

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on

Wednesday, 10th September 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, 10th SEPTEMBER 2014

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I just remind Members to switch off all mobile phones, or at least put them on silent, and to remind Members also that the meeting is to be webcast.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: I will just move on to announcements. I am sure you will all join with me in congratulating the 23 Leeds athletes at their success at the recent Commonwealth Games. (*hear, hear*) (*Applause*)

Also, Leeds Rhinos on winning the Challenge Cup for 2014. (*Applause*)

I would also like to announce the retirement of Mr John Kearsley, who recently retired on 5th September.

It is with sadness that I inform you of the recent death of former Lady Mayoress Mrs Gwen Landers, who was Lady Mayoress in 1960-61 to Alderman Mrs Lillian Hammond.

I would also like to remind Members that the memorial service for Ann Maguire will take place on 29th September at Leeds Town Hall from twelve o'clock to 1.00pm.

ITEM 1 – MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD 2nd JULY 2014

THE LORD MAYOR: Now we move on to the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July. Councillor Nash.

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

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. That is CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 2 is Declarations of Interest. Has any Member any disclosable pecuniary interests that they wish to declare? Councillor Cleasby.

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: Lord Mayor, having seen the Order Paper and this paper in front of us, I think I should declare that I have a daughter who is an allotment holder and therefore it might possibly be pecuniary. I think it is safer for me to declare.

THE LORD MAYOR: That is noted, Councillor Cleasby. Any other declarations?

ITEM 3 - COMMUNICATIONS

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

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Two communications to report. The first, from Earl Howe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department of Health with regard to a White Paper in respect of the NHS, which has been circulated to all Members of Council.

I am afraid we would be here all day if I was to read out all of the communications of congratulations we have had about the Tour de France and I am very happy to make any available to Members who would like to see them, so I thought I would just read one excerpt from one of them out, from the Chief Executive of UK Sport. I know Members are going to discuss this later so I will just read one paragraph out:

“There are not many people that fully understand the challenges in organising and resourcing this race. It has taken real courage from Leeds City Council to step up to the plate and turn what was a great concept into a reality. Your commitment, working alongside the Hub, has helped deliver an event that has immediately taken its place in our sporting heritage as one of the greatest ever hosted in the UK.” *(Applause)*

ITEM 4 – DEPUTATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move on the Deputations. Chief Executive.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: There are four Deputations. One, Feed Leeds regarding a new food strategy for Leeds; two, Leeds Suicide Prevention Group regarding prevention and support; three, the Have a Voice (Children in Care) Council regarding The Promise; and four, Leeds and District Gardeners Federation regarding allotments in Leeds.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

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

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.

DEPUTATION ONE – FEED 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.

MR A GOLDRING: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, hello, I am Andy Goldring, Chair of Feed Leeds, Chief Executive of the Permaculture Association and

a member of the Local Food Fund, which distributed £57m pounds to over 500 projects in the last five years. Feed Leeds was initiated by Leeds City Council and draws on a wide expertise of organisations and networks in the city.

I am joined by Sonia Woodcock, Feed Leeds Treasurer and Voluntary Action Leeds Co-ordinator.

Today we want to encourage you to initiate a new Food Strategy. Why do we need one? Leeds faces major challenges, including big reductions in public spending, climate change and concerns about long term food supply. Locally, there is increased food poverty and use of food banks; social issues like isolation and loneliness; public health challenges such as obesity and diabetes; increasing malnutrition, particularly for older people, with deprived communities less likely to be eating a healthy balanced diet.

Leeds made a good start with its first Food Strategy in 2010. It is now time to take the next step. Our detailed proposal, which you can read in full, is the outcome of work we have done over the last year, in partnership with Research Council, funded research, over 90 individuals and businesses, Council officers and our own experience. We want to build on the good work already under way by groups like the Food Aid Network, Feed Leeds, and the Older People's Food Matters group.

The benefits. We propose the development of an integrated cross-Council strategy, produced in partnership with business, academia and civil society. This can have huge benefits for Leeds:

Employment. Leeds has a lot of agricultural land, and a Council initiated report suggests a huge potential for new jobs and enterprises. A strategy that promotes productive landscaping and urban agriculture can increase food security and enhance biodiversity through the development of new businesses and social enterprises and contribute to a low carbon economy.

Environment. Increased local food and reduced food waste can reduce carbon emissions. Parks and the wider urban environment can be enhanced with increased community engagement in food projects. Strategies to tackle the unhealthy food environment can be explored and the quality and safety of food prepared and sold in Leeds can be monitored.

Housing. Examples from across the UK demonstrate how some of our most difficult housing estates can be energised with new landscaping and food projects. Future housing can be planned to reduce waste, increase productivity, and ensure access to fresh food and adequate preparation facilities.

Public health. Local Food Fund research shows that involvement in food projects and cooking skills initiatives can significantly increase physical and mental health, reduce health inequalities and isolation and increase social cohesion. We want to build on the objective in the previous food strategy to ensure that everyone in Leeds has choice and access to food that is right for their stage of life particularly focusing on working with the poorest to improve their health as referenced in your Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Education. School food is now firmly on the agenda with the implementation of the School Food Plan. Schools will be supported to take ownership of the plan and develop the infrastructure to deliver its ambitions locally.

How? International research has shown that Food Strategies can be developed through existing resources. A critical point for their success is inter-sectoral communication, not the availability of financial resources. We propose that Leeds create an initiative with representation from across the Council to work in partnership with civil society, local business and education bodies. The strategy would identify key principles that can guide work across the city and identify important outcomes, actions and targets that we can all work together to achieve. A new food strategy could set measurable cuts to food related carbon emissions; help the Council to achieve its Working Well Action Plan; and contribute towards the implementation of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

In conclusion, food touches all of our lives. Through the focus on food we can engage many people, businesses and community groups to help Leeds achieve its ambitions. We want to be the best city for Health and Wellbeing, a child friendly city and a city in which people can age well? Overall we want to help to create a fair, prosperous and sustainable city.

I sincerely hope that you can support this proposal. There is a lot of work going on in the city to make really important changes that will affect our future. I urge you to support this proposal. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move that the matter be referred to the Director of Public Health 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. *(Applause)*

DEPUTATION TWO – SUICIDE PREVENTION

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 J BECKETT: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, my name is Judy Beckett and this is Laura Pattison. We have come to speak to you on behalf of the Bereavement by Suicide Task Group, which is a sub-group of the Leeds Suicide Prevention Group.

I want to talk to you, if I could tell you a way of reducing suffering and trauma and avoiding preventable deaths simply by using resources efficiently, would you champion it? We have come to talk to you today on International Suicide Prevention Day about bereavement by suicide.

Unless you have experienced this kind of bereavement, you may not be aware of its wide ranging consequences and there are ways in which we can better to make a real difference in people's lives.

We are going to talk to you about postvention, which is active support for those left behind following a suicide. We know that those who have been left behind following a suicide are at a lifetime increased risk of suicide themselves. We would like you to think about how you can support this area of work and how you can raise the profile of suicide prevention as a serious issue for Leeds.

In Leeds alone on average there is more than one suicide per week, according to the Suicide Audit (2012). For each death a conservative estimate of the number of bereaved survivors would be seven, so that would be people who are directly impacted by that death. This means as a result of suicides in Leeds alone around 580 per year are joining the ranks of those bereaved by suicide.

Survivors are at a lifetime increased risk of suicide themselves, not to mention significant adverse health, social and economic consequences – they might have increased use of health services, increased mental health needs, increased absence from work and reduced productivity.

Evidence suggests that intervening early after a suicide with family members and those close can actually save lives, and it is cost-effective, it can reduce these consequences. We propose that addressing the needs of survivors is a positive step towards preventing future suicides.

Many people feel powerless when faced with the issue of suicide. Suicide is often seen as an unsympathetic death. Survivors can feel stigmatised by this. Current support is patchy and often not tailored or aware of the needs of this particular population. Many of the issues that affect families of murder victims may affect those bereaved by suicide, for instance dealing with the police, crime scene issues, media interest but with an additional layer of stigma. People may be reticent to seek help and support, those survivors.

We are speaking to you today as individuals whose lives, both of us, have been touched by suicide, we have both been bereaved by suicide. We know too there will be people in this room whose lives have also been touched by suicide. There are people in Leeds today affected by this issue and suffering.

Postvention – which is intervention for people bereaved by suicide - is prevention for the next generation. It is a proactive step we can take.

So far Leeds City Council has already committed £200,000 to this suicide prevention work. We do not yet have a dedicated postvention service but as individuals Laura and I are setting up a peer support group on a voluntary basis through Leeds Bereavement Forum and our first evening is this evening.

We want to establish tailored support for this group whose needs are often overlooked sometimes before, and frequently after, the death.

We want to establish a new funded, proactive service that could reach out to people in the wake of a suicide, liaising with the police and the Coroner and we hope that this service may be up and running next year. This is already happening in Northern Ireland and it is having a real impact. We want Leeds to be able to be a great example of good practice in this area.

We guess that many individuals who attend your surgeries are vulnerable and there are some whose lives may have been impacted by suicide.

So what can you do? You can make people aware of the work we are developing in Leeds, and there is more information available in the foyer and we have brought some information.

You can recognise this is a major issue for Leeds, get behind us, keep suicide prevention and postvention (supporting people after suicide) on the political agenda. Remember, postvention is prevention.

This is an opportunity for you as local Councillors to do the Safetalk training. It gives you a good introduction on how to recognise and talk to those who may be at risk of suicide and I would ask you, please, to continue to campaign for thoughtful and sensitive reporting of suicides to reduce stigma and to challenge inappropriate behaviour and sensationalised reporting.

Thank you very much for listening. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move that the matter be referred to the Director of Public Health 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 now put it to 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. (*Applause*)

DEPUTATION THREE – THE PROMISE

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 K LACEY: Good afternoon Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors. My name is Kia Lacey and this is Katie Moore with me. We are all part of the Have a Voice or Care Leavers' Council. We are here today to tell you about the Promise, and to make sure it is all kept.

The Promise is a list of commitments made to all young people who are looked after by Leeds. Previously there was a much longer and more detailed document called the Pledge but it was not working because it was too complicated for young people to use and the people who work with us could not keep to it all, so the Pledge was always being broken. Over the past year and a half we have worked hard to re-make the Promise, so that it can really work and make a difference to the lives of the children and young people who need it.

It is very important to us that the Promise works this time and keeps working in the future. We believe the things it says are the very least that all children and young people deserve. Even though it will mean different things at different points in our lives, the Promise applies to everyone, regardless of our age, our abilities, where we live or how long we have been in care.

For the Promise to really have an effect everyone working with looked after children and young people should know about it and understand what it is and why it is important. It might sometimes seem very difficult but they need to know that whether the Promise is kept or not has a real impact in a looked after child's life.

As Elected Members you are all Corporate Parents, so we would like you to make sure that Promise is kept. There are lots of ways you can do this. For example, you can support our education and show that you have high aspirations for the children and young people who live in your ward by making sure the schools all have Designated Teachers and Governors with a responsibility for looked after children. You could help to make sure we have enough Independent Visitors for every child who wants one by promoting the service when you meet with business people or community groups, so that more children have that extra supportive person in their life, and maybe you could celebrate our achievements by writing to them when they pass an exam or a driving test, for example, because a personal congratulations card can mean a lot. If you are lucky enough to know a young person or a child in care, you can nominate them for a STARS Award, and maybe even go with them to the Awards ceremony.

Most of all we want to ask you to use your role as Elected Members to champion the Promise and keep asking the hard questions to the people who are in charge of looking after us, and do not let the Promise be forgotten.

Thank you for listening to us today. *(Standing ovation)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: Lord Mayor, I move that the matter be referred to the Director of Children's Services 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 will 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.

(Applause)

DEPUTATION FOUR – LEEDS AND DISTRICT GARDENERS FEDERATION

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.

MR P LATIMER: I am Paul Latimer and this is Jill Walsh from the Leeds and District Allotment Gardeners Federation.

My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, thank you for the opportunity to speak to the full Council.

The Leeds and District Allotment Gardeners Federation Executive Committee supported this delegation at its meeting on 6th August 2014. The Federation's 2,500 members are the voice of the self-managed allotment movement in Leeds, which manages over 65% of the allotment sites in the city through delegated responsibility from the Leeds City Council.

Why are we here? We are still not convinced that Councillors fully understand the self-management allotment system or fully appreciate the consequences of their actions resulting from the Full Council meeting of 4th September 2013, part of which was judged unlawful but, even more importantly, the possible and subsequent repercussions of the new proposals going to the Executive Board next week.

Many City and Town Councils up and down the country are making great efforts to encourage their allotment plot holders to create site associations and federations and to become self-managed. We have learned from other Councils that in nearly all cases, self-managed allotments are almost cost neutral to the Council and can attract external funding - an important consideration in the present financial climate.

Up until now Leeds has been leading the way within the group of Core City Councils with more than 80% of its allotment plots under self-management. Until last year there was an excellent rapport between the Council and plot holders, a fact revered throughout the country. No other Core City could lay claim to having such a large percentage of self-managed sites.

We are not opposed to reasonable rent increases; our main objection is to the Council's proposed proportion of rent to be retained by associations to manage and maintain their sites. We have always been prepared to negotiate and continue to offer suggestions and assistance to help in make further savings, but have been refused the opportunity recently.

What is being proposed is to cut the present retention of the ground rent by self-managed associations from two-thirds to just over a quarter - in effect using self-managed sites' volunteer time to subsidise the running of the city controlled sites. Is this fair and reasonable? Parks & Countryside have claimed all along they would like to see all allotment sites self-managed, but there is no evidence of any serious steps

being taken to achieve this and still no allotment strategy. The proposed intention to reduce the amount of rent retained to such a small proportion is hardly conducive to encouraging any site to become self-managed.

We are also very concerned about the Council's haste to get leases (issued last October) signed, as they pre-empt any new, unknown proposed rental figures but the retained rental proportions defined in the lease documents relate directly to the rental amounts quashed at the Judicial Review.

If allotment associations sign the new lease as it stands, they are committed to retaining only 40% of the rent collected in 2014/2015. This for an average site of 80 plot holders would mean a reduction of approximately 33%. I understand this issue will be covered by a side letter but that is only after this Deputation was submitted and the letter has not been sent yet. Hopefully it will be.

Because we are convinced that further savings are possible with a robust management model in place, we do not believe the further reductions of the retained proportions for 2015/2016 and 2016 onwards are fair or reasonable.

We are also concerned about the likely consequences if the Council agrees to these proposals. We understand that a number of the self-managed sites do not intend to accept these proposals and are prepared to give up their self-managed status and revert back to city control. This will require additional Council office staff, maintenance staff and increased legal costs.

Do not forget the voluntary workforce presently managing 80% of your allotment plots. They contribute an estimated 30,000 + volunteer hours per year and save the Council an estimated £350,000.

We implore you to think long and hard over this decision. Financially we consider the Council will be worse off if you accept these proposals instead of allowing time for a full review of the self-managed model.

Thank you for listening; we hope you make the right decision. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

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

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: *(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. *(Applause)*

ITEM 5 – REPORT ON APPOINTMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move on to Reports. 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 call for the vote. (*A vote was taken*) It is CARRIED.

ITEM 6 – REPORT – AREA COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

THE LORD MAYOR: We move on to the Report of the Area Committee Annual Report. Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR P GRUEN: Lord Mayor, thank you. I am very pleased to introduce this Annual Report which you will find amongst your papers. Seeing that all of us are involved in Area Committees, that ten of you chair them and that I have here a page long list of Community Champions across the different priorities, this clearly is a very significant report and it demonstrates how much valuable work is being done by all of us during the year.

I want to give just a very quick résumé of some of that work and how it has changed since we are now moving into the era of Community Committees.

The most recent Inner South Committee had 60 attendees, local residents, BME women's groups attending with a Third Sector group and the focus was on domestic violence.

The Outer South, chaired by Councillor Bruce, discussed Children's Services disputes led by their Member Champion and included Families First, school place provision, school performance, clusters and so on.

The Outer East Committee, chaired by Councillor Andrea McKenna, is going to focus on employment issues at the Thorpe Park development, a massively important issue for all of East Leeds, looking at short-term construction opportunities and long-term jobs.

In the Inner East Councillor Khan, who is going to speak shortly, will reflect on his meeting where there were 70 community attendees. In the Outer North-East Councillor Wilkinson is providing a great local platform for integrated working and wants to continue building strong relationships with the Town and the Parish Councils.

In the Inner North-East Councillor Sharon Hamilton in her first meeting decided they would be joined by partners, community group representatives and residents to discuss their chosen priority topics for the Committee.

In the Inner West Councillor Caroline Gruen, in their first inaugural meeting, concentrated on actually using a lot of social media beforehand to promote the event both before, during and after to get an active and growing following. They had a

broad range of stakeholders, including residents, co-opted Members, Third Sector and business sector to discuss the whole area of their District Centres, which is a very important issue in Inner West.

In Outer West Councillor Josie Jarosz was holding a meeting about local engagement plans to promote stakeholder involvement, focusing on employment, learning and the local economy.

Councillor Akhtar, leading the Inner North-West Committee, always well attended, focusing on the kind of issues again with schools, school clusters, health management, new Community Committee led by Councillor Chapman who, of course, has just produced with her Scrutiny Board a very important report on Children's Services.

Councillor Wadsworth, in the Outer North-West, is leading a development where, again, social media have been invited and key developments are being taken forward in that area too.

I think there is a fantastic amount of work ongoing in those new Committees and I commend their work to you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: I second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bruce to comment.

COUNCILLOR BRUCE: We all know that some people in this city are struggling and finding it really hard to make ends meet, with the Tory and Lib Dem Bedroom Tax, changes to the Welfare System and zero hour contracts to name but a few.

I am Community Committee Chair for Outer South and this Government's policies are hitting our Outer areas hard. We have pockets of deprivation, like at John O'Gaunts, one of our estates in Rothwell, where a new food bank has just opened. I have been overwhelmed by the number of local people who want to give up their time to volunteer to help and it was great to see the volunteers ready on the first day with a welcoming smile and a cup of tea.

The new Rothwell Food Bank is as a result of a series of meetings I set up at Chair of the Outer South Community Committee with all the separate groups who had been talking of the need for a food bank, Rothwell Tenants and Residents Association, Fair Exchange, local churches and other groups.

We have worked with the Leeds South Food Bank and its support and experience has been invaluable in getting everything ready for the food bank to open, including training the volunteers and referrers, becoming part of its network providing admin back-up and sharing supplies, etc.

I am delighted with colleagues to have secured £1,000 from the Outer South Community Committee to provide storage and IT equipment for the food bank. The Committee has also ringfenced £1,000 for similar projects in the two Morley wards and Ardsley and Robin Hood ward.

The food bank operates on a referral only basis from appropriate trained referrers from partner agencies and has a maximum use of three times per year per family. It is for emergencies, many of which are caused by this Government's policies.

The Trussell Trust says that benefit delays and changes have led to 50% of all referrals to food banks. The Trust states the Bedroom Tax, which increasingly looks like it will cost more than it saves, is a huge part of the problem. The National Audit Office says that claimants are waiting months to claim new disability benefits, with even terminally ill patients waiting four weeks to get support.

Research carried out by Tesco, the Trussell Trust and food redistribution charity FareShare shows that 70% of families suffering from food poverty with children in primary school education rely in some part on food supplied by the schools. Although it is unbelievable that a food bank is needed in Rothwell in the 21st Century, it is awful to see people suffer because of this Government's policies, but it is fantastic that we have been able to...

THE LORD MAYOR: Can you wind up, Councillor Bruce?

COUNCILLOR BRUCE: ...offer a first class service for the people who need our help. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Khan.

COUNCILLOR KHAN: Lord Mayor fellow Councillors, I am speaking to day on the meeting held in the Inner East Area at St Phillip's Church for the first Community Committee meeting. I would like to share with Council the success of the meeting.

Over 70 people attended the meeting that we had set up in order to voice the opinions and thoughts with me and other elected Members who attended. I would like to thank the people who came to the meeting. I look forward to be working more closely with them in the future.

Our next meeting will be at East Leeds Academy with more focus on young people and children. People are worried about the lack of jobs and skills opportunities. Many of them are concerned with the environment they live in. They are worried about their Health Service. Young people feel they are pushed outside society and we have listened from young people this afternoon. We listened to their concerns, we wanted to hear what they had to deal with in their daily struggles. People wanted to have a stronger, closer community. This is a message that I would like to echo, having an involvement in a passionate community is what people want but they lack the platform to achieve this. This is where the Council can step in and work closely by listening to local people, by making sure we pool together all our available resources to help create a better community.

One thing that arose is that people felt disfranchised with the Council, especially young people. They wanted more elected Members to be involved at the local community. The people said they were pleased that the Council came to the area rather than the local people come to us. By doing so demonstrates we do care about the people.

To prove we have more interaction we moved the meeting time to 7.00pm in order to allow more people an opportunity to attend locally. I urge my fellow Members to go out and listen to the people, show that you are about the community, show that the Council do want to involve and build bridges with the people of Leeds.

I do hope that we can continue with these meetings through the citizens of Leeds and social media initiatives. By listening to people we can achieve together and tackle the problems we face. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Khan. There was a strange sound being emitted while you were speaking, Councillor Khan. Whoever owns that device, I would like to see them later to donate £20 to my charity!

Councillor Cleasby.

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor, Council, can I draw your attention to page 12 of this wonderful glossy booklet, the section on the Outer North West.

I would like to correct the inaccuracies in it. It states the Area Committee funded two additional pieces. This is a Horsforth Town Council initiative started by them, who came to us asking would we help them fund it, which we have done all those years, so that is unfair to the Town Council, especially as there was reference at the end of the piece of saying Horsforth generously gave a small grant. They have been very generous, they have put in £8,500 towards a PCSO.

My following concern, Lord Mayor and Council, is that all we are doing effectively with our money and the Town Council's money is paying to allow the police not to have some PCSOs in Horsforth but to base them in Otley and truck them up whenever it suits them, so we are paying for travelling time, which I think is a waste and if you notice, Council, I put a question down to that effect asking when are we going to get our PCSOs and our police officers back in Horsforth.

Councillor, can I remind you, it is called Neighbourhood policing. I would like my neighbourhood police to be in the neighbourhoods that I represent. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR P GRUEN: Lord Mayor, thank you very much. I know we had two Chairs speak; it could have been all ten. Behind them, as I say, they will wish to thank all of their members on each of the committees because you are making a difference.

The difference is that in 2012/13 every pound spent turned into a spending in the local area of £3.50 but that is a very creditable result and achievement. Of the projects funded during that period, 80% would not have taken place without money made available by the Community Committee, so funding is being put back into the community and quite often because of the way we carry on our business, the residents did not recognise that the money was actually coming from their local Councillors and their local Community Committees and that is one of the main things we are changing.

The Community Committees will build on this excellent work. You are going to decentralise more funding to local level. You are changing the format and the set-up of meetings to be more open, more welcoming, more transparent. You are going to have clear and attractive advertising and, I hope, easy to read reports. I know that is a massive challenge. We are also going to utilise ward Member communications and many of you are already absolute experts at using the telephone and media in a way that others can only dream about, but well done to those of you who are experts. We are getting messages out about Community Committees.

Karen reminds us, of course, in her speech, that there is only one Group in this Chamber which has consistently opposed and will continue to oppose the hated Bedroom Tax. (*Applause*) There is another Group that is coming on board and there are those merchants over *there* who have no shame and will never come on board.

Community Committees are raising difficult, complex, challenging issues – well done. We are going to engage even more with our communities. Thank you for that and also can I thank all the officers involved who support you in the localities and make our work happen for us. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

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

ITEM 7 – REPORT ON THE OUTER NORTH-EAST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move on to Item 7, the report on the Outer North-East Community Committee. Councillor Wilkinson.

COUNCILLOR WILKINSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Whilst I agree that Area Committees, now known as Community Committees, are of great benefit to local communities, this is where they should stay – in local communities and not here in full Council.

In our Group we believe that full Council should be an opportunity for all Members, regardless of which party they are from, to hold the Executive Board to account. I am never going to turn down the opportunity to talk about my community but I strongly believe any issues are best raised in local open meetings where members of the public can hold us to account.

I very much hope the powers that be reflect on this and make more appropriate use in future Council meetings of what limited time we have available. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to the vote. Those in favour?

COUNCILLORS: Of what?

THE LORD MAYOR: Of this report being accepted. Those in favour? There are no other speakers on the Report on the Outer North East Community Committee. It now goes to the vote. Those in favour of accepting the report please show. (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED.

ITEM 8 – REPORT ON THE OUTER EAST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 8, Report on the Outer East Community Committee. Councillor Andrea McKenna.

COUNCILLOR A McKENNA: Lord Mayor, before I start my speech, I actually welcome the opportunity to stand here and talk about the new Community Committee. (*Applause*) As a relative back-bencher I do not often get chance to speak in Council, so this is a new one and I think we ought to embrace this and move forward. (*hear, hear*)

The Outer East Community Committee has started as it means to go on with a very successful project aimed at local people in local areas. Firstly, I would like to thank the Area Management Team and Councillors for all their hard work over the last year. The Community Committee Champions are working well and are meeting every six weeks. We have successfully set up a Youth Panel which has met three times so far, thanks to Councillor Debra Coupar.

Looking at the grant from the Youth Activities Fund, as of the last week we have just adopted the Children's and Young People's Terms of Reference so where we are moving on very, very quickly. In the Outer East we are engaging in important work being done to make meetings more exciting. The Outer East Community Committee is leading its way by using social media, especially Facebook, to promote our forums and activities taking place locally.

This year we have extended our summer cricket coaching courses for young people in the Outer East, holding three events instead of two – one at Whitkirk Cricket Club, one at Garforth Cricket Club and one, as always, at Kippax Welfare Rugby Club.

Lord Mayor, can I just take this opportunity as I am speaking about sport to congratulate the Leeds Rhinos on winning the Challenge Cup. (*Applause*) I was there to see them win and it was an absolutely wonderful occasion to see them lift that cup. I have attended the last three Leeds Rhinos finals and was told by Gary Hetherington that I have not to attend again (*laughter*). It was very difficult for me representing Garforth/Swillington as the area is divided in sport for Leeds and Castleford, my father being born in Castleford. I had family members sat in the Castleford end who were very, very unkind to me, but some of you are aware that I have strong connections with the Rhinos since Jim was the Lord Mayor, especially my favourite, Jamie Jones-Buchanan. Lord Mayor, I am making a plea. Will you be holding a Civic Reception once they win the Super League play offs? They are a great asset to the City of Leeds.

Just to sum up, this is just some of the exciting things that we are doing in the Outer East and I look forward to hearing from my colleagues.

Lord Mayor, I move the report of the Outer East Community Committee. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harland.

COUNCILLOR HARLAND: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I just want to speak briefly about not just the work that happens within the Area Committee meetings, exciting and engaging as they often are, but also some of the appointments that we all of us, as Councillor Gruen reflects all of us are Members of Area Committees and all of us, many of us have appointments to outside organisations through those Area Committees. One of the ones that I am appointed on to is the Garforth Neighbourhood Elders Team which, despite its name, covers eleven villages in the Outer East area and some in Harewood Ward as well, but I will not touch on those because I know the Conservative Group do not want to hear about this item.

What I think is really important to look at is how the work that we can do on Area Committees can actually support the wider work the Council does. It is not abstract work. As part of NET we have worked to support older people in the area, we have won significant awards as an organisation for promoting older people, for engaging with older people, awards for looking after older people who may suffer from loneliness, may suffer from isolation which is quite easy in an area like ours, and also earlier this year Monica Walker, who is a manager at NET, was awarded an honour in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, I think in personal recognition of what an important organisation it is.

One in five of us will live to be 100 and I know it might seem we are getting there a little bit quicker in these meetings but one in five of us will live to be 100. These services for older people are absolutely vital and the work that we do as Area Committees in helping provide these and tailoring to local needs, tailoring to local areas, are going to become even more critical as the Council changes as a result of having half its funding cut by the current Government.

We have got to take this forward more importantly. I do welcome the fact we can bring these items to the Council Chamber and talk about not just what the administration does sat in rooms in Civic Hall but what we actually do out in the communities to deliver Council policy. I think the Community Committees are absolutely crucial on that and I think this talks about one example in one Community Committee but I think we have all got them and we all need to recognise how important this work is. *(Applause)*

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

COUNCILLOR S McKENNA: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, I am speaking today on the work of the Outer East Community Committee; specifically I am speaking on what we have been doing to improve playground and recreational areas around the area.

It is no surprise to know that the ability for children to play outside has been found to improve their wellbeing and development, as found in a book published by Play England. Children become healthier both physically and mentally. We also know that play helps children learn about risks and boosts academic attainment. Therefore, I welcome the success of this project in bringing new life into these areas for children to enjoy.

Over the last year they have chosen to invest into the improvement of parks and playgrounds of Swillington and Garforth. The project has been completed after securing funding from various Council sources. Young children will now be able to play outdoors on a more varied park. New playground equipment for children of all abilities is now available, including climbing units with classic apparatus most of us will remember, including swings, roundabouts and a see-saw.

Parents with toddlers will be able to take their children on brand new equipment on Swillington playground. I would also like to mention the zip line in Swillington that is very popular, apart from the adults keep on breaking it.

Jumpers for goalposts – not in Swillington, where two brand new junior goals are taking pride of place. I hope children take advantage and play at these newly improved playgrounds at every chance they get. After all, it is a child's right to play.

I hope that we continue in our success in similar projects. We have shown improving the quality of life for people in the area with something as simple as new playground areas can be achievable. As we all know, the financial situation imposed on the Council by the National Government has meant drastic changes to all budgets. How wonderful is it that we are able to improve playgrounds despite these changes. It is important that we continue to prioritise this sort of investment to boost the health and happiness of young people. Hopefully with the ongoing efforts of the Community Committee and the Council's Child Friendly Leeds Initiative, it will mean we can continue projects like this to meet our aims for the future, making children feel respected, happy and safe throughout our city. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Andrea McKenna to sum up.

COUNCILLOR A McKENNA: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to thank Councillor Lewis for speaking about Garforth Neighbourhood Elders. They are an absolutely wonderful organisation who cover both Garforth ward and Kippax ward and all the villages and we really could not manage without them.

We piloted the Winter Packs scheme in the Outer East with well over 1500 packs going out between the four wards. The packs were greatly received from all who received them. This would not have been possible without the work with the Neighbourhood Networks. We have four wonderful Neighbourhood Networks in our areas, all doing excellent work, and the packs were match-funded from Area Panel and Housing Leeds.

Lord Mayor, I chair the Older People's sub-group for the Outer Area and am working with four Networks – Garforth NET, Crossgates Good Neighbours, Swarcliffe Good Neighbours and HOPE – we have established fantastic community relationships. We meet every month, also inviting Police, Fire, Social Services and Housing Leeds and other agencies to attend.

We have part-funded a worker to oversee the luncheon clubs in the Outer areas, which have gone from strength to strength. The Community Committee holds an annual Older People's week. This year we are holding a large event at Garforth Holiday Inn and around 150 older people attended, plus a further six events in the Community Committee areas. All events will have approximately 100 people each day, all having the chance to engage with vital services, have a lunch with friends followed by some entertainment and lastly, and most importantly, a game of bingo.

Councillor Stuart McKenna has spoken about the refurbishment of two local parks, one in Garforth and one in Swillington. The Community Committee has also given grants of £5,000 towards play equipment on Sutton Park and also £10,000 towards Whinmoor Park environmental projects on Hebden Way.

The Outer East Community Committee is looking to engage with local people having themed meetings. The first themed meeting is in October with Jobs and Skills as the topic. This is very important, especially due to the Thorpe Park development. The development has the potential to create up to 330 construction jobs and in the region of 10,700 jobs over 25 years.

As the development goes ahead, local people need to be empowered to get as many of the jobs as possible. This includes working closely with Scarborough Developments, local schools and colleges to ensure that young people are made aware of the schemes and looking at opportunities to gain employment.

We have further themed meetings planned on Health and Wellbeing and Environmental Community Safety.

As Community Committee Chair, Lord Mayor, I am delighted with the progress we have made and hopefully the good work will continue. Thank you, Lord Mayor.
(Applause)

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

ITEM 9 – QUESTIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: We will now move on to Question Time where for a period of 30 minutes Members of Council can ask questions of the Executive.

Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Will the Executive Board Member for Cleaner, Stronger and Safer Communities inform Council how much Leeds City Council paid in legal costs associated with the recent judicial review carried out by allotment holders and associations in Leeds?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In terms of legal costs incurred to date for the action taken in the Judicial Review by the Leeds and District Gardeners Federation, the costs are as follows.

In terms of counsel costs, that is costs that we have paid to our counsel, they run at £20,309.63. Courier costs run at £231 and costs for the other side incurred to date run at £30,000.

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

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: I do, yes. On the basis of those costs, does Councillor Dobson think it was worthwhile pursuing the legal action or, with what he has already heard today, does he think it would have been better to speak to the Federation of Allotment Holders and come to a compromise solution which would have avoided all this taxpayers' money being spent?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In the interpretation of what was put before the courts, I think the fundamental principle that had to be defended – and let us park the action and look at the one principle point of law that is fundamental to this and probably every other Authority, that could not be avoided. It was the contention of the Leeds and District Gardeners Federation that Leeds City Council did not have the right to set charges based on its financial position.

I am pleased to inform Council that the Judge gave us the approval on that point of law but that is a fundamental principle not just for this Council but for any other Council. If that had gone undefended, Paul, what would the ramifications of that have been? It would have effectively meant that every Council up and the land, not just us, would have been hamstrung going forward from that moment forward when it came to set a charging or pricing policy against everything it wanted to do in terms of its budgetary position. Quite frankly, I suggest that any administration of any Council would have felt vindicated in justifying that position.

I also have to say that the Judge's ruling gave us other opportunities of clarification that were incredibly useful. He did not criticise our actual interpretation of the broad brush stroke view we took around Section 10 of the Allotments Act of 1950, which is incredibly useful. He also rejected the argument that the way we had progressed the case through the Executive Board in September last year was irrational and he also agreed with our contention that allotment holding is not a recreational activity *per se*.

Out of the five points that were put forward, we then got down to a very specific point of law. What I am not going to do, and I think it would be wholly inappropriate, even though the Council has lodged the right to appeal, would be to criticise any Judge's findings, but we are at variance because we believe as an administration we went to great lengths in the report back in September 2013 to highlight everything we needed to do and take full account of Section 10 of the Allotments Act of 1950 – indeed, counsel, our counsel, is still of the opinion that we did sufficient work in that body of work to justify the position of the Council that was passed last year, and that is the reason why at this stage we have asked for but not taken up, because we have not found out yet, if we can appeal the verdict.

Really, our counsel's opinion remains that on that very minor point of law in which we were found wanting there is scope for us to reinvestigate that, so whilst I am happy to give those costs, it could be the case going forward that that is a position that we are not able to pull back from.

Really, in terms of case law and custom and practice, this is probably one of the most important judgments that will ever be heard in terms of allotments because it actually changes the nature and framework of how Local Authorities can charge for allotments. That does not mean, nor will it ever, that the City Council wants to adopt a policy of let's hike charges simply to fit our budgetary position.

We remain of the opinion that for a full sized plot in three years' time, from £38.50 to £72, knock one off the other, divide the balance by 52 gives you 64p a week. We are talking about charges – let us face it, it is not our money collectively, it is the city's money – of £53,000 on a minor point of law for the sum of 64p per week. I would ask Council if that was reasonable. Personally I think not and I think that this could have been resolved, as you rightly say, through a series of negotiated processes as we adopted with the Bowling Association – a perfect example of our Council and an Association who start off at variance and by working together – and it is often difficult, it is often fraught but you get to a position where both sides can move forward in unanimity. I believe we should have had that with the allotment association but perhaps that will be further expanded upon in Question 6.

Really, in terms of where we are now, what has it taught us? It has taught us that out of the five principles that they put forward before the court the Council got a clean bill of health on five. We were found wanting on six. We will be putting that right, I can assure Council, in a report that is going to Executive Board this very month.

Really was £53,000 worth it to the citizens of Leeds on a minor point of law, on a minor point of principle? My Lord Mayor, I suggest not. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Could the Leader of Council explain how his administration can justify the subsidies provided to Trade Unions by Leeds City Council in light of those Trade Unions failing to engage in constructive dialogue over the Terms and Conditions of employment as outlined in the Deputy Chief Executive's letter to staff?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I seem to recall a version of this coming last year from the same area. I will try and be as quick as Councillor Dobson was. (*laughter*) He was very succinct, I thought.

The Council continues to be committed to legally enshrined arrangements of providing trade union facilities in order to engage in negotiations over terms and conditions with officers of the Council.

The legislation underpinning the arrangements was introduced by a Conservative Government in 1992 and provided time off for Stewards and Convenors to represent their members in negotiations.

Given that we have experienced massive financial challenges and changes to workplace practices, most sensible people and bodies, including the CBI, would see the need to facilitate a strong working partnership with trade unions, particularly when dealing with fourteen-and-a-half thousand members of staff excluding school-based staff.

I think it is fair to say that when you do meet resistance it is disappointing, but I am absolutely confident with Councillor Gruen spearheading our approach we will make progress and it will be a fair settlement and outcome. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary question Councillor Bentley?

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: Lord Mayor, yes. If I could ask the Leader this. When the Liberal Democrat Group has proposed removing these subsidies to trade unions on successive budget amendments, it has always said that it is worth paying because of the work the unions do in helping with negotiations and smoothing industrial relations so, in light of the fact that the changes to employee terms and conditions have been implemented in spite of not because of the trade unions, does he still think he is getting value for money from these subsidies?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Yes, because when you think that we have now dealt with £200m of cuts, a loss of 3,000 staff and making real serious changes to people's working practices, 0.11% investment in trade unions is not a bad pay back. We have not had one day's industrial action.

The last time the Liberal Dems had industrial relations I seem to recall a disastrous strike, millions wasted and actually victimisation of the low paid of this Council, so I do not think we need any lessons from you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can the Executive Member with responsibility for sport comment on the important role played by Leeds in Team England's success at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Yeadon.

COUNCILLOR YEADON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Thank you, Councillor Ritchie. Yes, we are just coming to the end of another fantastic summer of sport and it is great that the Tour de France, the Rhinos' win and the success at the Commonwealth Games that Leeds has been integral in that summer. We will try not to think too much about football or cricket.

Just looking at the success of Team England from the Delhi Games back in 2010 where we came third on the medal tables with 142 medals and the boost that we have had in just four years where Team England topped the medals table with 174 and very

much thanks to some Leeds based and born athletes. It is something for the city to be incredibly proud of.

I just wanted to name check a few of those gold medallists. Jack Laugher, Alicia Blagg, Rebecca Gallantree and Chris Mears all for diving, who live and train in Leeds at our very own John Charles Centre for Sport; Nile Wilson for gymnastics, who trains at the new Gymnastics Centre over in Seacroft; Alistair Brownlee, Jonathan Brownlee and Victoria Holland for the triathlon, who all train in Leeds; Leeds's own Nicola Adams for boxing and Lizzie Armistead for road cycling; Sophie Taylor for swimming, who trained in Leeds; and Gabby and Chris Adcock for badminton, who also train in Leeds. I think that is an impressive list of gold medallists.

I am sure all of those on that list would argue that their achievement does not come through their individual talents alone and that they all have incredible teams that back them up to get them to that point. I think it would be fair for us as a Council to not only congratulate them but to congratulate the hundreds of volunteers in the city, their community clubs, the partnerships between the Council, the university, community clubs and schools which nurture sporting talent from a young age to ensure that we have got gold medallists representing the city and representing the country in the future.

There is a lot of discussion at the moment around independence and devolution. If Leeds was an independent country (which I am not necessarily advocating but if we were) we would have come ninth on the medals table and I do not think that is at all shoddy and I think we should be incredibly proud.

What we need to ensure is that the success that we have seen with these fantastic athletes goes on for the future and that is by us locally supporting our local community clubs, making sure that those athletes are there as inspiration for our young people to aspire to be there in the future and to continuing our ambition to be the most active big city.

A huge congratulations to Team England, a huge congratulations to Team Leeds and let us hope we see more of that in the future. Thank you.

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

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: No.

COUNCILLOR: Include Yorkshire cricket. They are doing well.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James McKenna.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can the Executive Member for Adult Social Care update Council on the bid for Big Lottery Funding to tackle loneliness and social isolation among older people in Leeds?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Thank you, Councillor McKenna, for your question. Social isolation is probably one of the biggest blights we face in the city, particularly for older people.

Members will be aware of some of the excellent work to tackle this going on in the city, particularly led by our Neighbourhood Networks and Adult Social Care. There has been a really powerful campaign run around isolation by the Yorkshire Post which has helped to raise awareness of the issue so it was fantastic earlier this week when the Big Lottery announced that Leeds has been successful in winning our bid for £6m of funding to tackle loneliness amongst older people. *(Applause)*

That will be £1m every year for the next six years. The bid was put together by Leeds Older People's Forum and staff from Adult Social Care after consultation with nearly 900 older people, carers and community workers across the city.

The money is going to be used to establish new services across the city to help older people to stay in touch with their local communities and avoid the scourge of social isolation. Some of the new services it will help to fund will be more opportunities for older people to socialise on evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays, more digital and travel activities to help older people meet friends and get out and about, more cultural opportunities and inter-generational work and hopefully extending the Social Prescribing Initiatives for older people referred through our Integrated Health and Social Care teams.

I just want to pay tribute and say a big "Well done" to Mick Ward and his team in Adult Social Care and Leeds Older People's Forum who put this bid together and we look forward to working on this over the coming years. *(Applause)*

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

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: Yes, I do have, Lord Mayor. I thank you for the response on that and you quite rightly mention the excellent work that our Neighbourhood Networks do with this. We have great Networks in our area, Armley Helping Hands and Bramley Elderly Action and I am familiar with another one, NET, from Garforth.

It is great news that we have got £6m for the next six years.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: What's the question?

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: I am coming to it, Les. A bit of leniency, please. You get on your bike! The question is coming and if you stop interrupting me I will make it.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we move to the question, Councillor McKenna.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: I have got to answer the question, Lord Mayor. I have got to make a supplementary.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: You are not answering it, you are asking it!

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: Can I please – I am on my feet. Can I ask if the £6m that we have obtained for the next six years will benefit neighbourhood organisations to deal with isolation and loneliness? Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I can try and reassure Councillor McKenna that the Neighbourhood Networks were part of the partnership that helped to develop the bid. The Neighbourhood Networks are represented on Leeds Older People's Forum and, yes, it is intended that Neighbourhood Networks will help to deliver but also benefit from the funding.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you, Lord Mayor and before I ask my question, I am sure you will join me, Lord Mayor, in reminding the Executive Board Member for Sport that we absolutely should be talking about cricket today, with Yorkshire at 476 for 7 in their first innings (*Applause*) and just to land the County Championship.

Will the Executive Board Member for Children's Services assure Council that she is doing everything possible to ensure value for money for the taxpayer in her department?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Yes, in the context of all the work we are doing across the piece to improve the outcomes for children in the City of Leeds.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb, supplementary?

COUNCILLOR LAMB: You will be surprised to know that I have a supplementary, Lord Mayor. I thank Councillor Blake for the succinct answer – not in keeping with the rest of the meeting.

I welcome and recognise some of the savings and measures introduced, not least reducing the number of children looked after by the Local Authority to save money. However, there are cases still where I think money could be spent much more wisely.

Does the Executive Board Member care to explain to Council why in the move from Merrion House to Kernel House they are spending so much money on things such as coat racks, £3,588 on bistro breakout tables and for some reason 370 new computer mice for 198 staff? Why, oh why, can we not re-use some of the furniture from previous buildings instead of buying all new kit for this? Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: In the context of all the challenges that children and young people and their families are facing in the city at this moment in time, I deem your question to be completely trivial, I have to say, in the scheme of what we are facing in this city. I really am so disappointed in what you choose to prioritise; particularly if you have real concerns about those issues, why not come to myself, to the department and raise them in the appropriate manner?

Lord Mayor, we are in a situation where the challenges and needs of families and children in this city are increasing at an immense rate. We have a birth rate increased

by 30% over the last few years and we have lost, as a result of your Government decisions, £20m out of Children's Services budget since 2010. I have to say, the challenges we are facing and the work we have done to improve the outcomes for young people in that context are extraordinary and we have come within budget at each and every of the last three years of budget rounds.

I would just like to say, please, get your own house in order. I am really sure I am speaking on behalf of all of the teachers in Leeds that Mr Gove has been sacked but when the spotlight is shone on his department in months to come and you look at the £800m overspend projected alone in the free school budget in 2013/14, I think you will look back at your question today and, along with us, just as Councillor Gruen said, be ashamed. Let us be serious about the challenges that are facing us. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Could the Executive Board Member for Cleaner, Stronger and Safer Communities explain why the Council is not willing to sit down with the Leeds and District Allotment Growers Federation to resolve their differences?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. With the indulgence of Council I will take a little time (*laughter*) perhaps not as much as last time but a little time to actually answer the question as comprehensively as I can. I am sure in putting the question Councillor Golton was not aware that we got in touch with the Gardeners Federation on 7th August – a month, by my watch – and we are still awaiting a reply whether they wish to sit down and meet with us to discuss not just the judicial review but the paper going to the Executive Board. I am sure you were not aware of that when you posed the question.

How you have posed the question does present me with difficulties because the word “differences” – well, that covers a multitude of sins. In the two years and a bit that I have held this portfolio, I have actually struggled to establish fully, comprehensively, what those differences actually are.

Not to rake over old coals but we will have a quick whiz through the timeline. The first time I encountered the Gardeners Federation was in the deputation around their objection around Council involvement in Feed Leeds. They were resolved, I am pleased to say, and parties were explained to and they accepted what the Council were doing, but straight on the back of that we got into the principle of charging and increased charging for allotments and what that would mean.

At that particular point in time the fundamental objection was not around charging, it was around an increased and enhanced role for the Gardeners Federation so, as we did with the Bowling or any other group who want to do business with this Council, we engaged in what their needs and requirements would be and very quickly what came out of that was an increased and enhanced role in the managerial tier, set up, call it what you will, in allotments in Leeds for the Gardeners Association. That was built into the consultation.

Perhaps a difference did emerge between the two parties when, immediately on the back of that consultation, a sort of hybrid parallel consultation was produced by the Gardeners Federation without my knowledge, without officers' knowledge, and was perpetuated in the community as the consultation document, so perhaps that did cause a tension, if not a difference.

Moving forward, when the consultation document that the Council produced clearly said there was no appetite amongst allotment holder for any further engagement or involvement with the Gardeners Federation, 15% off the top of my head, what then happened was it went to the Executive Board, it was passed and then we had a call in. Again, in terms of differences – I am choosing my words very carefully – I have a difference with any group or body that comes to a call-in meeting and makes statements that are clearly at variance to the facts. You were there, Stewart, so were you, Ryk. Within several minutes of getting into the meeting for call-in it fall down because the actual crux of the argument, we had not seen the consultation paper, was proved to be wholly inaccurate.

Again, I am giving the benefit of the doubt – giving the benefit of the doubt – that all parties acted in good faith, and I am sure you did.

Moving forward to now in the here and now, the judicial review, we have covered at great length. Again, on the back of that on 7th August we have offered to meet with the Gardeners Federation and try even at this late stage to explain the Council's position, the future role for allotments, where they fit in the system. I am hoping there will be a role for them in the system and I am going to put out a challenge, Stewart. Start getting with the programme and not constantly, as I see it, being an obstacle for let us call it mischief making at best, but certainly not helpful at worst. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

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

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Obviously, given Councillor Dobson's tendency to re-write history and his inability to understand that if you have ended up in the law courts then there is some difference of opinion between those parties, and also in the spirit of non-partisan solution building, considering that a request has also been received for people to sit round a table from ex-Council Leader George Mudie – and it is nothing to do with party political reasons that the asking to get round the table has been made – and also his ability to obviously find the right email address to send his request to because Leeds and District Gardeners Federation are not aware of that request of 7th August, would the Leader of Council please intervene in the spirit of the Commission for Local Government and the importance it lays on partners increasingly being able to deliver services alongside the Council to actually get those talks going. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Again, in the spirit of how these negotiations have been progressed over the last two years, I am at something of a loss of how to address that.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: I asked the Leader.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: But it is my responsibility as Executive Board Member, surely, and the question has been fielded to me.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: He is the Leader of Council, he can say anything he likes.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: It is a supplementary question and I answered the first question.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: To the Leader.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: I am very happy to take a direction if needs be.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: No, carry on.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: OK.

THE LORD MAYOR: The question is to you, Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: As I say, I think it was well covered in the first question posed by Councillor Wadsworth, yes, it did end up before a court, extremely unfortunate. Extremely less fortunate was the fact that on four of the five points that were put forward the Council was found to have a clean bill of health and I will make this point again to Council, all of the Judge's recommendations have and will be fully absorbed and integrated into the report that will be coming to the Executive Board next week. Nothing has been neglected from that report. The Judge's recommendations have been taken fully on board and I believe – I believe – that is an example of this administration taking the Judge's findings absolutely seriously and acting in the spirit of that judgment.

If we are looking at the judgment in terms of how did we get there and it was put forward as part of a difference of opinion, I am hoping they can be resolved in the Executive Board paper next week.

What I can say is that the Council's fundamental position has been vindicated and we will be progressing that particular agenda. We are more than happy, more than happy, to engage with the allotment community and, I have to say, not just the Leeds District Gardeners Federation because there are a lot of allotment holders out there who I have been to visit personally, including two in my own ward, and had those tricky conversations, faced the music and explained the Council's position. When you do that, Council, you actually get a very different opinion to what has been progressed by the Leeds District Gardeners Federation.

I am still happy at this stage in the day to meet with anybody related and connected to allotments. That is an open offer that I am more than happy to take forward. However, the fundamental points of principle which were found in the court and on which the Council will proceed have been fully covered and completely vindicates this Council's position. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can the Executive Member responsible tell us what action can be taken to reduce the number of instances of domestic violence in Leeds?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I was going to say it is a little like after the Lord Mayor's Show but in fact talking about domestic violence in my opinion, and I am sure in Council's opinion, is far more significant to the people of this city than some of the earlier questions that have been posed in quite a frivolous way.

Broadly there are four strategies that have been adopted in Leeds by partners, Council and the police service about making domestic violence the top of everybody's collective agenda.

Firstly, raising the profile. Inevitably what will happen is when you raise the profile and talk about an issue, I fully expect and anticipate that reported incidents of domestic violence will increase. I am going to add a strange caveat to that – I welcome that because actually for a long time it has probably been one of the issues that has been swept well and truly under the carpet and we do not want that, and it is only by raising awareness around domestic violence and getting people talking about it, the victims of domestic violence talking about it, that we will see tangible improvements going forward.

Other positives have been around the way that the police service, working with other agencies, have started to fast track domestic violence situations through court and the perpetrators are put before courts much more speedily. However, the other side of that coin is when we find a perpetrator who is still in a redeemable position and somebody we believe we can work with and where there are other interventions that are more appropriate than the courts, we are more than happy to sit down with that perpetrator and take them too. That has also proved dividends in turning people's lives around and families' lives around.

We also believe that the incredible work that has been undertaken in Children's Services – and I am going to thank my Council colleague Judith Blake because the front door approach to children's domestic violence and other issues, about getting young people to sit down and get the right interventions at the right stage are really paying very, very tangible bonuses for this city and this people.

Because of that, what is the next stage? In terms of all domestic violence we want to move the agenda forward. It cannot happen if we work in silos and we work in isolation. The vision for Leeds is the front door policy being expanded across this city. We will have police officers, Social Service officers, Children's Service officers sitting side by side in a multidisciplinary team, there will be regular contact from the head down and Councillor Blake and I are very comfortable about who takes the lead on this, if it is police, if it is a Council officer, if it is myself, if it is Councillor Blake, because what is fundamentally important in this, we do not get hung up on structures, we get hung up on outcomes. I think that we are in a very, very strong position how to really offer some much overdue outcomes for people in Leeds.

We are talking to the PCC, we are going to have a debate about the PCC later this afternoon, about ringfenced money for domestic violence, but we have a very clear agenda in Leeds. We know where we want the money to be spent, we know the interventions we need and we know the structures we need to develop them.

Not an easy subject to talk about, the perfect one to put before this Council and I would be very happy to update Council at any moment going forward about the progress we are making. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary, Councillor Rafique? No. Thank you. That brings us to the end of Question Time. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.6, any unanswered questions will receive a written response.

ITEM 10 – MINUTES

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to page 11 of the Order Paper, Item 10, which is the Minutes. Consideration of the Minutes shall not continue beyond 4.40, Councillor Procedure Rule 4 providing for the winding up of business that shall be applied the conclusion of the speech being delivered at 4.30. Councillor Wakefield.

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

COUNCILLOR NASH: I second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In the spirit and the tradition of this Council which allows reference backs to be moved to the top of the Minutes so that they can actually be dealt with, can I move 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 Golton, falling within the Neighbourhoods, Planning and Personnel portfolio of the Executive Board Minutes be heard first within the Executive Board Minutes (prior to the Digital and Creative Technologies, Culture and Skills portfolio.)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Townsley.

COUNCILLOR LAY: I will second that on behalf of Councillor Townsley, Lord Mayor.

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

(a) Executive Board

(i) Digital and Creative Technologies, Culture and Skills

THE LORD MAYOR: Moving on to Executive Board Minutes, Digital and Creative Technologies, Culture and Skills, Councillor Ingham.

COUNCILLOR INGHAM: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, I would like to speak on Minute 40 on page 62 on the proposal to make Leeds the City of Dance. There are a huge number of things that Leeds does well and dance is one of the real

triumphs in this city. However, unlike many other aspects of success, we are not very good at telling the rest of the country how great a place Leeds is for dance.

The truth is that we should be shouting from the rooftops how good the dance offer is and how many people are taking part in it. The six companies behind the City of Dance campaign show just how strong the dance tradition in this city is and we should be extremely proud that flagship organisations like Northern Ballet choose to have their base here.

What I really want to focus on is how powerful dance can be on a local level in our communities. Learning to dance is obviously a brilliant skill but it also brings with it a range of health and welfare positives. I know from experience in my own family what a fantastic impact dance can have on a person. My own granddaughter did not used to be the most confident person and was not very good at mixing among her peers. As a family we persuaded her to join in with Dazzle Dance classes to see if that would help her. It was a bit of a shock for me and her mum sitting through classes listening to the kids dancing with hip hop and beat ringing in our ears on some of those colder winter nights, but watching my granddaughter's confidence grow over the weeks was amazing and definitely made it all worthwhile.

After taking part in the Dazzle show at the end of the season she got involved in school in art and drama and eventually played the lead part in the school play in her final year. She is now at Leeds College of Art and walks around with blue, green, pink and even orange streaks in her hair. For just £2 per person Dazzle helped transform my granddaughter and supported her to become the confident, talented, ambitious young person she is today.

That is the kind of impact dance in this city is having and I think we should be doing everything we can to help the organisation grow and succeed. They are supporting people in Leeds to enjoy dancing and succeed at it irrespective of their age, ability, body type whether they have a disability or anything else.

I am personally delighted to see this campaign begin and hope we can all get right behind it. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mitchell.

COUNCILLOR MITCHELL: My Lord Mayor, I am speaking today on Minute 40, page 62 and I would also like to speak about Leeds as a City of Dance.

Leeds is the strongest centre for dance in the UK outside of London. The dance community, including two internationally renowned companies - Northern Ballet and Phoenix Dance – is recognised for its excellence and last year it generated over £11m for Leeds alone whilst employing more than 600 people.

Whilst international acclaim and economic benefits are fantastic news for the city, dance also has a big impact on a local level, as Councillor Maureen Ingham has just so wonderfully given us an example; indeed, some of the best pieces of cultural work we have seen in this sector. Some of you will be aware of the success of Northern Ballet's Ugly Duckling production which aimed to inspire children who would not normally engage in dance in the arts. The success has resulted in a BAFTA award

winning television adaptation which has highlighted how these organisations are able to effectively link up with our communities and achieve outstanding results.

My two year old son, Callum, has been mesmerised and really engaged with this and watching it on CBeebies and I am really looking forward to taking him to the next children's performance from Northern Ballet of the Elves and the Shoemaker which is performing in Leeds this autumn.

Forty years ago Leeds first offered innovative, creative dance education programmes. We now have publicly funded facilities to provide a broad range of training and development which has seen us grow and become a hub for excellence in the dance sector. Over this period of time Leeds Council has been a key supporter of this development and with such positive partnerships the sky really is the limit of what we can achieve.

As a Council we should celebrate the massive positive impact dance has in our city. However, we should also look to the future to pull together, take every opportunity possible collectively to support the dance sector achieve and succeed.

The City of Dance campaign is fronted by some of the most prestigious dance companies in the UK, all of which are Leeds based. These companies came to this meeting in March to ask the Council's assistance with this campaign and I am delighted that the Executive Board has agreed to support it.

It is really important to stress that this campaign is not limited to these companies or the types of dance in which they are involved. It aims to encompass all areas of dance in all parts of Leeds.

After the welcome success of the city's efforts for the Tour de France, we have proof that Leeds can deliver international events of high prestige. This Council has already started discussing a bid for the European Capital of Culture and I think that dance has to be one of the central pillars in any bid.

We have an ambition to be the best city. We should not be afraid to reach beyond that and show the rest of Europe and the world that Leeds, as the City of Dance, is the place for dance and culture. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Caroline Gruen.

COUNCILLOR C GRUEN: Lord Mayor, I would like to speak on Minute 41, page 62. I welcome the range of activities facilitated by this Council to commemorate the First World War in this city. On 4th August, last month, the results of a two-and-a-half year vision were finally realised in what was a momentous occasion for Bramley. I refer to the Dedication Ceremony of the new war memorial which now stands at the entrance to Bramley Park. The old village of Bramley had never had a war memorial and for many years the community, the Bramley History Society and the ward Councillors have aspired to establish a fitting monument to remember and honour the relatives of Bramley families who fell in service. Just over two years ago the newly formed Friends of Bramley War Memorial took on the challenge of making this happen.

At that time the monument was an aspiration. There was no money, no sponsorship, no design or materials or any idea of the feat of engineering that would be required in its construction. What a journey has been travelled since then. We have raised £100,000, put in place an ambitious one-off design and completed its construction using unique materials including, most importantly, millstone grit, a core part of the Bramley tradition.

We have had the privilege of two very talented architects working with us: John Thorp, ex-Leeds Civic Architect, our voluntary advisor, who was inspirational in establishing the original design brief; and Warren Horner, who has successfully turned the brief into the reality we see today. The design does not aim to copy those of the past but seeks to make a modern statement about the importance of this new memorial in a modern world in Bramley.

I would like to pay tribute to the Council's Parks and Countryside Service who have driven the construction of this memorial with real ownership, going the extra mile in the face of many challenges of time and scale.

All of this culminated in a unique and emotional community ceremony last month; at the same time solemn and reflective but also inspirational for generations to come. Dedicated by the Deputy Lieutenant, it was attended by military forces, places of religious worship, police, schools, community organisations, veterans and, of course, the Council.

It demonstrated what can be achieved when the spirit of a community is bound together by a single goal, a shared sense of what is right and a determination to do that right thing.

Despite the hardship and deprivation experienced by many in Bramley, the community and its many sponsors were generous of their hearts and actions as well as their purses and it is worth reflecting that this extraordinary community cohesion, this common drive for the wellbeing of Bramley, this prized sense of achievement could not have happened without the intervention and leadership of ward Councillors and the support of Leeds City Council. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hyde.

COUNCILLOR HYDE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would just like to speak on two reports today. Shortly I would like to come to Minute 44, page 64, regarding the Leeds Grand Theatre, but firstly I would just like briefly to reflect on Minute 41, page 62.

As I know many people in this Chamber were at a very moving event outside the Art Gallery about two weeks ago standing there as we were reflecting on the moment war was declared. It remained difficult to comprehend the impact of that decision on people here in Leeds and people abroad in conflict.

It is wonderful to see the programmes of activities that have been put together by the Council and partners as this city we all know excels at these times. I have no doubt that the four year commemoration will capture the ongoing respect and thanks to those who gave so much to secure our futures.

Moving on to the second point, the Leeds Grand Theatre is one of the most recognisable institutions in Leeds and is a jewel in the city's crown. Built way back in 1878, the theatre has been entertaining audiences for over 130 years. The Council has supported the theatre with grant funding and other assistance but as the financial situation becomes more and more difficult, it is right that we make sure it is operating in as efficient a way as possible.

The three venues need to operate on a stable financial footing. The Council cannot be required to provide bail outs or other additional funding on a regular basis any longer. I am pleased that the wide-ranging work which is about to be undertaken will look at any and all possible structures to help the theatre venues to succeed.

We undoubtedly have some fantastic staff who are dedicated and working at the Grand and the City Varieties and the Hyde Park Cinema, as I know it, not the Picture House when I was a little boy.

We owe it to those people to strive for a better situation. If we can strengthen the governance of this organisation then it can continue to improve its programming with confidence it will be still entertaining audiences in a hundred years' time. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Paulene Grahame.

COUNCILLOR P GRAHAME: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I too would like to speak on Minute 41, page 62 on the First World War commemorations across the city.

The centenary commemorations for the First World War were largely focused on the dedication and commitment of the hundreds of thousands of ordinary men who left their lives and families behind to go and fight as soldiers on the battlefields of central Europe. However, the war effort was also about people's dedication on the home front.

I was privileged to be able to attend a memorial service in Manston Park on 4th August which paid tribute to 40 people who were killed in explosions at the Barnbow Munitions Factory in Crossgates between 1916 and 1918. The mainly female workforce at the factory worked tirelessly at what was one of the most important munitions factories in the country supplying weapons and munitions to the frontline where their fathers, husbands, brothers, boyfriends and sons were fighting.

On 5th December 1916 a massive explosion ripped through the factory, killing 35 women and girls, injuring countless others and the loss of life could have been greater were it not for the heroic and courageous rescue acts from other members of staff and local residents.

I was involved along with Parks and Countryside staff and Bob and Jacki Lawrence from East Leeds Historic and Archaeology Society getting a brand new memorial for the Barnbow Lasses erected in Manston Park in 2012. It was here that the memorial service took place on 4th August.

I would like to thank local people for coming out to pay their respects to the Barnbow Lasses and the Crossgates and District Good Neighbours Scheme and Manston St James Brownies and Guides who sang at the ceremony.

The memorial itself is very important because it not only represents local people who gave their lives in the war effort but also serves as a poignant and permanent reminder about the First World War and the many men and women who paid with their lives for supporting their country's war effort.

The Council's programme of commemoration helps to ensure that the tales of sacrifice and heroism are passed on to a new generation of people. The Barnbow Lasses is now on the school curriculum and I would also like to add that the enthusiasm from Day One until today has been really amazing. The people who have been involved still wish to be involved and support and often when I pass there are people and children reading the lecterns. Beautiful flower beds, for which we have a competition each year, are looked after by Parks and Countryside and I must say that Chris Benedict and his team, who have been there from Day One, are a credit to Leeds City Council on the way they have looked after the flower beds.

Belways Construction, who have a building house programme on the site, I only had to ask once if the houses could be named and the streets after the lasses who lost their lives. We are making sure that they will never be forgotten and I personally would like to think that some of the lasses have been themselves to look at the memorial to see it there.

Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I too would like to speak on Minute 41 on page 62. Just to take a moment to thank Councillor Grahame though, as somebody who grew up in Crossgates, I did not know that part of the Crossgates history and Leeds history and I will make the effort to go down there and have a look myself. I think it is a very fitting monument and I think it absolutely brilliant that we should remember people who did not just fight on the front line but people at home as well, often wives, girlfriends, as you say family members, sisters who were there. I will make the effort to go down. Thank you.

I often do not get to attend the commemorations and the Remembrance Sunday ceremonies in Leeds City Centre because I am at one of the many ones in my ward, as many of you will be as well, and again this year I went to Barwick and Scholes and Shadwell. They organised absolutely fabulous commemoration ceremonies, as did many of the other villages. On what is a very sombre occasion I found them fitting in their remembrance but also in their celebration of life of what these people were fighting for.

I just want to thank some of the many volunteers in our villages, especially those from the Royal British Legion who do so much in our city to make these events possible. One person I would like to single out is Matt Baker in Barwick and Scholes, who has rebuilt that Branch from scratch. They have done fabulous work in engaging the community, engaging the local schools in this and, much like Councillor Grahame said about getting things on the curriculum, it is about making our young people aware of just what has gone on in this city, not just in Brussels, in Belgium and in other parts of France.

In the Harewood Ward we have always tried to make sure that we remember these monuments and we have tried to fund them wherever we can because we think that they are fitting to the cultural, social, economic and historic impact of our city.

It is right that we remember those who have lost their lives in the service of their country and fighting in Europe. The engagement of children, as I said there, in this learning of our crucial part of this country's history is vitally important to understand the sacrifice that their peers have made. As I lamented at the time to many of the people who were there at those commemoration ceremonies, you only have to think of the hundreds of thousands of young people who signed to fight for their country. I wonder today if we would see that sort of effort and that sort of sign-up today if there was a threat to our country.

As a final note, it is worth mentioning the sacrifice that people made from all nations in the United Kingdom. Our country has changed exponentially in the last hundred years and there are changing threats and I would like to make personal note to the Scots who went and fought for this country as well and fought for our country's freedom. I sincerely hope that come the referendum on the 18th they will stay in the United Kingdom. (*hear, hear*)

I am certain that we will continue to host such important and significant commemorations for the war dead in this city and I am sure you all join with me in saying that we will remember them. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor, we will be holding First World War Centenary Commemorations of one sort or another for the next four years. Although the last combatants died only five years ago, the Great War is quickly passing beyond all living memory. The generation which fought that war was marked by a determination to remember the millions who had died in it. Remembrance Day was an outcome of that determination and it seemed to be facing during the 1990s as that generation faded away.

Since the Millennium there has been a tremendous revival of interest in Remembrance Day with growing attendances at war memorials which are now far greater than they have been for many years.

Last January, when I was Mayor of Morley, we held a First World War exhibition at Morley Town Hall at which a number of organisations set up formal displays and to which people were encouraged to bring their own memorabilia after scouring their cupboards, lofts and outhouses. Quite a lot of medals, photographs, letters, postcards, artificial silk souvenirs and the like were brought out and I took a tin of bully beef manufactured in July 1918 which had been brought back by my grandfather from the Western Front. I exposed Councillor Dawson to it but it did not seem to have any effect! (*laughter*)

It does seem actually that they lived on tinned foods in the trenches. They had bully beef and jam, ship's biscuits, condensed milk, even cigarettes in tins because that was necessary to stand up to the mud and water that they trampled about in all day.

That event was organised by Rachael Kennedy, our Morley Town Centre Manager, who recently and appropriately accompanied our new Mayor as Mayoress for the day to a function at Strensall Barracks near York. Following the success in January, Rachael has been asked to organise an event at Leeds City Museum on Saturday, 27th September, from eleven o'clock to four o'clock entitled "Exploring Leeds and Yorkshire in the Great War", at which she will be helped by others from Morley and to which all will be welcome. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I wish to speak on Minute 41, page 62, the programme for the commemoration of the First World War.

I am keen that this programme does not glorify the war but makes clear the horrors of this war and that the majority of the young men that marched off to fight in this war, keen to do their patriotic duty with the belief that it would be all over by Christmas did not return.

I am particularly keen that the history should be told of the white poppy, which began as a message from woman, many of whom were mothers, sisters, widows and sweethearts of men killed in the First World War. They, like many others, began to feel with the rise of domestic and international tensions that the war to end all wars in which their men had been maimed, killed or languished in prison for refusing to fight, would be followed by an even worse war. The white poppy was born out of this fear as a symbol of our inability to settle conflicts without resorting to killing, but also of hope and commitment to work for a world where conflicts will be resolved without violence and with justice. It is a symbol of grief for everyone who has been harmed by war but, more importantly, it is a symbol of determination to work to abolish war.

The women chose this symbol as a pledge to peace that war must not happen again. I think it would be fitting if this story could be told in some way, maybe by a display in our museums. Unfortunately, I have asked for this to happen but the result I have received so far has not been very helpful so I hope that Councillor Yeadon will be able to help me with this. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Davey.

COUNCILLOR DAVEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I wish to talk about Minute 42 on page 63.

Over the years the condition of the Town Hall has deteriorated and a building as magnificent as this deserves to be returned to its former glories. The Council can afford to fund vital roof repair work but if it is successful with the Heritage Lottery Fund bid, we could undertake a number of further improvements which this report seeks to explore as part of a feasibility study.

By using the capital funding already agreed we would be able to gain access to significant funds from the Lottery Fund. The Town hall is a fantastic example of civic enterprise and hopefully by using this innovative approach we can hopefully see what is truly a remarkable Leeds landmark conserved and improved for future generations.

Securing the Lottery funding would create an opportunity that not only helps to guarantee the future of the Town Hall in terms of maintenance but also presents a chance to really promote the building as a first class venue within the city, thus tapping into new markets and giving the opportunity for increased revenue.

The additional investment is necessary as feedback from business users is that the smaller rooms and breakout spaces need modernising. If we are serious about securing the future of the building as a commercial venture, then we need to make that investment now.

We also need to improve facilities for people with disabilities and maximise the use of the currently dormant space, creating a venue that can be enjoyed by everyone in Leeds irrespective of their personal circumstances.

The Leeds public treasure the Town Hall. It is often sold out and it was in fact voted by readers of the Yorkshire Evening Post as Leeds' favourite building in 2011. The proposed works would bring the Town Hall into the 21st Century, would unlock its true potential and make it something that other cities would envy.

The Town Hall has enjoyed a varied history with many users over the years ranging from court rooms and cells to a venue for Deep Purple, the Kaiser Chiefs, Nigel Kennedy and, with a degree of modesty, I can remember playing there a number of times in my teenage years as a member of the Leeds Youth Orchestra.

It has always been one of the most recognisable and central parts of Leeds' heritage. Last weekend saw the Town Hall used as the venue for the annual Leeds Beer Festival, where people from across the country gathered to sample a variety of real ales and beers. The Town Hall has more than 200 events a year and it is well used and a much loved building but it can be so much more. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to speak to Minute 43, page 63, regarding grants given to cultural organisations.

Leeds is a special city when it comes to culture. It is home to some of the biggest and most prestigious organisations in the country. We still are one of the only cities outside of London to have both an opera and ballet company. We need to continue to support these and we need to encourage young people to experience that side of culture.

We have vibrant community groups and a thriving independent sector. I would urge you all to look at some of the work going on across the city and experience some of the exceptional and dynamic projects that are taking place. Many of these are rooted and driven by our communities. Whether it be the trailblazing open air water-based retelling of Moby Dick, like we see in the White Whale at the Leeds Dock (and now I have just whet your appetite to go and try that I am going to have to unfortunately tell you that I have checked it out and it is sold out) or for you to engage in a mass participation of enjoyment of urban art via social media currently being conducted through Leeds Art Crawl, these are just some of the things that are taking place across our city.

The Council plays a role in this success. Our funding of cultural organisations of all sizes stimulates creativity and engages a huge range of people. It empowers groups to attract further outside support and funding, something that is vital going forward in this current climate. This helps to give them confidence and long-term sustainability when we know that the budgets are stretched and the overall envelope for the arts grant has been reduced.

Of course, the Council involvement in the arts is backed up by countless local residents who volunteer their time to make a difference to others and the city. The army of Friends groups springs to mind. They do an outstanding job promoting venues and events throughout our wards. I must mention the Carnival that celebrated its 47th birthday a few weeks ago. I think that demonstrates the very best of Leeds and its people.

The Arts@Leeds grant funding programme has a huge impact and the Council support in this sector makes Leeds a brilliant place to live and visit. We are truly a city at the forefront of cultural excellence. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James McKenna

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I rise to talk on Minute 43, page 63. Leeds historically has one of the largest Irish populations in the country and they are a key part of the cultural and social fabric of our city. Leeds' Irish population bring with them their own unique culture which we are always proud to express and show on St Patrick's Day – you are all welcome.

The Irish Festival is a great example of this, a fantastic annual event. It is important that we continue to deliver the cultural offer across the city and especially the city's Irish heritage, which is an important part of our identity. The key annual cultural event like the Irish Festival, the West Indian Carnival, Leeds Reggae Festival and others are embedded into the mainstream Art Funding scheme. They are largely highly visible events with large participation and inclusion. The Irish Arts Foundation and the Irish Festival have historically been well supported by the Council through the arts funding and through local Community Committee funding. They do a fantastic job of raising the profile of traditional Irish music, dance and arts in our city.

I am delighted that the Inner North and Inner South Community Committees have recently granted £3,000 to the Irish Arts Foundation and I hope the Irish Festival will again be successful in their bid for the next round of the three years art funding.

Community Committees play an important role in the delivery of local based projects and culturally diverse projects in our community and Leeds as a multicultural, multi faith city is a much better place to live because of this. Thank you, Lord Mayor, and I hope that we can continue supporting diverse culture within our city. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: Lord Mayor, I would like to speak on Minute 44, page 64, about the Grand Theatre. I am sure most Members in this Chamber have visited the Leeds Grand Theatre at some point to either watch a performance or just to take a

tour around the fantastic Grade II listed facilities. When considering the future of the Grand Theatre, along with the City Varieties and the Hyde Park Picture House, we must not forget what an asset they are to the city and the central role they play in the city cultural offer.

Yes, as was mentioned before by Graham, the finances of the Grand Theatre Board are important and we have a responsibility as a Council to ensure that the operating model is financially sound and provides value for money for Leeds Council taxpayers. However, I hope Members will agree that we must not be solely guided by finances alone when looking to the future. To do so would overlook the importance of the theatre for the city and the theatre's impact on the cultural landscape and also on tourism.

Recently the Grand Theatre has brought big ticket productions to the city for the first time, giving people a taste of the West End and Broadway right on their own doorstep. I understand, after speaking to the Promotions Manager yesterday, that the Grand Theatre is committed every week until Spring 2018, such is its popularity.

Meanwhile, the Hyde Park Picture House and the City Varieties provide a platform for up and coming art and performance groups, as well as less mainstream productions. Recent steps have also been taken to ensure that the venues cater for young people both in terms of tailored productions and the Learning and Skills Agenda and, in doing so, bringing the theatre and arts to a new generation of people.

This year sees the 100th anniversary of the Hyde Park Picture House. On 7th November 1914 the first film was ever shown in the Hyde Park Picture House. There will be a special evening to celebrate this and you will be notified of the details.

If we want Leeds to be the best city in the UK, Leeds must continue to deliver a popular and diverse cultural programme and the Grand Theatre Company is part of that. Supporting the arts and culture in Leeds is vital in creating a backdrop if we are to bid for the City of Culture in the future.

The buzz on the street in Leeds is a city on the up; Leeds is the place to be. Let us build on the success of the Tour de France, shout it out loud to anyone who will listen. Success in Leeds is about having passion, hunger and creativity, having a belief in our city and a desire to tell the world what we have to offer.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can you wind up, please, Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: Won't be a sec.

THE LORD MAYOR: No, no, I have given you extra time because you were a bit late starting, but please wind up.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: We all know times are hard, that we have a lot of difficult decisions to make but we must not be short sighted and fail to support our culture offer and in particular the Grand Theatre which puts Leeds on the map in so many ways, helps our economy and creates many jobs for our citizens. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Harper. Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Thank you, Lord Mayor, and I hope I might get a little extra time too! I would like also to speak on the same Minute, Minute 44, page 64, about the Grand Theatre and I would like to thank both Councillor Harper and Councillor Hyde for their useful comments which probably saves me about a minute off my speech, which is quite helpful.

There is absolutely no question as to the contribution that the three parts of the Grand Theatre Trust make to the cultural offer of our city and I think there is also no real question of the tremendous warmth and affection that the people of the city have for the Grand Theatre Trust.

In the deeper past, the time before I was a Councillor in this Chamber, the management of the Grand Theatre and its finances were at best haphazard and opaque. During our time in administration we did put in place some systems to peel away, as it were, the veils of obscurity, to end what Donald Rumsfeld would have referred to as the unknown unknowns. In short, we do now have transparency of how the Grand operates and how its finances operate, albeit we might not be always so delighted as to exactly how they actually transpire. Through the Executive Member chairing, as she does at the moment, we also, of course, have some accountability.

I think many of us, though, have a concern about the long term sustainability of the Grand Trust in its current format. We need to put in place a structure that will take the Grand Theatre Trust forward really over the next 20 plus years, a new model that will allow it to be robust and dynamic and continue to serve the city to the best of its ability.

To that end perhaps there are a few questions that we might want to address. How will we ensure that the Grand Theatre continues to make its heavyweight contribution to our city's cultural offer? How can we give the Grand Theatre the ability to run more effectively and ultimately to support itself? Is the current structure of the three organisations together really appropriate? Are there unexplored areas of economies that we need to bring to the fore? Does the model of the First Direct Arena with an independent operator running it for the benefit of the city as a whole have something to reach us in this regard?

Lord Mayor, I am absolutely delighted that the Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Board are going to be asked a little later on in the year to look at this, and look at this in some detail. I do hope that we can really work together on this project to bring forward the best solution for the Grand Theatre Trust, the best solution for the cultural offer of the city and the best solution for the people of Leeds. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you for your well-time speech. Councillor Yeadon to sum up.

COUNCILLOR YEADON: Thank you, Lord Mayor, and thank you very everyone's contribution. I will try and do it all justice.

Just to pick up on Councillor Lamb's point, you are right, I should have mentioned Yorkshire's success at the cricket. It is probably Leeds's inspiration on Friday which led to England's success and I am sure it will continue.

First of all, Councillor Ingham and Councillor Mitchell, thank you for your contributions regarding the City of Dance and also reminding us that dance is not just about what happens in the city centre, it is very much about the communities and how it can be used as a tool to nurture and build confidence in young people as well as very small children. If we are to move forward with our discussions around the European Capital of Culture, I think that the City of Dance has to be really key to that and ensure that it reflects all dance in the city as well as the big companies, but those that work within our communities.

For those of us who were at the Scrutiny Enquiry around big arts organisations and how they reach out to communities, I think you will remember that Dazzle were one of those companies that gave evidence there and it was really impressive about how funding big arts organisations, and smaller ones, can really make an impact on our local communities and, as we move forward with the Arts@Leeds tendering process for the next three years, that has to be a key part of what we ask the companies that we fund.

I think this year is the beginning of our commemoration around World War One. It did pose us some questions about how we do that appropriately and ensuring that it is not about glamorising war and to make sure that we reflect on the contributions made at both the front and the home front and women, and I think all the contributions reflected on that.

Councillor Gruen, I really need to congratulate Bramley and the campaign for getting the war memorial, particularly in these times of financial difficulty where funding is scarce. I know I was unable to attend the event there but I know from everyone I spoke to how incredibly successful it was, how many people turned out and I think that is an absolute credit to you and the campaign to get the war memorial.

I think when we talk about the events that we have in our communities, all of you reflected on that – Councillor Gruen, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Grahame reminding us of the role of women in the war, Councillor Robinson and Councillor Leadley. It really brings home what the impact of the First World War was on the city and I think 2016 will be the year where that is brought home to us most, on 1st July, which will be one hundred years from the Battle of the Somme where the Leeds Pals were decimated. The impact on that group was incredible where nearly every street in Leeds lost a man.

The war memorials that we have in our communities and those events that we all go to and the work that people like Matt Baker, who I have met with, and it is incredible the work that he does in the community, really does bring the memory of those people home and I think as a city 2016 will be very important for how we recognise those men and also the women who died at Barnbow.

I do think Councillor Blackburn has a point to remind us that we must also recognise the movement for peace over the next four years. I know we have got a meeting, I think it is next week, to discuss white poppies and the library and the museum is doing some work around how peace promotion and the work of the conscientious objectors was reflected during that time. The museum has a textile tapestry which an interfaith charity, Concord, is working on, and the Library Service is working with Peace Poetry Group to do some work with them as well as the poetry competition, which will be about peace, that the university is leading on.

We have to reflect all the aspects of war and peace during that time and I thank you for all the support and for the people who came out to the event on 4th August, and Councillor Hyde, who also spoke at that event for all the work that you are doing. It is going to be four years of commemoration and I think it is important that we get the tone and appropriateness of it right.

Councillor Davey, Leeds Town Hall is an absolutely vital part of our city, it is what most people think where we are, actually. Most people say, “Oh, you work at the Town Hall?” “No, the Civic Hall.” It is iconic and we have to make sure that we invest in it so it is sustainable for the future.

At the moment the disability access at the Town Hall is not something that we can be proud of and something that we really need to address, but we also have to be smart because we do not have ample amounts of money that we can make bad decisions with, so by looking at how we use capital to draw in other funding from Heritage Lottery, it has to be a key part of our activities and also to drive up income through the Beer Festival. I am not sure if any of you were there; I was, it was excellent.

THE LORD MAYOR: Would you please wind up, Councillor Yeadon?

COUNCILLOR YEADON: OK. The Grand Theatre, I think I probably just have to wrap up on the Grand Theatre which we all know is vital for our cultural offer in the city and I am very grateful to the Board who have been working with us in a very constructive way across the parties and it is vital that we find an achievable sustainable model for the company for the future. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Yeadon. I did have some difficulty – and indeed I have had difficulty most of the afternoon – listening to some of the speeches because there are private conversations going on on the front here. Can I suggest to Members, if you want a private conversation with colleagues, please go out into the ante-Chamber but do not conduct it in the Council Chamber when other Members are speaking, please.

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: With respect, the culprits are not on *this* side.

(ii) Adult Social Care

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Selby.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I wish to comment on Minute 45 on page 65, the Care Act. The Care Act means a fundamental change in Adult Social Services will place several new duties upon the Council.

To start off with there will be the duty to prevent, reduce or delay the need for help and care and support. There is a duty to provide services for carers who will need to do various assessments; 62,000 carers’ assessments are anticipated. There is a duty as well to provide a Care Account, recording a person’s care costs to track progression to the £72,000 care cap, and no doubt there will be legal disputes about what costs count towards the care cap. *(Interruption, door closing)*

That, Lord Mayor, is a comment on the problems that this legislation has to provide to this Council caused by the Government, supported by our friends over there. The Council has to pick up the care costs and the various reforms create significant risks to the Council.

We are talking about costs estimated at about £16m in 2016/17, rising up to £38m in years to come. All that has happened is that we have been allocated £3.3m for revenue costs but that is included also in the Best Care Fund, so it is only really a notional allocation. We have received £125,000 grant to help in implementation but that is the same for every Authority, so places like Wokingham, who have got very few, minimal problems compared to Leeds, get the same amount of money, but then that is Mr Pickles for you. At the same time all this is happening is when the cuts to Local Government and to Adult Social Care are continuing.

The ADAS survey of Social Services Directors showed that a further £850m has come out of the Adult Social Care system nationally this year, bringing a staggering £3.53b cuts over the last four years – again, our friends over there have helped contribute to that.

Adult Social Care is sensibly working on the worst case scenario with estimates for implementation in Leeds, but even so it is clear the Government is not properly funding the new burdens of the Care Act. They put the burdens on us and we end up having to sort it all out.

Officers are working hard to implement the full reforms but, again, we are waiting for secondary guidance from the Government yet to be published. That is expected to be in October but if events elsewhere take place, that might be delayed. What we also do not know is what we are going to gain so far as our grant settlements is concerned and as the present indications are likely to be, it is going to be Christmas Eve before that happens.

It will take great difficulty and a great big effort to implement effectively the reforms.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can you wind up please, Councillor Selby.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: We support ADAS and the LGA in their efforts to lobby Government to help reduce that burden on funding but also could we also ask our Leeds MPs as well to do so.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can you wind up, Councillor Selby, please.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: They also have a responsibility. Thank you very much.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I also ask Members to try and stick within the time allotted for speaking so it allows other Members to speak who might not otherwise be able to do so. Councillor Macniven.

COUNCILLOR MACNIVEN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am speaking also on Minute 45, page 65.

The Care Act will begin to be implemented in April 2015 for the Care and Support Reforms and in April 2016 with regard to the financial reforms. In July Adult Social Care provided Executive Board with helpful recommendations as to how the Act could be implemented in Leeds.

Let us look at the Care Act. What can be improved? What is missing? Central to the Act is the cap on the amount of money individuals have to pay towards their care and the timing of these personal payment contributions. Previously people often had to sell their homes to pay for care. Now personal contributions can be accrued and payment delayed, thus safeguarding their property until it is no longer required. The Government has set a cap of £72,000 an individual must contribute to their care home costs – looking good, but the Dilnot Commission recommended a cap of £30,000. The Demos Think Tank has estimated that as a consequence of this enhanced cap, only 16% of those over 65 will benefit compared to the 37% estimated beneficiaries in the original Dilnot proposals.

The average length of stay in a care home is four years. It would take longer than that before £72,000 was spent on residential care. Consequently, most people will be paying just as much as before because the vast majority will pass away before the cap is reached.

The House of Lords Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change has looked at this issue, and I quote:

“The major gainers will be the relatively better off, who will be protected from depleting their housing assets.”

It is important to note that the number of people needing social care increases every year due to demographic changes. In 2015 the over 65 population in Leeds will be 120,000, an increase of a remarkable 16%. This provides huge pressures on the provision of Adult Social Care.

This Government has not produced through the Care Act a national solution for how we are going to care for those who need publicly funded social care at the moment; far less how we are going to address this in the future.

However, all is not lost, there are some aspects of the Care Act that we like. The fact that 71,000 carers in Leeds who provide 1.5 million hours of unpaid care across the city will for the first time be entitled to assessment to identify their eligibility to access services. Adult Social Care is working with carers in Leeds to determine how this might be implemented in the city. We acknowledge the value of the requirement to provide good information and advice to users to enable people to navigate the care system, but there is much to be done and I know that we will keep the pressure on to ensure that it is done. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes, thank you, Lord Mayor. I am also commenting on Minute 45 and in particular the Better Care Fund and the integration of Health and Social Care, but I must first of all say, as Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board, that I also have concerns about the funding issues that have already been mentioned by my colleague, Councillor Selby.

The Better Care Fund aims to promote the integration of health and social care and the overarching approach of the Act puts great importance on people and their wellbeing. The biggest obstacle to the success of the Better Care Fund is the lack of finance. In Leeds, this figure equates to around £55m, with £44m already allocated to existing integration programmes.

The Better Care Fund has three main objectives: to reduce the need for people to go into hospital; to help people to leave hospital more quickly; and to support people to stay out of hospital or residential care. I am sure we can all support these aims as they promote organising care around individuals and not organisations.

However, there is some tension between the NHS and Local Governments nationally. The NHS are worried the money will come out of their acute budgets and are further worried that the Better Care Fund allocation will not reduce the demand for acute care enough to compensate for the loss in the budget. The Government has also cut the funding to Local Authorities so they have less to spend on social care. As you can see, nationally there are a number of hurdles to overcome.

Here in Leeds we are very lucky, it has to be said, under this Labour administration, to have been awarded Pioneer Status by the Department of Health in recognition of the degree of health and social care integration achieved in this city. We are already leading the way as a Local Authority, working in partnership with our Health colleagues to deliver better, more joined-up services for our citizens.

We have established a network of twelve integrated Health and Social Care Neighbourhood Teams, all based in GP health centres where Community Matrons, District Nurses, General Practitioners are working alongside Adult Social Care, occupational therapy, home care and re-enablement teams.

It is envisaged that this approach will benefit patients and service users alike as they will only have to tell their story once because the professionals are all working together.

Under the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board, we will be keeping a watching brief on the ever-changing national position. We will, of course, be looking closely at the implementation and any impact or improvement these changes will bring here in Leeds, and I appreciate the ongoing work being undertaken by Councillor Ogilvie and his team, and I look forward to him coming to Scrutiny to keep us updated on the progress. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Coupar. Councillor Varley.

COUNCILLOR VARLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I also wish to speak on Minute 45, with a brief reference to Minute 46.

Having had a comprehensive briefing on the Care Act, I fully understand the many challenges that face the Council. The inclusion of cross-party working and the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Board will play essential roles in the development of strategies to deal with the new burdens and statutory responsibilities for the Council and partners in respect of future care and support.

The investment in Information Management and Technology systems of £608,000 additional funding to supplement the identified funding of £1m plus, will no doubt, if this is approved, lead to the implementation of the Care Act for the citizens of Leeds.

There is, however, in the final paragraph of Minute 46, the note of some urgency that the Council needs to invest in the design and development of the Information Management and Technology solutions now if the Council is to meet the first phase of the Care Act implementation's deadline of April 2015. I am sure that if we work together, as Councillor Coupar has just suggested that we are already doing, and it is not just a suggestion it is a fact, that I think that we will make it. Thank you.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to speak on Minute 46 on the Information and Management of the Adult Social Care Client Information System.

This project has been going now for quite some time. I was elected in May 2012 and one of the first things I became aware of was the Council's taking a 20% stake in the Calderdale Adult Social Care Information System and working jointly with Calderdale to bring forward a system that was fit for the 21st Century.

There had been delays, clearly. We are now into the autumn of 2014 and the delays have become such and over such a substantial period that we now have Corporate Governance and Audit Committee receiving regular updates about concerns raised about financial figures.

The financial figures have been mostly confidential but did say that the Council therefore does not require any further borrowing to fund this investment, so you can perhaps understand my concern when I read in the Executive Board Minutes that there is a specific requirement to invest a further 60%, £600,000, on top of the initial £1m in order to meet additional costs around regarding record keeping.

We know that there are challenges facing Adult Social Care and it is for those reasons it is imperative we get the costings, its functions and its processes in place. We have heard a lot about the challenges of funding Adult Social Care and I am wanting to garner assurance from the Executive Member that the upcoming system will be fit for purpose, the costs will be controlled and that we will not go on wasting a further £600,000 or even more money. Thank you. *(Applause)*

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

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I thank all the speakers on this item on the Care Act and our response to the Care Act. There is no doubt the Care Act is a very significant change. It is in fact the first major update of social care legislation in over 60 years and, as all the speakers have said, it will challenge all of us, I think, to do things differently. That is everyone in the Council in Adult Social Care but also across Health and everyone who works in the sector as well as service users and carers to think differently about the way we do care.

I do think there is a need to bring Members up to speed on the Care Act and we will be organising a Members' seminar in the autumn about that and I welcome Councillor Coupar and her colleagues on Scrutiny having oversight of the Care Act over the coming months and we will be pleased to come and speak to you about it over the coming months.

As has been said, there are some things in the Care Act that we actually welcome – a number of things in the Care Act that we welcome. For example, the duty for us to organise Adult Social Care around the wellbeing of individuals has got to be a good thing, as has the duty to prevent, reduce or delay the need for ongoing care and support. That is the right thing to do. There is no longer to be an assumption that all care pathways lead inevitably to institutionalised acute care, which fits into what we are already doing in terms of our plans around integration and Better Care Fund that a number of speakers spoke about.

Similarly, we have got to make it much more straightforward to negotiate a way around the care system. At the moment it is too complicated and a key part of the Act is providing information and advice. We recognise in Adult Social Care that that is probably one of our weaknesses so there is a lot of work going into trying to sort that out.

It is absolutely right that carers, as speakers have mentioned, are put on an equal footing with those that they care for and will now be eligible for assessment and services.

As has been said, and Councillor Selby in particular raised the issue of the funding of the Care Act, the new obligations and burdens of the Care Act have major implications for the Council. With potentially, for example, 71,000 carers providing unpaid services currently, we could have an extra 62,000 carers coming forward for assessments. The cost of that could be massive.

Similarly, the need to provide services for self-funders, as Councillor Selby mentioned, taking into account the care cap at £72,000, could be enormous too. That said, the care cap, there is significant doubt if this will actually be brought in because the Government I think is waking up to the fact that it could actually be unaffordable, the £72,000 cap. It will actually only, as Councillor Macniven rightly said, reach a relatively small number of people but there are major concerns around that.

It is fair to say the financial implications of the Care Act are not completely clear. Both ADAS and the Local Government Association are lobbying hard but are very clear that the costs could be massive. We estimate here in Leeds that the costs could be around £16m in 2016, rising to £38m by 2035. These are eye-watering figures and the Government needs to get real about this.

The money, as has been said, that was allocated in the Better Care Fund is already in the Council's budget, it is already in the CCG's budget so it is now new money and the paltry sum, as was said, of £125,000 that has been given to all Councils is not going to get very far.

If I can just come to Councillor Lay's point about the Calderdale information system, he is quite right, there have been delays to the implementation of the system but we were very clear that Corporate Governance should have oversight of that process and

they have had oversight of that process. I am confident that it will come in on budget. There is a lot of work taking place to make sure that the implications of the Care Act on information are taking into account and that is one of the reasons for the delay. We do not want to take stuff out twice for implementing our new system and then having to implement changes because of the Care Act. I can try and reassure Councillor Lay, I am confident that it will come in on budget.

Lord Mayor, the report makes the point that our health and social care systems are at breaking point and a number of national reports have pointed this out. The Barker Report last week mentioned that the health system and the social care system is at breaking point. Integration is absolutely the right thing to do but it does not necessarily bring about savings and I think the Government and national politicians have got to stop pretending that we are going to be able to meet the needs of an ageing population without addressing the fact that both the health and social care systems need more money. Thank you. *(Applause)*

(b) Advisory and Procedural Committees
(iii) Development Plans Panel

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Ogilvie. We now move to other Minutes and we are on page 14, the Advisory and Procedural Committees, Development Plans Panel. Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR P GRUEN: Lord Mayor, thank you very much. I refer to page 221, Minute 5, which is the exciting Minute about something called the SHLAA process. If most of you feel that SHLAA makes you turn off a little bit it should not, because it is the cornerstone of our discussions with developers. It discusses things about our feel and theirs about which sites are available to come forward in the next five years to form the five year programme and I know other colleagues are going to talk about that later on.

We have reformed that process from the one we inherited and now Councillor Campbell and Councillor Procter join us on that particular, I was almost going to say voluntary effort. We are volunteers but you ought to be grateful that there are some sad people who actually are volunteering to go on to this. It is a very lengthy, detailed discussion with developers and it demonstrates the difference of opinion between us and them very starkly.

For example, in this year's discussions when we think we had something like 16,000 units coming forward, their idea was very different. They are a very difficult bunch of people and I say this openly knowing it is webcast and I will be reported, no doubt, to all sorts of people, but they are a very difficult bunch of people to deal with because, unlike us, our interest is a community interest. We have a balanced approach to these matters. Their interest is entirely selfish, is entirely for their own benefit and is entirely what they can stop us bringing forward so that they can go on to any sites they want to.

We have to put a stop to it because, as colleagues may well know, we have now received the Inspector's Report. Our Core Strategy is found to be sound, our CIL rates are endorsed and we can proceed with great confidence into the site allocations and move forward with that. I want to thank everyone involved in that process for getting us to that point. We are one of the very few Authorities in the region that have

got a sound plan and we can now move forward on that basis. Thank you.
(*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: As Councillor Gruen says, we have now got to the exciting part of the meeting. It is slightly ironic that we were discussing the First World War earlier on because if you sat through a few of these SHLAA meetings it was a bit like the Western Front at times.

True, I think a great deal of effort and time has been put in on the Council's behalf and we did drag the house builders screaming and kicking to the conclusion that we actually do have a five year land supply that we can possibly defend.

I suppose this is the point where I say "but" because it would be wrong of me at this point not to just remind Council that earlier last year I think it was the Independents and ourselves did raise issues in relation to the actual demand for housing and the figures that we were using as our population, and I think it is fair to say that we did contact the Inspector and admit that the figures we had been using for our projected population rise were inaccurate - in fact, in effect, about half what we were predicting - and so it seems to me that there has to be some recognition of that fact but particularly, I think, through the site allocation process because I am concerned that elements of our LDF may become unsound if it is proved that we do have, in effect, an over capacity.

Having said that, whatever the capacity - Councillor Leadley is not here for him to make the bet - as he has often said if they actually build all these houses he is quite happy to put £1,000 into the Lord Mayor's charity; I happen to agree with him. I do feel that, given the litigious state of the world and the house builders in particular, we need to make some more reference to that and I need to express that concern. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have got the pleasure to talk about Minute 6, page 223, about the five year land supply.

The National Planning Policy Framework states that Local Authorities are required to identify and update annually a supply of specific, deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their requirements. There is also a need for a buffer of 5% to ensure choice and competition in the market for land.

The five year land supply is an assessment the Council must pass because it is a key material consideration when determining appeals and applications. We have successfully demonstrated a supply of over 28,000 homes which exceeds the 24,000 needed to satisfy the assessed need. This is a real achievement.

The removal of the regional tier of planning means that the responsibility for planning housing need lies with us, the Local Authority, supported by Neighbourhood Planning. A plan-led approach puts Councils like us in the driving seat when it comes to dealing with proposals and making it easier to ensure that development is provided

at the right scale at the right place with the necessary infrastructure and facilities to support it.

If Councils fail to plan they will risk having decisions made for them through appeals and inevitably development could get consent in areas considered unsuitable by ourselves.

Demonstrating supply is not just about housing numbers. Deliverability is key. To be considered deliverable, sites should be available, be in a suitable location, be achievable with a realistic prospect of delivery in five years and viable. Keeping control of development in the city is key as these are matters very close to the heart of all our communities.

This forward planning we have done puts the Council in a much stronger position when it comes to defending appeals. Showing that we have a fit for purpose five year land supply will mean Plans Panel decisions have more autonomy. This is a boost to local democracy and local decision making.

Alongside the sound Core Strategy we are now able to work proactively and clearly to defend sites that are unsuitable for housebuilding – good news for all elected Members and all our communities. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James McKenna.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I rise to speak on Minute 6, page 223, and I am particularly concerned with brownfield sites, particularly in inner city areas.

As Chair of Leeds City Plans Panel I am acutely aware of the need to ensure a broad range of sites are brought forward for housing, including brownfield sites in the city centre.

The City Centre Panel really gets to deal with the nitty gritty of how we achieve our vision for a first rate city. Of course the overarching strategies are required but to make Leeds the best city in the UK to live and work in, we have also to make sure we get the details right.

People are coming to Leeds city centre to visit. They came in their droves to watch the Tour de France, they come to the Arena, they come to shop and to visit our museums, art galleries and, indeed, our world class football teams with rugby and hopefully soon football. *(laughter)*

At the end of the day, a beautiful skyline is a wonderful thing to behold; as important, however, is what goes on inside those buildings. Is there a mixture of housing so that families can live close to the centre? Are there local shops, community facilities? Can different groups of people live in the area? Is there an outdoor space for people to get out, get fit and enjoy the sunshine? We do not want a city that is the opposite of a dormitory town – busy during the day but empty every evening and at weekends.

Perhaps most importantly we have to make sure that the transport system works. Leeds is the heart of the northern corridor of cities and towns from Liverpool to Hull and going north to Newcastle. These cities have to be connected by 21st Century

transport networks, driving economic growth and connectivity between the cities. Residents also have to be able to travel effectively across the city and out into the towns and villages. If families are living in the city centre, then we need to make sure that they can get out to the countryside to experience everything Leeds has to offer. We do not want a city composed of identikit, impractical single bedroom or studio apartments. High quality design, space standards and energy efficiency are just as important in the city centres as in the suburbs.

Members of the City Plans Panel will therefore no doubt be very interested in the emerging Leeds Standard for Housing and we will look forward to applying this to the Council and private developments in the city centre.

Getting the right location is only the start and it is a start that the five year land supply and the SHLAA is providing us with. There are clearly some very good brown field locations in the city centre that are ripe for development. I call on all developers to make this momentous opportunity...

THE LORD MAYOR: Can you wind up please, Councillor McKenna.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: ...to make the kind of mixed vibrant and high quality development we all want to see. Of course the City Panel will look at each individual case on its own merits but we must work together to create a city we all want to live in. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Procter.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I could not resist standing to speak as this is my new specialised subject. I too share some of the misgivings that Councillor Gruen has had in terms of the SHLAA process, which leads me to wonder why he is not now proposing the abandonment of it, because the fact is that we do not have to have a SHLAA process constructed in the way that we do. The guidance from National Government does not say we have to. We can completely change it and, indeed, we are one of the only Authorities in the whole of the country that has volume house builders as part of our SHLAA process. Others do not; they have them as a consultee but they do not have them as part of the SHLAA process. That is certainly something, Councillor Gruen, that we will be revisiting in terms of time wasting not only by elected members but more importantly by officers of the Authority who have spent many, many if not hundreds of hours on the SHLAA update.

Moving rapidly on to housing growth and requirement, the Core Strategy currently identifies 70,000 housing units and I think all of those Members who have pondered this and what it means for their area in terms of the geographical spread are thinking the same – they are thinking, where is it all going to go? I heard Members only the other day who came to Development Plans Working Group saying that, saying, “Well, actually, we do not think we should have all of these houses in our area” and I can understand that.

The fact now is that what the population projections are saying is that we do not need 70,000 houses at all. What they are actually saying is that it is likely to be 50,000 houses and again we need to develop in this Council a flexible way in which the Core

Strategy can take account of the changing circumstances, and I am pleased to say that the new Planning Minister has recognised that.

Finally, just in terms of the five year land supply, Councillor Charlwood quite rightly pointed out that we are now, because we have demonstrated a five year land supply, 4,000 units over where we need to be. 4,000 units over where we need to be. That is what she said. What we should now do is revoke the Interim PAS Policy. It only contributes 900 units in total to that 4,000 number. We should revoke it and we should do it at the next Executive Board. It is not needed, it is leading to the wrong sites being brought forward in everybody's ward and we should revoke it straightaway, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw to sum up.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Thank you, colleagues, for those contributions. This is the first time I have summed up on Development Plans Minutes so I would just like a second to pay tribute to Neil Taggart, the former Chair, and also to tell colleagues that he is now given the all clear from his cancer, which I am sure is news we will all welcome.

Like Councillor Gruen, I kind of think Planning is interesting and fun as well as being vital, but I suspect we might be in a minority on that one. We have had some interesting contributions and I will come to those in turn but I would just like to thank the Leeds City Council Officers for the development of the Core Strategy and the Site Allocation process. It really is a mammoth task and I am pleased to see the amount of effort and the hours they put in and to see the high quality of work they do, particularly some of the econometrics and the number crunching – it is certainly not something I could attempt and I really respect their efforts.

I would also like to thank all Development Panel Members for your efforts today and the demands we are going to put on you over the next municipal year and the following municipal year as we work through this process. I would also like to extend that to all Members in this Chamber for the contributions you have made so far (and most of them have been very good) and the contributions you are all going to make in the future. Thank you very much for that.

Just turning firstly briefly to the SHLAA, I think Councillor Gruen is right, there have been some further comments on the SHLAA and I think perhaps that is something we need to review in the future. I think the SHLAA as it stands now is a much more accountable process. It is rooted in this Chamber, the membership is much more inclusive, both Opposition Members and Administration Members, but it also includes bodies like the Civic Trust and I think that is important that we get the right balance of judgment on as part of that process. It seems to be producing, I think, better work these days.

Certainly it has annoyed the Homebuilders Federation and if you are not annoying the Homebuilders Federation then you are doing something wrong in this process, I think, because, as Councillor Gruen pointed out, they are interested in building quick, easy, taking the profits and running. We are interested in building living, breathing, vibrant communities in Leeds.

Turning briefly to Councillor Campbell, I am glad we agree there is a common enemy, Colin, and thanks for your contributions. I think for the moment in terms of population figures, the Inspector's report broadly agrees with us but I think that is something we are going to have to review in the future. I think again it is something we are going to have to keep a watching brief on on Development Plans Panel.

Councillor Charlwood, yes, exactly, the five year land supply is an absolutely vital part of our planning armour, and I choose those words deliberately. In the past this city has lost too many planning appeals that have led to inappropriate development because we did not have an adequate five year land supply and now we have, it is about 5.6%, and that will see us through the next period, as you can see. I think that is incredibly important for us as a city so that we can choose what, how and when development happens, and I will come back to that later.

Councillor McKenna, absolutely right on the city centre, it is a pleasure to serve on City Plans. We see some really interesting applications and some really not so interesting and terrible applications. Ben Bailey Homes will live long in the memory! I think you are right, the focus on brown fields is where we should be and Development Plans Panel will be doing a lot of work in the coming months on the city centre. It is absolutely vital to us as a city. We have seen how it has come along in the last few years and how vibrant it is and it is important that we continue that and continue its regeneration and as we push south of the river, up to the M62, we want to make that all part of the city centre.

I think turning just for a second, I think Councillor Procter, I think we can review population figures and we can review PAS policy over due course but I think what you will notice is the potential for that (don't get too excited), what you will notice on Development Plans Panel, we are treating things on a consistent, fair and equitable basis so that all wards in the city are treated, as I said, on that basis. I think when we look forward as a city there is not one of us in this room that does not represent a ward where there is a growing need for homes, whether it has got a rising population or there is rising household formation figures. You know what we have gone and done? We have gone and made Leeds a great place to have kids and a great place to move to to work, live and play.

None of us want to reverse that so we are going to have to build homes and that is going to involve change. I would not want to underestimate what the change can bring to some communities. I am not underestimating that challenge that that presents to us as elected representatives. I think, I have said, that is a challenge. We wear two hats often, don't we – we are both ward Members and we are both City Councillors and there is often a healthy creative tension in our minds if you endorse those two roles, but when it comes to housing and when it comes to development of the city, I think we need to think often with our City Councillor hats on because we have to build communities and we have to build the right homes, we have to build the right school facilities, the right health facilities all in the right places – not where, say, for example, volume house builders want to build those. We have to build for our citizens because they will not forgive us if we get this wrong. They will not forgive us if there is nowhere to live because we all have friends, family members who are having trouble in the housing market, right? We all have friends and family members who have got trouble finding social housing. They will not forgive us – they may forget us but they will not forgive us – if we get this wrong.

I just want to sum up finally by saying I think the sum total of all this planning work, all this feverish policy activity, all the work done by Councillors and officers, means that this city now, as opposed to, say, three or four years ago, this city now is in a far better place that we can dictate when development happens, what happens and where it happens and that is good for all our communities. Thank you, Lord Mayor.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wakefield to exercise the right of final reply.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Just on the last debate very briefly, I think it is important for us to set aside time at the next Council to discuss the Core Strategy. I think that is a useful start but I think we will look to Members around the room to see how we can facilitate at least an hour on the Core Strategy because this is the biggest document facing us over the next 15 years. All the things that Councillors McKenna and Charlwood and Walshaw and Councillor Gruen mentioned are absolutely true, we must never lose sight of our vision, i.e. we want to protect the character and integrity of our villages and our communities and provide balanced things. We want to make sure that we do brown field first, we want to plan jobs and homes, but I do get the cynicism about how far developers have shared that vision and prospectors, particularly – not because I spend time in the Planning process but as ward Members, certainly out in the south-east, it is our turn, I think, to come under intense pressures from developers.

The points that are made here about what is the best tactic to protect PAS and green belt needs, I think, to be properly discussed. Is it right that we can just ignore certain processes and not do the SHLAA? Frankly, I got a briefing from Councillor Gruen, he would differ with Councillor Procter on that. I think if we have a real, sensible debate that is better here so that all Members can make their mind up before we vote. I do promise that we will facilitate that discussion and that debate.

I do not want really to go over all the points that have been made but it is probably the first time in many years we have had 14 contributions on culture, which means that you are all going up market or you are all becoming very interested in culture. It was very interesting, very important.

The first one on Dazzle is a bit close to my heart because I was there when Dazzle was launched under the Health Action Zone at Swarthmore, and I think there was a lot of cynicism about that here we have a dance group going to Middleton and this is not going to work because it should not be in Middleton, it should be elsewhere in the city, in the north. Actually, you can already see and enjoy the success of Dazzle in all our inner city areas and when you look at the figure of 4,000 young people going through the experience that Councillor Ingham mentioned, the boost to their confidence, the boost to their health, it is really money well spent, so thanks also to the Health and Wellbeing Board who I think still help to fund it through public health because you can see you get real value for your money in all sorts of different ways – educationally, health-wise and so on. Long may that continue because every time I see them they just wow the room and it is these young people who have never thought about doing dance.

The importance of that is, it is not just a little ghetto of dance. It is connected to other forms of dance like Phoenix, like RJC, like ballet. The Billy Elliot film was a great

inspiration because it was true and I am sure we have got a few Billy Elliots in this city, or Mary Elliots, who could actually go on and do great things.

The point of all this is, as Councillor Katherine mentioned (she changed her name that's the trouble!) this is going to be part of our bid for the European City of Culture and dance is going to form a massive part. It does link up to the other points people make about our cultural offer.

In this city the cultural offer is worth £247m and we should never underestimate how that boosts our economy, our attraction for investment and people's interest in locating. That is why I think places like the Town Hall, which proved iconic in the Grand Départ – everybody looked at us and all the three billion viewers across the world and saw a magnificent civic building to launch what was a magnificent start to the Tour de France. I, like everybody else, when I see people go to that Town Hall and see elderly and disabled people waiting outside, you are a bit ashamed of our offer in the 21st Century, seeing people having to wait to get into a life to get up – not acceptable.

The other thing and it made me smile about our assets need to do more under a civic enterprise and I think the Town Hall is getting that message. There are two things. One, of course, Councillor Dobson is a massive Deep Purple fan, as you can tell. The other thing he is a massive fan of is actually the Beer Festival. I came back on Saturday and passed it and it was absolutely heaving and that is making money to reinvest in our culture offer at the Town Hall, so a brilliant start to that and I think there are many other planned as well.

Jim McKenna mentioned the contribution of the Irish community. When I launched some cultural event for the Irish Centre last year, I was quite surprised that there is only one per cent of Irish in this city. It is actually second, third, fourth and fifth generation that now generate all that cultural activity and it always reminds me that the Irish did play a massive part not just in the building of our roads, the hospitals and our factories but actually in our education, our health and our culture. Jim, you are absolutely right, if you want to be a successful city you need to be diverse and you need to celebrate that diversity like the West Indian Carnival, like the Irish culture and many other festivals.

I did go to the Bramley memorial launch with Councillor Handley and Councillor Gruen and Councillor Ritchie there. Many things have been said today and the one thing that has been said that is very powerful is that most of the things that we have done so far are not about celebrating and glorifying but reflecting on the tragedy of war. When you see 500 names on the Bramley cenotaph of people who lost their lives, it was quite a moving occasion and I think it was remembered with the sombre attitude and atmosphere that it deserved.

Also, when you go to the Barnbow. I was interested in what was said earlier. Like you, until I helped to do the memorial a couple of years ago, how many people knew 35 women lost their lives in 1916? That is because those women that worked in really terrible, dangerous conditions, not only was it dangerous because of explosions but the chemicals they worked with as well. When it did go up, all the news was suppressed and nothing was actually put in the paper about the loss of lives and I think that memorial reminded all of us of the sacrifices women made as well during

the war, particularly in Barnbow, and it is a fantastic piece of memorial architecture as well.

One thing that I think it has done as well is bring out the best in public service. Our Parks Department, our Library Services, our Museum Services, our other services in Leisure have been absolutely fantastic with enthusiasm and imagination in trying to pull together so many events like Tom Leadley was talking about in Morley, so thanks to them.

Just briefly to finish off on the cultural comments, everyone likes the Grand and it has got a rather what we call complicated arrangement in terms of the Hyde Park, how many cities have got a hundred year old cinema with gas lit things? Not many. We should preserve that, we should preserve the Grand and, frankly, when people like the Health Service keep going on about struggling, there is one common theme to all this – you cannot continue to cut and keep things like a Health Service and the arts and the culture which this city desperately needs and say, “Well, is there another way we can rearrange the furniture on the Titanic?” We actually need, like the arts and in health, a proper debate in this city to meet up with some of the issues that Councillor Ogilvie’s portfolio raised, how do you fund the biggest transformation of Health Service? You cannot keep cutting and expect positive outcomes.

We have got the best team, I think, in the country in this city. It is time we had a debate on this, whether you actually go to ringfence the National Health Service, whether you go for different forms of tax service, but it is time we had a proper discussion because I am convinced you cannot transform the Health Service without a proper funding system that actually gives life to the big changes that we desperately need in this city.

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

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

ITEM 11 – BACK BENCH COMMUNITY CONCERNS

THE LORD MAYOR: We are now moving on to the item to discuss any Back Bench Community Concerns submitted by Members of Council. Councillor Andrea McKenna.

(1) Back Bench community Concern

COUNCILLOR A McKENNA: Lord Mayor, Members of Council, it is with annoyance that I raise my concern about the residents of Swillington’s access to GP services. In 2002 there were three GP surgeries in the village – one at the bottom half of the village, two at the top half in Swillington Health Centre. All three were Branch surgeries but were adequate. If you needed to attend a main surgery you had to go to Kippax or to Allerton Bywater. By 2005 all surgeries had closed down and moved out of the village, leaving us with a real problem.

My ward colleagues, Tom, Mark and the former MP Colin Burgon, met with the PCT who agreed to open a PCT run surgery from the health centre until a new provider

could be found. A new provider was eventually found and moved into the old building and we were led to believe that these new providers would run a full service and look at building a new purpose built surgery in the village. This never happened and it is still being run as a Branch surgery.

In October 2013 a number of residents attended the Area Committee meeting to ask for our help. We have raised this with the practice and the Health Authority but so far nothing.

I was born in Swillington and attended one of these surgeries so I am fully aware of the poor services that residents receive. Councillor Stuart McKenna will tell you some of the complaints that we have received.

Anyone who knows Swillington will be aware that it is not the easiest place to get to, so when the main practices are out of the village, i.e. Kippax, Allerton Bywater and now Rothwell, it is quite difficult for people to get there. There is no direct bus service to many of these places. Residents, especially the elderly, have to often use local taxi firms to access GP services.

The other complaints we have received from locals is the state of the building. This building, jokingly referred to as Swillington Health Centre, is a 1960s prefab and totally unsatisfactory for 2014.

This Back Bench concern has made the Health Authority take a little bit of notice in the last few days, after emails have suddenly started flying around, so I now hope that now the residents of Swillington will get a practice that they fully deserve, a fully operations GP practice that is fit for purpose. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stuart McKenna.

COUNCILLOR S MCKENNA: Thank you, Lord Mayor, fellow Councillors. Following on from the other Councillor McKenna's speech, my speech is mainly about the complaints my ward colleagues and I have received through various sources, including social media or while out in the ward on a day to day basis. What has been interesting for the three of us is the age range of people who have been affected by this. The main complaint is around appointments and service. Residents are constantly being told that appointments are fully booked or to try again the next day or, even worse, that their condition is not an emergency and they will have to wait three weeks or more.

Something really worrying is that this has been the case with both young children as well as older patients in Swillington, leaving relatives worried and stressed out.

I would now like to read two messages I have received via social media that have shocked me. The first one:

“I asked the receptionist for a repeat prescription five weeks ago, to be told the doctor would ring me back within the same day. I am still waiting. I have rang twice a week since being told exactly the same thing. I tried to make an appointment to get my tablets but was told again that I could not have one and that I would have to wait for the doctor to ring me back. I have now been waiting four weeks without my tablets.”

The next one for me is an absolute disgrace:

“Thanks, Stuart, for your time and good work on this. We have had some serious issues with Swillington doctors. My partner’s medical records were left on the side and some people in the village we know had seen them and found out about my partner’s pregnancy before we had had the opportunity to tell anyone. They also took her blood using bottles that were out of date from a batch of out of date bottles. One of the tests was never sent to the lab, therefore we was waiting ages for results that never came until I chased and chased and chased them. I can now safely say, Stuart, we have moved doctors.”

Myself, Councillor Dobson and Councillor McKenna are picking up issues about the surgery on a weekly basis. In fact, I have picked some up today while I have been in here. Residents of my own village in Swillington deserve better and it is something I am prepared to continue to pursue with the relevant organisations until patients are getting the standard they deserve. I hope the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing will assist us in helping to progress these issues. Thank you very much, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you, Lord Mayor, and thank you to Councillors McKenna and the Garforth and Swillington ward Members for raising their concerns to full Council today.

I am very sorry to hear about the issues that are raised about patient care at Swillington Health Practice. The accounts that have been recited here by local ward Members do not paint a pretty picture of patients’ care in this particular practice and it is clear that action needs to be taken to address these issues.

It seems apparent from these accounts that there is a reporting gap which has prevented these issues from being channelled through the appropriate lines and action being taken. Ward Members are evidently well tuned into the concerns of local residents in their ward. However, it is not clear in this case what action has been taken to address patient concerns by the practice or by NHS England, who are responsible for commissioning GP services.

Judging by ward Members’ understanding of the situation, it seems that these concerns have not been readily picked up or dealt with so far, which is very concerning to hear. It would seem appropriate that any issues raised here in relation to practice quality and patient experience should be managed through close working with the key partners involved, including local ward Members and NHS England.

There have been some recent meetings between local elected Members and GP members of the Leeds South and East Clinical Commissioning Group which are starting to address ways of working more closely in partnership to improve health outcomes and services within the south and east area of the city. However, it would seem that there is a need to involve NHS England’s West Yorkshire Area Team in these discussions and I will ask officers to facilitate that.

Some of these concerns conveyed to local ward Members would clearly benefit from being taken up also as formal complaints. I would always encourage patients who have experience the sort of inadequate service that has been outlined today to take up formal complaints. These should be taken up with the GP Practice Manager in the first instance but can also be escalated should patients not be happy with the outcome and the response that they receive.

Another avenue to raise concerns about patient care at Swillington Health Practice would be through the local health watchdog body, Healthwatch Leeds. Part of their remit is to look at inter-care issues on behalf of patients. As the issues with Swillington concern several patients, it would certainly be beneficial to make Healthwatch aware of them so that they can investigate.

Members may also be interested to know that the Care Quality Commission have made a commitment to inspect every GP service in the country by April 2016. Inspections for West Yorkshire have yet to be announced. However, as part of any CQC inspection service users are encouraged to feed their views on any service into the inspection process by getting directly in touch with the Care Quality Commission.

Clearly there are some very real concerns about patient care at Swillington Health Practice and I am fully supportive of patients' and local ward Members' attempts to get these issues resolved. Thank you. *(Applause)*

(2) Back Bench Community Concern

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Venner.

COUNCILLOR VENNER: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, on World Suicide Prevention Day I would like to open our West Leeds Back Bench Community Concern by speaking about a related issue which particularly affects demographically young wards like Kirkstall, Headingley and Hyde Park.

Whilst suicide disproportionately affects middle aged men in West Leeds, Leeds has one of the highest presentations to A & E for self injury in the country with young people, particularly women, being at risk.

The reason I mention this is because anyone who presents to A&E with self injury has a lifetime risk for suicide which is much higher than that of the general population.

The 2012 Leeds Suicide Audit identified a history of self harm as a feature in many of the completed suicides so, in addition to the pioneering postvention work you hear about in the deputation, the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups are also undertaking work in relation to self harm. This includes resources that have been developed for schools and a crisis card for members of the public which lets people know where they can go for help.

I would like to reiterate the deputation point that a suicide is not like any other death. It is loaded with stigma and shame. Suicide is an issue very close to my heart personally and professionally, because I have both been suicidal and been bereaved by suicide. The reason I am choosing to disclose this is because it is only by talking openly about mental illness and suicide that we all reduce some of the stigma and those of us with personal experience who have the privilege of sitting in this Chamber

should lead by example as some of our Parliamentarians have done on both sides of the House.

The most dangerous and pervasive myth about suicide is that people who talk about it will not do it and that speaking about it makes it worse. The opposite is true. Most people who end their own life have indicated their intention to someone and talking and relationships are the very thing that bind people to life and prevent suicide.

Please undertake the Safetalk training referred to in the deputation. It will help you feel more confident if people present to your surgeries who may be at risk and, more importantly, it can save someone's life and prevent the heartbreaking tragedy which is every suicide. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: I think it is very brave of Fiona to talk about her own experiences. I think it is also true to say many of us in this Chamber will have experienced similar thoughts, and I am also including myself in that.

When the Suicide Audit came out in 2012 it showed us that Leeds 12 had the highest recorded deaths in the city. Since then hardworking Armley Councillors have been doing all we can to address that issue. We raised the issue in full Council, we asked Scrutiny to look into the issue and particularly the Leeds 12 figures, we led a Harm Reduction workshop in December of 2012 and set up an action plan which we have been monitoring ever since and, finally, we supported the commissioning of a pilot called the Patient Empowerment Project which I was involved in the commissioning of which is looking at health inequalities in Leeds West and particularly at suicides. Hardworking Councillors delivering for Armley people and it was triggered by that audit and the discussion here, so well done and hopefully suicide will be an issue we can talk about much more openly as a result going forward. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: My Lord Mayor, on International Suicide Prevention Day I would like to talk about some of the innovative work which Bramley based BARCA is undertaking with their insight project.

There are a number of risk factors for suicide that have been identified, for example, unemployment and social isolation. The most important risk factors are the presence of a mental illness and substance or alcohol abuse. It is important to remember that many men and women are subject to these factors and thankfully only a tiny minority will take their own lives. However, the majority that do are men.

It is recognised the most important protective factor is the presence of good support from family or friends and this is what the project seeks to instigate. The aims of the project are to establish why the male suicide rate is so high in the LS12 and LS13 area, who are the men most at risk and what can be done to tackle the problem.

The high male suicide rate might be explained by demographics, the fact there are a higher proportion of men vulnerable to the risk factors in the area. To identify those most at risk a process of outreach in local pubs, clubs, residents' groups and mental

health service users was undertaken. This has resulted in a number of interviews of at risk men and case studies prepared.

Activities trialled to tackle the problem include the establishment of a steering group made up of men from the target group while offering positive activities which combat social isolation. As a result, men are being recruited as volunteers for community groups and signposted to existing groups and support services. Going forward, there are plans to establish a peer-led befriending group, continuation and expansion of activity groups, plus efforts to raise awareness of issues and support services within the area.

Colleagues, this is such an important project to help reduce the agony of suicide in our community - remember, suicide is avoidable. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin to sum up.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Firstly, let me thank Councillors Venner, Lowe and Ritchie for bringing this matter to full Council and both for acknowledging the good work that is being done already in the city and also for raising the profile of this issue so that more people will have the courage that they have had to discuss it today, and also the courage that was shown earlier today by the deputation. Both members of that deputation have been bereaved by suicide themselves and I think the work that has gone into promoting World Suicide Prevention Day at the Council today is to be commended, both from Council officers and elected Members and all of the organisations who had stalls on display in the ante-Chamber earlier today. Let me thank them all.

The Leeds Suicide Audit in 2011 investigated deaths over a three year period from the end of 2008 to the end of 2010. The audit found the group most at risk of suicide was 30-50 year old men experiencing social isolation in deprived communities. Whilst inner west Leeds had the highest suicide rate during this period, there are also other key areas of high need across the city. The highest number of recorded deaths was in the LS12 postcode, as has already been stated, followed very closely by postcodes in east, south and inner north Leeds.

Councillor Lowe and Councillor Ritchie have already informed Council of some of the great work that is taking place to address this issue and the investment that has taken place in West Leeds in particular, having previously been raised in this Chamber by Members for Armley, in particular.

The local work includes collaboration between key partners city-wide and with BARCA and Leeds West CCG and, again, credit is due to those partners for the work that they are already undertaking there.

We know most people with thoughts of suicide invite help but these opportunities are often missed, ignored or avoided. The Safetalk training, which Councillor Venner referred to, assist people to be able to understand how to recognise and talk to people with thoughts of suicide and to connect them with further help.

Leeds City Council is absolutely committed to playing its part in reducing suicide in the city and we are proud to be supporting world Suicide Prevention Day today.

While Leeds' rates of suicide are typical of the national average, we know that there are some areas and groups more at risk and we want everyone to be more aware of the support that is available. Only 37% of the people identified in the Suicide Audit were known to be in contact with or previously had contact with mental health services and it is important we continue to raise awareness across the city and focus specifically on high risk groups.

Help is available for anyone affected by suicide via the Connect Helpline which is available from 6.00pm till 10.30pm every night of the year for people in Leeds. There is a Leeds Mental Health Directory, which is a web based resource which also links to a range of organisations who offer advice and support and, as Councillor Venner mentioned earlier, we have a new addition to these sources of information which is the crisis card which was on display earlier in the ante-Chamber and I hope all Members picked one up. The crisis card aims to encourage people to make contact with support services by normalising asking for help, and that is the crucial part. It is not a weak thing to ask for help, it is actually a brave thing to do and we should be brave enough to encourage people to do that. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Mulherin. I think it is about time for the tea break but before we break, before I close this part of the meeting, I have a couple of items to tell you about.

One is the White Paper in the name of Councillor Wakefield, the second White Paper. That has been amended in agreement with Councillor Andrew Carter and there is a joint White Paper coming to the meeting. While you are out having your tea, the paper will be put on your seats or on the desk in front of you so that you can see what the amended White Paper is saying.

Can I ask Members to be back in their seats before 5.30 so that they are in their seats for the unveiling of the Roll of Honour to Clive Fox. Please get back on time.

(Short break)

ROLL OF HONOUR COUNCILLOR CLIVE FOX

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I thank Members of Council for being promptly in their seats after the tea break. We now move on to the Roll of Honour in the name of Councillor Clive Fox. I would like to invite Mrs Fox and Councillor Andrew Carter to join me in unveiling the Roll of Honour.

(The Lord Mayor, Mrs Fox, Mr Fox and Councillor A Carter moved to the well of the Chamber. Mrs Fox unveiled the Roll of Honour in the name of Councillor Clive Fox.)

(Photographs taken) (Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: I now call on Councillor Andrew Carter to address Council.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. On occasions like this you are pleased to be able to propose – you are not pleased at all, of course, because it is a very sad moment but it is absolutely right that Clive's name should be added to

the Roll of Honour in recognition of the hard work and commitment he has given in public service, not just on this Council but in other places over very many years.

Clive and I became friends over 40 years ago when we were both involved with fighting a proposal for the Pudsey-Dishforth motorway which only those of you of a certain age again will remember, but I have to say it was a very successful fight and successful for Clive in a number of ways because he met his wife Diane through that campaign. Diane was a constituent of mine in Farsley and we had in the Pudsey area our own action group and we linked up with the people in Rawdon and Bramhope all the way up to Dishforth and in Morley as well to fight the proposals. That is when I first got to know Clive.

Clive was extremely hard working, not flamboyant, not in any way – no histrionics with Clive but very hard working, very diligent, very thorough, well read, knew what he was doing; a man of great principle that he always stuck to. He was not dogmatic and not unreasonable. He would be friends with anybody and that was well borne out, and I have said this before when I paid tribute to Clive in here shortly after his death, it was really heartening the number of emails and messages that I received to pass on to Diane and the family, which I did, from Members in this Chamber of all parties saying the most kind things and that from our Group's point of view was extremely welcome and we thank all Members for those sentiments, but I am sure it was also and in particular of comfort to Diane and her family that Members across the political spectrum thought so highly of him.

Interestingly only this week, those of you who are in the soon-to-go West Yorkshire Pension Fund, if you have received the latest newsletter, the Chair, Ian Greenwood, pays a wonderful tribute to Clive and this will have gone to everybody who is in the Pension Fund. In it he refers to Clive's diligent and long service. Actually, Clive was the longest serving elected Member on the West Yorkshire Pension Fund and on the Investments Committee, and I know that Clive will have carried out those duties to the letter and he will have absolutely believed it to be his job to make sure that our investments and our pensions for all the staff in West Yorkshire and the elected Members who are in that fund got the best possible deal.

I thought it was particularly interesting that that should come out this week but again it just reflects the fact that on all sides Clive was greatly loved, greatly respected and will be sorely missed.

Thank you very much for coming along today. We all miss Clive, I know that you do. He was a good friend and a good colleague but also a very, very good public servant. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hanley.

COUNCILLOR HANLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. As Andrew has said it is indeed a sad moment for anybody that knew or worked with Clive. I know just how much Clive will be missed and not just by his family but by this side of the Chamber and really all of us. He will also be sadly missed by the good folk of Bramhope where he did so much for people.

Clive was an extremely bright and indeed a well educated Councillor. He stood out in many ways, or he did in my own mind. The work I did with Clive was on the West

Yorkshire Pension Fund and it is true to say that our fund, the West Yorkshire Pension Fund, which is run on behalf of the five Authorities and, indeed, many other organisations in our area, is now the best Local Government scheme in the country and that is not something up for debate now that you are doing this and doing that and the other. We are, without doubt, the best and the measure of that is we have got £10b worth of assets. When I joined Clive some years ago we were talking about several million. It is a staggering sum of money.

The other thing in particular with people like Clive is that the actual cost per pensioner per week, per month, whatever, is the lowest in the country and that is a staggering achievement and it is because of men like Clive.

If Clive was here today he would reiterate what Andrew has said that the previous Chair of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund, Ian Greenwood, was staggeringly good and is still staggeringly good and I know how well they got on together as friends and colleagues.

Clive's contribution, I used to try and sit next to Clive primarily because the 50 or the 100 page agenda which ran from everything like Goldman Sachs and everybody else who was big in the world of finance, Clive was always on the right page and so I could lean over and have a quick look.

Clive's questions, we used to go to London once or sometimes twice a year and we would meet maybe as many as a dozen international financial managers of such vast sums of money and we would listen and we would sit there, we would have people flying in from the United States and they would come in with these wonderful tans and most of them looked a bit like Kennedy did. They would go on for a while and at the end of the day Clive wanted to know what's the facts, what's the figures. They did not get any change out of Clive, believe you me. He was always on the ball.

He was a good man, he was a good family man, he was good for your Party and he was good for Bramhope. Lord Mayor, Clive was on the side of our Pension Fund and our pensioners and he will indeed be missed. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to share my thoughts and memories on Clive on behalf of the Lib Dems and, more importantly, the people of Otley and Leeds North West who I am sure will be more than happy for me to say a few words about Clive.

I never knew Clive until I got elected in 2012 but I certainly knew of him. Indeed, anyone interested in local politics – and that is a lot of people in Otley and Wharfedale – would have known of the Clive Fox reputation, a reputation as a feisty local Councillor with a face that always fascinated me. Here was a face with the Wharfe Valley, Leeds and probably the world drawn upon it; a Councillor who gave the local new MP a bit of stick; a man with a reputation for being combative and telling it like it was. Yet, on my first meeting I found Clive to be kind, welcoming and supportive and this continued throughout our two years working together.

As Members of Outer North-West Area Committee and with both of us on Health Scrutiny Board, we rubbed along with a shared interest in Wharfedale Hospital and Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care in general.

Finally, whatever our differences in this Chamber we are in many ways like most families – we fight, we squabble, we generally get on each others' nerves and we do not always love each other, but we also always look out for each other, we work together for the common good and when we lose one of our own, we grieve, commiserate and commemorate our losses.

Diane and family, I would very much rather not be making this eulogy but here we are and I am pleased that this Council family will not forget. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor, as a member of various Plans Panels and Development Plans Panels since 2004, I have worked more closely with Clive Fox than any of my Morley Independent colleagues. In a sense perhaps fittingly I learned of Clive's death by reading about it in the Yorkshire Evening Post when out for lunch one Thursday in April between a morning's planning site visits and a meeting proper of City Plans Panel in the afternoon. It was a great surprise, I did not quite believe it until it was confirmed by Barry Anderson when I went back to the Civic Hall.

Clive seemed to have a vision of the Leeds Metropolitan District which very probably the great majority of our fellow citizens share. He saw it as a group of communities separated by and set in green countryside, some of which might be recovering from the industrial revolution but is nonetheless green. This is at odds with other visions which seem to embrace ambitions of making Leeds a replica of Birmingham.

Clive was always thorough, clear thinking and careful in his consideration of planning. His thoughts, opinions and observations will be missed by us all. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. A very sad occasion and I have got to say I was really shocked when I heard the news.

I met Clive probably some time in the early 1990s. In fact I did not know what his political persuasion was but I was representing the Green Party on a discussion programme on the green belt and this chap called Clive Fox, who was championing the green belt and from that day onwards I have got to say I never had a harsh word with Clive, even where we disagreed. He had a way with him where he would put an intelligent argument and you did not fall out with Clive. He was sound.

This afternoon when we were discussing Development Plans Panel, he would have been in his element there talking about SHLAA and all of that. We will miss that sort of intelligent, knowledgeable input on to those. As Tom said, I sat on a number of panels, Planning Panels and Development Plans Panel with him over the years and I always found him of sound judgment and, as I say, somebody who had the right

attitude where you could discuss things with him, not always agree but still come out as friends. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: That concludes this part of the meeting.

(Mrs and Mr Fox withdrew from the Chamber) (Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Just before we go back to business, I have a late announcement to make. That is to congratulate Councillor Cohen, or Mrs Cohen, on having a daughter, Gabrielle, on 28th August. *(Applause)*

Now we move back to any outstanding Community Concerns and it is number 3 on page 16. Councillor Townsley.

(3) Back Bench Community Concern.

COUNCILLOR TOWNSLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am all in favour of keeping cars away from the city centre and encouraging commuters to use public transport, buses and trains. Apart from a reasonable bus service, we in Horsforth have known for many years that the other alternative is train travel. Indeed, Horsforth station is one of the busiest in the area.

Network Rail also realised that this route from Harrogate to Leeds was lucrative. They recently constructed a turn back to enable more trains to run between Horsforth and Leeds. The problem is that no provision was made for parking.

The Horsforth station car park is vastly inadequate and so commuters who travel many miles from North Yorkshire so as to take advantage of discounted rail fares park in neighbouring residential streets. Fifteen to 20 years ago my ward colleagues and I realised the problem facing us then. We were getting far too many complaints from residents about indiscriminate parking by commuters, who were blocking the driveways to their homes.

We took action and our Highways Department made many of the surrounding streets residents' only parking. This solved the immediate problem in Horsforth, but it only pushed it across the rail line into Cookridge.

Something quite clearly needs doing to solve this parking problem. It is no good encouraging people to leave their cars at home, or at least out of the city centre, unless we make provision for properly constructed car parks.

The problem has now extended to the St Margaret's and Brownberrie areas of Horsforth and no doubt further afield in Cookridge where we are receiving more and more complaints of on street parking.

Let us stop building park and ride car parks where they are under-used, such as Elland Road, and start putting them where they are badly needed. Many years ago there was serious consideration of building a new station and parking facilities at Woodside Quarry. It is time to resurrect these plans and to get on with constructing it. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR S BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I completely agree with what Councillor Townsley has said about parking around Horsforth station. It impacts on our ward, as Councillor Anderson's. Like Horsforth, we have introduced parking restrictions and residents' parking permits. Unfortunately that just pushes everything further out.

Something needs to be done to relieve the pressure of parking around the station which causes frustration and on occasion anger as local residents attempt to access their own drives with very little room for manoeuvre.

The simplest and probably the most cost effective solution would be for the Council to extend the car park at the station. That is possible because they own a huge piece of land behind the timber yard and with some skilful negotiations could allow the car park to be extended for the benefit of both passengers and residents alike.

Alternatively, the burden on this station and the congestion on the A660 could be reduced by building a park and ride at Boddington with an express bus into town because there is no certainty that NGT will go ahead and meanwhile motorists are stuck in traffic jams for longer and longer periods.

Weetwood Councillors are sure that this park and ride at Boddington would be much used by motorists, much better used than the one recently opened at Elland Road. Is it any wonder that Elland Road is very poorly used because it does not even open on Saturdays when Leeds United play at home. What sort of service is that?

Some years ago there were discussions and outline plans for having a multi-storey car park and a rail halt at Woodside Quarry. These plans need to be revisited and reopened. These would give passengers a choice and help to reduce the pressure on Horsforth station and hopefully some of the parking problems around it would also be alleviated.

Lord Mayor, parking around railway stations is a major problem affecting most citizens across the city. We need to be creative and extend car parks at existing stations, ensure new railway stations such as the proposed Kirkstall Forge have sufficient parking and look at more strategically placed park and ride sites that will be used. We need to do that now, building more new rail halts and stations.

More importantly than that we need a transport plan for the whole of the city rather than just keep tinkering at the edges. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis to respond.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Brian Cleasby raised this with me some months ago, the particular concerns of his residents in the St Margaret's and I did promise Brian at the time that I would happily come out and have a look around at the problem, which he then expressed to me as being one where people were getting very, very angry and where things could get out of hand. That visit will take place shortly.

I am a bit depressed by what Chris and Sue have said because all you have done is actually taken this as an opportunity to have a knock at the administration rather than genuinely raise a local concern in a way that you get a proper answer.

Let us talk about Elland Road, which I think your Member of the Exec Board supported, if I remember rightly. Stewart, you supported Elland Road. We were very clear and if Sue or Chris had bothered to read the paper that we produced then that was considered by the Executive Board, we knew damn well it would not fill up on Day One, it would not fill up on Day 30 or Day 60. It is a long-term plan. I will be happy if in a year's time it is full. It ain't going to be full today.

If you really think that we could use Elland Road park and ride on the same day as there is a match at Elland Road, I think you live in a completely different universe to the one I live in.

Now let us talk about Boddington. Right, you do not want NGT. NGT would actually take people from a park and ride into town quickly, instead of which you would propose that we just build a park and ride which people can use and then they can get on a traditional bus service. Even Councillor Wadsworth, who is obsessive about Elland Road, would realise that having bus services that are not dedicated as a way of getting people from park and ride to down does not work very well.

We said NGT, which will be funded, you just come along with something which is completely unfunded to solve a local problem. That is the problem with you, you are just so un-joined up in your thinking about an issue.

It is a serious issue. We have worked on it in terms of what is happening in Horsforth and a number of other stations like Garforth where there are, I think, worst problems to me, absolutely shocking problems, and it is a serious concern. Through the Transport Fund, the West Yorkshire Transport Fund, we are looking at finding 2,000 extra places around railway stations across West Yorkshire and I am sure that you will support that initiative.

You must not see these things in isolation and have a go at what we are trying to do overall because we do have a plan; unfortunately you do not seem to have read it. I am more than happy, as I say, to come out again, look at the issues and let us have a real, proper discussion about them. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

(4) Back Bench Community Concern

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Varley.

COUNCILLOR VARLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to speak about the Community Concern of the Japanese Knotweed on land in Morley South. Japanese Knotweed was introduced into this country some 200 years ago, quite innocently, as a plant for the garden. It is a pernicious plant that is a blight on many patches of land in my ward and in fact possibly many areas of the city.

If left untreated the strength and tenacity of the growth can be devastating, particularly if it spreads into nearby gardens. This has already happened on a piece of land about to be developed in Morley South. The owner of any land containing – and I will abbreviate it to JK – has a responsibility to keep it at bay but if the land is to be

developed, before any development is undertaken the land must be cleared of JK as it has been known to weaken foundations and work its way through concrete foundations.

This landowner at this particular point is making a very poor attempt to free this land from Japanese Knotweed and, of course, if left it could be a jeopardy for buildings, residences and mortgages.

It is quite easy for the Knotweed to be treated and for the surface part of the Knotweed to perhaps disappear, and unscrupulous developers would perhaps do this, leaving the land on top quite clear but these roots can be down as far as seven foot under the ground and they take a great deal of weeding out.

I would like the Planning Department to be particularly stringent when considering any plans, wherever they may be in the city, to make sure that any site, particularly brown field sites, that this weed is not present. There is information in abundance on the internet but not everyone has access to this communication. I am aware that a number of constituents have asked for advice from the Council as to how this weed can be dealt with and have had very little help in that respect.

Would it not be helpful for the relevant department to produce a leaflet with information on how to deal with an infestation?

One final point, this weed when treated or dug out should not be taken from the site. The Valley Road site in Morley has huge specimens of this weed and the owner, during his unlicensed clearance of the site, dug out a great deal of it and we now believe that all this is going to be burned on site with the agreement of the Environmental Agency.

I would like clarification on this point, I have been trying to find out and have not got really to the bottom of it. If the burning takes place, how is it going to be managed as there are residential areas quite close by? Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson to respond.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have said it before in this Chamber, one of the problems with Community Concerns is when it is a one-liner, not weeding Morley or wherever else. It does not really give you enough to get a grip of some of the actual issues and concerns of the Members. This is a general point. I kind of prefer that because one thing you do not want to do is not give due diligence to the Community Concern that is under discussion.

In terms of some of the issues around Planning policy, perhaps if we had had a little bit more, even Councillor Gruen over there could have intervened. However, it has come to me and I will give it a good old stab at addressing it.

In terms of the Environment Agency, they have the powers under the Environment Protection Act of 1990 Section 34 to act on Japanese Knotweed and the removal of and the dispersal of. I do not actually know, to be honest, Councillor Varley, if incineration on site of knotweed is permissible or not. Certainly the disposal and removal has to be very carefully monitored and I am not convinced if burning on site is a better or worse option than removal where there is potential dispersal.

What I would suggest is bring this to me via a brief email outlining your concerns, I will pick it up with Parks and Countryside and the Environment Agency and get some proper guidance for you.

The problem with knotweed is it is very, very poorly regulated. I did raise a smile and I should not, really. The Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 says it is an offence to grow or perpetuate knotweed. I do not really think anybody is out there thinking, "I know what, I can have a nice garden full of Japanese Knotweed" but it is certainly not helpful in terms of legislation that we can really get our teeth into. As I say, the Environmental Protection Act of 1990 does give the Environment Agency powers that I am more than happy to take up with you.

I am actually – and I am going to thank Neil Dawson for already raising the issue of the contaminated land. He has already raised this concern to me which I am going to be taking forward around that particular site. Again, if land is not being maintained properly there is civil action that can be taken through the courts where it does cause harm to the broader environment, so again something for residents who might be concerned, that might be something that you wish to look into.

We are also aware of other sites in Morley or across the two wards: Alden Court which we treated and are now looking for signs of re-emergence; Whitehall Road; Scotchman Lane. In fairness I would say in terms of what Parks and Countryside do with it, we are very, very robust in dealing with knotweed and they are going to keep the previously infested contaminated area under very close monitoring.

That said, if you have got other issues of concern regarding how Parks deal with residents and residents' queries, I am more than happy to field them and take them on board for you. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

(5) Back Bench Community Concern

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Collins.

COUNCILLOR COLLINS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. During the UDP Review in 2006 the City wisely adopted an N5 policy designed to identify open green spaces that needed to be protected and opened up for community use. The policy was worded as follows:

"The City Council will seek, both itself and in partnership with other agencies, to improve the quantity and quality of green space provision through a phased programme for the acquisition and laying out of new green spaces, outdoor recreational facilities and footpaths and the extension of existing green spaces."

The new Core Strategy has been developed to replace the UDP but it appears to fall short with regards to developing new sites for recreation. Only sites that are currently already being used by the public and local people will be put on to the green spaces plan. No new sites will be brought forward or protected.

Some N5 sites in Horsforth ward have important ecological significance. One in particular has been studied and it has been found that there are very rare and

important grasses in the meadow. Other sites have not been given much consideration, however, and there has been no work undertaken to establish what we as a city would lose if these fields were ploughed over or dug up.

Many sites that were identified as N5 sites have been put on hold since 2006. Many will now lose this N5 designation and will not be incorporated in to the Green Spaces Plan. These are sites that local people would welcome as a small oasis within their community. These pockets of green will now not be made accessible to them and could now even be developed for housing.

This would appear to be a backward step. Surely the city today should be as ambitious as it was eight years ago and should be retaining the N5 policy or developing something very similar.

We do not have the funds to buy up, protect and make these public areas straightaway but surely, if we still have the will to do so, we could continue to keep them on a wish list. We should at the very least by fully evaluating these areas to see what plants and animals they support before we declassify them completely.

Once these green spaces and the nature they support have gone, it is impossible to get them back again. Councillor Gruen was very keen to point out to me that the city centre falls short of its green space targets by a long way. For me this just highlights the need for keeping the N5 policy, giving us the opportunity to preserve and open up more recreational green spaces wherever possible. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR P GRUEN: Thank you very much for that contribution. I heard every word. I want to reassure Council that the quality and quantity of green space is extremely important for the whole of the city and indeed the draft – and I hope that it is the last time I have to say the draft – Core Strategy seeks to protect valuable green space.

Across the whole of the city we had in the UDP 1,131 green spaces covering the city and that was more than 4,000 hectares. Now, in the new Allocations Policy, instead of 1,131 we are proposing 1,502 covering more than 5½,000 hectares, so a considerable increase in both.

In Horsforth, yes, there are three sites which are recommended for deletion but Councillor Collins, as you know, there are 60 – six-zero – new sites being proposed for protection.

If I compare the green space in different wards this will give you a good indication. Horsforth ward has 239 hectares of green space. You will ask, how much is that? How much is 239 hectares? The whole of Roundhay Park is 250, so they have got as much green space in Horsforth as the whole of Roundhay Park. It is a fair amount, I think.

Clearly, Councillor Collins, your colleagues in Alwoodley are doing a very bad job because they have got far less than you have got. In Guiseley and Rawdon your three colleagues are doing a dreadful job; they have got far less green space. In Harewood they have got even less green space; what on earth are they up to?

I think you have got plenty, frankly, and when I do compare it and because we are here for the whole of the city, when I compare to Hyde Park and Woodhouse, those poor citizens only have 57 hectares; in Gipton and Harehills only 67; in Burmantofts only 86 hectares.

I ask you, in all good conscience, reflect on what you have said and count yourself lucky. *(hear, hear) (Applause)*

(6) Back Bench Community Concern

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. My Back Bench Community Concern is about the telecommunications cabinets on pavements in Farnley and Wortley. I speak about the cabinets on the pavement outside the front of the Asda in Oldfield Lane, Wortley.

To start off with, these cabinets look an eyesore but of more concern to me is that these cabinets are on the Council-owned pavement, not the tarmac path at the back of it that belongs to Asda. If they had been put on the Asda path, they could have stood flush with the Asda building, which would not have looked that bad.

As it stands, people walk round the back of the cabinets on the tarmac path in Asda's ownership and if you are in a wheelchair or are wheeling a buggy, it is more safer to do so as the space on the Council pavement is narrowed by the installation of these cabinets, thereby pushing pedestrians nearer the road.

What happens if Asda decides to cordon of this part of the land? Then it will mean that wheelchair users, people with buggies will have to go on the Council pavement and in fact they would end up blocking it in certain parts.

I think really we should be looking at that. I will leave Terry Wilford to say something.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: The issue is, and I will talk in general, I think we all will have this problem. We want to go digital, we want digital technology, we want to all go broadband but also we want to look after the pavements so disabled people and people with prams can safely get down the pavements.

The situation – and I am not getting at Council officers here at all because on the experience we have had, particularly with the Asda thing, they have been very, very helpful but it is the fact that regulation is not helpful for that and we have people not being able to push their prams down the road because these cabinets are going out into the space, or people in wheelchairs having to go on to the road.

Really, I think as a Council, or as the Exec Member, what we have got to do is we have got to make representations elsewhere on this issue. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wilford.

COUNCILLOR WILFORD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. As my colleague Councillor Ann Blackburn has pointed out, the cabinets are situated on a footpath and this presents problems in the fact that it is an obstacle for mothers with pushchairs and people with mobility or disability issues and obstructs the thoroughfare for everyone either shopping or passing by.

On observation it seems an ill thought out placement. The cabinets are on perhaps on Asda property but the path belongs to the Council. Our main point is that the telecommunications cabinet would be better situated at the rear of the Asda property. Not only would this be a better site, allowing room for manoeuvre, but it would definitely improve the unsightly location of the existing cabinet. Thank you.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis to respond.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. David touched on the problem here, which is that everybody wants superfast broadband but we do not like what goes with it and I would include myself in that group and the whole story of superfast broadband is in many ways a sorry tale.

Where we are stuck is that we have a permitted regime that was introduced fairly recently which will last for five years which does give I suppose enhanced powers to statutory undertakers to put these boxes more or less where they want. They have consultations with our Highways officers about it and the Highways officers do not have powers to stop it. Of course, they can put these things on the pavements but they cannot put them on Asda's land unless Asda is agreeable.

I honestly cannot picture where this particular box is that you are talking about but I know exactly the problem because Ann has raised similar issues previously, as I recall.

Yes, it is an issue for us as a Council. We are very limited in our ability to challenge or provide any alternative. We do want to see the roll out of superfast broadband. I am more than happy to take away the general issue of placing these boxes, which get bigger and bigger and you kind of think in five, ten years, how big will the blooming things be, and see where we can raise that with the Central Government to see if we get any kind of useful reply. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Before we move on to White Papers I have another announcement – they keep getting thrown at me, these announcements. That is to congratulate Councillor Dowson on her recent marriage. *(Applause)*

We have three White Papers this evening for debate. Each debate will last for no longer than 30 minutes and will conclude with votes on the motion and any amendments.

ITEM 12 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – TOUR de FRANCE

THE LORD MAYOR: The first White Paper is in the name of Councillor Les Carter.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: My Lord Mayor, I wish to move the White Paper motion in my name. Some of you may think it ironic of all people that I should be moving this motion on a cycling event and, indeed, I understand the Labour Party had a special committee to find out what the motive was behind it, but without any success.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: And the Chief Executive.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: Oh, the Chief Executive as well! However, as I had no part in the success of this wonderful event, I believe I can speak for the people of Leeds and Yorkshire who, like myself, wish to offer their sincere thanks to all those people involved in organising this most spectacular sporting event.

I also have a good understanding about the millions and millions of people around the world who watched this event for, like them, I was not in Yorkshire on the day of the race, the day the race started...

COUNCILLOR: He was on the beach!

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: ...but abroad and, like millions and millions of people who saw this outstanding event, I watched it on TV in another country.

What those people saw, like myself, was a truly spectacular picture of our city and Yorkshire. The Black Prince decked out in a yellow jersey; the greatest Town Hall in the country proudly proclaiming the event; thousands and thousands of Leeds' citizens lining the roads in support, not only in the city centre but all the way to Harewood House. I have to say, my jaw dropped as it appeared the whole of Leeds turned out to support this event.

I have never seen anything better at promoting Leeds and Yorkshire than this event. TV pictures showing wonderful shots of Kirkstall Abbey, Harewood House, the River Wharfe, Arthington Viaduct, Pool, Otley and many, many more great Yorkshire sights, too many to name.

The Grand Départ had a worldwide television audience of many, many millions of people in over 188 countries, seen on 121 different television channels, all showing the very best of Leeds and Yorkshire.

At Harewood House the sight of the Band of the Royal Corps of Engineers playing La Marseillaise and then our own national anthem was a truly wonderful sight to see. Our young Royals starting the race, all the great and the good were there, including the Leader of Leeds City Council who has played a leading part in this event.

I was thrilled to see parts of my own ward, the River Wharfe, showing the Arthington Viaduct crossing. It looked truly spectacular set against the Dales.

All those involved in bringing this promotion to Leeds and Yorkshire deserve our thanks, starting with the man who brought the Grand Départ to Yorkshire, Gary Verity – a man who would not take “No” as an answer, a man who stuck to his guns and his principles and brought it, and a team which included Sir Rodney Walker who,

I am told, is a great planner and helped enormously on this. The Race Director, Christian Prudhomme, said after the event:

“The most important thing was passion and you have passion, you are a mirror for what is the Tour. For you, you are proud to have had the Tour and we are proud to have had you and Leeds as the Grand Départ.”

A big thank you must go to the Council under the Leadership of Councillor Wakefield. One area which I missed, and it has been reminded to me in my White Paper, was the sponsors and I did not put that in and I would not mind if we added that, if we are needed the permission of Council to add the sponsors into it I would like it to be there. To put it on record, I understand Asda provided all the tabards for all the many thousands of people who were volunteers. The Government put money in. The thousands of volunteers, our own dedicated staff, which you can be proud and pass that down to them, and finally the people of Leeds and Yorkshire who made this event very, very special.

I believe, indeed I know, it will bring untold gains to both our city and Yorkshire. My Lord Mayor, how truly blessed we are all to live in God’s Own County. I move.
(Applause)

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: You will be leaving your car behind then Les!

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: I am very pleased to formally second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Yeadon.

COUNCILLOR YEADON: Thank you very much, Lord Mayor. It was an absolute honour to be part of the team working on the Tour de France, but there were so many people who went before I got involved and who were key to making it successful.

I have to say, I was so incredibly proud that weekend and the week leading up to the Tour on the way that the Council and its staff and the team worked together, the way that the city embraced it and the way that we overcame what could have been an incredibly daunting and challenging task with a big smile and great success, in my view.

A big thank you to Councillor Wakefield for having the vision to see that we could do it and that a group of Local Authorities predominantly in the North did have the skills to successfully deliver such a feat as the Tour de France, and also Councillor Ogilvie who led the way before I luckily stole the job!

Just a few facts and figures about what happens over the weekend. In Leeds City Centre itself we had 230,000 spectators and if you think about that in the context of the population of Leeds itself, it is absolutely incredible.

Over the course of the Tour we had 10,000 Tourmakers, volunteers who made the event run successfully. Over 600 Adult Social Care staff worked to ensure that 1,600 people had the care they needed on the day and some of those camped out overnight to make sure that they could get to their customers when they needed to.

The work that Highways put in, the work that Environmental Services did to make sure that the changes in bin collections went smoothly. The Highways, as I have already mentioned, we actually had less complaints about traffic delays than we do on a normal weekend (*laughter*) so I do not know if that is a strategy for the future! The bus operators had twice the number of passengers and at the train station over 243,000 people passed through the doors, which is amazing – the busiest Saturday ever.

At the same time, we had the customers of Holt Park Active and the people of Holbeck Elderly Aid knitting jumpers for statues; we had yellow bikes all over the city, whether it was on the route or off. There were so many cycling events that I got invited to that week and am still getting invited to that, if you have not had the chance to get on a bike this year then you must be one of the only people in Leeds who have not and there was cycling outside earlier, so you still have a great chance.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can you wind up please, Councillor Yeadon.

COUNCILLOR YEADON: I think it is an incredibly proud thing for Leeds to have achieved but it did take vision and it did take bravery and it took partnership and for us all in the Chamber, no matter where you sit, to have been part of that and have the...

THE LORD MAYOR: Red light, Councillor Yeadon.

COUNCILLOR YEADON: ...to back it, I think we should all be proud of what the city achieved. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harington.

COUNCILLOR HARINGTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Les, thank you for your words. I, of course, support everything you say. Christian Prudhomme, the Director of the Tour de France, as you may have heard, said, “I had not realised that Yorkshire was so gorgeous” and so, of course, we hope all the millions that were watching will think the same and start visiting the county and Leeds.

In addition to the things that you have mentioned, in order to decide what we mean by it being a truly wonderful success, we also have to note that right from the beginning it was said that this should inspire more people to be on bikes. If that is to happen, if we want to know why that should happen, we should also ask what sort of city do we really want to live in?

There has been heaps of research to show that the more a city is cycle friendly then the more attractive it becomes. You may know that there has been a recent all-party Cycle Report from Parliament and it sums up the key issues. It says urgent action is needed to combat obesity, combat heart disease, to make the air less polluted and so on and so forth, and this we can do if we make a city where people can cycle and can walk. Air improves, health improves, NHS budget declines dramatically – it is a long list. I certainly recommend to you the report.

It is not as if cycling is for everybody but a whole lot of people would cycle if they felt it was safer. There is a huge decline in the number of children who walk or cycle to school, as anyone can see by the number of cars outside every primary school

probably on the planet. 59% of people go to primary school by car, was the last figure I heard. Why? Because parents do not think it is safe. Do we really want to live in a city where people do not think it is safe for their children to walk or cycle to school? If a city is not cycle friendly it is not child friendly.

We are doing a lot of things to make things better. There is a supercycle highway, we are improving bicycle lanes, we are improving the towpath, but it is only a start.

I chair the Cycle Campaigning and it is a very frustrated group, maybe not always justified but often so, because they feel that despite the improvements there are too many roundabouts and junctions which have been designed only for the car, not for the bike.

OK, the car is a crucial ingredient for our transport system but our transport policy also says we have to do all that we possibly can to promote green alternatives – the car, the bike, the lorry, public transport. We have to get the balance and it will be difficult how these all fit together. It will be difficult but it can be done.

A paper has gone to Exec Board on the Tour de France legacy. A key ingredient of that is that there should be a partnership board to try and make these things happen, make use of this unprecedented opportunity. A whole lot of people need to be in that – to name but a few, Highways, Education, Public Health, campaigners and it must be cross-party.

The Tour de France, I think, will only be said to be a wonderful success fully if it has inspired us to transform our city. The Parliamentary Report said more people bicycling and cycling means a healthier, wealthier city.

THE LORD MAYOR: Red light, Councillor Harington.

COUNCILLOR HARINGTON: You might think that is an exaggeration but what do we want? A grimy city...

THE LORD MAYOR: How many times do I have to say red light?

COUNCILLOR HARINGTON: OK. *Il faut se demerder et on peut transformer la ville.* Only if we get our arse into gear we can make the transformation, so let's go for it. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Harington. Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Thank you, Lord Mayor, and there was an example of a cyclist ignoring a red light again. *(laughter and applause)*

I have to give the credit to Councillor Harrand for that joke! There is no question that the Tour de France was for our city and for Yorkshire an amazing set of days, starting with the introduction of all the cyclists and through on the Saturday and the Sunday. For Yorkshire and for Leeds as a showcase to the world it was simply unparalleled. For me when the Tour de France went through Yorkshire, the street parties that were taking place in Alwoodley and the community atmosphere that it engendered are unlikely to ever be repeated and when the Tour had gone through, the opportunity for people to actually cycle unimpeded on the road was perhaps the view that Councillor

Harrington has in mind for what the future may in some way look like. I am not sure we would all agree with that.

I think we cannot underestimate the immense contribution to the success of the Tour of the 10,000 volunteers who – and I believe, Councillor Cleasby, you were one of them – made the event in many ways what it was and also our Police and uniformed personnel who really, really got into the spirit of the day. We had in Alwoodley Police motorcyclists driving along high-fiving as they went along and, again, it all added to the day, it all added to the spectacle.

As Councillor Harrington has said, a key part of the Tour de France, the measure of what we will look to in five or ten years' time as to whether the Tour de France was a true success is what legacy we gear into it and how we build a legacy from it. Councillor Harrington, you referred to the all-party Parliamentary group and they suggest a figure of £10 per person per annum as an appropriate level of investment to deliver cycling.

I leave with this thought. There are going to be some significant debates within the Chamber and around this city as to where we spend money in these trying times if we are to come close to that and so areas where we would have to stop investing, and particularly in our other methods of transport if we were to move towards that, and I think there are going to be some interesting and challenging conversations about where we resource, and I think that will very much play into where we end up in determining ultimate success of the Tour de France. Thank you, Lord Mayor.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have to admit to being rather cynical of Les's White Paper when it came, I admit to being a cynic in the group who looked at it to see what the ulterior motive was and, lo and behold, there was no ulterior motive, he was very sincere. The next thing we are going to see from Les is him coming on in a bike in Lycra! *(laughter)* We used to call him Two Jag Carter but here he is now, talking about the virtues!

It does remind me of the old adage, success has many parents; failure only has one, because you are right to congratulate that list of people. There has been an incredible team atmosphere and ethos to it. As well as all the people you mentioned, volunteers do make the atmosphere. When you turn up and people are really enthusiastic and want to guide you, it makes you want to be a part of the bigger community.

Two things. There is somebody here, actually, who played a really important part, and officers have not been mentioned so I will mention Tom Riordan, who really played an outstanding role. *(Applause)* He persuaded other Chief Execs when I had not persuaded the Leaders to take that gamble, take that risk so let us not forget that.

Two big events for me that we have not spoken about. The amazing thing about this was not the bike ride; those hundred days of cultural events were truly inspirational because it meant everywhere in Yorkshire got some fantastic cultural events which really brought people together and started the momentum for that day on July 5th.

The other one, of course, we should not forget is watching 50 schools enter their children, five special schools as well, in a mini Tour at Temple Newsam. That was absolutely fantastic, watching young people get into the spirit, all the competitiveness out of them, all the determination and so on.

A great marketing exercise, as we have said. Also, Les, £100m we are expecting and more coming into our economy because of that and above all what I think he has done, he has brought the community together which in a rampant individualist culture that we have today is a rare and wonderful experience. It has given Yorkshire people and Leeds people ambition to do more.

We have been inundated with people from Leeds, people in Yorkshire, saying, “Why don’t you bring the Ryder Cup” – as you know we had it in Moortown – “Why don’t you do the Davis Cup, why don’t we do the Commonwealth Games?” because we are usually successful and because people had a spectacular time of day and it showcased Leeds and Yorkshire to the rest of the world.

One last statistic before I try and finish on time. A third of the people who watched this changed their perception of Leeds and Yorkshire. A quarter of those people want to come and visit and I am pretty sure we will be seeing the benefits of this Grand Départ for years to come.

Thanks to everyone involved and all the support and all the volunteers and people who made that spectacular weekend in Yorkshire. Thank you, Lord Mayor.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Downes.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In over ten years of being a Councillor I think this is the easiest Opposition White Paper to support. I do so as a resident of Leeds that was very, very fortunate that the Tour passed by the end of my road. For those of you who know, I am also the caretaker of a Methodist Church – it actually passed by the doors of our Church so that morning there we were helping making bacon butties for all the people who descended upon our village and making about a hundred burgers as well with my pinny on, and we had a wonderful time.

One thing I will just correct Councillor Carter on, if you saw Pool you were lucky because the BBC decided when it went through our little village to cut transmission.

COUNCILLOR: I saw it.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Have you got a copy because we are desperate for one!

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: It was on ITV.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: I apologise. I was too busy watching it for real to notice. Sorry, ITV, I do take that back. For me I remember it before it even was announced, Councillor Cleasby saying, showing me a superimposed picture and showing me the Tour going through France and saying, “This will be in Yorkshire” and I thought, that isn’t going to happen. It is just a credit to everybody who has been involved that it was brought to Yorkshire. It was incredibly successful for the thousands of people who came and, as I say, I was lucky it came to my village, it also came through the

ward I represent, it came through Otley, and Otley was absolutely jammed packed. Some of the pictures and memories that people will have from that day will be with them for the rest of their lives.

Another little story I would just like to share with you. One of my neighbours, since the 1970s their son organises sporting tours which encompasses the Tour de France. They are members of Otley Cycling Club and they have followed the Tour de France abroad every year since the 1970s. Who could believe that one day it would actually be coming along the end of their street, so it is a big thank you and a big tribute to everybody that has made this event possible. It really was tremendous and I just cannot wait for it to happen again!

Thanks very much to everybody for bringing a truly wonderful day to Yorkshire. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Lord Mayor, I would like to put Keith right, actually, on something. The mover of this motion has not just been converted. After much time when we were in Cabinet together when I kept nattering at him because he wanted Mercedes lanes and things like that, I have actually got a photograph of Les out there on a bike and I had it on the wall before I moved office and I don't know where I've put it, else I would have brought it here! It is not a sudden conversion.

I have got to say, I have lived in Leeds all my life and Leeds doesn't put things on – it is Manchester, it is London, it is Birmingham, it is Edinburgh or whatever. We never seem to put anything on. This is the first time we have put something on of such a major level in this city's history, I think, and what such a good job we did of it.

It is great that everybody is in support across party, across the city. Everybody is in support. There is only one slight reservation here and there is Councillor McKenna there who probably heard me, it did not come through West Leeds, did it? What a good event, everybody involved did everything right, there was nothing that went wrong, it was wonderful, and what an advert for this city and what an advert for the whole of Yorkshire.

Coming on to what Roger Harington was on about, I do think that seriously we need a legacy of this and certainly the Green Group are supportive of working with you in that direction. It is something we think is very important and the more people we can get on to bicycles out there, get Les out of his Mercedes and what have you, the better.

It doesn't wear the roads out as much and the thing is it is more healthier for everybody. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Les Carter to sum up.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It is nice to have a White paper which I think is going to receive all party support. Is that right, John? Thank you.

Just a few points. I know people think I have been a bit cynical towards cycling. I thought back to childhood and do love cycling. At four years of age I used to tear round Woodhouse Moor on a three wheeler; at about nine I used to cycle along roads to go to school. There was only an eighth of the traffic that there is now when I was that age – not many years ago but it is a few years ago. In fact my first company vehicle was an old Hovis type bike. A Hovis bike.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: There were no cars then! *(laughter)*

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: They had not been invented then, Les!

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: But the bread was good! *(laughter)* Yes, I think why are you being a bit jaundiced today and I will tell you why I am being a bit jaundiced. I honestly think cycling that we have got at the present time is not safe. Apart from the idiots that go through the red lights, and they do it all the time the cyclists, but it is not just that.

We paint the white line in the road and say that is a cycle lane. How the hell does it protect them from an articulated lorry, a bendy bus, a car? It does not protect them at all. If you go in the bus lane, say they can ride a bus lane, it might be someone like Richard driving at the back of them – I do not think he does it now but he used to drive at the back of them. I do not think it is safe. Let's be honest, I have two granddaughters, both of them love their bikes but it would terrify me to let them cycle on our main roads in Leeds. You talk about going to school, I would not touch it with a ten foot barge pole.

Let me throw a challenge out to you – this is my challenge to you all. I want you to find truly segregated cycle tracks. I mean segregated. I think you can do it in certain areas of the city through certain parts of the city which is segregated. You will have to cross roads at some stage and we will have to have a lighting system which allows them to cross but a segregated system. I do not want to be driving seeing people trying to ride up Otley Old Road with thousands of cars on them. I would rather them going on certain parts over the Ridge, through the Hollies – beautiful, beautiful cycling without cars or anything in there. I can let my granddaughters do it.

What we have got to think of, we have got to use our imagination not just put a line on the ground. We have got to say how do we really and truly get segregated cycling, still protect the city from its commercial needs and driving into the city, let us not forget that, you cannot just wipe that out. That commercial has got to be protected as well.

That is a challenge I throw. It will not happen in my lifetime – I throw it to the younger Members of this Council. Think about how you can do it and over the years you will be able to build that up into a situation where Leeds is known for segregated cycling.

Lord Mayor, it was a wonderful event. I saw more, I think, from abroad than any of you saw here. I saw everything from abroad. The red light is on – thank you, my Lord Mayor, and I am thankful for your support. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Carter. I now call for the vote on the motion. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ITEM 13 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – DEVOLUTION OF FINANCIAL POWERS

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move on to the White Paper motion in the name of Councillor Wakefield and this is the one where Councillor Wakefield is wishing to move an amendment. You have been circulated with how the amendment will read. Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Yes, Lord Mayor, I have agreed with the last point of Councillor Carter's in terms of the last bullet point. If people have got *this* one, it is a bullet point, the point being that I have agreed with Councillor Carter's suggestion, proposal, that what we should have is an elected City Region Area. I think that is a much better proposition than an elected Mayor.

To go to the main point, I start with the view that whatever happens in the Scottish Referendum, the momentum for devolution now – sorry, do you want me to stop?

THE LORD MAYOR: What we are doing is asking Council to amend the motion, so we need to seek leave of Council for the alteration of the motion in your name.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: OK.

THE LORD MAYOR: Could members support that? Can I see a show of hands in support of amending Councillor Wakefield's motion? That is CARRIED. Now Councillor Carter to move the withdrawal of his amendment.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Happy to withdraw the amendment in my name. I will obviously speak on the White Paper.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: I second that.

THE LORD MAYOR: Members of Council, do we agree to that? (*A vote was taken*) That is clearly CARRIED. Councillor Wakefield to speak on the motion.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you for that help, Lord Mayor, because I was still dealing with bits of paper on my desk as well, and I sure people do get the last point I think our Chief Whip certainly had notice of this.

The first think I wanted to say is that, whatever happens a week on Thursday I think the momentum for devolution is now unstoppable and I think it is unstoppable because it begs the question what we call the English question – if there is going to be devolution, or maxi devolution, then what are we going to do with England, which still has a very Whitehall model with ten different departments ruling Local Government in this country.

We have already seen in Northern Ireland, in Wales, in Scotland before this debate they have all got their own momentum, they are all shaping their own destiny, their own economy to their own resources and I think it is long overdue that actually we in the Leeds City Region start to get more powers down to our Local Government level.

If you look at where we are in terms of where we are starting from, we already have the biggest economy in the City Region in the North of England, with £54b – bigger than eight European cities, bigger than the Greater Manchester economy, so we start from a very strong position. We already have on top of that a big settlement with our latest bid to what they call the Strategic Economy Plan. At last we have got £1b for transport, we have got £600m for investment and we have got the devolution powers on skills, but we could do with more. If we are really going to make a difference we could do with more. We could do more on housing, we could actually do more on transport than what we have already got. We can actually start talking about Adult Social Care and Health and integrating public services coming together. We can actually start talking at long last giving Local Government purpose and status in order to carry out our elected roles.

I think one of the things that I am kind of perplexed about in terms of the future is we can also go for fiscal devolution. Devolution will not work unless we get fiscal powers and I will come back to this debate later. If we really want to get Leeds and the City Region performing like they do in Europe as second cities, some better than the capital, if we really want to grow our economy, if we really want to actually start ending the North/South divide, then we really have to go for powers and I have to say, whatever the outcome of the debate in Scotland, one thing is quite clear. If you give relevance to Local Government and politics you get people engaged. Whatever we think of the outcome there is one thing quite clear – we are going to see a massive turn out. We have seen young people engaged in politics and I actually think the Whitehall model, the centralised model which made us the most centralised country in Western Europe, is now broken and what we really need to do is start arguing for more resources, more powers and start to think of taking more responsibilities for our own future and our own destiny.

I think the White Paper is a start. The reason why I accepted Councillor Carter's amendment is because talking about Mayors is side-tracking and distracting. We had a vote two years ago; two thirds of Yorkshire said "No". Whether it is a Metro Mayor, whether it is a City Mayor, whether it is a Mayor with red ribbon about it for me is total irrelevance. We need to get democratic accountability and the powers that we devolve to the Leeds City Region and then we can start talking about shaping our own destiny. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Andrew Carter to formally second and to speak.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. I am happy to formally second the amended resolution.

Let me make clear, my paragraph, my amended paragraph – I am not ruling out any form of elected leadership. I want to engage with the Government about a model of democratic control at City Region level, whether that is an elected Leader, elected Cabinet, similar to the arrangement in London. As far as I am concerned all options are open because I think this is too big a deal to let slip.

I am hugely concerned personally about the outcome of a week tomorrow because whatever happens it will have a huge effect first of all on the economy of the north-east of England. The Government will have to act with speed to devolve powers in the north-east or there will be a massive difficulty economically because of the powers the Scots will have either as an independent nation or with devo max, as they

call it. They will be able to do things to encourage employment and jobs and relocation that no region in England, no sub-region in England can do.

It will be hugely important, therefore, that the Government in the UK moves quickly to address that great problem and they will be under big pressure in the north-east and quite rightly so.

That again will then bounce back on to us and cascade down so the time is now to accept this devolution at City Region level. I am not talking about Regional Government, that has been tried, failed, it will fail again. It will never get passed. At a City Region level, the economic footprint level, it has to happen and it has to happen quickly.

I have to say to everybody present, that is going to mean some pretty tough decisions being taken. We are not going to like it all – we are not – we are not going to like it all but I will tell you this, we are talking about a vast future for the economy of the North of England, a vast future for the economy of the North of England. If we do not move to devolution quickly, then that will be wasted for another 20, 30, 40 years. We have to start to engage and I would much rather see some form of democratic control in whatever happens than a bunch of leaders of any party meeting, self-appointed, no democratic mandate whatever, because the Combined Authority can only do a job for a certain length of time. It has to be time limited, then there has to be democratic control of decision-making which will affect all our lives on a macro-economic basis and that is a challenge, a real challenge, and it is one we have to embrace. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis to comment.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I wanted to follow up what Councillor Wakefield said about the Region City Deal and the steps in there not just being the first and last step of devolution but actually being something we can build on in the future.

I think when we look at what the City Deal is focused on, it is focused on investment and it is focused on infrastructure, but the reality is it is also predicated on the fact that it is just simply playing catch-up for where we should have been many years ago in terms of transport infrastructure investment in this region.

The days when any scheme, however small, however trivial still had to seek Whitehall and Westminster approval is long gone and I think we would all welcome that, and we would all welcome the steps in the City Deal, but I think we also have to look at transport in the wider context. We have to look at things like, just as Les Carter was talking about, we need to do a significant amount of work on cycle lanes. I think that is an excellent example of something that will never be done by a piecemeal project by project approach that used to be driven through the system, but by the new approach that we have got now with devolved funding that we can align properly to what we want to do. I think that is an excellent example of where we need to go forward on infrastructure.

Where I also think we need to go forward as well is looking, in transport terms, at how our public transport system and how our transport system is organised and arranged. I think we have had an example just this week of Northern Rail for the

second time this year putting up some train fares well above inflation but without passengers seeing any improvement. Why has that happened? Because Civil Servants in Whitehall have decided that the contract must change and more money must come out of passengers' pockets to go into the railway without seeing any improvement. The days of that happening, the days of big decisions about how a transport operation be made without any reference to local decision-makers must end as well.

I think we also need to look again at how people use public transport. It is over ten years since London introduced the Oyster card payment system, a single ticket that people can use on bus, train, whatever form of transport in London and we are still in a position now where bus companies can say, "We are not having that in West Yorkshire" and there is nothing we can do about it. Those days must end as well so we can have not only the investment in transport but we can make sure the buses and trains, the cyclists and everybody else is able to use that effectively, efficiently and people that are paying a fare for transport can get the best value out of that. A simple ticketing system to make sure people always pay the cheapest and best value fares and people are not suffering from a broken market in transport.

Those are the powers we have got to ask for next. The infrastructure is important and making sure the services run there are the best service you can have are important as well. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I did put some thoughts on some cards here about what I thought it was important for me to bring up. Councillor Wakefield has basically delivered every single thing I put in there, so I thought I would concentrate on an area that I think needs to be addressed.

We cannot wait for Whitehall to offer us this on a plate. The recent arguments that we have had on the devolution debate in Scotland have been, "Oh well, it took you to fear that you might actually lose before you actually delivered us anything that was anything like what we were asking for in terms of devo max."

The thing that demonstrated that to the Government is, of course, that there was demonstrable public support for that. We can have as many valid arguments as you could muster. We can demonstrate our ability to deliver outcomes based on good value for money but if the audience that you are talking to is consistently London-based Whitehall technocrats who have criteria which tends to favour infrastructure projects that ameliorate the environment where London-based Whitehall technocrats live rather than people who live 200 miles away in the North of England, if you are going to be arguing to those people it is not going to be heard. It needs to have a real popular resonance before anybody down there actually takes notice.

That is the challenge for us, that we need to make sure we are taking out to our voters the real benefits that we are delivering right now on a small scale. Some of those things that James Lewis was talking about there in terms of transport, making it work better for people if we are actually going to be able to lever from Government – they are not going to give it to us, we need to lever it from them to actually create that infrastructure both physically and culturally so that we as a city can thrive and we can attract those new creative lifeblood to make our economy work so that that fiscal

devolution that will eventually come actually is based upon a real healthy economy that can deliver benefits for all.

That is going to be a big ask for all of us to make sure that we do not degenerate into arguments about lazy politicians and assemblies and how much the electorate is expected to pay extra for the benefits that we hope we are going to deliver.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor, Councillor Wakefield's White Paper is well meant and forward looking. If devolution of financial powers to the regions of England from Central Government is properly done, it should work for the benefit of everyone.

Even so, I do have worries about governance and accountability. Councillor Ann Blackburn later will highlight the apparent impossibility of prizing out a Police Commissioner part way through his term of office. Those with middling long memories will remember the vague and unelected, or indirectly elected, Regional Economic Planning Corporations and the like of the 1960s, which had large budgets and sweeping powers and eventually became bywords for waste, incompetence, arbitrary unfairness and downright corruption, as we had in the era of T Dan Smith and John Poulson. Democratically distant bodies, such as the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership are a bit nebulous and rather reminiscent of those 1960s organisations. The amendment asking for an elected decision-making body should answer those worries.

If financial devolution is to work, we must have honest, open-minded and intellectually searching assessment of public sector investment. Those Regional organisations must be able to cope with their responsibilities, otherwise the taxpayer may lose millions without much beneficial effect.

If we are to have democratic regional devolution of financial powers, those in charge must be capable of clear-sighted and hard-nosed decision-making. If they are, it will be a great success.

It is easy to go with the flow and seem to be enthusiastic about everything. What will be needed is people who have a good enough insight and ability to spot a good investment and have the determination to see it through while on the other hand being able to spot a lemon or a downright swindle and then have enough courage to decide to have nothing to do with it. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I think that not supporting the amended motion would be wrong. The fact is I think we all know in this what we might call southern-centric country of ours that we need powers devolving and money devolving to the local level and after next Thursday, I might not necessarily share some of the views expressed about the result up in Scotland, my views might be different on that but the fact is whatever happens we will get less out of that deal and we have got to make sure that we say to Central Government that we

need powers devolving to us so that we in the north of England, and particularly in the Leeds City Region, get our full share.

I fully support the motion as amended. I think it is a long time coming but we have got to move together, cross-party I think on this, and put pressure on Central Government to deliver quickly, because after next Thursday, whatever the result, we are under pressure. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. A couple of years back before the referendum, I was sent down to a meeting with businesses where Lord Adonis and Greg Clark were banging the drum for an elected Mayor. I have to say, it was one of the most depressing debates I have ever been to because here are two very intelligent guys and all they could say is, "We have got this magic bullet. We can solve everybody's problems with an elected Mayor." Nothing else mattered; elected Mayor, all your problems are over. In the past 20 minutes I have heard a huge amount more sense than those two very wise guys said at that meeting.

I think everybody is raising a lot of issues here that are incredibly important to us in so many ways and I think we would all have a different view on quite how it is going to pan out, but one thing is clear, whatever the vote is, you are not going to have devo max in Scotland and Whitehall control in the north of England, and if you have an independent Scotland things are going to change.

I am perhaps a little bit more sanguine than Andrew because I get word that there are financial institutions already not investing in Scotland and they are putting jobs into Cumbria as a way of just making sure they are on the right side of the border. It is going to be a huge challenge all round and I do not think any of us have really understood quite all the ramifications. It will take us some considerable time to do so.

I was reflecting in my time on Council, there are people have been here a lot longer than I have, how we have got so used to the kind of begging bowl culture, that anything we do has to be accompanied by a number of visits down to London. We have all been on them, we have all had the nice words, we have come back thinking, "Well, I thought that meant this" and we would all think it meant something slightly different and then we get the letter a few weeks later that says something different again, usually something bad.

It is not just that. The tentacles of Whitehall control in this country are absolutely unbelievable and we have been wading through this sludge of various Government controls for far too long. I think any of us who have had a portfolio or a committee chairmanship will have experienced the micro-management and it has been so damaging to Local Authorities, because how do we explain what we are doing to people? Keith has touched on the matter of fiscal devolution which I think is very important.

I was at a meeting the other day talking about the Cycling Superhighway, which Les will be able to go on. People say, "Why are you doing this?" You have to explain, it is because there is a funding round and the only way you can get any money is to go through a national funding round which has certain conditions to it. That is not Local

Government to me, it is a mockery. (*Applause*) We have lived with that for far too long, absolutely.

There are huge opportunities out there for us. It is going to be a different world in a few weeks' time but we have got to be in a position to take absolutely the maximum advantage of what is coming. Let us go into it knowing that we are going to make mistakes along the way, we are going to get things wrong but there are huge opportunities for us and I would just lastly say, it is important that we do not give away powers from this Chamber to somewhere else without knowing what we are doing. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cummins.

COUNCILLOR CUMMINS: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, I want to address the need for further devolution of power and resources to cities and City Regions.

The provision of skills, training and development and employment support should be at the very heart of every plan for economic recovery and economic growth. However, despite this accepted wisdom, current provision and support in many of our cities is fragmented, unduly complex and lacks innovation. We urgently need new models, driven both by economic and social need that is sensitive to the needs of local people in our local areas.

It is evident that the Government's national programmes, such as the hugely disappointing and quite frankly, I would say, embarrassing Work Programme, are simply not meeting the needs of local people or local places, remaining unresponsive to local economic needs.

This is why we must continue to call for greater skills devolution, building on our previous work and that of the Core Cities Group. It is us in our cities that understand the needs of local communities and it is us in our cities that can take the lead in bringing together local knowledge to deliver more opportunities for the people of Leeds.

When we are given the power to choose how to use our money and funding, we are proving that we are getting it right when it comes to skills. As Community Champion for Employment and Skills I am very proud of the work that is being undertaken in the Outer East Area and south-east wedge of this city. To me, it shows that when we have the powers to do so we are really making a difference.

Here in Leeds our devolved Youth Contract has a success rate of almost 70%. In the south-east area alone 227 people have progressed through the programme into education, employment or training. That is a 78% success rate of which we rightly should be proud. We have been able to achieve this success by being given the opportunity to develop a local devolved model as an alternative to the generic national one size fits all. By designing a programme ourselves we have been able to guarantee local provision for local needs and it works.

We must carry on calling for more freedom to develop local solutions to local challenges, devolution at a local level. With more autonomy we could build on our previous successes and on the successful partnerships that are already in place in

Leeds with skill providers. It is only through a greater ability to determine our own skills provision that we can continue to build on the successes we have had so far through the delivery of our own Skills Agenda. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Now I call upon Councillor Wakefield to sum up.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am grateful for the support all round, actually but as somebody, I think it was Councillor Golton, said never underestimate Whitehall to try to retain power. They have been there for hundreds of years; they will not let go. It took us 18 months to get the original City Deal and sometimes it felt like as if they still want to programme manage. Breaking the grip of Whitehall on Local Government is going to be a pretty tough challenge and I think we have got the momentum. I really genuinely feel a change.

I have been talking about Regional Government for over 20 years. I do sense the people of Yorkshire will not stand by and let Scotland get a maxi devo and Yorkshire stays under ten different departments, but the key to it is, as we have said, fiscal devolution. London is looking into it and just to reflect on some stats, Local Government, cities like Leeds or Birmingham or Manchester only keep 4% of the tax generated in that city. 4%. If you go to Europe, go to American cities, they talk about 25%, 30%, Canada the same. Europe, Northern Europe, up to 40% is retained by that city. That is what you call a more equal relationship between Local Government and Central Government. I just checked the other day, 60% of our public expenditure in Leeds is controlled in Whitehall.

That kind of model, if it had proved to be successful for the North it would be a difficult argument to counter. Tell me where it has proved successful in the last 20, 30 years? It certainly has not.

I think Councillor Richard Lewis is right, what this is is an end to going down with a cap in hand and begging and getting the bum answers and coming back up and going back down. How often did we trail for NGT? All of us? Twenty years. This is about saying Local Government and elected Members are not longer to be dependent on Whitehall or London. It is going to take responsibility to improve its economic performance, improve its transport, improve its skills which Councillor Cummins has already said, I know Councillor Yeadon has, and start taking a bit more control ourselves over the future shape of the City Region, the economy and jobs and prosperity.

That is why I am a massive advocate. The governance, I think, ought to be decided by the people of Leeds and the people of Yorkshire with various options. I am very much open to what option but in the end it is the people of Yorkshire that should have the say about the future of their county. I move the White Paper. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to the vote on the motion in the name of Councillor Wakefield as amended. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ITEM 14 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – POLICE COMMISSIONERS

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move on to the final White Paper motion in the name of Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. My White Paper motion is around Police Commissioners – of course, a very popular subject at the moment and the matter in South Yorkshire goes on and on and on. I for one am following it because I am very interested in how many people will actually end up resigning at the end of the day.

Anyway, my White Paper motion I have brought today as the ongoing effect in South Yorkshire with regard to their Police and Crime Commissioner has made it quite clear that when something as serious as this happens, if the Police Commissioner refuses to resign, there is no mechanism in place to be able to remove them, so we have the ridiculous situation that they can continue to serve their full term of office despite having lost the confidence of the general public.

I believe we should return to the previous system we had of properly accountable Police Committees made up of elected Councillors, which had worked well in the past and it was a system that was generally favoured in this Council.

However, in the meantime something urgent has to be put into place to remedy the situation that exists and I believe the quickest way to bring this about is to give the Secretary of State the power to be able to remove any Police and Crime Commissioner if necessary.

I ask you to pass this motion today so that this Council makes it clear to the Government that we are calling for the return of properly accountable Police Committees but in the interim the Secretary of State should be given the power to remove any Police and Crime Commissioner if the circumstances prove it necessary. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Lord Mayor. The longer this somewhat sorry state of affairs continues in South Yorkshire I think the more I suppose it brings into disrepute the whole range of people from politicians to the Police. I thought it was telling yesterday on the Select Committee when various representatives of South Yorkshire and Rotherham were grilled, if that is the right word, almost roasted I think would be a more appropriate word, by the Select Committee.

It seemed to me that the current Police Commissioner in South Yorkshire, when it was put to him quite openly by an MP, “Look, you are just sitting there because you are getting £100,000 a year and you do not want to give it up”.

It strikes me, and the reason I put my name down to second is that it must have come as a surprise – it came as a surprise to me, I should say – that given the circumstances of South Yorkshire, nobody had the power to remove the Police Commissioner. I am sure it came as a real surprise to the Home Secretary.

I think I have suggested when we had this discussion with Ann that we might as a temporary measure, until we actually look at the whole structure around Police Commissioners and a return to a more democratic process, a more equitable process, a

more cost-effective process because let us face it, £4m for an election and £100,000 a year on a salary that could be spend on policing does not seem good value for money to me. In the medium term the Secretary of State should have the power to remove somebody.

I think actually in many ways Les Carter's amendment supports most of the principles of what we are trying to do. I think he has just made a comment about the Police and Crime Panels having that power. I think, to be honest, we are not that bothered. What we actually want to do is to put in place a system that does not allow an individual in effect to say, "I don't care what I have done, I don't care what you think about me, I don't care how incompetent I am, I am sitting here, I am secure, I am on £100,000 a year and I just do not care. Go away." I could say something else but I will not.

It is important, I think, that we pass a resolution that makes it very clear that that sort of event cannot be repeated and at the moment cannot be allowed to continue. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Les Carter to move an amendment.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: My Lord Mayor, much of the focus of this has been on the South Yorkshire current Police and Crime Commissioner, but events in Rotherham have implications for all Police and Crime Commissioners.

The current South Yorkshire Police Commissioner was Rotherham Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services from 2005 to 2010. It is alleged – and I repeat those words, alleged – that he received three reports about widespread abuse during that time but failed to act. Despite calls for him to resign he has steadfastly refused to do so.

The events in South Yorkshire have exposed a flaw in the legislation. A Police and Crime Commissioner can only be suspended by a local Police and Crime Panel if he or she is charged with a serious criminal offence. Effectively, they cannot be fired unless they go to prison for a crime for two years. It seems bizarre to me that a Commissioner could go to prison for a year and then carry on as a Police Commissioner once again – that would be a complete nonsense. It has never been challenged, I do not know if it is true but it could happen.

The Government were probably thinking that directly elected persons should have certain protections that go with being elected, like a Councillor or an MP. However, the comparison is not quite accurate since Councillors and MPs can be dismissed from additional roles. Indeed, a Leader of Council, a Minister can even be dismissed and a Leader of Council can be removed from those additional roles. A Police Commissioner's role is more comparable with these jobs, so it seems sensible to build in an additional mechanism for a Commissioner's removal should the circumstances demand it.

The question then is who should hold the power of dismissal. The White Paper suggests the return to the Police Authorities as well as the Home Secretary in an interim period. Let us not forget, my Lord Mayor, that most of these allegations took place when we had Police Authorities. Also, I am not in favour of Police Commissioners, you know that, David – also it is not practical to return to Police

Authorities in the short term, given the length of time it takes to embed new legislation.

A more viable option would be to give the existing Crime Panels, which are still made up of elected Councillors from the local areas, greater power to dismiss the Commissioner. Many local Councils would like to see these Panels have more teeth and more responsibilities (*hear, hear*) and the circumstances in Rotherham make a good case for this.

It would seem to make more sense to enhance the existing Panels' powers rather than roll things back to a time before Commissioners existed. I hope today the Council will support my amendment and in so doing make an absolutely clear call for the resignation of the Police Commissioner of South Yorkshire. Thank you, my Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In supporting the amendment I think it is absolutely clear and demonstrably clear that the situation in South Yorkshire is absolutely unacceptable to us and untenable to the individual and I do not think there would be any disagreement around the room on that point, but I think Councillor Carter has made the point very eloquently, what are the best mechanisms to quickly and effectively address this in the here and the now. I think the methodology that has been put forward is probably by far the most robust mechanism available to us.

Councillor Wakefield in the last debate talked at length about the devolution agenda last week and the Yes/No vote. That will attract a huge turnout, a huge turnout. In West Yorkshire our turnout on Police and Crime was 13.3%. 13.3%. I am not equating West Yorkshire to South Yorkshire but clearly for somebody who is in a position of such a huge commanding authority, big budgets, big responsibilities who cannot be effectively removed from post on the back of such minute electoral margins cannot be right. That is perhaps another argument but certainly I think it makes the case that we need to act speedily and speak with one voice on this agenda and ensure that what has gone wrong in the system around the appointment and the powers and the inability to move the individual is very, very quickly addressed because, as I reiterate, it is totally unacceptable to us as a city and it is completely untenable for the individual.

The only thing I would like to just perhaps draw on is, whilst we are in agreement I believe around the model being incorrect and certainly about the mechanisms to put it right, there has to be in the here and the now and understanding that as a city we play the cards we are dealt. We have a very good and robust relationship with our PCC and I would not like that to get lost or muddled around the broader agenda of do we agree, don't we agree, what are the mechanisms to remove, what should not be the mechanisms to remove, because in the here and the now there are very, very important agendas, as Les knows, at play in Leeds around crime, criminality, reduction of burglary, domestic violence that we touched on earlier and all the big

agendas for us. We have to work in tandem with the PCC in West Yorkshire and keep that robust relationship alive.

I really am very keen to express that view to Council that we do not throw out the baby with the bathwater in the terms that we do our business but certainly I think the case has been very well made that the current mechanisms around removal of the PCC for this sort of breach of anything resembling trust with the public has to be addressed, has to be addressed swiftly and we do it as a collective. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have served on the Police Authority in the past and with Les at a time when we always had good discussions on behalf of the people of Leeds, and I think that goes for everyone who has served on the former Police Authority.

Looking back, we had a very robust debate in this Chamber in the run-up to the elections for PCCs and we all I think agreed that the risk, a lack of democratic accountability and the lack of the exit strategy, as you said you have to have a custodial sentence of two years. What a nonsense is that.

The lack of public support for the role of PCCs was just incredible and actually since the election there has been a by-election when the turnout was at 10%. There is no public appetite for this and the cost of the election was £100m. Even the Government admitted that the relationship between the PCC and the Chief Constable is grey and what we are talking about again is too much power in one individual. I think that must run through the whole debate about directly elected Mayors as well.

The fact that we predicted these problems back then gives us no satisfaction at all from the dreadful situation that is unfolding in South Yorkshire. The situation is so serious there that we have to look I think now at a matter of principle. Where an individual has completely and utterly lost the respect, the support, the trust of the local community and beyond, there has to be a mechanism to remove them.

I cannot understand just how thick skinned the PCC for South Yorkshire must be when even the Prime Minister, the Leader of his own Party is calling for his resignation.

I think things are going to move. The Home Secretary is already looking at introducing a power of recall. To be honest, I think that the future of the role of PCCs is going to be one of the debating points of the General Election. I think it is going to be a major issue there and for another time, and perhaps we can look at the City Region model to come up with a better solution.

We are supporting Les Carter's amendment and particularly because we believe that we need immediate change and in the current situation the Police and Crime Panels give us the best solution to removing a local PCC who has got himself into such a dreadful situation. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Blake. Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I think we have talked a lot about the very regretful situation in South Yorkshire where people are trying to get rid of a PCC but I think it is worth reflecting on the campaign that we had two years ago for the PCC to be elected where I was the agent for the Labour PCC in West Yorkshire and I have to say campaigning across the county I have never known a campaign, not just where people are disinterested but where people are actively against. People telling you on the doorstep they were actively against the principle of electing the person that was put in front of them. Not only is it difficult to get rid of a PCC at the end of a process but people did not really want them in the first place.

If you look at the election, Leeds has weakened in some ways because we managed to get a turnout up to 13.6%, which is higher than lots of other places in the country, but again it is worth reflecting that there were eleven polling stations in Leeds where 20 or less people turned up to vote for a PCC on election day.

The mandate for these incredibly powerful positions is weak and I think the intent of the electorate was not to have these positions. The number of blank and spoiled ballot papers that came through at the count was unbelievable, you were looking at nearly 7,000 across West Yorkshire, and not just people as you see on the local elections complaining a few people have not filled them in properly. People were going to a polling station to write on the ballot paper exactly what they thought about the process and the election and not often in complimentary terms neither.

My favourite one was somebody who had written an essay on both sides of their ballot paper about the wrongs of the PCC. Even when people are maybe not the most engaged in the elections we have already, you do not see that level of antipathy from the voters towards an elected position.

I think it is clear that as Councillor Blake and others referred to, I think it is pretty clear the cross-party consensus here. When the terms of those PCCs elected in 2012 comes up, then people should be looking at a serious option for replacement, looking to saying what is a different model for making sure that the Police are accountable, what is a different model for holding the Chief Constable and the Force to account, what is a different model for doing this and not one that clearly is held in such contempt by the public; contempt before he even started and even less so now people are seeing how people behave in office. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: It is clear that there seems to be a certain amount of unity across the Chamber – maybe when it comes to voting we might all slightly vote differently but the situation we have got with the Police and Crime Commissioners, it is ridiculous. It is the most wrong-headed piece of legislation I think I have ever seen.

You do not put yourself in a position where you cannot remove somebody and the other thing which I had against it from the start is, it is this American idea that you have a President-type person. I am quite certain that if you have a group of people, men and women together, of different parties who are working together or even in the same party, you are more likely that those people will get rid of the bad one because most of us in public life, most of us standing for election are there for the right reasons and we will sort out the situation, but if you have got one person there that

you cannot get rid of, that the biggest Council in South Yorkshire has said they want rid of, his own Council has said they want rid of, his Party Leader nationally has said he wants rid of and the Home Secretary says he should go and he sits there. That is not how things should happen. He should resign but we should be in a position where somebody who does something so bad can be removed.

I agree with Les, the reason I am one who actually I personally fancy the idea of recalling them but that would take ages, also legislation, so certainly we have the discussion about what between us we thought was the quickest way of doing it and the quickest way of doing it I think we agreed was probably giving powers in the short term to the Home Secretary. The fact is, I do not think there is a fag paper of difference between any of us on this one. Obviously when it comes to the vote we might vote different.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn to sum up.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Yes, thank you, Lord Mayor. Obviously we all agree that as far as the situation with the Crime Commissioner in South Yorkshire goes that it has brought up this anomaly and this anomaly needs changing.

I do not personally think it is up to Leeds City Council to be giving South Yorkshire directions what they should do with the Crime Commissioner. I think that is up to them and I think there are plenty of people in South Yorkshire that will be saying that to him, but I do think the thing is, what has come out here is that I am summing up, we are all in agreement that something needs to be done so that if there is a Commissioner there that does not act properly, something can be done about it.

I still think the quickest way is what we have suggested here because it has got to be something that is done quickly, obviously, in the situation. I do believe that the Committees that we had before were the best way and I would want to go back to them because if we just say yes, we will stay with what we have got and give the Panel the views, you are still going to have your Police and Crime Commissioners and I honestly thought that was something, a system that we all wanted to get rid of. I am not quite sure after today's debate but I thought that is what we all wanted.

I will be sticking with this. I will just finish on the fact that it is a pity that Councillor Carter did not come to me and have a word with me beforehand because we might have just been able to arrange some wording, but there we go.

I thank you all for your contributions anyway. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: We now come to the vote. The first vote is on the amendment in the name of Councillor Les Carter. *(A vote was taken)* I think that is CARRIED.

We now come to vote on the substantive motion, which is the one in the name of Les Carter. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

I think that concludes today's business.

(The meeting closed at 7.35pm)

