



## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Meeting to be held in Civic Hall, Leeds on  
Wednesday, 15th March, 2023 at 1.00 pm

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### MEMBERSHIP

#### Councillors

S Arif	A Carter	S Golton
D Coupar		
M Harland		
H Hayden		
J Lewis (Chair)		
J Pryor		
M Rafique		
F Venner		

**To note:** Please do not attend the meeting in person if you have symptoms of Covid-19 and please follow current public health advice to avoid passing the virus onto other people.

**Note to observers of the meeting:** To remotely observe this meeting, please click on the 'View the Meeting Recording' link which will feature on the meeting's webpage (linked below) ahead of the meeting. The webcast will become available at the commencement of the meeting.

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=102&MId=11827>

## **CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT ITEMS**

The reason for confidentiality or exemption is stated on the agenda and on each of the reports in terms of Access to Information Procedure Rules 9.2 or 10.4(1) to (7). The number or numbers stated in the agenda and reports correspond to the reasons for exemption / confidentiality below:

### **9.0 Confidential information – requirement to exclude public access**

9.1 The public must be excluded from meetings whenever it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that confidential information would be disclosed. Likewise, public access to reports, background papers, and minutes will also be excluded.

### **9.2 Confidential information means**

- (a) information given to the Council by a Government Department on terms which forbid its public disclosure or
- (b) information the disclosure of which to the public is prohibited by or under another Act or by Court Order. Generally personal information which identifies an individual, must not be disclosed under the data protection and human rights rules.

### **10.0 Exempt information – discretion to exclude public access**

10.1 The public may be excluded from meetings whenever it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that exempt information would be disclosed provided:

- (a) the meeting resolves so to exclude the public, and that resolution identifies the proceedings or part of the proceedings to which it applies, and
- (b) that resolution states by reference to the descriptions in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (paragraph 10.4 below) the description of the exempt information giving rise to the exclusion of the public.
- (c) that resolution states, by reference to reasons given in a relevant report or otherwise, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

10.2 In these circumstances, public access to reports, background papers and minutes will also be excluded.

10.3 Where the meeting will determine any person's civil rights or obligations, or adversely affect their possessions, Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 establishes a presumption that the meeting will be held in public unless a private hearing is necessary for one of the reasons specified in Article 6.

10.4 Exempt information means information falling within the following categories (subject to any condition):

- 1 Information relating to any individual
- 2 Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
- 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
- 4 Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or officer-holders under the authority.
- 5 Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
- 6 Information which reveals that the authority proposes –
  - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
- 7 Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

## A G E N D A

Item No K=Key Decision	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p><b>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded)</p> <p>(*In accordance with Procedure Rule 15.2, written notice of an appeal must be received by the Head of Governance Services at least 24 hours before the meeting)</p>	
2			<p><b>EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <p>1 To highlight reports or appendices which officers have identified as containing exempt information within the meaning of Section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972, and where officers consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons outlined in the report.</p> <p>2 To consider whether or not to accept the officers recommendation in respect of the above information.</p> <p>3 If the recommendation is accepted, to formally pass the following resolution:-</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b> That, in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of those parts of the agenda designated as exempt on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.</p>	

Item No K=Key Decision	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
3			<p><b>LATE ITEMS</b></p> <p>To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration</p> <p>(The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes)</p>	
4			<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b></p> <p>To disclose or draw attention to any interests in accordance with Leeds City Council's 'Councillor Code of Conduct'.</p>	
5			<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.</p> <p><b><u>ADULTS AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS</u></b></p>	9 - 26
6 K			<p><b>REFRESH OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN</b></p> <p>To consider the report of the Director of Children and Families which, informed by a formal consultation exercise, presents a refreshed version of the Children and Young People's Plan for the Board's consideration, and which seeks the Board's approval for the submission of the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2023 to 2028 to Full Council with the recommendation of formal adoption.</p>	27 - 42

Item No K=Key Decision	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
7 K	Gipton and Harehills		<p><b>OUTCOME OF STATUTORY NOTICE ON A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF WYKEBECK PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 3-11 TO 2-11 WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 2023</b></p> <p>To consider the report of the Director of Children and Families regarding a proposal to lower the age range of Wykebeck Primary School from 3-11 years to 2-11 years and create Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) provision for 24 eligible 2-year-olds in the area. Specifically, the report invites the Board to consider and note the outcomes from the statutory notice process and recommends approval of the proposal as presented.</p> <p><b><u>ECONOMY, CULTURE AND EDUCATION</u></b></p>	43 - 52
8 K			<p><b>AD:VENTURE AND DIGITAL ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME UPDATE</b></p> <p>To consider the report of the Director of City Development which provides an update on the Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise Business Support programmes. The report outlines efforts made by the Council in developing new funding packages for these programmes and seeks approval to enter into a series of contracts and funding agreements with the principal funder – West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and delivery partners.</p> <p><b><u>RESOURCES</u></b></p>	53 - 76
9			<p><b>FINANCIAL HEALTH MONITORING 2022/23 - MONTH 10 (JANUARY)</b></p> <p>To consider the report of the Chief Officer (Financial Services) which presents the financial health of the Authority in respect of both the General Fund revenue budget and the Housing Revenue Account as at Month 10 of the 2022/23 financial year.</p>	77 - 118

Item No K=Key Decision	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
10			<p><b><u>INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE</u></b></p> <p><b>CLIMATE EMERGENCY ANNUAL REPORT</b></p> <p>To consider the report of the Director of Resources presenting the Climate Emergency Annual Report which provides an update on the progress being made at both a Council and a city level towards the target set by the Council when declaring a climate emergency in 2019 of achieving net zero emissions for the city by 2030. The report also reflects on wider changes relevant to the city's decarbonisation that have happened both regionally and nationally.</p>	119 - 246
11			<p><b><u>COMMUNITIES</u></b></p> <p><b>COST OF LIVING - UPDATE REPORT</b></p> <p>To consider the report of the Director of Communities, Housing and the Environment which provides an updated position on the cost-of-living crisis, national policy interventions and the actions being taken by the Council and partners in response to such matters from a welfare and financial inclusion perspective.</p>	247 - 302

Item No K=Key Decision	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
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### **Third Party Recording**

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Use of Recordings by Third Parties– code of practice

- a) Any published recording should be accompanied by a statement of when and where the recording was made, the context of the discussion that took place, and a clear identification of the main speakers and their role or title.
- b) Those making recordings must not edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or comments made by attendees. In particular there should be no internal editing of published extracts; recordings may start at any point and end at any point but the material between those points must be complete.

### **Webcasting**

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 2023

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Lewis in the Chair

Councillors S Arif, A Carter, D Coupar,  
S Golton, M Harland, H Hayden, J Pryor,  
M Rafique and F Venner

**100 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**RESOLVED** – That, in accordance with Regulation 4 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as exempt from publication on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information so designated as follows:-

- (A) That appendix B to the report entitled, ‘Capital Receipts Programme Update’, referred to in Minute No. 107 be designated as being exempt from publication in accordance with paragraph 10.4(3) of Schedule 12A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 and considered in private on the grounds that this appendix contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Council. It is considered that the release of such information would, or would be likely to prejudice the Council’s commercial interests in relation to property transactions. It is therefore considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption from publication outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information at this point in time.

**101 Late Items**

There were no late items of business submitted to the Board for consideration.

**102 Declaration of Interests**

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

**103 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be approved as a correct record.

**104 Director of Adults and Health**

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chair, on behalf of the Board paid tribute to Cath Roff, Director of Adults and Health, given that this marked her final Executive Board meeting in her role as Director.

## **RESOURCES**

### **105 Safer Leeds Executive Annual Report 2021/22**

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report presenting the Annual Report of the Safer Leeds Executive (SLE) for 2021/22 and which provided an update on the progress being made in relation to the Safer Leeds Executive's current 3 year plan and the 9 key priorities within it regarding the promotion of community safety in Leeds.

By way of introduction to the annual report, the Executive Member for Resources highlighted that this was the first Safer Leeds Executive annual report to be submitted to the Board and that the intention was to submit a report to Executive Board on an annual basis moving forward. As part of the introductory comments, Members received an overview of the SLE's key areas of work and achievements to date, whilst the importance of continued partnership working in this area was emphasised in order to ensure that progress continued.

Members welcomed Chief Superintendent Steve Dodds, West Yorkshire Police to the meeting, who provided the Board with information regarding key trends and challenges being experienced from a Police perspective across the city and a summary of the actions being taken to prioritise and address such challenges.

Responding to a Member's enquiry regarding Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) levels in the city, the Board received further detail on how such incidents were recorded and the approach taken to tackle the issue of ASB in communities. In addition, assurance was provided that addressing ASB remained a priority in Leeds.

Also in response to Members' enquiries, emphasis was placed upon West Yorkshire Police's commitment to neighbourhood policing and as part of that, the provision of PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers), given the key role that they played in this area. Separately, it was noted that the resourcing of neighbourhood policing continued to be a priority.

Further to this, and in response to specific enquiries, the Board received updates and reassurance from a West Yorkshire Police perspective on the effective processes in place regarding the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board and the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Regarding the Leeds Festival, assurance was provided on the Police's role in ensuring that the festival was delivered in line with all relevant requirements, with the multi-agency approach that continued to be taken in relation to such matters also being noted.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Board, the Chair extended his thanks to Chief Superintendent Dodds and the West Yorkshire Police for the service they provided across the city.

**RESOLVED** – That the content of the Safer Leeds Executive Annual Report for 2021/22, as appended to the submitted report, be noted.

**106 Core Business Transformation Programme Phase 2: HR and Payroll Technology**

Further to Minute No. 65, 19 October 2022, the Director of Resources submitted a report which sought the Board's agreement to proceed with Phase 2 of the Core Business Transformation (CBT) programme, together with the necessary approvals required to facilitate this.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received information on how the CBT programme would not only establish new technology, but would also look to ensure the effective delivery of the new processes and that the benefits from them were maximised by the Council.

Also in response to a Member's enquiry, reassurance was provided that in procuring the solution, the issue of security and the mitigation of risk from cyber attacks would be taken into account, with further explanation being given that systems were being replaced on a regular basis to ensure that they remained secure.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That approval be given for the Core Business Transformation Programme to proceed with Phase 2 of delivery requiring additional Authority to Spend of £8.0m funded from Capital Receipts in accordance with the Government's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts statutory guidance (updated August 2022) and issued under section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003, with this forming part of a wider programme of works estimated to cost a total of £18.5m (Phase 1 of which (£10.48m) was approved by the Executive Board on 19th October 2022, Minute No. 65 refers);
- (b) That it be noted that Phase 2 of the programme will initially replace the Council's core HR and Payroll systems, followed by the replacement of related Health and Safety, Learning and Development, Occupational Health and Job Search, Recruitment, Selection, On-Boarding and Induction applications;
- (c) That authority be given to procure the new core HR and Payroll system(s) via an open procedure process, providing the award remains within the margins of the indicative costs; and also to waive Contract Procedure Rule (CPR) 15.2(c) in respect of the minimum points for price, with the evaluation criteria being: 60% quality, 30% price and 10% social value;
- (d) That it be noted that subsequent procurement and implementation of the related Health and Safety, Learning and Development, Occupational Health, Job Search, Recruitment, Selection, Onboarding and Induction applications will be undertaken by the Director of Resources, the Chief Officer Human Resources and Chief Officer

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 15th March, 2023

Strategy and Policy, with the project sponsor being the Chief Officer Financial Services.

**107 Capital Receipts Programme Update**

Further to Minute No. 113, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022, the Director of City Development submitted a report presenting an update and overview of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme and which recommended to the Board a number of related approvals with regard to the programme.

It was noted that a footnote, as referenced in Appendices A and B, relating to Otley Lido had been included in error and therefore should be disregarded, with it being noted that the current position in relation to Otley Lido remained as reported to the Board in the Capital Receipts Programme report last year.

Following consideration of Appendix B to the submitted report designated as being exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the public part of the meeting, it was

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That subject to the correction regarding Otley Lido as detailed above, the contents of the submitted report, together with the details of the previous Key Decisions which have been taken in relation to the disposal of assets, as set out at paragraph 4, be noted;
- (b) That the progress which has been made and the successes achieved since Executive Board considered the last report on 9 February 2022, be noted;
- (c) That those assets identified in Appendix A and exempt Appendix B to the submitted report as "Proposed for Inclusion" be declared as surplus and that approval be given to the disposal of those assets; with approval also being given to their addition to the Council's Capital Receipts Programme of surplus properties for disposal;
- (d) That the withdrawal of properties from the Capital Receipts Programme, as set out in Appendix A and exempt Appendix B to the submitted report, be approved, with such matters being implemented by the Director of City Development.

**108 Financial Health Monitoring 2022/23 – Month 9 (December 2022)**

The Chief Officer Financial Services submitted a report presenting an update on the financial health of the Authority in respect of both the General Fund revenue budget and the Housing Revenue Account, as at the end of Month 9 of the 2022/23 financial year.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member for Resources provided an overview of the key information within it, which included reference to the fact that an overspend of £13.4m was projected for the Authority's General Fund services, as at month 9 of 2022/23.

In noting that the intention was to utilise the Council's strategic contingency reserve to deliver a balanced budget, a Member highlighted the impact that this would have on the Council's strategic contingency reserve levels, and emphasised the need for that to be taken into consideration as part of any budget preparation processes moving forward.

Also, responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received an update on the reasons for the improved position regarding the projected overspend, when compared to the previous month's financial health monitoring report.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That it be noted that at Month 9 of the financial year (December 2022) the Authority's General Fund services are forecasting an overspend of £13.4m and that the Housing Revenue Account is forecasting a balanced position;
- (b) That it be noted, that where an overspend is projected, directorates, including the Housing Revenue Account, are required to present action plans to mitigate their reported pressures, in line with the Revenue Principles agreed by Executive Board in 2019; with it also being noted that proposals received to date are included in the submitted report, as at Appendix 4, and that further action plans will be received at the March 2023 meeting of Executive Board;
- (c) That it be noted that known increased inflation and known impacts of the rising cost of living, including the agreed 2022/23 pay award, have been incorporated into this reported financial position, with it also being noted that these pressures will continue to be assessed, with the latest position being incorporated into future reports to be received by Executive Board.

#### **ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS**

##### **109 Annual Report of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board for 2021-22**

The Director of Adults and Health submitted a report that presented the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board's (LSAB) Annual Report for 2021/22, which summarised the Board's achievements and ongoing areas of work over the relevant 12 month period and provided an update on the intended plans moving forward, in line with the Board's strategic plan.

By way of introduction to the annual report, the Executive Member highlighted the key areas which had been focussed upon during 2021/22, including the launch of a cross-cutting strategy to tackle the issue of self-neglect and promoting the accessibility of safeguarding across the diverse communities of Leeds.

The Board welcomed Richard Jones CBE, Independent Chair of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board to the meeting, who was in attendance in order to introduce the key points of the annual report, the objectives of the Board and

to highlight key priorities moving forward. Concluding, the Independent Chair extended his thanks to his Board colleagues, all frontline staff for their contribution in this area and also to the Director of Adults and Health, given that this was her final Board meeting.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further information on the role of the LSAB and its sub group in considering safeguarding concerns raised, and the process and criteria by which a Safeguarding Adult Review, arising from such a concern, could be initiated. Further to this discussion, it was suggested that future LSAB annual reports could make reference to such matters moving forward, including the number of concerns considered and the resulting actions taken.

In acknowledging the challenges that continued to be faced in the area of safeguarding, the importance of the partnership approach being taken was emphasised, together with the focus that the LSAB was placing upon equality and diversity.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2021/22, as appended to the submitted report, together with the comments made during the discussion, be noted;
- (b) That the strategic aims and ambitions of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board, as set out in the accompanying Strategic Plan, as appended and linked to the submitted report, be supported;
- (c) That it be noted that the Safeguarding Board will develop an action plan in response to the Peer Challenge which will be set out in the Annual Report for 2022/23.

(Councillor Coupar left the meeting at the conclusion of this agenda item)

**LEADER'S PORTFOLIO**

**110 2023/24 Revenue Budget and Council Tax report including reports on the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy**

Further to Minute No. 91, 14th December 2022, the Chief Officer Financial Services submitted a suite of reports regarding: proposals for the City Council's Revenue Budget for 2023/24 and the Leeds element of the Council Tax to be levied during the same period; proposals regarding an updated Capital Programme for 2023 – 2027 and also a proposed updated Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24.

The Board was advised that the budget proposals as detailed within the submitted report were based upon the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. However, it was noted that following the publication of the submitted agenda papers, the final Local Government Finance Settlement had been received, which was consistent with the initial Settlement in all but two areas:

- 1) Regarding the Services Grant, it was noted that the Council would be in receipt of a further £253,000 in 2023/24, and that the intention was for this sum be allocated to the Strategic Contingency Reserve balance; and
- 2) Regarding the surplus on the Business Rates Levy Account, it was noted that the surplus was to be allocated to Local Authorities, and as a result, Leeds would receive £1.3m in the current financial year which would therefore contribute towards the currently projected overspend. It was also noted that the next financial health monitoring report would reflect the updated position.

In addition, it was noted that a correction was required within the submitted 2023/24 Revenue Budget and Council Tax cover report, specifically section 3(j) (page 241 of the agenda pack) should read: *'Looking ahead, Appendix 1 presents Provisional Revenue Budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26. These update the position set out in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy received in September 2022, with latest forecast gaps of £43.0m in 2024/25 and £28.7m in 2025/26'*.

**(A) 2023/24 Revenue Budget and Council Tax**

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the Council be recommended to note the recommendation of the Council's statutory officer (the Chief Officer – Financial Services) that the Budget proposals for 2023/24 are robust and that the proposed level of reserves is adequate, as set out at Part 7 of Appendix 1 to the submitted report;
- (b) That, subject to the inclusion of the updated position and correction as referenced above, the Council be recommend to adopt the following:-
  - (i) That the revenue budget for 2023/24 totalling £573.4m be approved. This means that the Leeds element of Council Tax for 2023/24 will increase by 2.99% plus the Adult Social Care precept of 2.00%. This excludes the police and fire precepts which will be incorporated into the Council Tax report to be submitted to Council on 22nd February 2023;
  - (ii) That approval be given to grants totalling £69.6k to be allocated to parishes, as shown at Appendix 5 to the submitted report;
  - (iii) That approval be given to the strategy at Appendix 9 of the submitted report in respect of the flexible use of capital receipts - specifically the additional planned use in 2022/23 of £2.7m and planned use in 2023/24 of £19.0m;
  - (iv) That in respect of the Housing Revenue Account, the budget be approved with:-
    - An increase of 7% in dwelling rents;
    - An increase of 7% in garage and travellers site rent;
    - An increase of 12.6% (RPI) for the standing charges in district heating schemes and the district heating unit rate will increase to 10p per kwh;

- A 30% increase in heat consumption charges in sheltered complexes;
  - An increase in service charges for low/medium rise flats to £4.83 per week and for multi-storey flats £11.40 per week;
  - A decrease in the charge for tenants who benefit from the sheltered support service to £8.51 per week;
  - An increase in the Retirement Life charge for the provision of additional community facilities to £11.40 per week for services within complexes and £4.83 per week where they are within a standalone community centre;
  - An increase in the service charges for Wharfedale extra care scheme to £47.41 per week, in addition the support charge will increase by 9%.
- (v) That in respect of the Schools' Budget, the High Needs Block budget for 2023/24, as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the Schools' Budget Report at Appendix 8 to the submitted report, be approved, with specific reference to the table at paragraph 4.4.6 of the submitted report;
- (c) That Executive Board approval be given to the updated Revenue and Capital Principles, as detailed at Appendix 11 to the submitted report;
- (d) That Executive Board's thanks be conveyed to Scrutiny Boards and all those who took part in the public consultation for their comments and the observations made in consideration of the Council's Proposed Budget for 2023/24.

**(B) Capital Programme Update 2023 – 2027**

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That Executive Board recommends to Council:-
- (i) the approval of the Capital Programme for 2023-2027, totalling £1,978.5m, including the revised projected position for 2022/23, as presented in Appendix A to the submitted report;
  - (ii) the approval of the MRP policy statements for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix C to the submitted report; and
  - (iii) the approval of the Capital and Investment Strategy, as set out in Appendix D to the submitted report; with it being noted that as part of the Capital and Investment Strategy, the Council is required to set prudential limits for the total value of its non-treasury investments and, specifically, limits for the total value of service investments and the total value of commercial investments that it holds; and as such, Council be recommended to approve, as detailed within Appendix D, that:-
    - the prudential limit for service investments be set at £80m; and
    - that a limit of £200m should be set for the carrying value of assets which are classed as commercial investments.



(b) That Executive Board approval be given to the following net injections totalling £420.7m into the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A(iii) to the submitted report:-

- £95.6m of Corporate Borrowing to address Capital Programme Review budget pressures as listed at Appendix A(iv) to the submitted report;
- £92.5m of annual programme injections (£45.4m of Corporate Borrowing, £11.9m of Flexible Use of Capital Receipts and £35.2m of External Funding) as listed at Appendix A(v) to the submitted report;
- £9.8m of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Strategic Fund monies;
- £7.8m of Flexible Use of Capital Receipts injection for the Core Business Transformation Programme; and
- £215.0m of other injections, primarily relating to the roll forward of the HRA Programme, annual capital grant allocations and other secured external grant funding.

(c) That it be noted that the above resolutions to inject funding of £420.7m will be implemented by the Chief Officer (Financial Services).

**(C) Treasury Management Strategy 2022/2023**

Thanks was extended to those in the Treasury Management team for the effective way in which such matters continued to be managed.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the Treasury Strategy for 2023/24, as set out in Section 8.5 of the submitted report, be approved by Executive Board and that the review of the 2022/23 strategy and operations, as set out in Sections 8.3 and 8.4 of the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That full Council be recommended to approve that the borrowing limits for the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 be confirmed as set in February 2022; and that new limits for 2025/26 be approved at £3,200m for Borrowing and £530m for other Long term liabilities for the Authorised limit. For 2025/26, full Council be recommended to approve that the Operational Boundary be set at £2,950m for Borrowing and £510m for Other Long-term Liabilities, as detailed at Section 8.6 of the submitted report;
- (c) That full Council be recommended to approve the Treasury Management indicator for the maturity structure of the Council's borrowing as detailed in Section 8.7 and Appendix B to the submitted report; with the only change to this Indicator being to increase the maximum percentage of debt maturing within 12 months from the previous 15% to 25% in response to the change required to the underlying calculation of this indicator from fixed rate debt only to include all debt including short term and variable rate debt;

- (d) That full Council be recommended to set the investment limits for periods greater than 364 days for 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 at £150m, and that a new limit for 2025/26 be set at £150m. Also, full Council be recommended to approve that the limit of £15m which can be placed with the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF) be removed. (The DMADF is an arm of the Debt Management office of HM Treasury). Finally, full Council be recommended to agree that all other Investment limits remain as set in February 2022, which are explained in Section 8.8.9 of the submitted report;
- (e) That full Council be recommended to approve that the Treasury Management Policy Statement be updated in line with the revised codes of practice, as shown at Appendix E to the submitted report; and that full Council be recommended to note that updated Treasury Management Practices and new Investment Management Practices (a new requirement, relating to non-treasury management investments), which are detailed operational documents, will be approved before the start of the 2023/24 financial year by the Chief Officer Financial Services, as required under the CIPFA Codes.

(The matters referred to in Minute Nos. 110 (A)(a) – 110(A)(b)(v) and 110 (A)(d) (Revenue Budget and Council Tax); 110(B)(a)(i) – 110(B)(a)(iii) (Capital Programme) and 110(C)(b) – 110(C)(e) (Treasury Management Strategy), given that they were decisions being made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, were not eligible for Call In)

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillors Carter and Golton required it to be recorded that they both respectively abstained from voting on the decisions referred to within this minute)

#### **111 Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge – Initial Action Plan**

Further to Minute No. 90, 14 December 2022, the Chief Executive submitted a report presenting for consideration the initial Action Plan which had been drawn up in response to the findings and recommendations arising from recent the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge which took place in November 2022.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the progress made in developing the LGA Peer Challenge Action Plan (as presented at Appendix 1 to the submitted report) in response to the findings and recommendations of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge, be noted;
- (b) That it be noted that the initial Action Plan, alongside the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge final report will be considered by Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board at their February 2023 meeting, in line with the Executive Board resolution of 14 December 2022 (Minute No. 90(c) refers);

- (c) That it be noted that the Peer Challenge Action Plan will inform organisational and financial planning as well as the Best City Ambition refresh, and that monitoring and reporting will be undertaken through existing routes, such as the Annual Performance Report.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE**

### **112 Initial Public Consultation on the Proposed Scope of the Leeds Local Plan 2040**

The Director of City Development submitted a report which set out the proposed consultation material regarding the update to the Leeds Local Plan. Specifically, the report sought approval to the proposed initial scope of the Leeds Local Plan 2040, to the commencement of a consultation exercise for a period of six weeks and to refer the consultation documentation to the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board for consideration as part of such consultation.

A Member highlighted the importance of ensuring that the consultation was comprehensive and that the level of response was monitored, with a request that action be taken to ensure an appropriate level of response was achieved, if necessary. In response, assurance was provided that the consultation response would be monitored to ensure that the process was consistent with the established Statement of Community Involvement.

The Board acknowledged a Member's comments regarding the need to ensure that the approach being taken in relation to the role of town and local centres was widened to consider social, cultural and wellbeing aspects, with it being undertaken that such matters would be taken into consideration as the consultation process progressed.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the proposed initial scope of the Leeds Local Plan 2040 be agreed as follows:-
- Update by deleting, creating or amending policies within the Local Plan for Leeds (namely the Adopted Leeds Core Strategy (amended 2019), the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan (2013), Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan (2017), Site Allocations Plan (2019) and Unitary Development Plan (2006)) that relate to the spatial strategy, housing, economic development, the role of centres, minerals and waste, transport and accessibility and 'other' topics areas (including heritage, landscape, rural development, community facilities, contaminated land and hazardous substances, and open land and green corridors in urban areas);
- (b) That the commencement of a consultation exercise on the scope, as presented to the Board, for a period of six weeks using supporting topic paper (as detailed at appendix 1 to the submitted report), be agreed;

- (c) That the consultation documentation (as detailed at appendix 1 to the submitted report) be referred to the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board for consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Budget and Policy Framework;
- (d) That the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (as detailed at Appendix 2 to the submitted report) be published for comment as part of the consultation;
- (e) That it be noted that a 'Call for Sites' will be undertaken alongside the consultation process;
- (f) That the necessary authority be provided to the Chief Planning Officer, in order to enable the Chief Planning Officer, in liaison with the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate, to approve any amendments to the consultation material in advance of public consultation;
- (g) That it be noted that the Chief Planning Officer is responsible for the implementation of the resolutions above.

(The matters referred to within this minute, given that they were decisions being made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, were not eligible for Call In, as Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 5.1.2 states that the power to Call In decisions does not extend to those decisions being made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules)

### **113 Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy - Action Plan Annual Update 2022**

The Director of City Development submitted a report which outlined the annual progress which continued to be made in relation to the Connecting Leeds, Transport Strategy Action Plan, following the Board's approval of the Action Plan in October 2021.

In presenting the report, the challenges that continued to be faced in relation to longer term planning and ambitions in this area were highlighted, with the Executive Member emphasising the impact of the current national funding model on such matters.

In response to a Member's comments regarding the impact of development works whilst they were being carried out, the Board was advised that whilst works were planned as much in advance as possible and in a co-ordinated a way as possible, there were a number of external factors, such as the timeframe by which funding needed to be spent and emergency utility works, that often influenced the approach taken.

Members received an update on footfall statistics for the city centre together with bus and rail patronage levels, with it being noted that current levels in Leeds were approaching, or in some cases equal to that of 2019. It was also

noted that the rate of the increase being experienced in Leeds was faster than in a number of other areas in the country.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received an update regarding the '20 Minute Neighbourhood' initiative and how that connected with such matters, with it being noted that there was expected to be further reference to the provision of '20 Minute Neighbourhoods' in next year's annual update report.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy annual progress report, together with the associated Action Plan 2021-2024, as presented, be noted;
- (b) That the progress made and successes achieved against the key measures outlined in the Action Plan and the submitted report, be noted, together with how these impact on the wider context of the Leeds City Council Best City Ambition;
- (c) That the progress made against the interim datasets and associated key performance indicators which are used to develop the Connecting Leeds Action Plan that support the aims and objectives of the Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy, be noted.

**114 Connecting Leeds - Public Transport Investment Programme - Completion Update**

The Director of City Development submitted a report presenting an update on the progress made in relation to the Connecting Leeds, Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme (LPTIP), which covered the period between the last update presented to the Board in November 2020 up to the completion of the majority of all construction and project delivery, as at November 2022.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member extended her thanks to all of those involved in the delivery of this very significant programme of works, which it was noted was undertaken within a very challenging timescale. The Executive Member also provided an overview of the programme's key achievements.

Responding to a Member's specific enquiry questioning the reference in the report on the undertaking of schemes to improve neighbourhood transport hubs at Rothwell and Robin Hood, it was undertaken that such references would be checked with a response being provided to the Member in question.

There was a discussion regarding the recent scheme inflation review which had been undertaken by the Combined Authority and, in response to Members' enquiries, a brief update was provided on the latest position of a scheme within a specific Member's area.

## **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the completion of the majority of construction/project delivery work undertaken on the Connecting Leeds Programme (Bus Infrastructure, Rail and Bus Delivery packages) to ensure the realisation of the outcomes, as set out in the strategic outline business case to the Department for Transport (DfT), be noted;
- (b) That the latest financial position of the programme, be noted; and that agreement be given for the Chief Officer Highways and Transportation, in conjunction with the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate, to make any further residual movements within budget, which are needed on completion of the programme between packages and taking account of all the additional external funding opportunities secured since the last update report.

## **COMMUNITIES**

### **115 A Refreshed Approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment and the Director of Resources submitted a joint report which presented a refreshed approach towards Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, including a Vision Statement and Action Plan for consideration and adoption.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member emphasised the partnership approach which had been taken in compiling this refreshed approach and thanked those who had been involved in the engagement process. In addition, the 5 priorities across each of the 3 strands were highlighted, with it being noted that the refreshed approach would support rather than replace existing arrangements.

Members supported the proposals detailed within the submitted report.

## **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Vision and Action Plan for 2023 – 2025, as appended to the submitted report, be adopted;
- (b) That the proposals for new performance reporting against the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion agenda, be noted;
- (c) That it be noted that the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment and the Director of Resources are responsible for leading this work through the Council's Safer Stronger Communities and Human Resources teams.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING**

### **116 Damp and Mould**

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report providing an update and assurances to the Board regarding the current position in respect of damp and mould within Council managed homes,

together with the approach being taken to tackle such matters and ensure that robust measures were in place. The report also provided an update on the actions being taken by the Council with regard to the private rented sector.

Responding to a Member's enquiry regarding a press release from the Housing Ombudsman, the Board received further information and context in relation to that specific case, with it being noted that the Ombudsman's findings had been accepted, that the Council had apologised to the individual concerned and that lessons had been learned and were being acted upon.

Also in response to a Member's enquiries and concerns, assurance was provided on the actions that were being taken to address this issue within the level of resource and regulatory framework available to the Authority. It was noted that this included the widening of training across a range of teams in the service, increased communications with residents, the provision of increased resource specifically to address this issue and working with energy suppliers to help tenants heat their homes more effectively. In addition, the Board received an update on the proactive work which was taking place in the private rented sector and in terms of housing associations.

Members received clarification on the resourcing of inspection works carried out by the Council within the private rented sector.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That the measures which have been put in place to reduce damp and mould in tenants' homes and to improve how reports of damp and mould in tenants' homes are managed, be supported.

#### **ECONOMY, CULTURE AND EDUCATION**

##### **117 Leeds Kirkgate Open Market Future Opportunities - Consultation Response and Next Steps**

Further to Minute No. 96, 14 December 2022, the Director of City Development submitted a report which presented the findings from the consultation exercise undertaken on the potential introduction of a new container food, beverage and entertainment offer on part of the Open Market at Leeds Kirkgate Market and which set out a series of proposed 'next steps' for consideration.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member provided an overview of the support which had been provided to the market in recent years, with it being highlighted that the aim of the submitted proposals was to secure the long term future of the market. Members also received an overview of the findings from the consultation exercise, with it being noted that there had been over 2,000 responses to the online survey with 71.5% being generally supportive of the proposals. Finally, it was noted that assurance had been provided to traders that where detail on the proposals was yet to be confirmed, this would be undertaken in consultation with traders.

In considering the report, a Member highlighted that whilst he thought there had been a lack of response to the consultation from traders, he was supportive of the proposals.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the findings from the approved consultation exercise regarding the introduction of a new container food, beverage and entertainment offer on part of the Open Market at Leeds Kirkgate Market, as detailed within the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That in noting the outcome of the agreed consultation exercise, it be noted that the overall findings can be broadly categorised as:-
- Trader Consultation Outcome;
  - Public/Shopper Outcome;
  - Partner/Stakeholder Outcome.
- (c) That in taking into account resolutions (a) and (b) above, the following next steps be approved:-
- To continue to engage with market traders around the concerns some of them have with the proposal, specifically around the need for any development to be as complementary as possible to the market;
  - To delegate approval to the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of Council and Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education, to market the site as a suitable location for a potential container led food, beverage and entertainment offer;
  - To delegate approval to the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of Council and Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education, for the selection of a potential operator;
  - To progress the potential delivery of the proposal in accordance with the Council's standard processes for a land and property transaction.
- (d) That it be noted that the Director of City Development is responsible for the implementation of such matters.

#### **118 Determination of School Admission Arrangements for 2024/25**

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report which sought approval of the proposed Leeds City Council admission arrangements (admission policy) for September 2024, with it being noted that the admission policy applied to all Leeds community and voluntary controlled maintained schools (100 schools) in the city.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member highlighted that, in response to the reduced birth rate in Leeds, the submitted report did contain proposals to reduce the published admission number (PAN) in 3 primary schools, with it



being noted that each of the Governing Bodies had given majority support for the proposals concerning their school.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That in determining the school admissions arrangements for the academic year 2024/25, the admissions policies for the Leeds Community and Voluntary Controlled maintained Primary and Secondary schools (as detailed at Appendices A, B and C to the submitted report), be approved;
- (b) That the resolutions within this minute be exempted from Call In for the reasons of urgency, as set out in paragraphs 46 and 47 of the submitted report;
- (c) That the necessary authority be provided to the Lead for Admissions and Family Information Service, to enable that officer to take any actions should there be a need to revise these arrangements after they have been determined, where this revision is necessary to give effect to a mandatory requirement of the Admission Code, admissions law, a determination of the Schools Adjudicator or any misprint in the admission arrangements, under regulation 19 of the School Admissions Regulations 2012;
- (d) That the following be noted:-
  - (i) The Coordinated scheme for admissions arrangements for entry in September 2024 (as detailed in Appendix D to the submitted report) has been set;
  - (ii) That the officer responsible for this work is the Lead for Admissions and Family Information Service;
  - (iii) That the statutory date for implementation (i.e. determination of the policies) is no later than 28 February 2023, with the arrangements being published by 15 March 2023.

(The Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules state that a decision may be declared as being exempt from the Call In process by the decision taker if it is considered that the matter is urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's, or the public's interests. In line with this, the resolutions contained within this minute were exempted from the Call In process, as per resolution (b) above, and for the reasons as detailed above and as set out within sections 46 - 47 of the submitted report)

**DATE OF PUBLICATION:** FRIDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

**LAST DATE FOR CALL IN OF ELIGIBLE DECISIONS:** 5.00 P.M., FRIDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

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## Refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan

Date: Wednesday 15 March 2023

Report of: Director of Children and Families

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

The Children and Young People's Plan is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. It is being refreshed to acknowledge the significant changes and challenges that have occurred in the last few years, and to ensure that it remains relevant and appropriate to improving outcomes for children and young people, to help them realise their potential, and to thrive, whilst offering opportunities for play and fun.

The refreshed plan includes an amended vision, a change to the three obsessions, three new priorities, and an updated set of performance measures. The Children and Young People's Plan is part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework, which requires the refreshed plan to be adopted by Full Council. This report provides the context for the Children and Young People's Plan; summarises the consultation and refresh; and requests that Executive Board approve submission of the refreshed plan for adoption at Full Council on 12 July 2023.

### Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

- a) Note the proposals for a refreshed Children and Young People's Plan, following a consultation exercise in late 2022 (a summary of which is in appendix two).
- b) Approve the submission of the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2023 to 2028 (as presented in appendix one) for adoption at Full Council on 12 July 2023.

## What is this report about?

- 1 The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. It sets out the vision for Leeds to be the best city in the UK for children and young people to grow up in, and to be a Child Friendly city. The refresh of the CYPP has been informed by a formal consultation exercise that took place in November and December 2022. The changes will ensure that the plan remains relevant and appropriate for the coming years, will continue to improve outcomes for children and young people, and will help services to provide the support needed to keep children and young people safe from harm.
- 2 This report provides a draft version of the refreshed CYPP (found in appendix one) for Executive Board to approve for submission to Full Council on 12 July. The refreshed CYPP, which will have a graphic design applied to it, will cover the period 2023 to 2028, with a formal launch date likely to be in September 2023, to coincide with the start of the next academic year.
- 3 The main changes to the CYPP are:
  - A revised vision, recognising the importance of children living in “loving and nurturing families”, and of “play and having fun”, alongside improving outcomes for children and young people.
  - A change to the three obsessions, combining two (“reduce the number of young people not in education, employment and training”; and “improve achievement, attainment and attendance at school”) into “young people in Leeds attend school, achieve, and attain well, and continue their route of a sustained education, apprenticeship or employment destination”; and the introduction of a health-focused obsession: “Leeds is a healthy place for all children; and improve the timely access to healthcare when needed”.
  - Three new priorities: “children and young people have safe spaces to play, hang out, and have fun”; “everyone takes more action to protect the environment from climate change”; and “encourage greater use of sustainable transport (eg walking, cycling, scooting, public transport) for children and young people”.
  - An update to the performance measures to ensure that they remain relevant and appropriate.
- 4 The renewed CYPP retains the fundamentals of the strategy whilst responding to changes in need and approach. The CYPP will be delivered in the context of pandemic recovery and cost of living challenges. Bringing TeamLeeds together around our shared ambitions is essential for how we understand and respond to the evolving impacts on service demand, on participation and on child wellbeing and outcomes. Our vision and shared commitment will support successful engagement and responses to national policy changes; these include the government's recently published *Stable Homes, Built on Love*<sup>1</sup> consultation on social care reform, and the related *SEND and alternative provision improvement plan*<sup>2</sup>.

## What impact will this proposal have?

- 5 The CYPP is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds and has shaped the work of the children's partnership in Leeds for almost 15 years. The refreshed plan takes account of changes in the local and national landscape in recent years and incorporates feedback received from a consultation exercise in late 2022. It sets out the key

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/childrens-social-care-stable-homes-built-on-love>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-and-alternative-provision-improvement-plan>

priorities for both the Council and the partnership over the next five years and will help to improve outcomes for children and young people living in Leeds, with a specific focus on vulnerable children and young people who require the most support and intervention.

- 6 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration screening exercise was carried out as part of the initial stages of the CYPP refresh. A copy of this document is included in appendix three.

### How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing       Inclusive Growth       Zero Carbon

- 7 The current CYPP has priorities and measures that align to two of the three pillars. Part of the consultation asked how the CYPP could contribute to the Zero Carbon pillar, by considering a climate emergency priority; this was strongly supported in the feedback and comments, leading to a new priority being added to the CYPP.
- 8 The CYPP is a supporting plan for the three pillars of our Best City Ambition, ensuring a focus on delivery for Leeds' children and young people. TeamLeeds will support Leeds families to ensure children in all areas of the city have the best start in life and enjoying a healthy, happy, and friendly childhood. As a city, we will focus on young people having the skills that enable them to realise their potential and to thrive. Work to deliver the CYPP will be as part of TeamLeeds, ensuring collective effort and consistency: as an example, the CYPP is supportive of, and will be supported by, the Future Talent Plan for Leeds.
- 9 Two CYPP measures are also Best City Ambition measures: pupils achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (Health and Wellbeing); and pupils achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (Inclusive Growth). Children in care is a Council organisational performance measure for keeping children safe; this organisational measure supports our best city ambitions. Safely reducing the need for children to be in care ('looked after') remains a CYPP obsession for ensuring that children are safe, and for measuring the effectiveness of the Council's collective support for parents and families.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: This is a city-wide partnership plan

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

- 10 A formal public consultation exercise ran from 07 November 2022 to 12 December 2022, with all elected members receiving a link to the survey. 142 responses were received from people living in 31 of Leeds' 33 political wards. Each question saw at least two-thirds of respondents 'strongly agree', or 'agree' with the proposed changes, with one question seeing a 90 per cent combined agree rate. A summary of the consultation is provided in appendix two.
- 11 In accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework, the views of the relevant Scrutiny Board have also been sought. The Children and Families Scrutiny Board discussed the refresh of the CYPP on three occasions: 06 July 2022, 07 September 2022, and 25 January 2023. Early

discussions with the Scrutiny Board during July and September 2022 helped to inform the development of the CYPP, including the proposed changes that formed the basis of the formal public consultation exercise. The Scrutiny Board then received a summary of the consultation findings in January 2023, which included the information presented in appendix 2 of this report. In acknowledging the positive feedback arising from the consultation, the Scrutiny Board gave its support to the proposed changes to the CYPP, including specific support for the inclusion of a climate emergency priority that links with the new priority on encouraging the greater use of sustainable transport, and for this to be progressed through the Council's relevant approval processes.

- 12 Feedback was obtained from several partnership meetings, where the consultation questions were discussed in addition to questions specific to each meeting; school governors were encouraged to complete the questionnaire and share with their peers; and a child-friendly 'session plan' was provided to practitioners who work with young people's groups, to ensure that the consultation exercise reached as many young people as possible. 67 young people contributed through these sessions.
- 13 The 12 Child Friendly Wishes were originally developed in 2012 and were refreshed for the tenth birthday of Child Friendly Leeds in July 2022. Three years' worth of consultation captured the voice of 80,000 children and young people in Leeds, with some of the most important issues being safe and clean places; spaces to play and to have fun; young people's voices to be heard and listened to; a focus on mental health and wellbeing; and a growing concern about climate change.
- 14 The views of young people from the Wishes consultation exercise have been incorporated into feedback from the CYPP-specific consultation and have helped shape the refreshed CYPP. Future updates of the Wishes and the CYPP will be aligned so that young people's voices remain central to the CYPP and to create a lasting synergy between the Wishes and the CYPP. We will report on the Wishes as part of our monitoring of the impact of the CYPP.
- 15 The outputs from the above consultation exercises have helped shape the development of the refreshed CYPP. The wording of the vision was altered based on the feedback received, and the positive response to the suggestion to add a climate emergency priority (including aligning the wording to one of the 12 Child Friendly Wishes) confirmed that this priority should be introduced.

### **What are the resource implications?**

- 16 There are no direct resource implications from this report. The effective delivery of the CYPP will support Leeds families, help mitigate the impacts of poverty, and help manage demand on services for children and young people.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

- 17 There are no inherent risks in the CYPP. Regular reporting is key to ensuring that outcomes are improving and that challenges are swiftly identified, and remedial action is taken to mitigate the negative impact of those challenges.

18 The CYPP is linked to the Safeguarding Children corporate risk and is one of the key controls that helps the authority manage this risk. A significant failure in the Safeguarding Children risk would derail the achievement of the CYPP.

### **What are the legal implications?**

19 The CYPP forms part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. The formal adoption of plans and strategies within the framework fall to full Council. Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 5.1.2 states that the power to call in decisions does not extend to decisions made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules. The recommendations being made to the Board in this report are in accordance with those rules, and as such, the resolutions arising from this report are not eligible for Call In.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

20 The CYPP was last refreshed in 2018; both the local and national context have significantly altered in the intervening period. The refresh acknowledges the significant changes that have affected children and young people in recent years, as well as establishing the partnership's response to those issues. The CYPP has guided the children's partnership over the last decade and has worked in parallel with Child Friendly Leeds to improve outcomes and opportunities for children and young people in Leeds. For these reasons, a sympathetic refresh was deemed to be most appropriate compared to no refresh, or a radical design of the CYPP.

21 Discontinuing, or not refreshing, the CYPP would reduce the effectiveness of the work of the children's partnership in Leeds and increase the risk that children and young people are not kept safe from harm and do not achieve their potential. Conversely, refreshing and reinvigorating the CYPP, aligning with the 12 Child Friendly Wishes, supporting the Best City Ambition, and acknowledging the climate emergency, ensures that the CYPP remains an important and relevant strategic plan that drives the work of the children's partnership in Leeds, helping to keep children and young people safe from harm, and to improve outcomes for children and young people to help them to realise their potential and to thrive.

### **How will success be measured?**

22 Regular reports will be presented to both the Leeds Children and Young People Partnership Meeting, and to the Children and Families Scrutiny Board. These reports will provide an update on the three obsessions and the latest data for the CYPP measures. Additionally, two of the CYPP measures feature in the Best City Ambition.

23 The CYPP is the overarching strategy that guides the work of the children's partnership in Leeds, with reporting against the plan focused on strategic messages. More detailed, granular, reporting will take place through linked strategies and plans, for example the 3As Strategy, the Annual Standards Report, and the SEND and Inclusion Strategy.

### **What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

24 The refreshed CYPP will cover the period 2023 to 2028. Regular updates will be provided by or on behalf of the Director of Children and Families to the Leeds Children and Young People

Partnership Meeting, which is part of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership, and to the Children and Families Scrutiny Board.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix one: the Children and Young People's Plan 2023 to 2028.
- Appendix two: a summary of consultation responses received, with a representative sample of comments.
- Appendix three: refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan EDCI screening document.

### **Background papers**

- None.



# Appendix one: the Children and Young People's Plan 2023 to 2028

## The way we work

### Making connections

Developing quality connections, conversations, and relationships with children, families, and professionals is how we work in Leeds

### Valuing families

Children live in families  
Families create communities  
Communities create cities

### Three mindsets

Always remember...  
Do the simple things better  
The child is the client  
Safeguard and promote the welfare of children

## Our city

### About Leeds

Total population: 809,036  
Including 170,571 children and young people aged up to 18 (263,392 aged under 25)  
280 state-funded schools  
191 different languages spoken in Leeds schools  
Figures correct at February 2023

### The 12 Child Friendly Wishes 2023-28

The Child Friendly Leeds Wishes were developed in partnership with children and young people. Top issues and priorities were identified following the review of local and citywide consultations, surveys, and ballots, capturing the views of over 80,000 children and young people. The Wishes highlight what young people think is important and what they think would make Leeds an even better city for children and young people to grow up in. The Wishes have influenced the priorities in the CYPP and a wishes action plan has been developed to ensure children, young people, and families are kept up to date on what actions are being taken to address the wishes. Updates on the 12 Wishes will be part of monitoring the impact of our CYPP. For more information, visit <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/childfriendlyleeds/cfl-the-story/12-wishes>

### Working together

The ambition of the Child Friendly initiative is to make Leeds the best city in the UK for children and young people to grow up in. To help us make this happen, we have a Leeds Children and Young People's Partnership, which brings together leaders from the main organisations working with children and young people, to make sure the work we do keeps children safe from harm, and has a positive impact on improving outcomes

We work with all partners to help make a difference to the lives of children and young people who live in Leeds. The CYPP is part of the strategic framework that supports the Best City Ambition, which is our overall vision for the future of Leeds. At its heart is our mission to tackle poverty and inequality, and to improve quality of life for everyone who calls Leeds home



# Leeds Children and Young People's Plan 2023 to 2028

The priorities that guide our work have been developed through consultation across the city, including the views of children and young people

Ensuring that our Best City Ambition delivers for Leeds' children and young people, we will focus on:

- children in all areas of the city having the best start in life and enjoying a healthy, happy, and friendly childhood
- young people having the skills that enable them to realise their potential and to thrive

### Find out more

Follow us on Twitter, [@Child\\_Leeds](https://twitter.com/Child_Leeds), or visit [www.leeds.gov.uk/childfriendlyleeds](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/childfriendlyleeds) for more information about our work

To understand how we work together to keep children and young people safe, visit [www.leedsscp.org.uk](http://www.leedsscp.org.uk)

To see our one minute guides on all aspects of children's services, please visit [www.leeds.gov.uk](http://www.leeds.gov.uk) and search for 'one minute guides'

To become a Child Friendly Leeds supporter, ambassador, or partner, e-mail [childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk)

### Equality, diversity, and inclusion

We want Leeds to be a city of equal opportunity, an inclusive city where everyone has a fair chance, and people from all backgrounds take part in community life, creating a society that is varied, vibrant and proud. The CYPP will help reduce the impact of poverty and reduce inequalities and discrimination that still exist within some of our communities within Leeds

### And a relentless focus on the question...

What is it like to be a child or young person growing up in Leeds and how do we make it better?

## What we'll do

### One vision

Our vision is for Leeds to be the best city in the UK and the best city for children and young people to grow up in, to thrive from early years into adulthood. We want Leeds to be an inclusive and welcoming child friendly city where children live in loving and nurturing families. We invest in children and young people to help build an increasingly prosperous and successful city by improving outcomes and providing young people with the skills for life, as well as opportunities for play and having fun. In ensuring our children are starting well, we recognise the need for outcomes to improve faster for children and young people from vulnerable and deprived backgrounds

### Five outcomes

All children and young people:

1. Are safe from harm
2. Do well at all levels of learning and have skills for life
3. Enjoy healthy lives
4. Have fun growing up
5. Are active citizens who feel they have a voice and influence

### Fourteen priorities

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Help children and parents to live in safe, supportive, and loving families                      | 8. Children and young people have safe spaces to play, hang out, and have fun  |
| 2. Ensure that the most vulnerable children and young people are protected                         | 9. Promote and enable physical activity and healthy eating   |
| 3. Support families to give children the best start in life  | 10. Support young people to make good choices and minimise risk-taking behaviours  |
| 4. Increase the number of children and young people participating and engaging in learning         | 11. Help young people into adulthood, to develop life skills, and be ready for work  |
| 5. Improve achievement and attainment for all pupils   | 12. Everyone takes more action to protect the environment from climate change  |
| 6. Improve at a faster rate educational progress for pupils vulnerable to poorer learning outcomes | 13. Improve access to affordable, safe, and reliable connected transport for young people  |
| 7. Improve social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people         | 14. Encourage greater use of sustainable transport (eg walking, cycling, scooting, public transport) for children and young people |

### Three obsessions

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Safely and appropriately reduce the number of children looked after                     | of a sustained education, apprenticeship or employment destination                                    |
| 2. Young people in Leeds attend school, achieve, and attain well, and continue their route | 3. Leeds is a healthy place for all children; and improve the timely access to healthcare when needed |

Helping deliver the mission at the heart of our Best City Ambition to tackle poverty and inequality and to improve the quality of life for the children and young people who call Leeds home

## How we'll do it



### Think Family Work Family

We will consider family relationships, the role of adult behaviour, and the wider context such as friends and the local community, and how these impact on outcomes for children and young people

### The best start in life for all children

Before and after birth, we will support parents and babies to create the conditions where stress is reduced, positive bonds and attachments can form, and language and communications skills develop

### Attaining and achieving

Learning underpins wellbeing; so we will place a sharp focus on supporting learning, and children's readiness for learning, in order to support all children and young people to be our future talent, particularly those learners who are vulnerable to poorer outcomes, to realise their potential, and narrow any attainment gaps

### Challenging child poverty

In acknowledging the scale and impact of poverty on families, we will work with communities and families on children's outcomes, and support children's journeys into secure adulthood in a prosperous city

### Outstanding social work and support

Continuing our journey as an Ofsted-rated 'outstanding' local authority, our Families First programme, and our investment in social work, we will ensure consistent quality across all our work with vulnerable children and young people

### Improving the health and wellbeing of all children and young people

Leeds is a healthy place for all children and young people, where they live within an environment that supports them to be mentally and physically healthy and have timely access to the right care and support when needed

### Early help - the right conversations in the right place at the right time

Building on what works well, and reorganising more of our services around the Restorative Early Start approach, we will focus help to where it is needed earlier

### Behaviours that underpin everything we do

Use Outcome Based Accountability and ask the question: is anyone better off?  
 Use restorative practice to work *with* people, not *do to* or *for* them  
 We listen and respond to the voice of the child  
 We support and prioritise children and young people to have fun growing up  
 Our work aims to eliminate discrimination and ensure equity, equality, and inclusion








## How we'll know if we've made a difference

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Number of children looked after   | 13. Children and young people who report being happy most days in the My Health, My School Survey     |
| 2. Number of parents that have had more than one child enter care at different times                                   | 14. Timely access to the right healthcare when needed   |
| 3. Number of children subject to a child protection plan   | 15. Young offenders that re-offend  |
| 4. Number of children in need  | 16. Under-18 conception rates   |
| 5. Pupils achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (end of reception year) | 17. Under-18 alcohol-related hospital admissions  |
| 6. Infant mortality rates  | 18. Students achieving a level 3 qualification at age 19  |
| 7. School attendance   | 19. Young people not in employment, education, or training, or whose employment status is 'not known' |
| 8. Fixed-term school suspensions   |   |
| 9. Pupils reaching the expected standard at the end of Key Stage 2 (end of year six)                                   |   |
| 10. Progress 8 score for Leeds at the end of Key Stage 4 (end of year 11)  |   |
| 11. Destinations of young people with special educational needs and/or a disability when they leave school             |   |
| 12. Children that are obese in reception and in year   |   |






## Appendix two: A summary of consultation responses received, with a representative sample of comments

### 2. We are proposing to change the wording of the Vision

Answer choices		Response per cent	Response total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I like the vision, but I think there should be more emphasis on those who are vulnerable and have deprived backgrounds</li> <li>I am really glad to see that 'play' and 'having fun' has been included in the proposed vision. It is really important that children's well-being - and not just their well-becoming (the process of turning them into 'successful' adults) is prioritised, particularly in light of the current state of children and young people's mental health. Play is crucial to our ambitions to be a child friendly city</li> <li>Is 'play' aimed at younger children, does it patronise older young people?</li> <li>Don't drop the wording around vulnerable and deprived backgrounds</li> <li>Loving and nurturing is important to include</li> </ul>	
1	Strongly agree		28.99%		40
2	Agree		37.68%		52
3	Neither agree nor disagree		13.77%		19
4	Disagree		13.04%		18
5	Strongly disagree		6.52%		9

### 3. We will retain the children looked after obsession: safely and appropriately reduce the number of children looked after

We are proposing to combine improve achievement, attainment and attendance at school; and reduce the number of young people not in education, employment and training into a learning destinations obsession

Answer choices		Response per cent	Response total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal is vague and does not appear to place focus on the importance of the 3A's in contributing to lifelong learning and wellbeing. We should have precision in what we are seeking to achieve</li> <li>It is important to recognise that there are many aspects to children and young people's lives. There can't be too heavy a focus on attainment</li> <li>I agree with this but will it remove focus from younger children?</li> <li>As a parent with teenagers I support the need to highlight the multiple destinations and opportunities for learning that are not school or typical "education" based post-16</li> <li>What about education for SEND children and specialist and targeted support?</li> <li>Young people in care should have views and opinions on the placement heard more often</li> <li>Important to celebrate achievement, this is wider than academic results</li> </ul>	
1	Strongly agree		31.21%		44
2	Agree		39.72%		56
3	Neither agree nor disagree		14.18%		20
4	Disagree		10.64%		15
5	Strongly disagree		4.26%		6





**4. We are proposing to introduce a health-focused obsession to reflect an increasing focus on both the physical and mental health of our children and young people: increase the number of children that are a healthy weight; and improve the timely access to healthcare when needed**

Answer choices		Response per cent	Response total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rather than physical and mental health it should focus on physical and emotional wellbeing, including mental health</li> <li>• Agree but needs to be careful and done correctly. Parents and children can be affected when labelling 'healthy weights' and there can be a lot of pressure when parents are faced with 'healthy eating' vs what they can afford/what the child will eat etc</li> <li>• Mental health of young people is a massive priority for the plan. I think it needs to be stronger in the obsession, as outcomes are much wider than healthy weight and access to healthcare</li> <li>• Need to incorporate the principles of becoming a Marmot City</li> <li>• Love the intent to improving access to health care</li> <li>• Unhappiness with the focus on healthy weight - too blunt</li> </ul>
1	Strongly agree	45.39%	64	
2	Agree	37.59%	53	
3	Neither agree nor disagree	7.09%	10	
4	Disagree	7.09%	10	
5	Strongly disagree	2.84%	4	

**5. We will retain our five outcomes with the only proposed change to all children and young people enjoy healthy lifestyles. We are proposing to change it to all children and young people enjoy healthy lives**






Answer choices		Response per cent	Response total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think lifestyles is more clearly focused on the conditions and behaviours that lead to a healthy life, rather than the very general "lives" which is the whole of the life-course and includes factors we cannot change such as illnesses children may develop that are not avoidable</li> <li>• I feel the word 'lives' is broader than 'lifestyle' so covers more areas which I agree is better</li> <li>• Lives is better, more holistic. Lifestyles could suggest a transient choice that ebbs and flows over time. Lives is all encompassing</li> <li>• Not disabled children have healthy lives though do they, by the nature of their disability and health needs. This excludes those who can't be healthy</li> <li>• There's no mention of inclusivity for disabled children</li> </ul>
1	Strongly agree	32.14%	45	
2	Agree	51.43%	72	
3	Neither agree nor disagree	12.86%	18	
4	Disagree	2.86%	4	
5	Strongly disagree	0.71%	1	

**6. Most of the priorities will be retained without change. We are proposing to introduce a new priority on the climate emergency following comments from young people**

Answer choices		Response per cent	Response total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I'd be interested to know how this one manifests itself via a CYP Plan - is it about what CYP can do to contribute to the climate emergency?</li> <li>Really good idea to include what young people have commented they want</li> <li>Agree in principle but it would depend on the exact wording</li> <li>This is much needed and reflects the 12 wishes</li> <li>Whilst climate change is an issue for us all and clearly young people feel strongly about it - I am not sure how this fits with a CYP plan? Although not adverse to it either</li> <li>We must recognise the disadvantage experienced by children from ethnic minority heritage in the education and youth justice system</li> <li>Align with the wording from the 12 Wishes</li> </ul>	
1	Strongly agree		55.32%		78
2	Agree		30.50%		43
3	Neither agree nor disagree		9.22%		13
4	Disagree		4.96%		7
5	Strongly disagree		0.00%		0

**7. We are proposing to retain the existing transport priority (improve access to affordable, safe, and reliable connected transport for young people) and add a new priority, which will focus on sustainable transport: encourage the greater use of sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling, scooting, and public transport**

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Answer choices		Response per cent	Response total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I do agree with this change however the emphasis should be on affordable sustainable transport</li> <li>Disabled accessibility to transport still has huge gaps which impact on quality of life</li> <li>It's not always safe or attainable for children to walk/cycle when they live in a safe environment and parents have to get to work</li> <li>Good transport links essential to allow CYP to access education and further careers. Also need to look at protecting and enabling those vulnerable CYP access to transport systems safely</li> <li>I don't understand why sustainable travel isn't part of the climate emergency priority</li> <li>Key is cost - we should have free transport like young people in London, free for groups like care leavers</li> </ul>	
1	Strongly agree		45.71%		64
2	Agree		44.29%		62
3	Neither agree nor disagree		6.43%		9
4	Disagree		2.86%		4
5	Strongly disagree		0.71%		1

## Appendix three: Refresh of the Children and Young People’s Plan EDCl screening document

### Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) screening



As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provides a record of both the **process** and **decision**. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions. Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.
- whether or not equality, diversity, cohesion and integration is being or has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

<b>Directorate: Children and Families</b>	<b>Service area: Resources and Strategy</b>
<b>Lead person: Chris Hudson</b>	<b>Contact number: 0113 37 85515</b>

#### 1. Title: Refresh of the Children and Young People’s Plan

Is this a:

**Strategy / Policy**

**Service / Function**

**Other**

**If other, please specify**

#### 2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) is the strategic document that guides the work of the children’s partnership in Leeds. Through its vision, outcomes, priorities, obsessions, and performance measures it provides a framework to: keep children safe from harm; do well at all levels of learning and have skills for life; enjoy healthy lifestyles; have fun growing up; and have a voice and influence in the services that are provided for them. These five priorities - or conditions of wellbeing - focus on all children and young people living and growing up in Leeds.

The CYPP was last refreshed in 2017, with that iteration of the plan covering the period 2018 to 2023. The current refresh acknowledges the increased focus on children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing following the Covid-19 pandemic, greater advocacy for action on the climate emergency, and the cost-of-living crisis. The proposed areas of change have been identified through conversations across the children’s partnership, with senior officers and leaders of the Council, and elected members through Scrutiny (Children and Families).

A six-week public consultation on the proposed areas of change will take place to establish the level of support for the proposed changes. Scrutiny considered the outputs from that consultation in January 2023. The refreshed plan will be approved at Full Council in summer 2023 and will cover the period 2023 to 2028.

**3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration**

All the council’s strategies and policies, service and functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater or lesser relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are. When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Also those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being.

Questions	Yes	No
Is there an existing or likely differential impact for the different equality characteristics?	x	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?		x
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	x	
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?	x	
Does the proposal involve or will it have an impact on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment</li> <li>• Advancing equality of opportunity</li> <li>• Fostering good relations</li> </ul>	x	

If you have answered **no** to the questions above please complete **sections 6 and 7**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above and;

- Believe you have already considered the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 4**.
- Are not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 5**.

**4. Considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration**

If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).

• **How have you considered equality, diversity, cohesion and integration?**

The CYPP is the strategic plan for improving outcomes for children, young people, and their families in the city, and supports the overarching Best City Ambition. Specific proposals for the way services are delivered and designed are covered in separate reports by the council and its partner organisations as and when they emerge. This includes specific equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessments. The CYPP covers all children and young people living and growing up in Leeds by asking the question: what is it like to be a child or young person growing up in Leeds and how do we make it better? As the strategic plan for improving outcomes for children, young people, and their families in the city, the CYPP is the document to which other plans and strategies must align. The SEND and Inclusion Strategy, and the 3As Strategy, for example support (large) sub-cohorts that the CYPP is focused on. It is not the purpose of the CYPP to address all issues for children and young people living and growing up in Leeds, but it sets the tone and direction for other strategies and plans, which have a more

specific focus than the CYPP. These strategies and action plans will address areas of concern and will have a specific focus on a range of protected characteristics.

Each update to the CYPP addresses emerging issues since the last refresh. The proposed changes that will be consulted acknowledge the increased focus on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing following the Covid-19 pandemic, greater advocacy for action on the climate emergency, and the cost-of-living crisis. The proposed introduction of a health obsession will bring greater prominence to health and wellbeing issues within the CYPP; introducing a climate change priority, and a sustainable transport priority acknowledges the growing calls and actions from young people for these areas to be addressed.

The CYPP is likely to reference Leeds working towards becoming a Marmot City. The Marmot Review into health inequalities in England (2010) proposes an evidence-based strategy to address the social determinants of health, the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age and which can lead to health inequalities. The first policy objective of the Marmot review is "giving every child the best start in life", a concept already embedded within the CYPP.

The proposed changes to the CYPP have been developed following discussions with Scrutiny (Children and Families), Corporate Leadership Team, the Children and Families Leadership and extended leadership forum, the LSCP Bi-Annual Network meeting, and children and young people through consultation over the last year on the updating of the 12 Wishes. The proposed changes will now be shared publicly as part of the formal consultation process. Young people were consulted during the formal consultation process through existing forums and groups. This was done in conjunction with the Voice, Influence, and Change Team, who have significant experience working with children and young people.

- **Key findings**

The CYPP has existed in its current form since 2011. Its previous refreshes (in 2014/15 and 2017/18) have been accompanied by an EDCI screening form. Each refresh has also evolved the plan rather than radically redesigning it. Consequently, the CYPP is well-established and understood across the partnership, with each refresh acknowledging its potential impact on different groups and communities.

Scrutiny (Children and Families) receive regular updates on progress being made against the priorities in the CYPP. Increasingly, the Board has been focused on the different life chances of children and young people across Leeds depending on where they are living. This focus has fed into the proposed changes, with challenging child poverty remaining central to the CYPP.

There is no single overarching report which brings together an overview of EDCI issues. Attainment information, for example, is reported in detail through the Annual Standards report, and is referenced in existing reports provided to various accountability meetings.

- **Actions**

The CYPP is based on OBA principles: how much have we done, how well have we done it, and what difference have we made. The reporting on the outcomes and priorities focuses on these three questions. Scrutiny (Children and Families) provides high support and high challenge when updates are provided (every six months). The Board monitors and evaluates EDCI issues and suggests work programmes to address these issues and improve the way services respond to need and vulnerability.

**5. If you are *not* already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you *will need to carry out an impact assessment*.**

Date to scope and plan your impact assessment:	
Date to complete your impact assessment	
Lead person for your impact assessment	



(Include name and job title)	
------------------------------	--

<b>6. Governance, ownership and approval</b>		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Julie Longworth	Director of Children and Families	
<b>Date screening completed</b>		

<b>7. Publishing</b>	
<p>Though <b>all</b> key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council <b>only</b> publishes those related to <b>Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions</b> or a <b>Significant Operational Decision</b>.</p> <p>A copy of this equality screening should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full Council.</li> <li>• The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions.</li> <li>• A copy of all other equality screenings that are not to be published should be sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a> for record.</li> </ul> <p>Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached screening was sent:</p>	
For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to <b>Governance Services</b>	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate <b>Directorate</b>	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a>	Date sent:

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## Outcome of statutory notice on a proposal to change the age range of Wykebeck Primary School from 3-11 to 2-11 with effect from September 2023

Date: 15 March 2023

Report of: Director of Children and Families

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

The report contains details of a proposal brought forward by Leeds City Council to lower the age range of Wykebeck Primary School from 3-11 years to 2-11 years and create Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) provision for 24 eligible 2-year-olds in the area. The changes proposed form prescribed alterations under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and are aligned with the statutory process set out in the Department for Education's guidance document, 'Making significant changes (prescribed alterations) to maintained schools' (October 2018).

Wykebeck Primary School is located within an area of high demographic demand for FEEE provision and the intention of creating places at a school-based setting offers parents a wider choice of this provision. By creating a further 24 places within the area, the proposal if approved, would support the Leeds Best City Priority to support families to give children the best start in life.

At its meeting in December 2022 Executive Board approved the recommendation to publish a Statutory Notice, following an initial informal consultation. A statutory notice was published on 9th January 2023 marking the start of a four-week formal consultation. During this four-week period, which ended on 5th February, anyone could submit comments on or raise objections to the proposal.

Where formal objections are received in respect of school organisation proposals, the Executive Member will engage with the Chair of Children and Families Scrutiny Board and agree the next steps. The outcome of those discussions is conveyed to Scrutiny Board members, so they are able to make comments regarding the objections received. No objections were received during the four-week formal consultation.

This report summarises the representations received during the statutory notice period and seeks approval from Executive Board on the recommendations below.

## **Recommendations**

Executive Board is requested to:

- a) Note the outcome of the statutory notice period;
- b) Approve the recommendation to permanently change the age range of Wykebeck Primary School from 3-11 to 2-11, with effect from September 2023;
- c) Approve the recommendation to exempt the decision from Call-In for the reasons set out in paragraph 31;
- d) Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Learning Systems.

## **What is this report about?**

- 1 Leeds City Council has a duty to ensure that any two-year-old within the city, who meets the eligibility criteria, can obtain a FEEE place until the point they become eligible for the universal entitlement.
- 2 In 2013, to improve children's early years development and to support families with the cost of childcare, the government introduced 15 hours of FEEE for eligible two-year-olds.
- 3 This proposal would provide a further 24 places of early education for two-year-olds based at Wykebeck Primary School. The school is located within the Gipton area of Leeds which has a high level of population density and the highest number of families in the city who would meet the eligibility criteria for two-year-old FEEE. Creating additional places at a local school, which has been judged good by Ofsted (February 2022), offers families a wider choice of provision, in addition to the two private providers and Little Owls nursery in the area.
- 4 As part of work to encourage families to take-up this provision in the most disadvantaged areas of the city, additional places are needed to support an increase in take-up.
- 5 Increasing the take-up of FEEE for eligible two-year-olds in Leeds is a key priority for the council. As well as providing local and accessible places, a range of providers are also required to meet the needs of families locally.
- 6 The area of Gipton, close to Wykebeck Primary School, has three providers offering FEEE for eligible two-year-olds however school staff are regularly approached by parents enquiring about starting their children at the school before they reach their third birthday.
- 7 It is anticipated that if the proposal was approved, the availability of additional two-year-old places would appeal to families who have siblings already in school as well as the wider community.
- 8 If this proposal was to be approved, places for two-year-old eligible children would be available from September 2023, with the school offering 12 x 3-hour morning places and 12 x 3-hour afternoon places, term time only. Research shows this is the effective model of delivery both for the welfare of these young children attending and the financial viability of the school, providing 15 hours of FEEE per week for eligible children. The school understand that by setting up provision flexibly, for example with the option for parents to buy additional sessions, the offer would be open to all families within the community.
- 9 At its December 2022 meeting, Executive Board considered the outcome of an initial consultation on this proposal and approved the recommendation to publish a statutory notice, marking the start of a formal four-week consultation period. Paragraph 23 provides detail about the consultation that has taken place.

## **What impact will this proposal have?**

- 10 This proposal creates a positive impact for families within the Gipton area and can only support the aim to create positive outcomes for all children in city and specifically those living in areas of most disadvantage.

- 11 The creation of a further 24 places in this area will not negatively impact on other local providers, due to the numbers of children in the area who are eligible.
- 12 As part of the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) to improve attendance, attainment and achievement, the linked Leeds 3 A's plan has a priority of 'all children, young people and families are supported to access and regularly attend early years education settings', which this proposal supports. In addition, the 'Health and wellbeing' and 'Inclusive growth' pillars of our Best City Ambition reinforce the aim to improve lives of families who are most likely to experience poverty and to ensure that all children in all areas of the city have the best start in life and enjoy a healthy, happy and friendly childhood. By providing early education opportunities this proposal also supports the understanding that place matters, contributing towards positive identities within communities.
- 13 Leeds City Council is focussed on increasing the take-up of two-year-old FEEE in the most disadvantaged areas of the city as well as raising awareness of the benefits of early education and childcare for families. Based on the past 3 terms of claims Harehills has an average take-up rate of 53%. The citywide average is 77%.
- 14 The intention of creating places at a school-based setting offers parents a wider choice of provision. We understand that in order to achieve good take-up rates, places must be local and accessible.
- 15 Although the intention is to provide places for families within Gipton and the wider Harehills area, being located near to the Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward, this may provide an alternative to families there if places are available.
- 16 During the last Ofsted inspection, the lead inspector acknowledged that the early years provision provided children with a "flying start" and that there was evidence next time to go for an outstanding judgement in early years.
- 17 There is evidence that the children's communication and language significantly accelerate due to the work of the early year team at the school and to broaden that out to children from two years should have a positive impact on their outcomes by the time they leave early years.
- 18 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening (EDCI) form that considered the statutory process is attached as appendix 1.

### **How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?**

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 19 This proposal, if approved, would support the Health and Wellbeing and Inclusive Growth pillars of the Best City Ambition by ensuring children in all areas of the city have the best start in life and enjoy a healthy, happy and friendly childhood. It would also support the aim to improve lives of families who are most likely to experience poverty. By providing early education opportunities this proposal also supports the understanding that place matters, contributing towards positive identities within communities.
- 20 Providing places close to where children live allows improved accessibility to local and desirable early years settings, is an efficient use of resources and reduces the risk of non-attendance. As part of the breakthrough priorities under inclusive growth, this proposal forms part of the learning outcomes for social mobility, with a focus on early years, working to ensure every child in Leeds has a good start in life.
- 21 In addition, by providing additional good quality early years places in an already established school, located in an area where eligibility for places is high, will contribute towards the achievement of the Child Friendly City aim of 'improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes'.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Gipton and Harehills

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

- 22 The process in respect of this proposal has been managed in accordance with the relevant legislation and with local good practice.
- 23 An initial public consultation about this proposal took place during October/November 2022. The outcome of that consultation was detailed in a report to Executive Board at its December 2022 meeting and approval was given to publish a statutory notice. A statutory notice was published in the Yorkshire Evening Post on 9 January 2023 marking the start of a four-week formal consultation (representation) period which ended on 5 February 2023. The full proposal was published on Leeds City Council's website and all parents/carers at the school received notification, along with any stakeholder who responded to the first stage of public consultation and provided their contact details. Other local schools were also informed about the proposal along with ward councillors and other relevant stakeholders.
- 24 During the representation period, anyone could submit comments on or objections to the proposal via email or post. A total of one representation was received in support of the proposal, as follows;

"I strongly support the lowering admission age for your pre-schooler. I currently have a child in [REDACTED] and would glad take up a place if offered for my [REDACTED]-year-old. Having both children in one location, would give me a well organised dropping and picking up arrangement in order for me to get myself back into work. I therefore give my support as a local parent looking for early childhood care arrangements".

## What are the resource implications?

- 25 There is no capital cost to this scheme for the local authority.
- 26 The school have already committed to remodelling their indoor and outdoor learning environment and appointed architects to develop the plans for the remodelling of the nursery, working collaboratively with colleagues from Leeds City Council's Assets and Access team and working in partnership with the Learning Improvement advisors to ensure a high-quality learning environment is established. Irrespective of the proposal being approved, the school are committed to improving their early years provision space and have the funds available to carry this out. If the proposal is approved the additional remodelling will create space which can then be used to create the 24 two-year-old FEEE places with no additional capital costs.

## What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 27 The proposal to change the age range at Wykebeck Primary School has been brought forward to meet the need for additional FEEE places for eligible 2-year-olds and create opportunities to give the best start possible for young children in the Gipton and Harehills area. A decision not to proceed at this stage could mean a lack of available places for children within an area of high demographic need and the authority's ability to meet its legislative requirement to secure sufficient early education places in the area would be at risk.
- 28 There is also a corporate risk associated with failing to provide sufficient school/learning places in good quality buildings that meet the needs of local communities.

## What are the legal implications?

- 29 The changes proposed form prescribed alterations under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and are aligned with the statutory process set out in the Department for Education's

guidance document, 'Making significant changes (prescribed alterations) to maintained schools' (October 2018).

- 30 At its meeting in September 2021 Executive Board members agreed that in the future, and in response to the recommendation of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board, anonymised consultation responses be shared in full with Executive Board Members as 'background documents'. These would be published alongside the agenda papers, but not form part of the formal agenda. In this case as there was only one consultation response this has been anonymised and is included in full at paragraph 24. Executive Board members are asked to consider this as part of their decision making.
- 31 It is recommended that this report be exempt from Call-In, in line with Executive & Decision Making Procedure Rule 5.1.3, this report being exempt from Call In if the decision taker considers that the decision is urgent (i.e. that any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests). Executive Board is the decision maker for this proposal and statutory guidance states that a final decision must be made within 2 months of the end of the statutory notice period, therefore by 4 April 2023, or be referred to the Schools Adjudicator. Following initial public consultation on the proposal in October/November 2022 the earliest date that Executive Board could consider a recommendation to publish a statutory notice was at its meeting in December 2022. The decision to publish a statutory notice was implemented on 9 January 2023 following the expiry of the call-in period for the December 2022 Executive Board meeting. The representation period ended on 5 February 2023 and the earliest a report could go to Executive Board, following clearance, is March 2023. If the decision was then 'called-in' and Scrutiny Board subsequently referred the matter back to Executive Board with a recommendation to reconsider its decision, this could not be done until Executive Board on 19 April 2023, which would be outside of the 2-month decision period. The consequence would be that a local decision could no longer be made, and the matter would automatically be referred to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to decide.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

- 32 The Governing body of the school approached the local authority as part of the work the authority is doing to increase take-up of FEEE in the area, therefore no other options have been considered at this point. However, further additional places may be required in the future and options to increase existing provision will be considered.

### **How will success be measured?**

- 33 If approved, the proposal will offer 24 places each year for eligible two-year-olds in one of the most disadvantaged areas of the city and support the ambition and priorities to give children and families the best start in life.

### **What is the timescale and who will be responsible for implementation?**

- 34 This proposal has been brought forward to allow the local authority to change the age range of Wykebeck Primary School and allow the school to deliver 24 FEEE places for eligible two-year-olds from September 2023.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) screening form.

## **Background papers**

- None.

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# Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening



As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provides a record of both the **process** and **decision**. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions. Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.
- whether or not equality, diversity, cohesion and integration is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

<b>Directorate:</b> Children and Families	<b>Service area:</b> Sufficiency and Participation
<b>Lead person:</b> Sophie Dillon	<b>Contact number:</b> 0113 3780411

**Title:** Outcome of statutory notice to change the age range of Wykebeck Primary School from 3-11 years to 2-11 years with effect from September 2023

Is this a:

**Strategy / Policy**
                 
  **Service / Function**
                 
  **Other**

**If other, please specify**

The proposal is to change the age range at Wykebeck Primary School, from 3-11 years to 2-11 years.

**2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening**

Leeds City Council is consulting on a proposal to change the age range at Wykebeck Primary School, from 3-11 years to 2-11 years from September 2023.

An initial, informal consultation ran from 17 October to 06 November 2022 seeking views on the proposed change.

The outcome of that initial consultation was considered by Leeds City Council's Executive Board at its meeting in December 2022 and a recommendation to publish a Statutory Notice was approved.

This screening form records the considerations that have been made in relation to the publication of the Statutory Notice, to ensure that the *consultation and engagement process* with stakeholders takes equality, diversity, cohesion and integration into account. It also ensures that any lessons are learned and applied from the initial informal consultation.

Whilst the scope of the screening does not include consideration of the impact of a *decision* to change the age-range, a comment about the positive impact the proposal would be expected to have is provided in the 'key findings' section.

**3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration**

All the council's strategies and policies, service and functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater or lesser relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Also those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being.

Questions	Yes	No
Is there an existing or likely differential impact for the different equality characteristics?		x
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?	x	
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	x	
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		x
Does the proposal involve or will it have an impact on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment</li> <li>• Advancing equality of opportunity</li> <li>• Fostering good relations</li> </ul>	x	

If you have answered **no** to the questions above please complete **sections 6 and 7**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above and;

- Believe you have already considered the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 4**.
- Are not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 5**.

**4. Considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration**

- **How have you considered equality, diversity, cohesion and integration?**

An initial, informal consultation took place from 17 October to 6 November 2022 seeking views on the proposed change to the age range at the school. That consultation was managed in accordance with local good practice, seeking to ensure that a wide range of stakeholders were consulted within the community, using various communication tools. The school also promoted the consultation through their usual methods of communication

with families. These measures helped to ensure maximum engagement with families and the community.

At its meeting in December 2022, Leeds City Council's Executive Board noted the outcome of the consultation and approved a recommendation to publish a Statutory Notice. A Statutory Notice was published in the Yorkshire Evening Post on 9 January 2023 marking the start of a four-week formal consultation (representation) period which ended on 5 February 2023. The full proposal was also published on Leeds City Council's website and all parents/carers at the school received notification, along with any stakeholder who responded to the first stage of public consultation and provided their contact details. Other local schools were also informed about the proposal along with ward councillors and other relevant stakeholders.

Before publication of the Statutory Notice, consideration was given to comments submitted by stakeholders during the initial consultation.

- **Key findings**

The Sufficiency and Participation team noted that during the initial consultation, whilst not all respondents supported the proposal, there were no concerns raised about the consultation or engagement.

The initial consultation process worked to ensure that the consultation had a positive impact on the different equality characteristics or areas that impact on/are related to equality, such as tackling poverty. This was achieved by ensuring that as many different and relevant communications methods were used to reach families within this community.

At the Statutory Notice stage, again, various communication methods were used to ensure that stakeholders were aware of the proposals and had the opportunity to respond.

The screening has considered the Statutory Notice *process* itself and was not intended to consider the impact of a *decision* to change the age range at the school. However, it should be noted that if approved, the proposal would result in the creation of a further 24 places of early education for two-year-olds within one of the most disadvantaged areas of the city. This would help advance equality of opportunity and support the aim to improve lives of families who are most likely to experience poverty.

- **Actions**

During the initial consultation process, all views were considered equally and any responses received during the Statutory Notice (representation) period will also be considered by Leeds City Council's Executive Board. No other actions are considered necessary at this stage.

**5. If you are *not* already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you *will need to carry out an impact assessment*.**

Date to scope and plan your impact assessment:	
Date to complete your impact assessment	
Lead person for your impact assessment	

(Include name and job title)	
------------------------------	--

<b>6. Governance, ownership and approval</b>		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Darren Crawley	Lead for Sufficiency and Participation	20 January 2023
<b>Date screening completed</b>	12 December 2022	

<b>7. Publishing</b>	
<p>Though <b>all</b> key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council <b>only</b> publishes those related to <b>Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions</b> or a <b>Significant Operational Decision</b>.</p> <p>A copy of this equality screening should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full Council.</li> <li>• The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions.</li> <li>• A copy of all other equality screenings that are not to be published should be sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a> for record.</li> </ul> <p>Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached screening was sent:</p>	
For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to <b>Governance Services</b>	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate <b>Directorate</b>	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a>	Date sent:

## Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise Programme Update

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Report of: Director of City Development

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

This report provides an update on the Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise Business Support Programmes which have been successfully delivered by the Council on behalf of the Leeds City Region since 2016. The report outlines efforts made by the Council in developing a new funding package for both programmes which will extend delivery for up to a further three years to 2026. The report seeks approval to enter into a series of contracts and funding agreements with the principal funder – West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and delivery partners based across West Yorkshire. The report seeks authority to spend up to £5m of Gainshare funding and up to £4,676,147 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) over the period 2023-26.

### Recommendations

Executive Board is requested to :

- a) Note the progress and success of Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise to date in supporting businesses and individuals across the Leeds City Region.
- b) Authorise the Director of City Development to enter into contract with West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise Business Support Programmes.
- c) Authorise the Director of City Development to enter into funding agreements with delivery partners and take all necessary action to ensure that the Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise programmes continue to support businesses and individuals across West Yorkshire.
- d) Approve the authority to spend up to £5m of Gainshare funding on the Ad:Venture Programme and up to £4,676,147 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) on the Digital Enterprise Programme.

## What is this report about?

- 1 This report provides an update on the Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise Business Support Programmes which have been successfully delivered by the Council on behalf the Leeds City Region since 2016. The report outlines efforts made by the Council in developing new funding packages for these programmes and seeks approval to enter into a series of contracts and funding agreements with the principle funder – West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and delivery partners. The report seeks authority to spend up to £5m of Gainshare funding and up to £4,676,147 of UKSPF over the period 2023-26.

## Background

- 2 Since 2016 Leeds City Council has been the lead partner for the Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise business support programmes. These programmes have principally been funded through £25m from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and have been delivered and managed by the Council on behalf of a city region wide partnership. This has enabled significant benefits to be delivered to businesses and individuals in the Leeds district with delivery contributing to two of the big project ideas in the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy.
- 3 The Ad:Venture programme delivers a range of support to prospective entrepreneurs, new start-ups and young businesses trading for up to three years. Key elements of the support provided include 1-2-1 business advice, workshops covering key business topics such as sales & marketing, Higher Education programmes linking prospective businesses with academic expertise, a dedicated programme of support for young entrepreneurs and access to financial support in the form of business loans and growth grants. Since 2016 over 2,000 businesses have received support and over 800 new jobs have been created by the programme. To put this into context over the last five years there was an average of 12,771 new business starts per annum across the Leeds City region with approximately 31% of new business starts in the city region based in the Leeds Metropolitan District. For more information on Ad:Venture please see [Home · Ad:Venture Portal \(ad-venture.org.uk\)](https://ad-venture.org.uk)
- 4 The Digital Enterprise Programme helps small/medium sized businesses (SMEs) to invest in digital technology with the ultimate aim of supporting business growth and improvements to business productivity. Key elements of the support provided include access to digital skills training and business mentoring, financial support in the form of business grants to enable investment in digital technology and improved digital connectivity to support business growth. Since 2016 over 3,000 businesses have received support and over 1,000 gross new jobs are estimated to have been created by programme recipients. To put this into context there are approximately 112,000 businesses in the City Region with over 99% being classified as SMEs. Investment in new digital technologies is an essential tool to help SMEs to survive and grow with the Digital Enterprise Programme playing an important role throughout the Covid -19 pandemic by helping SMEs to work remotely and taking their businesses online. For more information on Digital Enterprise please see [Digital Enterprise – Digital Growth Vouchers](#)
- 5 In common with the majority of ERDF funded Business Support Programmes funding for Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise is due to finish on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The Council has therefore been working with its partners over the last year to determine future priorities on a revised economic geography focused on West Yorkshire. Part of this work has been to consider whether existing Business Support programmes should continue beyond 2023 and to examine potential future funding sources such as Combined Authority Gainshare and UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Future funding priorities for West Yorkshire Business Support which included Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise were agreed with the Combined Authority's

Business, Economy & Innovation Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022. This led to the Council working with West Yorkshire Local Authorities to design revised delivery models for Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise which continued to offer significant benefits to businesses and individuals while delivering enhanced value for money for the public purse.

- 6 The revised Ad:Venture delivery model continues to provide a range of support to prospective entrepreneurs; new start-ups and young businesses trading up to three years. Key elements of the new programme include 1-2-1 business advice delivered by a team of business advisors embedded in West Yorkshire local authorities, workshops covering key business topics managed by an in house LCC marketing and events team, a dedicated programme of support for young entrepreneurs and a new financial support offer consisting of a West Yorkshire wide enterprise loan fund and a revised business grant offer. The total costs of the revised Ad:Venture programme over the period 2023-26 are £10,352,563 which is proposed to be funded £5m from Combined Authority Gainshare, £5m from a WY wide enterprise loan fund delivered by the Business Enterprise Fund, £85,781 contribution from West Yorkshire Councils and £266,782 from the Princes Trust. It is projected that the revised Ad:Venture programme will support 2,400 businesses and help to create 610 new jobs across West Yorkshire by March 2026.
- 7 The revised Digital Enterprise programme focuses on helping established SMEs (those trading more than three years) to invest in digital technology and improved digital connectivity. The total costs of the revised Digital Enterprise Programme over the period 2023-25 are £8,686,772 which is proposed to be funded by £4,676,147 from UKSPF with private sector contributions to grant awards making up the remainder of the funding. The programme aims to support 480 SMEs with digital investment projects and help to create 120 new jobs across West Yorkshire by March 2025.
- 8 Funding applications for Ad:Venture (referred to by the Combined Authority as High Growth Enterprise Programme) and Digital Enterprise have been submitted into the Combined Authority's programme appraisal process. Both projects received approval at the Combined Authority Committee on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023. Please see [WYCA - Modern Gov](#)

### **What impact will this proposal have?**

- 9 As explained in points 6 & 7 above the revised Ad:Venture programme aims to support 2,400 businesses & help to create 610 new jobs across West Yorkshire by March 2026. The revised Digital Enterprise programme aims to support 480 SMEs with digital investment projects and help to create 120 new jobs by March 2025.
- 10 As part of the Combined Authority Programme Appraisal process equality, diversity, cohesion and integration (EDCI) screening forms have been completed and these are provided at Appendix 1.

### **How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?**

Health and Wellbeing       Inclusive Growth       Zero Carbon

- 11 This proposal is in line with the Best City Ambition and its mission to tackle poverty and inequality and improve quality of life; focusing on an economy that works for everyone; improving the health of the poorest the fastest and improving standards of living in all the city's communities.

- 12 This proposal is in line with the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy and in particular two of the twelve big project ideas “Backing Innovators and Entrepreneurs in business and social enterprises” and “Leeds as a Digital City”.

### **What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

Wards affected: ALL

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

- 13 The revised Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise Programmes have been produced in consultation with our partners across West Yorkshire. The Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education was consulted on these proposals on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

### **What are the resource implications?**

- 14 The LCC contribution to the above projects is £29,202 over the period 2023-26. This contribution will be made from existing LCC resources in the LCC Economic Development team.
- 15 The existing LCC Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise teams will be responsible for delivery and the proposed £5m of Combined Authority Gainshare and £4,676,147 of UK Share Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) will secure funding to support seventeen existing posts in the LCC Economic Development team.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

- 16 The key risk relates to delays in programme approval and the subsequent impact on programme mobilisation. This risk is mitigated by having an experienced delivery team in post who have significant experience in launching and managing business support programmes.

### **What are the legal implications?**

- 17 The Council has the powers under the Localism Act 2011 to perform the duties and responsibilities outlined in this report.
- 18 In administering Business Support funds, the Council has an obligation to ensure that any support provided is compliant with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. The Subsidy Control Act 2022 provides a legal framework for public authorities to award subsidies to businesses in line with the UK’s domestic and international obligations. Any subsidies provided to businesses under the Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise programmes will be provided under the Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) regulations as set out in the Subsidy Control Act 2022. MFA allows public authorities to award low-value subsidies (up to £315,000 in total over three financial years) without the need to comply with the majority of the subsidy control requirements. Individual subsidies of more than £100K will be published on the BEIS Transparency Database.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

- 19 In producing revised delivery models for the Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise programmes the Council considered other delivery options. These were set out as part of the Combined Authority’s programme appraisal process. On considering the delivery options available the preferred delivery option for both programmes were considered by the principal funder the



Combined Authority to offer the best value for money for the public purse. For more information please see the published Agenda & associated reports for the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Committee meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.

### **How will success be measured?**

20 By delivering the contracted outputs which are outlined in this report. In addition to reporting on contracted outputs both programmes will be subject to independent evaluation with an evaluation report being produced for each programme to ensure that lessons are learned for future delivery.

### **What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

21 Both programmes anticipate that Combined Authority funding contracts will be issued by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and that delivery will commence in the first quarter of 2023/24. The current programme director and LCC Head of Business Support will be responsible for implementation.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 EDCI screening forms for the Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise Programmes.

### **Background papers**

- None.

### **Related Documents**

- Executive Board 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 see report on European Structural & Investment Funds Programme 2014-2020 Update [Council and democracy \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://leeds.gov.uk/council-and-democracy)
- Executive Board 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 see report on Extension of the Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise Programmes [Council and democracy \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://leeds.gov.uk/council-and-democracy)
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority Business, Economy and Innovation Committee 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 [Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Business, Economy and Innovation Committee, 12/07/2022 14:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://modern.gov.co.uk/moderngov.co.uk)
- Executive Board 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 see report on UK Shared Prosperity Fund [Council and democracy \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://leeds.gov.uk/council-and-democracy)
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority Investment Priority 1 : Good Jobs and Resilient Businesses [WYCA - Modern Gov](https://www.wyca.gov.uk/moderngov)

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Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise  
 Programme Update :  
 Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and  
 Integration (EDCI) impact assessment  
 for the Digital Enterprise Programme



As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration. In all appropriate instances we will need to carry out an equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment.

This form:

- can be used to prompt discussion when carrying out your impact assessment
- should be completed either during the assessment process or following completion of the assessment
- should include a brief explanation where a section is not applicable

<b>Directorate: City Development</b>	<b>Service area: Funding Programmes and Business Support</b>
<b>Lead person: Suzanne Bradbury</b>	<b>Contact number: 07891 274790</b>
<b>Date of the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment: 13th Sept 2022</b>	

**1. Title: Digital Enterprise**

Is this a:

**Strategy / Policy**
                         
  **Service / Function**
                         
  **Other**

**If other, please specify**  
 To assess a project ahead of submission to the first stage of application process for funding from West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**2. Members of the assessment team:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role on assessment team For example, service user, manager of service, specialist</b>
Suzanne Bradbury	Digital Enterprise team	Programme Manager responsible for implementation
Phil Cole	Leeds City Council	Programme Director accountable to the West Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership for programme delivery
Melanie Waggett	Digital Enterprise team	Marketing & Communications Officer for the Digital Enterprise Programme

<b>3. Summary of strategy, policy, service or function that was assessed:</b>
<p>This assessment is for the new phase of the Digital Enterprise Programme, which is led by Leeds City Council, on behalf of a West Yorkshire local authority partnership. The programme which will be delivered across all 5 local authority areas of West Yorkshire, will offer a range of digital support to small/medium sized enterprises (SMEs)</p> <p>Support available to businesses includes a grants programme, support from digital advisers and support via an events programme.</p>

<b>4. Scope of the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment</b> (complete - 4a. if you are assessing a strategy, policy or plan and 4b. if you are assessing a service, function or event)
--

<b>4a. Strategy, policy or plan</b> (please tick the appropriate box below)	
The vision and themes, objectives or outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>
The vision and themes, objectives or outcomes and the supporting guidance	<input type="checkbox"/>
A specific section within the strategy, policy or plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please provide detail:</b>	

<b>4b. Service, function, event</b> please tick the appropriate box below	
The whole service (including service provision and employment)	<input type="checkbox"/>
A specific part of the service (including service provision or employment or a specific section of the service)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Procuring of a service (by contract or grant)	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please provide detail:**  
See above the assessment relates to a series of activities to support SMEs.

**5. Fact finding – what do we already know**  
Make a note here of all information you will be using to carry out this assessment. This could include: previous consultation, involvement, research, results from perception surveys, equality monitoring and customer/ staff feedback.  
(priority should be given to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration related information)

The Digital Enterprise Programme started delivery in 2016. Currently the programme monitors on a regular basis the take up of support by local authority area across the Leeds City Region. The table below shows take up of the main grant product – the Digital Growth Voucher from July 2019 to the end of June 2022 :

Local Authority District	Number of Vouchers	Total Voucher Amount	Average Voucher Claim Amount	% Of Total Voucher Claim Amount
Leeds	265	£2,070,677	£7,814	41.10%
Bradford	132	£789,348	£5,980	15.67%
Kirklees	102	£621,751	£6,096	12.34%
Wakefield	82	£483,055	£5,891	9.59%
Calderdale	69	£464,373	£6,730	9.22%
Harrogate	52	£293,674	£5,648	5.83%
York	41	£211,825	£5,166	4.20%
Craven	13	£49,440	£3,803	0.98%
Selby	8	£54,032	£6,754	1.07%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>£5,038,174</b>	<b>£6,594</b>	<b>100%</b>

To date the Programme has not broken down take up below local authority district and no data is available on diversity characteristics of programme participants.

**Are there any gaps in equality and diversity information**  
**Please provide detail:**  
As stated above yes there are gaps in equality and diversity in common with most business support programmes.

**Action required:**

To collect equality and diversity characteristics of individual applicants, utilising monitoring systems/best practice used in the Business Growth Service/ other Business Support Programmes supported by UKSPF/gainshare.

To further develop the CRM system to be able to report on Equality & diversity characteristics and to dig down below district level to examine take up within districts to identify gaps.

Once more intelligence is available look to utilise this in proactive approaches to marketing & communication.

Given the widening of the target audience (from B2B to include B2C) it is more important to work on the intelligence to be able to identify those who need support and where the greatest added value can be achieved with scarce public resources.

**6. Wider involvement – have you involved groups of people who are most likely to be affected or interested**

Yes

No

**Please provide detail:**

The project will be delivered across West Yorkshire and officers from Bradford, Kirklees, Wakefield, Calderdale and West Yorkshire Combined Authority have been consulted on the proposal. Digital Enterprise participants will also be contacted as part of the evaluation process.

**Action required:**

**7. Who may be affected by this activity?**

please tick all relevant and significant equality characteristics, stakeholders and barriers that apply to your strategy, policy, service or function

**Equality characteristics**

Age

Carers

Disability

Gender reassignment

Race

Religion or Belief

Sex (male or female)

Sexual orientation

Other

(**Other** can include – marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, and those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being)

**Please specify:**

### Stakeholders

Services users

Employees

Trade Unions

Partners

Members

Suppliers

Other please specify

### Potential barriers

Built environment

Location of premises and services

Information and communication

Customer care

Timing

Stereotypes and assumptions

Cost

Consultation and involvement

Financial exclusion

Employment and training

specific barriers to the strategy, policy, services or function

**Please specify**

### 8. Positive and negative impact

Think about what you are assessing (scope), the fact-finding information, the potential positive and negative impact on equality characteristics, stakeholders and the effect of the barriers

#### 8a. Positive impact:

The support offered to businesses will have a positive impact overall. Business owners from all backgrounds will be able to access all aspects of the programme. The aspiration is that the project will be able to drill down into local authority districts to support a wider range of businesses who need support and where the greatest added value can be achieved for scarce public resources.

<b>Action required:</b>
No action is required at this stage. Full programme detail is still to be worked up.

<b>8b. Negative impact:</b>
There are no negative impacts: the programme will be open to all.
<b>Action required:</b>

<b>9. Will this activity promote strong and positive relationships between the groups/communities identified?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Please provide detail:</b>
n/a
<b>Action required:</b>
n/a

<b>10. Does this activity bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other? (for example, in schools, neighbourhood, workplace)</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Please provide detail:</b>
Attendance at specialist workshops, sessions and events will help businesses to collaborate with each other across West Yorkshire
<b>Action required: None</b>



**11. Could this activity be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another?** (for example where your activity or decision is aimed at adults could it have an impact on children and young people)

Yes

No

**Please provide detail:**

The new programme will be open to a greater number of business sectors because of changes to funding criteria. The programme will enable businesses to be more resilient protecting jobs as well as helping to facilitate growth.

**Action required: None**

**12. Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration action plan**

(insert all your actions from your assessment here, set timescales, measures and identify a lead person for each action)

Action	Timescale	Measure	Lead person
further develop the CRM system to be able to report on EDI characteristics and to dig down below district level to examine take up within districts to identify gaps.	Aim to develop the CRM by the start of the proposed new contract in July 2023	Being able to report easily below district level and being able to analyse data.	Suzanne Bradbury, Programme Manager
To collect equality and diversity characteristics of individual applicants, utilising monitoring systems/best practice used in the Business Growth Service/ other Business Support Programmes supported by UKSPF/gainshare.	Aim to establish best practice on collecting EDI data from SMEs by the start of the proposed new contract in July 2023.	Have in place a new system for collecting EDI data which is consistent with best practice and other UKSPF/gainshare business support programmes	Suzanne Bradbury, Programme Manager
Once more intelligence is available look to utilise this in proactive approaches to marketing & communication to help to improve take up amongst under-represented communities	Review EDI data after the first 12 months of delivery under the new proposed new contract by July 2024.	Review EDI data, benchmark where possible with other Business Support Programmes/the wider business stock, aim to put in place a marketing & communications plan to address under representation	Suzanne Bradbury, Programme Manager

**13. Governance, ownership and approval**

State here who has approved the actions and outcomes from the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment

Name	Job title	Date
Phil Cole	Head of Funded Programmes & Business Support	13/9/22
<b>Date impact assessment completed</b>		<b>13/9/22</b>

**14. Monitoring progress for equality, diversity, cohesion and integration actions (please tick)**

- As part of Service Planning performance monitoring
- As part of Project monitoring
- Update report will be agreed and provided to the appropriate board  
Please specify which board
- Other

**15. Publishing**

Though **all** key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council **only** publishes those related to **Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions** or a **Significant Operational Decision**.

A copy of this equality impact assessment should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:

- Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full Council.
- The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions.
- A copy of all other equality impact assessments that are not to be published should be sent to [equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk) for record.

Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached assessment was sent:

For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to <b>Governance Services</b>	Date sent: n/a
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate <b>Directorate</b>	Date sent: n/a
All other decisions – sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a>	Date sent: n/a

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Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise Programme Update :  
Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) impact assessment for the Ad:Venture Programme



As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration. In all appropriate instances we will need to carry out an equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment.

This form:

- can be used to prompt discussion when carrying out your impact assessment
- should be completed either during the assessment process or following completion of the assessment
- should include a brief explanation where a section is not applicable

<b>Directorate: City Development</b>	<b>Service area: Funding Programmes and Business Support</b>
<b>Lead person: Stuart Ross</b>	<b>Contact number:</b>
<b>Date of the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment: August 2022</b>	

<b>1. Title: Ad:Venture</b>
Is this a:
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>
<p><b>If other, please specify</b> To assess a project ahead of submission to the first stage of application process for funding from West Yorkshire Combined Authority</p>

**2. Members of the assessment team:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role on assessment team For example, service user, manager of service, specialist</b>
Stuart Ross	Leeds City Council	Economic Development Programme Leader
Phil Cole	Leeds City Council	Head of Funding Programmes and Business Support

The assessment has been informed by the mid-term evaluation and review of the grant programme which took place in early 2022. This involved beneficiary businesses, stakeholders and delivery partners.

**3. Summary of strategy, policy, service or function that was assessed:**

This assessment is for the new phase of the Ad:Venture Enterprise Programme, which is led by Leeds City Council, on behalf of a West Yorkshire, multi-stakeholder partnership. The programme which will be delivered across all 5 local authority areas of West Yorkshire, will offer a range of support to new entrepreneurs and young businesses (those less than 3 years old) to enable them to grow and thrive, to either safeguard existing jobs or to create new jobs and employment opportunities.

Support available to businesses includes a grants programme, support from a dedicated business adviser, virtual support through a webinar programme and investment readiness support to access a loan fund.

**4. Scope of the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment**  
(complete - 4a. if you are assessing a strategy, policy or plan and 4b. if you are assessing a service, function or event)

**4a. Strategy, policy or plan**  
(please tick the appropriate box below)

The vision and themes, objectives or outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>
The vision and themes, objectives or outcomes and the supporting guidance	<input type="checkbox"/>
A specific section within the strategy, policy or plan	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please provide detail:**

**4b. Service, function, event**  
please tick the appropriate box below

The whole service (including service provision and employment)	<input type="checkbox"/>
A specific part of the service (including service provision or employment or a specific section of the service)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

Procuring of a service (by contract or grant)	
<p><b>Please provide detail:</b> See above the assessment relates to a series of activities to support SMEs.</p>	

<p><b>5. Fact finding – what do we already know</b> Make a note here of all information you will be using to carry out this assessment. This could include: previous consultation, involvement, research, results from perception surveys, equality monitoring and customer/ staff feedback.</p> <p>(priority should be given to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration related information)</p> <p>AdVenture delivery commenced in 2016. It will be funded by European Regional Development Fund until June 2023. A mid-term/interim evaluation was carried out and a full review of the grants programme element was completed in February 2022. The grants programme review involved focus groups and 1-1 meetings with programme stakeholders, businesses which had applied for grants, and business advisers funded by the programme and employed by West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>The brief included reviewing how effective the programme had been in engaging the groups listed below, and identifying possible improvements in provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female entrepreneurs</li> <li>• Entrepreneurs from ethnically diverse communities</li> <li>• Entrepreneurs from the most deprived parts of the City Region</li> <li>• Persons that consider themselves to have a disability.</li> </ul> <p>The evaluation found that overall Ad:Venture had good engagement with female entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from ethnically diverse communities at the pre-start stage. with particularly strong with entrepreneurs from Asian/British Asian and Black African, Caribbean, and Black British communities. 26% of pre-start beneficiaries were from ethnically diverse communities compared to 15.7% on the working age population as a whole. The gender balance across the programme is generally positive with 41% of pre-start entrepreneurs stated that they were female, and 33% of start-ups. Whilst this is a lower gender balance that in the population as a whole, research carried out in 2020 indicated that 33% of businesses in the UK are female owned.</p> <p>Those with disabilities are under-represented at both pre-start and start-up stages.</p> <p><b>Are there any gaps in equality and diversity information</b> <b>Please provide detail:</b></p> <p>There is a clear baseline of recent data about under-represented groups for the next phase of the programme, and recommendations from the evaluation will be considered as part of its development to full business case stage.</p> <p><b>Action required:</b></p>
---

**6. Wider involvement – have you involved groups of people who are most likely to be affected or interested**

Yes

No

**Please provide detail:**

Businesses and individual entrepreneurs who accessed the AdVenture programme were consulted as part of the interim evaluation and the grants programme review. The final evaluation of the programme will be complete in spring 2023.

The project will be delivered across West Yorkshire and officers from Bradford, Kirklees, Wakefield, Calderdale and West Yorkshire Combined Authority have been consulted on the proposal.

**Action required:**

**7. Who may be affected by this activity?**

please tick all relevant and significant equality characteristics, stakeholders and barriers that apply to your strategy, policy, service or function

**Equality characteristics**

Age

Carers

Disability

Gender reassignment

Race

Religion or Belief

Sex (male or female)

Sexual orientation

Other

(Other can include – marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, and those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being)

**Please specify:**

**Stakeholders**

Services users

Employees

Trade Unions

Partners

Members

Suppliers



Other please specify

**Potential barriers**

Built environment

Location of premises and services

Information and communication

Customer care

Timing

Stereotypes and assumptions

Cost

Consultation and involvement

Financial exclusion

Employment and training

specific barriers to the strategy, policy, services or function

Please specify

**8. Positive and negative impact**

Think about what you are assessing (scope), the fact-finding information, the potential positive and negative impact on equality characteristics, stakeholders and the effect of the barriers

**8a. Positive impact:**

The support offered to business owners and managers as well as individuals seeking to start up a business will have a positive impact overall. Business owners and individuals from all backgrounds will be able to access all aspects of the programme. The aspiration is that the project will be able to work with a greater proportion of female entrepreneurs, people from an ethnically diverse background and those with disabilities in this phase of programme delivery.

**Action required:**

No action is required at this stage. Full programme detail is still to be worked up.

**8b. Negative impact:**

There are no negative impacts: the programme will be open to all.

<b>Action required:</b>

<b>9. Will this activity promote strong and positive relationships between the groups/communities identified?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<b>Please provide detail:</b>
<b>Action required:</b> n/a

<b>10. Does this activity bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other? (for example, in schools, neighbourhood, workplace)</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<b>Please provide detail:</b> Face-to-face advice with a business adviser and attendance at specialist workshops, sessions and events will bring people and business owners from a wide range of backgrounds together.
<b>Action required:</b> none

<b>11. Could this activity be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another? (for example where your activity or decision is aimed at adults could it have an impact on children and young people)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<b>Please provide detail:</b> The current programme is open to new entrepreneurs, and the owners of small and medium sized enterprises with the potential for high growth. The new phase will be open to a greater number of business sectors because of changing funding criteria. The programme will enable businesses to grow and create new employment opportunities, which could be accessed by local residents and therefore impact the children of those appointed into any new roles.
<b>Action required:</b> none

**12. Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration action plan**

(insert all your actions from your assessment here, set timescales, measures and identify a lead person for each action)

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Lead person</b>
further develop the CRM system to be able to report on EDI characteristics and to dig down below district level to examine take up within districts to identify gaps.	Aim to develop the CRM by the start of the proposed new contract in Q1 2023/24	Being able to report easily below district level and being able to analyse data.	Stuart Ross, Programme Manager
Continue to use intelligence to inform proactive approaches to marketing & communication to help to improve take up amongst under-represented communities	Ongoing	Review EDI data, benchmark where possible with other Business Support Programmes/the wider business stock, put in place marketing & communications activities to address any under representation	Stuart Ross, Programme Manager
Consider the results of the independent Programme Evaluation & any Equality & Diversity issues	By Q1 2023/24	To be determined upon publication of the independent Programme Evaluation	Stuart Ross, Programme Manager

**13. Governance, ownership and approval**

State here who has approved the actions and outcomes from the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment

Name	Job title	Date
Phil Cole	Head of Funded Programmes and Business Support	1/9/22
<b>Date impact assessment completed</b>		

**14. Monitoring progress for equality, diversity, cohesion and integration actions (please tick)**

- As part of Service Planning performance monitoring
- As part of Project monitoring
- Update report will be agreed and provided to the appropriate board  
Please specify which board
- Other

**15. Publishing**

Though **all** key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council **only** publishes those related to **Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions** or a **Significant Operational Decision**.

A copy of this equality impact assessment should be attached as an appendix to the decision-making report:

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Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached assessment was sent:

For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to <b>Governance Services</b>	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate <b>Directorate</b>	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a>	Date sent:

## Financial Health Monitoring 2022/23 – Month 10 (January)

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Report of: Chief Officer - Financial Services

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Executive Board of the financial health of the Authority in respect of both the General Fund revenue budget and the Housing Revenue Account. At Month 10 (January) an overspend of £13.7m is projected for the Authority's General Fund services.
2. Where Directorates are projecting an overspend, savings actions to mitigate these pressures are included in the reported overspend position.
3. Any adverse variation to a balanced budget position at the 2022/23 year-end will require the use of Strategic Contingency Reserve balances. Ongoing pressures identified in the current year have been built into the 2023/24 budget.
4. In 2021/22 the Council received Government funding towards the costs of COVID-19. This was fully utilised in 2021/22 with no balance of funding available for 2022/23.
5. Any Collection Fund income shortfall arising in 2022/23 will impact on the Revenue Budget in 2023/24.
6. This report comments on financial performance against the 2022/23 budget, which has targeted resources towards the Council's policies and priorities as set out in the Council's Best City Ambition.
7. The current and future financial climate for local government represents a significant risk to the Council's priorities and ambitions. The position remains challenging and the budget for 2022/23 requires delivery of £16.5m of savings. At Month 10 it is anticipated that the majority of budgeted savings will be delivered or mitigating actions found.
8. Where known, increased inflation and the rising cost of living, including the 2022/23 agreed pay award, have been incorporated into this reported financial position. These pressures will continue to be assessed and reported periodically to this Board
9. This report provides the Board with information on the monitoring of the decision to freeze non-essential spend as one of the measures to balance the 2022/23 budget. Month 10 expenditure on a range of financial codes in scope shows that spend is 17.7% lower than over the same period in 2021/22. This reduction in expenditure has been included in the forecasts for the year being reported by Directorates.
10. At Month 10 the Housing Revenue Account is forecasting a balanced position.

# Recommendations

Executive Board are asked to:

- a) Note that at Month 10 (January) the Authority's General Fund services are forecasting an overspend of £13.7m and that the Housing Revenue Account is forecasting a balanced position.
- b) Note that where an overspend is projected Directorates, including the Housing Revenue Account, are required to present action plans to mitigate their reported pressures, in line with the Revenue Principles agreed by Executive Board in 2019. Savings actions identified to date are included in the reported overspend position and actions will continue to be identified for receipt at the March meeting of this Board.
- c) Note that known increased inflation and known impacts of the rising cost of living, including the agreed 2022/23 pay award, have been incorporated into this reported financial position. These pressures will continue to be assessed, with the latest position being incorporated into future reports to be received by this Board.

## What is this report about?

- 1 This report updates the Board on financial performance against the Council's 2022/23 General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budgets for the first ten months of the financial year. At Month 10 (January) an overspend of £13.7m is projected for the Authority's General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account is forecasting a balanced position. Any adverse variation to a balanced budget position for the General Fund at the 2022/23 year-end will require the use of Strategic Contingency Reserve balances.

## What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 The budget proposals contained in the 2022/23 Budget have, where appropriate, been the subject of the Council's Equality Impact Assessment process and mitigating measures put in place or planned where appropriate. As such, an Equality Impact Assessment was provided at Appendix 6 to the 2022/23 Revenue Budget and Council Tax Report.

## How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 3 The Best City Ambition is the Council's strategic plan which sets out its ambitions, outcomes and priorities for the City of Leeds and for the Local Authority. The Three Pillars of health and wellbeing, inclusive growth and achieving zero carbon underpin this vision and these can only be delivered through a sound understanding of the organisation's longer-term financial sustainability which enables decisions to be made that balance the resource implications of the Council's policies against financial constraints. This is the primary purpose of the Medium Term Financial Strategy which provides the framework for the determination of the Council's annual revenue budget.
- 4 This report needs to be seen in the context of the requirement for the Council to be financially sustainable and deliver a balanced budget position in 2022/23 so that resources can continue to be targeted at the Council's priorities.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

- 5 This is a factual report and is not subject to consultation. Public consultation on the 2022/23 Revenue Budget was carried out between December 2021 and January 2022 and is detailed in the 2022/23 Revenue Budget and Council Tax report presented to this Board in February 2022.

## What are the resource implications?

- 6 This is a revenue financial report and as such all resource implications are detailed in the report and appendices.

## What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 7 The reported budget position is considered in the context of risk to both the in year financial position and the potential impact on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. These risks are included on the Council's corporate risk register.
- 8 Budget management and monitoring is undertaken on a risk-based approach where financial management resources are prioritised to support those areas of the budget judged to be at risk such as the implementation of budget action plans, those budgets which are subject to fluctuating demand and key income budgets. To reinforce this approach, specific project management based support and reporting around the achievement of key budget actions plans is in place for 2022/23.
- 9 This position reflects the agreed 2022/23 pay increase. Further this position reflects the latest projections with regard to known inflationary pressures in respect of the increased cost of electricity, gas, fuel and the impact of the cost of living pressures on our residents or businesses which is likely to affect the cost of goods and services the Council procures, demand for support and welfare services the Council provides, and it also impacts upon activity levels that support a wide range of income streams. These financial projections will continue to be closely monitored and any variations to the current assumptions will be required to be managed within the 2022/23 approved budget.

## What are the legal implications?

- 10 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## Options, timescales and measuring success

### What other options were considered?

- 11 Not applicable

### How will success be measured?

- 12 Not applicable

### What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 13 Not applicable.

## Appendices

14 The following appendices are attached to this report:

- **Appendix 1** – background information, detailed narrative regarding the projected financial positions for directorates, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Housing Revenue Account HRA, update on Council Tax and Business Rates including collection performance.
- **Appendix 2** – Individual financial dashboards for directorates, DSG and the HRA.
- **Appendix 3** – Directorate Budget Action Plans.

## Background papers

15 None



## Financial Health Monitoring 2022/23 – Month 10 (January)

### 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. This report sets out for the Executive Board the Council's projected financial health position for 2022/23 at Month 10 (January).
- 1.2. Budget monitoring is a continuous process throughout the year, and this report reviews the position of the budget and highlights potential key risks and variations at Month 10.

### 2. Background information

- 2.1 Executive Board will recall that the net budget for the general fund for 2022/23 was set at £521.9m.
- 2.2 Following the closure of the 2021/22 accounts, the Council's general fund reserve stands at £33.2m. The 2022/23 budget assumes no contribution to this reserve during the current financial year.
- 2.3 The 2023/24 Revenue Budget and Council Tax report, received by the Executive Board in February 2023, assumed a balanced budget position for 2022/23 after the application of Government funding, the delivery of savings, the utilisation of earmarked reserves and the Council's share of the additional funding announced at the Final Local Government Finance Settlement in February 2023 relating to the surplus on the national Business Rates Levy Account. Any adverse variation to a balanced budget position at the 2022/23 year end will require the use of Strategic Contingency Reserve balances. Ongoing pressures identified in the current year have been built into the 2023/24 budget.
- 2.4 Financial monitoring continues to be undertaken on a risk-based approach where financial management resources are prioritised to support those areas of the budget that are deemed to be at risk, for example to the implementation of budget action plans, those budgets which are subject to fluctuating demand and key income budgets. This is reinforced through specific project management based support and reporting around the achievement of key budget actions plans.

### 3. Main Issues

- 3.1 At Month 10 (January) an overspend of £13.7m is projected across directorates (a marginal adverse change of £0.4m or 2.7% from the Month 9 position). As discussed in this report, this position encompasses the impact of the agreed national employers pay offer for 2022/23, increased energy costs and the impact of the Government's Energy Relief Bill, and, where known, other inflationary rises and the wider impact of rising cost of living pressures.
- 3.2 Any Collection Fund income shortfall arising in 2022/23 will impact on the Revenue Budget in 2023/24.
- 3.3 Directorate positions are summarised in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Summary Position Financial Year 2022/23 Month 10 (January)**

Directorate	Director	(Under) / Over spend for the current period				Previous Reported Position
		Staffing	Total Expenditure	Income	Total (under) /overspend	
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adults & Health	Caroline Baria	640	9,633	(9,633)	0	0
Children and Families	Julie Longworth	1,693	14,535	2,010	16,545	15,812
City Development	Martin Farrington	(725)	1,927	(1,927)	0	0
Communities, Housing & Environmer	James Rogers	3,046	2,944	(2,183)	762	0
Resources	Neil Evans	4,775	3,518	143	3,662	3,209
Strategic	Victoria Bradshaw	(232)	4,251	(11,499)	(7,249)	(5,667)
<b>Total Current Month</b>		<b>9,198</b>	<b>36,808</b>	<b>(23,089)</b>	<b>13,720</b>	<b>13,354</b>

<b>Previous reported (under)/over spend</b>	<b>10,955</b>	<b>36,762</b>	<b>(23,409)</b>	<b>13,354</b>
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### Managing the Overspend

- 3.4** As noted in **Table 1**, at Month 10 the Council is projecting an overspend of £13.7m for the financial year 2022/23. Cross-directorate task and finish working groups will continue to work with services projecting an overspend to support them to reduce cost pressures.
- 3.5** As requested at September's Executive Board, directorates have been required to identify action plans to both address reported overspends and absorb the financial impact of the national employers pay offer for 2022/23. These actions include, with a small number of exceptions, a freeze on recruitment (including on agency staff and overtime), and a freeze on non-essential spend. Exceptions to this may include expenditure needed for health and safety reasons, to meet a statutory service requirement, to prevent further costs, or that helps generate income that more than outweighs the cost of recruiting to these roles.
- 3.6** Cross-directorate task and finish working groups will continue to work with services projecting an overspend to support them to reduce cost pressures. In order to monitor and identify progress on these working groups, savings action plans have been developed to record pressures and monitor improvement and proposals will continue to be developed to support directorates to deliver a balanced position, with further proposals incorporated into future Financial Health reports to be received at Executive Board.

### Directorate Positions

- 3.7** The major Directorate variations in Table 1 are outlined below, with additional detail provided on the Directorate dashboards at Appendix 2 of this report. These reported

directorate positions reflect any additional savings generated through the implementation of savings action plans.

**3.7.1 Adults & Health** - At Month 10 Adults & Health Directorate is projected to deliver a balanced budget, although there are significant risks around demand and income targets outlined below. The Net Managed Budget (NMB) for 2022-23 is £197.30m, comprised of £384.03m of gross expenditure offset by £186.73m of gross income. Reflected in the 2022-23 budget are Budget Action Plans totalling £6.994m.

Two provisions have been identified that are no longer required and have been written back into the Adults & Health 2022-23 revenue budget; £1.15m for Ordinary Residence provision and £0.492m for COVID grant funding to cover any repayment to the Department for Health & Social Care for ineligible expenditure. This is offsetting a contribution from Adults & Health into the Strategic Contingency Reserve of £1.642m.

### **Budget Action Plans**

At Month 10 there are concerns around the delivery of 3 Budget Action Plans with a forecast impact of £2.214m:

- £1.024m relating to the strategic review for Social Work due to slippage in recruiting staff.
- £0.190m relating to slippage in the budget action plan for the refurbishment of the 3 LCC run residential homes, with a revised opening date of early March 2023 for Spring Gardens and the other two slipping into the 2023-24 financial year.
- £1.0m income shortfall against the £1m additional Client income Budget Action Plan. This is primarily around 2:1 Homecare visits and removing the Maximum Assessed Charge (MAC) cap. This is due to the way that income is posted into the FMS system. There are 13 charging runs each year and the last run relates to January billing and will not therefore pick up the uplift in income until the 2023-24 financial year. Additionally new service charges for the in-house Telecare service are actioned then.

Mitigating actions have already been identified to ensure the service is projected to deliver a balanced budget, with no additional impact on the Medium Term Financial Strategy; principally £1.2m Commissioning savings on Extra Care and Adult Carers, £0.5m Market Sustainability & Fair Cost of Care 25% grant funding available for delivering Fair Cost of Care, savings from implementing corporate in-year savings initiatives and additional s117 income from Health contributions for agreed packages of care.

### **Demand**

The 2022-23 demand related budgets reflect £17.774m of additional funding for price, inflationary and demand & demography growth, taking the overall size of the demand led budgets up to £251.6m before reducing to £247.5m after netting off a £4.1m savings target reflected in the delivery of the 2022-23 budget action plans; principally the Strategic Review for Adult Social Work. Overall, the Month 10 projection shows an overspend of £5.024m on the 2022-23 demand related budget which is a minor improvement of £0.373m from Month 9, analysed below.

It should also be noted that there has been an in-year increase in the demand related budgets of £3.3m due to £1.7m for increased Homecare provider rates

funded from Leeds-ICB and £1.6m for Residential provider rates funded from the Fair Cost of Care & Market Sustainability grant.

**Mitigating actions have been identified to balance:**

- Increased demand in all residential settings, £4.495m, which is a decrease of £0.201m from the reported position at Month 9; £1.919m Residential, £1.729m Nursing Dementia, £0.724m Residential Dementia and £0.123m Nursing. Offset by additional income of £1.967m; Net pressure £2.528m.
- Learning Disability (LD) demand budgets are £0.647m over budget, offset by additional client income of £1.533m; Net saving £0.886m.
- Homecare and Community Support placements, £0.660m above budget, which is an improvement of £0.083m from the reported position at Month 9. Seeing reduced demand and this projection is modelled on current activity levels being paid via the Council's Client Information Service (CIS) system; Net pressure £0.660m.
- Offset by savings on demand budgets in Supported Living £0.157m, Direct Payments, £0.621m, additional £0.698m Leeds-ICB monies (BCF & non-BCF agreements) and £0.529m additional Partnership income from other Health settings in Leeds and £0.297m additional iBCF grant income.

**Pay**

This projection reflects the agreed Employers 2022-23 pay offer of £1,925 per employee. The impact of this is an additional £2.4m pay related pressure, over and above the 2% budgeted position. This includes £0.3m for Passenger Transport pay costs (reflected in Internal Charges above). £0.4m will be recovered from higher charges to partnerships and grant funding. At Month 10 there is a pay pressure of £0.64m, which is £1.76m lower than the budgeted pay impact due to recruitment difficulties in social work and social care. The balance will be funded from the use of iBCF grant monies.

**Partnerships and Grant funding**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 the DHSC set out the Government's new 'Our plan for patients' to improve care for patients this winter and the next. They announced a £500m Adult Social Care Discharge fund to help people get out of hospitals and into social care support. Leeds City Council was awarded £2.76m (payable 40% December and 60% January) and Leeds-ICB was awarded £5.19m; making a total for Leeds £7.95m. The guidance requires this funding to be pooled via the Better Care Fund. There was a further announcement regarding the £200m NHS grant funding to assist the NHS in dealing with immediate winter pressures and this will be allocated directly to the WY-ICB.

Included in the 2022-23 budget is £2.235m of grant funding for Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care. This is new funding linked to the White paper, 'People at the Heart of Care – ASC Reform', announced earlier in the year. This was upfront funding in preparation for go-live in October 2023 of the new Care Act reforms, however this has now been slipped to October 2025. The monies have been committed in line with this year's guidance; a minimum of 75% was allocated directly to support the market and 25% for resources to implement the requirements of the Care Act. Additionally, we've received a further £0.01m for ASC charging reform: implementation support funding grant for 2022-23 to support capacity for assessments and DIS requirements for the Care Act

Public Health (PH) Grant funding for 2022/23 is £47.126m, an increase of £1.288m from 2021/22 (2.7%). Since the 2022/23 budget was approved, new PH grant of £2.785m for 'Substance misuse funding for drug and alcohol treatment' has been awarded. This is a three-year announcement for which Leeds will receive £2.785m in 2022/23, £4.445m in 2023/24 and £8.445m in 2024/25. PH funding is a ring-fenced grant.

A pressure of £0.645m is reflected for delayed discharges from hospital settings beyond 28 days at Month 10. Where a client who is assessed and ready for discharge resides beyond 28 days then the cost for that client becomes the responsibility for the local authority. This is a budget pressure for the 2022/23 financial year only as new systems will be in place for 2023/24 and beyond to mitigate this. This pressure will be offset by additional income under the iBCF Social Care Grant funding stream.

Since Month 9 we been made aware of an additional £300k charge relating to passenger transport provision for LD clients, which is allocated to the LD pooled budget. This takes the total increase to £670k, which is split 50:50 resulting in a £335k Leeds City Council share. The £670k comprises £300k for impact of employers pay offer as outlined in the pay section above and £370k for the inflationary impact on fleet operating costs. The Leeds share will be covered by additional BCF income, and we will need to risk assess the impact for the 2023/24 budget.

COVID grant funding (£0.7m) relating to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) has been carried forward, against which we are currently assuming associated expenditure.

**3.7.2 Children and Families** – The current year-end forecast for the Children and Families directorate is an overspend of £16.545m. This represents an increase of £0.733m since the last reported position at Month 9. The main movements from Month 9 are:

- Care Leavers: Semi Independent Living £0.800m
- Additional UASC Income (£0.632m)
- Staffing costs £0.323m
- External Residential Placements £0.095m
- Other movements £0.147m

Overall, the main variations included within the Month 10 position are:

	<b>£m</b>
Care Leavers: Semi Independent Living	4.218
Care Leavers: Leaving Care Allowances	0.351
UASC Income	(1.235)
CLA: In House Carers	3.357
CLA: External Residential Placement	1.389
Independent Support Work	0.625
Little Owls Nurseries	1.623
Transport	3.637
IFA Placements	0.588
Secure Welfare	0.299

Projected Net Staff pressures	0.562
Contribution from Housing Support Fund	(1.000)
ICB Contribution	1.900
Non Essential Spend Savings	(0.336)
Reduced DSG expenditure	0.250
Other Variances	0.317
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.545</b>

### **Task And Finish Group**

A Task and Finish group has been established providing a joined up approach between Childrens and Families and other services to identify and progress mitigating action plans to reduce these pressures. A number of key actions have been identified and progress has been made against these as detailed within the narrative below.

The Month 10 position includes assumed savings of £0.768m which have been attributed to the actions identified and progressed within the Task and Finish group:

- CLA Leaving Care - £498k
- Transport - £200k
- Little Owls Nurseries - £70k

### **Care Leavers: Semi-Independent Living**

The budget for Semi-Independent Placements is £5.8m. Currently there are 288 placements, including 115 placements for 16 and 17 year olds, which is an increase from previous years. This increase has been driven by a number of factors including an increase in 16 year olds exiting foster care, a bulge cohort of CLA in 15-17 year olds including the majority of UASC, and a continued flow of young people being remanded to our care by the courts or released from custody. Within these groups there are some who have high support needs which result in higher average placement costs.

The Our Way Leeds (OWL) contract is now delivering the capacity of provision originally anticipated, following some early challenges. However, in terms of transitioning out of OWL there is significant competition for suitable council tenancies, as well as an oversaturated private rental market which is not easy to access for universal credit claimants.

A number of key actions have been identified within the Task and Finish Group and progress has been made against these challenges including:

- A review of young people ready to move out of OWL provision and into independent living within a short timescale has been undertaken, working closely to match these to suitable one-bed council tenancies.
- As a result of this work capacity across 83 OWL units has been created, or is in the pipeline of being created, resulting in:
  - 38 young people moved into OWL provision from external placements
  - 20 matches have been made, awaiting viewings and/or repair works
  - A further 25 units identified as vacant, or soon to be, with matching currently taking place

- Work continues to support moves both out of and into OWL, as well as designing/embedding a process to ensure continued flow, as and when young people are ready to move onto independent living.

The Semi-Independent position at Month 10 includes £498k of projected savings as a result of the task and finish actions highlighted above.

The Semi-Independent pressure has been mitigated by an additional £1,235k of projected income for unaccompanied asylum seekers (UASC)

### **CLA In House Carers**

The Month 10 position includes the impact of the uplift of the weekly fees and maintenance allowances paid to Leeds Foster Carers of £2.931m, which was backdated to April 2022. This pressure has been mitigated with a contribution of £1.000m from the Household Support Fund.

The overall placement numbers for (Fostering, Family Placement, Placed for Adoption) cohorts are slightly higher than the budgeted numbers leading to an additional pressure on fees and allowances. However, the main pressure is on Placement support with a number of home adaptations being approved for carers, resulting in a pressure of £426k within placement support.

### **External Residential Placements**

The External Residential budget for 2022/23 is £18.043m, supporting 74 External Residential placements. As of 22<sup>nd</sup> January, there were 79 placements - assuming these placements stay in their current provision (same weekly £ rate) to year-end and those turning 18 in-year fall out, an overspend of £1.389m is forecast.

### **Little Owls Nurseries**

The Little Owls nursery settings are projecting a net pressure of £1,623k, a projected income pressure of £2,140k offset by projected staff savings of £517k. Whilst the Little Owls nurseries did experience some recovery in 2021/22, income levels are still not back to pre-pandemic levels due to the change in working patterns, and a continued reduction in nursery capacity / opening hours due to ongoing staff shortages and recruitment difficulties.

To recognise increased costs, fees for Little Owls have increased by 5% from October to £51.70 per day, an increase of £2.50 per day. For comparison, the average market rate in Leeds is between £45 and £58 per day. The Little Owls fee increase with effect from October should generate projected additional income of £70k in 2022/23 with a full year impact of £135k. In addition to the increase in fees there is a more comprehensive review of the Little Owls provision ongoing.

### **Transport**

The overall transport budget is showing a projected overspend of £3.637m. This position includes additional charges of £412k from WYCA due to increased drivers pay and fuel costs, with a further £3.311m pressure due to increased charges from Passenger Transport within CEL as a result of increased pupil numbers and increased costs.

### **Independent Support Work**

There is a projected pressure of £625k against the Independent Support Work budget which reflects the projected costs of supporting the needs of one child. The complexity and level of support provided in this case are under review.

### **ICB Health Contribution**

The Month 10 position assumes that an additional budgeted health contribution of £1.9m will not be received. Childrens and Families are working with the ICB to consider alternative funding or budget savings. Working collectively in this way will produce a plan that is much better for vulnerable children and young people by supporting them earlier and reducing the need for out of area placements.

### **Budget Action Plans**

Of the £1.661m of budget action plans included within the base budget 2022/23 the Month 10 position assumes that £575k of the action plans will not be achieved as below:

- Diversifying Childrens Residential Provision £295k
- Passenger Transport £280k

### **Dedicated Schools Grants**

The approved DSG budget 2022/23 assumed that there would be a carry forward surplus of £0.119m as at the end of the year. The position at Month 10 projects an in year underspend of £2,351k and a surplus balance to carry forward into 2023/24 of £2,426k. The projected surplus equates to 0.5% of the total DSG funding 2022/23. This position will continue to be closely monitored throughout the remainder of 2022/23 with updated projections to be presented to Schools Forum and Executive Board.

The projected variance is split across the following DSG funding blocks:

- Schools Block (£267k) This is mainly due to a saving against the growth fund budget (£258k) and a small overspend of (£44k) on de-delegated services.
- High Needs Block (£1,884k) The underspend is largely due to high needs supplementary funding of £947k which, following discussions at Schools Forum, was retained as a high needs contingency fund. In addition, there is a projected underspend of £1,061k on services provided by Children & Families due to vacancies and difficult market conditions causing difficulties in recruiting to the sensory services and Invest to Save budget.
- Early Years Block (£198k)
- Central School Services Block (£2k)

**3.7.3 City Development** – at Month 10, City Development is forecasting a balanced position overall. Although inflationary pressures in respect of energy are shown centrally within Strategic accounts, the reported position for the directorate includes the impact of the local government pay award, estimated at £1.7m for pay (net of amounts that will be charged on to capital schemes and grants).

There are still some areas of risk within this position as described below but these continue to be mitigated through the implementation of action plans.



The restrictions on spending across the Council, including tighter vacancy controls and restrictions on non-essential spending are contributing towards delivering these action plans and achieving a balanced budget by the year end.

- **Active Leeds** – based on income received to date, including the recent review of fees and charges, a shortfall to budget of £0.45m is anticipated, primarily on swimming and membership income. The impact of the pay award is projected £0.7m for the service, although this is partially offset by anticipated staffing and running cost savings of £0.95m, giving an overall forecast year end overspend of £0.2m.
- **Arts & Heritage** – the service is projecting an overspend of £0.4m which includes the impact of the pay award (£0.3m), and income shortfalls in a number of areas including box office, cafes, room hire, Breeze pass, Pudsey Civic Hall car parking and admission charges at Kirkstall Abbey, offset by staffing vacancies and running cost savings.
- **Asset Management & Regeneration** – a small overspend of £0.05m is projected which reflects anticipated shortfalls in respect of the Strategic Investment Fund and Estate Rationalisation savings targets, offset by one-off sources of income such as income from restrictive covenants and other mitigating savings plans including a review of commercial rental income.
- **Planning & Sustainable Development** - high volumes of caseloads and applications mean it is necessary to recruit to all vacant posts which impacts on the service's ability to achieve its budgeted vacancy factor. A projected staffing overspend of £0.5m is therefore currently projected, which includes the impact of the pay award (£0.3m). However, additional planning fee and CIL administration income is forecast to the year end and an overall balanced position is anticipated for the service.
- **Highways and Transportation** – an overall projected overspend of £0.15m includes the net impact of the pay award after taking into account additional income from charge out rates; an anticipated increase in the cost of hired transport and fuel; contract savings in respect of Street Lighting; and savings from vacant posts offset by additional agency and partner costs required to assist with delivery of the work programs.
- **Markets and City Centre** – a shortfall of £0.7m in respect of Markets income is estimated which reflects vacant units mainly within the Kirkgate and Outdoor markets. Whilst this position represents a variance from budget, the budget is based upon a surplus position, therefore the service is currently forecasting a relatively small deficit. In addition, income shortfalls of £0.5m are projected within City Centre in respect of city centre advertising income, income from street café licences and from hiring of event spaces in the city centre. Although the services will continue to look for mitigating savings to offset the income shortfalls, there is limited scope within these service areas

- **Resources & Strategy** – staffing and running cost savings of £0.3m have been identified within Resources & Strategy to partially offset the pressures identified in other service areas. In addition, to further help mitigate pressures across the directorate, it is proposed to utilise £1.5m of commuted sum balances received from developers to meet the future maintenance cost of adopted Highways, leading to an overall underspend of £1.8m within Resources & Strategy.
- **Staffing** – within the overall reported position described above there is a projected staffing underspend of £0.6m across the directorate including the estimated net impact of the pay award.

### **Budget Action Plans**

The 2022/23 budget contained £3.2m of new savings plans and it is anticipated that most have been delivered or are on track to be delivered, with projected shortfalls in some areas reflected within the overall reported directorate position.

In addition, as referred to above, there are projected shortfalls on the existing Strategic Investment Fund and Estate Rationalisation budget savings plans. Although these are unlikely to be achieved within the current financial year as originally envisaged, mitigating savings have been identified to offset these pressures.

- 3.7.4 Communities, Housing & Environment** – At Month 10, the Directorate is forecasting a pressure of £0.76m compared to a balanced budget at Month 9. The main change from the previous month relates to a significant reduction in the level of recycling income being received from the Green Bin waste as market prices have fallen significantly.

The Directorate position reflects the net impact of the pay award offer, £3.2m, and fuel related pressures of £0.3m. These figures are contained within the service explanations below:

- **Car Parking (£0.2m saving)** - Staff costs are £0.2m below budget due to vacancies. Income continues a recovery trajectory; however, based on 9 months of data in 2022/23 the projection suggests that receipts are projected to fall £0.56m below the budget (compared to £2.7m in 2021/22 and £7.7m in 2020/21). As full provision for this has been made within corporate contingencies, a nil variance in income has been reported within the Directorate's budget. This forecast use of the contingency budget has reduced by £0.5m since Month 9, i.e., the income position continues to improve.
- **Environmental Services (£0.9m pressure)** - Staffing costs of £2.2m, mainly pay award and fuel costs of £0.3m.

Transport costs, excluding fuel are estimated at an additional £1.2m. A review of all vehicles on fleet and hire is underway.

Historically there is a net cost associated with the disposal of green bin

recyclable materials, however currently the Council is receiving a net income for this material. It is forecast that this could generate additional gain of £1.0m in 2022/23, although this is significantly lower than previous projections

Kerbside 'black bin' waste volumes are now reducing from the peak of lockdown period levels and are assumed to continue at the current level for the remainder of 2022/23, which would generate a saving a £1.7m on disposal costs.

A PFI rebate, other disposal costs and additional trade waste income totalling £1m are also forecast.

- **Parks (£0.3m pressure)** - Staff costs are projected to be £0.4m under, after the pay award. Fuel costs are £0.2m.

Cancellation of bonfires has saved £0.1m against the budget and £0.3m of prudential borrowing savings have been identified. Inflationary pressures associated with the events programme are also expected to be £0.1m in 2022/23.

Additional transport costs are now projected at £0.3m

Delays to construction of the new Parks attractions are expected to reduce net income by £0.2m in 2022/23 and bereavement services income is projected to fall £0.5m below budget.

- **Customer Access and Welfare (£0.3m saving)** - Staffing costs after pay award are £0.5m. £0.21m of income pressures are expected.

A £1.0m pressure on Housing Benefit Rent Allowances is anticipated where the Council cannot reclaim a 100% subsidy from the Government. However, £1.8m of additional New Burdens Funding, benefit overpayment income and other grant income is expected to cover all of these pressures.

£0.2m of net savings from reducing non-essential spend have been projected.

- **Registrars, Licencing and Environmental Health (£0.1m saving )** - Staff costs are £0.4m after pay award. Latest trend suggests £0.4m of additional income for 2022/23 from registrars and funding from the COVID recovery fund.
- **Other variations** – minor variations across the Directorate total less than £0.1m.

**3.7.5 Resources** - Based on an examination of key risk budgets, the Resources Directorate is forecasting a pressure of £3,662k at this reporting period. This is an increase from the previous month of £453k.

Within the Resources Directorate, Commercial Enterprise Leeds (CEL) has a savings target of £2.6m in the 2022/23 budget strategy. As well as this savings target, the service has also tried to manage an additional net pay award pressure of £2m requiring total savings of £4.6m to achieve a balanced position (this excludes other running cost inflationary pressures which the service has had to mitigate). The Month 10 position shows that the service is broadly on track to deliver the £2.6m budget savings, however it is reporting a net pressure of £1.3m arising mainly as a result of the service being unable to fully mitigate the £2m pay award pressure.

The overall increase of £453k for the Resources Directorate is due to:

- Procurement and Commercial Services, increase of £170k, due to reassessment of anticipated income from Adults and Health.
- Catering, improvement of £170k due to funding from Adults and Health
- Legal Services, increase in costs of £33k.
- Democratic Services, reduction in cost of £48k.
- Leeds Building Services, increase in costs of £60k.
- Corporate Property Management, reduction of £25k.
- Shared Services, increase in staffing costs of £40k.
- Fleet, increased costs of £240k due to increased external hire costs.
- School Crossing Patrol, improvement of £63k on staffing savings.
- Presto, £115k pressure, mostly due to reassessment of income projections.
- Facilities Management, increase in costs of £75k, due to New Market House running costs.

**This is summarised into the following areas across the Directorate's services:**

- **Procurement £477k** - A target of £4m Procurement savings across the authority formed part of the 2022/23 approved budget. Whilst a proportion of these savings were set against specific contract areas, £2.3m had yet to be identified. Additional unbudgeted income from the Revolving Investment Fund is expected to mitigate some of this pressure and has therefore been included in the projection. In addition, the Procurement service has been successful in identify further savings of £0.25m across two large contracts. In year mitigations amounting to £1.6m have also been identified to reduce the savings target. The PACS service will continue to identify opportunities to increase income and reduce costs across the Directorate. The inflationary pressures experienced across a range of contracts since the setting of the budget mean that a pressure is likely in this area.
- **Legal Services £237k** - Agency overspend of £182k, expenditure overspends of £19k and income pressures of £295k are being offset by staffing savings of £259k.
- **Democratic Services £31k** - Pay award pressure of £129k offset by savings of £50k.

- **Sustainable Energy and Air Quality -£211k** - Premises savings as a result of the decision in the Spring Statement to exempt District Heating networks from Business rates have resulted in a saving of £211k.
- **Shared Services £1,314k** - Staffing overspends of £2,062k, Salary Sacrifice pressure of £270k are being offset by supplies and services savings of £345k and additional income of £673k.
- **Integrated Digital Services £Balanced** - Staffing underspends of £102k including £1,094k Pay Award are assisting to offset overspends of £568k, the remaining overspend is being offset by increased income of £466k. The additional income includes £700k flexible use of Capital Receipts.
- **Strategy and Improvement £39k** - Staffing overspends of £137k, and other expenditure of £53k are being offset by £152k additional income.
- **Finance £283k** - Staffing overspends of £803k offset by additional Court Fee income of £304k, release of reserve £100k and other savings of £116k.
- **Human Resources £183k** - Staffing overspends of £1,120k and other expenditure overspends of £77k offset by use of reserves and government income to pay for interns and Kickstart posts of £1,014k.
- **Leeds Building Services (LBS) £550k** - Following an examination of the pipeline of work for LBS for the remainder of the year from client departments, the turnover position for 2022/23 is expected to be in the region of £68.75m, which is a reduction of £4m over this year's original identified turnover. This has a consequential impact on the LBS rate of recovery. In short, slippage, cancellations or delays in programmes of work in client departments impact the revenue position of LBS.

The reported position includes mitigations as a result of; staff savings, further improvement in sickness levels, use of contingency and anticipated overhead savings. Whilst sickness levels have improved considerably over the year, they have not yet reached the budgeted levels of reduction.

- **Corporate Property Management £0 Balanced** - The service is reporting a balanced position.
- **Catering £390k** - Staffing overspends of £63k, inflation increases on food and other costs of £18k and income shortfall of £479k, offset by additional income from Adults and Health of £170k in relation to in year inflationary pressures on the Meals and Home and Day centre provision.
- **Cleaning £131k** - Staffing overspends of £896k and equipment expenditure of £130k, are offset by £695k increases in income and £200k use of the Covid Recovery Fund.
- **Fleet £303k** - Staffing overspends of £63k and £240k overspends due to the impact of Vehicle Pool External Hire costs.

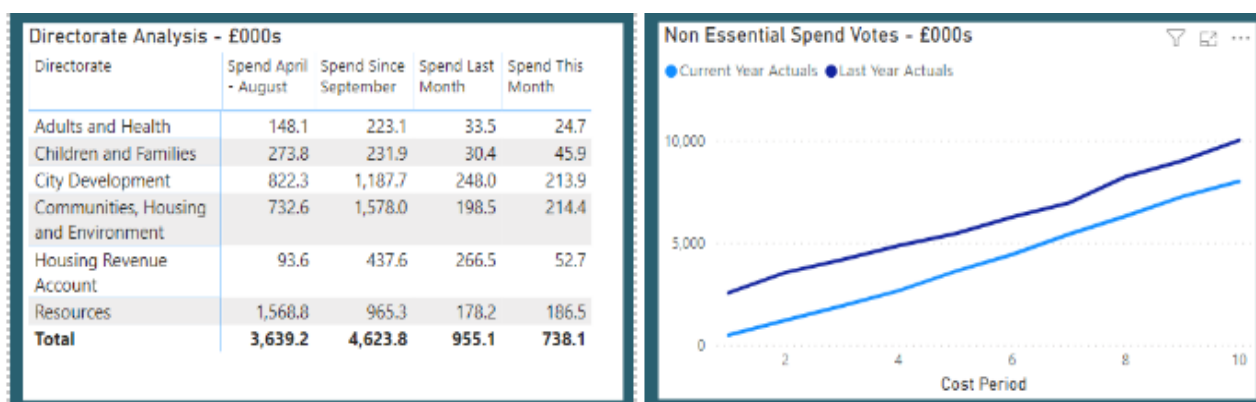
- **Presto £150k** - Staffing overspends of £70k and £80k shortfall in income.
- **School Crossing Patrol -£80k** - Staffing savings of £80k.
- **Security £29k** - Staffing overspends of £84k offset by income of £55k.
- **Facilities Management -£167k** - £50k of savings related to building running costs, and £300k procurement savings, are offsetting costs of £75k for New Market House along with a pay award pressure of £100k.

**3.7.6 Strategic & Central Accounts** - At Month 10, the Strategic & Central accounts projection is for an underspend of £7.2m. This position includes a forecast £0.4m pressure for increased energy costs across the council, which reflects recent reductions in projected energy prices. The position also includes recently announced grant income of £1.3m which is the Council's share of the national business rates levy account surplus for the year, and an additional one-off £1.7m use of earmarked reserves. Further to this, savings recognised include a projected underspend of £4.4m in the debt budget, reflecting slippage in the capital programme and a reduced forecast for MRP, an additional recharge of £0.5m to the public health budget for its pension costs, and £0.3m of minor underspends across the Miscellaneous and the Joint Committees budgets. However a potential £0.5m reduction in the level of S278 income has been recognised due to slippage in some projects.

### 3.8 Monitoring Non-essential Spend

**3.8.1** As referenced at paragraph 3.2, one of the agreed actions to address the overspend position in 2022/23 is a freeze on non-essential spend. A process to monitor a range of financial codes where spend on non-essential supplies and services is likely to occur has been established and Executive Board will be updated each month on the outcome of this monitoring. It is not expected that no spend will be incurred on these codes as a variety of supplies and services will be included and spend on similar items may be essential in one service but non-essential in another. Despite rising price inflation expenditure on these non-essential supplies and services remains below that of 2021/22.

**Table 2: Non-essential Spend Month 10 (January)**



**3.8.2** The table on the left shows the spend incurred between April and August 2022 and spend incurred after August 2022 following implementation of the freeze. At Month 10, spend in scope between April and August 2022 totalled £3.64m and spend

since September 2022 totalled £4.62m including £0.96m in December and £0.74m in January, a reduction of £0.22m (22.9%) on December's spend. Whilst this may reasonably reflect the profile of the different types of expenditure in scope it will need to be monitored and challenged where appropriate.

**3.8.3** The graph on the right compares 2021/22 and 2022/23 spend on these financial codes. At Month 10 2021/22 £10.043m of expenditure had been incurred, compared with £8.263m in the current year, a £1.78m or (17.7%) reduction in spend to date against these codes.

### **3.9 Budget Action Plans**

**3.9.1** The budget for 2022/23 requires the delivery of £16.5m of savings. Detailed budget action plans have been developed to identify how these savings will be achieved and progress against these action plans will be monitored and reported throughout the year. Further detail is provided at Appendix 3.

At Month 10 it is anticipated that the majority of savings will be delivered in full through the identified saving plans or through mitigating actions identified by each Directorate, the exceptions being:

- Children & Families – £0.575m shortfall expected savings on Passenger Transport and Diversifying Childrens Residential Provision.
- Resources - £2.046m shortfall in the anticipated level of procurement savings within PACS.

**3.9.2** Although other directorates have indicated shortfalls in regard to fully meeting their targeted budget action plans totalling £2.877m, they have identified other mitigating measures to offset these shortfalls as discussed in section 3.7.

### **3.10 Inflationary Pressures**

**3.10.1** At the end of Month 10 (January) an overspend of £13.7m is projected against the Council's 2022/23 revenue budget. This reported position reflects the agreed national employers' pay offer and known inflationary rises and cost of living pressures.

**3.10.2 Pay Award** – The 2022/23 budget allows £9.5m for an assumed 2022/23 pay award incorporating a Real Living Wage of £9.90 at pay scale points 1 and 2 and a 2% pay award for all other staff. The agreed pay offer for 2022/23 resulted in a pay increase of £1,925 to all employees. The additional cost associated with this was incorporated into the Council's reported financial position at Month 4. In September the Real Living Wage was announced at £10.90 per hour and this increased rate will be required to be incorporated into future Council's budgets.

**3.10.3 Energy** – In September, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered the Growth Plan 2022 to the House of Commons and reiterated recent steps taken by Government to tackle high energy bills. The Government committed to a six month Energy Bill Relief Scheme for businesses and other non-domestic energy users, including charities and public sector organisations, providing them with a discount on energy prices. As Leeds City Council has forward purchased over 80% of its energy for winter, the majority of its energy has been purchased at prices that are

lower than the cap – although it should be noted that the prices secured are still significantly higher than we have ever paid before. However, the cap still provides the Council with protection against the extreme day ahead prices that we have seen for the balance of our energy and if these were to continue, the cap could save the Council up to £2m.

The 2022/23 budget allows for a 5% increase in energy costs for gas and electricity. In addition, the Council has set aside £3.9m of energy contingency funding. The reported position at Month 10 (January) assumes projected General Fund expenditure on energy of £20.6m against a budget of £14.36m. Applying energy contingency funding of £3.9m and further reserves of £2m reduces the projected General Fund overspend to £0.4m, which is reflected in the Strategic Directorate reported position. The reported position takes account of the Government's energy cap arrangements for 2022/23. Actions being taken to review energy usage across the Authority's estate may continue to reduce this projected overspend.

**3.10.4 Fuel** – The average UK pump prices for diesel and unleaded petrol saw increases of 14% and 1.7% respectively between January 2022 and January 2023. The 2022/23 budget did not allow for any increases in fuel prices. Any increase above the total 2022/23 budgeted amount of £7.7m will require an action plan to be developed for how this increase will be mitigated in year.

**3.10.5 Cost of Living Pressures** – Further to the inflationary pressures detailed here, there is likely to be a wider inflationary impact to the Council due to the impact of the increased cost of living on our residents and businesses. We would expect to see the impact of this in increased costs to the Council for the goods and services that we procure, increased demand for support and welfare services, and reduced income across a range of services as Leeds residents and visitors choose to spend differently as a consequence of rising inflation. The position will continue to be closely monitored.

### **3.11 Reserves**

**3.11.1** Following the closure of the 2021/22 accounts, the Council's general fund reserve stands at £33.2m. The 2022/23 budget assumes no contribution to this reserve during the current financial year.

**3.11.2** The 2022/23 budget includes use of reserves to support the Council's General Fund; this includes the Strategic Contingency Reserve which was established in 2020/21 to fund future unforeseen budget pressures and to ensure the Council becomes more financially resilient.

**3.11.3** A sum of £2m from this reserve is also being used to fund the backlog recovery of affected services following the COVID pandemic, including targeting the backlogs of work which have built up in some services.

**3.11.4** The closing balance on the Strategic Contingency Reserve for 2021/22 was £37.5m. The 2022/23 budget provided a further net contribution of £8.4m to this reserve, but also proposed use of (£15.0m) to support the General Fund position. In year contributions to this reserve of £2.1m in respect of additional New Homes Bonus receipts and £1.6m in respect of provisions no longer required by Adults and Health (see paragraph 3.7.1) have been added to this reserve. At Month 10, £2.0m



of this balance has been committed to fund backlog recovery from COVID, with £1.49m of projected expenditure in year and a further £0.8m has been committed to fund smaller projects, leaving a projected balance of £32.2m at 31st March 2023.

**3.11.5** In addition, a specific COVID Reserve was created in the 2021/22 Budget to be applied to any pressures arising which exceed the initial estimate of the COVID impact. A balance of £3.5m was carried forward into 2022/23 and is expected to be applied in full.

## **4. Other Financial Performance**

### **4.1 Council Tax**

The Council Tax in-year collection rate at the end of January 2023 was 87.9%. For comparison, in January 2022 the in-year collection rate was 87.82% and in January 2020, a 'normal' year, the in-year collection rate was 89.53%. Although improving compared to previous years, with the collection rate continuing to be below pre-pandemic years in this challenging economic environment it has been decided that, to be prudent, the target collection rate in the fullness of time should be reduced from 99% to 98.5%, at a cost to the Council's share of the Collection Fund deficit of £2.0m. This is included in the figures quoted below.

Leeds' share of the declared Council Tax deficit for 2021/22 (at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021) has been incorporated into the 2022/23 budget. The declared deficit was £3.704m. This has been adjusted for the 3-year spreading legislated by Government in order that authorities can better manage deficits arising as a result of the economic impact of COVID-19. Consequently, the Leeds share of the deficit that is budgeted to be repaid in 2022/23 is £2.249m. This repayment is now a fixed amount and does not impact on the 2022/23 in year position.

The actual closing deficit on the 2021/22 Council Tax Collection Fund was £8.7m, including the Police and Fire Authority shares. In 2022/23 it is projected there will be an in-year deficit on Council Tax at declaration of £0.1m. The closing deficit will therefore be £8.8m. Included in the projected deficit is the final instalment of the declared unfunded deficit from 2020/21 which, including the Police and Fire Authorities' shares, will be £5.3m. This therefore means that an additional deficit of £3.5m will have to be funded by the Council, the Police and the Fire Authority in 2023/24, Leeds share of which will be £2.9m. In January 2023 the Council declared the 2022/23 additional deficit at £2.9m.

The collection rate for Council Tax remains an area of concern as Council Taxpayers continue to struggle with the cost of living crisis and collection will require continued close monitoring over the coming months and beyond the end of the financial year.

### **4.2 Business Rates**

The Business Rates collection rate at January 2023 is 87.62% which is 4.12% higher than in the same period in 2021/22 but 1.87% behind performance in 2019/20, the last 'normal' year. Collection rates will be closely monitored over the coming months. The budgeted collection rate for business rates is to achieve an in-year collection target of 97.7%, collecting £296.5m of business rates income.

The total rateable value of business properties in Leeds has decreased from £923.8m at the time of the 2022/23 budget to £921.8m as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, a decrease of £2.0m. The 2022/23 budget includes an expected reduction in Rateable Value of £0.3m for the 2022/23 full year. It should be noted that some of the reductions identified are due to redevelopment work which would likely increase rateable values again once complete, and demolitions in advance of new development on the site. The size of the Business Rates tax base in Leeds continues to be monitored closely.

Leeds' share of the declared Business Rates deficit from 2021/22 (at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021) has been incorporated into the 2022/23 budget. The total declared deficit on the Business Rates Collection Fund was £28.2m. Leeds' share of the unfunded declared deficit from 2020/21 was £36.7m, which has been spread over three years in accordance with Government legislation. The second of the three repayments of £12.2m will be paid in 2022/23 and is fixed and included in the £28.2m declared deficit.

Due to reassessing the level of the bad debt and appeals provisions, the actual closing deficit for 2021/22 is an improvement of £8.0m from the position declared and this improvement will be carried forward as a gain to the 2023/24 budget but will be required to offset future reduction in grant funding.

In 2022/23, an in-year deficit of £3.0m has arisen due to an increased demand for the extended Retail Relief introduced by the Government to assist the High Street in the wake of the pandemic and the backdated award of further COVID Additional Relief Fund (CARF) reliefs against 2021/22 income. These reliefs are fully funded, and this funding will be held in reserve to part meet the cost of the impact of the overall deficit to the 2023/24 General Fund.

Taking the £12.2m final repayment of the unfunded deficit from 2020/21, the £8.0m improvement from the end of 2021/22 and the £3.0m in-year deficit from 2022/23, the declared deficit for 2022/23 is projected to be £7.3m, which will impact the 2023/24 General Fund. Of this projected deficit, £8.0m is projected to be funded by grant received from Government for the extended Retail Relief and CARF relief. In January 2023, the Council declared a total declared deficit on the collection fund of £7.2m.

### **4.3 Business Rates Appeals**

The opening appeals provisions for 2022/23 are £24.2m, made up of £5.1m relating to appeals received against the 2010 ratings list and £19.1m estimated costs in relation to the 2017 ratings list. Under 50% Business Rates Retention, Leeds' budget is affected by 49% of any appeals provision made in this year.

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, there were 79 appeals outstanding against the 2010 ratings list. In this financial year until 31<sup>st</sup> January, 39 appeals have been settled, 12 of which have resulted in changes to rateable values. No new appeals have been received in 2022/23. Currently, 1.91% of the city's total rateable value on the 2010 list is subject to at least one appeal.

Before the COVID-19 public health crisis, the introduction of the new Check Challenge Appeal system on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 saw a significant reduction in the

number of appeals submitted by ratepayers against their Rateable Value on the 2017 ratings list compared to the 2010 ratings list. Only eleven appeals have so far been submitted to the Valuation Tribunal, the final stage of the new process.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, the Council is providing for a net of 388 Checks and Challenges against the 2017 ratings list. The 2017 ratings list ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and this would end, in most cases, ratepayers right to appeal against their Rateable Value on that list. As such the number of Checks received by the Valuation Office Agency increased to 154 in January 2023 from an average of about 35 in previous months. This was expected and an allowance has been included in the forecast of the declared deficit. The level of appeals, and the losses incurred, will require close monitoring in the coming months.

In addition, the Authority has made provisions for specific issues such as the removal of ATMs located in shops from the 2017 list, expected reductions to hospitals, ambulance and fire stations and expected reductions to several GP surgeries.

#### **4.4 Impact of Covid 19 and cost of living on the Collection Fund in 2022/23 and beyond**

There is still some impact of COVID-19 on council tax and business rates income as recovery action is reintroduced and additional reliefs brought in to support businesses during the pandemic are phased out. Council Tax collection rates are showing the effects of the cost of living crisis and the level of voids is a current concern. The team have been working on ways to mitigate this by improving void levels (for example, through automation of some processes, going live in February 2023) and working through the backlog of recovery action. Recovery rates can be seen to be improving as a result. For Business Rates, the reductions in reliefs granted are impacting on collection rates. The pressures of the cost of living crisis have become more noticeable over the last couple of months and the long-term impact of this on collection rates and tax base will require continued close monitoring.

#### **5. Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

- 5.1** At Month 10 the HRA is projecting a balanced position. Significant price pressures in the construction industry and energy markets along with the ongoing impact of the pandemic have resulted in financial pressures in 2022/23. Options to balance have been considered and included in the projections which mean that the HRA is projecting a balanced position
- 5.2 Dwellings Rent and service charges £2.89m** – there is a forecast reduction in rental income and service charges which is mainly due to the number of void properties being higher than budgeted because of the ongoing impact of COVID-19. There is a recovery plan in place to get the void rate back to pre-pandemic levels.
- 5.3 External Income £(0.8m)** – there is forecast additional telecoms, solar panel and RHI income.
- 5.4 Employees £0.3m (and related charges)** – there is a forecast underspend against the employee budget of £0.62m due to vacant posts in the service; the forecast

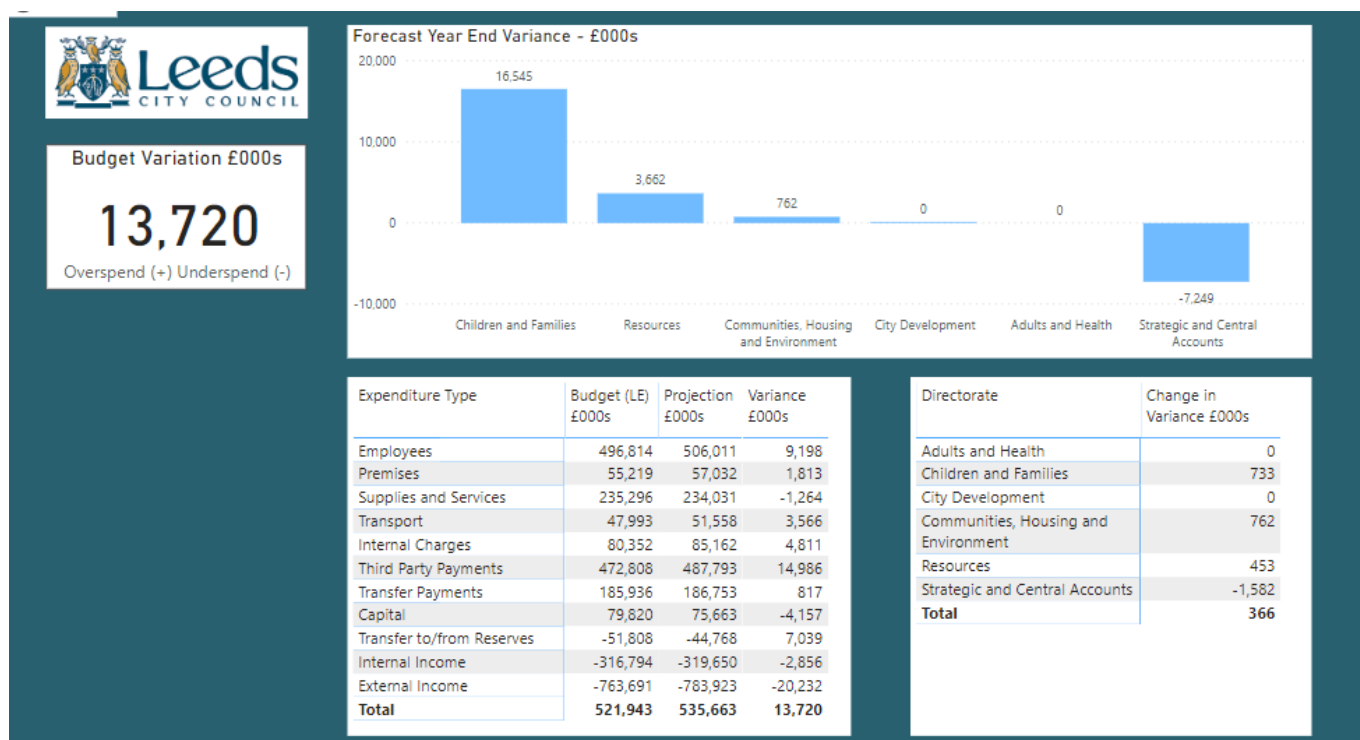
reflects the 2022/23 agreed employee pay award. However, the underspend is offset with a reduction in capitalised salaries of £1.0m.

- 5.5 Repairs to Dwellings £5.9m** – the budget is projected to be overspent due to the price pressures in the construction industry, although this will be fully funded from the Repairs / Major Repairs reserve.
- 5.6 Disrepair provision £2.6m** – the budget is projected to overspend due to the continuing trend of increasing case numbers and the average cost of the cases.
- 5.7 Premises £2.0m** – comprised of: £1.0m pressure on the energy budget due to the rising cost of gas and electricity, costs which have not been passed on to tenants in year; £0.3m dilapidations costs claims at Navigation House; a £0.4m pressure on the cleaning charge due to the pay award; and £0.3m pressure on council tax on voids.
- 5.8 Provision for doubtful debt £0.5m** – it is estimated that an additional amount will be added to the provision to cover potential increases in bad debt due to the cost-of-living crisis.
- 5.9 Contribution to the Capital Programme £(2.4m)** – a one off reduction in the revenue contribution to the capital programme is offset by utilising RtB balances to fund the investment programme.
- 5.10 Debt Costs £(1.7m)** – a projected in year saving of £1.7m following a review of the forecast spend levels within the Council House Growth Programme
- 5.11 Supplies and services and Internal services £(2.2m)** – projected to underspend after a line by line review of the budgets.

## Overall Summary Sheet

Month 10 (January 2023)

## Financial Dashboard 2022/23 Financial Year



Financial Dashboard 2022/23 Financial Year

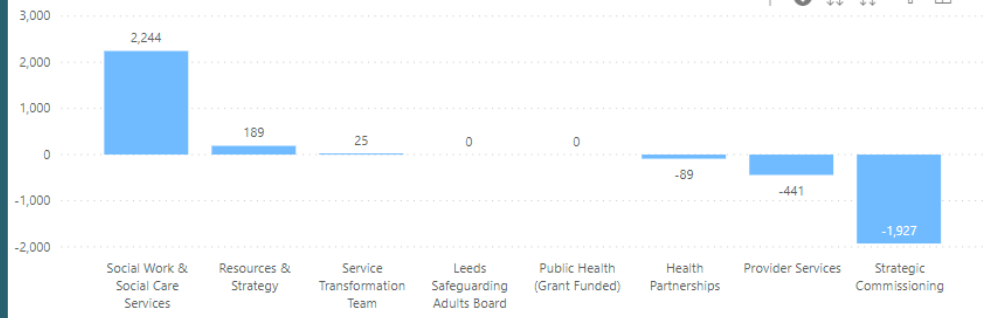


Budget Variation £000s

0

Overspend (+) Underspend (-)

Forecast Year End Variance - £000s



Expenditure Type	Budget (LE) £000s	Projection £000s	Variance £000s
Employees	62,436	63,076	640
Premises	1,029	1,271	242
Supplies and Services	6,731	8,758	2,027
Transport	906	931	24
Internal Charges	12,578	14,669	2,091
Third Party Payments	302,680	307,706	5,026
Transfer Payments	11,395	10,874	-521
Capital		0	0
Transfer to/from Reserves	-12,378	-12,274	104
Internal Income	-5,277	-5,482	-204
External Income	-182,802	-192,231	-9,428
<b>Total</b>	<b>197,298</b>	<b>197,298</b>	<b>0</b>

Directorate	Change in Variance £000s
Adults and Health	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

Financial Dashboard 2022/23 Financial Year

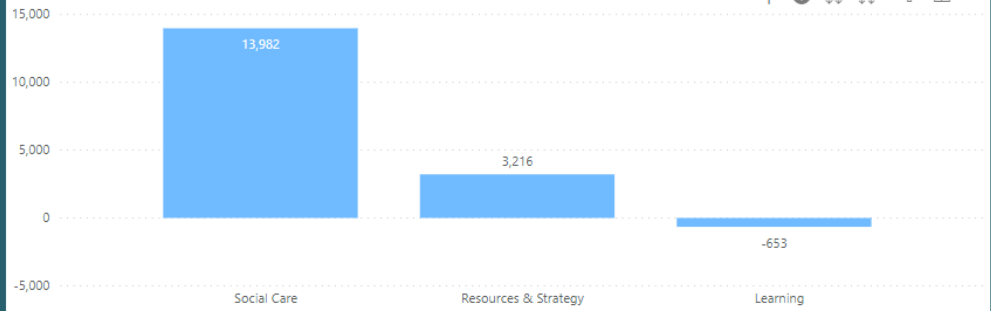


Budget Variation £000s

**16,545**

Overspend (+) Underspend (-)

Forecast Year End Variance - £000s



Expenditure Type	Budget (LE) £000s	Projection £000s	Variance £000s
Employees	104,472	106,165	1,693
Premises	3,342	3,498	155
Supplies and Services	64,246	64,225	-21
Transport	10,767	11,775	1,008
Internal Charges	29,367	32,482	3,115
Third Party Payments	111,302	119,621	8,320
Transfer Payments	2,040	2,401	361
Transfer to/from Reserves	-266	-363	-96
Internal Income	-32,459	-32,172	287
External Income	-160,467	-158,744	1,723
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,342</b>	<b>148,887</b>	<b>16,545</b>

Directorate	Change in Variance £000s
Children and Families	733
<b>Total</b>	<b>733</b>

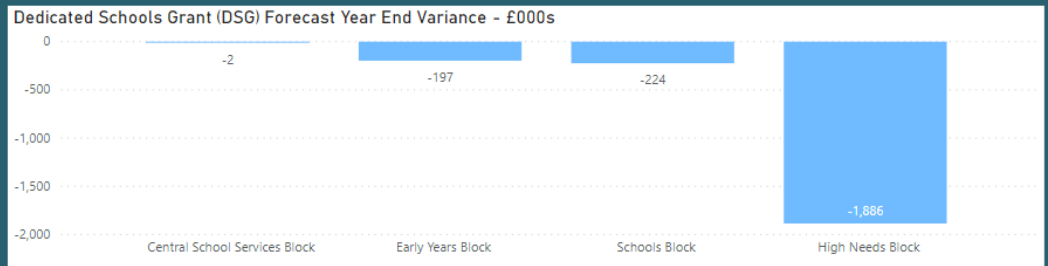
Financial Dashboard 2022/23 Financial Year



DSG Variation £000s

**-2,309**

Overspend (+) / Underspend (-)



Net Variations against the Approved Budget


DSG Block	Income Budget	Income Projection	Income Variance	Expenditure Budget	Expenditure Projection	Expenditure Variance	DSG Budget (LE)	DSG Projection	DSG Variance
Schools Block	-325,189	-323,757	1,432	325,189	323,533	-1,656	0	-224	-224
High Needs Block	-103,981	-104,032	-51	103,981	102,146	-1,835	0	-1,886	-1,886
Early Years Block	-58,187	-58,547	-360	58,187	58,350	162	0	-197	-197
Central School Services Block	-5,138	-5,138	0	5,138	5,137	-2	0	-2	-2
<b>Total</b>	<b>-492,496</b>	<b>-491,474</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>492,496</b>	<b>489,166</b>	<b>-3,330</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2,309</b>	<b>-2,309</b>

DSG Reserves

Reserve Type	Balance b/fwd	Net contribution to(-)/from (+) balances	Budgeted Deficit (+) / Surplus (-) c/fwd	Projected in year under(-)/over(+) spend	Planned use of reserves	Projected Deficit (+) / Surplus (-) c/fwd
General	979	229	1,208	-2,351	0	-1,372
De-delegated	-1,098	0	-1,098	44	0	-1,054
<b>Total</b>	<b>-119</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>-2,307</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2,426</b>



Financial Dashboard 2022/23 Financial Year

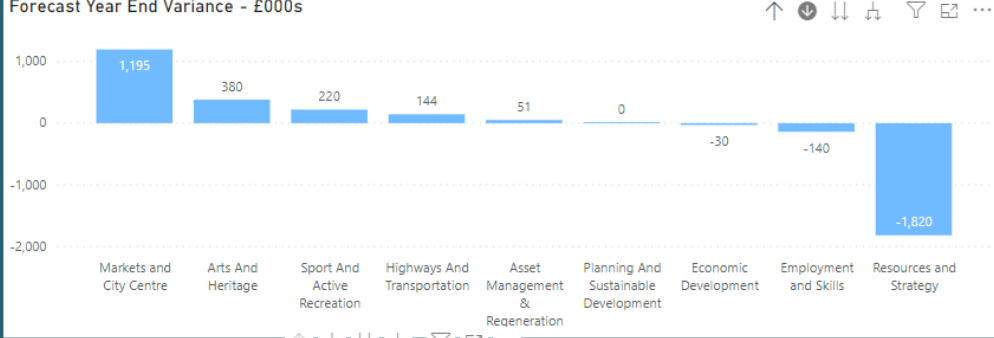


**Budget Variation £000s**

0

Overspend (+) Underspend (-)

Forecast Year End Variance - £000s



Department	Variance (£000s)
Markets and City Centre	1,195
Arts And Heritage	380
Sport And Active Recreation	220
Highways And Transportation	144
Asset Management & Regeneration	51
Planning And Sustainable Development	0
Economic Development	-30
Employment and Skills	-140
Resources and Strategy	-1,820

Expenditure Type	Budget (LE) £000s	Projection £000s	Variance £000s
Employees	68,768	68,043	-725
Premises	25,661	26,423	763
Supplies and Services	44,359	44,857	499
Transport	5,897	6,834	936
Internal Charges	10,106	10,480	374
Third Party Payments	192	192	0
Transfer Payments		0	0
Capital		0	0
Transfer to/from Reserves	-3,128	-3,048	80
Internal Income	-43,203	-44,798	-1,595
External Income	-76,611	-76,942	-331
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,041</b>	<b>32,041</b>	<b>0</b>

Directorate	Change in Variance £000s
City Development	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

**Financial Dashboard 2022/23 Financial Year**

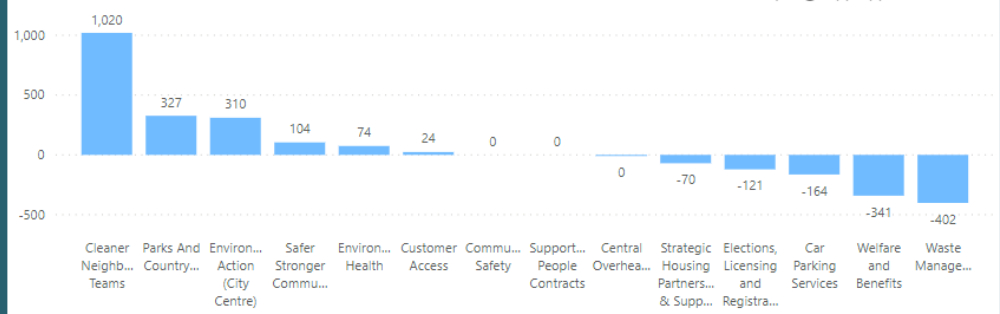


Budget Variation £000s

**762**

Overspend (+) Underspend (-)

Forecast Year End Variance - £000s



Expenditure Type	Budget (LE) £000s	Projection £000s	Variance £000s
Employees	96,796	99,842	3,046
Premises	9,712	10,003	291
Supplies and Services	56,857	53,706	-3,151
Transport	10,134	11,495	1,361
Internal Charges	19,661	18,998	-663
Third Party Payments	21,515	23,208	1,693
Transfer Payments	171,513	172,472	959
Capital		0	0
Transfer to/from Reserves	-1,146	-1,738	-592
Internal Income	-39,126	-41,400	-2,274
External Income	-262,937	-262,846	91
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,978</b>	<b>83,739</b>	<b>762</b>

Directorate	Change in Variance £000s
Communities, Housing and Environment	762
<b>Total</b>	<b>762</b>

Financial Dashboard 2022/23 Financial Year



Surplus (-) / Deficit (+) £000s

0

Overspend (+) Underspend (-)

HRA Income	Budget (LE) £000s	Projection £000s	Variance £000s	Change in Variance £000s
▲				
Dwelling Rents	-216,541	-213,884	2,658	111
Non Dwelling Rents	-3,306	-3,229	78	0
Service Charges	-9,335	-9,049	286	0
Internal Income	-10,359	-9,425	934	26
Grants	-21,644	-21,580	64	-3
External Income	-1,598	-2,397	-799	218
<b>Total</b>	<b>-262,784</b>	<b>-259,563</b>	<b>3,221</b>	<b>351</b>

HRA Expenditure	Budget (LE) £000s	Projection £000s	Variance £000s	Change in Variance £000s
▲				
Disrepair Provision	2,400	5,000	2,600	600
Repairs to Dwellings	46,795	52,635	5,840	-30
Employees	31,448	30,829	-619	-39
Premises	9,729	11,666	1,937	-259
Supplies and Services	3,744	3,630	-115	10
PFI Unitary Charge	10,953	11,772	819	0
Transport	298	318	20	0
Internal Services	45,230	42,989	-2,240	-172
BITMO Management Fee	3,235	3,235	0	0
Provision for Doubtful Debts	1,136	1,593	457	0
Capital Charges	45,942	44,235	-1,707	0
Contribution to Captial Programme	62,543	60,143	-2,400	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>263,453</b>	<b>268,045</b>	<b>4,593</b>	<b>109</b>

Surplus (-) / Deficit (+)	Budget (LE) £000s	Projection £000s	Variance £000s	Change in Variance £000s
▼				
Net Position	669	8,483	7,814	461
Appropriation: Sinking Funds	-412	-1,289	-877	0
Appropriation: Reserves	-257	-7,194	-6,937	-461
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

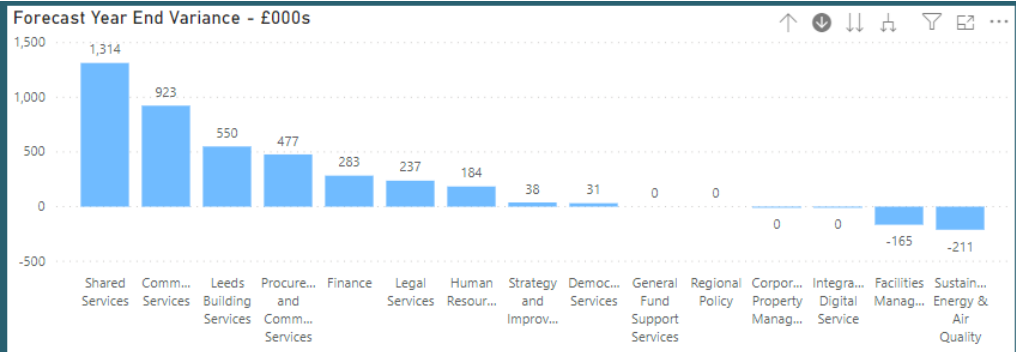
Financial Dashboard 2022/23 Financial Year



Budget Variation £000s

**3,662**

Overspend (+) Underspend (-)



Expenditure Type	Budget (LE) £000s	Projection £000s	Variance £000s
Employees	159,606	164,381	4,775
Premises	15,475	15,425	-51
Supplies and Services	54,558	53,591	-968
Transport	20,289	20,525	236
Internal Charges	4,355	4,331	-24
Third Party Payments	28	28	0
Transfer Payments	61	-31	-91
Capital		0	0
Transfer to/from Reserves	-90	-449	-359
Internal Income	-154,554	-152,341	2,213
External Income	-17,095	-19,165	-2,070
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,633</b>	<b>86,295</b>	<b>3,662</b>

Directorate	Change in Variance £000s
Resources	453
<b>Total</b>	<b>453</b>

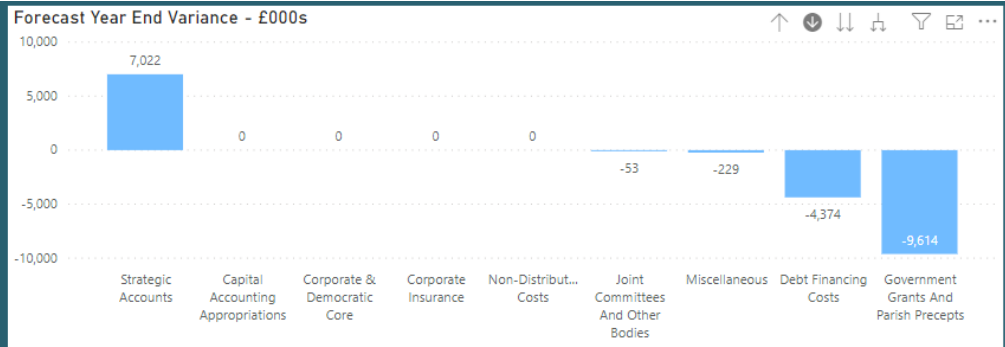
Financial Dashboard 2022/23 Financial Year



Budget Variation £000s

**-7,249**

Overspend (+) Underspend (-)



Expenditure Type	Budget (LE) £000s	Projection £000s	Variance £000s
Employees	4,736	4,504	-232
Premises		413	413
Supplies and Services	8,545	8,895	350
Internal Charges	4,285	4,202	-83
Third Party Payments	37,091	37,039	-53
Transfer Payments	928	1,038	110
Capital	79,820	75,663	-4,157
Transfer to/from Reserves	-34,800	-26,897	7,903
Internal Income	-42,174	-43,457	-1,283
External Income	-63,780	-73,996	-10,216
<b>Total</b>	<b>-5,349</b>	<b>-12,597</b>	<b>-7,249</b>

Directorate	Change in Variance £000s
Strategic and Central Accounts	-1,582
<b>Total</b>	<b>-1,582</b>

**2022/23 BUDGET ACTION PLANS**  
**January (Month 10)**

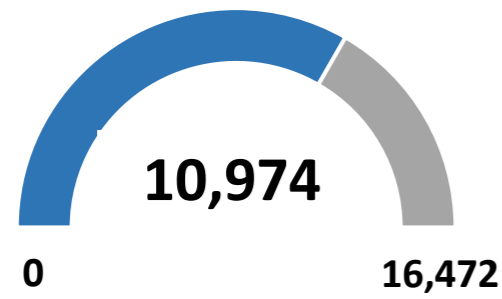
**LEEDS CITY COUNCIL - SUMMARY**

RAG Status	Budgeted Savings £'000s	Year End Projected Savings £'000s	Shortfall/ (Surplus) £'000s
Savings achieved	3,319	3,319	0
On track, no issues	5,999	6,144	(145)
Some risk	2,418	1,201	1,217
High risk	4,736	310	4,426
Cancelled	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,472</b>	<b>10,974</b>	<b>5,498</b>

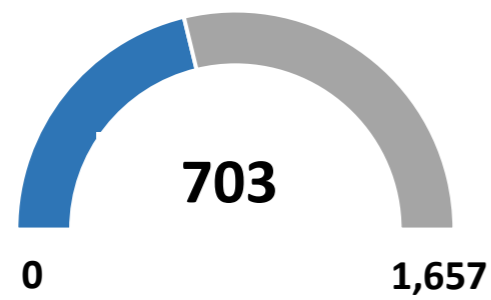
**LEEDS CITY COUNCIL - Other Savings Measures**

RAG Status	Budgeted Savings £'000s	Year End Projected Savings £'000s	Shortfall/ (Surplus) £'000s
Savings achieved	0	0	0
On track, no issues	633	633	0
Some risk	0	0	0
High risk	1,024	70	954
Cancelled	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>954</b>

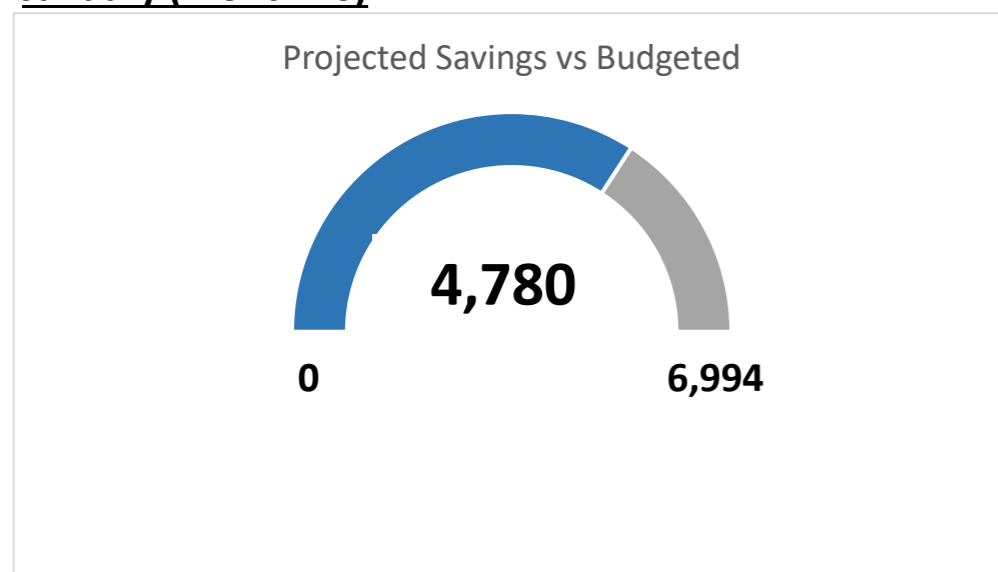
Projected Savings vs Budgeted



Projected Savings vs Budgeted



## January (Month 10)



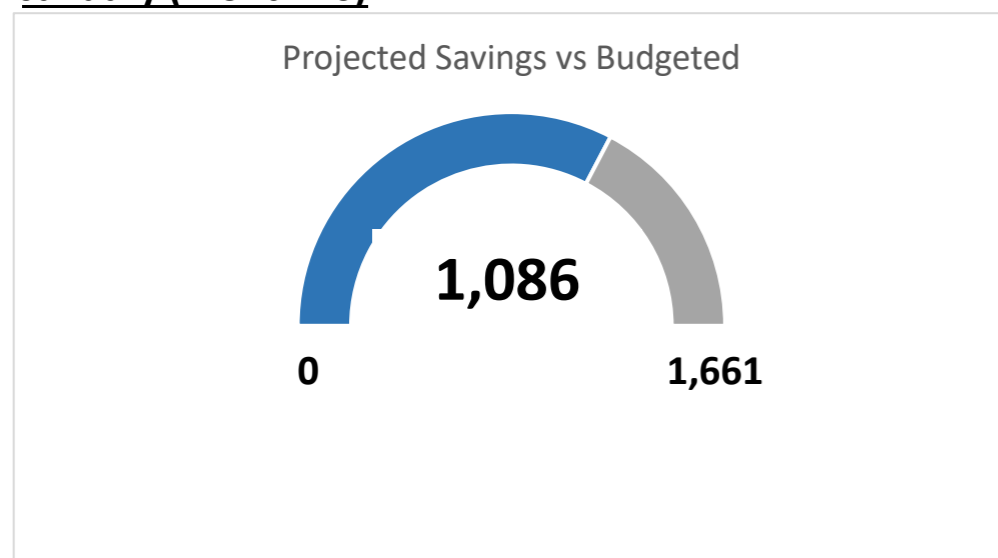
## ADULTS & HEALTH - SUMMARY

RAG Status	Budgeted Savings £'000s	Year End Projected Savings £'000s	Shortfall/ (Surplus) £'000s
Savings achieved	3,319	3,319	0
On track, no issues	1,120	1,120	0
Some risk	1,365	341	1,024
High risk	1,190	0	1,190
Cancelled	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,994</b>	<b>4,780</b>	<b>2,214</b>

### Amber & Red Risk Areas

Budgeted savings / Other savings measures	Service Review / Business as Usual	Savings title	Accountable Chief Officer	Latest	Budgeted £'000s	Projected £'000s	Projected Shortfall / (Surplus) £'000s	Including mitigating actions for Reds & Ambers
Budgeted savings	BAU	Enhance awareness/desirability of in-house provision to encourage attendance and reduce external procurement (against fixed running cost)	Shona McFarlane	High risk	190	0	190	Not expected to be achieved in 22/23
Budgeted savings	BAU	Improved collection of financially assessed client income	John Crowther	High risk	1,000	0	1,000	Additional income target linked to EB report re 2:1 and MAC charges. Phase 1 letters sent out to Clients end of May 2022. Actions are to take place in the second half of the year which should generate income and bring BAP on line. £0.5m of the £1m expected in 22/23 with full amount in 23/24.
Budgeted savings	SR	Strategic Review of Adult Social Work:	Shona McFarlane	Some risk	1,365	341	1,024	7-month slippage in the implementation of the social work review for the Front Line and Assessment Teams. Governance process now cleared and posts set up on the SAP system. Staff recruitment is ongoing which is affecting assessments. Depending upon recruitment times, savings may therefore decrease, beyond the shortfall already reported.

## January (Month 10)



## CHILDREN & FAMILIES - SUMMARY

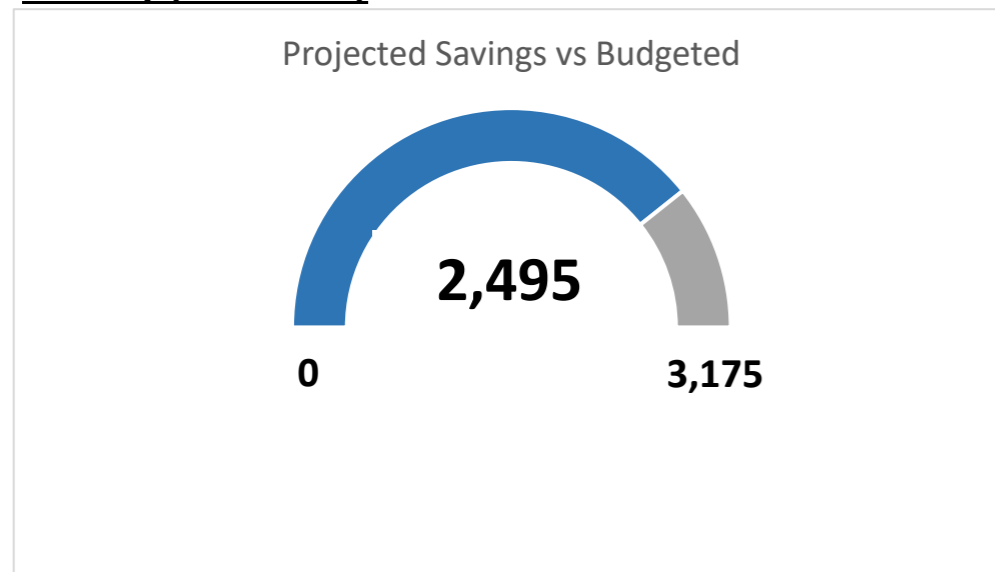
RAG Status	Budgeted Savings £'000s	Year End Projected Savings £'000s	Shortfall/ (Surplus) £'000s
Savings achieved	0	0	0
On track, no issues	1,086	1,086	0
Some risk	0	0	0
High risk	575	0	575
Cancelled	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>575</b>

## Amber & Red Risk Areas

Budgeted savings / Other savings measures	Service Review / Business as Usual	Savings title	Accountable Chief Officer	Latest	Budgeted £'000s	Projected £'000s	Projected Shortfall / (Surplus) £'000s	Including mitigating actions for Reds & Ambers
Budgeted savings	CF SR 22-24	Diversifying children's residential provision	Ruth Terry	High risk	295	0	295	Children and Families are currently reviewing the delivery plans and identifying actions required to deliver savings.
Budgeted savings	CF BAU 22-24	Passenger Transport	Tim Pouncey	High risk	200	0	200	The actions associated with this saving have been completed. However demand and inflation have exceeded original expectations, leading to an overall overspend on the transport budget. Actions to mitigate the overspend are detailed in the report.
Budgeted savings	CF BAU 22-24	Passenger transport-continuation from 21/22	Tim Pouncey	High risk	80	0	80	The actions associated with this saving have been completed. However demand and inflation have exceeded original expectations, leading to an overall overspend on the transport budget. Actions to mitigate the overspend are detailed in the report.

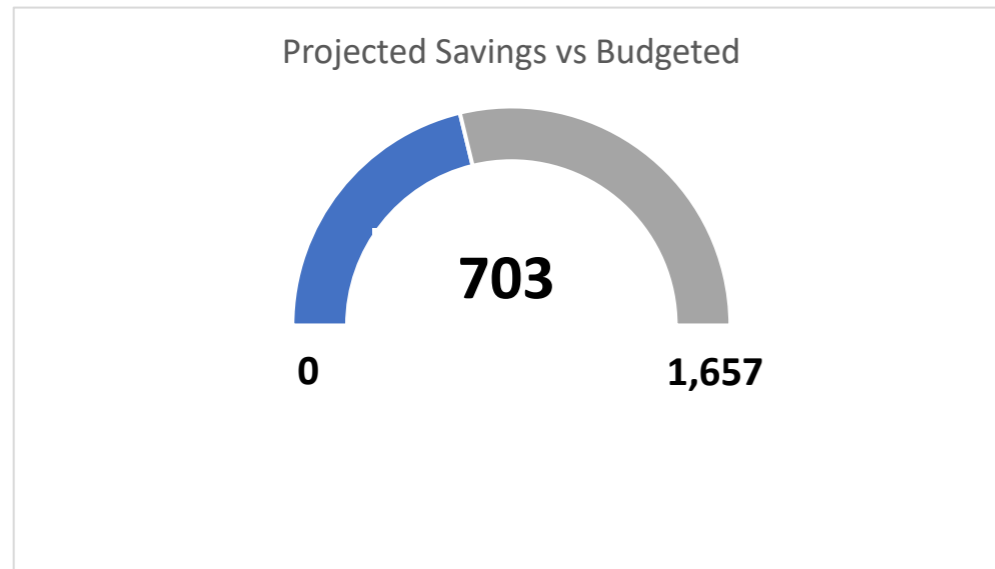


**January (Month 10)**



**CITY DEVELOPMENT - SUMMARY**

RAG Status	Budgeted Savings £'000s	Year End Projected Savings £'000s	Shortfall/ (Surplus) £'000s
Savings achieved	0	0	0
On track, no issues	2,220	2,220	0
Some risk	280	215	65
High risk	675	60	615
Cancelled	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,175</b>	<b>2,495</b>	<b>680</b>



**CITY DEVELOPMENT - Other Savings Measures**

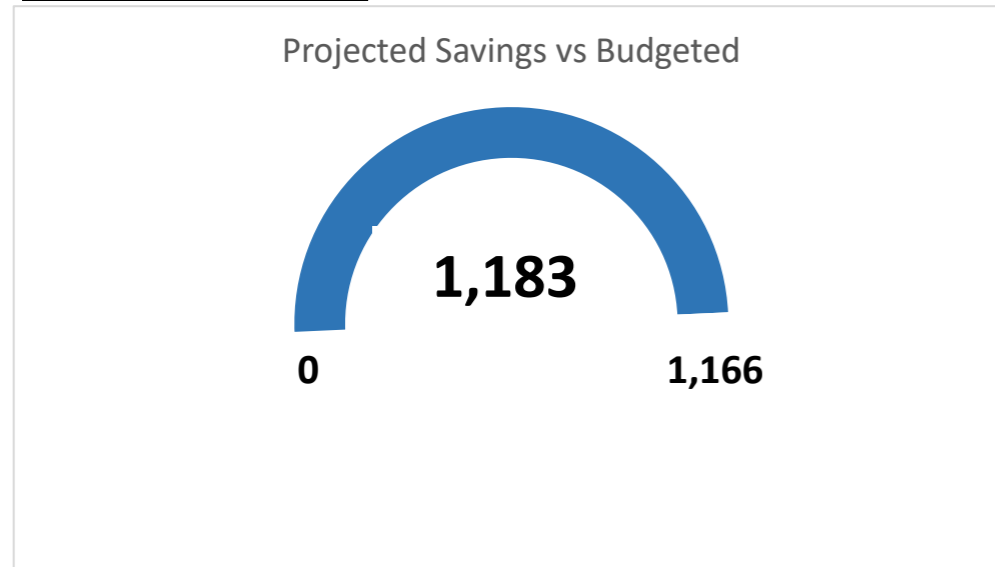
RAG Status	Budgeted Savings £'000s	Year End Projected Savings £'000s	Shortfall/ (Surplus) £'000s
Savings achieved	0	0	0
On track, no issues	633	633	0
Some risk	0	0	0
High risk	1,024	70	954
Cancelled	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>954</b>

**Amber & Red Risk Areas**

Budgeted savings / Other savings measures	Service Review / Business as Usual	Savings title	Accountable Chief Officer	Latest	Budgeted £'000s	Projected £'000s	Projected Shortfall / (Surplus) £'000s	Including mitigating actions for Reds & Ambers
Budgeted savings	BAU	Active Leeds - Increase in swimming tuition income	Phil Evans	Some risk	150	150	0	Some risks regarding capacity but no shortfall currently anticipated
Budgeted savings	BAU	Active Leeds - Health & Wellbeing offer	Phil Evans	Some risk	50	20	30	Shortfall mitigated by Other Income across Service
Budgeted savings	BAU	Arts, Events, Venues - ticketing solution	Eve Roodhouse	Some risk	80	45	35	Risks regarding achievement of required turnover but alternative savings identified to partially offset

Budgeted savings	BAU	Highways and transportation - Major Schemes Framework	Gary Bartlett	High risk	200	0	200	
Budgeted savings	BAU	Highways and transportation - deliver S38 agreement process for other WY Authorities	Gary Bartlett	High risk	40	0	40	delay in implementing the service.
Budgeted savings	BAU	Asset Management - Estate rationalisation	Angela Barnicle	High risk	275	0	275	Unlikely to be achieved in 22/23, options being explored re use of building
Budgeted savings	SR	Leeds Museums & Galleries Invest to Save: Kirkstall Abbey Admissions (Non-Leeds Residents)	Eve Roodhouse	High risk	160	60	100	Admission income currently below anticipated level
Other savings measures	0	Estate Rationalisation	Angela Barnicle	High risk	360	70	290	Plan to identify mitigating savings to be developed
Other savings measures	0	Strategic Investment Fund	Angela Barnicle	High risk	664	0	664	Plan to identify mitigating savings to be developed

## January (Month 10)



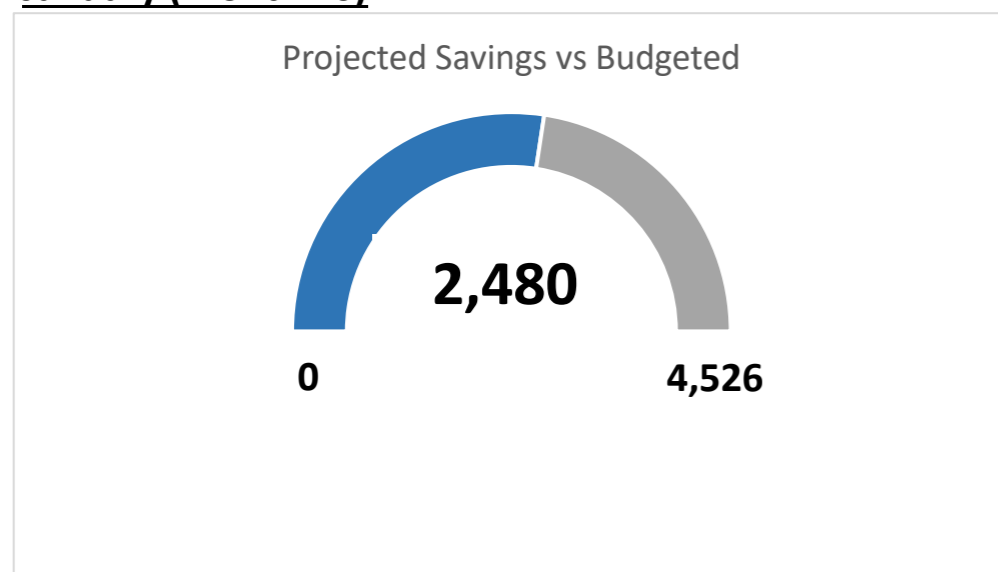
## COMMUNITIES, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT - SUMMARY

RAG Status	Budgeted Savings £'000s	Year End Projected Savings £'000s	Shortfall/ (Surplus) £'000s
Savings achieved	0	0	0
On track, no issues	778	923	(145)
Some risk	388	260	128
High risk	0	0	0
Cancelled	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>(17)</b>

### Amber & Red Risk Areas

Budgeted savings / Other savings measures	Service Review / Business as Usual	Savings title	Accountable Chief Officer	Latest	Budgeted £'000s	Projected £'000s	Projected Shortfall / (Surplus) £'000s	Including mitigating actions for Reds & Ambers
Budgeted savings	BAU	Support for In Bloom	Sean Flesher	Some risk	31	10	21	Delayed implementation. Revised timescales to be confirmed.
Budgeted savings	BAU	Increase bereavement services fees and charges by 3%	Sean Flesher	Some risk	210	197	13	£12k Arium on track for floor expansion. Delay in Playbarn opening. Latest timescale for Playbarn is Feb 23.
Budgeted savings	BAU	Parks attractions income	Sean Flesher	Some risk	78	18	60	Planning permission delayed.
Budgeted savings	BAU	Income - traded services & partner income-continuation from 21/22	Sean Flesher	Some risk	41	30	11	Delays in camera infrastructure meaning 2 staff remaining in post. Saving anticipated in 23/24.

## January (Month 10)



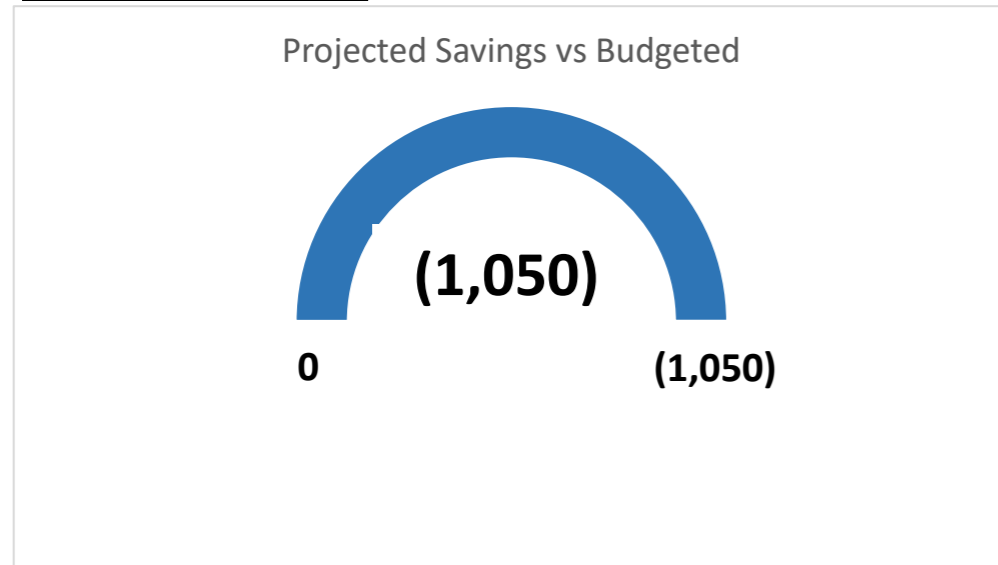
## RESOURCES - SUMMARY

RAG Status	Budgeted Savings £'000s	Year End Projected Savings £'000s	Shortfall/ (Surplus) £'000s
Savings achieved	0	0	0
On track, no issues	1,845	1,845	0
Some risk	385	385	0
High risk	2,296	250	2,046
Cancelled	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,526</b>	<b>2,480</b>	<b>2,046</b>

## Amber & Red Risk Areas

Budgeted savings / Other savings measures	Service Review / Business as Usual	Savings title	Accountable Chief Officer	Latest	Budgeted £'000s	Projected £'000s	Projected Shortfall / (Surplus) £'000s	Including mitigating actions for Reds & Ambers
Budgeted savings	BAU	BSC Shared Cost AVC	Mariana Pexton	Some risk	130	130	0	Whilst there is some risk in these areas due to the need for technical solutions, increased publicity for the schemes may mitigate the risk by the year end.
Budgeted savings	BAU	BSC Electrical Goods Salary Sacrifice.	Mariana Pexton	Some risk	100	100	0	Whilst there is some risk in these areas due to the need for technical solutions, increased publicity for the schemes may mitigate the risk by the year end.
Budgeted savings	BAU	BSC Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC).	Mariana Pexton	Some risk	55	55	0	Whilst there is some risk in these areas due to the need for technical solutions, increased publicity for the schemes may mitigate the risk by the year end.
Budgeted savings	BAU	BSC Lease Car Salary Sacrifice.	Mariana Pexton	Some risk	100	100	0	Whilst there is some risk in these areas due to the need for technical solutions, increased publicity for the schemes may mitigate the risk by the year end.
Budgeted savings	SR	Procurement - 2022/23 allocations (23/24 + to follow)	Victoria Bradshaw	High risk	2296	250	2046	Whilst there may be some mitigating areas of additional unbudgeted income from the Revolving Investment Fund and the Social Value Fund, and the PACS service will continue to identify opportunities to increase income and reduce costs across the Directorate, the inflationary pressures experienced across a range of contracts since the setting of the budget mean that a pressure is likely in this area.

**January (Month 10)**



**STRATEGIC - SUMMARY**

RAG Status	Budgeted Savings £'000s	Year End Projected Savings £'000s	Shortfall/ (Surplus) £'000s
Savings achieved	0	0	0
On track, no issues	(1,050)	(1,050)	0
Some risk	0	0	0
High risk	0	0	0
Cancelled	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>(1,050)</b>	<b>(1,050)</b>	<b>0</b>

**Amber & Red Risk Areas**

Budgeted savings / Other savings measures	Service Review / Business as Usual	Savings title	Accountable Chief Officer	Latest	Budgeted £'000s	Projected £'000s	Projected Shortfall / (Surplus) £'000s	Including mitigating actions for Reds & Ambers

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## Climate Emergency Annual Report

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Report of: Director of Resources

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Executive Summary

- In 2019 the council declared a climate emergency with a target of achieving net zero emissions for the city by 2030. This report provides the annual update against this target at both a council and city level. It also updates and reflects on wider changes relevant to the city's decarbonisation that have happened both regionally and nationally.
- In 2022 Leeds City Council was recognised as one of 122 city authorities across the world leading the way on climate action as part of a list published by renowned international authority, the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). Leeds joins the likes of New York, Paris, Melbourne, Tokyo, Buenos Aires, and Cape Town on the organisation's 2022 A List. Of more than 1,000 global cities that received a rating this year only 12% received an 'A' grade. Leeds was among those cities being celebrated for showing that urgent and impactful climate action—from ambitious emissions reduction targets to building resilience against climate change—is achievable at a global level. However, this action will need to go further and faster in future years for Leeds to retain this 'A' grade.
- The council continues to achieve a high level of success in its grant applications, totalling over £100m since 2019. Around £35 million is being won every year to support areas such as electric charging infrastructure, housing retrofit, public building decarbonisation and the expansion of the district heating PIPES network. Future funding for 2023/24 is expected to continue at this level.
- Despite our successful track record on bidding, we know that to achieve net zero that we need to access significantly more funding. Much of this funding will have to be provided by the private sector, with government grants focused on areas such as technological developments or housing retrofit for those living in fuel poverty. As a result the council has invested significant time in 2022 working with the private sector to identify a model to unlock greater levels of funding, based on self-financing business cases as well as working with the Green Finance Institute to support the work that they are undertaking to develop property linked finance, which is seen as a key way to speed up housing retrofit in the owner occupied market.
- The council's climate emissions have two key sources:
  - The energy that it uses to power and heat its facilities;
  - The fuel that it uses to operate its vehicles fleet.

- The council had previously set itself the target to reduce its own operational emissions by 50% by 2025 and this report demonstrates the actions that it is taking to ensure that it will meet this first target.
- The council will continue to reduce the energy it uses by investing in technologies such as solar PV panels, LED lighting, and alternative heating sources. This work shall build on the success of 2021 which saw £25 million of funding secured to retrofit 40 of our buildings with renewables, energy efficiency improvements and decarbonised heating. A further £4 million of upgrades to 10 more buildings was announced in September 2022. The LED streetlighting programme roll out has also continued at pace, further reducing energy usage.
- Comparing the forecast 2022/23 figures with those for 2018/19, just ahead of the declaration of the climate emergency for Leeds, over 23,000 tonnes per annum, or a 37% reduction, in CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from the council's energy usage has been achieved during this time.
- The council continues to seek to complement the energy reduction and decarbonisation measures outlined above by changing how it procures its energy through direct investment in localised major renewables schemes such as large scale solar, and the use of corporate power purchase agreements enabling investment in large scale renewables potentially outside of Leeds.
- In terms of fleet the council already has what is believed to be the largest electric vehicle fleet of any local authority in the UK, with 384 electric vehicles and its first electric Refuse Collection Vehicles due to arrive on fleet this year.
- Last year was the first year that we started to expand the annual climate emergency report's focus beyond mitigation to adaptation and resilience. In 2022 the first report about the development of the adaptation and resilience plan was taken to executive board and we held our first cross council workshop focused on how we prepare specifically for extreme heatwaves and flooding.
- In 2022 we also focused on food and its emissions, with a draft food strategy published in the autumn, consultation into the new year and the amended food strategy presented for adoption at today's Executive Board.
- The district's emissions continue to show progress towards net zero but, without further action, the pace of change is not currently sufficient to ensure net zero will be achieved by 2030. Where the council has the funding and the powers to enable or deliver change itself it has made good progress, however there are key areas where further support from national government is essential to overcome key barriers, e.g. private housing retrofit and transport. The council is regularly engaging with national policymakers to ensure their awareness of these barriers and challenges.
- There is a particular focus within this report on the challenges that we face to decarbonise the city's housing stock, a sector that contributes 26% to our emissions and in particular the work to accelerate the retrofit of privately owned housing.
- The council has a good track record for securing funding to support cross-tenure housing retrofit works.



- During financial year 2021/2022, the council secured £19.5 million of national government funding for programmes delivering a range of low-carbon heating, energy efficiency, or renewable energy technologies benefiting more than 1,500 domestic properties. During financial year 2022/2023, the council has bid for £19.7 million from national and regional government funding sources to deliver even more low-carbon heating, energy efficiency, or renewable energy technologies benefiting at least 1,100 domestic properties. The council is expecting the outcome of these bids to be publicly confirmed before the end of the financial year. £0.2 million was also secured this year as part of the Government’s “Heats Pump Ready” project to explore the feasibility and viability of networked heat pumps at an inner city location.
- In addition to securing external funding, the council has also previously committed more than £100 million towards the delivery of social housing decarbonisation projects as part of its Capital Housing Investment Programme—incorporating a mix of external and Housing Revenue Account funding—with around 5,000 council properties currently expected to benefit. A more detailed programme update was presented to Executive Board in March 2022. Delivery of this programme is continuous, with several projects delivered or progressed in 2022.
- With regards to the wider built environment, we have seen many other public sector partners connect to our £49 million low carbon district heating network, which continues to expand rapidly. Like the council, many of the city’s other large organisational emitters are also taking significant actions to reduce their own impact on the environment—supporting the city’s journey to become the UK’s first net zero city. The University of Leeds, one of the city’s other largest emitters, has published a detailed Climate Plan and committed to invest more than £150 million to work towards achieving net zero emissions by 2030.
- Planning plays a key role in supporting the standard of new build across the city and ensuring retrofit will not be required. In July 2021 the council carried out initial statutory public consultation on a Local Plan Update, which will update planning policies for carbon reduction, flood risk, green infrastructure (including biodiversity), place making and sustainable infrastructure. More recently, the proposed policies were developed and consulted between October and December 2022.
- Transport contributes around a third of the city’s emissions and needs significant investment to make the changes required. The Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy has decarbonisation as one of its central pillars. The strategy outlines the key steps to deliver the changes needed in Transport to meet the city’s 2030 target of making Leeds Carbon neutral. Its key aims are:
  - Reducing carbon emissions from transport to achieve net zero by 2030, as per the goal of the council’s declaration of a climate emergency is acknowledged to be highly challenging in the transport strategy. A goal for a 43% reduction in CO2 emissions is the level that will be achieved if the modal split targets are achieved by 2030.
  - Reducing the need for travel and the number of car journeys, especially at peak times. The total distances travelled on our roads were still lower in 2021 than pre-pandemic in 2019. With a 13% reduction shown in Indicator 1. LGV (+2%) and HGV (5%) traffic though was higher in 2021 than in 2019. This highlights the importance of the freight strategies.
  - Encouraging and leading the uptake of zero emission vehicles in freight, public and private transport. The uptake of zero emission vehicles showed encouraging signs in the

last year. The number of publicly available EV charging points increase by 129 from October 21 to reach 418 in October 22. First buses now have 21 electric buses operational in Leeds, an increase of 12 on the previous year, First have 32 additional electric vehicles on order with electric charging facilities also planned to be installed at Bramley depot.

- Encouraging people to choose active travel and public transport. Due to the pandemic reliable and meaningful data on mode share is less readily available. However, a comparison is possible of travel into the city centre and changes between 2019 and 2021. From this we see the proportion of trips into the city centre by car in the morning peak increased from a just over half (51.5%) to over two-thirds (69.2%). It has not been possible to obtain rail figures so the full modal split cannot currently be reported. The mode split targets are one of the main metrics to monitor success however there are still challenges accessing some of the required datasets and the ongoing impact of Covid-19 makes it difficult to provide meaningful annual trends. Further review of the current methodology is needed to maintain accuracy. The current data is only available for 2019 and 2021 with 2022 data still to be finalised and published. Further work with internal LCC data count teams is needed to develop a more robust dataset and timeline for publishing to ensure this aligns with quarterly and annual reporting by the Transport Strategy service.
- The cost of delivering our long-term ambition in the Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy to become net-zero by 2030 is still significantly beyond the level of funding currently available.
- Leeds City Council approved the city's new Connecting Leeds transport strategy in 2022. In the year since, a record amount of infrastructure and policy work has been completed to improve the city's connectivity and transport networks, some of which is summarised below. A more detailed annual update report was presented to Executive Board in February 2023.
  - Development on Freight Policy – Increased focus on decarbonisation of freight (rail, road, cargo bike, waterborne, last mile, future zero emission technology (robots))
  - Local plans and development of '20 min neighbourhoods' planning, mobility hubs, multi modal interchange.
  - Streetscape road space reallocation policy – This new policy prioritises space on Leeds' streets for sustainable transport. It will be used by all highways scheme designers to ensure the principles of the transport strategy are embedded on Leeds' streets.
  - Future Mass Transit (implications) and planning.
  - WYCA commissioned future Park & Ride studies (road/rail)
  - Parking policy (pay display charging at LCC owned sites)
  - Continued development of LCWIP and ATN (Active Travel fund and Active Travel England support) - CC3/TCF cycle network expansion
  - Travel behaviour campaigns – Walk it / Ride It successfully launched and School initiatives The LCC influencing travel behaviour team each year deliver to more than 10,000 children and young people in Leeds 'Bikeability' training
- The last year has also seen the completion of the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme (LPTIP): an unprecedented £270 million investment into the Leeds transport network delivered in partnership with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, bus operators

and other transport stakeholders. The LPTIP programme has delivered significant improvements to the bus network, enhanced facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, and transformed the public realm.

- Climate Emergency Task group - A project has been launched to develop and shape Highways & Transportation's response to the climate emergency through establishing processes and best practice workstreams which consider whole-life carbon assessments to ensure our infrastructure and communities are resilient and satisfy commitments made as part of our climate emergency declaration to respond to climate change. Focus on Network Management, Maintenance and Street Lighting
- The changes required to transition the city towards a net zero economy will not be possible without widespread public support and behaviour changes from residents and organisations alike. Public communications and engagement has three fundamental roles: enabling the successful delivery of projects, explaining climate policy, and engaging the public on the changes that they can take (whether individual or organisational) to help accelerate climate action. In addition to targeted, project-specific communications support the council continues to work with partners to engage citizens and businesses through a range of approaches. A dedicated monthly e-newsletter highlights regular updates and opportunities for climate action to nearly 7,000 subscribers.

## **Recommendations**

The Executive Board is requested to approve the following recommendations:

- a) Adopt the net zero housing plan for the council (appendix 1)
- b) Note the food strategy consultation responses and approve the adoption of the updated food strategy (appendices 2 and 3)
- c) Approve Leeds City Council becoming a signatory of the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission's 'Climate Action Pledge'
- d) Support the submission of the next Annual Report to Executive Board in September 2024 (and every 12 months thereafter) to improve transparency by aligning the Annual Report with the council's Carbon Disclosure Project submission.

## **Main Report**

### **Why is the proposal being put forward?**

- 1 This report is our annual review of the work undertaken in response to the declaration of a Climate Emergency in March 2019.

### **2 Introduction**

- 3 Our climate has changed already and the impacts of this are already being felt locally, nationally, and globally. The climate will continue to change until global net zero is reached—meaning that the greenhouse gas emissions of every territory are either reduced or removed from the atmosphere by natural or man-made means. The planet is already 1.2 degrees Celsius warmer on average than in pre-industrial times as a result of human-caused climate change, according to the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

- 4 2022 was the warmest year on record for the UK according to Met Office figures with the top 10 warmest years on record having each occurred since 2003. All four seasons of 2022 were

within the top ten warmest since the Met Office began recording in 1884. Leeds experienced the hottest day ever recorded in July. 2022 was also among the driest on record requiring many water companies, including Yorkshire Water, to declare a drought and issue a hosepipe ban to help maintain supplies.

- 5 These weather events are becoming more likely as a result of climate change. A recent study conducted by Met Office scientists has concluded that the UK's annual temperature in 2022 would have been considered a 1-in-500-year event in a natural climate where human influences are removed. It is now likely to occur every three to four years.
- 6 Initial analysis by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows that across the 5-heat periods in the summer of 2022, the estimated total excess mortality (excluding coronavirus (COVID-19) in England was 2,803 for those aged 65 and over. This is the highest excess mortality figure during heat-periods observed since the introduction of the Heatwave plan for England in 2004. Additionally, the impacts of the heatwaves this summer caused widespread disruption to travel, workplaces, and many council services.
- 7 2022 has been another landmark year for climate diplomacy with COP27 taking place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. In recognition of the past, current, and future impact of climate change the convention ended with a historic decision to establish and operationalize a new 'loss and damage' fund, particularly for nations most vulnerable to the climate crisis. Additionally, the Prime Minister reiterated the UK's own commitment to reducing emissions by at least 68 per cent by 2030 when speaking at the conference as part of a "global mission for new jobs and clean growth".
- 8 This year also saw an independent review launched by the government into the delivery of net zero climate commitments, with a focus on ensuring that the UK's Net Zero Strategy maximises economic growth while increasing energy security and affordability for consumers and businesses. The outcomes of this Net Zero Review were published in January 2023 with 129 recommendations made to Government on how to take economic advantage of the transition to net-zero. It reaffirmed that the Government's timeline to achieve net-zero was still appropriate, however identified 'net zero is creating a new era of opportunity, but government, industry, and individuals need to act to make the most of the opportunities, reduce costs, and ensure we deliver successfully'
- 9 The council's own climate vision supports the vision set out in the government's Net Zero Strategy but recognises the city's ambition to achieve net zero emissions significantly earlier as far as this is practically possible.
- 10 In 2019, councillors from all parties in Leeds voted to declare a 'climate emergency' and work towards achieving citywide net zero emissions by 2030. Since then, Leeds City Council has delivered climate-related schemes worth hundreds of millions of pounds, published a plan to halve the authority's own carbon footprint by 2025, and begun updating some of the authority's most significant policy documents (such as the Connecting Leeds transport strategy, Housing Strategy, skills strategy, and Local Plan) to ensure they support work to mitigate and adapt to the changing climate.
- 11 Leeds City Council was recognised in 2022 as one of 122 city authorities across the world leading the way on climate action as part of a list published by renowned international authority, the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). Leeds joins the likes of New York, Paris, Melbourne, Tokyo, Buenos Aires, and Cape Town on the organisation's 2022 A List. Of more than 1,000 global cities that received a rating this year only 12% received an 'A' grade. Leeds was among those cities being celebrated for showing that urgent and impactful climate action—from ambitious emissions reduction targets to building resilience against climate change—is achievable at a global level. However, this action will need to go further and faster in future

years for Leeds to retain this 'A' grade.

12 The council's most recent submission to the CDP (included as appendix 4 to this report) was prepared in July and has been publicly available online since December 2022. Participation in the CDP requires cities to disclose annually—typically before the end of each July. Given the range and depth of detail that this includes and the submission's complementary nature to this annual report, it is recommended that the council should bring future versions of this report into alignment with the timescales for the CDP submission. Alignment will improve transparency by enabling Executive Board and Leeds citizens to review the city's submission months earlier than it would otherwise be publicly available. The change will also mean that future versions of the Annual Update report will be accompanied by, and will provide a narrative explaining, more detailed data and a fuller picture of the city's climate action progress.

### 13 National and Regional Context

14 The council can take a wide range of actions to achieve net zero operations as an organisation and as a local authority can contribute significantly to the city's progress towards its net zero target. Nevertheless, neither the council nor the city exists independently of national policy. The transition from natural gas, the shift to a net zero electricity grid, and the removal of fossil fuels from transport are three profound changes to which the council can contribute but where the principal levers lay at a national level.

15 With regards to scope 3 emissions, pertaining to those associated with consumption of goods and services, again the council can make some inroads but issues which determine the degree to which the citizens of Leeds are dependent on imported goods produced and transported with carbon are bound up with national industrial strategy and trade policy.

16 The council can play two roles with regard to impacting on the national agenda. First, the council can and has been acting as a pathfinder for low carbon and zero carbon development. A constructive engagement with government is helping to develop district heating as a viable alternative and pioneering retrofit in multi storey buildings, as two examples. This engagement will help the city achieve reductions in carbon faster but also help prove the case for its implementation at a national level. Secondly, the council can engage national policymakers, communicate the local challenges and opportunities of net zero, and work with them—and with other partners including the LGA, UK100, Core Cities, and other authorities—to address barriers and ultimately improve national policy.

17 Foremost among the immediate financial asks is funding for the delivery of a transformative public transport system. Going beyond the specific asks, however, is a call for greater consistency both of funding and of policy. It is through a long-term commitment to funding that the council can establish comprehensive programmes of work and industry can have the confidence to invest in the long term in technology, training and jobs. The retrofitting of housing has been a particular example of stop start funding but which can turn into a huge opportunity to reduce carbon quickly, reduce bills and create meaningful well paid work. Lastly, there is a need for a comprehensive review of local government powers to ensure they are consistent with the government's own commitment to net zero, ensuring that in key areas such as planning, waste, housing and transport they are properly aligned.

18 Beyond funding and policy, a key issue remains of public awareness, which is both crucial to individual decision making but also to the acceptability of some of the policy changes likely to be required. Local government, central government, industry and the third sector will need to work collectively on this issue in the years to come, often promoting the associated wider

benefits of carbon reduction actions to ensure public buy in. The broad political consensus in the UK regarding the reality of climate change are a crucial advantage and foundation for this.

- 19 There have been some positive steps forward at a national level with the recent publication of the Environmental Improvements Plan 2023 which sets out a five-year delivery plan to restore nature and improve the environmental quality of the air, waters, and land. Key highlights of this include:
- a) for the government to publish the third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) in 2023 that will set out a five year strategy to build the UK's climate resilience
  - b) investment in active travel, with a vision for half of all journeys in towns and cities to be cycled or walked by 2030. £35 million funding has already been committed this financial year
  - c) minimising waste through the introduction of banning the supply of single use plastics from October 2023, working with businesses to implement packaging extended producer responsibility from 2024 and introducing a deposit return scheme for plastic and metal drinks containers from October 2025
  - d) challenging local authorities to improve air quality more quickly by assessing their performance and use of existing powers, while supporting them with clear guidance, funding, and tools. The government have committed to reduce population exposure to PM2.5 by 35% compared to 2018 levels by the end of 2040

The government has also committed to publishing a new Green Finance Strategy, building on the first strategy, published in 2019. It will set out in more detail the steps the government are putting in place to leverage in private finance to deliver government's environmental goals.

- 20 The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission (Y&HCC) was also established in 2021 – an independent advisory body set to bring representatives from the public, private and third sector together to support and guide ambitious actions across the region with four inter-related aims:
- a) To foster climate resilience and adaptation to climate risks and impacts
  - b) To support rapid progress towards net zero carbon emissions
  - c) To encourage a just and inclusive transition and climate actions that leave no one and nowhere behind
  - d) To promote sustainability and climate actions that also protect nature and biodiversity
- 21 As part of COP26 the Y&HCC launched their climate action plan, comprising of 50 actions. In early 2024 the council will assess itself against the actions identified and use it to strengthen its own action plan.
- 22 The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Pledge was launched on the 15th November 2022, with 24 organisations including local authorities, health and education sectors, third sector and private sector businesses signing up to the pledge after the launch.
- 23 The Pledge has four areas of focus: working towards net zero, adapting to future climate impacts, enhancing nature and biodiversity and working with people, places and partners to create more impact.
- 24 In signing the Climate Action Pledge, we are reaffirming our commitment to these four goals and continuing to show our residents, staff and businesses throughout Leeds that we are a responsible organisation determined to make a positive difference.
- 25 Organisations will be categorised into one of three tiers:

**Signatories:** those who have signed and pledged to take action

**Achievers:** Those who already have a plan in place for one or more of our four areas of focus

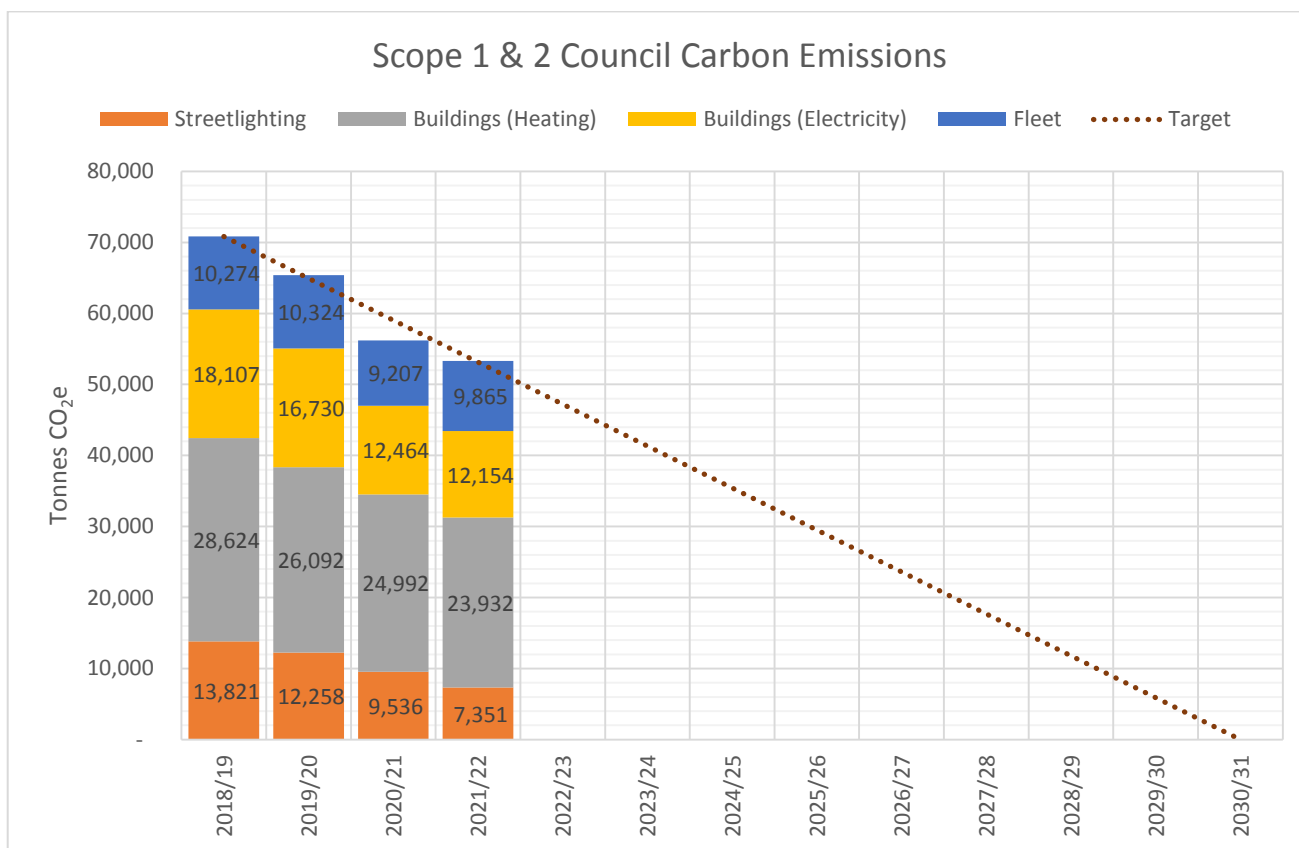
**Leaders:** During 2023, businesses and organisations that appear to be most advanced will be chosen to develop criteria for Climate Leaders.

26 Businesses and organisations that declare that they have a plan in place for at least one of these areas are categorised as 'Achievers' Within the region, Hull City Council, Kirklees Council and Harrogate Borough Council have already signed the pledge, declaring their position as 'Achievers.'

27 It is recommended that Leeds City Council sign the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Pledge declaring their position as an 'Achiever' and provide an update to the next Climate Emergency Annual Update Report on the progression of their commitments.

### Council Emissions - Overview

28 The chart below illustrates how these figures correspond to the trajectory required to achieve the net zero ambition. This shows the council to be on track, noting that the range of measures being implemented by the council as summarised in the sections below will need to be supported by major national policy, infrastructure and funding measures if this rate of progress is to be maintained.



29 The biggest challenges to removing the remaining emissions by 2030 for the council will be the transition of the remainder of our buildings from gas as the current cost of replacing an existing gas heating system with an air source heat pump is multiple times higher than if we were to replace with another gas boiler and will often result in higher running costs. There may also

remain some technological challenges with regards to our fleet replacement, especially in connection with our more specialist fleet where the low volume requirement means that the same level of product development hasn't taken place to find a zero emissions alternative.

30 As well as looking at scope 1 and 2 emissions, the council is committed to looking at how it can reduce its scope 3 emissions<sup>1</sup>. With an annual external spend of almost one billion pounds, there is significant potential to use our buying power to reduce wider emissions associated with council services. Measuring scope 3 emissions accurately is very challenging and labour intensive. However, we have started to capture more accurate data for some of our spend categories as shown in the table below and this will enable us to monitor specific areas and develop action plans to reduce scope 3 emissions. Food emissions will be calculated every 3 years rather than annually due to the level of resource required to undertake this exercise.

	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2018/19		Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2019/20		Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2020/21		Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2021/22
Grey Fleet (car mileage claims)	1,232		1,246		587		858
Business Travel (other)	173		199		24		56
Water	n/a		229		158		156
	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2018/19 <sup>2</sup>	Food weight (Tonnes)	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2019/20 <sup>5</sup>	Food weight (Tonnes)	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2020/21 <sup>5</sup>	Food weight (Tonnes)	Not calculated
Food total	8,671	2,741	7,535	2,494	4,990	2,138	

## Energy Strategy

31 With energy usage accounting for over 80% of the council's carbon emissions, and with the council having adopted a new energy strategy in February 2022, work has continued across all key areas to reduce energy related carbon impacts and costs. The ongoing global energy crisis has created major budget pressures, although the council's exposure to these costs has been managed through the implementation of its energy purchasing strategy approved by Executive Board in March 2022.

32 The table below illustrates the progressive year-on-year reductions in gas and electricity consumption since the declaration of the Climate Emergency in March 2019 and the associated carbon emission reductions.

LCC energy consumption				
	Gas (kWh)	Elec (kWh)	Total kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	% CO <sub>2</sub> e reduction (compared to 18/19)
2018/19	155,185,026	123,951,177	62,626,120	
2019/20	150,975,376	128,138,426	59,688,728	
2020/21	147,653,416	106,961,797	51,431,690	
2021/22	140,519,929	104,264,513	47,309,569	25%

<sup>1</sup> Scope 3 emissions are those emissions that the organisation is indirectly responsible for from buying products or services from its supplier or mileage completed by employees in their own vehicles.

<sup>2</sup> The CO<sub>2</sub>e emission factors for Food items vary between sources, so the figures presented above are best estimates using the averages of min/max values. For some products, emission factors have had to be defaulted to the BEIS generic food/drink emission factor and for other products the most likely food equivalent has been used.



- 33 Action and progress since the last annual update can be summarised under the following key areas:
- 34 **Reducing energy consumption** – the council has continued its work to ‘right size’ the corporate estate in response to new ways of working and changes to models of service delivery, as well as ongoing work to raise awareness amongst building managers, staff and service users of the impacts of energy usage, and the improved use of data to understand where further energy savings can be achieved through better energy management. In addition to the programme led by Strategic Asset Management, a dedicated Energy Reduction Team has been established to ensure focused action to reduce energy consumption. Measures have included a range of asset disposals, permanent and temporary closures of buildings, concentration of staff into specific areas of buildings to enable partial shutdowns, adjustments to building and facility heating settings, development of site-specific action plans at high-consuming sites and enhanced staff engagement and awareness raising on energy usage issues.
- 35 **Improving energy efficiency** – the programme of work to secure grant funding and deliver energy efficiency, low carbon heating and renewables generation measures across the corporate estate and schools has continued, with a further 10 schemes delivered in 2022, totalling 47 since the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) opened in September 2020. A bid has been submitted for further funding of £10.3m, which would enable a further 21 sites which are planned to be delivered by March 2024. Schemes include the installation of heat pumps, building energy management systems, insulation, LED lighting, solar PV and a range of other energy efficiency measures. Work has also been undertaken to review how the crematoria can be made more energy efficient and reduce gas use by adopting common operational practise used by other local authorities whilst ensuring that the Council continues to respect the guidelines set out by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management. In addition to this, the wholesale conversion of the city’s street lighting to LED has progressed rapidly, providing substantial reductions in electricity consumption.
- 36 **Increasing renewables** – In terms of the council’s target to move to 100% electricity provided by green sources, although corporate power purchase agreements (PPA’s) with major renewables generators continue to be explored and remain a key part of the strategy, market energy price increases have meant that these are currently less favourable and the council has therefore prioritised feasibility work to itself bring forward local large-scale solar renewables generation sites within Leeds—building on the 8.3 MW of solar generation capacity that council schemes have already delivered in recent years. Alongside work on the Local Plan Update to identify potential ‘opportunity areas’ for renewables across the district, work has also been progressed to assess technical feasibility and the financial business case of large-scale solar, and ongoing site selection work to evaluate needs and constraints, assessing potential brownfield prior to consideration of greenfield sites, and non-Green Belt before Green Belt. In support of the delivery of future schemes a report was presented to the Executive Board in December 2022 to agree the required capital funding injection and the proposed procurement and commercial arrangements for solar schemes. An increased target to deliver 30% of the Council’s electricity demand through locally based renewables generation by 2025/26 was also agreed, representing a substantially increased commitment over the previous 10% target.

### 37 **Streetlighting**

- 38 One of the council’s main users of energy is streetlighting, accounting for around 30% of electricity consumption. As noted above, a four-year programme to transfer the city’s streetlighting to run on LEDs by October 2023 was commenced in 2019 at a rate of around 1,900 new lanterns installed per month. Once complete it is expected that this scheme will

reduce CO<sub>2</sub> annual emissions from streetlighting by over 4,573 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e and reduce the council's electricity consumption by around 24,400 MWh per year. Further measures to provide the ability to dim street lighting where this can be safely delivered have been assessed and are currently expected to be implemented progressively from March 2023.

### 39 Existing Buildings

40 In March 2021, the council was successful in securing over £25m grant funding to invest in decarbonising its estate through the first round of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. This funding was used to install a range of low carbon technologies at 40 sites representing a variety of different building types (such as homes for older people, leisure centres, offices, schools, heritage sites, etc):

41 Technologies include:

- District Heating connections
- Air Source Heat Pumps
- Solar Panels
- LED lighting
- Insulation / Glazing

42 All works were completed by 30 June 2022, with a total carbon saving of 3,857 tCO<sub>2</sub>pa.

43 During the delivery of the above, the council then successfully applied for a further £4.3m funding to install similar works at ten additional buildings, with a further carbon saving of 684 tCO<sub>2</sub>pa. These schemes are currently being delivered.

44 The council has since submitted two further bids totalling £10.3m to decarbonise a further 21 buildings comprising schools, corporate and heritage buildings, to be delivered by March 2024. Beyond this it is anticipated that Central Government will put out further calls for funding applications throughout the coming years. The council continues to undertake assessments of buildings in partnership with its appointed contractor so we can be ready to submit further decarbonisation funding applications as and when funding is made available.

45 The use of buildings will change over time as service requirements develop and evolve. This may open up opportunities for buildings to be used for different purposes which may necessitate more comprehensive refurbishment schemes being brought forward to remodel the building and address backlog maintenance requirements. In these situations, the council will take the opportunity to explore the potential to further improve the energy efficiency and performance of the building through implementation of a range of retrofit measures.

### 46 New Buildings

47 Ensuring that any new Council assets contribute to the overall reduction of the Council's carbon footprint is essential in achieving the ambition for the Council and City to be Net Zero by 2030.

48 Over the past year, specialist support has been engaged to consider how Net Zero is embedded within the design principles of all new-build projects across both construction and for subsequent operation. The technology included within the fabric of buildings and heat supply systems are specified to future proof buildings and minimise their carbon footprint. Designs are subject to review at the end of each RIBA Design Stage, with sustainability appraisals undertaken to ensure that all possible options have been considered to minimise the buildings' carbon footprint, including methods to support additional energy generation or other carbon reduction interventions. This approach has led to the delivery of Council housing being built without gas boilers as a standard part of our latest specification and the new offices and depot at Newmarket House achieving BREEAM Excellent, which includes solar panels over both the car park and roof to meet the buildings electricity needs.

49 In addition, the Council has recently consulted on ambitious new policies as part of the Leeds Local Plan Update which once adopted will provide the formal policy context and requirements for all new build development, and will require significant improvements to carbon emissions, through net zero policies and other sustainable construction requirements, in addition to national updates to Building Regulations. Planning policies and Building Regulations guide the new-build requirements and all projects will meet these requirements as a minimum in order to obtain consent and exceed them where technical and financial feasibility allows.

## 50 Fleet

51 The council's fleet of electric vehicles is currently 380, believed to be the largest zero emission fleet of any local authority in the country. There are currently 121 depot charging points and 117 charge points at employee homes and work has been completed to future proof both the new Waste and Seacroft Ring Road depots to enable additional charge points to be installed when required. Work to develop the fleet replacement programme continues to seek to identify opportunities to transition heavier, more specific purpose vehicles to EV or alternative fuel options. This remains challenging, we worked with the Energy Savings Trust in 2022 to look at the fleet and continue to engage with EST as well as other key stakeholders to identify opportunities for replacement of vehicles with zero emission alternatives. The key barriers to delivery of this change remain lack of availability of suitable zero emission vehicles, as well as the cost of the vehicles when they are available with the additional need to develop the required fuelling infrastructure to support them. The government, whilst planning to end the sale of conventional engine cars and vans in 2030, has set a later date of 2035 and 2040 for HGV's (depending on size) which means that the market in heavier vehicles is some way behind and the horizon for price parity will also be later for HGVs than for cars and vans.

52 Following an exercise to establish total cost of ownership models, the council is now in the process of purchasing 3 electric refuse collection vehicles, with the capital now approved for this. These will replace outgoing diesel vehicles in the refuse fleet. The council continues to develop a fleet replacement strategy that best aligns the decarbonisation and air quality priorities with service need. The long-term aim is to identify dates for when vehicles will be available in alternative fuel models but also when there will be better price parity (taking into account the potential revenue savings associated with alternative fuel vehicles) as for vehicle types that are new to market, the alternative fuel option is proving unaffordable.

## 53 Scope 3

54 Over the last year the council has continued to focus on emissions relating to food. The Leeds Food Strategy was launched, in draft format, in October 2022 and approved for consultation at Executive Board. The strategy was open to public consultation until December 2022 and a summary of the consultation and an updated version of the strategy can be found at appendix (2 and 3) for adoption by Executive Board.

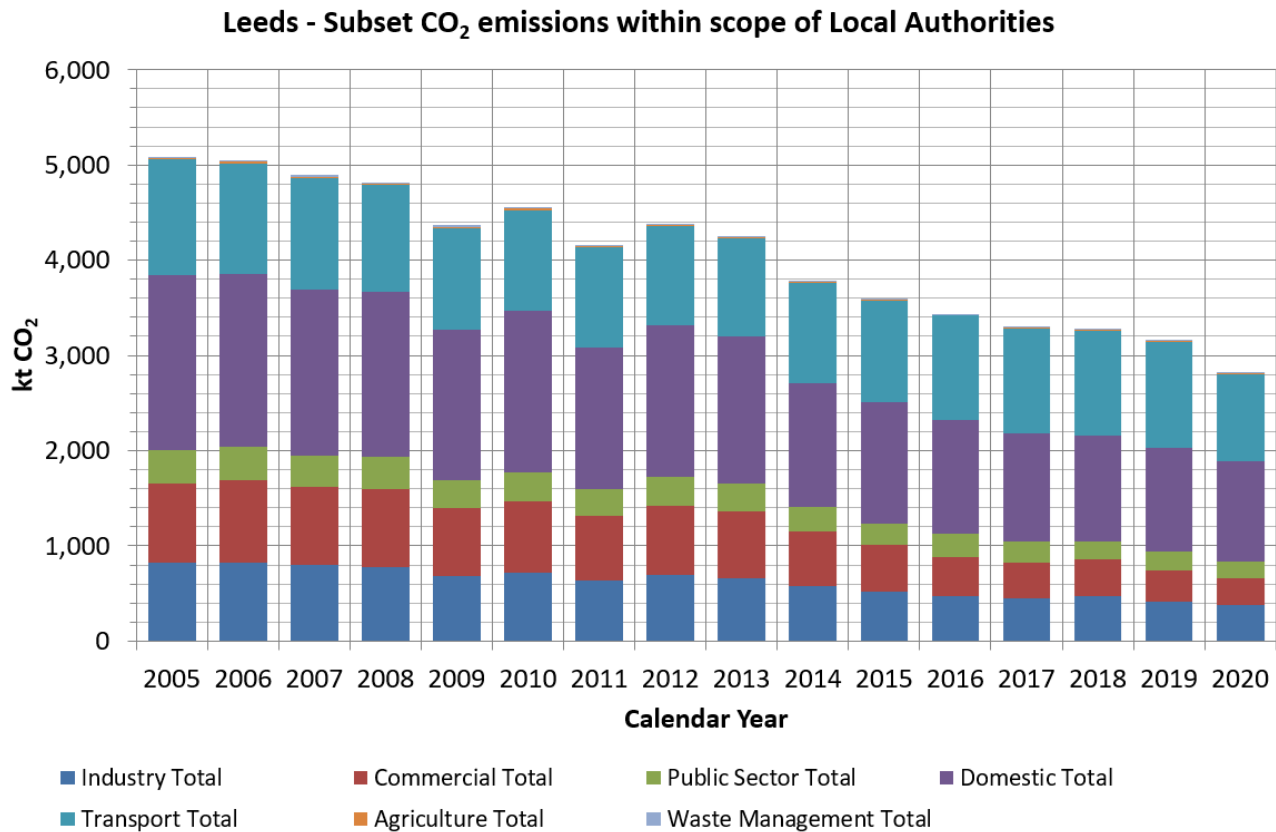
55 The consultation on the Leeds Food Strategy lasted for 8 weeks and comprised of an online survey as well face to face/virtual meetings and sessions. Food Wise Leeds, the city's food partnership delivered the consultation alongside LCC. A total of 307 individuals and 28 businesses/organisations completed the online survey and a further c.700 people were verbally updated about the consultation at face-to-face/virtual meetings.

56 The overarching vision for the strategy is that "Leeds has a vibrant food economy where everyone is able to access local, healthy and affordable food, produced in a way which improves our natural environment and embraces innovation". This was written and agreed by a group of almost 100 stakeholders at an event that launched the strategy work in January 2022. In the recent consultation, 90.7% of those that completed the survey agreed with the vision statement.

- 57 The Leeds Food Strategy follows three themes, which align with the three pillars of Leeds City Council's Best City Ambition: health and wellbeing, food security and economy, and sustainability and resilience. The final theme sets out 5 objectives which will contribute to work relating to reduction of food related emissions in Leeds until 2030. In the recent consultation, 89.2% of those that completed the survey agreed on focusing on these three themes.
- 58 The 5 objectives within the sustainability chapter are (ranked in order from most important to least important according to consultation):
- a) Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food.
  - b) Empower residents to choose healthy diets by raising awareness of choices that are good for the planet.
  - c) Encourage and enable innovative and community-led food production.
  - d) Support local farmers to transition to resilient and profitable agriculture which improves the environment.
  - e) Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient procurement.
- 59 Agreement with the above objectives ranged from 85-95% with objective 'a' above being the most agreed to and objective 'b' above being the least. Overall this is high level of agreement and the focus of work will move to delivery from now until 2030.
- 60 Comments from respondents were largely positive with high levels of agreement in the vision, themes and objectives of the strategy. Current affairs such as the cost of living crisis, featured heavily within responses.
- 61 It was highlighted that some of the language used was not fully inclusive and made it difficult to understand. Additionally, it was felt that allotments, waste food packaging and cultural food were not mentioned enough throughout the strategy.
- 62 As a result, the following changes have been made to the Leeds Food Strategy:
- Amendments to the language used within the document to ensure it is accessible by all
  - Re-ordering of the objectives to reflect what the residents, businesses and organisations feel is the most important priorities for Leeds
  - The topics that were felt to be undermentioned have been acknowledged and highlighted in the updated strategy
- 63 Leeds currently holds the 'Sustainable Food Places' Bronze award and next year will, alongside Food Wise Leeds, apply for the Silver award.
- 64 Over the last year the council has worked with the University of Leeds to develop a new carbon footprint calculator that can be used to calculate the carbon impact of school meals provided by Catering Leeds and shows the breakdown of contributing carbon per ingredient. Catering Leeds are in the early days of implementing the tool, using it to inform them at the menu design stage and intend to use the outputs of the calculator to advertise the carbon impact of different menu options. The calculator will also hopefully be tested across LCC cafes next year, giving consumers more information about the carbon impact of a meal which will help them make more conscious decisions. In the strategy consultation when asked 'Would knowing that a food or menu item has a high carbon footprint influence your food choice?', 26.2% of people answered 'definitely' and 40.7% of people answered 'probably'. Including carbon labelling on school menus and LCC café outlet menus could see more consumers make a lower carbon meal choice—contributing to the council's target to halve the carbon footprint of the average meal served by 2030.

- 65 In October 2022, Executive board noted the introduction of the Leeds City Council's Food Procurement Guidelines. A cross-council group worked together to create a set of guidelines that should be referenced whenever council officers procure food or whenever a new food supplier is being chosen. This includes ensuring that the ban on air-freighted food and importance of buying locally is reflected in all new council contracts, as well as placing more emphasis on contractors to provide data that allows more accurate carbon assessments to be undertaken.
- 66 In 2020/21, Leeds City Council spent an estimated £4,718,809 on food. The 2,133 tonnes of food purchased amounted to a carbon footprint of 4,990 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, hence the importance of the implementation of these procurement guidelines. The Leeds Food Strategy consultation suggests that residents are supportive of action to reduce the council's scope 3 emissions from food: 91.7% of respondents to the online consultation stated that it is important that Leeds City Council considers the impact of the food it purchases on the environment.
- 67 As well as the very targeted work that is being undertaken on food, there are key steps that can be taken to consider the Climate Emergency in procurement and delivery of commissioning of works and services. The team are working across directorates to support this work, with some notable examples of key services taking a strong lead on this.
- 68 The Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme (LFAS2) is taking a proactive approach to tackling the embedded carbon (the emissions from extracting raw materials through to construction) that is part of this type of project delivery. LFAS2 aims to reduce flood risk to communities and businesses along the River Aire corridor between Leeds Rail Station and Apperley Bridge. The scheme will provide a 1-in-200-year level of protection against flooding in the LFAS2 area. Once delivered, the scheme will reduce flood risk and provide better protection for 1,048 homes and 474 businesses. LFAS2 will also raise the level of protection across the LFAS1 area in the city centre from 100yr to 200yr which covers another 3000 homes and 500 businesses.
- 69 The construction, operation and decommissioning of assets is a major source of greenhouse gases (GHGs). To address the carbon impact of the scheme, LFAS established a carbon baseline – the quantity of carbon that would be emitted because of the scheme without additional mitigation. The baseline emissions associated with the construction of LFAS2 are estimated to be approximately 23,600 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e). In the commissioning of the work they are now working closely with engineers and contractors on the project to reach the targets set out below identifying alternative, lower-carbon approaches and materials.
- 70 Most of the baseline emissions are expected to arise from the use of materials. LCC has set a **20%** carbon reduction target from the use of materials. If this target is reached, this would reduce scheme emissions by approximately 3,200 tonnes. Just under 25% of the carbon baseline is associated with fuel and electricity use during construction. LCC has set a reduction target of **10%** for the carbon from construction energy use. If this target is reached, this would reduce scheme emissions by over 500 tonnes. This process of identifying the carbon baselining of such schemes therefore demonstrates the ability to target reductions through careful selection of processes and materials used in delivery of schemes, an approach that Highways are seeking to utilise across all their construction schemes. Some of those measures include use of HVO in plant machinery use, utilisation of Eco Sheet piles (a material used as part of flood defence) that are manufactured from scrap material and are re-usable and recyclable and use of electric vehicles by teams and contractors working on the project.

## 71 City Emissions - Overview



72 The breakdown of this data against sub-categories is detailed below:

	Mega (i.e. million) tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>
Industry, Commercial, Public Sector, Agriculture & Waste Management	0.8558
Domestic	1.503
Transport	0.9160
Total	2.8221

## 73 Housing

74 The council has made good progress this year on improving home energy efficiency, despite a lack of long-term support from government. The focus has been on delivering grants already secured, attracting new income, strategic development and lobbying for additional support.

75 The council has delivered home improvements with support from:

- a) The Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery funding (LAD) from BEIS which supports primarily private sector homes, with strict requirements to only support low-income households in the oldest and coldest homes, all within a funding cap. This was funded by government in 3 phases, each with different requirements, with delivery between late 2020 and summer 2022. More than 900 homes benefited from these schemes in total. 558 homes were fitted with 1.7 megawatts of rooftop solar panels which produce free electricity during daylight hours, helping to reduce electricity bills. External wall insulation was the second most popular upgrade with 238 households now benefitting from the technology.

Once fitted to the outside of a building, the insulation helps lock in heat without sacrificing indoor space. The project also installed loft and roof insulation, heat pumps, new windows and doors and even connected some homes to district heating.

- b) The Getting Building Fund from the Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government's to deal with disrepair and provide external wall insulation, room in roof insulation, new windows, doors, heating systems and repair work for private homes in Holbeck.
- c) The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) from BEIS, which funds innovative whole house improvements to council homes.
  - i. SHDF Demonstrator is improving council homes in Holt Park, installing super insulation to walls and roofs, high performance windows and doors and air source heat pumps and solar panels. The contractor is focussing on high quality detailing to minimise cold bridging and heat loss.
  - ii. SHDF wave 1 funding for external wall insulation and other energy efficiency improvements within the Lovells, Naseby Grange and Parkways multistorey flats.
- d) The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding from the EU which supports a variety of low carbon projects.
  - i. The initial Lincoln Green work was completed in 2021, with c1700 flats connected to district heating and external wall insulation on 3 blocks. The project was extended in 2022 and now includes leasehold flats using LAD funding and an additional 170 council flats using TIBB underspend. It will also provide insulation to another block.
  - ii. The Transformational Insulation in Back to Backs (TIBB) project was designed to install innovative external wall insulation on 750 council owned back-to-back homes but has stalled due to supply chain issues. It will now complete 150 homes with underspend moved to other projects.
  - iii. The Fitting the Future (FtF) project has been reshaped in agreement with ERDF using TIBB underspend and now focusses on whole house insulation for 300 homes, with an offer of electric vehicle charging points for 50 homes.
  - iv. The Clustering for Warmth (CfW) project is delivering innovative Ground Source Heat Pumps to 845 council flats in 18 blocks. We are now working with the contractor to extend the offer to leasehold flats.

76 Key metrics from these existing grants are provided in the table below:

Name	Grant income	Total value	Homes complete	Homes yet to be completed	Status
LAD 1a, 1b & 2	£9.3m	£9.5m	930	0	Complete
GBF	£3m	£4.52m	146	0	Complete
SHDF Demonstrator	£4.1m	£9.8m	190	0	Complete
SHDF wave 1	£9.59m	£24.9m	0	630	August 2023
ERDF Lincoln Green	£9.1m	£20.2m	1180	170	June 2023
ERDF TIBB	£1.07m	£2.15m	22	128	March 2023
ERDF FtF	£3.6m	£7.2m	0	300	June 2023
ERDF CfW	£7.4m	£14.8m	728	196	June 2023
Total	£44.16m	£93.07m	3196	1424	

## 77 Additional funding

- 78 In addition to the capital programmes outlined above, the council has also bid for £3.07m of SHDF wave 2 funding. If secured, this will be used to connect the 3 Lovells blocks to district heating and install ground source heat pumps in the 2 Claytons blocks, with a total project value of £8.4m.
- 79 As part of the Levelling Up bids for the city, the council has asked for further funding which, if successful, would allow us to undertake Holbeck phase 3 to provide whole house insulation to around 240 back-to-back homes.
- 80 We continue to be concerned that the funding outlook is very limited, with current support focussed on social housing and off-gas grid low-income private sector properties, despite the cost-of-living crisis now affecting many households. This leaves a huge amount of unmet need in Leeds, particularly low-income Victorian terraced areas and more affluent areas requiring more expensive improvements.
- 81 Government is currently consulting on ECO+ which is designed to extend eligibility to the least efficient properties in council tax bands A-D. While this is welcome, we are concerned that it only allows a single measure to be installed in each home, rather than taking a whole house approach, which is widely recognised as the best and most efficient approach.

## 82 Strategic

- 83 The council has prepared a Net Zero Housing Plan which is published alongside this report. This is designed to outline the size of the problem in Leeds and summarise the key actions that need to be taken to accelerate housing decarbonisation within both new and existing homes.
- 84 During 2022, the council has been very active at regional and national levels, developing plans to accelerate housing decarbonisation, particularly amongst non-fuel poor homes, which have been overlooked for many years.
- 85 The council has worked closely with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority on plans for a Better Homes Hub. The Better Homes Hub is designed to provide a regional structure that will support the home retrofit industry to grow rapidly to meet future demand. This will initially use gainshare and other grant funding to create projects that stimulate demand, whilst building the retrofit infrastructure needed over the long term. Key elements approved at the Strategic Outline Business Case stage include:
- a) Funding for demonstrator projects within each local authority;
  - b) Creation of a one-stop-shop that hand-holds customers through the retrofit journey;
  - c) Creation of a financial product that is available to all so that retrofit is within everyone's reach;
  - d) Coordinated regional branding, marketing and advice services;
  - e) A training and skills package to support the industry to grow.
- 86 The council has also been working with the Prime Minister's Business Council since summer 2022 to jointly find solutions to accelerate retrofit under the banner of the Local Retrofit Accelerator (LRA). We deliberately chose to address able-to-pay private households for two reasons:
- a) The able-to-pay market has been overlooked since the end of the Green Deal, despite representing 60%+ of the retrofit market and having the lowest EPC rating of all sectors;



- b) Fuel poor homes and social housing require grant funding but where this is provided (i.e. SHDF, GBF, Levelling Up Fund) it is relatively easy to achieve near 100% take up rates.

87 The LRA therefore aims to address three challenges which are slowing down energy efficiency retrofit amongst non-fuel poor private householders. These challenges are a complex customer journey, a fractured supply chain and an unattractive financial proposition.

88 Work continues in 2023 to take the learning from this work and establish a one stop shop to take this work forward.

89 The council has also been very active in bidding for smaller amounts of funding to help put in place some of the support needed to accelerate retrofit. This includes:

- a) £50k from the MCS Charitable Foundation to build capacity within the team;
- b) £200k from the Green Homes Finance Accelerator project in partnership with Lloyds and Arup (which could lead to a c£2m demonstrator phase) to create new financial products;
- c) £75k from the UKRI Pioneer Places research project in partnership with UKGBC and MCS Charitable Foundation (which could lead to an £8m implementation phase) to focus on whole place decarbonisation.

## 90 Business/ Commerce

91 2022 was another successful year of growth for the Leeds PIPES district heating network, with works ongoing across the city to connect new customers and extend the main spine network. Six customers have been connected to the network in 2022, bringing the total number of customers connected to ten, with two further customers due to start taking heat by April 2023, and a significant number of potential customers in the pipeline currently. The table below shows key metrics for the network since it commenced operations, with projections up to 24/25.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 (forecast)	2023-4 (forecast)	2024-5 (forecast)
Heat supplied to customers (MWh)	11,757	15,454	24,000	32,000	38,000
Number of non-domestic customers	1	4	12	13	18
Number of domestic customers	c1600	c1700	c1800	c1900	c2100

92 Volatility in the gas and electricity markets has improved the already strong Leeds PIPES commercial offer when compared to counterfactuals of gas and heat pumps, and the network continues to prove its reliability to customers. The Phase 3 extension to the spine network started on site in September 2022 and will continue into summer 2023, whilst the project team will continue to develop business cases for additional extensions to feed into funding applications later in the year.

93 The majority of connections to the network so far have been public sector customers, but we anticipate that the next phase will primarily connect commercial non-domestic customers. This will raise the profile of the network, and prove the viability and benefits of DHN connections for commercial customers.

- 94 This is particularly important given the government's plans to introduce a District Heating Zoning Policy by 2025. This will make it mandatory for certain buildings, including new developments, in specific zones to connect to district heating. The council anticipates that this policy will accelerate growth in the coming years and we continue to work closely with government on the details of the policy, including participating in several pilot projects which may see Leeds become the test-bed ahead of a national policy roll-out.
- 95 One of these pilots is seeking to develop practical zoning delivery plans for several of the most promising zones in the city. We anticipate that these will focus on the existing Leeds PIPES area in the city centre, the planned SSE network around Skelton Grange and some demand or supply-led zones. In parallel, the council is continuing to develop plans for a network in the South Bank, given its position as one of Europe's largest city centre regeneration schemes. Two phases of feasibility have completed to date, with positive engagement with potential customers. The council has submitted a funding application to BEIS to undertake Detailed Project Development prior to submitting a capital funding application to the Green Heat Network Fund later this year.
- 96 In December, the Mayor of West Yorkshire launched a new £1 million fund to help businesses struggling with energy bills which offers up to £5,000 to help individual businesses with practical solutions to reduce costs, including help to buy a more efficient boiler or install low-energy lighting. The scheme is part of a multimillion-pound package of measures from the West Yorkshire Mayor to help people and businesses with the escalating cost of living crisis whilst accelerating climate action. A new £10.6 million West Yorkshire Business Sustainability Programme, led by the LEP, will launch in April to help small and medium sized firms to reduce their bills by being more energy efficient and sustainable. It builds on the LEP's current ReBIZ programme which has helped more than 600 SMEs to date. It will provide a one-stop-shop for businesses and non-profits wishing to better understand and reduce their impact on the environment, offering support with resource efficiency, carbon footprinting, a peer network, and grants. The council will support the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to promote the scheme in Leeds.
- 97 Like the council, many of the city's other large organisational emitters are also taking significant actions to reduce their own impact on the environment—supporting the city's journey to become the UK's first net zero city. Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2040. The trust has so far invested more than £13.7 million on projects related to energy efficiency, low carbon heating, low energy lighting or renewable energy and has become the first 'Carbon Literacy' accredited NHS trust in the UK. Arla, one of the world's largest dairy producers, is also one of the largest emitters in Leeds. It aims to have reduced its carbon footprint from production, logistics and energy usage by 63% before the end of 2030. To achieve this, the company has pledged to convert to 100% green electricity across all its production sites and is transitioning its fleet of vehicles to use greener fuels such as biodiesel, biogas and electricity.
- 98 The council also regularly supports and showcases examples of business and other organisational sustainability initiatives to encourage best practice. This includes a regular spotlight featuring different case studies in its popular #LeedsClimate e-newsletter which has grown to 6,892 subscribers. Recent examples of business action celebrated this year include Sulzer, a global pump manufacturing company based in Leeds which has taken steps to support plant and animal life at its Leeds site by developing a wildlife garden complete with butterflies, bees, trees, shrubs and a pond. Similarly, HEART Headingley was featured earlier in the year after it installed a range of carbon-saving measures including solar panels, a cleaner cooker, a greywater recycling system, light sensors, and a building management system which controls heating throughout the building.

## Transport

- 99 The Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy has decarbonisation as one of its central pillars, in line with the council's own priorities. The Strategy states: "Our vision for Leeds is to be a city where you don't need a car. Where everyone has an affordable and accessible zero carbon choice in how they travel. We want to Connect Leeds, Connect Communities, and Connect Businesses together in the most sustainable ways."
- 100 Transport is also the main contributor to carbon emissions in Leeds with the Council making a commitment to a long-term air quality strategy in order to help ensure compliance with legal limits of emissions to bring about further air quality improvements and associated health benefits. Everybody needs to work together in order to drive change if we are to achieve our ambitious targets by 2030.
- Reducing the need for travel and the number of car journeys, especially at peak times
  - Encouraging people to choose active travel and public transport
  - Improving the efficiency of the transport network and making better use of our road space
  - Encouraging and leading the uptake of zero emission vehicles in freight, public and private transport.
- 101 A Streetscape Reallocation Policy has been adopted in 2022, which prioritises space on our streets for sustainable transport. It will be used by all scheme designers, with training and best practice shared, to ensure the principles of the Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy materialise on our streets.
- 102 Since September 2022 bus passengers in Leeds have benefited from lower and more consistently priced fares. Thanks to two new Mayor's Fares, single journeys capped at £2 and the MCard DaySaver at £4.50, reduced from £5.50 – an almost 20% saving on the current price.
- 103 Early data analysis at a West Yorkshire level would suggest that bus patronage in September increased by 5% compared with June 22. Bus travel by adult paying passengers in September 22 was around 10% higher than average monthly patronage in 2022.
- 104 The implementation of schemes on Park Row, The Headrow, Corn Exchange and Meadow Lane have transformed these areas, provided improved bus reliability, safe and more accessible cycle facilities and enhanced public spaces including Cookridge Street and the first phase of Aire Park.
- 105 Building on these successful schemes, significant works are ongoing in the city centre at City Square, Leeds Station, and Crown Point Road to create a world class city centre where people want to live, work and visit.
- 106 Armley Gyratory improvements are on site, which complements the work being undertaken by National Highways on the M621 and follows the successful completion of Regent Street Bridge to provide appropriate routes for strategic traffic around the city centre.
- 107 The city centre cycle network continues to expand with the Western Gateway scheme on site and followed shortly by improvements on Crown Point Bridge and key links in the south of the city centre from Dewsbury Road to Neville Street. Funding from CRSTS has been secured to continue this network expansion with feasibility work underway ahead of public consultation next year
- 108 The LPTIP programme successfully finished delivery in 2022. A highlight was the world class gateways to the city centre as described above.
- 109 Three new segregated cycle routes completed as part of City Connect 3; Dewsbury Road, Elland Road, and Clay Pit Lane.
- 110 Active travel encouraged through the creation of safer cycle lanes. Pedestrians will benefit from new walking routes and safer crossings. All of which is a bid to make sustainable travel more appealing by improving walking, and cycling connections

- 111 The package of public transport improvements was informed by the Transport Conversation and schemes delivered aspirations in line with the Leeds Transport Strategy. Key was increased use of public transport in a manner which contributes to carbon reduction by encouraging modal shift away from the private car and supporting inclusive growth by making it easier to access education, employment, and public services.
- 112 Extensions of the 2 Park & Ride (P&R) sites at Temple Green (388 space expansion taking capacity to 1388 spaces) & Elland Road (570 space expansion taking capacity to 1358 spaces) in addition to the new award winning Stourton site (1200 spaces), with solar power generation and electric buses, has increased the capacity to nearly 4000 spaces.
- 113 Patronage levels continue to grow post pandemic, and the service continues to get excellent customer feedback. P&R provision has supported the city centre commuter parking planning policy to reduce the number of temporary city centre car parks and encourage development of these sites.
- 114 Full details of achievements of the LPTIP schemes and P&R are contained in the LPTIP programme report for Executive board of the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- 115 To encourage rail travel, a new White Rose Station is on site and development work continues to be progressed by the Combined Authority and Network Rail for new stations at Thorpe Park and LBA Parkway
- 116 As part of last mile delivery decarbonisation, a trial agreement has been approved with Starship Technologies to provide a new and innovative last mile delivery service using zero emission autonomous personal delivery droids (PDDs). The trial was launched on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and will run for 3 months with the option to continue if successful. During the trial period residents in the participating area will be able to use the Starship delivery service to order groceries via an online app from two CO-OP stores located within the trial area. The service operates with 20 delivery droids (10 at each location).
- 117 The Council continue to support the development of Mass Transit with the Combined Authority. A well connected, low-carbon transport alternative is only possible with a modern, integrated transport system, of which Mass Transit is an integral part. An updated Mass Transit Vision document has been published for consultation and significant development funding has been secured through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS). The West Yorkshire Mass Transit 2040 plan has recently been out for public consultation which ran until January 2023.
- 118 Decarbonisation of the freight sector is an essential part of the Leeds Transport Strategy which currently has not been measured in full. Leeds City Council have played a key role in the development of the Combined Authority rail freight study which is part of the wider Rail Strategy. A draft has been produced and will be published shortly. LCC have also fed into work on identifying potential new rail freight interchange sites across Leeds and West Yorkshire.
- 119 **Development of public electric vehicle charge infrastructure.**
- 120 The electric charge infrastructure in the city has continue to grow in line with the increased prevalence of plug-in vehicles in the city. From 129 public charge points in the city in October 2021, there are now 418 as at October 2022, with the number increasing constantly.
- 121 This provision includes further charging installed using Residential Charge Scheme grant funding that has delivered 30 fast charge points across 6 locations in Leeds, with further funding secured that is enabling 54 fast charge connections across 9 locations in Leeds to be completed in early 2023. These installations are designed to support residential areas where housing typically lacks off street parking and therefore households whose residents have been unable to utilise the home charge grant, that has now been ceased.

- 122 City scale infrastructure will need to be delivered collaboratively and utilising the various levers the council, and central government has, recognising that commercially viable and sustainable, well maintained and reliable networks are likely to be best managed by the private sector who operate at regional, national and international levels with the back office, maintenance, customer service operations and purchasing power to be able to deliver best value to customers in a competitive charge point environment. A regional strategy to deliver infrastructure is being developed between WYCA and the five local authorities.
- 123 As well as working on development of this strategy, a regional framework is also being developed for use by the five West Yorkshire districts. This framework will allow the councils to call off suppliers from the framework to deliver either grant funded projects, or work with the operators to deliver projects that are either fully or part funded through their own investment. Significant work with the sector over the last year has found that there is a clear appetite for commercial investment in delivery of charge infrastructure in the city and wider region, so that in line with the electric vehicle charge point infrastructure strategy agreed in 2022 we can act as a facilitator and active partner in ensuring that the growth of zero emission driving can continue. The West Yorkshire EV Strategy is expected to be agreed in spring 2023, with the framework established in time to be utilised to support a regional bid for funding from the governments Local Electric vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) grants that are expected to be announced in mid 2023.
- 124 **EV Trials**
- 125 The EV Trials Scheme completed in Spring 2022. Leeds launched the first local authority electric vehicle trial scheme in 2020, providing vans to businesses, public sector and third sector organisations for 2 months, or cars licensed for private hire use for up to one month. The scheme allows participants to gain valuable experience of driving electric vehicles as well as getting insight into their economic benefits. By the close of the scheme over 230 trials were completed, with almost 400,000 zero emission miles travelled, savings approximately 35 tonnes of CO2 emissions. 52% of van trial participants plan to purchase an EV following the trial, with 39% of private hire drivers planning to purchase an EV. By the time of writing the project evaluation report in mid 2022/3 42 EV's had been purchased by participants of the trial scheme with many projecting purchases of EV as their next vehicles when due to replace fleet
- 126 Leeds City Council successfully secured £100,000 of funding for E-Cargo bikes to support transition of last mile delivery to zero emission mode. These E-Cargo bikes were purchased in 2022, with the vehicles being made available to business to trial through the Influencing Travel Behaviour team. The funding has enabled the purchase of 27 E-Cargo bikes in a range of different styles and sizes to enable best fit for different operational uses. As well as making these available to business, public and third sector trialists internal services to LCC will also trial these bikes. Evaluation of the E-Cargo trials will be undertaken with GPS tracking systems being procured to enable effective data analysis of miles, usage and range, so that their use can be best evaluated and promoted. We are also working with the Energy Savings Trust and Leeds University's Institute for Transport Studies on a project to establish whether E-Cargo provides opportunity for modal shift for commuters, or as part of household use.
- 127 **White Rose Forest**
- 128 The council's Woodland Creation Scheme is continuing to work towards its target of planting 50 hectares of trees per year on council land. The planting objective is to capture and store carbon to contribute to the net zero ambitions. The White Rose Forest have helped the council secure funding to support the annual target of 50 hectares of planting and are continuing to support with securing the funding for delivery of this in subsequent years.

- 129 As well as planting, the Woodland Creation Scheme continues to include a successful tree seed collection campaign run in schools and other council facilities and an educational pack for schools.
- 130 The council is currently strengthening its policies in relation to planning policy through the Local Plan Update in terms of planting more trees in association with new development. Planners continue to advocate for trees as part of the planning process, however currently legislation does not allow for protection of trees on the basis of carbon capture, only on the basis of amenity.
- 131 The council is also promoting tree planting to businesses, farmers, landowners, institutions and residents. The White Rose Forest team have worked with the council on development of processes and communication materials to support engagement with those stakeholders. A web page and leaflet have been launched and distributed to stakeholders as well as land agents and auction marts in the sector. Those interested in planting trees are referred to the WRF Joint Venture team who engage partners such as Groundwork and the Woodland Trust who help with the planning, funding and planting as well as maintenance of the new woodland.
- 132 The council is also liaising with faith organisations to look at the potential for planting on areas around places of worship and other land held by these institutions. Work is on-going with Leeds Community Health Trust to look at planting on clinical sites and the team is also working with Northern Power Grid to consider planting at substation sites. Funding and planning support will again be provided through White Rose Forest and Joint Venture.
- 133 In 2022 the council successfully applied for Tree City Of The World status, this is an award run by the Arbor Foundation in the US and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. The award recognises the council's commitment to the planting, maintenance and planning for trees.
- 134 The council will launch the partnership with Trees for Streets in 2023, this is a web-based scheme to secure sponsorship for trees located in streets and parks, providing residents and businesses with the ability to contribute to planting specific trees in their neighbourhood or beyond. Development of this scheme for Leeds is at an advanced stage, with match-funding secured from the White Rose Forest and process for delivery agree with the Highways service.
- 135 **Green Jobs and Skills**
- 136 Adapting and mitigating climate change also brings with it the opportunity to create new, green jobs, as well as developing existing roles to ensure people have the relevant skills needed to complete their job in the future. Examples of this include gas engineers moving from the installation of gas networks to ground source heat pumps.
- 137 To address this need in the city, the Council has appointed a dedicated Green Skills lead to work across the sector to drive the work forward, mapping existing, and future needs of the sector, based upon current provision, to identify gaps in the agenda and and to identify the priority areas of focus.
- 138 Collaborative working with Leeds City College, Leeds College of Building and various government departments has provided opportunity to develop skills provision in the city for current and future generations. Other partnerships include working with WYCA and other Local Authorities to develop programmes to support unemployed individuals into Green Jobs and with Ahead Partnership to promote careers in the Green Energy and Low Carbon sectors.
- 139 In September 2022 the Future Talent Leeds Plan was launched having been developed with stakeholders in the city. The plan provides a set of ambitions to improve Talent and Skills across Leeds and supports people to develop and maintain the skills that make them, alongside

businesses, resilient to change. A spotlight focus on Green, Digital, Manufacturing and Creative/Cultural sectors were identified as where key growth opportunities exist in the labour market.

140 Moving forward the focus of Green Jobs and Skills will be on developing the Employment and Skills 'Green Skills Plan' to support the transition to net-zero by 2030 and adapting to climate change. The plan will look to:

- **Inspire, Inform and Develop** the talent of the next generation. Facilitate green skills activities, inspiration opportunities, events, CPD and resources to support school engagement
- **Facilitate** easy access to green skills, job information/opportunities, career pathways and to enable young people and adults to make informed choices. Develop targeted green skills/employability/innovation initiatives to support those furthest from the labour market, economically inactive, in low-paid/insecure work to develop skills required to access further learning/employment within low carbon growth sectors. Help to support the delivery of transition for those currently in jobs at high risk of not upskilling
- **Collaborate** with businesses and partners to understand and bridge skill gaps. Develop collaboration opportunities between key growth/transition sectors, businesses and partners with a focus on current/pipeline skills demands. Map the skills needed in key growth/transition sectors to identify opportunities and gaps
- **Support** businesses to develop green jobs, attracting, developing and retaining staff. Facilitate access to skills support for Leeds businesses and raise aspirations for a more inclusive workforce by targeting under-represented groups to gain employment/upskilling opportunities. Support the delivery of a just transition – supporting those currently in jobs at high risk to prosper through the transition
- **Communicate** Green skills campaign. Develop communication/promotional campaign/s to promote and accelerate the take up of skills provision for Leeds residents and businesses. Communicate ongoing partner local, regional, national green skills and developments/opportunities.

#### 141 **Climate Resilience and Adaptation**

142 Climate adaptation is broadly defined as referring to any activity that minimises the impact of current, expected, and potential climate change and its effects. Climate change poses a threat to lives, livelihoods and the local environment. Climate related risks will continue to increase—even if the global commitments of the Paris Agreement succeed in limiting warming to well below 2°C—until global net zero carbon emissions are achieved. The UK is already experiencing changes to its weather with a climate already 1.1°C warmer than pre-industrial levels.

143 In July 2022, the council's Executive Board approved the development of a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan based upon the approach outlined within a report to the Board that month. The council will build on and strengthen existing risk management, business continuity, and severe weather planning arrangements as part of this work. The Climate Emergency Action Committee (CEAC) will provide oversight of this work.

144 It will be important that the city's services, infrastructure, and systems that residents and businesses rely on are robust and resilient so they can continue to operate and provide effective outputs long into the future. The Committee on Climate Change has identified a number of specific risks that residents and businesses will face as a result of climate change that the council's adaptation and resilience plan will need to consider.

145 The Emergency Planning and Resilience Team have robust arrangements in place for responding to severe weather events and to understand, as well as manage, the short and long-term risks. These risks will be monitored and developed with services to ensure they are ready for the increased likelihood and impact of those risks relating to climate change.

- 146 Climate-related hazards that Leeds is increasingly likely to experience can be grouped into four themes: extreme and prolonged **heat, flooding, drought,** and **cascading impacts** resulting from climate impacts elsewhere. In 2022, Leeds experienced the effects of several of these hazards first-hand. In July, heatwaves through the UK saw Leeds' highest recorded temperature. This was a weather event which directly impacted the way many council services had to operate.
- 147 While a whole council response will be required as part of the climate adaptation and resilience plan, some teams with relevant experience or expertise will work together to facilitate workshops and support services in other ways. Officers from teams including: Resilience & Emergencies, Sustainable Energy & Air Quality, and Flood Risk Management have been meeting regularly to progress this work.
- 148 In December 2022 the first internal Climate Adaptation and Resilience Workshop was held. More than seventy council officers from every directorate met to learn more about—and consider how to mitigate—the future impacts of local climate change on services and service users. Over the course of the morning, officers heard presentations from several speakers about how much more likely severe weather events like flooding and heatwaves are expected to become in Leeds by 2050 and what this means for the council's risk management, business continuity, and emergency responder responsibilities. Attendees participated in various activities and discussed the short, medium, and long-term actions that individuals, services, and teams should be considering going forward. Engaging more services will provide opportunities to build an action plan highlighting actions that services have identified based on their expertise and increased awareness of the need to adjust to a changing climate. Climate Emergency Action Committee (CEAC) will provide check and challenge of this work.
- 149 Following this workshop services will continue to be supported and encouraged to develop their own service-led action plans to take long-term actions that mitigate the risks from climate change. Services will be encouraged to consider three different types of adaptation actions (the "three P's" framework):
- Actions that **prevent** some hazards from occurring
  - Actions that **protect** the city from harm and damage, by reducing exposure to a hazard
  - Actions that **prepare** for an effective response to mitigate the harm and damage caused by a hazard by reducing the vulnerability of the people and places exposed.
- 150 The council is clear that this work is complementary of, not instead of, the council's commitment to working towards becoming a net zero carbon city as quickly as possible. Becoming a net zero city (climate change mitigation) and preparing for the predicted impacts of climate change (climate change adaptation) are considered equally important strategic goals of the council's climate action work.
- 151 Leeds City Council will be one of 13 Local Authorities participating in the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission Climate Adaption Programme Pilot, from January to December 2023. The programme aims to support Local Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region to develop strategies, plans, procedures and actions as part of their climate adaption. Participation within this pilot will allow the Council to continue developing its own action plan and ensure work is joined up across the wider region.
- 152 **Local Plan Update**
- 153 The Local Plan Update went out to consultation from 24<sup>th</sup> October to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The five key focus topic areas for the local plan are:



- Dramatically reduce the carbon emissions of new buildings and increase the provision of renewable energy
- Better protect the green spaces and biodiversity we already have, and increase the quality of what is created in the future
- Make it harder to cut down trees and require far more trees to be planted as replacement where it's unavoidable
- Improve our resilience to flooding and make space for water in new developments
- Improve new places by requiring that they incorporate the highest standards of design and maximise opportunities to create healthier environments

154 In the meantime, officer guidance and Member training will continue to highlight ways we can use current Development Plan and national policy in the determination of planning applications; whilst encouraging developers to prepare for policy change, and positively welcome those who go further, in light of the trajectory of the LPU. At draft policy stage it may be possible to use our new policies as a material consideration, in advance of their adoption, depending on the level and extent of objection that we receive on them.

### What impact will this proposal have?

**Wards affected: All**

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

155 This plan covers a wide range of both policy and projects, all of which are designed to reduce the carbon emissions of the city and work towards our net zero by 2030 target.

156 Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration assessments have been undertaken for both the food strategy and the net zero housing strategy (appendices 5 and 6).

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

157 Significant consultation, communication, and engagement on climate change and related schemes has continued to take place this year.

158 The council recognises that changes required to transition the city towards a net zero economy will not be possible without widespread public support and behaviour changes from residents and organisations alike. The council's public communications and engagement has three fundamental roles: enabling the successful delivery of projects, explaining climate policy, and engaging the public on the changes that they can take (whether individual or organisational) to help accelerate climate action.

159 Alongside targeted project-specific communications support, the council continues to work with partners to engage citizens and businesses through a range of approaches. Members of the cross-party Climate Emergency Advisory Committee's 'Community & Business Engagement' working group receive regular updates about relevant engagement work in the region and provide constructive oversight.

160 The council has used a number of 'owned' channels to provide updates and engage residents, including both general channels with a broad audience and climate-specific channels. Some of these specific channels include:

- a) A dedicated monthly ‘Leeds Climate’ newsletter highlighting updates, opportunities for residents and businesses, and spotlighting best practice is currently sent to more than 6,800 subscribers every month
- b) the council’s climate focused Twitter account has 3,139 followers and typically reaches over 7,500 users per month
- c) the council’s climate change strategy page on the council website was downloaded more than 3,000 times in 2022

161 Across the year the council published 65 news releases on its newsroom related to projects and announcements related to the council’s efforts to tackle or adapt to climate change—securing significant coverage from local, regional, specialist, and national media that reached a wide audience.

162 Given the breadth of actions required by the city’s climate action plans, a wide range of proactive communications and engagement work has been undertaken, typically on a project-by-project basis. For example, a range of communications helped ensure the successful delivery of schemes to reduce energy costs for low-income homeowners by installing funded solar panels and/or insulation. A mix of targeted social media activities, online and offline stakeholder engagement activities, significant press coverage, and targeted mail drops resulted in more than 2000 residents signing up for the scheme—which ultimately led to more than 900 households passing strict eligibility and feasibility criteria and benefiting from the scheme.

163 The Council’s Connecting Leeds team regularly consults with residents and wider stakeholders regarding major highways improvements schemes and also smaller schemes which will bring benefits to local communities. Emphasising the importance of meeting the council’s climate objectives such as reducing carbon emissions is often central to the case for making such improvements, and the Connecting Leeds team strives to ensure that those potentially affected by such works are given the opportunity to have their say, with feedback used where appropriate to finalise scheme designs.

164 Another key area of work to engage on climate-related policy this year is work to engage residents on proposed changes to the city’s Local Plan. The Local Plan Update 1 – ‘Your Neighbourhood, Your City, Your Planet’ – was consulted on from October 2022 to December 2022, with residents and businesses encouraged to have their say on a raft of proposed policies designed to help the council meet its climate emergency commitments. Consultation in 2022 focused on more detailed proposals which were initially consulted on in 2021. A targeted multi-platform campaign was delivered to raise awareness of the consultation, delivering over a million impressions across the campaign driving awareness of the consultation and related webinars and drop in events. Ten webinars and six drop in sessions were delivered by the Local Plan team to engage with communities across Leeds, developing awareness of the proposals that were being consulted upon. The drop in events were supported by the digital campaign to ensure local communities were aware of consultation events in their area. The webinars were also promoted online with a specific focus on engaging young residents aged between 16-24 and residents living in inner Leeds. Overall there were 546 consultation responses, with 421 of those being online responses. 86% of people surveyed said that they found the survey material engaging.

165 The council continues to progress work to better communicate and engage residents on the 'vision' for Leeds' net zero and climate adaptation ambitions by publishing an interactive 'Climate Action Plan' early in 2023. The online Plan will bring together a summary of all of the work taking place across the council to decarbonise every sector and adapt to future climate hazards—recognising that the council's breadth of work is spread across multiple service areas and strategies. This interactive document will also identify actions that others can take to accelerate climate action and explain how local action in Leeds fits into the national Net Zero Strategy and National Adaptation Programme. Once this has been published, the council intends to use Leeds' Climate Action Plan as a tool to help engage with every community in Leeds on climate change and the city's progress so far.

166 Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC) is a cross party advisory committee authorised to consider and make recommendations regarding climate change, progression towards net-zero and sustainability. The main committee has continued to host open forum, allowing members of the public to present on issues that they wish the committee to consider via video link, via pre-recorded video, or submitted text. This is considered an important aspect as it provides an opportunity for public engagement. The CEAC Working Groups allow elected members to explore issues in more depth, often hearing from external speakers as well as officers from across the council. These are beneficial in providing a forum to scrutinise the progress against a number of key themes and supporting the development of policy and allows opportunity to input collectively into local and national consultation responses.

### **What are the resource implications?**

167 In terms of energy strategy, particularly in light of current energy prices and the expected increasing costs of fossil-fuel based energy generation, the proposed measures to reduce energy consumption, improve energy efficiency and increase the level of energy consumed from renewables or low-carbon sources will all serve to minimise the cost impacts to the council. Grant funding will continue to be sought from government in support of the ongoing expansion of decarbonisation measures across the council's buildings, the city's housing stock and transport infrastructure.

### **What are the legal implications?**

168 No specific legal implications.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

169 One of the key risks to reaching net zero is access to finance as many of the measures that have a short payback such as LED lighting or solar panels have already been implemented and the measures that are left such as the transition from gas heating are significantly more costly to install than an equivalent gas boiler and can also be more costly to run. In the heat and building strategy the government has signalled that its intention is to make heat pumps as cheap to run and buy by 2030 – however this will make a net zero by 2030 target challenging to achieve. To help mitigate this risk the council will continue to explore how private finance can support the delivery of net zero.

170 Many of the actions that need to be taken to meet net zero are not within the direct control of the council. Using the example of owner occupied housing, the council can support home owners to make the right decisions and work is on-going to try and establish a housing retrofit

hub (see paragraph 85) but ultimately the council has no powers to force home owners to take the required action. This means that national policy has a key role to play in using levers available to encourage swifter action by homeowners.

171 As many of the barriers to change sit outside of the direct control of the council, one of the key ways to manage the risks is to work with national government and to highlight the challenges that will prevent the city reaching net zero. The council will continue to highlight the key barriers to progress, working with partners such as LGA, UK100, core cities as well as with local authorities at a regional level.

172 Should the council be seen to be falling behind in planning and delivery of charge infrastructure the recent government consultation suggests there could be a risk of government mandating plans or applying a statutory obligation onto councils to plan and deliver charging. This may not be as flexible or appropriate as our own planning and delivery would be, so it is important to mitigate against such an imposition of this duty by being pro-active.

### **Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?**

Inclusive Growth       Health and Wellbeing       Climate Emergency

173 In summary, responding to climate change is central to the overall vision for the future of Leeds as set out in the Best City Ambition.

174 The council intends to achieve net zero and adapt to climate change in a fair way that improves standards of living in all the city's communities and is supportive of our economy. Reducing poverty and improving the health and wellbeing of residents is also key to reducing vulnerability of climate-related hazards.

175 Although this report primarily focuses on the council's approach to the climate emergency, much of the work undertaken provides multiple co-benefits. The council and partners have delivered climate action related schemes worth more than half a billion pounds in recent years, helping to create and support many hundreds of local jobs.

176 This work also supports the city's health and wellbeing priority. We will reduce fuel poverty and cold-related illness by making our buildings more energy efficient; enable physical activity and public safety by improving our transport infrastructure; promote healthier and lower carbon diets; increase life expectancy by transitioning to cleaner energy, heating and transport; and improve access to green spaces which are proven to have clear benefits to both mental and physical wellbeing.

177 Further detail about the specific impacts on health and wellbeing and inclusive growth of our climate action are highlighted in previous reports focused on particular policies or programmes.

### **Options, timescales and measuring success**

#### **What other options were considered?**

178 As this report provides a general update on progress this section is not considered relevant.

#### **How will success be measured?**

179 Success will be measured by the reduction in carbon emissions at both a council level but also at a city level.

## **What is the timetable for implementation?**

180 This report provides an update on general progress rather than details on specific actions.

## **Appendices**

181 Appendix 1 – Net Zero Housing Plan

182 Appendix 2 – Overview of the consultation responses (food strategy)

183 Appendix 3 – Final Food Strategy

184 Appendix 4 – Carbon Disclosure Project Submission

185 Appendix 5 – EDCI assessment (Food Strategy)

186 Appendix 6 – EDCI assessment (Net Zero Housing Plan)

## **Background papers**

187 None

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## Net Zero Homes Plan – Summary Version

This is a truncated version of the net zero housing plan summarising the main points and actions the council will take. The full version is available on request.

### Executive Summary

The Net Zero Housing Plan sets out how Leeds City Council will accelerate the transition to net zero across housing of all tenures so that all Leeds residents can benefit from healthy, comfortable and affordable home as quickly as possible. It supports the high level aims and targets contained in the Best City Ambition and the Housing Strategy.

It focuses on practical steps that are needed to improve the quality of all housing in Leeds. It embraces technical upgrades that increase energy efficiency, reduce the carbon intensity of heating and hot water and increase the amount of renewable energy our homes generate. The plan also considers how these physical upgrades are best financed and delivered, how people can be motivated and supported to choose net zero, together with analysis of the gaps and barriers that need to be addressed.

The key actions that we will take to accelerate housing decarbonisation are:

#### 1. **Creating a retrofit hub and financial mechanism for the 'able to pay' sector**

To decarbonise all housing in Leeds, it is essential to create programmes that support everyone. This includes owner occupiers in larger homes with higher carbon emissions, who have been overlooked for support in recent years.

*By the end of 2023 the Better Homes Hub will be established, and Leeds will have commenced delivery of an able to pay demonstrator within one community.*

*By the end of 2024 there will be a property linked finance product available in Leeds to provide a means to invest in homes without an upfront cost.*

#### 2. **Engaging and motivating people to choose low carbon retrofits**

To increase uptake of retrofit measures it is important to understand household motivations for investing in decarbonisation and how we can influence them. This will be particularly important for the success of the proposed retrofit one stop shop which will need to recruit customers and then retain them through every stage of the retrofit process.

*To draw together learning from research and previous projects to create an engaging and motivating package of communications materials to support the delivery of the retrofit one stop shop.*

#### 3. **Upscaling area renewal investment, using social housing investment to kick start work on all tenures in neighbouring homes.**

There are communities in Leeds that have suffered the scourge of fuel poverty for too long. These communities require significant investment in both housing and social infrastructure via a grant programme delivered over the medium term.

*Subject to securing Levelling Up Funding, deliver Holbeck phase 3 to improve a further 240 back-to-back properties by 2025.*

*Undertake surveys on properties in additional priority neighbourhoods to create a business case to take to government with the aim of securing funding to start work during 2024 on a scaled-up area based retrofit programme.*

**4. Improving our planning framework and engaging with the industry to ensure new homes reach net zero standards.**

New build homes produce significantly less carbon than existing homes, but any new development that is not zero carbon simply adds to the total amount of carbon emitted by Leeds, making our net zero ambitions harder to achieve. We must accelerate the point at which all new homes are operationally net zero (in terms of how they are heated and powered) and consider how to offset the carbon emitted from any new homes which are not net zero. We will also set a framework to move towards reducing the whole life cycle carbon of homes through construction.

*To consult, refine, adopt and implement the Local Plan Update to ensure that new housing in Leeds is operationally net zero and that we move towards whole life cycle net zero for construction.*

We will also undertake enabling actions to help deliver carbon reductions over the medium term:

**5. Zoning the city, to indicate the most suitable fabric investments and heating solutions by neighbourhood.**

Decarbonising homes does not have a one size fits all solution. Different homes require different technical solutions; different income levels will need different mixtures of grants and financial products; and different people are motivated by diverse factors.

*By 2025, the council will develop an interactive GIS map which divides the city's housing into zones and sub-zones according to their characteristics and the local demographics to allow us to plan effective retrofit intervention programmes.*

**6. Expanding green jobs, skills and supply chains to meet demand.**

A workforce with the right skills is essential if we are to meet the challenges of net zero, both when it comes to building new homes and retrofitting existing stock. If we are proactive, this becomes an opportunity to create good long-term local jobs and improve workforce skills.

*To ensure that the Green Skills Plan aligns with planned work to decarbonise new and existing homes and supports the retrofit and construction industry to train and recruit staff at all levels to deliver the net zero ambition.*

Finally, the plan also identifies the key gaps, barriers and policy conflicts that stand in the way of these actions and recommends changes needed at regional or national level to overcome them.



## **Appendix 2 - Overview of the consultation responses (Leeds Food Strategy)**

### **Overview**

The consultation on the Leeds Food Strategy lasted for 8 weeks (October 24<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022) and comprised of an online survey, face to face/virtual sessions, and community engagement. Food Wise Leeds, the city’s food partnership delivered the consultation alongside Leeds City Council (LCC), with a focus on sessions in the community.

A total of 307 individuals and 28 businesses/organisations completed the online survey and approximately 700 people were verbally updated about the consultation at the face to face/virtual sessions.

### **How the consultation was promoted**

A communications campaign was undertaken to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage residents, organisations in Leeds, and other stakeholders to have their say on the draft Leeds Food Strategy—either by reading the strategy document and filling in a questionnaire or by sharing feedback at a consultation event.

Key messages included inviting respondents to “help create a better food future for Leeds” and “have [a] say on council policy” whilst emphasising that “we want to hear from as many voices as possible”. The hashtag #LeedsFoodStrategy was used across social media platforms and the draft strategy and consultation questionnaire was hosted at [www.leeds.gov.uk/foodstrategy](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/foodstrategy). Due to council-wide spending restrictions in place during the consultation period, the communications campaign had no dedicated budget beyond existing resources, so the approach was taken to maximise ‘owned’ digital channels and earned promotion. This included promoting the consultation via corporate and climate council social media channels, internal and external email newsletters, a press release, promotion on the council’s intranet homepage, and an email signature added to all internal and external council emails. The council engaged with a variety of stakeholders to secure promotion across their own channels. Several face-to-face engagement opportunities were also held to provide an opportunity to engage residents in an offline setting.

The Leeds Food Strategy webpages were loaded a total of 2,368 times throughout the consultation period.

### Results from the online survey

307 individuals completed the online survey in total.

Compared to the Leeds population (based on the most recent census data), respondents were overrepresented by over 45-year-olds (68.4%), females including trans females (59.5%), and people who identify as English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British ethnic origin (83.4%).

Face-to-face community engagement was carried out within many of the communities which were underrepresented demographically in the online consultation responses to try and ensure that feedback received was as reflective of the Leeds population as feasibly possible.

The following tables show the age and gender of respondents to the online questionnaire:

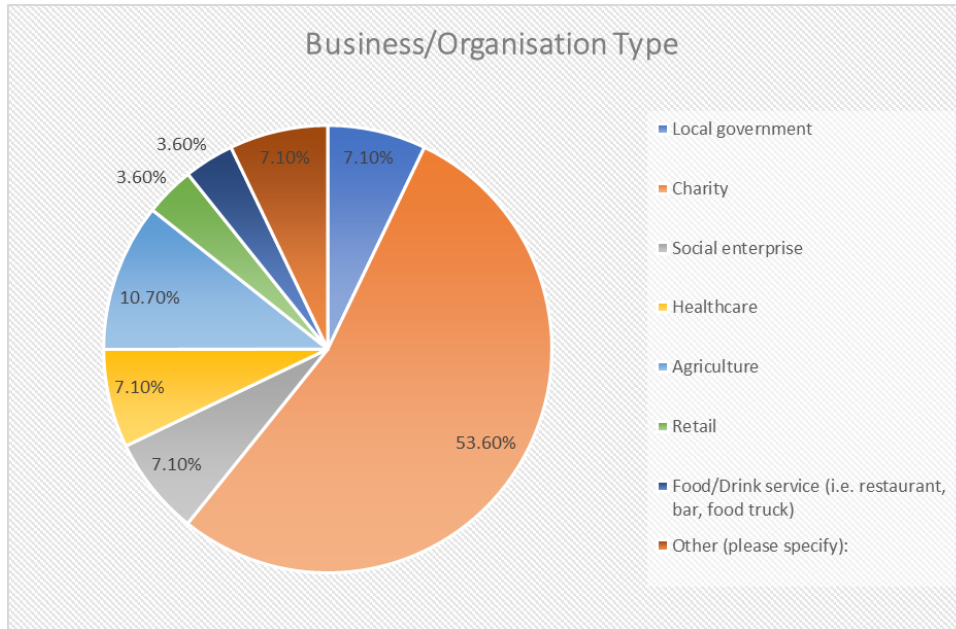
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Respondents as a %</b>	<b>Leeds Baseline Data Population as %</b>
Under 18	0.0	20.9
18 - 29	6.3	19.2
30 - 44	21.6	20.9
45 – 64	43.5	23.2
65 +	24.9	15.6
Prefer not to say	3.7	-

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Respondents as a %</b>	<b>Leeds Baseline Data as %</b>
Male (including Trans Male)	30.6	49.0
Female (including Trans Female)	59.5	51.0
Non-Binary	1.0	0.11
Prefer not to say	3.7	-
Other	5.3	0.06

28 respondents completed the online survey in an organisational capacity. Most of these represented charities or social enterprises in the third sector (60.7%). Just over a fifth (21.4%) of these responses were from the private sector, whilst 4 (14.3%) of the organisational responses came from the public sector. The table and chart below provide more information about the size and types of organisations that responded.

<b>Sector</b>		<b>Number of employees</b>	
Public sector	4	0-19	13
Private sector	6	20-49	7
Third sector	17	50-249	4
Unknown	1	250+	4

<b>Total</b>	28		28
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Postcode data shows most respondents were located across the north and north-eastern areas of the city region.

### Vision

The overarching vision for the proposed strategy was that:

“Leeds has a vibrant food economy where everyone is able to access local, healthy and affordable food, produced in a way which improves our natural environment and embraces innovation”

90.7% of those that completed the survey agreed with the vision statement (62.3% strongly).

### Themes

The Leeds Food Strategy follows three themes, which align with the three pillars of Leeds City Council's Best City Ambition:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Food Security and Economy
- Sustainability and Resilience

89.2% of those that completed the survey agreed on focusing on these three themes (61.4% strongly).

### Health and Wellbeing

Below are the Health and Wellbeing objectives ordered as ranked by survey responses. Besides each objective is also the percentage of people that agreed with that objective:

1. Ensure people of all ages know how to access and eat food that supports their health and wellbeing - 94% agree
2. Champion community food initiatives that support healthier eating - 91% agree
3. Change our city environment to help make healthier food more available and appealing - 89% agree
4. Offer targeted support that helps people most likely to develop diet-related diseases - 90% agree
5. Develop a skilled local workforce that works collaboratively to advocate for healthier eating and changes which enable it - 83% agree

Overall there is high level of agreement to all the objectives.

The most popular order to rank the objectives based on survey responses was the same as previously in the draft strategy except what previously was Objective 4 has now been pushed up to number 2. Objective 5 has the lowest agreement percentage (and the largest portion of "neither agree or disagree" of the 5 objectives), although a significant majority of respondents were supportive of the objective.

## Food Security and Economy

Below are the Food Security and Economy objectives ordered as ranked by survey responses. Besides each objective is also the percentage of people that agreed with that objective:

1. Tackle the root causes of food insecurity – 92% agree
2. Improve access to, and inclusivity of, emergency and affordable food initiatives to help more people in need of support, e.g. food banks, food pantries, community shops – 87% agree
3. Continue to build a strong partnership approach across all sectors and with the people of Leeds – 87% agree
4. Support inclusive growth within Leeds' food economy – 80% agree
5. Promote Leeds as a vibrant food city—celebrating our independent food, drink, events, and culture – 79% agree

Overall there is high level of agreement to all of the objectives.

The most popular order to rank from the survey responses is that same as previously in the draft strategy. Relatively speaking, Objectives 4 and 5 have low levels of agreement in comparison to the others. These objectives relate to economy rather than food security—suggesting that respondents people feel that actions tackling food security should be prioritised.

## Sustainability and Resilience

Below are the sustainability and resilience objectives ordered as ranked by survey responses. Besides each objective is also the percentage of people that agreed with that objective:

1. Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food – 95% agree

2. Empower residents to choose healthy diets by raising awareness of choices that are good for the planet – 85% agree
3. Encourage and enable innovative and community-led food production – 91% agree
4. Support local farmers to transition to resilient and profitable agriculture which improves the environment – 93% agree
5. Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient procurement – 90% agree

Overall there is high level of agreement to all of the objectives.

Respondents to the survey suggested changing the order of the objectives compared to the draft strategy. Objectives 2 and 5 in the draft strategy were ranked as more important and have become objectives 1 and 3 respectively in the above list. Objective 3 in the draft strategy was ranked as lowest priority in the above list and has become objective 5. Whilst being ranked as the second most important objective for this section by respondents, “Empower residents to choose healthy diets by raising awareness of choices that are good for the planet” was the objective with the lowest level of agreement—suggesting a greater range of public views than some of the other objectives.

Overall key themes throughout were:

- **The cost of living crisis** strongly influenced comments with highlights of increasing consumer costs, a perception that many people can only afford ‘unhealthy’ food, an awareness that food banks can only share what is donated and available to them, etc.
- **A partnership and rounded approach with policies and strategies that consider the relationship between dietary choices and both physical and mental health.** It was also highlighted the need for accessible services to support those on low household income
- **The importance of education** was highlighted as vital in terms of ensuring public understanding of these issues before people can be supported or empowered to make changes. Suggestions that further education was needed included regarding: awareness of how and where to access affordable and

nutritious food, and knowing how to cook and prepare meals—taking account of the seasonality and convenience (speed of preparation etc) of different foods.

- **The importance of free will and availability were** also highlighted. Many people felt that they should have a range of foods available to them, even where a plant-based diet is encouraged.
- **Cultural food/ dietary requirements** were highlighted as not being sufficiently highlighted in the draft strategy.
- **Advertising of ‘unhealthy’ food** was perceived by many as too prevalent and a concern for children's health. Many respondents had strong views and felt that the council should lead by example and not allow the advertising of ‘unhealthy’ food.
- **Suggestions for local policy** included comments about how LCC should use its local influence and decision making to be “brave” regarding:
  - the use of spare land for supporting additional allotments, grow your own, or other community food initiatives,
  - utilising the planning and licencing approval processes to reduce the number of takeaway food outlets (especially in areas where many already exist) and to encourage use of local produce and reduced waste,
  - the introduction of policies restricting advertising in the city of ‘unhealthy’ foods,
  - some respondents felt the draft strategy was too “big brother” and didn’t like feeling “preached” to.
- **Suggestions for national policy** raised by respondents included bans on ‘unhealthy’ food advertising and more interventions to tackle the sources of food insecurity to reduce the underlying need for food banks. This included calls for an improved welfare system and policies to ensure adequately paid jobs so that nobody was ‘working poor’ or having to choose between ‘eating and heating’.



- **Allotment** users and supporters felt that the full benefits of allotments across all the strategy's missions were not felt to be recognised in the document.
- **Support for growing and selling produce locally** featured throughout, including sharing surplus food at an individual level. This included individual actions such as households sharing pre-packaged quantities of vegetables with friends and neighbours if it is too much for them to use, as well as calls for surplus produce from allotments, food producers, and supermarkets to be used within communities/ food banks/ community cafes (eat as you feel) etc.
- **The importance of reducing food waste** was frequently mentioned by respondents. This included comments about how food waste could be tackled at the source (such as preventing overproduction), through to how packaging is used. There were also calls for kerbside collections of food waste in more than one area of the city, composting options being made available locally, and for more ways to deal with takeaway waste and littering.
- **Partnerships** with food businesses including large retail supermarket chains (based locally) to seek their buy-in and commitment to support sustainability and reduce food waste.

### **Results from the face-to-face and virtual sessions**

FoodWise Leeds, the city's food partnership, delivered the face to face/virtual sessions alongside the council. FoodWise Leeds hosted workshops in the community whereas the council's in-person engagement included presenting at stall events and public meetings.

Over the 8-week period of the consultation a total of 40 sessions/meetings were held, engaging approximately 700 people.

Throughout these sessions, there was a generally positive response towards the draft strategy. A variety of themes were discussed in comments, however those views that reoccurred were the following:

- **Language.** Some felt that language used within the strategy could be more inclusive or was currently too difficult to understand. Some examples given included terms such as: inclusive growth, food security, and safe food.
- **Availability of unhealthy food.** Some respondents believed that fast food and unhealthy foods are currently too widely advertised and too available in Leeds.
- **Allotments.** It was suggested that the role of allotments was not mentioned enough throughout the strategy, and that allotments can play a role in supporting all three of the strategy's missions.
- **Impact of food insecurity/the rising cost of living.** The importance of addressing food security and the rising costs of food was stressed by respondents, with many explaining how they were being impacted. Respondents were concerned that they are having to buy lower quality and less nutritious food out of necessity, rather than choice. Some residents said that, due to rising costs, they are having to shop around different stores which takes more time and increases stress. Others remarked on the time and energy costs associated with cooking meals and how in response they are cooking quicker, simpler meals (such as ready meals) to minimise energy costs whilst being aware that these are typically less nutritious. Respondents worried about the effects of food insecurity on their mental as well as physical health and wellbeing. One person shared her experience of food insecurity as a child saying that: "it stays with you always; you don't forget it".
- **Lack of capability to cook meals.** Respondents commented that people are generally time poor and often lack cooking skills, and therefore rely on ready meals rather than cooking from scratch. This reliance contributes to the increased cost of food as well as having impacts on health, nutrition, and obesity. Most people want to see more cooking being taught in schools and through other means but did not believe that they had a role in sharing cooking skills. However, respondents felt that some groups (especially older people) typically have a lot of food skills including cooking, growing, and preserving. They value food and know how to get the most from it.
- **Changes to emergency food provision.** People recognise that there has been a dramatic rise in emergency food provision. However, many

complained that the food available from this provision doesn't meet their health or cultural requirements. Respondents commented that food banks and other providers are struggling to meet demand for food, noting that donations have decreased as there's not as much surplus food around. Respondents felt that food pantries provided more choice and dignity than food parcels, and therefore more support should be available to organisations who are providing pantry offers rather than parcels. Respondents believed that nutritious food must be a priority in all emergency food provision.

- **Role in tackling climate change.** Most people generally believe that issues such as improving food access or food security are of greater importance than food's role in responding to climate change. However, respondents would welcome more education about the links between food and environmental impacts within school settings as well as wider community education. Respondents noted that many people are now eating less meat for cost reasons rather than to reduce their carbon footprint, e.g. by adding lentils to meat dishes. Most people see food waste as a big issue, especially younger people. There is a general awareness of surplus food redistribution but many respondents want to see more done by organisations and businesses so that less is wasted. There was interest in composting and community composting initiatives.

## **Results from other consultation routes**

### Inbox

The team also received comments during the consultation period to the Leeds Food Strategy inbox. Comments mentioned via this route were:

- Allotments being undermentioned in strategy
- Babies and breastfeeding missing from strategy
- Plastic food packaging missing from strategy
- Prioritise tackling primary school aged obesity
- Access to cultural food important to mention

- Good wages for jobs in food sector
- Importance of community growing

### Community Interviews

Colleagues from Public Health also undertook community engagement over the consultation period. They spoke to 100 people living in the Harehills and Chapeltown areas. The survey sample of 100 was selected from communities which were likely to be poorly represented on the online consultation.

Interviews were face to face and took place in a variety of sites including the post office, hairdressing salon, local café, Polish Centre, Bangladeshi Centre, Compton Centre and cashpoint machine.

Interviewees expressed a keen interest in food related topics especially healthy eating and the cost and availability of fresh food. Many expressed concerns over the rising cost of food items and had made changes to their shopping habits. Other topics of discussion included food waste and the use of food banks.

The language used in the strategy was found to be an obstacle, both for those British born as well as migrant groups. No respondent understood the term 'procurement'. Likewise, few understood the phrase 'Leeds food economy' or 'community led food production' and many were uncertain of the objective 'Continue to build a strong partnership approach across all sectors and with the people of Leeds'.

By way of contrast, the respondents showed familiarity with and understanding of key terms such as sustainability and resilience.

In respect of results the first ranked objectives for each theme were as follows:

- Health & Wellbeing - Change our city environment to make healthier food more appealing and available.
- Food Security & Economy - Improve access to, and inclusivity of, emergency and affordable food initiatives to help more people in need of support e.g. food banks, food pantries, community shops.

- Sustainability & Resilience - Encourage and enable innovative and community led food production.

The conclusion to be drawn from conversations with these 100 people is that the consultation is not 'community friendly' in some of its language. This will need to be looked at in the final draft to increase accessibility.

### **Proposed changes to draft Leeds Food Strategy**

Overall, the response to the draft strategy was largely positive, with high levels of agreement in the vision (90.7%), themes (89.2%), and objectives (79-95%), therefore these will remain in place for the final version.

The order of objectives within each chapter will be altered to reflect that of the ranking proposed in the consultation (both the online survey and the community engagement) to reflect that which residents, businesses and organisations believe to be the most important for Leeds.

It was highlighted within the consultation that some of the language used across the strategy is not fully inclusive and could not be understood by people living in the city. As part of the strategy update to the final version, the phrases highlighted in the consultation as being hard to understand will be reviewed and better explained or updated. This will also include the wording of some objectives.

A number of comments were received in relation to the under mentioning across the three strands of the strategy of:

- Allotments
- Waste food packaging
- Cultural food

These comments have been heard and they will be highlighted in the updated version.

## **Action Plan**

As well as updating the draft food strategy wording to create a final document, the food strategy team will also create the first annual action plan to support the strategy. This will include actions underneath each of the 15 objectives of the strategy, which will be continually monitored and reviewed annually with Food Wise Leeds. The strategy will be edited according to ensure it is in alignment with any changes to government policy.

## Appendix 3 - Leeds Food Strategy

Our plan to work towards a better food future for all



### About the Leeds Food Strategy

The Leeds Food Strategy sets out our vision for the future of how we produce, consume, and dispose of food across the local authority district.

**At the heart of this strategy is our vision for Leeds to have a vibrant food economy where everyone can access local, healthy, and affordable food that is produced in ways that improve our natural environment and embrace new techniques and technologies.**

This means that we believe the foods that we eat should reflect our rich and diverse culture, nourish our social connections, enhance our physical and mental well-being, and make our lives better. It means that our food system should enable people, producers, and our planet to prosper. The Leeds Food Strategy sets out what the local authority area can do to work towards this better food future for all.

We will work towards our vision by focusing on three core missions. These missions have been designed to complement our [Best City Ambition](#), whilst also demonstrating how Leeds will work collaboratively to support the aims of the [Government Food Strategy](#) and [independent National Food Strategy](#).

# Achieving our vision: our food missions

## Health and wellbeing



Helping people to improve their health and wellbeing through eating well.

[Find out more about our plan around health and wellbeing](#)

## Food security and economy





Working to give everyone in Leeds access to nutritious food as part of a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant food economy.

[Find out more about our plan around food security and economy.](#)

### **Sustainability and resilience**



Ensuring Leeds' food system is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan.

[Find out more about our plan around sustainability and resilience](#)

### **Why we need a Leeds Food Strategy:**

An introduction by Cllr. Abigail Marshall-Katung, Food Champion at Leeds City Council & Gareth Batty MBE FRSA, CEO at FareShare Yorkshire.

“Wherever you go in the city, you’ll see that food is central to life in Leeds.

“Food sustains both lives and livelihoods. It nourishes and reflects our rich and diverse culture. No matter where in the world you come from, you’ll be able to enjoy a taste of home here in Leeds. Whether you’re looking for Michelin-recommended fine dining or a little-known independent gem of an eatery, Leeds has a lot of good things on the menu.

“Food plays an important role in our economy too. Thousands of Leeds businesses employ tens of thousands of local workers in the production, selling, and serving food. The city’s vibrant food sector

supports our thriving visitor economy. It's really no wonder that we've sometimes been called [the Foodie Capital of the North](#).

"Yet while we have plenty to celebrate, we must acknowledge that too many people in Leeds struggle to put good food on the table. Everybody should be able to access and afford nutritious food. Nobody should ever have to choose between heating or eating, yet this is the grim reality sadly facing many people that we work with today. Across the UK, the number of people in relative poverty is increasing and has been for more than 10 years. Even before the pandemic, it is estimated that 174,000 Leeds residents lived in relative poverty. Industry data shows that food prices are inflating faster than wages and that those on the lowest incomes are being hit the hardest. Non-financial barriers (like living far away from places that sell affordable, nutritious food) also make the problems of food insecurity worse for many. Paradoxically, however, we collectively throw huge amounts of good food away—enough to almost fill one in three rubbish bins collected by the council.

"When good food is affordable and conveniently available, our health and wellbeing thrives. By helping more people in Leeds to eat a healthy, nutritious diet that aligns with the [NHS recommended EatWell guidelines](#), we can save lives and improve quality of life for thousands of people. And because foods that are good for us tend to be better for the planet too, doing so will accelerate our journey to become a net zero city.

"Until the causes of global warming are addressed worldwide, our climate will continue to change and impact harvests everywhere. Climate change will therefore make our economic and health challenges harder to address unless we grow and source foods in a more sustainable and resilient way. British farmers will continue to produce most of the food we eat in the future, but they must be supported as they transition to more sustainable and climate-resilient practices. Leeds City Council has pledged to, by 2030, reduce the carbon footprint of the food it sells or serves in half, and is the first local authority in the country to make any carbon related food commitments. Leeds City Council has also signed the [Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration](#), reiterating its commitment to taking local action on food and climate.

"Local efforts are already making a real difference. Organisations like FareShare Yorkshire help: in the last year they provided more than 4.2 million meals across the region, preventing nearly 1,800 tonnes of food from going to waste and helping families. But FareShare Yorkshire is just one of many fantastic charities and community groups. Since 2017, FoodWise Leeds has brought together many of these local charities and policy makers to address some of the city's big challenges and to pursue a better food system. Their amazing efforts—supported by the council—has already seen Leeds given the [Sustainable Food Places 'Bronze' Award](#).

"All of these issues that we've mentioned above are challenges which this ambitious Leeds Food Strategy seeks to address. This strategy includes policies and initiatives to build on our past successes and move towards a local food system that is better for people, producers, and our planet. It's laid out across three, mission-driven, interlinked sections that tackle each challenge in turn.

“Across the whole document, you’ll see our commitment to abide by three fundamental principles: collaboration across the city’s food system, use of local insight and evidence as the basis for solutions, and the transparent monitoring and evaluation of our work.

“We believe that the Leeds Food Strategy is a recipe for success, but we’ll need the support of the whole city to turn our ambitious vision into a reality. We hope you’ll join us.”



**Cllr. Abigail Marshall-Katung** | Official Food Champion, Leeds City Council

**Gareth Batty MBE FRSA** | Chief Executive Officer, Fareshare Yorkshire

## **Delivering the strategy:**

The Leeds Food Strategy has been co-developed by Leeds City Council and FoodWise Leeds.

FoodWise Leeds formed in 2017 as the city’s food partnership to create a healthy, sustainable, and fair food system for everyone in Leeds. The partnership is made up of representatives from the third sector, academia, business, and the council.

Leeds City Council and FoodWise Leeds will work in partnership to oversee the review and development of the annual Leeds Food Action Plan that will be key to the strategy’s delivery from now until 2030. They will also share and present an update detailing the Plan’s progress every year at a public meeting of Leeds City Council.

## **How this strategy was developed:**

The Leeds Food Strategy has been co-produced with individuals and representatives from third sector organisations, business, academia, the public sector and the council to create a shared vision for putting healthy, sustainable, and fair food as central to the city’s success.

More than 70 stakeholders from the local food system gathered in 2022 to share their knowledge and collectively develop a vision for what our local food system should look like to help address some of

the city's biggest challenges. Attendees also celebrated Leeds' many successes such as community gardens and farming initiatives, the support of community food aid projects, the vibrant independent food businesses, and the support for children and families offered through the [Healthy Holidays programme](#).

Following this meeting, working groups were set up, each co-chaired by both an independent organisation and a council representative, to represent and develop each of the three strategic 'missions' of the strategy into the format you see today.

Organisations that contributed to the Leeds Food Strategy steering group include:

- [Fareshare Yorkshire](#)
- [Food Aid Network](#)
- [FoodWise Leeds](#)
- Leeds City Council
- [Rethink Food](#)
- [University of Leeds](#)

The Leeds Food Strategy also incorporates the [six key issues assessed as part of the Sustainable Food Places award scheme](#). Our aim is for Leeds to achieve the Silver award in 2023 and the Gold award in subsequent years.

A public consultation was held between October and December 2022 which incorporated an online questionnaire, public meetings, and face-to-face engagement. More than 90% of respondents to the questionnaire agreed with the vision and missions of the strategy.

Even though we are no longer consulting on the Leeds Food Strategy, we are always interested to hear feedback and suggestions. Further comments can be submitted by emailing [LeedsFoodStrategy@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LeedsFoodStrategy@leeds.gov.uk)

## **Get involved:**

We believe that the Leeds Food Strategy is a recipe for a better local food system, but we'll need the support of communities, businesses and decision makers across the city to turn our vision into a reality. Every action counts.

**Take action to make our food system better**

Whether you're a Leeds resident, a food business owner or part of a local organisation, discover easy ways to become FoodWise and take action to help us create a healthy, sustainable and fair food system for our city, that tackles social, economic and environmental issues. There's plenty of ways for you to [take action and be more FoodWise](#).

**Talk to someone about this strategy**

The more people know about the Leeds Food Strategy, the bigger an impact that it can have. If you think that our approach is interesting, we'd love you to share this strategy with your friends and networks—and encourage more people to get involved.

# Leeds Food Strategy: Health and wellbeing

Our mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in our city through eating well.



## Why it is important

Food is essential for health and wellbeing.

Eating good, healthy, and nutritious food helps to keep us well, protecting both our physical and mental wellbeing.

Knowing and understanding what to eat, along with the practical skills needed to prepare healthy and balanced food are all skills that we believe should be universal.

There are many influences that affect what we eat daily. Evidence shows that our environment and living conditions are key to this. Good food might be less visible, harder to afford or access. These conditions are not equally experienced and are often related to existing inequalities present in our city.

We can improve health and wellbeing by working together to find solutions, remove barriers, improve quality of life, become more socially connected and less lonely through food.

By supporting and creating the conditions that allow more of us to eat healthy, nutritious and tasty food the Leeds Foods Strategy aims to give children in Leeds the best possible start and help everyone to live healthy, independent lives for longer.

Food choices that are good for us tends to be better for the planet too. Meeting these objectives will accelerate our city's journey to net zero—reducing the future health impacts that we know climate change will cause.

## **Our plan:**

### **Objective 1: Ensure people of all ages know how to access, prepare, and eat food that supports health and wellbeing.**



The first step to eating well is understanding what to eat, how much of it, and having the practical skills required to buy and prepare good food. This understanding also needs to be tailored to an individual's culture, faith, income, community, and stage of life.

The NHS-recommended Eatwell guide shows how much of different food groups are needed to achieve healthy, and balanced eating—except where a health professional has advised otherwise. Other tools, such as the [School Food Plan](#) and [5 A Day campaign](#), also exist. Understanding and having an awareness of these recommendations are some of the first steps to eating healthier. This will need to be considered across the different stages of life. For example, the importance of promoting breastfeeding and nutrition in the early years.

We will work across sectors to create more opportunities to develop and learn the skills needed to eat healthier. This could include meal planning, budgeting and food preparation. We can raise awareness of how to access support for healthier eating across our city, enabling the opportunity and capability to achieve EatWell guide recommendations.

#### **Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Working across sectors to improve knowledge and awareness of Eatwell recommendations and adapting these to individual lives.
- 2) Working across sectors to give people the skills and opportunities to overcome barriers to buying, preparing, and eating healthy, nutritious, and affordable food.

### **Objective 2: Champion community food initiatives that support healthier eating**



Alongside working with partners, community-led initiatives will have a vital role to play in furthering the objectives of the Leeds Food Strategy.

They enable people to develop cooking skills, grow food, and share food as part of activities like cooking skills, luncheon, and family clubs. They also bring people within communities together, which has huge social benefits.

There are already many great community-led initiatives taking place across Leeds. Further collaboration and community involvement will key to building on these initiatives as we move forwards. We will work together to identify new funding opportunities and learn from what has worked well.

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Raising awareness of, and celebrating, community-led food initiatives in Leeds and the impact they have.
- 2) Supporting community-led food initiatives to identify new funding opportunities
- 3) Encouraging and enabling better co-ordination and sharing of best practice between groups.

**Objective 3: Change our city environment to help make healthier food more available and appealing**





Our environment influences what we eat. There are many opportunities to improve our environment to make healthy eating easier and more accessible. For some of us, good food is less visible and might be harder to access. It is important that we all have opportunities to eat well and diversely in our daily lives. Healthy food options should be readily available and affordable wherever we live, work, study, and relax.

Organisations and businesses advertising, providing, or selling food have a role in promoting and offering affordable, healthy, and nutritious food more prominently—creating more demand for good food. Those buying, making, or serving food could adopt the best practice [Government Buying Standards for Food](#) to make their food healthier, higher quality, and more sustainable.

Workplaces—where many of us spend a lot of our time—should also recognise their key role. In many workplaces, information and access to healthy food can be limited and this impacts people's ability to consume a healthier diet.

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Work with interested businesses and organisations that provide or sell food to encourage them to prepare and promote healthy and nutritious food more prominently. Leeds City Council will lead by example within its own venues.
- 2) Work with employers to recognise their role in helping to create a food environment that improves access to, and encourages, healthy eating.
- 3) Explore opportunities to advertise and promote healthier and sustainable eating.

**Objective 4: Offer targeted support to those of us who are most at risk**



Healthy eating is important for everyone, but some of us are more at risk of developing health conditions and require additional support. Malnutrition is a major driver of diet-related health conditions including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease (heart diseases), stroke, and some

cancers. Living with these conditions can be life changing and lead to premature death. Managing them costs our NHS more than £6 billion per year.

We can reduce diet-related deaths, improve the quality of life for those diagnosed, and save NHS resources by offering targeted support to help people most likely to develop these diseases. These 'at risk' individuals include those experiencing food insecurity or who live in a more deprived area.

**Actions to support this objective:**

1) Continuing to invest in prevention and treatment programmes that reduce the impact of diet-related ill health in the people most at risk.

## **Objective 5: Develop a skilled local workforce who advocate for healthier eating**



Many organisations in Leeds already promote information on eating well, but this can sometimes be complex due to the variety of information sources available. We also need to ensure the wider influences on healthy eating such as culture, income, and environment are always considered and addressed.

By developing a local workforce with all the skills necessary to advocate for, promote, and support healthier eating, we can empower professionals to have an even greater impact.

We believe that workforce development should include providing consistent information and support which is tailored to their audience and appropriate for their role.

Training opportunities shouldn't be provided in isolation. Workers should also be equipped to identify and support opportunities that influence behaviour such as changing the food environment where they work.

**Actions to support this objective:**

1) Providing a range of training opportunities that enable the local workforce to deliver consistent, holistic, and evidence-based support on healthier eating.

## Leeds Food Strategy: Food security and economy

Our mission is to ensure we can all access affordable, nutritious food as part of a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant food economy.



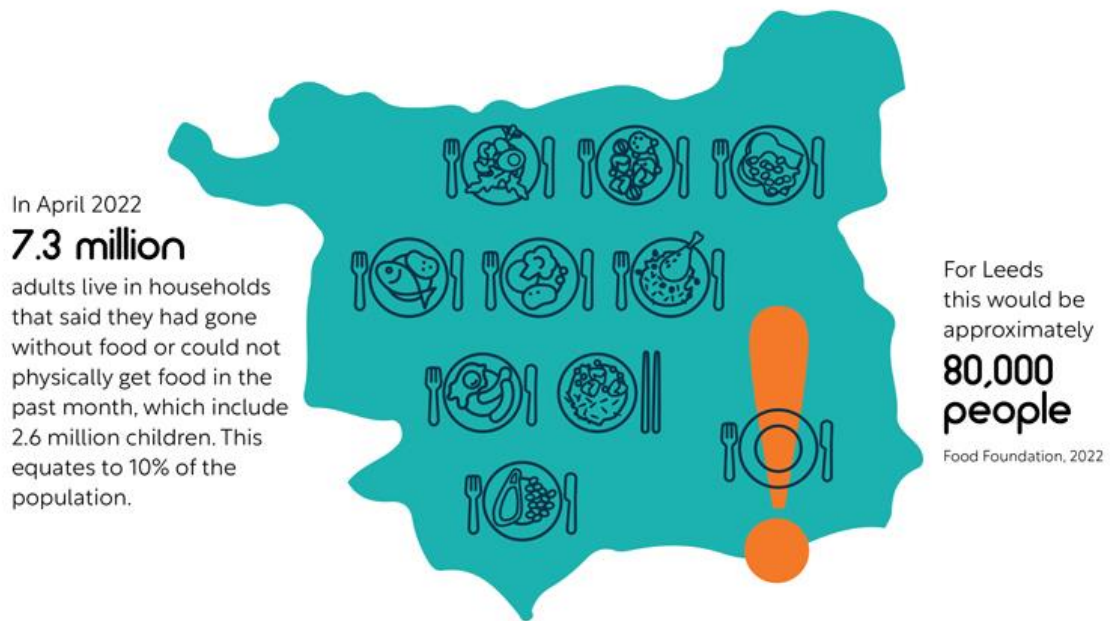
### Why it is important

Food security is our ability to access food, pay for it, and prepare nutritious meals.

Having food security allows us to contribute economically, environmentally, socially, and culturally to society. It is essential to the foundations of a healthy, inclusive, and sustainable economy. Tackling

poverty, inequality and improving the quality of life for all of us is at the heart of the Leeds Food Strategy.

Increasing numbers of us are experiencing poverty, and Leeds is no different, too many of us struggle to put food on the table. Local charities, community groups together with the council are already making a real difference every day to help those most in need.



Despite this, food bank use is currently at an all-time high after an unacceptable and unsustainable year-on-year increase. Programmes to distribute food aid and give emergency food parcels will continue offering a lifesaving service, but we shouldn't have to rely on these services to get by.

Ultimately we need to tackle the causes of food insecurity and not just its impacts. This means helping to ensure that more of us can and know how to physically access, afford, and prepare healthy nutritious food—without compromising our ability to meet other basic needs.

As part of this mission, we also need to do everything we can to help more of us become financially secure and independent. We can support our vibrant food sector (every business and organisation involved in the growing, production, cooking, serving, or selling of food in Leeds) to grow and help them to embrace new and better ways of producing, selling, and serving food. By choosing local and regional food producers more often for what we eat, we help local businesses to create more jobs and keep more money within Yorkshire. A successful, innovative, and diverse economy is one that it is fair, pays well, and works for all of us. By choosing local and regional food producers more often for what we eat we help local businesses to create more jobs and keep more money within Yorkshire.

By working together with partners across the city to reduce food insecurity and grow an inclusive food economy, the Leeds Food Strategy aims to improve the quality of life and financial resilience of Leeds households. We're proud that Leeds has some of the best food in the country and with our plans,

many more of us will be able to enjoy more of it.

## **Our plan:**

### **Objective 1: Tackle factors limiting people's ability to afford the food they need.**



Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, pay hadn't been keeping up with the rising cost of living and many people had little job security. Currently around 20% of Leeds employees earn below the real living wage.

On top of that, public sector funding cuts and welfare reform has reduced much of the support available to people in poverty. Barriers including a lack of awareness or difficulties accessing financial support prevents some residents from receiving what they do qualify for.

All of these factors combine to mean that fewer people can afford good food, which is the biggest expenditure for households after housing, fuel, and energy. Official statistics show that low-income households spent much more of their earnings (18%) on food than the average household (13%) in 2021, and this trend is expected to have worsened since.

To tackle the root causes of food insecurity, we need to reduce poverty and economic inequalities. We need to encourage more organisations to pay the real living wage and help businesses (including in our food sector) to create good new jobs that mean more people can live happier and healthier lives.

#### **Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Championing actions and initiatives that help address poverty and food insecurity, including fair wages and financial support.
- 2) Raising awareness of how residents can increase their incomes, including helping them to access

any financial support they may qualify for.

3) Developing and sustaining programmes that improve access to healthy food for people on low incomes.

4) Ensure food security and poverty are considered when developing local plans and policies.

## **Objective 2: Help those in need of support to access affordable and inclusive food initiatives**



With more people experiencing food insecurity and sometimes having to choose between heating and eating, rising numbers of people are turning to food aid services.

Local organisations are making a real difference to help those most in need, often working in partnership with the council. Leeds has a wide range of food aid provision available including emergency support via food banks, the [Local Welfare Support Scheme](#), food pantries, and community cafes. In 2021, it is estimated that more than 64,000 food parcels were distributed via food aid providers.

We believe that food aid provision could be even more helpful if providers in Leeds were better connected with each other and with financial advice or support services. We could also improve these services if they were made more inclusive of cultural and dietary requirements.

### **Actions to support this objective:**

1) Working together with partners to improve, and make more inclusive, affordable food initiatives so that everyone can access the help they need.

2) Connecting food aid providers with other free, impartial, and confidential support services to help residents access information and support to prepare and afford healthy meals.

3) Developing and promoting a new Leeds Food Aid Charter setting out consistent key principles and best practice for local food aid providers to follow.

**Objective 3: Continue to build a strong partnership approach across all sectors and with the people of Leeds.**



Leeds prides itself on its well-established partnership approach to tackling food insecurity. Currently this includes Leeds Food Aid Network which brings together a wide range of food aid organisations—including FareShare Yorkshire, Rethink Food and FoodWise Leeds—all working in collaboration with the council, universities, businesses and the third sector.

This partnership approach increases awareness, efficiency, and effectiveness of all the good work being done across the city. It was crucial throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when Leeds providers experienced an unprecedented demand for emergency food aid.

We need to continue building and strengthening this collaborative, partnership approach across every sector and with the people of Leeds to unite efforts towards the missions of the Leeds Food Strategy.

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Developing the Food Aid Network and Leeds Food Insecurity Taskforce to raise awareness of our approach to food aid and improve citywide coordination and collaboration.
- 2) Ensuring public participation in, and engagement with, the Leeds Food Strategy.
- 3) Work with organisations to promote goods and services from local producers.
- 4) Working in partnership with the public, voluntary, education and private sector to collaborate on actions that further the objectives of the Leeds Food Strategy.

**Objective 4: Support and unlock opportunities for local food businesses and workers.**



By supporting retail, food and drink, and social entrepreneurs to start-up and grow successful businesses we can facilitate inclusive growth within our local economy. This means creating new and better jobs, contributing towards reduced poverty and inequality in the city, and nurturing the food culture we want.

We can support businesses by connecting them to relevant advice and help entrepreneurs to start up, grow, and develop innovative businesses. We can also explore and support new opportunities for innovative and sustainable food production.



**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Helping food businesses grow and support jobs by connecting them to relevant support and advice.
- 2) Working to create and expand pathways to market for locally produced food.
- 3) Promoting opportunities for recruitment, workforce development, and apprenticeships in the local



food sector.

4) Supporting innovation and research that promotes the viability of local food enterprises.

### **Objective 5: Promote Leeds as a vibrant food city—celebrating our independent food, drink, events, and culture.**



Leeds offers one of the best independent restaurant, café and bar scenes in the country.

We enjoy a diverse and innovative food hospitality sector featuring everything from world-class fine dining to mouth-watering street food. You can enjoy familiar cuisines from all over the world or sample something new here in Leeds. We're proud of our impressive food heritage too.

This varied food offer supports Leeds' thriving visitor economy by helping to draw people and investment into the city and supporting inclusive economic growth. In turn, this generates opportunities for creative, enthusiastic food and drink entrepreneurs to launch and grow their businesses in the city. The many independent food businesses in Leeds help keep money circulating within our local economy.

Food is widely celebrated in Leeds through a variety of festivals and community led events. All across the city, food pop-ups, farmers markets, cookery classes can be enjoyed throughout the year. We will continue to build on what Leeds already does well to support the city's local food economy. We will proudly celebrate our food culture, heritage, and diversity, and work to raise the city's profile as a vibrant food city.

#### **Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Working with the food sector to increase visitor demand for local food and drink across the city.
- 2) Celebrating the culture and diversity of Leeds by promoting the local food offer available in different parts of the city.
- 3) Champion the economic, social, and environmental benefits of consuming locally and sustainably produced foods to residents, businesses and institutions.

# Leeds Food Strategy: Sustainability and Resilience

Our mission is to ensure the way Leeds produces, consumes, and disposes of food is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan.



## Why it is important

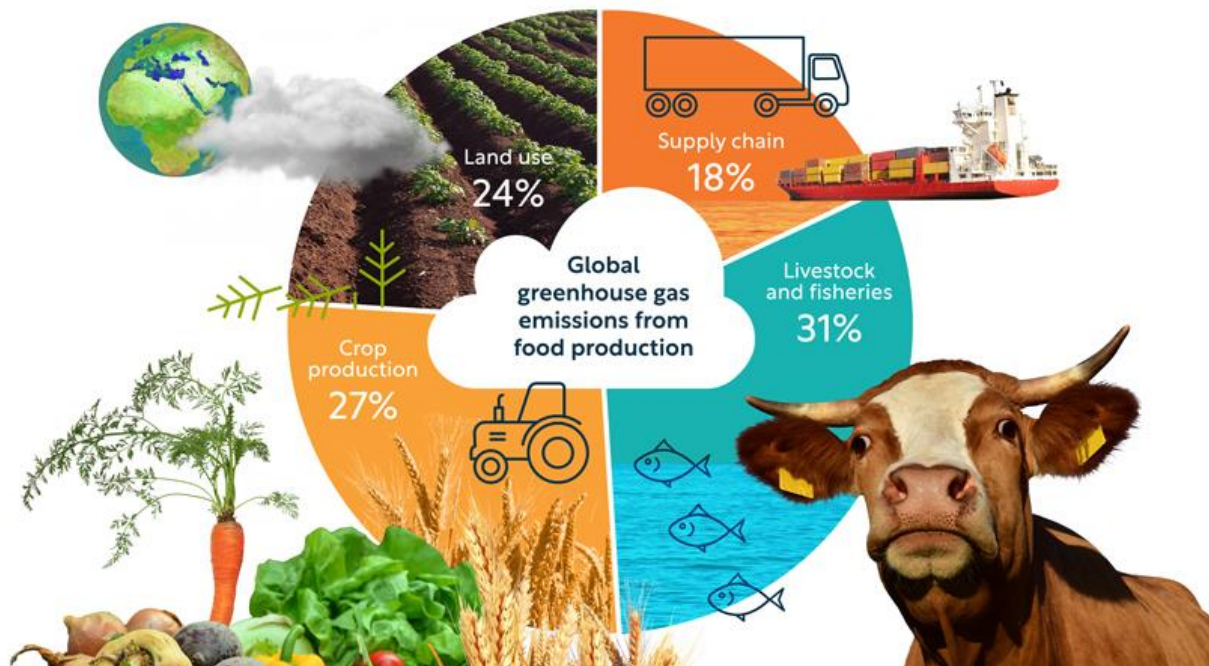
Our climate is changing. Warmer temperatures, changing rain patterns, and more extreme weather events are already affecting food security across the world—and will increasingly do so until global climate action means that the amount of planet-warming gases in our atmosphere begins to decrease.

Leeds has declared a climate emergency and, as part of [our climate action plan](#), the council's ambition is to achieve net zero carbon emissions as quickly as possible and to boost our city's resilience to the changing climate.

Yet as well as being vulnerable to the impacts of climate change our food system is also partly responsible, currently accounting for around one-fifth of all the emissions in our national carbon footprint.

We can enable the transition to a more sustainable food system by wasting less food, making healthier food choices, and producing food in better and more environmentally friendly ways. Leeds is one of the biggest cities in one of the world's richest countries. We can't change the food system alone, but we can have real impact if we lead by example. Every action counts.

Energy used to transport and process our food contributes to the food sector's carbon footprint, so we will reduce these emissions by transitioning to zero emission transport and power as part of other strategies. However, most greenhouse gas emissions from food are released before produce even leaves the farm gates because of factors like fertiliser use, the methane emissions from livestock, and converting environmentally important land like peat bogs and rainforest into farms. We must consider what foods are grown and how they are grown—not just how far foods have travelled.



Food production is essential, and the agricultural community in the UK has made great strides in reducing its impact on the environment. However, farming uses a lot of land and, dependent on how it is done, can be detrimental to nature. This includes the very bees and other pollinators that play a vital role to make foods more affordable and abundant.

The growing of food across the globe will be increasingly impacted by our changing climate, damaging harvests that disrupt supplies and raise food prices. We need to create a more resilient food system by considering the changing climate when we plan which foods to grow where, and by sourcing produce from many different places and suppliers. By doing this we can reduce the impact of supply disruption when it occurs—especially for those experiencing food insecurity.

Ultimately, ensuring the way we produce, consume, and dispose of food is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan is not only necessary and beneficial long-term, but will also help us to improve the quality of life for everyone across the district right now.

## **Our plan:**

## Objective 1: Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food



It doesn't matter what kind it is, throwing any food away contributes to climate change and wastes land, water, money and energy. 25 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year are emitted from the food wasted by households and businesses in the UK. Meanwhile, many families in Leeds experience food insecurity and depend on food aid.

Did you know that the average household in Leeds threw away around 190kg of food in 2021? By buying only what we need and using our leftovers, we could reduce the largest source of post-farm gate food waste. Together we can all do a little more and make a big difference.

Households in  
Leeds throw away  
**3.76 kg**  
of food waste  
in their bins  
each week



Retailers, manufacturers, and food growers all have a big part to play in tackling food waste across the system too. For example, supermarkets and their suppliers can help consumers to reduce food waste through better product information, packaging, and portioning.

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Promoting ways to reduce food waste, working with partners including organisations and businesses.
- 2) Redistributing surplus food to those in need, working with partners including organisations and businesses.
- 3) Expanding food waste collections (in line with national policy and dependant on government funding) and community composting initiatives to more areas of the city.

**Objective 2: Raise awareness of how we can eat nutritious foods that are good for the planet.**



Every meal we eat is an opportunity to make a difference. Some types of food will always be more resource intensive to produce than others. Yet most of us are unaware of the impact our food choices have on the environment. Many foods that are better for the environment can be better for our budget too—such as using local and seasonal ingredients.

Organisations and food businesses can also help by making it easier for us all to choose healthier, more sustainable foods. For example, they could introduce some form of ‘carbon labelling’ highlight the contribution of different food items on global warming—similar to how many manufacturers and venues display the calories in their foods.

The types of food we eat is our own choice. Some of us may prefer to eat mostly or all plant-based foods. Others may prefer to also include meat, fish, or dairy too. But as a population, our collective health and the health of the planet would improve if we ate a balanced diet consistent with the NHS-recommended [Eatwell guidelines](#). For some of us, this may mean eating less (but better quality)

animal products and more plants. Simply adopting the Eatwell guidelines is estimated to reduce the average person's carbon footprint from food by almost a third.

Finally, while it cannot be assumed that reducing meat and dairy intake will lead to substitution with healthier foods, if half of UK meat and dairy consumption were replaced with fruits, vegetables and cereals, diet-related GHG emissions could be reduced by 19% and roughly 37,000 premature deaths from cardiovascular disease and cancer averted each year

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Introducing carbon labelling at council food venues, such as on school and café menus.
- 2) Raising awareness of the environmental impact of different food choices.

### **Objective 3: Encourage and embrace new ways of producing, selling and serving food within local communities**



Like many cities, Leeds collectively consumes far more food than we produce. This fact might not be surprising as a large and populous district. However, this fact could make the city more vulnerable to future food price rises and supply chain issues. Going forwards, we will work to make the difference between production and consumption as small as possible.

Fortunately, food growing doesn't have to be limited to farms. Allotments, gardens, balconies, windows, greenhouses, urban farms, community spaces and innovative systems can all contribute to Leeds' food security, improve community wellbeing, and help to create employment opportunities.

**Action to support this objective:**

- 1) Promoting 'grow your own', community, and urban growing.
- 2) Work with partners to raise awareness of, and support, cutting-edge innovative food production.

## **Objective 4: Support local farmers to transition to resilient and**

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Serving more quality, sustainable, regional produce that is certified to higher production standards in Leeds City Council venues and services.
- 2) Working with suppliers to better understand—and reduce—the environmental impact of the food purchased by Leeds City Council.
- 3) Encouraging the city's biggest organisations to join Leeds City Council in their procurement commitments.

## **profitable agriculture which improves the environment.**



British farmers already produce some of the most environmentally friendly and highest animal welfare food in the world and they are now on a journey to become even more sustainable as part of the national [Agricultural Transition Plan](#).

It is important that we support local farmers as they transition to more sustainable agricultural practices that are profitable and suited to our changing climate as quickly as possible. Yorkshire's farmers have a proud history and their future success is essential for our food security.

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Work with national, regional, and local partners to support best farming practice by engaging

policymakers and decision takers, helping to remove barriers to the agricultural transition faced by farmers in Leeds.

2) Explore opportunities to influence land use planning policies to enable the better use of land for agriculture.

3) Help local farmers get a fair price for quality products bought by the council and partners.

4) Explore ways to make it easier for local farmers to sell produce locally.

## **Objective 5: Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient food buying**



We can all help shape the way that food is made and sold for the better by voting with our wallets to raise standards, cut carbon, and support local producers.

Organisations can make an even bigger difference than those who buy only for their family. For example, Leeds City Council bought more than two thousand tonnes of food in 2021. The council has produced a set of food buying guidelines to be followed to ensure that any food purchased by the council is aligned with the commitments made in this strategy

Buying local also supports higher animal welfare and quality agriculture, keeps money in our Yorkshire economy, and boosts the resilience of our food system.

### **Actions to support this objective:**

1) Serving more quality, sustainable, regional produce that is certified to higher production standards in Leeds City Council venues and services.

2) Working with suppliers to better understand—and reduce—the environmental impact of the food purchased by Leeds City Council.

3) Encouraging the city's biggest organisations to join Leeds City Council in their procurement commitments.

Taking time to find out where food comes from is important. Even if you don't buy local all the time,



simply choosing to buy foods that are seasonal to the place they're grown can be cheaper and can make a positive environmental difference.

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## Governance

## 0. Governance

(0.1) Provide details of your jurisdiction in the table below.

## Response

## Administrative boundary of reporting government^

Metropolitan area

## Next highest level of government

National

## Next lowest level of government

Sub-municipal district

## Land area of the jurisdiction boundary (in square km)^

551.7

## Percentage range of land area that is green space

21-30%

## Current (or most recent) population size^

798786

## Population year^

2020

## Projected population size

838027

## Projected population year

2030

## Select the currency used for all financial information reported throughout your response^

GBP Pound Sterling

(0.2) Provide information on your jurisdiction's oversight of climate-related risks and opportunities and how these issues have impacted your jurisdiction's planning.

Green Economy Policy Work Update.pdf

Leeds-Inclusive-Growth-Strategy-FINAL.pdf

LEEDS-TALENT-AND-SKILLS-PLAN-final-consultation-publication.pdf

Capital Programme Cover Report Appendices 310122.pdf

## Response

## Select the processes that reflect your jurisdiction's oversight of climate-related issues

Council (or equivalent) is informed by relevant departments, committees and/or subcommittees about climate-related issues

Relevant departments, committees and/or subcommittees are informed by management about climate-related issues

Climate-related issues are considered by government when undertaking plans and/or strategies

Climate-related issues are considered by government when undertaking budgeting and/or major capital expenditures

Climate-related responsibilities are assigned to management-level positions in government

### **Provide further details on your jurisdiction's oversight of climate-related issues**

We have a dedicated Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate who has oversight of all activity relating to climate change, sustainable energy and carbon reduction, sustainable development, sustainable housing growth, highways and transportation, flood and water management, active travel, planning services, and clean air. All key decisions in Leeds which result in the authority spending or saving over £500,000, or is likely to have a significant effect on communities living or working in an area of one or more wards, are considered by Executive Board, community committees, or by officers given delegated responsibility. As set out within the Officer Delegation Scheme as part of the council's constitution, the Director for Resources is authorised by the Executive to discharge the following functions to the Chief Officer for Sustainable Energy and Air Quality:

Climate Change including:-

- a) Establishment, implementation, monitoring and review arrangements to minimise and mitigate the impact of climate change;
- b) Promotion of local co-operation arrangements to reduce the impact of climate change and
- c) Engagement with communities in relation to climate change.

Sustainable Energy and Carbon Reduction including:-

- a) Formulation and implementation of sustainable energy and carbon reduction policies for the city; and
- b) Formulation and implementation of clean air policies for the city

Climate change (including mitigation and adaptation) is one of the main corporate risks on our risk register. It is reviewed quarterly and an update is provided annually to Executive Board.

Executive Board receives an Annual Report on progress following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. All formal decisions must evidence impact on our net zero ambitions as one of three key strategic aims through our corporate report template. The council also established a cross political group Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC) in 2019, which advises the council and Executive Board on climate related matters. The work output of CEAC is then reviewed annually at Full Council. Various aspects of our climate mitigation work are also reviewed by scrutiny committees. The Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board also has oversight functions relating to executive decisions and other matters of interest in regard to climate change, providing checks and balance to the city's journey to net-zero.

### **Describe how climate-related issues have impacted your jurisdiction's master/development planning**

The Best City Ambition is our overall vision for the future of Leeds. At its heart is our mission to tackle poverty and inequality and improve quality of life for everyone who calls Leeds home. We will achieve our mission by focusing on improving outcomes across the Three Pillars of the Best City Ambition - Health and Wellbeing, Inclusive Growth and Zero Carbon. The Three Pillars capture the things that will make the biggest difference to improving people's lives in Leeds – and many of the big challenges we face and the best opportunities we have relate to all three - [https://www.leeds.gov.uk/plans-and-strategies/best-city-ambition?](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/plans-and-strategies/best-city-ambition?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

The Leeds Core Strategy sets out the spatial planning framework for the District. Central to its preparation has been the development of an approach which seeks to manage growth in a sustainable way, in balancing the overall, scale, distribution and phasing of development. Population increase, climate change, and the global economy are all huge challenges facing Leeds. Within this context and in planning for growth within the District, there are key links between longer term economic prosperity, environmental quality, local identity and distinctiveness - <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan/core-strategy-introduction>

The Local Plan sets out development principles for our area and are used to determine planning applications. Our Leeds Local Plan is being updated to reflect climate mitigation and adaptation, specifically focusing on carbon reduction, flood risk, green infrastructure, placemaking and sustainable infrastructure - <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan-update>

### **Describe how climate-related issues have impacted your jurisdiction's financial planning**

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, and in light of other pressures such as the national cost of living crisis, we are experiencing a significant lack of financial resource, which is the biggest challenge facing local authorities in long term financial planning.

The council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy provides a robust, consistent and sustainable approach to establishing and maintaining a stable and prudent financial basis on which the Council's services are delivered - in line with the council's three pillars as set out in the Best City Ambition, including Zero Carbon. The Capital Programme (attached) clearly sets out financial investment in net-zero and resilience/adaptation measures. This is reported on annually to Executive Board.

Work is being undertaken to review the council's approach to new build. A key principle of this work is to consider whole life costs to ensure that buildings are resilient to the changing climate. The principle of whole life costing when addressing the climate emergency is well established in many schemes. The Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme will have saved more money than the capital costs of building it if it prevents just a single Storm Eva (2015) level of flooding .

The authority operates both an Invest to Save Fund (used for service improvements or transformational projects where a proof of concept has already been delivered and an initial revenue investment would directly generate cost reductions or income for the Council) and an Innovation Fund (designed to provide pump-priming investment for those more conceptual schemes which need to be developed further). In both cases a Business Case must be completed which specifically includes a section highlighting any implications of the proposal on the climate emergency agenda.

The council have formally asked the West Yorkshire Pension Fund to divest from fossil fuels to minimise climate risk, and actively look to divest into alternative, cleaner investments with comparable returns.

### **Describe the risks to your jurisdiction related to the transition to a low-carbon economy**

With the size of the financial challenge that we are facing to meet net zero, it is well recognised it can only be achieved through greater investment by the financial sector as opposed to total reliance on grant funding, which is often time-limited, low value and inflexible. We are also concerned that the funding outlook at present for building retrofit is very limited, with support focussed on social housing and off-gas grid low-income private sector properties. This leaves a huge amount of unmet need in Leeds, particularly low-income Victorian terraced areas and more affluent areas requiring more expensive improvements. National policy has a key role to play in using financial levers available to encourage swifter action for homeowners and commercial property owners.

Yorkshire and the Humber has long been one of our most important industrial powerhouses. Even since the decline of UK manufacturing, the region has continued to produce materials crucial to our economy: steel, cement, chemicals, glass and more. The Investing in a Just Transition Initiative highlighted that Y&H accounts for 6.4% of UK GDP but 10% of carbon emissions (almost half coming from just 25 industrial sites) and it forecast that 22.2% of jobs across the region could be affected by a transition to a greener economy. 360,000 people in the region — 15% of all jobs - work in industries with high carbon emissions. This presents a high risk to our local economy. The impacts to the local economy sit within the broader context of a just transition to sustainable living for our communities. With living costs rising at their fastest rate for 30 years in the UK, and the average household fuel bill increasing by £693 a year, we must ensure that sustainable changes required to our homes, diets and lifestyles to reach net-zero do not exacerbate the problem, but rather act as tools to improve quality of life.

Our Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy (attached) sets out how Leeds City Council, the private sector, universities, colleges and schools, the third sector and social enterprises in the city will work together to grow the Leeds economy ensuring that everyone in the city contributes to, and benefits from, growth to their full potential. It sets out how the city intends to promote a positive, outward looking image on the global stage seeking to increase inward investment, exports and tourism. This will be refreshed in 2023 and the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee will be consulted on the draft version in Autumn 2022.

It sets out 12 "big ideas" that act as an action plan to encourage inclusive growth in the city, these are focused on supporting people, places and productivity. One of the big ideas is '21st Century Infrastructure' and sets out the vision to coordinate plans and leveraging investment to improve infrastructure including:

- Transport
- Smart cities
- Low carbon energy - electricity, hydrogen and water networks
- Flood protection
- Green infrastructure

The council's Talent and Skills Plan 2017 (attached) sets out how as a city we can collectively improve the supply of skills that our residents need to play a full and more productive part in the labour market, and that our businesses need to thrive, helping to create a more inclusive economy in a compassionate city. In order to generate action around supporting skills development in emerging areas of the economy such as green, as well targeting employment and skills support towards high carbon transition sectors, a refresh of the 2017 plan, now titled the 'Future Talent Plan' is currently in development, that will be owned and updated by stakeholders in the city, supporting people to develop and maintain the skills that make them and our businesses resilient in the face of change. Please find attached the Green Economy Policy Work Update, which provides detail on recent work with Centre for Progressive Policy to look at the areas of risk within the Leeds economy as a result of the transition to Net Zero.

### **(0.3) Report how your jurisdiction assesses the wider environmental, social and economic opportunities and benefits of climate action.**

#### **Response**

#### **Does the jurisdiction assess the wider opportunities/benefits of climate action?**

Yes, wider opportunities/benefits are assessed for all climate actions

#### **Outline how your jurisdiction quantifies the impact of these wider opportunities/benefits**

Wider opportunities/benefits are considered at the action planning stage

Wider opportunities/benefits are considered at post-implementation monitoring and evaluation stage

Wider opportunities/benefits are quantitatively assessed

Wider opportunities/benefits are qualitatively assessed

#### **Describe the wider opportunities/benefits of climate action the jurisdiction has identified**

Zero Carbon is one of the three pillars of the Best City Ambition. To realise this ambition, Team Leeds will focus on:

- Delivering a low-carbon and affordable transport network which encourages people to be physically active and reduces reliance on the private car, helping people get around the city easily and safely.
- Promoting a fair and sustainable food system in which more produce is grown locally, and everyone can enjoy a healthy diet.
- Addressing the challenges of housing quality and affordability, tackling fuel poverty and creating vibrant places where residents have close access to services and amenities.
- Joining with local communities, landowners and partners to protect nature and enhance habitats for wildlife.
- Investing in our public spaces, green and blue infrastructure to enable faster transition to a green economy while improving quality of life for residents.

Leeds City Council Equality Improvement Priority for 2021/22 - To ensure that work to deliver the City's climate ambition of net zero provides opportunities for and is inclusive of all communities, including those characteristics protected by law under the Equality Act 2010.

#### **Outline if and how your jurisdiction ensures the equitable distribution of climate action opportunities/benefits**

Yes, the jurisdiction is engaging with frontline communities most impacted by climate change

Yes, the jurisdiction is designing or implementing climate actions that address the needs of frontline communities most impacted by climate change

#### **Please provide evidence and/or more details of how your jurisdiction is ensuring inclusive/equitable climate action**

Please see attached internal submission - Equality Improvement Priority Storyboard 2021-22

Equality Improvement Priority Storyboard 202122.docx

**(0.4) Report on your engagement with higher and/or lower levels of governments regarding your jurisdiction's climate action.**

**Climate component**

Climate action plan

**Level of governments engaged in the development, implementation and/or monitoring of component**

National-level government

**Outline the purpose of this engagement**

To facilitate information sharing across different levels of government

**Comment**

We regularly engage with Government departments regarding development of local climate policy and write correspondence on behalf of senior councillors detailing lobbying asks. We have formally responded to a range of national consultations including waste and resource efficiency, air quality management policy and electric vehicle charge points. We have also worked with government, advising and supporting national schemes following successful projects in Leeds, such as advising on spatial work around the government's Electric Vehicle strategy.

As part of our membership of the national Inclusive Growth Network, earlier this year we engaged the Centre for Progressive Policy to undertake some initial work looking at the areas of risk within the Leeds economy as a result of the transition to Net Zero. This has highlighted a number of key takeaways, but we would like to know more – in particular about how to capitalise on existing opportunities and on opportunities that could arise in the future. Therefore, Leeds City Council will be commissioning a partner to help us explore what the transition to Net Zero means for the Leeds economy, including what it means for specific sectors; how we understand the risks and opportunities associated with this; and what can be done practically to support businesses and employers make the transition and become climate resilient.

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**Climate component**

Climate action plan

**Level of governments engaged in the development, implementation and/or monitoring of component**

State/Regional-level government

**Outline the purpose of this engagement**

To facilitate capacity building across different levels of government

**Comment**

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) brings together the local authorities of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield, working in partnership with the Local Enterprise Partnership and the City of York. Leeds City Council support the delivery of WYCA's climate action plan, including working with the Mayor of West Yorkshire to improve bus services and deliver mass transit that reflects our Connecting Leeds transport strategy and wider best city ambitions. We also work with WYCA around EV and our Solar Farm feasibility study to deliver key programmes regionally.

In Leeds, we represent the city on seven key work programmes at West Yorkshire level:

- Communications, engagement and marketing campaigns
- Green skills and training
- Better neighbourhoods
- Better Home Yorkshire Hub
- Business sustainability support / energy efficiency and renewables / circular economy, waste and material efficiency
- Solar PV and storage
- Flood risk and drainage

We have representation on the WYCA Green Jobs Taskforce, which brings together experts from across West Yorkshire to review the landscape for green jobs and determine how to deliver the skills needed to address the climate emergency, including the development of the Mayoral Green Jobs Gateway, which is expected to create 1,000 well paid, skilled green jobs for young people and ensure the region has the talent needed to reach its target of becoming a net-zero.

WYCA have also recently commissioned work aiming to gain a clear picture of West Yorkshire's Green economy, including its jobs, skills requirements and relevant supply chains. WYCA would like clear recommendations for Green economy activity to support its plan to deliver on its Net Zero and broad sustainability ambitions and have underlined the importance of aligning this activity with a Just Transition. The work with the Centre for Progressive Policy outlined above will therefore complement the regional work by specifically focusing upon the Leeds economy, as well as providing further insight into the practical actions that can be taken to support Leeds businesses and employers in particular, with less specific focus on the Skills agenda alone.

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**Climate component**

Other, please specify (Heat Network Zoning Pilot )

**Level of governments engaged in the development, implementation and/or monitoring of component**

National-level government

**Outline the purpose of this engagement**

To collect data and/or feedback from other levels of government to inform its development

**Comment**

The Leeds PIPES District Heating Network (DHN) delivers low carbon, sustainable energy to residents and businesses of Leeds including key Leeds City Council buildings. District heating is likely to continue to grow rapidly, with government announcing their intention to bring in a district heating zoning policy by 2025, which will make it mandatory for certain buildings to connect to district heating. The council is one of a handful of authorities participating in a pilot of the methodology that will be used to identify the zones. The spikes in wholesale gas prices have also made district heating more commercially competitive which is driving interest and many organisations are also attracted by the very low carbon content of the heat that we provide. These factors, should help secure additional customers and growth over the coming decade.

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**(0.5) Report your jurisdiction's most significant examples of collaboration with government, business, and/or civil society on climate-related issues.**

**Primary entity collaborated with**

Civil society	Academia
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**Mechanisms used to collaborate**

Collaborative initiative  
Knowledge or data sharing

**Areas collaboration focused on**

Emissions reduction  
Adaptation  
Resilience  
Energy  
Transport (Mobility)  
Building and Infrastructure  
Industry

**Description of collaboration**

The Leeds Climate Commission was established in 2017 and was the very first climate commission, providing a blueprint for the growing number of other climate commissions that have developed since. It is an independent voice in the city, providing authoritative advice on steps towards a low carbon, climate resilient future so as to inform policies and shape the actions of local organisations and stakeholders. It monitors progress towards meeting the city’s carbon reduction targets, celebrates success stories and recommends actions to keep the city on track. Leeds City Council is a key partner and our Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate is the Vice Chair of the Commission.

In 2019, Leeds City Council and the Leeds Climate Commission to undertake a large citywide engagement piece called the 'Big Leeds Climate Conversation'. This involved consulting around 8,000 citizens on a range of proposals related to carbon mitigation, both online and at nearly 80 public meetings or events. As part of the work, a representative Citizens' Jury was convened and jurors were asked to consider the question: "What should Leeds do about the emergency of climate change?" They produced a list of 12 recommendations, covering transport, housing, communications, finance, green spaces, aviation, a proposal for a Leeds Green New Deal, plastics, recycling and political co-operation. A response to each of the recommendations was provided via the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee shortly after.

**Other entities collaborated with**

Residents  
NGO and associations  
Education sector  
Health care  
Industrials  
Real Estate

**Primary entity collaborated with**

Civil society	Academia
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**Mechanisms used to collaborate**

Collaborative initiative  
Knowledge or data sharing  
Capacity development  
Development of local/regional adaptation plans, National Adaptation Plans and/or National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)

**Areas collaboration focused on**

Emissions reduction  
Adaptation  
Resilience  
Energy  
Transport (Mobility)  
Waste  
Building and Infrastructure  
Industry  
Agriculture  
Forestry  
Landscape and jurisdictional approaches  
Ecosystem restoration  
Food  
Water  
Public health

**Description of collaboration**

Leeds City Council is part of the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission (the first regional group of its kind), which brings together key public, private and third sector partners to plan and accelerate climate mitigation and adaptation. The partnership evolved from the work of the Leeds Climate Commission, of which the council is a lead partner. The commission also hosts a regional policy forum and several different working groups - all of which Leeds representatives attend. The Chief Officer for Sustainable Energy and Air Quality is a commissioner, representing West Yorkshire. The Commission published its Climate Action Plan for the region in November 2021, which can be found here - <https://yorksandhumberclimate.org.uk/climate-action-plan>

The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission have also set up a task and finish group, led by Environment Agency and Leeds City Council representatives, to develop a programme for local authorities to support adaptation and resilience planning. This will ensure joined up thinking across the region and allow the council to play a leading role in piloting and developing the knowledge, skills and tools all local authorities will need to develop their own adaptation plans.

**Other entities collaborated with**

Neighboring local government  
Academia  
Residents  
NGO and associations  
Education sector  
Energy  
Financials

Health care  
Industrials  
Real Estate  
Utilities

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#### Primary entity collaborated with

Government	Local government within country
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#### Mechanisms used to collaborate

Collaborative initiative  
Knowledge or data sharing

#### Areas collaboration focused on

Emissions reduction  
Adaptation  
Resilience  
Energy  
Transport (Mobility)  
Waste  
Building and Infrastructure  
Industry  
Agriculture  
Forestry  
Food  
Water

#### Description of collaboration

We are a member of the UK100 (network for UK local leaders focused solely on climate) and Core Cities UK (association of 11 largest UK cities) - we regularly share advice and insight with other local authorities based on our experience of delivering climate action. Sit on policy forum for UK100 - policy working group.

#### Other entities collaborated with

Local government within country

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## Assessment

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### 1. Climate Risk and Vulnerability

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#### (1.1) Has a climate risk and vulnerability assessment been undertaken for your jurisdiction? If not, please indicate why.

Yes, a climate risk and vulnerability assessment has been undertaken

#### (1.1a) Provide details on your climate risk and vulnerability assessment.

##### Assessment attachment and/or direct link<sup>^</sup>

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment  
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Oct 2007.pdf

##### Confirm attachment/link provided to assessment

The assessment has been attached

##### Boundary of assessment relative to jurisdiction boundary<sup>^</sup>

Same - covers entire jurisdiction and nothing else

##### Year of publication or approval<sup>^</sup>

2007

##### Factors considered in assessment

Assessment considers vulnerable populations  
Assessment considers water security  
Assessment considers nature  
Assessment considers transition risks  
Assessment includes a high-emissions scenario  
Identified hazards have been incorporated into the jurisdictions overall risk management framework  
A process has been established for prioritizing identified hazards

##### Primary author(s) of assessment<sup>^</sup>

Dedicated team within jurisdiction

##### Please explain

In May 2021 Leeds City Council appointed AECOM to update the Leeds Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). The updated SFRA will be a Level 1 document only but will include additional modelling work around the Leeds FAS and limited breach analysis. This additional modelling and breach analysis work is intended for internal use only, is provided in response to the declaration of the climate change emergency, and is to revise and inform both flood risk and general policy updates. However, an important distinction is that the update is not to inform the current Local Plan and the list of allocated sites. This will take place at the next Local Plan review when a Level 2 SFRA will have to be commissioned. This is likely to be within the next 18-24 months.

The SFRA update is now at a very advanced stage with a meeting on 28 July for the final document review. After this there will be consultation with professional partners, Local Plan update, internal governance and sign-off, and Member consultation including Development Plan Panel and Scrutiny Board.



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**Assessment attachment and/or direct link<sup>^</sup>**

Corporate Risk Assurance - Climate Change 2022  
Climate Change Corporate Risk Assurance 2022.docx

**Confirm attachment/link provided to assessment**

The assessment has been attached

**Boundary of assessment relative to jurisdiction boundary<sup>^</sup>**

Same - covers entire jurisdiction and nothing else

**Year of publication or approval<sup>^</sup>**

2022

**Factors considered in assessment**

Assessment considers vulnerable populations  
Assessment considers water security  
Assessment considers nature  
Assessment considers transition risks  
Assessment includes a high-emissions scenario  
Identified hazards have been incorporated into the jurisdictions overall risk management framework  
A process has been established for prioritizing identified hazards  
A process has been established to update the assessment at least every five years

**Primary author(s) of assessment<sup>^</sup>**

Relevant department within jurisdiction

**Please explain**

We have risk management arrangements in place which feed into a corporate risk register. The register houses the most significant, cross-cutting risks that could impact on the outcomes we aim to deliver as set out in the Best Council Plan. These risks can be internal or external facing.

Internal risks relate to the organisation itself and cover areas such as finance, staff and business continuity.

External risks are those that could affect the city – its people, communities, businesses and infrastructure – where we have a role, often in partnership, to mitigate them.

We update the corporate risk register each quarter and then publish the Corporate Risk Map – a diagram that shows the various risks and their ratings based on a combined assessment of their probability (how likely the risk is to occur) and potential impact.

We also produce a more detailed annual corporate risk report that provides assurance on how we and our partners are managing the key corporate risks (to be updated by July 27th) - <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/performance-and-spending/performance/annual-corporate-risk-report>

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**Assessment attachment and/or direct link<sup>^</sup>**

Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan  
Climate Adaptation Resilience Plan Report Appendix A 080722.pdf  
Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan.pdf  
Climate Adaptation Resilience Plan Report Appendix C 080722.pdf  
Climate Adaptation Resilience Plan Report Appendix B 080722.pdf

**Confirm attachment/link provided to assessment**

The assessment has been attached

**Boundary of assessment relative to jurisdiction boundary<sup>^</sup>**

Same - covers entire jurisdiction and nothing else

**Year of publication or approval<sup>^</sup>**

2022

**Factors considered in assessment**

Assessment considers vulnerable populations  
Assessment considers water security  
Assessment considers nature  
Assessment considers transition risks  
Assessment includes a high-emissions scenario  
Identified hazards have been incorporated into the jurisdictions overall risk management framework  
A process has been established for prioritizing identified hazards  
A process has been established to update the assessment at least every five years

**Primary author(s) of assessment<sup>^</sup>**

Dedicated team within jurisdiction  
Relevant department within jurisdiction

**Please explain**

This report sets out a range of activity that has taken place to date across the council, and with our partners, to better understand and begin to deliver on the city's ambition to strengthen our resilience to the impacts of climate change locally, in line with the government's National Adaptation Programme (NAP) and the latest UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). This report also details future work to undertake a deeper council-wide climate risk assessment to further prevent and protect against climate impacts.

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**Assessment attachment and/or direct link<sup>^</sup>**

<https://www.paolasakai.uk/projects/tool-to-assess-climate-opportunities>

**Confirm attachment/link provided to assessment**

The assessment can be accessed (unrestricted) on the link provided

**Boundary of assessment relative to jurisdiction boundary<sup>^</sup>**

Same - covers entire jurisdiction and nothing else

**Year of publication or approval<sup>A</sup>**

2021

**Factors considered in assessment**

Assessment considers vulnerable populations  
Assessment considers water security  
Assessment considers nature  
Assessment considers transition risks  
Assessment includes a high-emissions scenario

**Primary author(s) of assessment<sup>A</sup>**

Other, please specify (Dr Paola Sakai, University of Leeds)

**Please explain**

A climate vulnerability index formulated for the city by a university colleague

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**(1.2) Provide details on the most significant climate hazards faced by your jurisdiction.**

**Climate-related hazards<sup>A</sup>**

River flooding

**Vulnerable population groups most exposed**

Women and girls  
Children and youth  
Elderly  
Indigenous population  
Marginalized/minority communities  
Vulnerable health groups  
Low-income households

**Sectors most exposed<sup>A</sup>**

Agriculture  
Sewerage, waste management and remediation activities  
Conservation  
Construction  
Accommodation and food service activities  
Real estate activities  
Education  
Human health and social work activities

**Describe the impacts on vulnerable populations and sectors<sup>A</sup>**

Six years ago, Storm Eva devastated homes and businesses in Leeds costing the city an estimated £36.8 million. The risk will continue to increase as the climate changes —however we are taking significant action to alleviate flood risk.

**Proportion of the population exposed to the hazard**

Please select

**Did this hazard significantly impact your jurisdiction before this reporting year?**

Yes

**Current probability of hazard<sup>A</sup>**

Medium

**Current magnitude of impact of hazard<sup>A</sup>**

High

**Expected future change in hazard intensity<sup>A</sup>**

Increasing

**Expected future change in hazard frequency<sup>A</sup>**

Increasing

**Timeframe of expected future changes<sup>A</sup>**

Medium-term (2026-2050)

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**Climate-related hazards<sup>A</sup>**

Urban flooding

**Vulnerable population groups most exposed**

Women and girls  
Children and youth  
Elderly  
Indigenous population  
Marginalized/minority communities  
Low-income households

**Sectors most exposed<sup>A</sup>**

Agriculture  
Forestry  
Sewerage, waste management and remediation activities  
Waste management  
Construction  
Accommodation and food service activities  
Financial and insurance activities  
Real estate activities

Education

**Describe the impacts on vulnerable populations and sectors^**

The frequency of flooding events in Leeds has increased in recent years. Winter months have seen excessive rainfall over an extended period of time causing the rivers to exceed their capacity. Summer months have seen an increase in prolonged dry periods where the ground becomes baked and impenetrable followed by short intense downpours which run off quickly leading to surface water flooding. Local rainfall data shows that since July 2019 Leeds has generally been experiencing higher rainfall than the East and North East England average. There has been a rise in purpose built accommodation for people who are especially vulnerable, such as elderly and disabled. These people may be less able to cope with the impacts of flooding and the effects can be devastating for them.

**Proportion of the population exposed to the hazard**

<10%

**Did this hazard significantly impact your jurisdiction before this reporting year?**

Yes

**Current probability of hazard^**

Medium

**Current magnitude of impact of hazard^**

High

**Expected future change in hazard intensity^**

Increasing

**Expected future change in hazard frequency^**

Increasing

**Timeframe of expected future changes^**

Medium-term (2026-2050)

**Climate-related hazards^**

Extreme heat

**Vulnerable population groups most exposed**

Children and youth  
Elderly  
Vulnerable health groups  
Low-income households  
Outdoor workers

**Sectors most exposed^**

Agriculture  
Forestry  
Fishing  
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply  
Water supply  
Waste management  
Administrative and support service activities  
Conservation  
Construction  
Transportation and storage  
Accommodation and food service activities  
Education

**Describe the impacts on vulnerable populations and sectors^**

Leeds is increasing experiencing multiday periods of excessively hot weather (often combined with high humidity) which can be harmful to health resulting in increased hospital admissions for heat- related illness, as well as cardiovascular and respiratory disorders. Some populations are more vulnerable and at higher risk such as low-income urban residents, those with underlying health conditions, people living alone, young children and older people. This is resulting in more proactive action to issue alerts and advice to the public on how to stay safe in hot weather.

**Proportion of the population exposed to the hazard**

Data is not available

**Did this hazard significantly impact your jurisdiction before this reporting year?**

Yes

**Current probability of hazard^**

Medium

**Current magnitude of impact of hazard^**

Medium

**Expected future change in hazard intensity^**

Increasing

**Expected future change in hazard frequency^**

Increasing

**Timeframe of expected future changes^**

Medium-term (2026-2050)

**Climate-related hazards^**

Drought

**Vulnerable population groups most exposed**

Marginalized/minority communities  
Outdoor workers

**Sectors most exposed^**

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Fishing
- Manufacturing
- Water supply
- Sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
- Waste management
- Construction
- Accommodation and food service activities
- Human health and social work activities

**Describe the impacts on vulnerable populations and sectors^**

Drought is a naturally occurring phenomenon when rainfall levels are lower than normal, resulting in low river, reservoir and groundwater levels. This can lead to water supply problems for domestic and commercial use and potentially harm the environment. Droughts have occurred in the past and are likely to be experienced in the future. In Yorkshire, we experienced drought conditions in 1929, 1959, 1976, 1995 and 2018. We are still preparing for worse events than those in the historic record, as climate change may lead to a reduction in flows. Agriculture can be particularly vulnerable as their farming practices require increased water use during times of drought when their own private supplies may also be depleted. Agriculture can be particularly vulnerable as their farming practices require increased water use during times of drought when their own private supplies may also be depleted.

**Proportion of the population exposed to the hazard**

Data is not available

**Did this hazard significantly impact your jurisdiction before this reporting year?**

Yes

**Current probability of hazard^**

Low

**Current magnitude of impact of hazard^**

Low

**Expected future change in hazard intensity^**

Increasing

**Expected future change in hazard frequency^**

Increasing

**Timeframe of expected future changes^**

Medium-term (2026-2050)

**(1.3) Identify and describe the most significant factors impacting on your jurisdiction's ability to adapt to climate change and indicate how those factors either support or challenge this ability.**

Factors that affect ability to adapt^	Degree to which this factor challenges/supports the adaptive capacity of your jurisdiction^		Describe how the factor supports or challenges the adaptive capacity of your jurisdiction^
Budgetary capacity	Challenges	Significantly challenges	There are significant costs associated with investing in adaptations to mitigate the risk of flooding and extreme heat that cannot be covered by council budgets without additional support.
Housing	Challenges	Significantly challenges	Many of the changes required to adapt to rising temperatures involve installation of efficiency or other technological measures in existing housing, especially with regards to the private rental sector. National support and policy is needed.
Government capacity	Challenges	Significantly challenges	Challenge associated with elements of adaptation that fall outside of our jurisdiction
Community engagement	Challenges	Moderately challenges	Buy-in from communities, helping communities to make sustainable changes to their behaviour and lifestyles
Inequality	Challenges	Moderately challenges	Climate vulnerability is higher in most deprived areas of the city, due to lack of resources to protect homes and health inequalities

**2. Emissions Inventory**

**Emissions Inventory Methodology**

**(2.1) Does your jurisdiction have a community-wide emissions inventory to report?**

Yes

**(2.1a) Provide an attachment (in spreadsheet format) or a direct link to your community-wide emissions inventory. In addition, select the inventory year and report the jurisdiction's population for that year.**

	Community-wide inventory attachment (spreadsheet) and/or link (with unrestricted access)^	Status of community-wide inventory attachment and/or direct link	Inventory year^	Population in inventory year^	Comment
Response	See attached "SCATTER_leeds_Inventory_2019.xlsx" file SCATTER_leeds_Inventory_2019.xlsx	The emissions inventory has been attached	2019	793139	Population estimates (2019) taken from <a href="https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/">https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/</a>

**(2.1b) Provide the following information regarding your latest community-wide GHG emissions inventory.**

**Boundary of inventory relative to jurisdiction boundary^**

Same - covers entire jurisdiction and nothing else

**Primary methodology/framework to compile inventory**

Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories (GPC) reported in the format of GCoM Common Reporting Framework (CRF)

**Tool used to compile inventory**

SCATTER

**Gases included in inventory^**

CO2  
CH4  
N2O

**Source of Global Warming Potential values**

IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (2007)

**Has the inventory been audited/verified?**

<Not Applicable>

**Overall level of data quality**

<Not Applicable>

**Has the methodology and/or boundary used for this inventory changed when compared to the previously reported inventory?**

<Not Applicable>

**Additional documentation and comments**

<Not Applicable>

**Emissions Inventory Data**

**(2.1d) Provide a breakdown of your community-wide emissions in the format of the Common Reporting Framework.**

	Direct emissions (metric tonnes CO2e)^	If you have no direct emissions to report, please select a notation key to explain why^	Indirect emissions from the use of grid-supplied electricity, heat, steam and/or cooling (metric tonnes CO2e)^	If you have no indirect emissions to report, please select a notation key to explain why^	Emissions occurring outside the jurisdiction boundary as a result of in-jurisdiction activities (metric tonnes CO2e)	If you have no emissions to report that are occurring outside the jurisdiction boundary as a result of in-jurisdiction activities, please select a notation key to explain why	Please explain any excluded sources, identify any emissions covered under an ETS and provide any other comments^
Stationary energy > Residential buildings^	826902	Please select	302767	Please select	159107	Please select	
Stationary energy > Commercial buildings & facilities^	113564	Please select	211572	Please select	46937	Please select	
Stationary energy > Institutional buildings & facilities^	92701	Please select	45938	Please select	19029	Please select	
Stationary energy > Industrial buildings & facilities^	294736	Please select	257734	Please select	88828	Please select	
Stationary energy > Agriculture^	6368	Please select	1	Please select	1516	Please select	
Stationary energy > Fugitive emissions^	112034	Please select	0	NE	0	NE	
Total Stationary Energy	1446304	Please select	818012	Please select	315417	Please select	
Transportation > On-road^	1515226	Please select	0	IE	589343	Please select	Electricity
Transportation > Rail^	13943	Please select	0	IE	3318	Please select	Electricity

	Direct emissions (metric tonnes CO2e)^	If you have no direct emissions to report, please select a notation key to explain why^	Indirect emissions from the use of grid-supplied electricity, heat, steam and/or cooling (metric tonnes CO2e)^	If you have no indirect emissions to report, please select a notation key to explain why^	Emissions occurring outside the jurisdiction boundary as a result of in-jurisdiction activities (metric tonnes CO2e)	If you have no emissions to report that are occurring outside the jurisdiction boundary as a result of in-jurisdiction activities, please select a notation key to explain why	Please explain any excluded sources, identify any emissions covered under an ETS and provide any other comments^
Transportation > Waterborne navigation^	3422	Please select	0	IE	0	IE	All UK waterborne
Transportation > Aviation^	42346	Please select	0	IE	437894	Please select	Electricity
Transportation > Off-road^	15126	Please select	0	IE	0	NE	Electricity
Total Transport	1590063	Please select	0	Please select	1030556	Please select	
Waste > Solid waste disposal^	125695	Please select	0	IE	0	IE	
Waste > Biological treatment^	0	NO	0	NO	0	IE	
Waste > Incineration and open burning^	3869	Please select	0	IE	0	IE	
Waste > Wastewater^	14394	Please select	0	NO	0	NO	
Total Waste	143958	Please select	0	Please select	0	Please select	
IPPU > Industrial process	250733	Please select	0	Please select	0	NE	
IPPU > Product use	0	NE	0	NE	0	NE	
Total IPPU	250733	Please select	0	NE	0	NE	
AFOLU > Livestock	31203	Please select	0	NE	0	NE	
AFOLU > Land use	-19669	Please select	0	Please select	0	NE	
AFOLU > Other AFOLU	0	NE	0	Please select	0	NE	
Total AFOLU	11535	C	0	C	0	NE	
Generation of grid-supplied energy > Electricity-only generation^	0	NO	0	NO	0	NO	
Generation of grid-supplied energy > CHP generation^	596	Please select	0	NE	95	Please select	
Generation of grid-supplied energy > Heat/cold generation^	0	NO	0	NO	0	NO	
Generation of grid-supplied energy > Local renewable generation	96	Please select	0	NO	0	NO	
Total generation of grid-supplied energy	693	Please select	0	Please select	95	Please select	
Total Emissions (excluding generation of grid-supplied energy)	3443286	Please select	818012	Please select	1346068	Please select	SCATTER inventory spreadsheet has a breakdown of kWh for Space heating & hot water... so I've combined that with the Electric Grid Mix of fuels from 2019 to fill in the % of heating/cooling question.

### 3. Sector Assessment Data

#### Energy Data

(3.1) Report the total annual electricity and heating and cooling consumption data (in MWh) and the percentage breakdown of this consumption by energy type for your jurisdiction.

## Electricity consumption

### Total annual jurisdiction-wide consumption in MWh

3033637

### Data source used to provide percentage breakdown of consumption by energy type

National-level data

### Percentage of total consumption from coal

1.7

### Percentage of total consumption from gas

37.7

### Percentage of total consumption from oil

0

### Percentage of total consumption from nuclear

15.3

### Percentage of total consumption from hydropower

1.1

### Percentage of total consumption from bioenergy (biomass and biofuels)

6.7

### Percentage of total consumption from wind

21.9

### Percentage of total consumption from geothermal

0

### Percentage of total consumption from solar (PV and thermal)

3.9

### Percentage of total consumption from waste to energy (excluding biomass component)

### Percentage of total consumption from other renewable sources

### Percentage of total consumption from other non-renewable sources

11.5

### Year data applies to

2021

### Comment

2021 Generation Mix from National Grid, 'Other' sources consist of Imports (10.3%), Storage (0.6%) and Other (unspecified) (0.6%):

<https://data.nationalgrideso.com/carbon-intensity1/historic-generation-mix#>

2020 Total Consumption from BEIS: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics>

## Heating and cooling consumption

### Total annual jurisdiction-wide consumption in MWh

122412141

### Data source used to provide percentage breakdown of consumption by energy type

Other data source, please specify (SCATTER inventory Space & Hot Water data, combined with 2019 Electric Generation mix from <https://data.nationalgrideso.com/carbon-intensity/1/historic-generation-mix#>)

### Percentage of total consumption from coal

0.6

### Percentage of total consumption from gas

88.9

### Percentage of total consumption from oil

0.5

### Percentage of total consumption from nuclear

<Not Applicable>

### Percentage of total consumption from hydropower

<Not Applicable>

### Percentage of total consumption from bioenergy (biomass and biofuels)

5.6

### Percentage of total consumption from wind

<Not Applicable>

### Percentage of total consumption from geothermal

### Percentage of total consumption from solar (PV and thermal)

0.3

### Percentage of total consumption from waste to energy (excluding biomass component)

### Percentage of total consumption from other renewable sources

1.8

### Percentage of total consumption from other non-renewable sources

2.3

### Year data applies to

2019

### Comment

SCATTER inventory includes kWh for Space heating, cooling & Hot water for Domestic, Commercial & Institutions. This can be combined with the Electric Grid Mix to calculate the % values.

As Nuclear (1.5%), Hydropower (0.1%) & Wind (1.7% are greyed out these have been included in the 'Other' sections, along with the total of Electric Imports & Storage (0.8%).

Note that the SCATTER total MWh is much higher than the area's Heat demand taken from the UK CHP Heat map (4,617,966 MWh):

<https://chptools.decc.gov.uk/developmentmap>

### (3.2) For each type of renewable energy within the jurisdiction boundary, report the installed capacity (MW) and annual generation (MWh).

	Installed capacity (MW)	Annual generation (MWh)	Year data applies to	Comment
Solar PV	38.11	38321.198	2020	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics</a>
Solar thermal			Please select	
Hydropower	0.56	2064.772	2020	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics</a>
Wind	12.37	35657.025	2020	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics</a>
Bioenergy (Biomass and Biofuels)	2.34	5222.4	2020	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics</a>
Geothermal			Please select	
Other	30.6	60910.509	2020	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics</a> Anaerobic Digestion (1.603 MW - 8,846.636 MWh) Landfill Gas (13.829 MW - 52,063.873 MWh) Municipal Solid Waste ( 15.165 MW - unknown MWh)

### (3.3) Report the following energy access related information for your jurisdiction.

Indicator and metric used	Indicator value	Year data applies to	Comment
Average unit price of electricity (Currency unit as specified in 0.1) Residential unit price per kWh	0.1830572554	2021	£/kWh average price for Yorkshire. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/annual-domestic-energy-price-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/annual-domestic-energy-price-statistics</a> In addition there is an average annual standing charge of £92.28
Access to electricity Percentage of households with access to electricity	100	2022	
Access to clean cooking fuels and technologies Percentage of households within the jurisdiction with access to clean cooking fuels and technologies (%)	100	Please select	



**(3.4) How many households within the jurisdiction boundary face energy poverty? Select the threshold used for energy poverty in your jurisdiction.**

	Indicator used to quantify energy poverty	Percentage of households or total population within the jurisdiction boundary that face energy poverty	Threshold used for energy poverty	Comment
Response	Percentage of households within the jurisdiction boundary that face energy poverty	17.6	Other, please specify (LILEE (Low Income Low Energy Efficiency) See: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics</a> )	Government publish Fuel Poverty at LSOA (lower layer super output area) geographies:- <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics</a>  Data is published two years in arrears. Under the LILEE (Low Income Low Energy Efficiency) methodology a household is considered to be fuel poor if it has a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating (FPEER) of band D or below AND if they were to spend their modelled energy costs, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

## Transport Data

**(3.5) Report your jurisdiction's passenger and/or freight mode share data.**

**Please complete**

**Passenger mode share data to report**

Jurisdiction does not have passenger mode share data

**Passenger mode share: Walking**

<Not Applicable>

**Passenger mode share: Cycling**

<Not Applicable>

**Passenger mode share: Micromobility (including e-scooters)**

<Not Applicable>

**Passenger mode share: Buses (including Bus Rapid Transit)**

<Not Applicable>

**Passenger mode share: Rail/Metro/Tram**

<Not Applicable>

**Passenger mode share: Ferries/ River boats**

<Not Applicable>

**Passenger mode share: Taxis or shared vehicles (e.g. hire vehicles)**

<Not Applicable>

**Passenger mode share: Private motorized transport**

<Not Applicable>

**Passenger mode share: Other**

<Not Applicable>

**Total passenger mode share reported**

<Not Applicable>

**Freight mode share data to report**

Jurisdiction does not have mode share data for freight transport

**Freight mode share: Motorcycle / Two wheeler**

<Not Applicable>

**Freight mode share: Light Goods Vehicles (LGV)**

<Not Applicable>

**Freight mode share: Medium Goods vehicles (MGV)**

<Not Applicable>

**Freight mode share: Heavy Goods vehicles (HGV)**

<Not Applicable>

**Freight mode share: Rail**

<Not Applicable>

**Freight mode share: Inland water transport**

<Not Applicable>

**Freight mode share: Other**

<Not Applicable>

**Total freight mode share reported**

<Not Applicable>

**Comment**

Yorkshire & Humber region data from Department for Transport statistics (2020) - National Travel Survey: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-travel-survey-statistics>

## Waste Data

**(3.7) Report the following waste-related data for your jurisdiction.**

	Data availability	Response (in unit specified)	Comment
Amount of solid waste generated (tonnes/year)	Reporting jurisdiction-level data	340278	The waste data provided in this section is for financial year 21/22. It includes all Household Waste and any trade waste within the Council's control. Trade waste includes fly tipping and waste brought to the HWRCs by traders which is weighed over the weighbridge. Essentially it is Municipal Solid Waste within the Council's control.
Percentage of the solid waste generated that is diverted away from landfill or incineration (%)	Reporting jurisdiction-level data	37.4	
Percentage of the diverted solid waste generated that is recycled (%)	Reporting jurisdiction-level data	36	(this includes composting of garden waste). This difference to the % above is reuse (0.8%) and because certain waste is essentially 'recycled' but does not legally classify as government defined recycling. If the question is purely about 'recycling' rather than officially defined recycling, then the answer should be 36.6%.
Percentage of the diverted solid waste generated that is utilized for waste to energy (%)	Reporting jurisdiction-level data	61.7	
Percentage of the diverted solid waste generated that is reused (%)	Reporting jurisdiction-level data	0.8	Via our reuse shops and various streams of waste at Household Waste Sites
Percentage of waste collected where separation at source is taking place (%)	Reporting jurisdiction-level data	37.5	This percentage shows all waste that is not classed as residual waste, however, 100% of our residual waste goes for further sorting, albeit not at source, prior to energy from waste or landfill
Total annual amount of food waste produced in the jurisdiction (tonnes/year)	Reporting jurisdiction-level data	67196	This is based on a recent compositional analysis showing the amount of food in the kerbside bin service, both residual and recycling bins, as a percentage of overall kerbside tonnages for these bins. We do not hold any reliable data showing what food might be disposed of as residual waste at Household Waste Sites
Volume of wastewater produced within the jurisdiction boundary (megalitres/year)	This data is not available to report	<Not Applicable>	
Percentage of wastewater safely treated to at least secondary level (%)	This data is not available to report	<Not Applicable>	

Public Health Data

**(3.8) Report on how climate change impacts health outcomes and health services in your jurisdiction.**

**Health area affected by climate change**

Health systems

**Identify the climate hazard(s) that most significantly impact the selected health area**

Extreme heat

Drought

Urban flooding

River flooding

Infectious disease

**Identify the health issues driven by the selected climate hazard(s)**

Heat-related illnesses

Vector-borne infections and illnesses

Water-borne infections and illnesses

Exacerbation of non-communicable disease symptoms - respiratory disease

Mental health impacts

Direct physical injuries and deaths due to extreme weather events

Food and nutrition security

Disruption to water, sanitation and wastewater services

Disruption to health service provision

Overwhelming of health service provision due to increased demand

Lack of climate-informed surveillance, preparedness, early warning and response

Damage/destruction to health infrastructure and technology

Disruption of health-related services

**Timeframe of impact**

Long-term (after 2050)

**Identify which vulnerable populations are affected by the selected health issue(s)**

Women and girls

Children and youth

Elderly

Marginalized / minority communities

Vulnerable health groups

Low-income households

Outdoor workers

**What factors affect your jurisdiction's ability to address the selected health issues**

Lack of financial capacity

**Comment**

Leeds is increasing experiencing multiday periods of excessively hot weather (often combined with high humidity) which can be harmful to health resulting in increased hospital admissions for heat-related illness, as well as cardiovascular and respiratory disorders. Some populations are more vulnerable and at higher risk such as low-income urban residents, those with underlying health conditions, people living alone, young children and older people. This is resulting in more proactive action to issue alerts and advice to the public on how to stay safe in hot weather.

There is an appreciation that the infectious diseases challenges of today will be amplified by the extensive movement of people caused by climate change, making pandemics more likely and which will require an increased state of preparedness.

The Leeds health protection system have robust arrangements in place to prevent and manage all infectious disease outbreaks of concern including those that are new and emerging. Health risks linked to climate change are identified on the council's risk register and embedded throughout multiple existing strategies and governance arrangements, rather than as a standalone document or committee.

Leeds City Council is investing in flood alleviation measures to mitigate the long-term public health risk from flooding as part of our Flood Risk Management strategy. Short-term extreme weather events are monitored and mitigated proactively by the council's resilience and emergency management teams.

The council has recently consulted on its Local Plan to strengthen planning policies to help manage the risk of climate change in the long-term. The proposed local plan update includes policies to reduce flood risk, and encourage green and sustainable infrastructure among other themes.

The council's air quality strategy has protecting the health of citizens in Leeds from pollution at its heart, with a clear action plan demonstrating how we aim to improve air quality to meet WHO targets for ambient air quality.

The council has also made commitments to procure more food served and sold by the local authority from Yorkshire and its surrounding regions. As well as reducing the carbon emissions from food transportation, this commitment will also support regional food producers—helping to improve the resilience of our food system from climate-related shocks, e.g. shortages and increased prices relating to global supply chain disruption.

**(3.9) Provide information on the current impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on climate action in the jurisdiction.****Response****Impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of climate action policies in your jurisdiction**

No change on emphasis on climate action

**Impact of COVID-19 economic response on jurisdiction's budget for financing climate action in your jurisdiction**

Reduced finance available for climate action

**Climate-related impact of COVID-19 recovery interventions**

Recovery interventions that focus on employment opportunities in green sectors

**Comment**

Despite the significant impacts of covid-19 on the council's financial position, the council has continued to prioritise the climate emergency. The council has dedicated resource to maximise the money secured through different recovery schemes made available by national government.

We have secured approximately £25 million of funding through the government's green recovery schemes for completing energy efficiency works in both the domestic sector and public sector estate as well through the Heat Network Investment Programme. This will complement the £24 million that had already been secured from European funding and will improve over 5,000 domestic properties as well as all of our city centre estate and will support the extension of our district heating network.

The council is also conducting a broader review of the city's economic and skills strategies in light of the need for post-pandemic recovery and the changed economic landscape. Ensuring a 'just transition' will be a key focus of this work.

**(3.10) Report the following air pollution data for the jurisdiction.**

Air pollution metric	Value	Weblink to air pollution data from monitoring site(s)	Comment
Particulate Matter PM2.5 concentration (annual average) level (ug/m3)	12	<a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/clean-air/air-quality-annual-report">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/clean-air/air-quality-annual-report</a>	<a href="https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la_id=143">https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la_id=143</a>
NO2 concentration (annual average) level (ug/m3)	35.2	<a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/clean-air/air-quality-annual-report">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/clean-air/air-quality-annual-report</a>	<a href="https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la_id=143">https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la_id=143</a>
Number of days exceeding air quality guidelines/standards (times/year)	0	<a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/clean-air/air-quality-annual-report">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/clean-air/air-quality-annual-report</a>	<a href="https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la_id=143">https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la_id=143</a>
Other air pollution metric, please specify (Particulate Matter PM10 concentration (annual average) level (ug/m3))	16	<a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/clean-air/air-quality-annual-report">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/clean-air/air-quality-annual-report</a>	<a href="https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la_id=143">https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la_id=143</a>

**(3.11) Provide details of the household access to water, sanitation services and water consumption in your jurisdiction.****Response****Data availability**

Data is available for the percentage of households with access to safely managed drinking water services

**Percentage of households with access to safely managed drinking water services**

100

**Percentage of households with access to safely managed sanitation services**

<Not Applicable>

**Household water consumption (litres/capita/day)**

<Not Applicable>

**Comment****Food data****(3.12) What percentage of your population is food insecure and/or lives in a food desert?**

	Data availability	Percentage of population that is food insecure	Percentage of population that lives in a food desert	Comment
Response	Data available for the percentage of population that is food insecure	9	<Not Applicable>	The Food Foundation estimate that nationally 9% of the population live in food insecurity, for Leeds this would equate to approximately 72,000 people

**(3.13) Report the total quantity of food that is procured (in tonnes) for government-owned and/or operated facilities (including municipal facilities, schools, hospitals, youth centers, shelters, public canteens, prisons etc.). If available, please provide a breakdown per food group.**

	Total quantity of food procured (tonnes)	Breakdown of procured food by food group	Year data applies to	Comment
Response	2138	Please see attached Food data breakdown.png		2020/21

**Water Data****(3.14) Report the sources of your jurisdiction's water supply, volumes withdrawn per source, and the projected change.**

Source of jurisdiction's water supply	Are you able to report volumetric data for this source?	Annual volume of water withdrawn per source (in megalitres)	Projected level of change over next 5-10 years	Comment
Jurisdiction does not have this data	<Not Applicable>	<Not Applicable>	<Not Applicable>	Yorkshire Water are responsible for the water supply to the region

#### 4. Adaptation Goals

---

**(4.1) Does your jurisdiction have an adaptation goal(s) in place? If no adaptation goal is in place, please indicate the primary reason why.**

Yes, our jurisdiction has an adaptation goal(s)

**(4.1a) Report your jurisdiction's main adaptation goals.**

**Select a reference ID for the goal**

Adaptation goal 1

**Adaptation goal^**

Increased flood alleviation and urban cooling by increasing tree cover in the district from 17% to 33%.

**Climate hazards that goal addresses^**

Extreme heat  
Urban flooding  
River flooding

**Base year of goal (or year goal was established if no base year)^**

2020

**Target year of goal^**

2050

**Description of metric / indicator used to track goal^**

The White Rose Forest Strategy for Leeds aims to significantly increase the existing 17% tree canopy cover across the District to 33% by 2050 in partnership with business, residents, institutions, communities, landowners and farmers. It will build on the substantial work that the Council already carries out around the planting and management of trees as well as encouraging planting and protection of trees through the planning process.

Scientists from the University of Leeds have used the Committee on Climate Change's methodology to calculate the increase in Leeds' tree canopy cover that is required for Leeds to make a contribution to the national tree planting effort in proportion to its greenhouse gas emissions.

When looking at potential planting areas the Systematic Conservation Planning Tool which is currently under development by Leeds University will be used to give an overall planting approach to an area. It combines different data stored on map layers such as land ownership, biodiversity and open space, areas of multiple deprivation and uses an algorithm to provide a map of potential optimal planting sites.

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=80827>

**Comment**

---

**Select a reference ID for the goal**

Adaptation goal 2

**Adaptation goal^**

Reduced flood risk using a mix of traditional engineering and natural flood management.

**Climate hazards that goal addresses^**

River flooding

**Base year of goal (or year goal was established if no base year)^**

2022

**Target year of goal^**

2024

**Description of metric / indicator used to track goal^**

In March 2022, work began on the Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2 (FAS2). Leeds FAS2 combines catchment-wide natural flood management and traditional engineering that stretches for 14km along the River Aire between Leeds Train Station and Apperley Bridge. When it is complete in Autumn 2023, Leeds FAS2 will reduce flood risk to a 0.5% probability of occurring in any given year (a 1-in-200-year level of flood protection) for 1,048 homes and 474 businesses as well as the area protected by FAS1. Like FAS1, FAS2 also includes an allowance for climate change up to 2069. Once completed, FAS2 will protect against flood events similar to the Boxing Day floods in 2015. The climate change allowance is achieved through nature-based measures across the whole catchment that will mature and offer increased protection over time by reduce peak flows in the catchment by 5-10%.

**Comment**

---

**Select a reference ID for the goal**

Adaptation goal 3

**Adaptation goal^**

To ensure that all service level business continuity plans consider the current, expected and future impacts of climate change

**Climate hazards that goal addresses^**

Heat stress  
Extreme heat  
Extreme cold  
Snow and ice  
Drought

Water stress  
Increased water demand

**Base year of goal (or year goal was established if no base year)^**

2022

**Target year of goal^**

2023

**Description of metric / indicator used to track goal^**

The council has an overarching business continuity management arrangement as well as individual business continuity plans (BCP) for services identified as being 'critical'. The BCPs outline the steps required to recover service delivery to an agreed level following a disruptive incident. The council's BCPs already include some arrangements for workforce planning and service delivery following a severe weather event, however as part of our adaptation plan, we will work with services across the council to review service level BCPs to ensure that they consider the potential impacts of future climate change, such as the potential for an increased frequency and extent of impacts. This review will take place over the coming year.

**Comment**

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## 5. Mitigation Targets

---

**(5.1) Does your jurisdiction have an active greenhouse gas emission reduction target(s) in place? If no active GHG emissions reduction target is in place, please indicate the primary reason why.**

Yes, our jurisdiction has an active greenhouse gas emissions reduction target(s)

**(5.1a) Provide details of your emissions reduction target(s).**

**Select a reference ID for the target**

Target 1

**Target type<sup>^</sup>**

Fixed-level target

**Boundary of target relative to jurisdiction boundary<sup>^</sup>**

Same - covers entire jurisdiction and nothing else

**Emissions sources covered by target<sup>^</sup>**

Target covers direct emissions (Scope 1) and indirect emissions from grid-supplied energy (Scope 2) included in jurisdiction inventory

**Are carbon credits currently used or planned to be used to achieve this target?<sup>^</sup>**

Yes, this target will be achieved using carbon credits but the number of credits required has not been quantified

**Percentage of target to be met using carbon credits generated from outside jurisdiction or target boundary<sup>^</sup>**

<Not Applicable>

**Year target was established**

2019

**Covered emissions in year target was established (metric tonnes CO2e)**

4261298

**Base year<sup>^</sup>**

<Not Applicable>

**Covered emissions in base year (metric tonnes CO2e)<sup>^</sup>**

<Not Applicable>

**Emissions intensity figure in base year (metric tonnes CO2e per capita or GDP)<sup>^</sup>**

<Not Applicable>

**Target year<sup>^</sup>**

2030

**Estimated business as usual emissions in target year (metric tonnes CO2e)<sup>^</sup>**

<Not Applicable>

**Percentage of emissions reduction (including offsets and carbon dioxide removal)<sup>^</sup>**

<Not Applicable>

**Net emissions in target year (after offsets and carbon dioxide removal) [auto-calculated]**

<Not Applicable>

**Net emissions in target year (after offsets and carbon dioxide removal) (metric tonnes CO2e)<sup>^</sup>**

0

**Projected population in target year**

838027

**Specify if target is considered a science-based target (SBT) and the SBT methodology it aligns to**

Yes, our jurisdiction considers the target to be science-based (select applicable methodology)	Other, please specify (Place-Based Climate Action Network (PCAN))
--	---

**Covered emissions in most recent inventory (metric tonnes CO2e)**

4261298

**Is this target the jurisdiction's most ambitious target?**

Yes

**Alignment with Nationally Determined Contribution**

This target is more ambitious than the Nationally Determined Contribution

**Select the conditional components of your emissions reduction target**

Target is conditional on mitigation in emissions sources that are controlled by a higher level of government

Target is conditional on mitigation in emissions sources that are controlled by private entity outside of direct control of jurisdiction administration

Target is conditional on complete implementation of legislation, regulation and/or policy set by a higher level of government

Target is conditional on additional state or regional/national legislation, regulation and/or policy

Conditional on the provision of national funding for infrastructure (e.g., renewable energy generation, energy efficiency measures etc.)

Target is conditional on the decarbonization of the electricity grid that is outside the direct control of jurisdiction administration

Target is conditional on the implementation of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology

Target is conditional on a reduction in emissions from air travel that is outside the direct control of jurisdiction administration

**Please explain<sup>^</sup>**

The PCAN team, working with other researchers from Queen's University Belfast, the University of Edinburgh and the University of Leeds, have developed the Leeds Net-Zero Carbon Roadmap - [https://www.leedsclimate.org.uk/sites/default/files/Net-Zero%20Carbon%20Roadmap%20for%20Leeds\\_0.pdf](https://www.leedsclimate.org.uk/sites/default/files/Net-Zero%20Carbon%20Roadmap%20for%20Leeds_0.pdf)

Scope 1 and Scope 2 figures are taken from the SCATTER.

Many of the actions that need to be taken to meet net zero are not within the direct control of the council. Our new climate action plan will set out what we need from central government, businesses and communities to help us reach this goal.

## 6. Sector Targets

(6.1) Provide details of your jurisdiction's energy-related targets active in the reporting year. In addition, you can report other climate-related targets active in the reporting year.

### Target type

Transport target	Modal share targets
------------------	---------------------

### Target description

The Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy sets out our vision for Leeds to be a city where you don't need a car, where everyone has an affordable, low carbon, healthy and accessible choice in how they travel.

The targets for the Transport Strategy are set out as follows:

- o Net-zero Carbon emissions by 2030
- o Vision Zero (target of zero people seriously killed or injured)
- o Modal shift (increase rail travel by 100%, walking by 33%, cycling by 400%, bus travel by 130%, and decrease car use by 30%)

£270m investment in public transport and active travel infrastructure. The predicted reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from modal shift resulting from the scheme equates to 15,947 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e (43%). Additional benefits include more reliable and attractive bus services, improved health from cleaner air and physical activity, reduced congestion and a better connected city. Carbon reduction figure includes carbon saved as a result of expected modal shift only.

### Boundary of target relative to jurisdiction boundary

Same - covers entire jurisdiction and nothing else

### Year target was established

2021

### Base year

2021

### Metric used to measure target (renewable energy or energy efficiency target)

<Not Applicable>

### Metric used to measure target

Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e

### Metric value in base year

15947

### Target year

2030

### Metric value in target year

### Metric value in most recent year data is available

### Percentage of total energy that is renewable in target year

<Not Applicable>

### Is this target publicly available?

Yes, provide link/attachment (<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ielssueDetails.aspx?IId=118903&PlanId=0&Opt=3#AI86757>)

### Comment

### Target type

Air Quality	Target to reduce PM2.5 concentrations (annual/24 hour)
-------------	--

### Target description

Through implementation of the Air Quality strategy we aim to continue reducing pollution levels in the city. Reducing levels of pollution will enable us to achieve the following objectives:

- To remain legally compliant with emissions of NO<sub>2</sub> and through further actions that we take we will reduce emissions further as far as possible.
- To eliminate Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the city.
- To achieve and continue to meet compliance with the WHO targets for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and maintain compliance with the WHO targets for PM<sub>10</sub>.
- To take pro-active action to address other harmful emissions.
- To work citywide, helping to reduce health inequalities.
- To ensure that citizens and other stakeholders are well informed about indoor and outdoor pollutants and how to mitigate exposure and reduce their own contribution.
- To use data to select the right interventions.

### Boundary of target relative to jurisdiction boundary

Same - covers entire jurisdiction and nothing else

### Year target was established

2021



**Base year**

2021

**Metric used to measure target (renewable energy or energy efficiency target)**

&lt;Not Applicable&gt;

**Metric used to measure target****Metric value in base year****Target year**

2030

**Metric value in target year****Metric value in most recent year data is available****Percentage of total energy that is renewable in target year**

&lt;Not Applicable&gt;

**Is this target publicly available?**Yes, provide link/attachment (<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/s223876/Leeds%20Air%20Quality%20Strategy%20Cover%20Report%20120721.pdf>)**Comment**

## Planning

## 7. Planning

## Climate Action Planning

**(7.1) Does your jurisdiction have a climate action plan or strategy?**

Yes, our jurisdiction has a climate action plan or strategy

**(7.1a) Report details on the climate action plan or strategy that addresses climate mitigation and/or climate adaptation (resilience) in your jurisdiction.****Climate action plan type^**

Standalone climate mitigation plan

**Attachment/link and name of plan^**Climate Emergency Annual Report  
Climate Emergency Annual Report.pdf**Confirm attachment/link provided to plan**

The plan has been attached

**Boundary of plan relative to jurisdiction boundary^**

Same (jurisdiction-wide) covers entire jurisdiction and nothing else

**Processes for monitoring evaluation and updates of plan^**

Monitoring: Information on progress of plan is monitored and publicly reported annually

Evaluation: Evaluation of plan takes place annually

Update: Updates to the plan are published annually

**Funding sources and financial instruments to finance plan**

Jurisdiction's own resources

Regional funds and programmes

National funds and programmes

**Stakeholders engaged^**

State/regional government(s) and/or agencies

Local government (s) and/or agencies

Citizens

Vulnerable population groups

Academia

Business and private sector

**Describe if and how climate-related scenarios have informed the plan**The attached report is based on the Government's Net-Zero Strategy, the Net-Zero Carbon Roadmap for Leeds (<https://www.leedsclimate.org.uk/leeds-carbon-roadmap>) and the Yorkshire and Humber Action Plan. It brings together a range of work taking place across the council, as well as sector specific strategies set out at 7.3**Primary author(s) of plan^**

Dedicated team within jurisdiction

**Assessment of co-benefits, trade-offs, and synergies of actions included in plan^**

Plan assesses co-benefits of actions

Plan assesses trade-offs of actions

Plan assesses synergies of actions

**Year of formal approval of plan^**

2019

**End year of plan**

2030

**Total cost of implementation of plan (in currency specified in 0.1)**

13644975134

**Sectors covered by action plan**

Agriculture  
Forestry  
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply  
Waste management  
Transportation and storage

**Comment**

Leeds City Council is developing a more detailed formal climate action plan based on the above document and Leeds Climate Commission roadmap.

---

**Climate action plan type<sup>^</sup>**

Standalone adaptation plan

**Attachment/link and name of plan<sup>^</sup>**

Leeds Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (plus 3 appendices)  
Appendix C - Cascading impacts of climate change.docx  
Exec Board Adaptation and Resilience Plan report v3.0.docx  
Copy of Appendix A Mapped CCRA3 Risks.xlsx  
Appendix B - Climate change by warming scenario.docx

**Confirm attachment/link provided to plan**

The plan has been attached

**Boundary of plan relative to jurisdiction boundary<sup>^</sup>**

Same (jurisdiction-wide) covers entire jurisdiction and nothing else

**Processes for monitoring evaluation and updates of plan<sup>^</sup>**

Monitoring: Information on progress of plan is monitored and publicly reported annually  
Evaluation: Evaluation of plan takes place annually  
Update: Updates to the plan are published annually

**Funding sources and financial instruments to finance plan**

Jurisdiction's own resources  
Regional funds and programmes  
National funds and programmes

**Stakeholders engaged<sup>^</sup>**

Local government (s) and/or agencies  
Academia

**Describe if and how climate-related scenarios have informed the plan**

This approach has been informed by the Local Partnerships Climate Adaptation Toolkit, a resource specifically designed for local authorities to use to develop a climate adaptation and resilience plan, which includes a risk generator. Next steps include working with academic partners to quantify the risks to Leeds.

**Primary author(s) of plan<sup>^</sup>**

Dedicated team within jurisdiction

**Assessment of co-benefits, trade-offs, and synergies of actions included in plan<sup>^</sup>**

Plan assesses co-benefits of actions  
Plan assesses trade-offs of actions  
Plan assesses synergies of actions

**Year of formal approval of plan<sup>^</sup>**

2022

**End year of plan****Total cost of implementation of plan (in currency specified in 0.1)****Sectors covered by action plan**

Agriculture  
Forestry  
Manufacturing  
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply  
Water supply  
Sewerage, wastewater management and remediation activities  
Waste management  
Administrative and support service activities  
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security  
Conservation  
Transportation and storage  
Information and communication

**Comment**

This document sets out plans to build the city's resilience and adapt to the impacts of climate change, in line with the government's National Adaptation Programme and latest UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). This report summarises some of the activity that has taken place to date, along with plans to undertake a council-wide climate risk assessment and further develop the city's resilience to climate change over the year ahead and beyond.

Whilst there is significant work taking place across the council to address the impacts of climate change and robust arrangements in place for dealing with severe weather and planning for potential economic shocks, there is a need to undertake a comprehensive climate risk assessment of all council services to identify any gaps and opportunities to 'future proof' and enhance existing policy. Following an initial audit of service plans, the Sustainable Energy and Air Quality team will deliver a series of

workshops with council teams, with support from academic partners, to identify climate related risks to individual services, what activity is already taking place to address such risks, and how teams can build further resilience within their own policies and frameworks. This will include a full review of service level business continuity plans.

An update will be provided in 12 months time.

## Sector Action Planning

### (7.2) Report details on the other climate-related plans, policies and/or strategies in your jurisdiction.

## Consumption Emissions Planning

### (7.3) Does your jurisdiction have a strategy for addressing emissions from consumption of the most relevant goods and services?

	Response	Provide a link and/or attachment to the strategy addressing emissions from consumption of the most relevant goods and services	Highlight any specific action the jurisdiction is implementing to address emissions from the consumption of goods and services in this category
Food	Yes	Developing a Food Strategy for the city, to be published Autumn 2022	In January 2022, the Leeds Food Strategy began with an online event that was attended by about 100 people, where we came up with the strategy's working vision:  "Leeds has a vibrant food economy where everyone is able to access local healthy and affordable food, produced in a way which improves our natural environment and embraces innovation."  Since then work has been progressing under 3 working groups that follow the 3 areas the strategy will cover: 1. Sustainability 2. Health & Wellbeing 3. Food Security & Inclusive Growth
Construction and demolition	Yes	<a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan-update">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan-update</a>	In July 2021, the council carried out initial statutory public consultation on a Local Plan Update, which will update planning policies for carbon reduction, flood risk, green infrastructure (including biodiversity), place making and sustainable infrastructure.
Transportation	Yes	Connecting Leeds Strategy and Action Plan published in 2021 6 Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy Action Plan.pdf 5 Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy.pdf	The Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy has decarbonisation as one of its central pillars, in line with the council's own priorities. The Strategy states: Our vision for Leeds is to be a city where you don't need a car. Where everyone has an affordable and accessible zero carbon choice in how they travel. We want to Connect Leeds, Connect Communities, and Connect Businesses together in the most sustainable ways.  Across Connecting Leeds projects, all future contracts and frameworks that are procured will have a requirement for Contractors and Suppliers to deliver schemes and services with reduced climatic impact, these will include:  - Carbon targets to be imposed and monitored - Use of local labour - Use of local supply chain - Use of local SME's - Use of lower carbon materials - Use of sustainable drainage with climate change uplifts - Recycling material and minimising site trips
Clothing and textiles	No	<Not Applicable>	
Household appliances and electronics	No	<Not Applicable>	
Aviation	No	<Not Applicable>	
Waste management	Yes	<a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling/waste-strategy">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling/waste-strategy</a>	Refreshed strategy, with climate change as a central theme, to be published in Autumn 2022.
Other	Yes	Energy Strategy and Action Plan 2022 Energy Strategy and Action Plan.pdf	Energy Strategy and Action Plan, published 2022. Energy use contributes around 83% of the council's carbon emissions and it is therefore recognised that measures are needed to reduce consumption across its services, increase the volume of energy from low carbon sources and to act as an exemplar in promoting a reduction in the impacts of energy consumption across the city. The scope of this strategy is primarily focused on the council's own energy usage. A separate 'Better Homes' strategy, linked to the council's Housing Strategy, is currently being developed to address the decarbonisation of housing within Leeds.

## Finance

**(7.4) Describe any planned climate-related projects within your jurisdiction for which you hope to attract financing.**

**Project area**

Renewable energy

**Project title**

Solar farm development

**Stage of project development**

Scoping

**Status of financing**

Project not funded and seeking full funding

**Identified financing model**

Grants

Loans from commercial banks

Loans from International Financial Institutions

Public finance - own budget

**Project description and attach project proposal**

Initial feasibility study has been undertaken which has indicated that a solar farm could generate 35% of the council's energy provision and site selection has commenced in July 2022, with procurement to take place between November 2022 and May 2023. Design, planning and ground conditions to be established by January 2024 when construction will begin.

**Total cost of project (in currency specified in 0.1)**

44000000

**Total investment cost needed if relevant (in currency specified in 0.1)**

44000000

**(7.5) Report the factors that support climate-related investment and financial planning in your jurisdiction.**

**Response**

**Mechanisms used by jurisdiction to access finance for climate-related projects**

Jurisdiction's own funds and budgetary means

Jurisdiction accesses finance from national government funds, grants etc.

Jurisdiction accesses finance from public-private partnerships

**Comment**

Where the council has the funding and the powers to enable or deliver change it has made progress but there are key areas such as private housing retrofit for higher income home-owners or transport where the support of national government is essential to overcome some of the key barriers.

The council has a good track record for securing funding to support cross housing tenure retrofit works. In 2021/22 the council has been working with a number of different funding streams, including Green Homes Grant, Getting Building Fund, European Funding and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to deliver measures such as external wall insulation, solar panels, room in roof insulation to both social and private housing. The funding comes with many stipulations that are challenging to meet such as the SAP rating of the house, the income of the house owner or the caps on the cost of measures. Despite this, measures will be delivered in circa 1,200 private homes. Investment in our own social housing continues at pace with projects such as the installation of ground source heat pumps in our multi storey flats or the work in Holbeck to make 190 council homes net zero being two very noteworthy examples. The Holbeck scheme was also supported financially via contributions from private landlords.

**Credit rating of jurisdiction**

**Comment**

**Decarbonising jurisdiction's investments**

Jurisdiction has taken steps to decarbonise the investments held by the jurisdiction retirement funds by divesting from fossil fuels

**Comment**

The council have formally asked the West Yorkshire Pension Fund to divest from fossil fuels to minimise climate risk, and actively look to divest into alternative, cleaner investments with comparable returns.

**Actions**

**8. Adaptation Actions**

**(8.1) Describe the outcomes of the most significant adaptation actions your jurisdiction is currently undertaking. Note that this can include those in the planning and/or implementation phase.**

**Action^**

Engineered and built environment actions	Flood defence, such as flood levees and culverts
--	--

**Climate hazard(s) that action addresses^**

Urban flooding  
River flooding

**Action description and web link to further information^**

The Councils Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has been updated to reflect the latest government climate change allowances and impacts. This will inform future development (planning application and site allocations) ensuring that all new developments are safe and resilient against flooding in line with the current national planning policies. The SFRA update will also promote the increased use of SuDS, thus increasing the bio diversity and ecological benefits alongside reducing flood risk within the City.

A combination of traditional engineering methods and Natural Flood Management (NFM) will be used to reduce flood risk in Leeds, in partnership primarily between Leeds City Council and the Environment Agency but many other partners are also involved.

**\*Completed work\* replace with FAS1 and NFM scheme completed**

Work to help protect Leeds city centre from the risk of flooding has been completed. Improvements included:

- Work was done to create moveable weirs at crown point and Knostrop. These will help to reduce flooding by up to one metre.
- The canal and river have been merged by removing the land known locally as Knostrop Cut island. This means the river can now hold more water and will help to lower water levels during a flood.
- Flood defence walls have been constructed along Hol beck. Low level embankments have increased the level of protection in Woodlesford.

**\*Current work\***

We're working with the Environment Agency on our Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2 (FAS2) to help protect 1,048 homes and 474 businesses. We're focusing mainly on the developed areas along the River Aire, upstream of Leeds Train Station and Apperley Bridge.

FAS2 provides a one in a 200 year level of protection against flooding. This means flooding will be reduced to a 0.5 per cent chance of occurring in any given year, including an allowance for climate change. Once the scheme is completed, it will help protect against similar flooding to Storm Eva.

Natural flood management and traditional engineering will be used to help reduce flood risk. This will also create new habitats for wildlife and reduce the impact of climate change. The amount of rainwater going into the river will be reduced. The ground will also be able hold more water during floods. Different interventions we are looking at include:

- creating new woodland
- reducing the flow of the water during heavy rain in different ways
- having new storage ponds
- rechanneling the river to slow down the flow

Traditional engineering methods include building flood defence walls, creating new flood storage areas and making improvements to existing structures.

**Sectors adaptation action applies to^**

Forestry  
Water supply  
Sewerage, wastewater management and remediation activities  
Conservation  
Construction

**Co-benefits realised^**

Job creation  
Reduced natural resource depletion  
Reduced disruption of energy, transport, water or communications networks  
Fewer or no households and businesses forced from homes/places of work  
Reduced disaster/disease/contamination-related health impacts  
Increased/improved green space  
Protected/improved biodiversity and ecosystem services

**Timeframe for which increased resilience is expected to last**

Long-term (after 2050)

**Proportion of the total jurisdiction population with increased resilience due to adaptation action**

<10%

**Hectares (ha) of natural systems with increased resilience due to adaptation action****Funding source(s)**

Please select

**Status of action in the reporting year^**

Implementation complete in the reporting year

**Inclusion in climate action plan and/or jurisdiction development/master plan^**

Action is included in climate action plan and/or development/master plan

**Total cost of action (in currency specified in 0.1)**

170000000

**Action^**

Engineered and built environment actions	Municipal water efficiency retrofits
--	--------------------------------------

**Climate hazard(s) that action addresses^**

Extreme heat  
Drought

**Action description and web link to further information^**

We have set a standard for water efficiency in new residential development in the Core Strategy as follows:

**POLICY EN2: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

Non-residential developments of 1,000 or more square metres (including conversion) where feasible are required to meet the BREEAM standard of 'excellent'.  
Residential developments of 10 or more dwellings (including conversion) where feasible are required to meet a water standard of 110 litres per person per day.

Also in the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan:

**WATER 1: WATER EFFICIENCY**

All new developments should include measures to improve their overall water efficiency where appropriate. This will be achieved through a mixture of measures to use less treated water and reduce wastewater such as:

- Sustainable urban drainage systems,
- Rainwater collection and storage,
- Grey water recycling and storage systems, and
- More absorbent surfaces for water drainage.

For SuDS this is included in the surface water run off policy which states:

**WATER 7: SURFACE WATER RUN-OFF**

All developments are required to ensure no increase in the rate of surface water run-off to the existing formal drainage system. Development will be expected to incorporate sustainable drainage techniques wherever possible.

- On previously developed sites peak flow rates must be reduced by at least 30%
- On sites which have not previously been connected to the drainage infrastructure, or watercourse, surface water run off rates will not exceed the 'greenfield' run-off rate (i.e. the rate at which water flows over land which has not previously been developed).

Separately, we use rain gardens for surface water capture and storage to manage flood events. These are built in underground as part of any tree pits/planting schemes for public realm works.

**Sectors adaptation action applies to^**

Water supply  
Sewerage, wastewater management and remediation activities  
Construction

**Co-benefits realised^**

Reduced costs  
Reduced natural resource depletion  
Reduced disruption of energy, transport, water or communications networks  
Increased water security  
Reduced disaster/disease/contamination-related health impacts

**Timeframe for which increased resilience is expected to last**

Long-term (after 2050)

**Proportion of the total jurisdiction population with increased resilience due to adaptation action**

I do not have this data

**Hectares (ha) of natural systems with increased resilience due to adaptation action**

**Funding source(s)**

Other, please specify source(s) (No funding requirement)

**Status of action in the reporting year^**

Action in operation (jurisdiction-wide)

**Inclusion in climate action plan and/or jurisdiction development/master plan^**

Action is included in climate action plan and/or development/master plan

**Total cost of action (in currency specified in 0.1)**

0

**Action^**

Engineered and built environment actions	Resilience and resistance measures for buildings
--	--

**Climate hazard(s) that action addresses^**

Extreme heat  
Urban flooding  
River flooding

**Action description and web link to further information^**

Leeds will ensure that new developments are located and designed to avoid, reduce and mitigate flood risk, increase biodiversity and reduce the carbon footprint of risk reduction schemes through natural flood solutions.

Our current Local Plan has many effective policies for flood risk and through flood alleviation schemes the council is working with partners and investing in infrastructure to help protect communities. But with the impacts of climate change worsening, it's important that we consider options for improving policies on flood risk.

We want to:

- ensure that all new developments are located and designated to avoid, reduce and mitigate flood risk
- reduce the speed of surface water run-off through increased use of sustainable and natural drainage systems
- ensure our policies reflect up to date evidence, guidance and best practice to help manage flood risk

The areas of policy affected include:

- sustainable drainage systems
- enhanced resilience
- porous materials
- functional floodplain

**Sectors adaptation action applies to^**

Construction

**Co-benefits realised^**

Reduced disaster/disease/contamination-related health impacts

**Timeframe for which increased resilience is expected to last**

Long-term (after 2050)

**Proportion of the total jurisdiction population with increased resilience due to adaptation action**

I do not have this data

**Hectares (ha) of natural systems with increased resilience due to adaptation action**

**Funding source(s)**

Jurisdiction's own resources  
National funds and programmes

**Status of action in the reporting year^**

Please select

**Inclusion in climate action plan and/or jurisdiction development/master plan^**

Action is included in climate action plan and/or development/master plan

**Total cost of action (in currency specified in 0.1)**

---

**Action^**

Engineered and built environment actions	Resilience and resistance measures for buildings
--	--

**Climate hazard(s) that action addresses^**

Extreme heat

**Action description and web link to further information^**

100m investment in housing retrofit

**Sectors adaptation action applies to^**

Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply  
Construction

**Co-benefits realised^**

Job creation  
Reduced costs  
Increased energy security  
Reduced fuel poverty  
Increased security/protection for poor/vulnerable populations  
Increased social inclusion, equality and justice  
Improved mental wellbeing/quality of life  
Improved air quality  
Reduced health impacts from extreme heat or cold weather  
Reduced health costs  
Reduced GHG emissions

**Timeframe for which increased resilience is expected to last**

Long-term (after 2050)

**Proportion of the total jurisdiction population with increased resilience due to adaptation action**

<10%

**Hectares (ha) of natural systems with increased resilience due to adaptation action**

**Funding source(s)**

Jurisdiction's own resources  
Regional funds and programmes  
National funds and programmes  
International (including ODA)

**Status of action in the reporting year^**

Implementation underway with completion expected in more than one year

**Inclusion in climate action plan and/or jurisdiction development/master plan^**

Action is included in climate action plan and/or development/master plan

**Total cost of action (in currency specified in 0.1)**

---

(9.1) Describe the outcomes of the most significant mitigation actions your jurisdiction is currently undertaking. Note that this can include those in the planning and/or implementation phases.

**Primary emissions sector addressed and action type^**

Stationary energy	Energy efficiency/ retrofit measures addressing existing commercial, residential and/or municipal buildings
-------------------	---

**Action description and web link to further information^**

38 civic buildings, leisure centres, primary schools, children's centres, homes for older people and offices across the city will benefit from a range of low carbon heat and energy upgrades carried out by the council and partners. Air source heat pumps, new connections to the district heating network, solar photovoltaic panels, LED lighting, and double glazing will all be installed. Installation of green measures is well underway and has completed on most buildings. The project is due for completion in the next few months.

**Start year of action**

2021

**Year for which mitigation is expected to last**

2051 or later

**Impact indicators measured^**

Estimated annual emissions reductions due to action  
Estimated annual energy savings due to action  
Estimated annual renewable energy generated due to action

**Estimated annual emissions reductions (metric tons CO2e/year)^**

3951

**Estimated annual energy savings (MWh/year)^**

20538

**Estimated annual renewable energy generation (MWh/year)^**

2168

**Co-benefits realised^**

Job creation  
Reduced costs  
Increased energy security  
Improved air quality

**Funding source(s)**

National funds and programmes

**Status of action in the reporting year^**

Implementation underway with completion expected in less than one year

**Inclusion in climate action plan and/or jurisdiction development/master plan^**

Action is included in climate action plan and/or development/master plan

**Total cost of action (in currency specified in 0.1)**

25300000

**Primary emissions sector addressed and action type^**

Stationary energy	LED / CFL / other luminaire technologies
-------------------	--

**Action description and web link to further information^**

The council approved plans to replace the city's street lamps with LEDs in December 2018. Since then more than 25,000 lights have been converted to LED, resulting in a 3.9 million kWh electricity consumption reduction and a saving of 909 tonnes of CO2. Moving forward a further 1900 lanterns will be replaced every month until completion.

**Start year of action**

2019

**Year for which mitigation is expected to last**

Please select

**Impact indicators measured^**

Estimated annual emissions reductions due to action  
Estimated annual energy savings due to action

**Estimated annual emissions reductions (metric tons CO2e/year)^**

7050

**Estimated annual energy savings (MWh/year)^**

31000

**Estimated annual renewable energy generation (MWh/year)^**

<Not Applicable>

**Co-benefits realised^**

Reduced costs  
Reduced noise/light pollution

**Funding source(s)**

Please select



**Status of action in the reporting year^**

Implementation underway with completion expected in less than one year

**Inclusion in climate action plan and/or jurisdiction development/master plan^**

Action is included in climate action plan and/or development/master plan

**Total cost of action (in currency specified in 0.1)**

25400000

**Primary emissions sector addressed and action type^**

Stationary energy	LED / CFL / other luminaire technologies
-------------------	--

**Action description and web link to further information^**

Woodhouse car park lighting replacement. An interest free loan was secured to deliver the work in 2020. Work was completed in December 2020.

**Start year of action**

2020

**Year for which mitigation is expected to last**

2051 or later

**Impact indicators measured^**

Estimated annual emissions reductions due to action

Estimated annual energy savings due to action

**Estimated annual emissions reductions (metric tons CO2e/year)^**

65

**Estimated annual energy savings (MWh/year)^**

3900

**Estimated annual renewable energy generation (MWh/year)^**

<Not Applicable>

**Co-benefits realised^**

Reduced costs

Reduced noise/light pollution

**Funding source(s)**

Please select

**Status of action in the reporting year^**

Implementation complete in the reporting year

**Inclusion in climate action plan and/or jurisdiction development/master plan^**

Action is included in climate action plan and/or development/master plan

**Total cost of action (in currency specified in 0.1)**

241000

**Primary emissions sector addressed and action type^**

Transportation	Improve fuel economy and reduce CO2 emissions from motorized vehicles
----------------	---

**Action description and web link to further information^**

'Try before you buy' electric van and private hire vehicle scheme for local businesses, public sector organisations, charities and private hire drivers. The scheme helps organisations understand the detailed business case for switching to zero emission vehicles. It is expected that many participants will switch to zero emission vehicles after participating in the scheme. More than half of participants have said that they would consider switching to electric vehicles after taking part in the scheme.

Carbon saving figure based on replacing emissions per mile from an 'average' EU van with an electric vehicle multiplied by the number of miles trial vehicles are expected to have been driven when scheme concludes in March. Figure doesn't include carbon savings from participants who switch to an EV after taking part in the scheme.

**Start year of action**

2021

**Year for which mitigation is expected to last**

2022

**Impact indicators measured^**

Estimated annual emissions reductions due to action

**Estimated annual emissions reductions (metric tons CO2e/year)^**

19

**Estimated annual energy savings (MWh/year)^**

<Not Applicable>

**Estimated annual renewable energy generation (MWh/year)^**

<Not Applicable>

**Co-benefits realised^**

Reduced costs

Improved mobility and access

Improved education and public awareness

Improved air quality

**Funding source(s)**

Please select

**Status of action in the reporting year^**

Implementation underway with completion expected in less than one year

**Inclusion in climate action plan and/or jurisdiction development/master plan^**

Action is included in climate action plan and/or development/master plan

**Total cost of action (in currency specified in 0.1)**

2300000

**Primary emissions sector addressed and action type^**

Transportation	Other, please specify (Multiple actions - set out below)
----------------	--

**Action description and web link to further information^**

We have an ambitious vision for Leeds: to create a world-class city that allows for seamless travel not just within the city, but regionally, nationally and internationally. We want to build a smart city that embraces innovative technology to help us use space efficiently, and manage and maintain our public transport network.

We want Leeds to be a great place for everyone who lives in, works in or visits the city, with well-connected neighbourhoods and an accessible, attractive city centre.

We also want to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution, which will encourage people to walk, cycle and be more active.

The Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme (LPTIP) comprises of 8 packages which cover:

- 1) Programme management: resources for a dedicated team for the overall management and delivery of the programme
- 2) Bus Priority Corridors: investment in a number of key corridors to improve bus service reliability and reduce bus journey times
- 3) Bus Park and Ride: new park and ride facilities to be developed to the north and south of the City with further expansions at Elland Road
- 4) City Centre: redesigning road layouts to reduce congestion and improve the pedestrian environment
- 5) Rail: develop three new rail stations across the city at proposed sites of Leeds Bradford airport, Thorpe Park and White Rose, with accessibility improvements at Cross gates, Morley and Horsforth.
- 6) Bus Delivery: support real-time improvements and review connectivity throughout the Leeds district
- 7) Mass Transit: develop a long term mass transit approach
- 8) Bus Delivery Board: a series of measures to improve the bus service offer

The predicted reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from modal shift resulting from the scheme equates to 15,947 tonnes of CO2e. Additional benefits include more reliable and attractive bus services, improved health from cleaner air and physical activity, reduced congestion and a better connected city.

Carbon reduction figure includes carbon saved as a result of expected modal shift only.

**Start year of action**

2017

**Year for which mitigation is expected to last**

2051 or later

**Impact indicators measured^**

Estimated annual emissions reductions due to action

**Estimated annual emissions reductions (metric tons CO2e/year)^**

15947

**Estimated annual energy savings (MWh/year)^**

<Not Applicable>

**Estimated annual renewable energy generation (MWh/year)^**

<Not Applicable>

**Co-benefits realised^**

Increased labour productivity

Increased economic production

Reduced disruption of energy, transport, water and communications networks

Improved mobility and access

Improved road safety

Improved air quality

Improved preparedness for health service delivery

**Funding source(s)**

Please select

**Status of action in the reporting year^**

Implementation underway with completion expected in more than one year

**Inclusion in climate action plan and/or jurisdiction development/master plan^**

Action is included in climate action plan and/or development/master plan

**Total cost of action (in currency specified in 0.1)**

270000000

**Primary emissions sector addressed and action type^**

Stationary energy	Energy efficiency/ retrofit measures addressing existing commercial, residential and/or municipal buildings
-------------------	---

**Action description and web link to further information<sup>^</sup>**

The Leeds PIPES District Heating Network (DHN) delivers low carbon, sustainable energy to residents and businesses of Leeds including key Leeds City Council buildings. Almost 2,000 properties have now been connected, along with Leeds Civic Hall, Leeds Town Hall, Leeds Museum and Leeds Art Gallery/Central Library along with council-owned St George House.

Currently saving an estimated 4,379 tonnes of CO2 per annum, however can save a potential 11,700-20,600 tonnes CO2 per annum depending on the heating systems being replaced.

**Start year of action**

2017

**Year for which mitigation is expected to last**

2051 or later

**Impact indicators measured<sup>^</sup>**

Estimated annual emissions reductions due to action

**Estimated annual emissions reductions (metric tons CO2e/year)<sup>^</sup>**

11700

**Estimated annual energy savings (MWh/year)<sup>^</sup>**

<Not Applicable>

**Estimated annual renewable energy generation (MWh/year)<sup>^</sup>**

<Not Applicable>

**Co-benefits realised<sup>^</sup>**

Job creation  
 Revenue generation  
 Reduced costs  
 Increased energy security  
 Reduced disruption of energy, transport, water and communications networks  
 Reduced fuel poverty  
 Improved air quality

**Funding source(s)**

Jurisdiction's own resources  
 Regional funds and programmes  
 National funds and programmes  
 International (including ODA)  
 Public-private partnerships  
 Private partnerships (e.g., a combination of private investments)

**Status of action in the reporting year<sup>^</sup>**

Implementation underway with completion expected in more than one year

**Inclusion in climate action plan and/or jurisdiction development/master plan<sup>^</sup>**

Action is included in climate action plan and/or development/master plan

**Total cost of action (in currency specified in 0.1)**

47000000

**Primary emissions sector addressed and action type<sup>^</sup>**

Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use	Other, please specify (Multiple actions - Set out below)
------------------------------------	--

**Action description and web link to further information<sup>^</sup>**

Launched last year, the Woodland Creation Initiative will see 5.8 million trees planted on council land over the next 25 years.

Tree planting is proven to benefit the wellbeing of communities, support wildlife, and help tackle the climate emergency. The project will support the White Rose Forest in Leeds strategy, the council's plan to increase tree canopy cover from 17% to 33% by 2050.

In the first year since the schemes launch, approximately 200,000 trees were planted on council land and planning is well underway to plant another 25 hectares for the 2021 planting season.

The Initiative will cost £350,000 inclusive of £50,000 external funding in its first year. The cost of delivering the scheme will remain similar in future years but a greater share of funding is expected to come from external sources after the initial year.

Emissions reduction figure based on carbon savings of planting trees and 50 years of growth.

**Start year of action**

2020

**Year for which mitigation is expected to last**

2051 or later

**Impact indicators measured<sup>^</sup>**

Estimated annual emissions reductions due to action

**Estimated annual emissions reductions (metric tons CO2e/year)<sup>^</sup>**

250000

**Estimated annual energy savings (MWh/year)<sup>^</sup>**

<Not Applicable>

**Estimated annual renewable energy generation (MWh/year)<sup>^</sup>**

<Not Applicable>

**Co-benefits realised<sup>^</sup>**

Enhanced climate change adaptation  
Improved preparedness for health service delivery  
Protected/improved biodiversity and ecosystem services

**Funding source(s)**

Jurisdiction's own resources  
Regional funds and programmes  
National funds and programmes

**Status of action in the reporting year<sup>^</sup>**

Implementation underway with completion expected in less than one year

**Inclusion in climate action plan and/or jurisdiction development/master plan<sup>^</sup>**

Action is included in climate action plan and/or development/master plan

**Total cost of action (in currency specified in 0.1)**

8500000

---

**Primary emissions sector addressed and action type<sup>^</sup>**

Waste	Other, please specify (Multiple actions - set out below)
-------	--

**Action description and web link to further information<sup>^</sup>**

RERF is fully operational and receiving the city's entire waste.

Includes emissions avoided as a result of recycling captured through mechanical pre-treatment, avoided emissions from fossil-fuel based grid power generation through export of electricity from RERF on to grid, through capture of ferrous metals for recycling from ash, through capture and recycling of ash for construction applications.

**Start year of action**

2016

**Year for which mitigation is expected to last**

2051 or later

**Impact indicators measured<sup>^</sup>**

Estimated annual emissions reductions due to action

**Estimated annual emissions reductions (metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year)<sup>^</sup>**

39688

**Estimated annual energy savings (MWh/year)<sup>^</sup>**

<Not Applicable>

**Estimated annual renewable energy generation (MWh/year)<sup>^</sup>**

<Not Applicable>

**Co-benefits realised<sup>^</sup>**

Increased energy security  
Reduced fuel poverty

**Funding source(s)**

Jurisdiction's own resources  
National funds and programmes  
Public-private partnerships

**Status of action in the reporting year<sup>^</sup>**

Action in operation (jurisdiction-wide)

**Inclusion in climate action plan and/or jurisdiction development/master plan<sup>^</sup>**

Action is included in climate action plan and/or development/master plan

**Total cost of action (in currency specified in 0.1)**

139270000

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**Primary emissions sector addressed and action type<sup>^</sup>**

Transportation	Improve fuel economy and reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from motorized vehicles
----------------	---

**Action description and web link to further information<sup>^</sup>**

Installation of at least 30 dual rapid charge points at public locations across Leeds. Most are operational already and all will be by October 2021.

Funding was secured through a joint application between the 5 West Yorkshire Councils and the WYCA that ensured the Office for Low Emission Vehicle's (now OZEV's) Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Taxi Scheme provided £1.9m of funding towards delivery of a rapid charge network across the region to support the uptake of EV in the taxi & private hire sector. The project secured additional local transport plan funding as well as securing significant additional funding from ENGIE who won the open competitive tender process to act as supplier, installer and operator for the network. This also included the provision of renewable energy to the network free of charge to users until the end of October 2021.

Carbon saving figure based on current monthly usage and is likely to be somewhat conservative of true emission saving.

**Start year of action**

2019

**Year for which mitigation is expected to last**

End year not known/not applicable

**Impact indicators measured^**

Estimated annual emissions reductions due to action

**Estimated annual emissions reductions (metric tons CO2e/year)^**

366

**Estimated annual energy savings (MWh/year)^**

<Not Applicable>

**Estimated annual renewable energy generation (MWh/year)^**

<Not Applicable>

**Co-benefits realised^**

Improved air quality

Reduced disaster/disease/contamination-related health impacts

Reduced noise/light pollution

**Funding source(s)**

Please select

**Status of action in the reporting year^**

Implementation underway with completion expected in less than one year

**Inclusion in climate action plan and/or jurisdiction development/master plan^**

Action is included in climate action plan and/or development/master plan

**Total cost of action (in currency specified in 0.1)**

**Further Information**

(10.1) Use this field to provide any additional information or context that you feel is relevant to your jurisdiction's response. Please note that this field is optional and is not scored/assessed.

N/A

**Submit your response**

Please provide the following details about the amendments you have made to your response.

**Question number**

2.1

**Reason for change**

Updated information has become available, which was not available when submitting

**Updated response**

- IPPU > Product use
- Total IPPU
- Total AFOLU

**Question number**

9.1

**Reason for change**

Updated information has become available, which was not available when submitting

**Updated response**

Added 'Estimated annual energy savings (MWh/year)'^ –

**What language are you submitting your response in?**

English

**Please read and accept our Terms and Conditions**

I have read and accept the Terms and Conditions

**Please confirm how your response should be handled by CDP.**

Public or non-public submission	
I am submitting my response	Publicly (recommended)

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## Appendix 5: Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) impact assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration. In all appropriate instances we will need to carry out an equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment.

This form:

- can be used to prompt discussion when carrying out your impact assessment
- should be completed either during the assessment process or following completion of the assessment
- should include a brief explanation where a section is not applicable

<b>Directorate: Resources</b>	<b>Service area: SEAQ</b>
<b>Lead person: Claire Dalton Nobbs</b>	<b>Contact number:</b>
<b>Date of the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment: 06/03/2023</b>	

<b>1. Title: Draft Leeds Food Strategy</b>
Is this a:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>
<b>If other, please specify</b>

### 2. Members of the assessment team:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role on assessment team For example, service user, manager of service, specialist</b>
Claire Dalton Nobbs	Leeds City Council	Officer

**3. Summary of strategy, policy, service or function that was assessed:**

A revised draft Leeds Food Strategy is being taken to Executive Board in March. The strategy will be hosted on the Leeds City Council website following public consultation and the final version published in Spring 2023. The strategy follows the 3 pillars of the Best City Ambition: health and wellbeing, inclusive growth (as food security and economy), zero carbon (as sustainability and resilience), with 5 objectives identified through partner collaboration against each.

**4. Scope of the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment**  
(complete - 4a. if you are assessing a strategy, policy or plan and 4b. if you are assessing a service, function or event)

**4a. Strategy, policy or plan**  
(please tick the appropriate box below)

The vision and themes, objectives or outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>
The vision and themes, objectives or outcomes and the supporting guidance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A specific section within the strategy, policy or plan	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please provide detail:**

**Our vision for Leeds to have a vibrant food economy where everyone can access local, healthy, and affordable food that is produced in ways that improve our natural environment and embrace new techniques and technologies.**

**Health and Wellbeing**  
Objective 1: Ensure people of all ages know how to access, prepare, and eat food that supports health and wellbeing.  
Objective 2: Champion community food initiatives that support healthier eating  
Objective 3: Change our city environment to help make healthier food more available and appealing  
Objective 4: Offer targeted support to those of us who are most at risk  
Objective 5: Develop a skilled local workforce who advocate for healthier eating

**Food Security and Economy**  
Objective 1: Tackle factors limiting people’s ability to afford the food they need.  
Objective 2: Help those in need of support to access affordable and inclusive food initiatives.  
Objective 3: Continue to build a strong partnership approach across all sectors and with the people of Leeds.  
Objective 4: Support and unlock opportunities for local food businesses and workers.



Objective 5: Promote Leeds as a vibrant food city—celebrating our independent food, drink, events, and culture.

**Sustainability and Resilience**

Objective 1: Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food

Objective 2: Raise awareness of how we can eat nutritious foods that are good for the planet.

Objective 3: Encourage and embrace new ways of producing, selling and serving food within local communities

Objective 4: Support local farmers to transition to resilient and profitable agriculture which improves the environment.

Objective 5: Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient food buying

Objectives have been amended and reordered following consultation feedback. For the consultation feedback report see Appendix 2 Overview of the consultation responses (Leeds Food Strategy) and for the full content of the proposed Leeds Food Strategy see Appendix 3 of the executive board report.

**4b. Service, function, event**

please tick the appropriate box below

The whole service (including service provision and employment)	<input type="checkbox"/>
A specific part of the service (including service provision or employment or a specific section of the service)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Procuring of a service (by contract or grant)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please provide detail:</b>	

**5. Fact finding – what do we already know**

Make a note here of all information you will be using to carry out this assessment. This could include: previous consultation, involvement, research, results from perception surveys, equality monitoring and customer/ staff feedback.

(priority should be given to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration related information)

The Leeds Food Strategy is a strategy for every community in the city. It sets out broad objectives to inform the work of the council and its partners to support a consistent and vision-driven approach. It is not a document written to tell people what to do. Leeds has a diverse population and this strategy does not aim to focus on any community in particular. Nevertheless, many of the objectives in the strategy will have the effect of reducing health and economic inequalities if implemented.

The Leeds Food Strategy was created by a cross-council team alongside numerous partners, ensuring maximum knowledge and expertise. The council team included staff from SEAQ, Public Health, Financial Inclusion and Economic Development. Partners include stakeholders with sector knowledge of health, sustainability, and financial inclusion from the private, public and the third sector. The strategy was developed in collaboration with these partners and then updated in line with consultation feedback to ensure that it has been informed by a diversity of ideas and viewpoints. This process endeavoured to produce a set of inclusive objectives.

All of the strategy’s objectives have been created considering both international/national and local data, therefore the decisions about where work should be focused is evidence-based.

The public consultation for the Leeds Food Strategy took place throughout Autumn 22, aimed at all residents, businesses and organisations of Leeds. This consultation sought feedback and was conducted via three methods to improve accessibility:

- 1) A survey hosted online. There was a risk that this format could potentially exclude those that struggle with literacy, or where English is a second language, or people with vision related disability. These accessibility risks were mitigated to an extent by working to make sure that the website and other online content met digital accessibility standards and could be accessed by screen reader and translation software. Additionally, people with English as a second language were a target for face-to-face consultation with support from third sector partners.
- 2) Attendance at a variety of meetings to ensure engagement from key stakeholders, i.e., focus groups, presentations, and group discussion. Methodology was agreed with each partner to meet individual needs.
- 3) Face-to-face focus group consultation conducted by FoodWise Leeds reaching out to several public consultation groups across Leeds communities. This included the Leeds BiteBack 2030 Youth Board to represent the views of young people in the city.

The questions to support the consultation were developed by the cross-council strategy team and were tested by Leeds City Council’s consultation team to ensure accessibility.

For the consultation feedback provided high levels of overarching support for the Leeds Food Strategy across the vision and themes for the report see Appendix 2.

**Are there any gaps in equality and diversity information**

**Please provide detail:**

The team leading the consultation ensured that all equality characteristics are considered and this will remain so as the strategy is adopted and the action plan developed.

**Action required:**

Development of an action plan, considering the EDCI impacts of each action.

**6. Wider involvement – have you involved groups of people who are most likely to be affected or interested**

Yes       No

**Please provide detail:**

The document issued for wider public consultation in October 22 was created in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders from a variety of sectors from across the city.

Through this process, viewpoints from many different people in the city have been considered and insights from a variety of community groups have been shared. Participants ranged from large organisations to community groups.

Stakeholders that have contributed so far, include: [The National Farmers Union](#), [The University of Leeds](#), [FareShare Yorkshire](#), [Rethink Food](#), [Incredible Edible](#), [Feed Leeds](#), [Climate Action Leeds](#), [Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust](#), [Flourishing Families](#), [Give a Gift](#), [Zest](#), [Trussell Trust](#), [Zero Waste Leeds](#), [Voluntary Action Leeds](#), [Growing Better](#), [Leeds Food Aid Network](#), plus many more.

The document has been updated and amended in line with consultation feedback. This wide range of partners and community groups will continue to be involved in the work of the strategy through the action plan development and implementation as it is adopted.

**Action required:**

Ongoing public engagement of the strategy and action plan.

**7. Who may be affected by this activity?**

please tick all relevant and significant equality characteristics, stakeholders and barriers that apply to your strategy, policy, service or function

**Equality characteristics**

- |                                     |                             |                          |                           |                          |                           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <b>Age</b>                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Carers</b>             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Disability</b>         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <b>Gender reassignment</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Race</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Religion or Belief</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <b>Sex (male or female)</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Sexual orientation</b> |                          |                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Other</b>                |                          |                           |                          |                           |

(Other can include – marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, and those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being)

**Please specify:** The strategy has the potential to influence the food consumed by all communities in Leeds. Nevertheless, the strategy acknowledges that food culture and experiences of food differs between individuals and communities. The strategy aims to reduce food security and improve health outcomes from food which will benefit individuals with some characteristics more than others due to existing disparities.

**Stakeholders**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services users	<input type="checkbox"/>	Employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade Unions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	Members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Suppliers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other please specify				

**Potential barriers**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Built environment services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Location of premises and
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information and communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Customer care
<input type="checkbox"/>	Timing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stereotypes and assumptions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consultation and involvement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Financial exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Employment and training
<input type="checkbox"/>	specific barriers to the strategy, policy, services or function		

**Please specify**

Some of the strategy objectives may face barriers of cost and community financial insecurity, however access and affordability have been considered throughout the development of the strategy.

**8. Positive and negative impact**  
Think about what you are assessing (scope), the fact-finding information, the potential positive and negative impact on equality characteristics, stakeholders and the effect of the barriers

**8a. Positive impact:**

Delivery of the strategy aims to improve health outcomes and tackle food security, which if successful would have the effect of contributing to reduced economic and health inequalities in Leeds.

Negative impacts on stakeholders and different groups has been mitigated through a collaborate and consultative approach to developing the strategy (explained above).

This approach has meant that the final strategy has been informed by a diversity of viewpoints and experiences.

The action plan will be hosted on the council website but managed and monitored by a third sector partner with input and work undertaken by a wide range of partners as well as the council to support the positive impact and ongoing community engagement.

**Action required:**

Development of an action plan with EDCI impacts considered in further detail.

**8b. Negative impact:**

Although the approach used to create the draft strategy took views from many stakeholders, there will still be groups that we underrepresented unfortunately. The 10 week consultation period endeavoured to ensure any of these group's views were captured at this time and considered.

Across the three methods for consultation all members of the community had the opportunity to contribute. Ensuring a consultation plan is in place should help the steering group to monitor consultation engagement across key groups.

It will be necessary to ensure work is ongoing with community groups to support ongoing engagement of the strategy, development and implementation of actions to support everyone in Leeds across the themes.

**Action required:**

Ensure action plan is monitored.

**9. Will this activity promote strong and positive relationships between the groups/communities identified?**

Yes  No

**Please provide detail:**  
The work of the Leeds Food Strategy aims to bring together a number of stakeholder and community groups around an agreed, co-produced vision to promote more collaborative work and deliver the objectives identified within the strategy.

**Action required:** Continued engagement with groups and communities across the city by partners and interested groups.

**10. Does this activity bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other? (for example, in schools, neighbourhood, workplace)**

Yes  No

**Please provide detail:**

To deliver the objectives of the strategy, from now until 2030 there will be a number of actions each year. Due to the collaborative nature of the objectives of the strategy, it is likely that actions will require increased contact between groups with joint visions. These activities will be designed to be as inclusive as possible to maximise impact and cohesion.

**Action required:** Engagement with groups and communities across the city by partners and interested groups.

**11. Could this activity be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another?** (for example where your activity or decision is aimed at adults could it have an impact on children and young people)

Yes

No

**Please provide detail:**

As stated in the vision of the strategy...

Our vision for Leeds to have a vibrant food economy where **everyone** can access local, healthy, and affordable food that is produced in ways that improve our natural environment and embrace new techniques and technologies.

**Action required:**

<b>12. Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration action plan</b> (insert all your actions from your assessment here, set timescales, measures and identify a lead person for each action)			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Lead person</b>
Development of an action plan	March 2023 – September 2023	Actions identified and EDCI impacts identified in further detail	Claire Dalton Nobbs
Wider public awareness of adopted strategy document	March 2023-2030	Communications developed with accessibility in mind, e.g. an accessible online strategy document and action plan, face-to-face sessions held to support development and implementation of actions.	Claire Dalton Nobbs
Action plan is monitored	September 2023-August 2024	This will be undertaken by FoodWise Leeds, with actions undertaken by partners and stakeholders across the city. EDCI impacts will be considered as part of this monitoring.	Claire Dalton Nobbs
Action plan is revised, updated and approved	March 2024-September 2024	Annual report to Executive Board of update and progress as well as any adopted revisions necessary due to progress or changes at a national and/or local level.	Claire Dalton Nobbs

**13. Governance, ownership and approval**

State here who has approved the actions and outcomes from the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment

Name	Job title	Date
Polly Cook	Chief Officer SEAQ	06/03/2023
<b>Date impact assessment completed</b>		<b>06/03/2023</b>

**14. Monitoring progress for equality, diversity, cohesion and integration actions** (please tick)

- As part of Service Planning performance monitoring
- As part of Project monitoring
- Update report will be agreed and provided to the appropriate board  
Please specify which board
- Other (please specify)

**15. Publishing**

Though **all** key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council **only** publishes those related to **Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions** or a **Significant Operational Decision**.

A copy of this equality impact assessment should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:

- Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full Council.
- The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions.
- A copy of all other equality impact assessments that are not to be published should be sent to [equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk) for record.

Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached assessment was sent:

For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to <b>Governance Services</b>	Date sent: 06/03/2023
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate <b>Directorate</b>	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a>	Date sent:



## Appendix 6: Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) screening



As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provides a record of both the **process** and **decision**. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.
- whether or not equality, diversity, cohesion and integration is being or has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

<b>Directorate: Resources</b>	<b>Service area: Sustainable Energy and Air Quality</b>
<b>Lead person: Tom Cowen</b>	<b>Contact number: 0113 378 8795</b>

### 1. Title: Net Zero Housing Plan

Is this a:

**Strategy / Policy**
                 
  **Service / Function**
                 
  **Other**

**If other, please specify**

### 2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The Net Zero Housing Plan sets out how Leeds City Council will accelerate the transition housing of all tenures towards net zero so that residents benefit from healthier and more comfortable homes that are cheaper to heat. It supports high level aims and targets contained in the best city ambition and housing strategy and supports the priorities to tackle fuel poverty and achieve net zero.

Its primary focus is on six practical actions that the council will take to achieve this transition. These are:

- 1) Creating a retrofit hub and financial mechanism for the able to pay sector
- 2) Engaging and motivating people to choose low carbon retrofit
- 3) Upscaling area renewal investment, using social housing investment to kick start work on all tenures in neighbouring homes

- 4) Improving our planning framework and engaging with the industry to ensure new homes reach net zero standards
- 5) Zoning the city to indicate the most suitable fabric investments and heating solutions by neighbourhood
- 6) Expanding green jobs, skills and supply chains to meet demand for green construction employment

### 3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

All the council's strategies and policies, service and functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater or lesser relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Also those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being.

Questions	Yes	No
Is there an existing or likely differential impact for the different equality characteristics?	X	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	X	
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		X
Does the proposal involve or will it have an impact on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment</li> <li>• Advancing equality of opportunity</li> <li>• Fostering good relations</li> </ul>	X	

If you have answered **no** to the questions above please complete **sections 6 and 7**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above and;

- Believe you have already considered the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 4**.
- Are not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 5**.

### 4. Considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality,

diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).

- **How have you considered equality, diversity, cohesion and integration?** (think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)

The plan builds on existing work to tackle fuel poverty and sets out how we will expand our efforts to meet the challenge of net zero.

A household is considered to be in fuel poverty if they have a low income and their home has low energy efficiency. So in general terms, reducing fuel poverty promotes inclusion as it must necessarily target low-income households by definition.

The issue of fuel poverty has equalities implications beyond this and we can look to a solid body of evidence<sup>123</sup> that sets out how fuel poverty disproportionately affects certain groups more than others. Ethnic minority households, households in which the oldest person is aged 16-24 and people with disabilities are more likely to be in fuel poverty than those in other groups.

The impacts of fuel poverty are also elevated amongst certain groups, with elderly, very young, pregnant or disabled people all at higher risk of negative health outcomes from cold homes.

These same groups are also vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat, which is becoming more likely due to climate change. Insulating a home doesn't just help keep it warmer in the winter, it also keeps excess heat out in the summer. It therefore reduces the risks of extreme heat, helping with the city's efforts to adapt to climate change.

- **Key findings**

(think about any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

The Net Zero Homes Plan contains proposals that will enhance the council's fuel poverty work and therefore will have a positive effect on reducing the inequalities described above. Some of the plan's proposals will have more impact than others. Those with the greatest benefit are:

[Upscaling area renewal investment](#)

[This action proposes to expand the retrofit-led-regeneration approach successfully](#)

1

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/966509/Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics LILEE Report 2021\\_2019\\_data .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/966509/Annual_Fuel_Poverty_Statistics_LILEE_Report_2021_2019_data.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/housing/housing-conditions/fuel-poverty/latest>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fuel-poverty-cold-homes-and-health-inequalities-in-the-uk/read-the-report.pdf>

undertaken in the Holbeck Group Repair scheme. This scheme targeted inefficient, small, terraced properties in an area with some of the worst housing conditions in the city. IMD 2019 data indicates the area is among the most deprived and disadvantaged in the city displaying some of the greatest inequalities in trends of health, life expectancy, housing quality and neighbourhood. The project greatly improved the quality of these homes and made them cheaper to heat, improving health outcomes and saving households money, whilst making the neighbourhood more attractive.

It provides a model to improve homes and secure wider neighbourhood regeneration in some of the most deprived areas of the city where inequalities are greatest. Successfully scaling up this approach to more and larger areas will therefore have a highly positive effect on inequalities.

#### Creating a retrofit hub

Because this action targets able to pay households, it could be perceived as undermining efforts on fuel poverty, since it will benefit households with greater wealth and access to capital than those in fuel poverty. It is important to note that this is additional to fuel poverty efforts and will not displace any existing or planned future fuel poverty focused schemes, so will not dilute their impact.

The role of the hub is not to subsidise this group, instead it will seek to create financial mechanisms to reduce upfront costs and provide advice and support and them to these households, encouraging them to invest their own money over a much long period of time than is possible at present.

The high upfront cost for able to pay homes has been identified as a key barrier to retrofit, particularly for younger households who have not had the opportunity to build up savings that could potentially be spent on low carbon upgrades.

Furthermore, retrofit of buildings is an essential part of the city's plans to achieve net zero carbon to prevent Leeds further contributing to climate change and experiencing further climate change related impacts which we know will exacerbate existing inequalities.

#### Green jobs and skills

The Government's green jobs taskforce identified that there is poor representation of ethnic minorities and women in key green sectors. The Green Skills Plan presents an opportunity to address these issues through diversity and inclusion schemes, training programmes and other actions to promote inclusivity.

#### • **Actions**

**(think about** how you will promote positive impact and remove/ reduce negative impact)

To understand the impact of our fuel poverty initiatives and make sure that they are providing the most benefit to disadvantaged groups we intend to monitor the characteristics of those who benefit from them. This will feed into the design of future schemes and will enable us to take corrective action if we can see that particular groups are underrepresented on individual schemes.

The design of communications programmes and activities will be informed by the evidence around the groups that are most affected by fuel poverty. We will evaluate the penetration and effectiveness of communications activities on the groups most affected by fuel poverty.

Many of the actions in the net zero housing plan cut across the work of other council services. When working with these teams we will ensure that the disproportionate equalities impacts of fuel poverty are understood and fully considered in the design of projects and that outcomes are monitored and evaluated wherever possible.

**5. If you are not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you will need to carry out an impact assessment.**

Date to scope and plan your impact assessment:	
Date to complete your impact assessment	
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	

**6. Governance, ownership and approval**

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening

Name	Job title	Date
Polly Cook	Chief Officer, SEAQ	06/03/23
<b>Date screening completed 06/03/23</b>		

**7. Publishing**

Though **all** key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council **only** publishes those related to **Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions** or a **Significant Operational Decision**.

A copy of this equality screening should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:

- Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full Council.
- The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions.
- A copy of all other equality screenings that are not to be published should be sent to [equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk) for record.

Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached screening was sent:

For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to	Date sent:
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<b>Governance Services</b>	
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate <b>Directorate</b>	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a>	Date sent:

## Cost of Living- update report

Date: 15th March 2023

Report of: Director of Communities, Housing and the Environment

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief Summary

This report provides Executive Board with an updated position on the cost-of-living crisis, national policy interventions and the Leeds City Council's response to addressing the crisis.

The Leeds cost-of-living dashboard detailing key data and analysis is attached at appendix 1 and summary table of actions taken in Leeds by the Council and partners to help address the cost-of-living crisis is attached as appendix 2. Appendix 3 includes the Cost-of-Living State of the City report produced following the Conference held in December 2022.

This update follows the report to Executive Board in October 2022 and sets out any new developments, their potential impact, and any additional response required.

It is recognised that current local action alone may not be enough to mitigate the impact, and that in the longer-term greater focus will be required across all three pillars of the Best City Ambition in sustainably addressing deep rooted poverty and inequality within the city.

### Recommendations

Members of Executive Board are recommended to;

- a) Note the content of this report and endorse the approach being adopted.
- b) Note that the Director, Communities, Housing and Environment will be responsible for overseeing and implementing any actions arising from this report.

## What is this report about?

- 1 This report provides an update on the cost-of-living crisis and the actions being undertaken by the Council and partners from a welfare and financial inclusion perspective. The report follows on from the report received by Executive Board in October 2022.

## Context

- 2 As reported in October, poverty and financial exclusion have been deep-rooted challenges for many years, these were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the current economic climate continues to add financial pressures and widen inequalities to households across Leeds. For many the current cost-of-living crisis is not a short-term crisis but an ongoing reality.
- 3 Attached as appendix one to this report is the Cost-of-Living Dashboard for Leeds which brings together detailed data and analysis as of February 2023. Key information is presented below.
- 4 Inflation reached a 41 year high of 11.1% in October 2022, before easing to 10.1% in January 2023<sup>1</sup>. Over the past year, food and energy prices have been the key driver of inflation increases. The Bank of England has been raising interest rates to try and lower the inflation rate below its 2% target, leading to higher borrowing costs for households, particularly on mortgage interest rates. The Bank of England Monetary Policy report is forecasting inflation to begin falling from middle of 2023, returning to 2% in the medium term of 2024.
- 5 According to the ONS's latest Family Spending report (July 2022)<sup>2</sup>, low-income households spent a larger proportion than average on energy and food and are therefore more affected by price increases particularly in terms of increasing housing rents.
- 6 Further evidence suggests that certain population groups are also more deeply impacted. According to research by the Runnymede Trust (2022)<sup>3</sup> ethnic minority households are heavily over-represented amongst the lowest-income groups experiencing much higher levels of food insecurity, material deprivation and fuel poverty. Whilst the Resolution Foundation has found that people with disabilities are also more vulnerable in the current situation due to rising costs of essentials like energy and food, which on average make up a greater share of budgets, than for the non-disabled. (Resolution Foundation: Costly differences 2023<sup>4</sup>)
- 7 Data from the national Citizens Advice Cost of Living dashboard<sup>5</sup> revealed that by the end of December 2022,
  - a) The charity had helped over 200,000 people nationally with crisis support (food bank referrals and emergency charitable support etc).
  - b) Over 236,000 people were supported on energy issues (more than double than in 2020).
  - c) 27,521 people who were unable to top up their prepayment meter were assisted – an increase of 230% on 2021, and more people than in the last 10 years combined.
- 8 This is also being reflected locally with Citizens Advice Leeds and Chapeltown Citizens Advice data showing how enquiries relating to utilities such as energy bills have increased by 127% and charitable and foodbank support has increased by 71% from April to December 2021 to the same period in 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> [Consumer price inflation time series - Office for National Statistics](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/expenditure/bulletins/familyspendingintheuk/april2020tomarch2021>

<sup>3</sup> [The Runnymede Trust | Ethnic minority households will be among the hardest hit by the cost of living crisis](#)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/publications/costly-differences/#:~:text=Recommendations,disabilities%20in%20the%20short%20term>

<sup>5</sup> [Our new cost-of-living dashboard: the crisis we're seeing unfold | by Morgan Wild | We are Citizens Advice](#)



- 9 The Council's Local Welfare Support Scheme (LWSS) is currently seeing unprecedented demand for emergency support for food, energy and household goods. There were 7,906 calls to the service during January 2023, up 72% from 4,605 calls in December 2022.
- 10 Currently, the majority of LWSS applicants have never previously applied to the scheme and the most common reason for applying is due to the rising cost of living and the applicant's income no longer meeting their outgoings. Most applications are for emergency food or fuel which have increased by 52% from 1,342 applications in December 2022 to 2,037 in January 2023.
- 11 Leeds Housing Options has reported during 2022, over 5,500 homelessness applications were completed that resulted in owing a household a duty to resolve their housing situation, representing a 2.5% increase for requests for homeless assistance per year since 2019. It is anticipated this upward trend will continue due to the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, the renters reform bill abolishing Section 21 notices, and continued pressure following the ending of the Covid-19 legislation that prevented landlords issuing possession proceedings against tenants. The three main reasons people currently approach Leeds Housing Options for assistance are those being asked to leave by friends or family, are victims of domestic abuse, or their private rented tenancy is ending.
- 12 Leeds accepted 66% of assessments at the prevention stage in 2022 which is above the national average in 2021-22 of 46%. It is seen as a positive indicator to accept more prevention duties (when a household is threatened with homelessness), than relief duties (where a household is already homeless) as early intervention is critical in preventing homelessness. In 2022, Leeds achieved successful accommodation outcomes for over 70% of cases owed the prevention duty, compared to the national rate in 2021/22 of 54%. Where a positive prevention outcome (securing existing or alternative accommodation for at least 6 months to prevent homelessness) cannot be achieved, or customers approach at a point of crisis, the council may be under a duty to provide temporary accommodation. At the end of Q3 of 2022, 166 households were in temporary accommodation - 55 were families and 111 were single people. In comparison with Q3 of 2021, family placements have increased from 8, and single placements have increased from 59 highlighting the increased demand for assistance.
- 13 Significant capital investment has been put into improving the heating and energy efficiency of the council's housing stock over recent years with plans to improve this in the future. These programmes have included the replacement of old inefficient heating systems and insulation/ventilation upgrades. Since 2017, £56.6m has been invested in this type of improvement with a further £100m projected over the next 5 years. Despite these improvements, feedback from tenants is that some people simply cannot afford to use the new heating systems, as the savings that they would have benefitted from through improved efficiency have been lost in the sharp increases in the cost of living and raised energy costs. Data shows that up to 15% of residents are not using the heating and hot water provided through their connections to communal heating systems. Work is ongoing to fully understand the reasons behind this however, the service has found examples of tenants reverting to the use of portable electric heaters as a perceived cheaper alternative to them using their heating system as designed. Overall, Housing Leeds has highlighted increasing numbers of tenants reporting financial difficulty. Housing Officer Incomes (HOI) have also highlighted rises in referrals/enquiries for food parcels as well as in relation to pensioner benefit enquiries, with some instances of pensioners advising of a need to return to the job market due to financial pressures, following retirement.
- 14 The rising cost of living is also having a significant impact on the volume of damp and mould reports being made by council housing tenants. Reported volumes have doubled since November 2022 and whilst this has largely been attributed to intense media attention around the topic of damp and mould which has raised awareness of the associated health hazards, there has been a significant rise in mould growth cases due to condensation where tenants say that they simply cannot afford to heat their homes in-line with best practice guidance. As a result of this, the risk

of damp and mould occurring in many homes has significantly increased meaning that the health risks also increase, and the council are spending more through the Housing Revenue Account to treat the cases which is a sector wide trend.

- 15 Local analysis on the latest earnings data, published in November 2022 for April 2022 highlights how people on the lowest income are being hit the hardest by the cost-of-living, with 6% of their weekly earnings being lost to inflationary impacts, this compares to a loss of 2% for those on median and 1% for the top 10% incomes.
- 16 In real terms this means that although earnings for full-time equivalent residents on the lowest incomes had increased by £5 a week on the previous year to £189 per week, once inflationary impacts are considered wages fell by £12 per week. This compares to a reduction of £10 per week for those on median incomes (£536.60 per week) and £14.50 for those on top 10% of earners (£1,060 per week)

**Other key local statistics;**

- 22% (174,000) of the Leeds population is living in relative poverty after housing costs are deducted from income.
- 24% of children, (36,496) were estimated to be living in relative low-income families before housing costs in 2019/20.
- There were 73,429 Universal Credit claimants in Leeds in December 2022, the number of claimants has been increasing steadily since January 2022.

**National update**

- 17 The Autumn statement 2022 took place following significant changes in government. The 'mini-budget' on 23 September 2022 included announcements on tax cuts and the Energy Price Guarantee. However, most of the measures on tax cuts were reversed and there was a reduction in the Energy Price Guarantee offer. A new Cost of Living Support Package for 2023 was also announced.

**Support in 2022**

- 18 The Government's Cost of Living Support Package in 2022 included support for households in receipt of means tested benefits with a one-off payment of up to £650, made in two instalments during summer and autumn 2022, support to help disabled people through a one-off Disability Cost of Living payment of £150 and support with the Pensioner Cost of Living Payment with £300 to all pensioners eligible for Winter Fuel Payments. (2023/24 package of Cost-of-Living Payments detailed below).
- 19 From October 2022, all UK households have been scheduled to receive a total of £400 under the Energy Bill Support Scheme, paid in 6 instalments. Direct debit energy customers receive a monthly discount automatically applied to their bills, while those on prepayment meters receive monthly vouchers to the equivalent value.
- 20 Vouchers for prepayment customers expire three months after they are issued (October vouchers were invalid from 3rd January 2023, and November's will expire on 5th February 2023). In total, 1.3m vouchers, worth £84m have not been claimed since the start of the scheme. Numerous barriers including, incorrect customer details and difficulty redeeming the vouchers have been cited, as well as overall confusion about the scheme and difficulty contacting suppliers for support.
- 21 In December 2022, the Government confirmed households without domestic energy supply (ineligible for the standard EBSS) would be able to apply for a one-off payment of £400 via the 'Energy Bills Support Scheme - Alternative Funding (EBSS AF). Residents in off-grid homes, park homes, care homes, caravans, houseboats and some private and social rented homes are expected to be eligible although final guidance is yet to be published. Those eligible will need to apply via a GOV.UK online portal. The application process was originally scheduled to open in January 2023; however, this has now been delayed until 27th February 2023.

## **Cost of Living Support Package 2023**

- 22 The Cost-of-Living package for 2023 was announced in the Autumn statement. Central to this was the Cost-of-Living payments for over 8 million eligible means-tested benefits claimants. Payment of £900 will start in Spring and will be paid into bank accounts in three payments over the course of the financial year. There will also be a separate £150 for over six million disabled people and £300 for over eight million pensioners in receipt of Winter Fuel Payments. In some cases, households will receive a combination of these payment, depending on circumstances.
- 23 The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) announced the following timetable for the New Cost of Living Payments as set out below:
- £301 – First Cost of Living Payment – during Spring 2023
  - £150 – Disability Payment – during Summer 2023
  - £300 – Second Cost of Living Payment – during Autumn 2023
  - £300 – Pensioner Payment – during Winter 2023/4
  - £299 – Third Cost of Living Payment – during Spring 2024
- 24 Joseph Rowntree Foundation<sup>6</sup> has stated in January 2023 that whilst the government has announced a further £900 cost-of-living support payment for people on means-tested benefits, it is estimated that 4 in 10 households in the poorest fifth of the population do not receive these benefits, leaving them without additional support.
- 25 In addition, these payments remain at a flat rate, which does not take into account the differing needs and costs of different household types i.e., households with children.
- 26 The Energy Price Guarantee, which limits the amount energy suppliers can charge per unit of energy used is set to end in March 2023. Under the current energy price guarantee, an average household using a typical amount of gas and electricity would pay £2,500 annually. The guarantee was announced in October 2022, and set for two years, however this was then revised and from April 2023 the energy price guarantee was increased by £500 to £3,000 (based on average households using a typical amount of gas and electric). Energy bills will still be higher or lower depending on how much energy is used.
- 27 Wholesale energy prices have fallen from their summer 2022 peaks but there is a substantial lag before these reach consumers. The latest price cap forecasts show it falling to well below the £3,000 EPG level. This would result in cuts in household bills as prices are capped by whichever is lower, the EPR or the price cap rate<sup>7</sup>.
- 28 Research for the Runnymede Trust<sup>8</sup> suggests the ‘Energy Price Guarantee’ will lift more white households out of fuel poverty than ethnic minority households; ‘Just under a third (32%) of White people are likely to experience fuel poverty this winter compared to more than half (52%) people from ethnic minority backgrounds (rising to two thirds (66%) of Pakistani and Bangladeshi people).’
- 29 Concerns were also raised nationally and locally regarding energy suppliers using court warrants, to force people onto prepayment meters. In 2022, an estimated 600,000 people were affected, compared with 380,000 in 2021. Following national and local campaigning, Ofgem launched an urgent inquiry into the practice and the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales has instructed magistrates courts to stop listing applications for warrants.

## **Universal Credit (Autumn statement announcements)**

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/low-income-not-claiming-means-tested-benefits>

<sup>7</sup> <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9714/>

<sup>8</sup> [The Runnymede Trust | Falling Faster amidst a Cost-of-Living Crisis: Poverty, Inequality and Ethnicity in the UK](#)

- 30 Benefits (including the benefit cap level) are to be increased in April 2023 in line with inflation, measured by the September CPI rate of 10.1%.
- 31 Effective from September 2023, changes to In-Work Conditionality will see in work UC claimants, (typically those with weekly earnings equivalent to 15-35 hours at NLW) required to meet with a work coach to provide support to increase their hours or earnings.
- 32 Effective from Spring 2023, mortgage borrowers on UC will be able to apply for a loan to help with interest repayments after three months, instead of nine. The government will also abolish the zero earnings rule to allow claimants to continue receiving support while in work and on UC.

**Other key announcements from the Autumn statement include:**

- 33 Raising the National Living Wage - From 1 April 2023, the government will increase the National Living Wage (NLW) by 9.7% to £10.42 an hour, for those aged 23 and over. This represents an increase of over £1,600 to the annual earnings of a full-time worker on the NLW and is expected to benefit over 2 million low paid workers.
- 34 National insurance and Income tax thresholds – Thresholds for NI, personal allowance, and higher rate (40%) will remain frozen until April 2028.
- 35 Social Housing Rent - Social housing rents were set to rise by up to 11.1%, but this has instead been capped to a maximum of 7% in 2023/24. (Estimated yearly savings of £200 for the average tenant in the social housing).
- 36 Local housing allowance (LHA) rates - For 2023-24, LHA rates will remain frozen at the 30th percentile, originally set in September 2019. This represents a reduction in support relative to actual rent costs.

**Local update**

- 37 Leeds City Council and partners have been recognised for the work undertaken to reduce poverty and inequality for many years and have employed an effective collaborative and co-ordinated approach. This was further highlighted in the [LGA Peer Review](#) in November 2022, which recognised the strength of partnership and shared ambitions within the city.
- 38 This collaborative partnership approach has been the basis for the response to the cost-of-living crisis. As reported at October Executive Board and linked to the breakthrough priority to develop an integrated city-wide welfare support approach, strategic and operational groups have been meeting since September to coordinate actions to mitigate as far as possible the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis. The groups all have representatives from the Council, health, third sector and the Department for Work and Pensions.
- 39 Whilst the strategic and operational groups have helped frame the response in the city, without the dedication and commitment of front-line staff and services, nothing would have been achieved. All front-line staff, from the Third Sector, Statutory partners and the Council, have all gone above and beyond their 'normal' day job to help vulnerable people in the city and should be commended on their role and the positive impact they have made in the city, especially as many of these staff will also be impacted by the issues associated with the cost-of-living crisis.
- 40 Regarding framing the response in the city, the work areas and actions emerging from the meetings have focussed on ensuring that there is awareness and understanding of the support available, developing practical support which enhances existing services, and ensuring the short-term funding available is coordinated and maximised. To achieve this the work has been organised into the following areas;
  - Communications and engagement
  - Information, Advice and Guidance
  - Practical Support
  - Funding

- Reporting

41 Full details of the range of work being undertaken since October are detailed in appendix 2 of this report. A summary of the activity is as follows.

### **Communications and Engagement**

42 The action undertaken within this area has focussed on ensuring that anyone affected by the cost-of-living crisis is aware of where they can access the support they need, and in addition promote the positive work of the council, partners and local communities. A wide range of activity has been undertaken both through online and offline platforms, this has included creating the [Together Leeds](#) webpage as a one stop shop for all cost-of-living information and advice, with dedicated social media content plan being employed. This has been complemented by radio advertising, outdoor adverts, posters and leaflets which signpost to both the website and the **Council's Community Hubs and Libraries**.

43 A range of events with a cost-of-living focus have also taken place since October, this includes the first '**Anchor Financial Wellbeing week**' in which employees of the city's Inclusive Anchor institutions were able to attend sessions covering a wide range of cost-of-living focussed topics. In addition, there has been a growing number of **local community-based events** signposting and informing people about the local services available and offering hints and tips, a calendar of these events is now available on the [Together Leeds](#) webpage.

44 The annual **State of the City** conference was held in December focussing on the cost-of-living crisis, a full and detailed report can be found in appendix 3 of this report. The event report includes a range of implications and opportunities for action, focused on the city overall, anchor organisations, third sector and private sector. Anchor organisations – through their Executive Group – will consider their joint response to what is highlighted. On those issues relevant to the council and its partners, most actions arising will be integrated into the work being undertaken through the strategic and operational cost-of-living groups – as reflected in appendix 2. Some of the issues highlighted focus more on the continuing development of city partnerships and infrastructure. These will be reflected in the upcoming refresh of the Best City Ambition (and its ongoing implementation), and the reviews of the Inclusive Growth and Health and Wellbeing strategies this Spring. Furthermore, and to clearly articulate the City's concerns a letter from the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Communities, co-sign by organisations across the city, was sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in January. It detailed the pressures being faced by the people of Leeds and its organisations, the funding required and specific areas of action.

45 Alongside activity to support our citizens and communities, there continues collaborative work to address the impact on organisations within the city. As detailed above in para 44, the Inclusive Anchor Network will be considering their response to the actions contained within the State of the City Report (Appendix 3), and alongside this, collective work is ongoing to support the city's 3rd Sector to maintain its resilience, with specific work on restating shared principles and the development of a Third Sector Strategy. Recognising that all organisations are facing similar inflationary pressures place an even greater emphasis on all partners in the city to work collectively to maximise opportunities to deliver outcomes in collaboration and sustain the valuable services that are delivered by #TeamLeeds.

### **Information, Advice, and Guidance**

46 Ensuring that frontline services are well informed about the free, impartial, and independent information and support available with the city, how and when to access this has been the focus of this workstream. Improvements have been made to the [Leeds Money Information Centre](#) website making it easier to navigate and re-introducing a mapping tool so that services can be easily located. In addition, the Leeds Money Information Centre map now integrates other maps such as the food aid map, where to access digital services, Leeds School Uniform Exchange,

Winter Coats and Warm Spaces. Physical resources such as flyers, business cards and concertinas have been widely distributed to services and buildings across the city, including health services, community hubs and libraries, faith institutions and warm spaces.

- 47 To address the fact that information can change regularly, a relatively simple development has been the creation of google drive which can be shared across organisations containing up to date messaging, resources and training themed around money, energy, housing, food and health, with details on how the resources can be ordered.
- 48 Leeds City Councils Financial Inclusion team in collaboration with advice services and the Welfare Rights service have been delivering training and awareness sessions to a wide range of boards, services and groups across the Council, health and with wider city partnerships, (estimated to have been rolled out to approximately 2000 people). A suite of short, themed awareness videos branded with the Together Leeds logo are also being created to cascade across services and team meetings, which allows key messages to spread further.

### **Practical support**

- 49 This area of work has focussed on practically ensuring that people are able to keep warm throughout the winter and can access short term crisis support when needed. This has included new projects such as establishing over **180 warm spaces** across the city offering a space where people can gather for free in a safe and welcoming environment. All Council Community Hubs and Libraries are part of the warm spaces network, alongside many third sector and faith-based organisations, who are being supported by Voluntary Action Leeds and Forum Central.
- 50 In addition, the Council has provided funding to Zero Waste Leeds to run a **winter coat appeal**, to collect good quality and clean coats and redistribute across community locations in the city. The initial campaign between October and December collected over 3500 coats and has now been extended until March 2023.
- 51 Work is also underway between the Council, the city's health organisations and the Green Doctor service to pilot a **heating on prescription** approach to help support clinically vulnerable patients who have conditions which are likely to be exacerbated by living in a cold environment. All patients referred will have access to an enhanced fuel support offer as well as wrap around support on energy advice, use, savings, and well-being. The pilot will run until the end of March and will be evaluated before next steps are considered.
- 52 A small project is also being trialled with the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to provide **winter wellbeing packs** to vulnerable households as part of the fire safety checks. This will link to a referral to further support to city-based services for fuel and energy advice.
- 53 An area of concern raised by the City's advice agencies was for people who had debts of up to £30,000 but were unable to pay the £90 fee for a **Debt Relief Order**, which would give 12 months breathing space on payments to creditors so that clients could seek to improve their financial position. The Council has funded Ebor Gardens Advice Centre to administer the scheme on behalf of all the city's advice agencies over the next 12 months.
- 54 In addition to these new initiatives, work has continued to review **the Local Welfare Support Scheme** for Leeds, to ensure that people in crisis are able to access short term support for food, fuel, and household items. Revised eligibility criteria in line with the cost-of-living has been introduced, along with an enhanced fuel support offer.

### **Funding**

- 55 Against the backdrop of public sector funding cuts to local authority and health budgets, reductions in funding and donations to the third sector and increased costs across the board, the aim has been to ensure where funding is available that this is coordinated and enhances services and organisations so that they can directly support people. Efforts have focussed on ensuring short term funding such as the Household Support Fund and the West Yorkshire Mayoral fund

are prioritised to support people most impacted by the cost-of-living crisis (including via VCSE partners in the city), whilst adhering to the criteria of the different funds.

### **What impact will this proposal have?**

56 The proposal sets out how the Council and partners are adopting a strategic, coordinated and collaborative response to the cost-of-living crisis. However, many of the projects and initiatives referenced are short term. The challenge for the council and partners is how this work can be used to make a substantial long-term difference to the people of Leeds, without significant change in national policy and adequate long term sustainable funding.

### **How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?**

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

57 The Leeds Best City Ambition has at its heart the mission to tackle poverty and inequality and improve the quality of life for everyone who calls Leeds home. The actions and initiatives set out within the report to mitigate the impacts as far as possible of the cost-of-living crisis, impact all three pillars of the Best City Ambition. A greater focus will be required across all three pillars of the Best City Ambition in sustainably addressing deep rooted poverty and inequality within the city.

58 Poverty and inequality are protected characteristics, and Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration screening are undertaken as appropriate for each measure.

### **What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

59 Partner organisations referred to in this report have been consulted to provide relevant and up to date information about the projects, initiatives and services referenced

### **What are the resource implications?**

60 All the projects and services referred to in this report are being undertaken within current budgets, there are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

61 The Corporate Risk Register houses the most significant and cross cutting risks facing the council and city. The register includes a risk on Escalating Poverty - "The impact of poverty in the city escalates due to factors such as inflation, fuel, food and energy prices increases". Should the council fail to play an effective part in tackling the risk, then the impact of the risk increases, and it will have a more detrimental effect on the citizens and communities of Leeds. This could lead to a loss of public faith in the council and subsequent reputational damage.

62 The risk is managed through a range of activities as outlined in this report, including regular strategic and operational group meetings. The risk is regularly reviewed, updated and reported within the council, to the Communities, Housing and Environment Directorate Leadership Team and onto the Corporate Leadership Team.

63 An additional risk is being considered for the Corporate Risk Register - the risk that Third Sector Organisations will not be able to deliver due to reduced funding and increased demand. The key control to manage this risk will be the development of a strategy based on the following principles:

- Working in a way that ultimately benefits people and communities living in Leeds
- The importance of delivering preventative measures where possible
- Investment in resilience
- The importance of working together in partnership

- A commitment to 'one workforce'
- The third sector being an equal partner as part of both the WY Health and Care Partnership, 'Team Leads' approach and West Yorkshire Combined Authority

### **What are the legal implications?**

64 There are no specific legal implications or access to information issues with this report.

### **Options, timescales and measuring success**

#### **What other options were considered?**

65 No other options have been considered.

#### **How will success be measured?**

66 Success will be measured by update reports and the cost-of-living dashboard.

#### **What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

67 Implementation is immediate and continuous

### **Appendices**

- Appendix one: Cost of Living Dashboard February 2023
- Appendix two: Cost of Living Action Plan
- Appendix three: State of the City report

### **Background papers**

None



# Cost of Living Crisis

## Key Statistics:

The cost of living has been increasing across the UK since early 2021. The annual rate of inflation reached 11.1% in October 2022, a 41-year high, before falling to 10.1% in January 2023.

This dashboard brings together key national and local data to help provide an overview of how rising prices, particularly food, energy and fuel prices are having an impact in Leeds.

The data in this report is the latest available data as of 15th February 2023.



**10.1%**

UK Inflation rate in January 2023, down from a peak of 11.1% in October 2022



**£10**

Weekly loss of earning on Leeds wages as an impact of inflation rises



**£14.56**

Average hourly wage for Leeds Residents



**£795**

Monthly Rental Cost in Leeds up 13% in the 12 months since September 2021



**£200,000**

The average house price in Leeds has fallen 5% between June 2021 to June 2022



**36,550**

Leeds households have electric-only heating.



**62%**

of Leeds dwellings have a poor energy rating of D or above



**147.99<sub>ppl</sub>**

The cost in pence per litre of unleaded petrol on 13 February 2023 has gone down by 0.8 pence on last month.



**169.66<sub>ppl</sub>**

The cost in pence per litre of diesel on 13 February 2023 has gone down 1.98 pence on last month.



**73,429**

people were claiming Universal Credit in Leeds in December 2022, this figure has increased steadily since January 2022



**1,873**

Requests for benefit checks to LCC's Welfare Rights Unit from April to January 2022/23, up 55% on the previous year.



**74.4%**

Employment in Leeds, down 2.6 percentage points on last year.



**127%**

Increase in enquires to local Citizens Advice in relation to utility bills and other household costs.



**72%**

Increase in Leeds Welfare Support Scheme calls for support between December 2022 to January 2023.



**16.7%**

Nationally, food prices rose by 16.7% in the 12 months to January 2023.



**180**

Warm Spaces now open. 65% of people in Leeds can walk to a warm space from their home in 10 minutes.

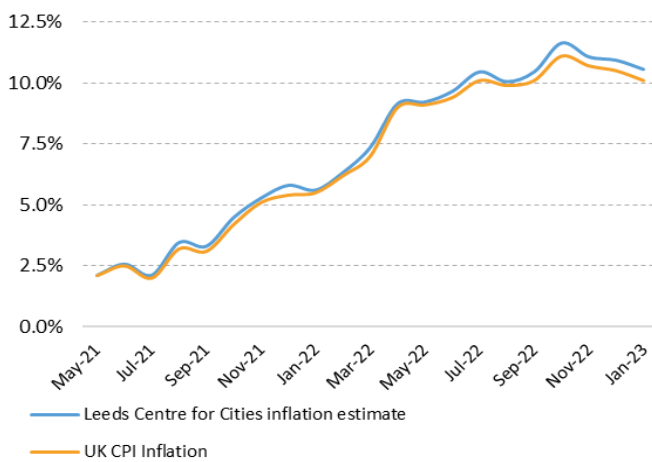
# Cost of Living Crisis Dashboard

Leeds - February 2023

## Inflation:

Consumer Prices Index inflation has fallen slightly since its peak in October 2022 of 11.1% and in the 12 months to January 2023 it stands at 10.1%. High inflation affects the affordability of goods and services for households. Over the past year, food and energy prices have been the key driver of inflation increases. By raising interest rates to 4% in February, the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee is forecasting inflation to begin falling sharply from the middle of 2023, returning towards its 2% target in the medium term of 2024.

The chart below shows a comparison of the think tank, Centre for Cities' estimation of inflation in Leeds to the UK Consumer Price Index inflation, produced by the Office of National Statistics (ONS).



## Wages and impact on inflation

The table below provides the inflationary impact on median weekly earnings for Leeds residents. Real term estimates have also been provided for Leeds' lowest 10% earners and top 10% earners.

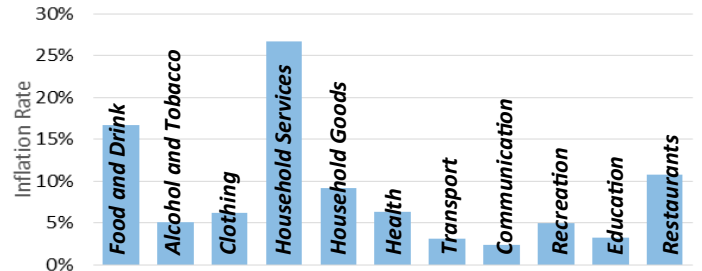
Wages and impact on inf	Lower 10%	Median	Top 10%
2021 Weekly Earnings	£184.00	£500.40	£984.80
2022 Weekly Earnings	£189.00	£536.60	£1,060.90
Nominal Change	£5.00	£36.20	£76.10
Nominal % Change	2.7%	7.2%	7.7%
Real Change	£-11.93	£-9.84	£-14.50
Real % Change	-5.9%	-1.8%	-1.3%

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) report that for full-time equivalent (FTE) employees in the UK, median weekly earnings in April 2022 increased to £532.50 by 5.6% (£28.10) from a year earlier on a nominal basis, and when adjusted for inflation, it fell by 2.1% (down £11.24 per week).

In Leeds; resident FTE employees, median weekly earnings increased to £536.60 up by 7.2% (up £36.20) from a year earlier on a nominal basis, and when adjusted for inflation, it fell by 1.8% (down £9.84 per week). The real term impact on the lower 10% of earners, estimates that Leeds residents saw a weekly loss of 5.9% (£11.93) and the top 10% of earners are losing 1.3% of their income in real terms, (down £14.50 a week). This analysis highlights how it is those on lowest income being hit the hardest by the inflationary impacts and the cost of living.

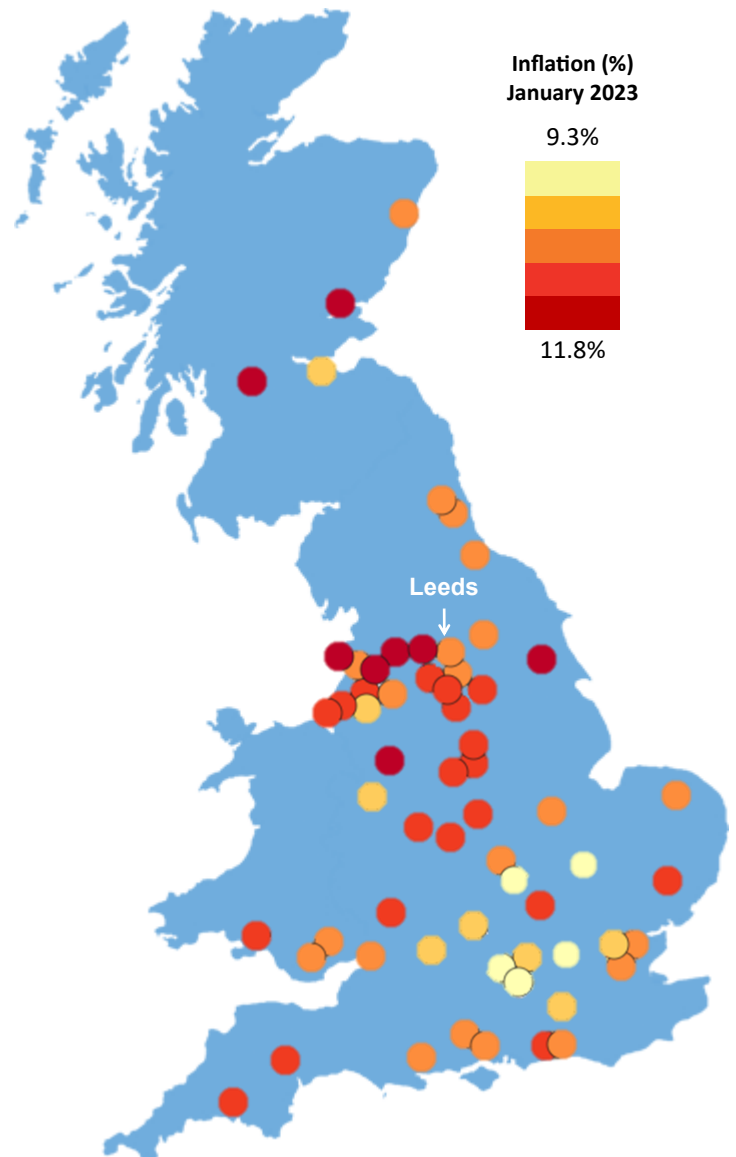
## Components of Inflation January 2023

The largest upward contributions to the annual CPI inflation rate in January 2023 came from housing and household services (principally from electricity, gas, and other fuels) remaining high at 26.7%, and food and non-alcoholic drinks at 16.7%. Alcohol and tobacco prices have also contributed to keeping inflation high in January at 5.1%, up from 3.7% in December. Slower price rises and downward contributors to CPI inflation were from transport and restaurant sectors.



## Where is inflation hitting the hardest?

Centre for Cities have developed a Cost of Living tracker and estimate inflation for local areas based on commercial insights with publicly available data. Their data indicates inflation is higher in the more northern cities and estimates that Leeds' inflation was 10.6% in January 2023, above the national estimate of 10.1%.



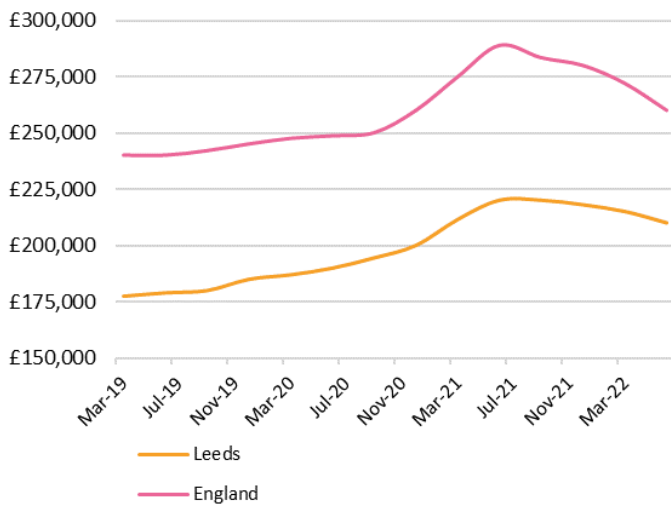
## House Prices:

The ONS estimates that average house prices in Leeds fell from a peak of £220,000 in June 2021 to £210,000 by June 2022. These were the lowest price since December 2020 when average house prices were £200,000.

Higher mortgage rates, economic uncertainty, and the rising cost of living are all affecting the market. Big jumps in interest rates put pressure on the amount people can afford to offer for houses, and that means less demand.

Mortgage affordability also depends on wider cost-of-living pressures like energy bills, wages and job security. The future of house prices depends on the economy as a whole.

### Average House Prices 2019 - 2022



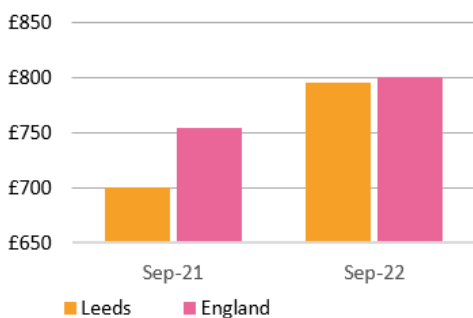
## Housing Rentals:

The median rent cost in Leeds was £795/month as of Sept 2022; up 13% on the same time last year, when rents were £700/month.

The median rent in England was £800/month, up 6% on the same period in 2021, when average rents were £755/month

Rising rents are having an impact – recent Ministry of Justice figures show the number of tenants evicted by private landlords after falling behind on rent is the highest since records began. More than 3,700 households were evicted from private rented homes in England between July and September 2022, Ministry of Justice statistics revealed.

### Median Rental Costs 2021 - 2022



**£795**

Average Rental Cost in Leeds September 2022

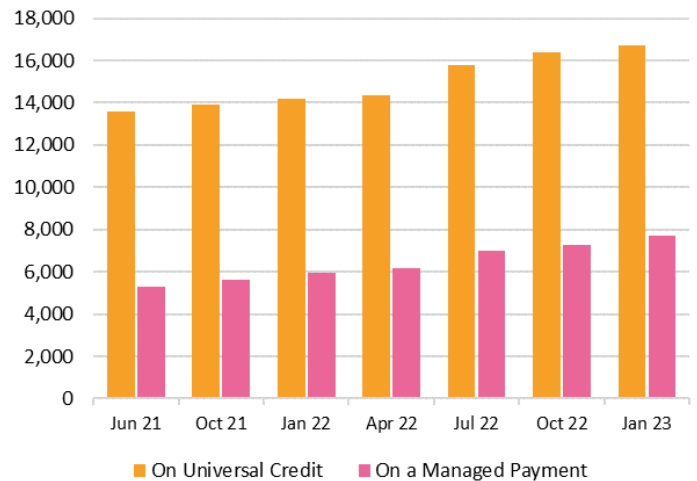
## Housing Leeds Rent Arrears:

As of January 2023, 4.45% of Housing Leeds Tenants were in arrears with their rent, increasing 0.42 percentage points since January 2022.

	Jan-22	Mar-22	May-22	Jul-22	Sep-22	Nov-22	Jan-23
Arrears	4.03%	3.70%	4.06%	4.00%	4.30%	4.31%	4.45%

There are around 52,300 council tenancies in Leeds, 32% of which are on Universal Credit, and 34% on Housing Benefit. In January 2023, 16,711 Housing Leeds tenants were claiming Universal Credit, of which 46% (7,712) were on a managed payment to landlord. A managed payment to landlord is where the housing tenants cost element of UC is paid direct to Housing Leeds as landlord, due to accruing rent arrears equal to, or more than two months or in defined circumstances to prevent arrears occurring. The proportion of tenants on a managed payment has increased by 30% since January 2022. The figures are an indication of households in arrears or concerned they may fall into arrears and can partly be attributed to households struggling with the cost of living.

### Housing Leeds Tenants on UC and/or a Managed Payment.



# Cost of Living Crisis Dashboard

Leeds - February 2023

## Energy:

The Energy Price Guarantee (EPG), which started 1st October 2022, will fix unit rate for gas and electricity based on payment method and region of households, making the typical annual household mixed gas and electricity bill £2,500 until the end of March 2023, thereafter rates will be fixed for typical annual bill of £3,000.

The think tank Centre for Cities estimates a city-by-city average energy bill based on the housing stock in each city, in October 2022 Leeds's estimated annual household energy bill was £2,515.

This is a £532 increase compared to the previous period (April - Sept 22)

Without the Energy Price Guarantee (EPG), the average energy bill was expected to reach £3,570.

Therefore, EPG is reducing households bills in Leeds by £1,055 a year.

### What is the impact of EPG on Leeds households?



### How homes are heated in Leeds.

How a home is heated affects energy costs. Census 2021 data show how heating sources vary across England and Wales. In Leeds, Census 2021 data reveals 77% of households used mains gas central heating, this compares to 74% of households across England and Wales. 36,550 Leeds households had electric-only heating, this is 10.7% of all Leeds households, nationally 9% of homes reported having electric-only heating. 7,383 households in Leeds reported having no central heating at all, this was 2.2% of Leeds households, comparing to 1.5% nationally.

Central Heating types in Households	Leeds	England & Wales
Mains gas only	76.7%	73.8%
Electric only	10.7%	8.5%
Central heating (not inc. renewable energy)	7.7%	8.5%
No central heating	2.2%	1.5%
Other central heating only	1.1%	0.9%
District or communal heat networks only	0.5%	0.9%
Tank or bottled gas only	0.4%	1.0%
Central heating (including renewable energy)	0.3%	0.5%
Oil only	0.2%	3.5%
Renewable energy only	0.2%	0.4%
Solid fuel only	0.1%	0.2%
Wood only	0.0%	0.1%

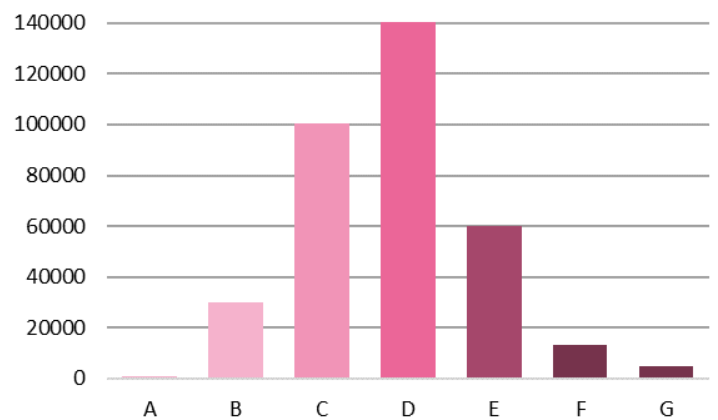
## Fuel Poverty:

An estimated 60,800 Leeds households were in fuel poverty in 2020 under the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) metric. This affects 17.6% of all Leeds households. The national fuel poverty rate for England is 13.2%. (BEIS)

This is the new LILEE definition of fuel poverty stating that a household is fuel poor if:

- They are living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G
- Their disposable income (income after housing costs and energy needs) is below the poverty line.

### Count of Properties by EPC Certificate

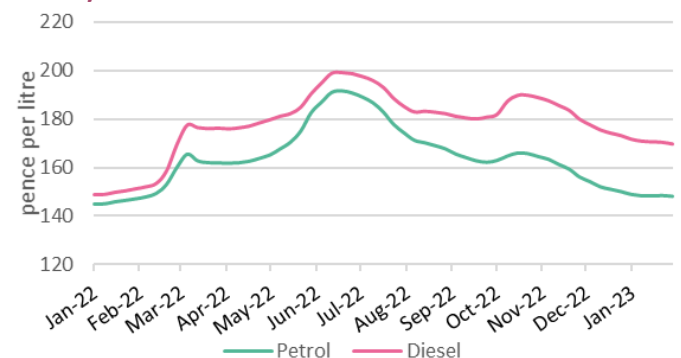


Poor energy efficiency dwellings will require more fuel for heating purposes, and, as a consequence, more CO2 emissions will be produced. The 218 thousand domestic properties in Leeds rated D or below produce an average of 5 tonnes of CO2 emissions each year. By contrast, the 131 thousand properties rated C or above produce an average of 2 tonnes of CO2 emissions each year. Energy efficiency improvements are key as they reduce energy and fuel consumption and, as a result, fuel poverty and CO2 emissions. If the housing stock of Leeds was all efficient, C or above, it could reduce the city's CO2 emissions by over half a million tonnes of CO2 every year. (LUHC)

## Road Fuel Prices:

Road fuel prices continue to fall from the peak reached in the week commencing 4 July 2022 (191.55ppl for petrol & 199.22ppl for diesel) to 147.99ppl for petrol and 169.66ppl for diesel as at 13 February 2023. (ONS)

### Weekly road Fuel Prices



## People in Poverty

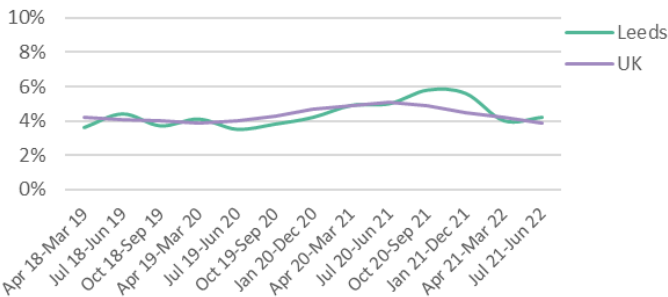
In Leeds, it is estimated that 174,491 people were living in poverty in 2019/20 and the DWP and HMRC estimate that 36,496 children were in poverty. Although all households in the UK are being impacted by the cost of living, low income households are being disproportionately impacted, and those below the poverty line are being pulled into deeper, more severe forms of financial crisis.

## Employment Rate:

In the year to June 2022, 384,300 people were estimated to be employed in Leeds, at a rate of 74.4% of the working age population. This was just below the national rate of 75.4%. Employment in Leeds has been increasing steadily on a quarterly basis since December 2021, but is still 2.6 percentage places below it's position in June 2021.

## Unemployment Rate:

In the year to June 2022, 17,000 people were estimated to be unemployed in Leeds, at a rate of 4.2% of the working age population. This was above the national rate of 3.9%. Unemployment in Leeds has been falling steadily from it's pandemic peak of 5.8% in the year to September 2021. Nationally unemployment levels peaked in the year to June 2021 at a rate of 5.1% during the pandemic, and has also been falling steadily since that time. (APS)

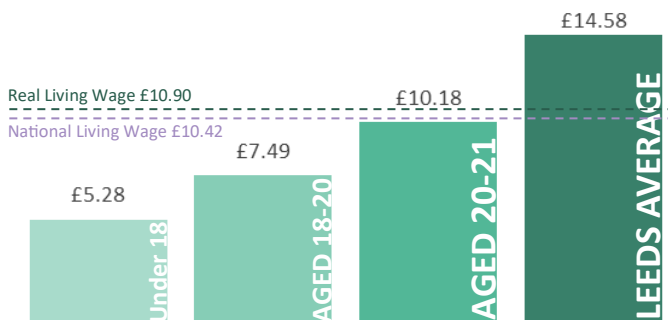


## Minimum/Living Wages:

The Living Wage Foundation recommend employers outside of London pay £10.90/hour from April 2023, currently the Government's National Living Wage is set at £10.42/hour for all employees aged 23 and over.

Although the median average wage for Leeds residents is £14.58/hour, an estimated 40,258 FTE Leeds residents earned less than the Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage in 2022 of £9.90/hour.

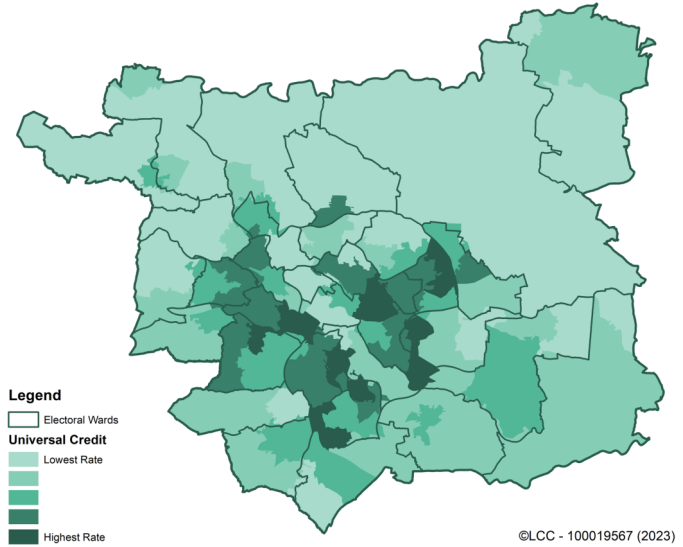
### Government National minimum wages



## Universal Credit Claimants:

73,429 people in Leeds were claiming Universal Credit (UC) in December 2022, of which 40% were in employment and 60% were not in employment. In February 2020, pre-pandemic, 33,715 people citywide were claiming UC, claims peaked in March 2021 to 74,515, the number of claimants had started to fall month on month until January 2022 to its lowest post pandemic level of 69,507. However, since this time UC levels have started to increase steadily again. (Stat-Xplore - People on UC)

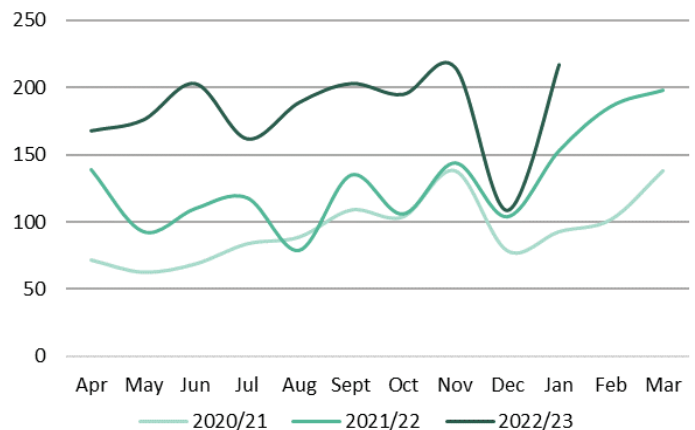
### UC Claimants as a proportion of Working Age Population.



## Welfare Rights Unit:

The Universal Credit Uplift of £20 ended November 2021, from then there has been an increase in benefit checks year on year. From April to January 2023 there were 1,873 requests for benefit checks with the Council's Welfare Right's Unit. This is up 55% from the 1,181 requests seen between April to January 2022. There was a dip in requests in December due to the Christmas period, as is the case every year. The overall results show that for 2022/23 so far the number of benefit checks carried out has significantly increased reflecting the cost of living crisis everyone is facing.

### Number of benefits checks carried out.



# Cost of Living Crisis Dashboard

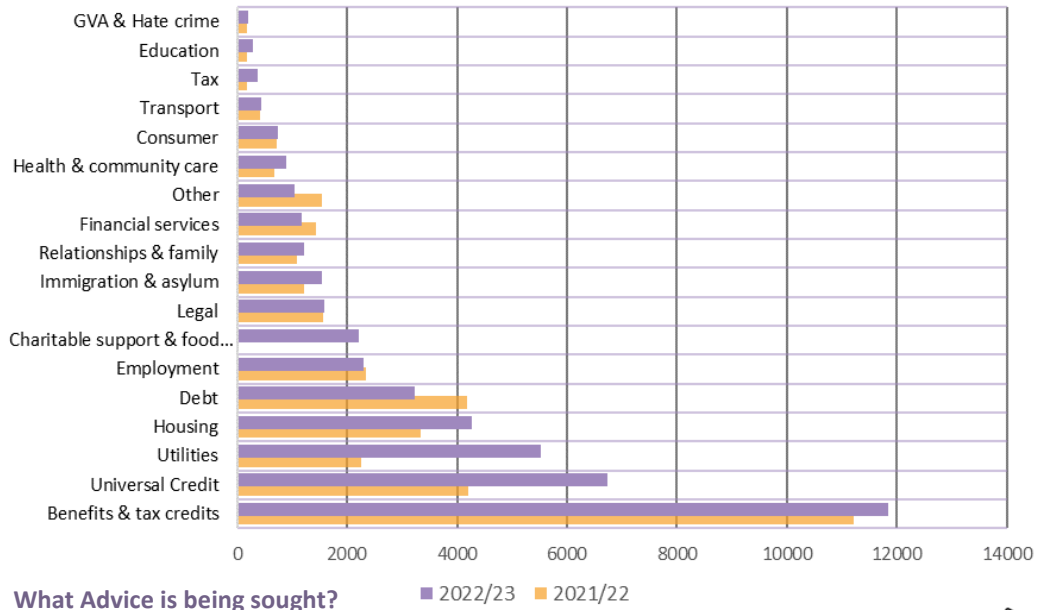
Leeds - February 2023

## Citizens Advice:

Client data from Citizens Advice Leeds and Chapelton provides an indication on the demand for advice services and the type of enquiries being seen. As of December 2022; enquiries on Benefits and tax credits, Universal Credit, Utilities, Housing, Debt, Employment and Charitable support/foodbanks were the most sought areas of advice.

Although Debt enquiries fell between 2021/22 and 2022/23, it should be noted this is not reflecting a fall in demand but a reduction in the number of debt advisers as a result of national funding changes.

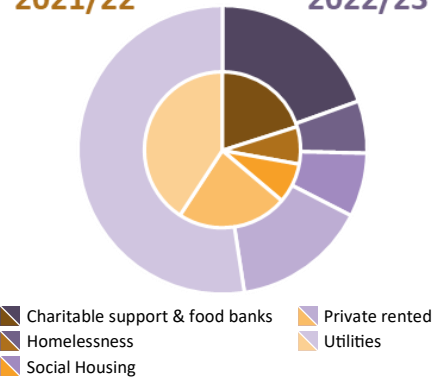
What Advice is being sought?



## Cost of Living Comparisons

2021/22

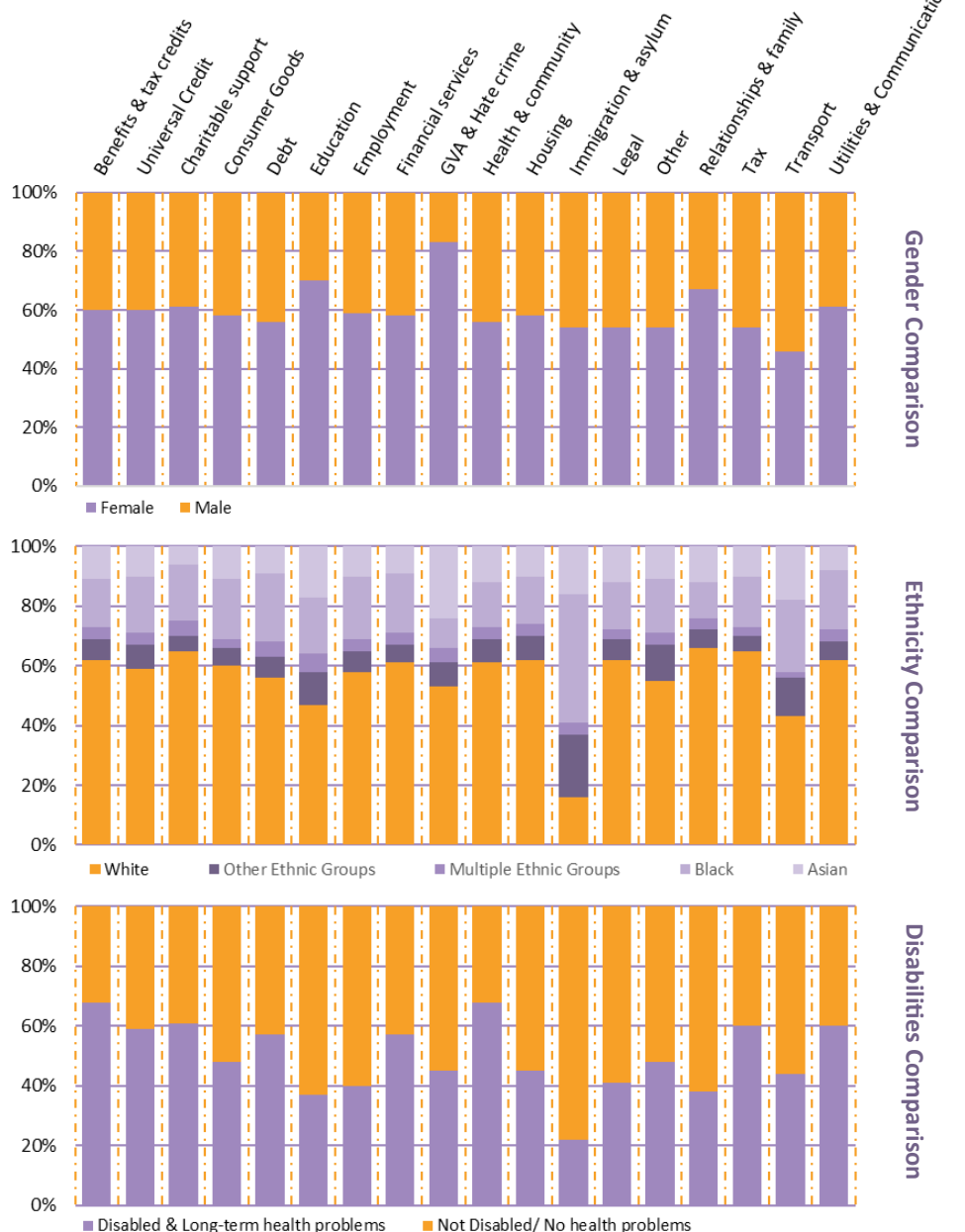
2022/23



The pie chart above demonstrates how key advice areas have increased considerably between 2021/22 to 2022/23 in relation to the cost of living. Enquiries relating to Utilities such as energy bills have increased by 127% and Charitable and foodbank support has increased by 71%.

The demography of local Citizens Advice data reveals that women, racially minoritised groups and disabled people/people with a long term health issue are all representing for advice at higher proportions than they are in the wider Leeds population. This indicates that these groups are being more severely affected by the cost of living crisis than the overall population. 41% of all clients in 2022/23 were from priority wards which include the 1% most deprived neighbourhoods according to the IMD 2019.

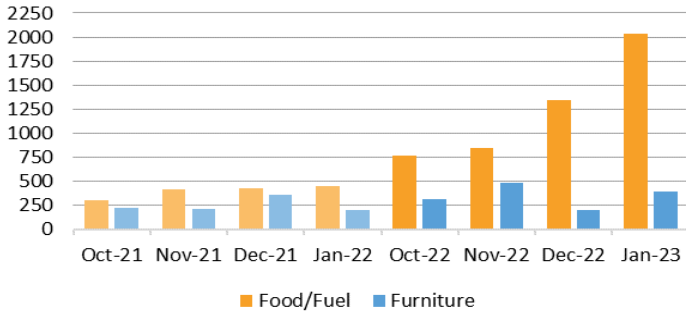
What Advice is being sought?



## Local Welfare Support Scheme:

The Local Welfare Support Scheme (LWSS) supports residents experiencing financial hardship and in emergency or crisis, offering short term support to ease that position. This typically consists of an award made up of one or a number of the following: supermarket vouchers, fuel vouchers, white goods, furniture and flooring, all of which is underpinned by the provision of advice, guidance and signposting to additional services and partner agencies.

### Applications to LWSS

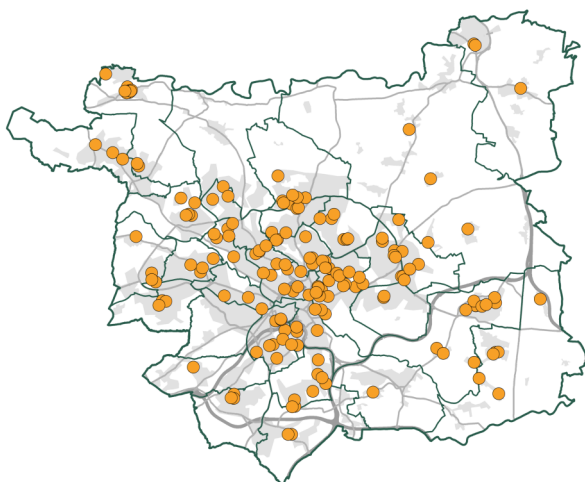


LWSS is currently seeing unprecedented demand for emergency support for food, energy and household goods. There were 7,906 calls to the service during January 2023, up 72% from 4,605 calls in December 2022. The service regularly experiences increased repeat contact from customers during periods of high demand, which can also lead to longer call time, queues and abandoned calls.

Currently, the majority of LWSS applicants have never previously applied to the scheme and the most common reason for applying is due to the rising cost of living and the applicant's income no longer meeting their outgoings. Most applications are for emergency food or fuel which have increased by 52% from 1,342 applications in December 2022 to 2,037 in January 2023.

## Warm Spaces:

Led by Leeds City Council, VAL, Forum Central and Leeds FAN, a citywide coordinated approach to the provision of warm spaces for vulnerable people during the winter months has been established. 65% of people in Leeds are 10 minutes walk from a warm space. Support, including food, activities and signposting to advice services are currently available at 180 venues\* across the city. \*at time of publication



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## Leeds Food Aid Network:

Leeds FAN helps bring different people, initiatives and institutions together who are involved in tackling food poverty in Leeds. This includes foodbanks, drop ins / soup kitchens, Street Outreaches, specialised services providing food for Asylum seekers / Refugees, informal parish pantries and certain forms of Social Enterprise run on a community café/pay as you feel models.

FareShare Yorkshire – part of Leeds FAN – prioritises getting food distributed to where it is needed using the skills, abilities and resources originally set up by the national organisation FareShare UK. FareShare takes surplus food from the food industry and distributes it fairly to different food aid providers. Latest figures reveal:

	April 2019 - Mar 2020	April 2020 - Mar 2021	April 2021 - Mar 2022
Number of times people accessed foodbank / parcels by referral	41,606	61,137	41,703
Estimated number of Food parcels given informally by organisations that are open to a broad range of people.	15,968	153,335	65,829
Estimated number of Meals / Sandwich Batches	108,345	100,707	77,125

41,703 people have accessed a foodbank in 2021/22. This is a 32% fall on the support level required during the pandemic in 2020/21, and a 0.2% rise on pre pandemic levels of support required during 2019/20.

77,125 meals were given out through a drop in or through Street Outreach. Food provision via this route has continued to decrease since 2019/20\*\*

65,829 food parcels were given out informally via Community Care Hubs, Emergency Food Provisions, parish pantries etc which is a 57% drop on 2020/21 but a 312% increase on pre pandemic support in 2019/20.\*\*\*

\*\* The multiple significant changes from 2019/20 to 2021.22 are attributable to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. New citywide emergency food processes were established and many more local organisations began to offer food support in order to respond to increased demand, caused by self isolation and shielding measures in addition to residents otherwise identified as vulnerable.

\*\*\* National Government lockdown restrictions and new processes locally also changed the way some vulnerable residents accessed food support which also impacted the figures from 2020/21 onwards i.e Some food banks and provisions such as street outreaches/drop ins were unable to operate, particularly during lockdown periods, and residents that would ordinarily have accessed food via these services were supported through alternative emergency food processes instead.

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**LEEDS STRATEGIC COST OF LIVING PLAN**

This plan outlines the response to the Cost-of-Living crisis by Leeds City Council and partners. The aim of the plan is set out how as a city we are working together to harness the capacity and capability in Leeds, our communities and those with lived experience to develop a city solution to welfare provision and addressing the cost-of-living crisis.

This plan will ensure that the council maintains the infrastructure to respond to short term crisis and use collaborative approaches to build resilience for medium and long terms.

	Action Area	Progress update
<b>1</b>	<b>Governance and oversight</b>	
1.1	Strategic and Operational groups with cross sector representation	<p>The following strategic and operational groups with representatives from across Council, NHS, DWP, third sector and wider public sector, have been established and have been meeting since September 2022;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Cost of Living meeting- Directors and senior leaders meeting every quarter</li> <li>• Cost of Living and Welfare Board- Senior Officers and partners meeting every two weeks</li> <li>• Task and finish groups with specific focus on; integrated communication, information, advice and guidance, practical support, funding and reporting.</li> <li>• Financial Inclusion steering group- meetings stepped up to fortnightly to ensure wider partners and services experiences have been taken into account and key messages disseminated.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Communications and engagement</b>	
2.1	Together Leeds Cost of Living webpage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Together Leeds Cost of Living webpage <a href="http://www.leeds.gov.uk/costofliving">www.leeds.gov.uk/costofliving</a> which is a one stop shop for all cost-of-living information and advice. It includes sections on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Finances- Link to Money Information Centre <a href="http://www.leedsmic.org.uk">www.leedsmic.org.uk</a></li> <li>○ Heating</li> <li>○ Water</li> <li>○ Housing</li> <li>○ Warm spaces (separate page created and mapping added)</li> <li>○ Help in hubs</li> <li>○ Health</li> <li>○ Food</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Events- Cost of Living filter added to the Leeds Directory to provide details of events/ activities by postcode</li> <li>● Cost of Living artwork developed to work in tandem with Winter Wellbeing campaign</li> <li>● Together Leeds brand used to continue the city-wide team approach</li> <li>● This has resulted in the webpage receiving 21,704 page views and 17,067 unique page views between 1 October and 31 December</li> <li>●</li> </ul>
2.2	Social media and online campaigns for Together Leeds Cost of Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Developed social media content plan, which included ongoing organic and paid social media across all channels, this has resulted in 237,044 impressions; 5,127 link clicks; 1,756 shares/RTs across all platforms between 1 October and 31 December</li> <li>● Gov delivery direct emails to over 100k residents reinstated fortnightly, with an average of 40% of recipients opening and roughly 4,000 clicking on links for further information.</li> <li>● Promoting free and low-cost activities for people each week (particularly for families in run up to Christmas)</li> </ul>
2.3	Offline Together Leeds Cost of Living campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Radio advertising campaign (4 weeks)</li> <li>● Outdoor adverts including free/low-cost billboards and digital screens</li> <li>● Posters on local community boards signposting to libraries and community hubs, or website</li> <li>● Posters and flyers to all our children’s centres and nurseries</li> <li>● Posters for Warm Space venues</li> <li>● 3,000 leaflets through doors in key areas (localities team)</li> <li>● 1,000 leaflets through doors in high rises and other homes in Inner East Leeds and other areas (Housing team)</li> </ul>
2.4	Letter to Chancellor of the Exchequer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Letter sent on 10<sup>th</sup> January stating city concerns on the cost-of-living crisis, it’s impacts on the people of Leeds and its services, setting out key funding asks and specific issues to be addressed. Send from the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Communities and co-signed by organisations across Leeds.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter shared with key local media contacts, resulting interviews with the Leader and Radio Leeds, Calendar and YEP.</li> </ul>
2.5	PR	<p>Positive press response to the launch of our Warm Spaces. This will continue to form a key part of our work to help residents struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. We’re also focusing on good news stories such as the success of the winter coat appeal and heating on prescription pilot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">All 36 'warm places' in Leeds you can visit to avoid using your central heating this winter as cost of living crisis bites - Leeds Live (leeds-live.co.uk)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Leeds warm spaces: The full list of everywhere you can go to keep warm for free this winter   Yorkshire Evening Post</a></li> <li><a href="#">Where can I keep warm this winter? Our guide to warm spaces in West Leeds... - West Leeds Dispatch</a></li> <li><a href="#">Leeds Warm Spaces Map - Network Leeds</a></li> <li><a href="#">Where to find a 'warm space' in Leeds amid rising energy bills   ITV News Calendar</a></li> <li><a href="#">Full list of Bradford's Warm Spaces and opening times this December   Bradford Telegraph and Argus (thetelegraphandargus.co.uk)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Leeds residents donate 3,500 winter coats to help vulnerable people this winter   Yorkshire Evening Post</a></li> </ul>
2.6	Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>State of the city</b> –the annual event was held on 7 December 2022 in the Leeds Civic Hall, organised and hosted by Leeds City Council and attended by 160 people from a wide range of city partners including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>49 locally elected councillors across political parties</li> <li>33 representatives from organisations within the Leeds Anchors Network including Leeds City Council, Leeds City College, Leeds Trinity University, University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust, Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust and Northern Gas Networks</li> <li>11 private sector representatives</li> <li>49 people from across the community, voluntary and faith sector including community organisations, housing associations, advice organisations and people with lived experience</li> </ul> </li> <li>The event was designed to encourage a city-wide conversation about what is already being done in response (that can be shared and rolled out further) and where Leeds can work together to go further, within available means and resources in order to minimise the impacts of rising living costs on the poorest residents, support businesses and organisations through economic shocks, particularly</li> </ul>

		<p>those that are most vulnerable, many of which will be in our third sector and build greater security for the city’s future. The full evaluation of the event is attached at <b>appendix 3</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community events</b> being held across the city signposting people to relevant support and advice including via LCC Community Hubs, Local Care Partnership and Public Health teams in school settings</li> <li>• <b>Inclusive Anchor Financial Wellbeing</b> week: Coordinated by Leeds City Council in partnership with Inclusive Anchor partners (largest organisations in the city), the first Inclusive Anchor Financial Wellbeing week was hosted in October 2022, with around 250 employees from anchor organisations attending sessions. The sessions covered a wide range of topics, including improving energy efficiency in the home, money and menopause and cooking on a budget.</li> <li>• <b>Meeting of Housing Association partners</b> (led by Housing Leeds) to share the city’s Cost of Living work and provide an opportunity for Housing Associations to share issues and impacts.</li> </ul>
2.7	Housing Leeds – Winter/Christmas campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The campaign began on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and is centred around support/ advice with early customer contact and interventions on arrears cases and linked into wider corporate messages / themes.</li> <li>• Local Housing Offices have developed campaigns, tailored to their resources and customer needs.</li> <li>• Communications campaign/ social media promoting partner agencies events and general financial advice/ money saving ideas.</li> <li>• Area Teams have organised local events with partner agencies to provide advice and support. These have been held using the mobile office on estates or in community venues.</li> </ul>
2.8	Housing Leeds ‘We’re Here to Help’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme running through Housing Leeds campaign, communications, email footers and posters.</li> <li>• Key message - helping tenants to access benefits and other support to ease financial hardship – included within each month’s tenant email.</li> <li>• Restated commitment that ‘no one in Leeds will lose their council home because of financial hardship where they are positively engaging to get their payments back on track, and making payments in line with a planned arrangement’.</li> <li>• Continued partnership working with Leeds Credit Union to make effective use of the Money and Advice Budgeting Services (MABS)</li> </ul>

3 Information, Advice and Guidance		
3.1	Leeds Money Information Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leeds Money Information Centre website details of <b>free, independent, and confidential</b> advice and support in Leeds.</li> <li>• All information reflects the current situation and is updated regularly.</li> <li>• New integrated mapping- includes all advice points, food aid map, where to access digital services, Leeds School Uniform Exchange, Winter Coats, and Warm Space map.</li> <li>• Physical resources available including flyers (including translations), concertinas and business cards.</li> <li>• Over 70,000 resources have been distributed to organisations including council services, NHS and health settings, DWP, third sector and universities between October 2022 and January 2023.</li> </ul>
3.2	Google drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure there is awareness amongst frontline services of the support available in the city and key messages around the cost-of-living crisis a google drive which can be shared across organisations has been created.</li> <li>• There are themed folders on Communications, Money, Housing, Health, Food and Energy. There is also a folder with training and awareness videos on key themes and information on how to order physical resources.</li> </ul>
3.3	Training and awareness raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suite of themed awareness video have been developed to be shared with frontline staff and volunteers on key subjects including advice and support, energy, mental health. These are also included within the google drive.</li> <li>• Financial Inclusion Team have delivered training and awareness sessions to a wide range of council (including elected members) and health services, between October 2022 and January 2023, reaching an estimated 2000 people. This has included; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adult Social Care- Better Lives Board, Better Together, Forum for Race Equality in Social care and Health</li> <li>○ Childrens Services: Social care staff, Directors Development session</li> <li>○ Communities, Housing &amp; Environment: Leadership forum, Housing Associations, Migration Partnership</li> <li>○ Resources: Shared services staff</li> <li>○ Health: Heath and Wellbeing Board, Public Health Want to Know More About session, Local Care Partnership, Target conference video, Primary Care Network Fuel poverty and support</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Elected members: Community Committees Chairs, Inner North East workshop</li> <li>○ City partnerships: Leeds Debt Forum, DWP Leeds staff, Leeds Food Aid Network, Leeds Community Anchor Network</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Practical Support</b>	
4.1	Debt Relief Orders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Financial Inclusion team have recently commissioned a new pilot to support people who may require access to a debt relief order. A debt relief order can help people who have significant debts of up to £30,000k, to have breathing space from creditors for up to 12 months for them to improve their longer-term position. A barrier to accessing this support is that people must pay a £90 admin fee to have a DRO set up. Often this is unaffordable.</li> <li>● The pilot will pay this fee for people who cannot afford to pay it themselves, ensuring they can access the DRO. Ebor Gardens Advice Centre will administer the £90 fee to all advice agencies in the city who will pay this on behalf of people they are supporting. This pilot will have quarterly review meetings in place to ensure it is running effectively.</li> </ul>
4.2	Heating on Prescription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Leeds Heating on prescription pilot will focus on supporting clinically vulnerable patients who have conditions which are likely to be exacerbated by living in a cold environment. Referral pathways include: Virtual Wards, PCNs, LTHT, Leeds York Partnership Foundation Trust, Neighbourhood Networks.</li> <li>● Funding applied will increase the capacity of Leeds Green Doctors service. All patients referred into the scheme will have access to an enhanced fuel support offer, which depending upon individual circumstances will enable them to heat their homes as much as required through the remaining winter months of Feb/March (fuel support offered may scale up/down accordingly).</li> <li>● Wrap around support will also be offered in terms of income saving and advice, energy use and health and wellbeing.</li> </ul>
4.3	Local Welfare Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Designed to support residents in an emergency or crisis - short term support such as supermarket voucher, fuel voucher, white goods, furniture or flooring. The Local Welfare Support Scheme has been under review since August Key changes to the scheme include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Revised eligibility criteria - providing more equitable access in line with current cost of living. (Actioned)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhanced fuel support offer – which has seen fuel awards increased in response to current energy costs and wider energy efficiency advice offered with every fuel award. (Actioned)</li> <li>○ Introduction of direct and third-party online referrals – to open up application methods and reduce pressure on Contact Centre. (In development)</li> <li>○ Introduction of a person-centred support programme - that will connect customers to wider support services in Leeds, e.g. debt management, benefits advice or budgeting support. (In development)</li> </ul>
4.4	Warm Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A network of over 180 locations have been established including all LCC community hubs and libraries. All offer a space where people can gather for free in a warm, safe, and welcoming space.</li> <li>● Over 65% of the Leeds population are within a 10-minute walk of a Warm Space.</li> <li>● Voluntary Action Leeds are distributing funding from the West Yorkshire Mayoral Fund to support third sector and faith based Warm Spaces.</li> <li>● The first funding round (£150k allocated) covered organisations that had joined the map by 9 December and includes payments to 115 Warm Spaces, plus support to Leeds Community Anchor Network to co-ordinate services and to provide a micro grant scheme.</li> <li>● The second grant round (£45,000) launched 30/01/23 and extends funding to organisation that joined the map between December and end of January. This round focuses on addressing underserved places (based on GIS modelling), serving Communities of Interest, and improving accessibility of existing Warm Spaces. In cooperation with Forum Central, a network of ‘Enhanced’ Warm Spaces will also be established for people with poor respiratory health or health/COVID-19 concerns or anxiety. A contingency to increase coverage where needed is also included.</li> <li>● Based on partial sampling - 4000 unique visits in January 2023 alone have been recorded, with an average of 9 visitors per session.</li> </ul>
4.5	Winter coats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Led by Zero Waste Leeds and funded by LCC. Over 3500 coats collected and distributed across community locations in the city including through LCC hubs and libraries in November 2022</li> <li>● Due to the success of the campaign, the scheme has been extended, utilising a self-supporting model (sites both collect and redistribute coats). The scheme is expected to continue throughout the winter period (estimated close in March 2023).</li> </ul>

4.6	Winter Wellbeing packs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health are working with West Yorkshire Fire &amp; Rescue to pilot a project provide 300 winter wellbeing packs.</li> <li>• This will be part of the fire safety checks undertaken when visiting vulnerable people in their homes and will be alongside a referral to the Green Doctor service, Care and Repair or other relevant support.</li> <li>• As well as practical items, like blankets, thermos mugs, gloves, socks etc there will also be information leaflets on where to get further advice and support (Leeds MIC), Neighbourhood networks, Linking Leeds information.</li> </ul>
4.7	Housing Leeds – Housing Officer Income (HOI) Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Leeds Housing Officer Income (HOI) provide tenants with a range of financial support, including benefits and grant applications, as well as dealing with any rent arrears and referrals to other advice and support such as debt advice. From October to December 2022, 1117 tenant households were supported – an increase of 9.83% (1017 tenants supported for October to December 2021).</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>Funding</b>	
5.1	Household Support Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government funding of £7.1m to support vulnerable people with the costs of energy, food and essential items between October and the end of March 2023. Funding is being used as follows;             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support to Housing Benefit recipients not eligible for the £650 DWP Cost of Living payment</li> <li>○ £70 payments to working age people in receipt of Council Tax Support- Letters sent out w/c 5<sup>TH</sup> December.</li> <li>○ Additional funding to the Local Welfare Support Scheme and additional payments for people claiming Discretionary Housing Payments.</li> <li>○ Funding to Childrens services and Housing Leeds to support residents.</li> <li>○ Third sector support through Leeds Community Anchor Network (via Voluntary Action Leeds), Forum Central, Leeds Food Aid Network and advice organisations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In the autumn statement the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the programme would be extended for 12 months from April 2023. No further details have been received to-date.</li> </ul>



5.2	Holiday Activity and Food Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy Holiday's programme in Leeds provides activities and a healthy hot meal for children in receipt of Free School Meals, over the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays.</li> <li>• <b>158 providers</b> operated over this holiday period. Provision is a mix of third sector, schools based and through Community Hubs ensuring availability is varied and local to children and young people.</li> <li>• Targeted to reach <b>4,500</b> children at Christmas but over 5800 children and young people actually took part in Healthy Holiday activities and over 29,000 portions of nutritious, predominantly hot meals were served across the programme.</li> <li>• Details of the programme and all delivery partners can be found at <a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/healthy-holidays">Healthy Holidays (leeds.gov.uk)</a> any queries should be directed to <a href="mailto:healthyholidays@leeds.gov.uk">healthyholidays@leeds.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Work is now ongoing planning the programme for 2023 with bids assessed for the third sector; schools' assessment panels currently convened and the development of the Leeds City Council programme underway, including a focus upon targeting under-represented cohorts of children and younger people including older young people and children living in families with experience of domestic abuse.</li> </ul>
5.3	West Yorkshire Mayoral Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Yorkshire Mayoral Fund- mainly being used to support the third sector warm spaces and increase in year funding to the Leeds Advice Contract.</li> </ul>
5.4	UK Shared Prosperity Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customer Access has been awarded UKSPF funding, areas relevant to cost of living are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 22/23: £400k capital funding for Local Welfare support Scheme – additional funding will support those impacted by the cost-of-living crisis, and who require emergency support from the Council.</li> <li>- 23/24: £125k for the provision of additional advice and guidance services.</li> <li>- 24/25: £125k for the provision of additional advice and guidance services.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5.5	British Gas Energy Trust Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British Gas Energy Trust, through their corporate social responsibility commitments have worked with Housing Leeds to provide tenants with up to £147 of energy vouchers.</li> <li>• The amount awarded to LCC council tenants is £120k in total.</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Reporting</b>	
6.1	Cost of Living Dashboard	Please see appendix one

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## **STATE OF THE CITY 2022:**

### **TeamLeeds – Responding to the Cost of Living Crisis**

**Reporting on the event held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Prepared by Nicky Denison and Les Newby**

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## 1) Introduction to this Report

Leeds' annual State of the City event was held on 7 December 2022 in the Leeds Civic Hall, organised and hosted by Leeds City Council and attended by 160 people from a wide range of city partners including:

- 49 locally elected councillors across political parties
- 33 representatives from organisations within the Leeds Anchors Network including Leeds City Council, Leeds City College, Leeds Trinity University, University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust, Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust and Northern Gas Networks
- 11 private sector representatives
- 49 people from across the community, voluntary and faith sector including community organisations, housing associations, advice organisations and people with lived experience

The focus of this year's event was on the considerable impacts of the rising cost of living on people and organisations in Leeds. It was designed to encourage a city-wide conversation about what is already being done in response (that can be shared and rolled out further) and where Leeds can work together to go further, within available means and resources to:

- Minimise the impacts of rising living costs on the poorest residents
- Support businesses and organisations through economic shocks, particularly those that are most vulnerable, many of which will be in our third sector
- Build greater security for the city's future

To stimulate this discussion, the event brought together voices from a range of sectors and those on the frontline of the crisis, with a strong focus on action and participation through facilitated table discussions. An additional objective was also to continue momentum built around the city's longstanding mission to tackle poverty and inequality while improving quality of life for everyone in Leeds via the [Best City Ambition](#), and to continue to draw support and contributions from colleagues, partners and communities across all parts of the city.

This report has been produced with support from Northern Gas Networks working as part of the Leeds Inclusive Anchors Network. It provides an overview of the core inputs and contributions made at the event – both by those invited to address the audience as part of the agenda and by the audience itself as part of facilitated table discussions and via the online Slido tool. The sections that follow mirror the agenda on the day. Additionally, an annex sums up reflections and potential opportunities for the Leeds Anchor Network in terms of actions that could be taken by network members in response.

## 2) Welcome: Cllr James Lewis, Leader, Leeds City Council

Cllr Lewis welcomed delegates and noted how positive it was to have such a diverse group of people and organisations coming together to discuss the critical issue of the cost of living crisis. Points made in setting the scene were that:

- Following unprecedented partnership working during the pandemic, Leeds has moved from a 'Best Council Plan' to a 'Best City Ambition', which reflects working across partnerships and sectors to face challenges and seize opportunities – a “TeamLeeds” approach. This includes action on inclusive growth, health and wellbeing, and climate change.
- The context of poverty and inequality is profound – for example, 24% of children and young people in Leeds are currently growing up in relative poverty.
- The purpose of the event is to support and reinforce the drive for everyone across the city to be working together to tackle these challenges.

**Twitter:** Tom Riordan, Chief Executive, Leeds City Council: *V good State of the City event focused on the cost of living crisis with packed Civic Hall and excellent speakers and panels. As ever lots of quality Team Leeds response but so much more to do.*

Cllr Lewis stressed that there are already many positive initiatives to build on, including:

- Work by Leeds Anchor Network<sup>1</sup> organisations focused on directing procurement to boost local supply chains as a route to greater recirculation of money in the city, on providing good jobs and pay, and on ensuring services support those facing disadvantage
- The Food Aid Network established during COVID to help people with isolation and now playing its part in tackling this crisis
- Universities and colleges supporting their students
- Communities coming together to drive local action such as Food Pantries and Warm Spaces

These examples show what can be achieved through the TeamLeeds approach, with Cllr Lewis urging the group to focus during the event on what more can be done.

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<sup>1</sup> The Leeds Anchor Network brings together 13 of the city's major public bodies and utility businesses; alongside the Leeds Community Anchor Network established to bring community level anchor organisations together



Source: Cllr Annie Maloney, Twitter

### 3) Keynote Speaker: Dame Julia Unwin, former Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Dame Julia Unwin opened by thanking Leeds and the City Council for making the cost of living crisis a focus for this year's event and described that her address would consider the origins of the crisis before detailing what this means for people and why it is so important for places like Leeds to act.

In respect to the origins of the crisis, she described us as being "*in the eye of the perfect storm*" in which three critical determinants were at play:

- a) **Covid-19** – that changed the lives of people globally; was hugely divisive in respect to age, race and socio-economic experience; and that had left a legacy of fear, anxiety and anger
- b) **Climate change** – being real and evident and having an enormous impact now and in ways that will change the global world order for the long term
- c) **Conflict** – that being war in mainland Europe having a significant impact across the global economy; conflict in our own society with racial discrimination at the fore; and conflict in institutions in the form of industrial action

Dame Julia positioned the cost of living crisis as the next in a rolling wave of crises, albeit one that the poorest in society have been living with for some time, using as an example of this the stark number of children living in poverty. This poverty is becoming further entrenched through the current crisis thanks to the 'poverty premium' i.e. that households in poverty spend a much greater proportion of their limited incomes on basic needs such as food, housing and energy, with the rising costs we are seeing making it even more *"expensive to be poor."* She made apparent the anger, frustration and anxiety that this roots in to households who have do not have any room in their finances to simply *"tighten their belts"* and the space that this presented for 'bad actors' to create toxic and hateful narratives if places deny these emotions across their populations.

With this in mind, Dame Julia stressed that how you respond as a city to this crisis, in the context of such lingering and heightened emotions in communities, is critical; and that a city such as Leeds must use all of the levers at its disposal to make the right decisions that will make a real difference to help people here to cope. She stressed:

- Failing to consider procurement – such as the employment practices of large contractors (e.g. large scale cleaning contracts) – is in effect hardwiring poverty
- Pursuing any growth over good growth is hardwiring economic volatility
- Making capital decisions that result in the quickest payback is hardwiring places into being left behind
- Treating the third sector as irrelevant is dismissing the community action that is essential to supporting people and places to navigate this crisis

Dame Julia presented the audience with three ways of thinking through this challenge – the *"three Ps"*:

- 1) Focus on the power of place:** *"hyper-local matters"* because places are home to rich and dense civic society networks that can support the poorest as part of inclusive growth but that need decent long term investment if they are to do so, with Leeds being well positioned to do this based on existing successful approaches to collaboration and cross sector working.
- 2) Pay attention to the pockets of the poor:** people in poverty are already paying a premium for their basic needs and that is being further entrenched. Places need to understand why this happens and then be prepared to take risks to respond in ways that can make a difference.
- 3) Support peoples' prospects:** people who already feel divided, angry and anxious are not well placed to think about their next steps. Their prospects are also hugely dependent on the place they live. In a time of crisis, inclusive growth can easily be knocked off track by a desire to return to growth of any form. Maintaining a focus on enabling peoples' prospects to grow in the current climate is essential to ensuring people are not further left behind.



Dame Julia concluded by stressing that the sort of civic leadership and sense of shared responsibility found in Leeds is key but cautioned that this is not self-sustaining and must be nurtured and backed by a strong narrative of what is driving these institutions to act and to what end.

**Twitter:** Steve Hoey, Chief Executive, Turning Lives Around: *What we need according to Julia Unwin: emergency help, yes, plus, recognise the power of place - hyperlocal was key during covid, circular economy helps. Dismantle poverty and debt. Improve people's prospects. Civic leadership, shared responsibility.*

#### **4) First Table Discussion: Impacts and City Response**

This first of two table discussions focused on the impacts being seen as a result of the crisis and immediate action being taken in response by local organisations across the public, third and private sectors. Tables were asked to consider two questions, the key points of which are set out below, including those captured via the Slido online facility, and grouped into themes.

**Question 1: What are the main impacts of the cost of living crisis that you are seeing on people, businesses or organisations in Leeds?**

##### **Poverty and household finances**

- Increasing levels of poverty and numbers of people in dire need
- Greater range of people impacted including those who have not had to seek support before and therefore do not know where to go
- Increasing number of people falling into debt
- People unable to afford utilities including broadband and mobile phone contracts
- Lack of financial literacy, notably amongst young people who have not previously had to manage their finances and are now having to navigate issues such as shifting prices, confusing fine prints in housing contracts and national interventions/policies and understand how these things will impact them and their finances

##### **Food**

- Increasing demand for, and dependence on, food banks/pantries across communities
- Increase in number of people requesting food that does not requiring cooking as they cannot afford to cook or do not have the equipment
- Far greater range of people using food banks, with increasing use by working people
- Increased levels of hunger in children
- Mental health impacts and sense of panic over where food and meals will come from

##### **Housing, fuel and warmth**

- Increases in people not using heating due to inability to cover increasing costs and further compounded for people with more costly prepayment meters fitted

- More cold, damp homes as a result of reduced heating with impacts on health and wellbeing, especially for people who require consistent warmth to manage health conditions
- Mental health impacts and uncertainty over fuel costs and how to stay warm
- Fewer people with funds available to make home improvements to help keep them warm
- More people accessing warm spaces
- Increased housing issues notably in respect to private landlord evictions and increasing rents
- Increased need for emergency housing yet lack of appropriate supply, especially for younger women who do not feel existing provision is safe for them
- Increases in homelessness
- Increased demand for affordable homes with demand far outstripping supply

### **Health**

- Increasing numbers of people suffering with deteriorations in mental health and suicidal ideation triggered by stress, anxiety, fear and worry including over ability to afford bills
- Deterioration in mental resilience and sense that people are consumed by many challenges
- More people coming to advise partners and with more complex issues, including diminished ability to cope with previous traumas
- Increases in safeguarding issues as a result of mental health
- Increasing prevalence of mental health amongst a wider range of people, with notable impacts on young people
- Deepening health inequalities and disproportionate impacts on people with existing conditions including worsening conditions as a result of being unable to heat home
- Increased prevalence of ill-health due to the effects of damp
- Increasing numbers of people unable to pay for paid services such as dentist and opticians

### **Societal**

- Increased domestic violence, violence against children and tensions between people leading to violence
- Increase in shoplifting
- Sense that we are not all in it together, especially given disproportionate impact of the crisis on poor areas, minority communities and disabled people
- Normalisation of poverty and destitution
- New cohorts forced to ask for help who never thought that they would need a safety net
- Potential increases in exploitation and safeguarding issues
- Increased loan shark use
- Impact on young people e.g. those leaving care needing greater support and rising levels of student anxiety and demand for hardship funding
- Limited access to the over-stretched services required to support people in communities

### **Organisational – cross sector**

- Increased staff anxiety, stress, burnout and sickness and a sense of staff being consumed by many challenges
- Staff struggling with increased costs and in supporting themselves e.g. anecdotally nurses coming to work without breakfast and impacting on wellbeing whilst in work

- Organisations making cost of living pay increases to staff because it is the 'right thing to do' but with question marks over true affordability and as such impact on long term sustainability

### **Organisational – public and third sectors**

- Increase in demand for already over-stretched services across public and voluntary provision in areas such as advice on finance, food, housing etc and leading to overwhelmed staff
- Demand pressures compounded by increased operational costs and reduced funding
- Sense of organisations being consumed by many challenges
- Councillors receiving a significantly increased casework, much of which is associated with fuel cost anxiety (especially regarding prepayment meters and by households needing consistent heating associated with health conditions); and by business owners concerned for the future of their business, especially due to heating bills
- Staffing tensions leading to strikes and staff shortages

### **Organisational – specifically third sector**

- Eroding service provision including due to loss of volunteers who are needing to take up paid work and diminished funding and donations
- Despair amongst third sector as more people come forward for support requiring waiting lists where this has never been needed before e.g. for drug/alcohol support
- For permanent staff in third sector – pressures on recruitment and retention; burnout as staff are unable to disconnect from working with people in desperate situations; admin roles becoming front facing roles due to demand pressures
- Threat to ground level third sector as larger organisations such as NHS look inwards with their funding and not commission out
- View that the third sector is doing the job of statutory services

### **Organisational – specifically private sector**

- Reduced income for businesses as people spend less
- Continued struggle to rebuild finances/repay debt post-Covid
- Business owners concerned for the future of their business in the face of increased cost of running the business and uncertainty
- Potential impact on business closures and hence increased unemployment and poverty

**Question 2: If you are representing an organisation, what immediate actions are you taking already in response to the crisis?**

### **Poverty and household finances**

- Debt advice and debt relief grants
- Money buddies, including co-location with food banks
- Financial advice
- Giving out loans

- Wellbeing fund
- Additional funds made available for winter grants to get through this winter
- Help for people in applying for grants and benefits

### **Food**

- Leeds Food Strategy
- Food pantries – including joint funding by local government and third sector
- Church Harvest collection
- Ward community food programme
- Out of hours food provision
- Provision of slow cookers

### **Housing, fuel and warmth**

- Warm Spaces - 108 registered from a start point of 40 with Leeds City Council providing website infrastructure and third sector helping to increase capacity
- Fuel vouchers across Citizens Advice, Leeds FAN and Fuel Bank Foundation
- Finance for home insulation with voluntary groups setting up support to help in installation
- Housing Support Fund
- New residents associations established to voice concerns
- Directing Housing Advisory Panels (HAPs) and community committee funding
- Clarion's creation of modular homes for the homeless working with St George's Crypt
- Coat and clothing exchanges

### **Health**

- MIND and DIAL providing support with food banks and green doctors referrals
- Running groups for men to help with mental health (but only with short term funding)
- Local anchor institutions action on health concerns e.g. OFFLOAD initiative on male suicide prevention in West Leeds supported by Leeds Rhinos & Leeds Community Foundation
- Active travel support
- Lots of good healthy holiday provision (but could deliver 10 times as much)

### **Societal**

- Running social wellbeing groups such as woodworking and gardening
- Focus on de-stigmatising asking for help
- Councillors proactive in communities and using hyper-local funding to support and create community schemes and events offering free activities to people to counter isolation
- Support from religious institutions
- Digital engagement and volunteers who support others to get on line
- Measuring social value
- Supporting social enterprise
- Leeds City Council's Winter Friends project highlighting support and resources in Leeds, including recruiting volunteers as Winter Friends and support people in their community
- High street public events and circular economy initiatives (e.g. local lotteries) initiated
- Taking on a pastoral role

- Campaigning and activism

### **Organisational action**

- Support for students across further and higher education, including universities absorbing most rent increases and providing free transport between campuses and £2 meals
- Amending home working agreements to allow staff to come into the office for warmth
- Taskforce to work on cost of living impact of staff and service users
- Make sure staff have easy access to improve their skills
- Procurement above certain amount have social values in criteria
- Working with suppliers to redirect committed social value towards cost of living
- Factoring the cost of living into funding bids

### **Cross sector partnerships and collaboration**

- Leeds City Council breakthrough project and silver cost of living cross-sector task and finish group to help share knowledge and ideas on what works and what more is needed
- Organisations working together to identify most vulnerable groups
- Building innovative new partnerships
- Using networks to bring services together and to combine support
- Leeds Anchor Network focusing on local spend, social value and providing secure jobs which pay the real living wage etc.
- Leeds Community Anchor Network established and ready to build on
- Voluntary Action Leeds sharing resource
- Mutual cooperative - grass roots discussion and building on this further
- Focus on collaborative and coordinated approaches (rather than competition) with a direct link to communities
- Councillors building on positive relationships with third sector built during COVID as a route to co-produce a response to the cost of living crisis
- Coordination of debt support

### **Business action**

- Chamber of Commerce lobbying on issues for businesses
- Difficult trading conditions (pressure on spending and higher overheads on energy and materials) stimulating small businesses individually and jointly to respond with new offers
- Clarion's measurement of social value and provision of grants/advice via their foundation

## **5) Panel Session**

### ***Panellists:***

- *Phil Andrew, Chief Executive, StepChange Debt Charity*
- *Revd Canon Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall*
- *Hannah Bailey, Chief Officer, Voluntary Action Leeds*
- *Eileen Brown, Customer Experience Director, Northern Gas Networks (NGN)*
- *Kidist Teklemariam, Director, Unleashing Refugee Potential and Community Commissioner, Leeds Poverty Truth Commission*

The panel Chair, Cllr Debra Coupar (Leeds City Council's Executive Member for Resources and Deputy Leader) asked the panel to consider three questions, with key points set out below.

**Question 1: Please provide your reflections on Dame Julia Unwin's keynote speech**

- Eileen noted that the address resonated with what NGN are seeing in respect to 'crisis fatigue' amongst their customers and that whilst the business is providing immediate crisis support, it is also to carefully considering how this could be sustained in the face of a crisis that was unlikely to end quickly.
- Hannah reflected on points regarding community trauma and experience on the back of the pandemic and how this has rolled straight into the cost of living crisis. She wanted to see the city step back and consider its collective response as part of a compassionate city that does not want to normalise destitution but instead find radical ideas to take action forward.
- Reverend Arun highlighted the comments regarding the potential for toxic voices to heighten the anger and incite communities to look for someone or people to blame and that there was a need as such for places to reconfirm a shared narrative against this.
- Kidist welcomed a focus on procurement and how sub-contract arrangements can be used to instil better pay, treatment and fairness for employees.
- Phil stressed that his organisation is getting to the point where 35% of cases presented to them can no longer be helped via routes such as supporting people on income or benefit maximisation, in other words, support is unable to get them to the monthly breakeven point needed to stabilise their situation.

**Twitter:** Cllr Andrew Scopes: *StepChange will have c6m people contacting them for help this year and think the peak of demand for their services will be next April. In this context the Government is cutting their funding by £8m. This could be devastating for many people in our city!*

**Question 2: What impacts are you seeing in your organisations?**

- Eileen noted that NGN's field based staff (who visit homes on a day to day basis to make safe any issues with gas supplies) are seeing things like customers choosing to live downstairs as they do not want to heat the whole house or use their stair lifts; people reducing use of essential medical equipment such as kidney dialysis machines; and unsafe behaviours such as using cookers to heat rooms, bringing BBQs inside to cook and blocking vents to reduce drafts – all things that can create serious issues in regards to carbon monoxide, the silent killer. Their staff are specially trained to talk to people to understand their needs, but are finding people to be less receptive to their advice as they want to be warm but do not have the money to spend on conventional – and safe – heating.
- Hannah identified that the voluntary and community sector is seeing a high mental health toll in communities, and more and more people being pushed into needing support but who

have never navigated the system before and so are struggling. The resilience of communities – and the VCS sector – is being tested like never before, with a sense that there is no end in sight further amplifying anxiety.

- Reverend Arun stressed a situation of increased need and costs but supported by falling donations, with warm spaces and food banks for example seeing big increases in both referrals and self-referrals and providers of these services taking valiant efforts to humanise the system so that it looks at people and not just their needs. He described a situation where: *“the safety net is torn – charities are being forced to stop feeding the hungry so that they can feed the starving.”*
- Phil expects that 6m people will contact StepChange this year, and that that will not peak until spring 2023 when the post-Christmas credit bills hit and the impact of interest rates on mortgage repayments bites.
- Kidist is seeing *“organisations being stretched beyond viability”* due to more and more people having to ask for help and now having to turn new referrals away. This is having a significant impact on the mental health of people who are desperately in need of help.

### **Question 3: What change would you like to see so that people can thrive?**

- Eileen called for more sharing of knowledge and experience between partners that work with communities to better serve those needing support. For example, NGN have trained their staff in the *Making Every Contact Count* approach so that when frontline staff come across customers needing help, they refer them well to support that they know is available and follow through to make sure it has been delivered.
- Hannah focused on the need to continue to prioritise initiatives at community level, for partnership working in distributing the Household Support Fund so that it gets to the right places, and for co-ordination in delivering Warm Spaces and championing of the good work being done.
- Reverend Arun suggested utilising the expertise of all the people in the room to affirm a counternarrative of hope - building on the power of place and community - without minimising the crisis at hand. Sharing the positives about what we are all doing would be a powerful start, collating examples from everybody at this event.
- Phil asked that everybody strives to get people who need debt advice to StepChange as soon as possible, as the longer you wait the harder it is to help. He also sought a ban on forced installation of pre-payment meters and for authorities not to take up debts to them from those struggling to pay for 12 months (including a Universal Credit sanction moratorium).
- Kidist called for collaboration with health and social workers, housing officers and others to signpost individuals in desperate need to help, to recognise impacts on the self-employed and small businesses, for everybody to pay the living wage, and for there to be no benefit

cuts. She emphasised that businesses and agencies should look at their outsourced contracts and make sure people are paid fairly and consistently in their supply chains.



Source: Tom Riordan, Twitter



## 6) Keynote Speaker: Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire

The Mayor opened by stressing how encouraged she was by the compassion and empathy evident in the room. She went on to set out the challenge facing us locally, actions already in process, and further opportunities ahead.

In terms of **the challenges**, the Mayor noted that:

- We have moved from the hardship of COVID to the energy crisis and the cost of basics rising sharply. This is expected to get worse before it gets better.
- West Yorkshire's starting position coming into this crisis was already worse than most regions:
  - a third of residents are living in the poorest 20% of neighbourhoods in England
  - standing charges on energy are higher in West Yorkshire than anywhere else in the country (something that the mayor is raising with Government)
  - nearly a fifth of people are spending 90% of more of their income on basics
  - a third of adults have less than £100 in savings
  - things are even worse for the poorest and many people have nothing left to cut
- All of this is impacting on physical and mental health
- The impact is on businesses as well as families, and a high proportion are concerned about their survival. 2,000 West Yorkshire firms – collectively employing 57,000 people - are energy intensive and compete internationally, presenting major challenges
- Local authorities are doing their best to help but cannot plug all the gaps in the face of cost pressures after having faced years of cuts themselves
- There is vital action by the voluntary sector and communities against this backdrop, for example through food banks, bed banks and other support

The Mayor noted that despite this gloomy outlook, we still need to tackle the challenge with positive action to build an inclusive, sustainable and just economy. She described **new action** that the West Yorkshire Combined Authority is taking to help people and businesses:

- Establishing the Mayor's Cost of Living Emergency Fund which will provide £3 million over the next 18 months to help the most vulnerable by addressing issues like food insecurity, fuel poverty and mental health. Support will be delivered in partnership with local authorities and through local charities and voluntary organisations that are providing services, such as food banks, warm places and debt advice.
- Working to create and support jobs, including investing in skills for growth and extending eligibility for free training to all those earning below the Real Living Wage to widen access to employment and progression routes to more low paid workers.
- Turbocharging investment in home energy retrofit to cover 3,000 households instead of the initial 1,300 – helping those in social housing to reduce bills and manage strained budgets.

This action followed on from the introduction of 'Mayor's Fares' to bring down the cost of a single bus ticket across West Yorkshire to a maximum of £2 and £4.50 for a day ticket.

Despite the challenges, the Mayor stressed the importance of striving towards a positive future. That includes opportunities such as Leeds 2023 Year of Culture; Bradford as UK City of Culture 2025, jobs in the digital and tech sector and a new Digital Skills Plan; green jobs and transition to a low carbon economy; and Inclusion, Diversity and Equity as a golden thread so that success benefits everyone. Summing up, her concluding message was a call to “*turn anger into hope for a better future.*”

## **7) Second Table Discussion: Opportunities for Further Action Together**

The second table discussion focused on action, asking two interrelated questions, the key points of which are set out below, including those captured via the Slido online facility, and grouped into themes. The responses are a verbatim account of input received.

### **Question 1: What can we do together to build a more secure future for people and businesses in Leeds?**

#### **Communication and awareness of support**

*There were many suggestions for how advice and support could be better collated, for the channels it could be communicated through, and for the manner/tone of that communication:*

- Better methods of communicating existing help are needed – we need a communications strategy to emphasise the support available and promote the work being done
- Create a definitive, universal directory of support services, including the third sector and charities. Could universities assist with creating and maintaining this asset mapping?
- Signposting is crucial (including through community hubs) as people don't know where to go or what to do. Need to better signpost services and make everyone aware.
- Better training for colleagues going into people's homes so they are able to help the most vulnerable and signpost support
- Create and share a cost of living support book for frontline support
- Flag the cost of living website to front line Leeds City Council workers
- New website and leaflets with advice and links to resources and help
- Raise awareness, knowledge and understanding of the crisis
- Do not rely on written material alone – communicate help/advice in short social media videos that can be easily shared, presented by people within the target communities
- Use known brands e.g. Leeds United FC, to promote services and make them accessible
- Use ambassadors and/or pop-up shops to highlight needs of community/charity organisations and signpost support
- Core messaging – seek support quickly, do not wait
- Ensure there is face to face advice available
- Treat people accessing help in a dignified way. Give people back their worth as so many people don't believe they are worthy of help.
- Be visible and present
- Stress the importance of seeking advice early

### **Sharing good practice and linking support offers**

*Participants stressed how organisations could better connect their support offers and share and promote good practice:*

- Shout about positives and achievement
- Share information – and not just digitally
- Build links to other services, e.g. Credit Union boiler support
- Get better at sharing across the sectors
- Amplify stories of good examples and neighbourliness in communities. Identify what is working well and shout about what's happening.

### **Communities, co-design/co-production and local focus**

*There was a lot of focus on and many suggestions around the importance of listening to and working with communities at local level to develop and deliver solutions:*

- Do things with people not to people
- Local people to advise on decision and policy making
- Get out into communities and listen to pick up issues - really look at our local communities
- Co-produce with the people within our communities. To build together everyone needs a seat at the table, e.g. hear more from people with direct lived experience.
- Identify and utilise local role models who are representative of local communities
- Focus on hyperlocal place working
- Develop a new model of locality working within Leeds City Council
- Develop and utilise Community Anchors and neighbourhood networks
- Make better use of Community Committees and HAPs. As part of that, engage groups at the coal face to review Community Committees and make them more effective.
- Make good use of Youth Advisory Panels
- Successful community hub (different to council community hub operations) ventures are best delivered from town/district centre venues. Citywide voluntary organisation offers should also be tailored to ensure bespoke support for particular communities.
- Expand community social aid, e.g. roll out 'CRAP' (conserving resources and associating people) initiatives across the city
- Use community development as a catalyst to bring people together
- Promote collective spirit, neighbourliness, kindness and strong communities

### **Networks and partnership**

*A range of points were made about strengthening collaboration and breaking down barriers:*

- More partnership working to bring services together in a co-ordinated response
- Grow and enhance existing partnerships
- Bring relevant people and boards together
- Improve networking
- National welfare provision isn't sufficient to address the problems. Leeds has very collaborative and strong networks, but they need to get even more effective.
- Facilitate skills swaps between organisations
- Break down silos between community groups and collaborate rather than compete

- Mutual support/network for leaders of community organisations and charities
- Mutual aid networks – providing skills and money help and advice
- Get more younger people involved in neighbourhood networks
- The third sector provides a trusted safe space and role which is not part of 'the system', but it can't replace statutory services. Build innovative partnerships to get the best of both.
- Ensure this issue is everyone's business and gain buy-in from everyone

### **Third sector outreach, sustainability and service delivery**

*There was considerable focus on the value of the third sector and how it could be supported:*

- Use organisations such as Poverty Truth to engage those with lived experience and reach those in need
- Work with trusted organisations to provide services
- Make sure third sector organisations are looked after - keep funding and supporting them and create a support fund centrally or for each ward
- More support for community organisations as they are very close to the problem – and continue support for what is already in place and working well
- Support the resilience of third sector organisations whose business model is under pressure from the cost of living crisis, e.g. volunteers, travel costs, premises
- Develop community groups to be self sufficient
- Set up food pantries/enable them to be self-sufficient by building skills (with user input)
- Connect the third sector and digital services
- Mutual cooperative grass roots discussion
- Revive Covid-style community hubs to give a focal point, e.g. for matching volunteers with the help and needs that are out there
- Support for the voluntary workforce who hear about other people's traumas and need a place to speak to 'get it off their chest' - share experience and gain mutual support

### **Funds, money and buying local**

*Ideas covered securing and accessing funding, circulating money locally and paying workers properly:*

- Create and communicate better information regarding funding opportunities
- Create a funding/bidding toolkit that is accessible to all – potentially funded by businesses, or put in place other support for funding bids, possibly assisted by university knowledge
- Revise use of existing funds e.g. Community Infrastructure Levy to provide communal facilities
- Move from short term grants to 3 year commitments and end short-term funding mentality for social action projects. Projects need long term funding to really make a difference.
- Prioritise funding to independent partnerships and community support around poverty
- Offer rates relief for charities
- Create a support fund centrally or in each ward similar to Covid community hubs
- Collaboratively lobby the private sector for financial support
- Take action to support community wealth building and recirculation of local money
- Focus on 'the Leeds pound' and local procurement

- Promote shopping local, eating local, etc
- Use procurement to make suppliers offer fair employment terms and conditions
- Outsource to better companies
- Proactively give contracts to people in the community that need help e.g. cleaners
- Pay the living wage and make sure low skilled people still have an appropriate livelihood
- Welfare support, cash grants and more finance through the household support fund
- Better access to affordable loans, e.g. credit union to combat loan sharks

### **Businesses and their connections to communities**

*Participants talked about both the needs of businesses and how they could help communities:*

- Provide and promote support for entrepreneurs/those starting businesses
- Support for small businesses, including businesses outside city centres
- More engagement with small and micro enterprises to deliver grass roots responses
- Businesses to connect with the 3rd sector and communities. Be aware of what help is out there for people and use aggregators like Leeds Community Foundation, Ahead Partnership and Voluntary Action Leeds to make connections.
- Consider how the city can support the private sector to make meaningful CSR contributions. Have a clear ask of businesses that want to volunteer - ask what they do already, what else they can do (not just financial) and seek appropriate help and meaningful engagement.
- Businesses to reach out to organisations to assist their staff

### **The contribution of Anchor Institutions**

*The role, value and local contribution of large organisations rooted in Leeds was welcomed:*

- Roll out and refine work with and by anchor institutions in Leeds to maximise their value
- Use anchor institutions to promote available help, and also where people can go to help
- Identify practical actions anchors can take to help
- Ask universities to lend different skills or support bid writing
- Keep bigger organisations in the city e.g. Red Cross, John Lewis
- Build on the anchors progression framework assessment tool for businesses
- Use influence to nudge businesses to help make a difference
- Further connect the community anchors network to the Leeds Inclusive Anchors network
- Anchor organisations can help on cost of living health concerns e.g. OFFLOAD initiative to prevent male suicides in West Leeds supported by Leeds Rhinos and LCF

### **Employment and skills**

*The importance of building skills and routes into good jobs that pay well was emphasised:*

- Help people to train for and apply for jobs, and greater focus on free skills/training
- More training for people on low incomes and benefits
- Build skills required for retrofitting housing – meet sector needs and a route into green jobs
- Use automation to release and re skill lower paid workers
- Work with businesses to grow recruitment opportunities and open people's eyes to them
- Demonstrate opportunities for progression
- Develop/apply planning rules around local employment opportunities

- Actively address diversity in the workplace
- Build long term sustainability through having/supporting a healthy and happy workforce
- Think about how we support the 50 - 60 age group who often fall through the net e.g. assist older employees with digital skills

### **Resilience, capacity building and early intervention**

*Some points focused on prevention and how to enable people/communities to help themselves:*

- Early intervention to prevent people reaching crisis point
- Put focus on capacity building and resilience
- Self-care
- Help break reliance on handouts
- Think about long term impact on economy and communities so they don't become 'left behind'
- Extend the Stronger Families project - it has delivered

### **Education and knowledge (to help people deal with cost of living crisis)**

*Skills, education and knowledge that would help adults and young people were highlighted:*

- Training on life skills and budgeting
- Increase knowledge of low energy cooking and other energy saving measures
- Increase digital access and literacy
- Extra awareness in schools
- Educate/teach young people to be resilient

### **Environment, energy and housing**

*Points ranged from practical action to meet needs to new and long-term approaches:*

- Develop and deliver circular economy solutions
- Retrofit more housing
- Provide funding/loans for insulation – 'green mortgages'
- Reframe the way we see nature in our lives and in our city - where you can see trees out of the window there is much better rates of DV, health, mental health, etc
- Train people in permaculture to support resilience
- Incentivise cooperative housing and people using vacant space
- Selective licensing of private sector landlords

### **Health system**

- How to improve understanding of GPs of the support and services in local area – role for Local Care Partnerships
- NHS - Local care partnerships. Many only took over during Covid, but they are a key link. GP practices could be signposting holistic support in our third sector.

## **Economic model, lobbying, advocacy and fundamental reforms**

*Discussion ranged from local economic development to national systems and radical reforms:*

- Inclusive growth should be a condition/requirement for growth and funding
- Include poverty and inequality in every discussion of economic innovation and productivity
- Hold organisations to scrutiny that are spending our money in Leeds
- Raise income from a tourist tax and parking levy
- Lobby for a national emergency fund
- Don't just tinker - seize the opportunity to restructure and reframe and advocate for Universal Basic Income so no one needs to be destitute, and no child grows up in poverty
- Push for a four day week for same pay across the city
- Structural and systemic change - fair pay and conditions for every job, renationalise essential services, a proper welfare state and fully funded NHS and social care services
- Campaign to reduce standing charges on fuel bills; get rid of pre-payment meters
- System change to tackle inequality. Honesty/openness about poverty, change the narrative to reframe paternalism, move on from sticking plaster mentality, ask the difficult questions.
- We do not need to grow as a city, we need to thrive

**Twitter:** Cllr Annie Maloney: *Some really interesting discussions with our public, private and third sector. It can't be underestimated how dangerous this crisis is and how many lives really are at risk.*

**Question 2: What is one new thing you can do to help minimise the worst impacts of rising costs?**

### **Fuel and food**

- Run door to door foodbank collections
- Run a fuel bank
- Campaign to reduce standing charges on fuel bills; get rid of pre-payment meters

### **Mental health**

- Have a community mental health nurse on site
- More partnership working on mental health

### **Community engagement and codesign**

- Keep working with local people to help make public health decisions
- Take away learning and actions from today and run the ideas past a group of our poorest communities as a critical friend, including community champions with hyper local networks and groups that can test whether the things we are doing/propose will work

### **Funds and money**

- Create a 'Leeds Fund' funded by businesses to support charities dealing with poverty, etc
- Set up a fund for educational attainment and sports for children living in poverty in Leeds

- Pay the living wage and be a good employer
- Keep focus on community wealth building and the Leeds pound – do not outsource to companies because they are cheapest when they treat their workers poorly

### **Communication and awareness**

- Make people aware of what is available
- Make sure families and schools have been contacted by organisations that can help them
- Signpost leaflets/booklets summarising help advice and translate these into BSL and braille and the required range of languages
- Magpie to be able to work with the NHS and the council to help them create behaviour change campaigns to support our community

### **Collaboration and networks**

- Community groups to better communicate what their offer is, to each other and to policy makers
- Engage local groups to make Community Committees more effective and representative
- Improve networks with third sector organisations to create better coverage
- Bring together groups in a Network of Networks (e.g. Poverty Truth, Leeds FAN, Debt Forums, Leeds Migration Partnership, Street Support, Homeless Charter, Forum Central, Voluntary Action Leeds). That could help with challenges like temporary funding when there is potentially a huge amount of money forecasted (if not guaranteed) to come into Leeds.

### **Dialogue, community spirit, hope and fight**

- Get the dialogue started around the conversation about poverty and taking away the shame
- It's important for this not to be normalised - for us to keep fighting and keep hope!
- Promote collective spirit, neighbourliness, kindness and strong communities

### **Other specific points/ideas**

- More freedom to support people during half term holidays
- Improve access to healthy holiday programmes
- Sign up to be a Winter Friend to support those in your community
- Advocate for changing our relationship with nature
- Build maths skills so that people better understand bills and budgeting

## **8) Actions and Close**

Cllr Jonathan Pryor, Leeds City Council's Executive Board Member for Economy, Culture and Education and Deputy Leader, closed the event and thanked all of the speakers and participants. He stressed that the impact of the crisis cannot and must not be underestimated and the importance of facing up to the crisis now and building strategically for the future. Whilst there is much good work underway, the focus must remain resolutely on acting as Team Leeds to go further together as compassionate city.



## **Annex 1: Implications and Action Opportunities for the City and Stakeholders**

The event highlighted good practice and action opportunities for the city of Leeds working together as a whole, and for specific sectors within it. We summarise key opportunities below, building on existing activity and with actions that are specific to businesses and third sector organisations drawn out. A separate annex follows with specific action points for large/public anchors, many of which overlap with the themes below.

### **Overall city action opportunities**

- 1) Work in partnership to develop a **shared strategy for collating and communicating sources of available advice and support**. This should consider the mechanisms for communicating what is available that leverage diverse channels, brands and signposting opportunities, and have a shared narrative and approach regarding the manner and tone of communication.
- 2) Look for opportunities to **strengthen collaboration across sectors, break down barriers to partnership working, and better connect support offers** to drive reach, efficiency and impact on people and places with an ethos that empowers all partners to ‘play to their strengths’.
- 3) **Share ideas and good practice** between partners, celebrating positive impact and stories in communities, and systematically cross-promoting services.
- 4) **Listen to and work with communities at a (hyper) local level** to amplify citizen voice and lived experience in developing and delivering solutions that can make the biggest difference.
- 5) Continue to recognise the **value, reach and impact of the third sector** in supporting people and communities at this time of crisis, building on excellent partnerships built during the pandemic and with a focus on the sector’s sustainability and resilience. Consider how businesses and public bodies can offer practical support such as skills-sharing and supporting local funds.
- 6) Continue to work locally and advocate for the city as part of TeamLeeds, support the Best City Ambition, and take a firm stance on adopting an **economic model centred on inclusivity, compassion and sustainability** in the face of pressure to focus on growth alone.
- 7) Whatever your organisational type or sector, look for every opportunity to **think and act like an anchor in your place** – across how you employ, how you spend, how you deliver, your environmental footprint and your civic contribution.
- 8) Continue to **jointly develop and amplify a strong narrative** around shared leadership and responsibility (the TeamLeeds approach), clearly articulating the role of organisations and sectors in tackling poverty and inequalities and improving the lives of everyone in the city. Nurture existing partnerships, and actively seek opportunities to bring others on board.

### Third sector specific opportunities

- 1) Become part of, further develop your role in, or **deliver shared action to support communities through the Leeds Community Anchors Network**. Use this to identify opportunities for collaboration; sharing ideas, learning and good practice; and communicating to others – be that partners in other sectors or people and communities.
- 2) Continue to regularly review your activities, services and interactions with communities, **and take any opportunities to further heighten your positive impact** as an organisation e.g. by more local procurement, being a good employer, providing access to mental health support and enhancing your environmental and climate impact.
- 3) **Continue to assist with communication and awareness of support and advice** to help individuals and communities facing challenges. Advise on the communication channels to use to reach target audiences, how to communicate messages clearly and with impact, and directly help to get information to the people and communities who need it most, including at hyper-local level.
- 4) **Continue to directly deliver practical support and help that makes a difference** to people and communities e.g., warm spaces, food pantries, debt/money advice, energy efficiency support and other activities.
- 5) Use existing third sector networks to strengthen **mutual support mechanisms**, recognising the intense pressure third sector staff and volunteers are under in supporting people and communities in the current climate, who themselves need support and a place to share and empathise with others in a similar position.

### Private sector specific opportunities

- 1) **Think through what you can do to help across your activities, products/services, and interactions with customers**. Take advantage of tools such as the *Business Anchors Progression Framework* which enables self-assessment of your current position and highlights future action opportunities related to employment, procurement, environment and assets, corporate functions and community roles.
- 2) **Direct more procurement spend locally and in ways which deliver social value** e.g. awarding contracts to local companies and seeking social and environmental benefits from suppliers (e.g. preferring those who treat their workers fairly and pay the real living wage).
- 3) Continue to **support the lowest paid members of your workforce** through paying the real living wage, offering fair terms and conditions, and providing opportunities and support for progression.

- 4) Promote and signpost **advice and support for staff and service users/customers** that will help them reduce their cost of living and deal with the crisis e.g. on debt and financial advice, energy saving measures and mental health support.
- 5) **Connect with the third sector and communities.** Be aware of what help is out there for people and use aggregators like Leeds Community Foundation, Ahead Partnership and Voluntary Action Leeds to make connections.
- 6) Further **enable and encourage staff to volunteer** to support third sector organisations and/or communities, with onus on fully utilising their skills and adding value - for example through technical and fundraising tasks, not just basic manual ones.
- 7) Consider **contributing to local funds** to help local communities and service users manage during the cost of living crisis.

## Annex 2: Implications and Action Opportunities for Anchor Organisations

Discussions and presentations during the event spotlighted and praised the roles of anchor organisations and action they are taking, including the public sector and utilities focused Leeds Anchors Network, community anchor organisations and business anchors. Here we summarise key implications and action opportunities for anchors – especially for larger anchors in the Leeds Anchors Network – that have emerged from this event. Many anchors are already taking action on these points, but there is opportunity for anchors to widen, intensify and share existing action and to take forward new actions themselves or collaboratively. The action opportunities list below is intended to assist that process, and will be discussed at the Leeds Inclusive Anchors Network Executive Group on 23 March 2023 and incorporated into the network’s business plan.

- 1) Redouble efforts to **use procurement to spend more locally and promote social value** – that includes taking opportunities to award (below threshold) contracts to local companies (e.g. for cleaning and catering); to raise awareness of the pipeline of future procurement to potential local suppliers; and to seek social value and fair treatment of workers (e.g. paying the real living wage) when awarding contracts or outsourcing.
- 2) Continue to **support the lowest paid members of the workforce** through paying the living wage, fair terms and conditions, and providing opportunities and support for progression.
- 3) Further provide, promote and signpost **advice and support for staff and service users/customers** that will help them reduce their cost of living and deal with the crisis e.g. on debt and financial advice, energy saving measures and ‘green doctor’ reviews, travel and health. Consider whether any of this support could be more efficiently delivered jointly by anchors or widened in reach.
- 4) Build on and maximise the impact of often excellent **mental health support** for staff given the extra pressures people are facing, and seek to support community mental health initiatives alongside sports and community anchor organisations. That could include preventative measures to reduce stress and anxiety, for example related to workload, trauma of helping those needing support, and enabling access to green space and exercise.
- 5) Provide **accessible warm spaces** and opportunities for staff who are home working to come into the office/premises for warmth.
- 6) **Engage with local communities and community anchors** to help design and inform support that those in need can benefit from, and further strengthen links between the Leeds Anchors Network and community anchors.
- 7) Collate and **share information about your measures and practices** with anchor institutions and others, regularly update this and proactively communicate what works best.
- 8) **Map the support available across the city and collate this into single guides/summaries** which can be easily accessed and tailored to different audience – including front line workers engaging with potentially vulnerable people / communities and service users / customers seeking support. Ensure this is kept up to date.

- 9) Maintain and **implement a shared communications strategy** to maximise awareness of the support available. This should ensure communications are made available in different languages, in BSL/Braille, and can be accessed in non-digital forms. Use of non-written mechanisms should also be considered to widen e.g. short videos that can be shared by families and friends via social media.
- 10) Individual anchors to work with community anchor organisations to **create strong and enduring local links to disadvantaged communities** that are close (or otherwise connected) to them, and to use these to enable communities to better access support and services available through all anchors.
- 11) Further **enable and encourage staff to volunteer** to support third sector organisations and/or communities, with onus on fully utilising their skills and adding value - for example through technical and fundraising tasks, not just basic manual ones.
- 12) Consider **contributing to local funds** including those coordinated by Leeds Community Foundation to help local communities and service users manage during the cost of living crisis.

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