillor Wakefield for saying “Are you going for a Parliamentary career, you are creating these political statements.” This White Paper is pure politics and it is pure national politics. It says absolutely nothing about what we are going to do locally. It points out the agenda that we are following locally and it says we must ensure to do this and we must try to do that, but the whole point about White Papers is that they are supposed to be changing our policy, they are supposed to be giving us something concrete to get behind and all that this is doing is asking for something abstract to happen over in Westminster.

What we need to do is actually do what the Council has done. When you are faced with a financial crisis you work really hard to make sure that you still get outcomes for people with a reduced budget and I have to say that Councillor Wakefield, you cannot knock him, he had achieved those budget restraints at a time when public satisfaction with local services is higher, so to simply come here with a simplistic motion that talks about, oh my God, it is the end of days, money is reducing in the National Health Service therefore there must be a complete turn about in terms of national policy before we can even start to address it locally – do you know what, I thought you had more ambition than that as the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. I know the Scrutiny Board Chair is up to it and I know that I am up to it and I thought that you were up to it.

I am very surprised that you have produced this vacuous White Paper that does not actually say how you are going to implement the things that you think are meant to happen in our area. I will tell you what, I will wholeheartedly back any White Paper that you bring to this Council for that. Do not bring flag waving, Ed Miliband-inspired stuff to this Chamber and expect cross-party support. *(Applause)*

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Truswell.

COUNCILLOR TRUSWELL: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It is an excellent White Paper, irrespective of what has been said opposite. Government inflicted austerity means we are all seeking the best return on our brass and for hard pressed millionaires, of course, their best bet is the Bank of Cameron. It has been reported that private healthcare investors who drop £1.5m into Tory coffers have seen their companies land £1.5b of contracts – that is a cool thousand per cent return, so it is no surprise, Lord Mayor, that the Coalition's Health and Social Care Act has unleashed a tsunami of privatisation.

Cameron's biggest deceit, as we all know, was promising no more top down reorganisations. Andrew Lansley even promised CCGs they would not be pressed into awarding NHS contracts to the private sector yet research shows that private providers have won 70% of tenders for NHS services since the Act took effect and some CCGs have even contracted out their contracting staff. It is no wonder that Dr

Mark Porter, Chair of the British Medical Association, the GP body, recently warned of a bumper year for multinationals and market lunacy diverting money away from patient care into the cost of contracting out services.

The Act ensures that taxpayers' money will fill the hole created by shrinking numbers of individual private healthcare customers, especially here in Yorkshire and Humberside. A Nuffield Centre report says 10% of our regional NHS spend already goes to the private sector, putting us top of the privatisation pops. This nefarious Act also allows NHS Trusts to earn up to 49% of their income from private healthcare. Furthermore, Lord Mayor, the Act potentially puts the NHS at the mercy of European and transatlantic competition legislation with the threat of crippling legal challenges if the private sector does not get its pound of flesh or hips or hernias or cataracts. If that was not enough the new Chief Executive of the NHS, Simon Stevens, spent the last eleven years as a global President of United Healthcare, a US company that is likely to do very nicely, thank you, out of the new Act.

Thankfully, the current Labour leadership has accepted that its predecessor put too much work the way of the private sector; even better, Labour is fully committed to the scrapping of this pernicious piece of legislation.

My Lord Mayor, without a Labour Government the NHS will simply become a logo, a franchise where taxpayers' money is plundered by profiteers and a fragmented shadow of its former self. The people of Leeds deserve better.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Each and every one of us will experience health or social care services at some stage in our lives and the journey we are on here in Leeds is to try and make that experience as best as it can be for people here in Leeds but we have a health and social care system that is close to bursting point as this Government continues as Councillor Wakefield mentioned earlier its dogmatic mission to reduce the stakes to 1948 levels.

Of course, we had Oliver Letwin, the Conservative Minister, the other day supposedly suggesting that within five years of a Conservative election victory the NHS will not exist any more.

The Health and Social Care Act has increased the pressure on the system here in Leeds with additional responsibilities but without additional resources. We are doing all we can here in Leeds to make services work around the needs of individuals rather than the needs of organisations. Our integrated Health and Social Care teams are working to give patients one main contact and a simplified route through the system, but the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care today have said in their annual budget survey cuts of 26% make social care services unsustainable.

We have got the Better Care Fund with which we are to develop services that keep people safely out of hospital but, of course, the Better Care Fund is not new money but double counted, being in the CCG's budgets and also in the Local Government settlement. Somehow we have got to switch services from hospital to the community with no new funding. It is a bit like our task of sorting out homecare commissioning and issues that have been in the news such as 15 minute visits, zero hour contracts, poor wages for carers, all of which has a price tag of several millions if we are going to sort it out but we have got no new funding to do it.

If you do not believe us, listen to your own MPs as Councillor Mulherin has said. Stephen Dorrell, former Health Secretary, Sarah Woolaston, now the Chair of the Health Select Committee, and Paul Burstow, the former Lib Dem Health Minister. I will repeat what he said, he believes the NHS needs an extra £15b over the next five years and if we doubt he says, "If you do not want the system to collapse during the course of the next Parliament, listen to your own Members of Parliament."

Lord Mayor, the NHS is one of this country's greatest achievements. Our challenge now is how in the 21st Century we create a system that joins up physical health, mental health and social care, a system that is about whole person care. That cannot be done within a fragmented, under-funded system that puts competition at its heart. That is why I strongly urge colleagues to support our White Paper.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am speaking in support of Councillor Mulherin's White paper motion and after years of waiting times reducing under a Labour Government, waiting times across the NHS have increased under this Government. In April this year the number of people waiting for NHS treatment following a referral from their GP has hit three million. The number of people who have had to wait longer than the 18 week target for treatment is also increasing and in April this year, 29,000 patients waited longer.

We need to bear in mind that people who needed treatment might have been in pain or discomfort or maybe even worse. Accident & Emergency is seen as the front line of the NHS and nationally a crisis is looming. In the last twelve months almost a million people have waited more than four hours to be seen. People are left on trolleys too long instead of being admitted and in the worst cases ambulances are queuing up outside A&E departments.

We know that cancer waiting times are on the rise but unbelievably in April 17,000 patients with suspected cancer were kept waiting more than six weeks for tests to be carried out. Imagine if you were one of those people having to wait for tests to give an accurate diagnosis. The emotional strain must be unbearable, never mind the physical effects of the disease.

Demand for cancer treatment is increasing and it is anticipated that the number of cancer patients will increase by one million before 2020. Britain already has one of the worst records in Europe for the late diagnosis of cancers and these delays will definitely be putting lives at risk.

It is getting harder to see a GP and, in fact, it is predicted that the average wait to see a GP will be two weeks by next April. Residents in my ward, and I am sure in most of yours too, regularly complain they are having to wait two or three weeks to see a GP and we on this side of the Chamber find that unacceptable. At least our Party are taking steps that would guarantee an appointment with a GP within 48 hours.

So what are your side of the Chamber and your Parties doing to offer solutions to long-suffering people? Cameron is good at making promises he then does not keep, as has already been outlined. What do the Lib Dems do? They just back him all the way. Whatever you and your Parties and your Government are doing, it simply is not good enough and you are failing the very people you claim to protect.

Colleagues, I have a simple question to ask you. Can we trust David Cameron with our NHS? (*Councillors: No.*) Lord Mayor, I support the White Paper. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Flynn, and it is Councillor Flynn's maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR FLYNN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Members of Council, I would just like to echo Councillor Ritchie's comments earlier about what a privilege it is to be making a maiden speech in this historic building. It has taken some time, I have to say.

The occasion is tinged with considerable sadness, unfortunately, because of the premature death of my predecessor and friend, Clive Fox, and I would like to pay a very quick tribute to him before I move on.

Apart from the immeasurable loss to his wife Diane and his children Mark and Lindsay, his integrity, his wit and his commitment to his constituents will be a sad loss not only to the Conservative Group but also to everybody in this Chamber and to the city as a whole. I miss him and I wish he was here today.

Moving on to the motion, I must confess to being rather surprised by the tone of the motion and some of the speeches here this evening. It does not seem to chime with my recollection of the NHS, but I am rather new and I thought I had better check one or two facts before I actually spoke this evening.

When this Conservative Government came to power in 2010, despite being faced with a massive financial deficit and having to impose considerable austerity measures on almost every section of Government, this Government undertook to maintain NHS spending in real terms. This Government also undertook to ringfence the NHS budget. The Labour Party's position on both of these issues, they did not support those commitments. It begs a few questions about the Labour Party's position today.

Just for the record, NHS spending for this year is forecast to be somewhere in the region of £111½ billion, which represents an increase of £7.6b in spending since the Conservative-led Government came to power. In addition, as one of my colleagues said before, the number of doctors in the NHS has increased by 600. All this accomplished, by the way, while remaining on target for achieving £20b in efficiency savings in the NHS.

I will speak about Labour's financial commitment to the NHS in a moment, but don't worry, it will not take long, because there is not one.

I have to say, this is a remarkable achievement by this Conservative-led Government during the longest period of austerity in living memory, particularly as the previous Labour Government played no small part in creating this financial mess in the first place.

What can we conclude from this? I think we can safely say that the National Health Service is safe in Conservative hands. I support Councillor Buckley's amendment. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It feels a bit like Groundhog Day, really, standing up here talking about this once again. I find myself standing to

discuss hypocrisy and collective amnesia that the Labour Party has with regards to the NHS. We discussed this very topic a year ago and here we go again.

The problem with this White Paper is that it offers nothing new. It offers the status quo, it offers the Labour Party pushing an agenda based on its vested interests but for some in the Labour Party that vested interest is not the unions, it is the private healthcare companies. Adam, rather than listening to what Paul might say for the Liberal Democrats, why don't you listen to your 36 peers and 14 MPs of Ed Miliband's Labour Party who either sit on boards of private healthcare companies or have benefited financially from them under the Health and Social Care Act? Hypocrisy yet again.

Returning the Health Service back to a system that supports the unions and the organisation providing those services rather than a service responsive to the changing needs of its patients condemns the NHS and the English to a level of service provided by the Labour administration running the NHS in Wales.

Can I also remind you that the NHS has never truly been free. We have had to pay for prescriptions, dentists, eye care – all have incurred a cost. We have never truly had an exclusive public service. GPs, opticians, dentists have all worked privately but on behalf of the NHS. Can I remind you that you hived off services here in Leeds. The highly regarded Orthotics and Prosthetics at Seacroft, run by a private company under a contract commissioned by your Party. Minor injuries services run by Local Care Direct, a third sector provider.

Lisa, we would not have to save £50m but your Government's PFI contracts cost LTH £50m per annum. They were all delivered by your last Government.

Finally, Nye Bevan created an NHS based on need, free at the point of care. Can I remind all of you that since 2010 no NHS services have deviated from providing services based on need and free at the point of care. Only the Lib Dems are interested in providing an NHS based on the needs of its users, not on ideology. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: I now call upon Councillor Mulherin to sum up.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: First of all can I thank Councillor Flynn and congratulate him on making his maiden speech and, on behalf of the Labour Group, can I please offer our condolences to you and to Councillor Fox's family and friends. I believe we will be remembering Councillor Fox at the next Council meeting.

Moving on from that, then, to the comments that were made. It might be useful to remind you again what Stephen Dorrell said, that the challenge of making £30b efficiency savings to redistribute around the NHS has failed and that he would be ashamed if the NHS budget did not receive a boost in income at a time when the economy was growing. Sarah Woolaston again has commented that the NHS budget may have been protected in line with background inflation but that does not keep pace with inflation in health costs from rising demand and demographic changes. In real terms, the allocations that were given to CCGs in the North of England and our area in particular were actual cuts, along with the cuts that we received as a Local Authority, so across the system there have been significant cuts to health and social care in Leeds.

I would just like to comment that it is very disappointing in terms of the comments that have been made from Members opposite. Tories and Lib Dems are not asking their Government to do anything and it is their Government that has

introduced these changes to the system which are bringing the NHS to its knees. They are clearly satisfied with that.

We have to recognise that the National Health Service needs to change to meet the very different needs of the population now and in the future but the changes that were made by their Health and Social Care Act made it more difficult by the fragmentation of commissioning and the privatisation of services brought by that Act. Patients and the public need to be more involved in decision-making and designing services for the future and there is a vital role for local Health and Wellbeing Boards in ensuring those services are met.

The Labour Party proposals are not to abolish Health and Wellbeing Boards, they are to repeal the fragmentation of commissioning and the privatisation of NHS services that are brought in by the competition laws through the Health and Social Care Act.

There is a broad consensus that a transformation fund is needed to ensure that the services in communities close to people's homes can be delivered. It is utterly unsustainable to expect those resources to be found from the acute sector without some up front investment in community services first and it is essential that the Secretary of State regains overall responsibility for providing and securing a comprehensive NHS if the National Health Service is to survive at all. He, like the Members opposite, can no longer shirk their responsibility and the responsibility of what their Parties have done to our National Health Service.

I think I am about to run out of time so I will just say thank you to Councillor Ogilvie for reminding us of the Better Care Fund, what Members opposite conveniently forget that there is no new money in it. If we are to achieve whole person care, which is what we are trying to do with an integrated health and care system in Leeds that brings mental, physical and social care together, it cannot be done in a fragmented system with competition at its heart. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Right, we move to the vote. The first vote is the first amendment in the name of Councillor Buckley. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly LOST.

We now move to vote on the second amendment in the name of Councillor Golton. *(A vote was taken)* That is LOST.

We now move to the motion in the name of Councillor Mulherin. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED.

I would like to thank you all for attending the meeting. I do hope you will join me tomorrow afternoon on the steps of the Civic Hall to watch the ride-by by the local cyclists and the Tour de France cyclists. It should be quite exciting. Thank you very much.

(The meeting closed at 7.30pm)