



## CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Meeting to be held remotely\* on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 1.00pm

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

B Anderson  
D Blackburn  
J Bowden  
N Buckley  
P Carlill  
K Dye (Chair)  
A Garthwaite  
C Hart-Brooke  
H Hayden  
O Newton  
M Shahzad  
E Thomson  
P Truswell  
J Tudor  
P Wadsworth

Note to observers of the meeting: To remotely observe this meeting, please click on the 'To View Meeting' 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.

[Council and democracy \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://leeds.gov.uk)

\*This is being held as a remote 'consultative' meeting. While the meeting will be webcast live to enable public access, it is not being held as a public meeting in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.

# A G E N D A

| Item No | Ward/Equal Opportunities | Item Not Open |  | Page No |
|---------|--------------------------|---------------|--|---------|
| 1       |                          |               | <p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence.</p>   |         |
| 2       |                          |               | <p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>To disclose or draw attention to any interests in accordance with Leeds City Council's 'Councillor Code of Conduct'.</p>   |         |
| 3       |                          |               | <p><b>NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p>To note meeting notes of the Consultative Meeting of Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee held on 21st July 2022.</p>  | 5 - 14  |
| 4       |                          |               | <p><b>LEEDS FOOD STRATEGY</b></p> <p>To consider and discuss the report of the Chief Officer of Sustainable Energy and Air Quality's presenting Draft Leeds Food Strategy, noting the discussions will inform the development of the final strategy.</p>   | 15 - 38 |
| 5       |                          |               | <p><b>OPEN FORUM</b></p> <p>At the discretion of the Chair, a period of up to 15 minutes may be allocated at each ordinary meeting for members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Committee. No member of the public shall speak for more than five minutes in the Open Forum, except by permission of the Chair.</p> <p>Please note: Members of the public are asked to submit a video of their question or statement to <a href="mailto:climate.emergency@leeds.gov.uk">climate.emergency@leeds.gov.uk</a> by 5.00pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022.</p> |         |
| 6       |                          |               | <p><b>DIRECTORS UPDATE</b></p> <p>To receive a verbal update from the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment</p>   |         |

7

**LEEDS LOCAL PLAN UPDATE - PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT POLICIES**

39 -  
48

To note the suite of draft policies as set out in the Report to Executive Board of 21<sup>st</sup> September and comment on the policies as part of the consultation period.

8

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date and time of the next meeting as Monday 28th November 2022 at 1.00 pm.

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a)

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## CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 21ST JULY, 2022

**PRESENT:** Councillor K Dye in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, J Bowden,  
P Carlill, A Garthwaite, C Hart-Brooke,  
H Hayden, O Newton, M Shahzad,  
E Thomson, P Truswell, J Tudor and  
P Wadsworth

### 1 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Blackburn and Councillor Buckley.

### 2 **Declarations of Interest**

No formal late items of business were added to the agenda, however Committee Members had received supplementary documents in relation to agenda item 8 Carbon modelling for Waste Management and Kerbside Waste Compositional Analysis Briefing just prior to the meeting.

### 3 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RECOMMENDED** – That the minutes of the formal meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 be noted for information.

### 4 **Open Forum**

Members of the public were invited to submit a question / statement in advance of the meeting.

Clarrie Ramsden – Seacroft Community Hub. The Committee was provided with an overview of the work undertaken by Seacroft Hub across the ward focusing on climate change and food poverty, including a forest garden, community allotment, community composting and seed libraries, noting a 5<sup>th</sup> seed library was due to open in the coming week. #GetGrowingSeacroft is on Facebook and twitter. The Hub is looking to utilise land on the derelict site of The Gate Public House, Seacroft for allotment and education space and to support proposed work as a social subscriber and sought Member support for this scheme.

Andy Goldring - Climate Action Leeds / City Hub Lead. The Committee was advised that although the City Hub had support from partners across the city, it had yet to identify a city centre location to bring all sectors together and create a template for the future city-wide approach. Negotiations to secure a space in a city centre shopping centre were ongoing and Member support for that would be welcomed, along with support to secure a long term location through conversations with LCC Asset Management over use of LCC sites and a discussion on whether the use of Community Infrastructure Levy monies would be permissible to support the Hub. Members noted the offer to

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting  
to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022

provide a detailed presentation on the work of the City Hub to a future CEAC meeting. Members also noted a suggestion that Thwaite Mills could be an ideal location for the City Hub and an offer from Councillor Garthwaite to raise this issue with appropriate officers. Members agreed that if Mr Goldring made his request in writing to the Chief Officer Sustainable Energy and Air Quality, the request, including the Committee's support, would be forwarded to the appropriate Service.

Brent Haigh – Hydrogen Energy - The Committee received a video submission on the topic of hydrogen and the development of hydrogen as an alternative energy source and opportunities to draw down funding for the region and increased employment. It was agreed that the Infrastructure, Planning and Buildings Working Group would consider the issues raised and actions currently being taken and give a formal response to the query "What is the Committees view" in due course.

## **5 Working Groups Update**

The Chairs of the Working Groups (WG) provided an update on the progress of the working groups since the last Committee meeting:

Community and Business Engagement – Councillor M Shahzad outlined how the WG had set three questions in order to consider how we will communicate with residents and enhance our engagement with the city.

- 1) How can we reach people where they are, rather than where we want them to be? The right message needs to get out to the right people at right place and time as sometimes the message is not clear, or not tailored to the characteristics of the community. Actions proposed included sending a quarterly email to collect information on planned local events so that the climate engagement team can attend the events and meet local people and have quality climate conversations. Additionally the engagement team could attend a future Youth Summit meeting. The WG also reviewed the availability of climate change information on the LCC website, and agreed that work would be undertaken to collate the information into a more streamlined offer which will be easier to share.
- 2) How to discuss key climate issues appropriately and make them relevant? It was considered that linking them to the cost of living crisis by showing the benefits that change can offer would resonate with residents, an example being to use trusted local business to provide key messages, such as the local plumber who invested in an electric van to save running costs.
- 3) How do we engage a new audience? The WG considered this can be achieved by securing partnerships with internal/external teams on co-issues highlighted by climate action, there was a proposal for the SEAQ team to visit the Community Committees and to take climate action discussions to community spaces and events unrelated to climate action events.

Infrastructure, Planning and Buildings – Councillor Dye reported on two presentations received by the WG –

- Update on the net zero housing plan. Discussions had focussed on key actions to follow up; including the establishment of a 'Better Homes Hub', retrofit work, how we view new build development and low carbon homes. Proposals to create a map of retrofit opportunities across the city, to develop an engagement plan, and to review how to develop the skills needed to achieve net zero were also highlighted.
- Feasibility study of using Solar energy. The presentation was provided by Arup.

Noting the detail of the presentations provided to the IPG WG it was agreed that the Chief Officer Sustainable Energy and Air Quality will review the presentations prior to them being shared with the Committee to ensure they contain no commercially sensitive information.

Discussions noted the following points:

The Big Bus Chat – Members and residents were invited to take part in the West Yorkshire Mayor led Big Bus Chat, on the themes of bus transport being safe and inclusive, better connected and de-carbonised, as part of the plan to improve the network.

Working Group (WG) updates – Although WG meetings are not formally minuted for inclusion in Committee agenda, it was noted that actions arising from the WGs are fed back to the Committee and the webcast of the Committee meetings can be shared widely with interested groups. It was agreed that invitations to attend WGs be re-sent to all Councillors to encourage wider attendance.

**RECOMMENDED** – To note the content of the updates provided.

## 6 Director Update

The Committee received a verbal report from Neil Evans, Director of Resources, as part of a programme of visits to the Committee from each of the Directorates.

The Director outlined examples of how working against climate change is being embedded into the different work activities of the Directorate. He explained how combatting climate change is not optional but is critical to Leeds City Council operations. Some of the activities include;

- The 30-strong Sustainable Energy and Air Quality (SEAQ) team is led by a Chief Officer, meaning their remit is represented at the highest level within the Directorate and is one of the biggest departments of its type in the country. The team has attracted £100million investment from the government over the past three years which has gone towards District Heating and decarbonising LCC buildings
- The Council continues to invest in climate action, at a time when budgeting issues are leading many other Councils to cut back on this area
- HR promote a bike to work scheme, salary sacrifice for Electric Vehicles, public transport discounts and carbon literacy training. One of

their big challenges for the future will be supporting staff to move away from petrol and diesel vehicles, without costing staff extra money

- Integrated Digital Services have been supporting the transition towards working from home, reducing printing and replacing energy heavy servers with cloud storage
- Resources also undertakes a considerable amount of public engagement around Leeds becoming carbon neutral by 2030
- Corporate Property Management are investing in Leeds City Council buildings, and will be moving into the SEAQ unit to ensure planned works have regard to climate action
- Fleet Management also work with the SEAQ, and their joint work has led Leeds City Council to be the largest user of Electric Vehicles.
- Where food is purchased by LCC, such as within schools, Resources has committed to reducing food miles by sourcing within the Yorkshire region

Discussions focused on the following issues:

- Investment in the District Heating Scheme and the PIPES scheme
- Investment of HRA and Government Grants to decarbonise housing stock and upgrade old heating systems
- An approach to procurement which would seek to ensure that goods and services meet the climate action /zero carbon target for the city

**RECOMMENDED** - The Committee thanked Mr Evans for his presentation and noted the discussions.

## **7 Embodied Carbon**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer Highways and Transportation which outlined the current practices undertaken within the department to address the climate emergency, specifically regarding embodied carbon.

Mr Paul Russell, Civil Engineering Manager, Highways and Transportation attended the meeting to present the report and began by highlighting the services' commitment to tackling the climate crisis. However as development and building innately creates carbon the Service had established a Climate Emergency Task Force to support its work looking at how carbon is generated, namely through use of;

- Asphalt
- Concrete
- Steel
- Other raw materials
- Materials sent to landfill
- Construction Vehicles

The report considered four main topics;

1. Carbon calculation tools; the carbon cost of maintaining roads also has to be incorporated into carbon calculations. Highways and Transportation (H&T) have been working on capital programmes such as East Leeds Orbital Route (ELOR), and the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2 (LFAS2). Whilst in



development these schemes have created carbon emissions but in the long run they will prove to be carbon saving as they will reduce congestion and flood damage. H&T development frameworks included carbon calculation tools and carbon targets embedded within them. However part of the solution towards lower carbon emissions may be the need for less infrastructure to be delivered in the long term.

The Committee considered how city building carbon calculations could be captured and used to influence future planning conversations with Government, by collaborating with university partners within the city. Councillor Hayden suggested working with Leeds Climate Commission and Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission to develop this idea.

2. Procurement; Highways and Transportation is developing a suite of three frameworks internally

- Minor Works Contractor Framework for contracts under £2 million
- Intermediate Works Contractor Framework for contracts between £2 million and £7 million
- Major Works Contractor Framework for contracts over £7 million

Each of these frameworks was developed within the Leeds Outcomes, Themes and Measurements (TOM's) in order to build social value into those procurement processes.

3. Low carbon materials; the pricing for these materials is still a lot higher than conventional materials, which is being exacerbated by the current issues of the rate of inflation and the ongoing situation in Ukraine. Trials of lower carbon materials are being conducted, such as on the A63 in Garforth.

4. Offsetting; measures include tree planting. ELOR alone included 3,000 trees and 30,000 whips being planted. There is a balance to be had between reducing road use, and reducing congestion, in order to prevent carbon emissions.

The Committee discussed ways in which the Council could work with various partners regarding the research of embodied carbon within the city, as well as some of the work already being done in the city by external organisations and businesses; particularly involving the universities and the Leeds Climate Commission and the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission.

It was noted that this is a quickly developing area, and the Committee would welcome further reports from the Chief Officer Highways and Transportation in due course.

**RECOMMENDATION** - To note the contents of the report and the discussions at the meeting, along with the matters identified for future action detailed above.

## **8 Analysis of Waste Services in Leeds**

The Committee received a report of the Chief Officer, Environmental Services, which provided information on two pieces of work commissioned by the Council to assist the development of an updated Leeds Waste Strategy and associated Waste Management Plan.

The following were in attendance to provide a presentation:  
John Woolmer - Chief Officer, Environmental Services  
Philip Turpin - Senior Business Officer (Technical), Environmental Services.

In his introduction, Mr Woolmer emphasised the report and presentation contained initial, draft data that is still being verified and worked on and so should not be reported or used as confirmed data/information. However, it was still felt useful to provide an overview of the work being done to better understand the performance of Environmental Services in terms of its carbon footprint across all the services it provides and also in terms of household waste. These will both inform the developing Waste Strategy for Leeds and the accompanying Waste Management Plan, both of which will reference the National Resources and Waste Strategy and the anticipated legal requirements for kerbside food and glass collection by 2025, along with the implications of the new national Deposit Return Scheme (for plastics).

The Committee received two presentations from Mr Turpin:

**Leeds household kerbside waste compositional analysis:**

- The Council engaged Alfred H Knight consulting services to carry out a statistically representative compositional analysis of kerbside residual (black bin) and dry mixed recyclables (green bin).
- Waste collection across the city is predominantly undertaken on alternate weeks of wheel bin collections, the remainder of the city are mainly weekly black bin and four-weekly green bin collections.
- The analysis of waste from 250 properties was undertaken in February 2022 and waste was manually sorted into 13 categories with 40 sub categories, the initial outcomes were shared with Members, the highlights being (in terms of content measured by weight):
  - Residual waste (black bin) – putrescible (food etc) 36% food, paper/card 13%
  - Dry Mixed Recyclable (green bin) – paper/card 55%, plastic 15%
  - Waste per household per week in 2022 = residual 10kg; DMR 3kg compared with 2015 = residual 10.9kg, DMR 3.6kg
- Referencing NI 192, the National Standard for recyclates, the analysis showed that if all recyclates were recovered from the residual waste (black bin), this would only make a 9% points difference to the citywide Leeds recycling figure. It was also noted that some of those recyclates are not recoverable as they are contaminated. The initial analysis supported the following conclusions:
  - As the National Waste Strategy focusses on glass and food waste, analysis showed Glass in black bins = c.13,300 tonnes and in green bins = c.1,500 tonnes, therefore in theory there is a total of c.14,800 tonnes that could be recovered through kerbside glass

recycling, on top of a similar amount that is currently successfully and efficiently recovered through glass banks and HWRCs. This therefore provides the city with an opportunity to potentially double its glass recycling, however it was noted that it was unlikely that this full amount would be achieved through glass kerbside recycling as not all residents would want/use an extra bin and the black bin would still be an option some would use.

- Food waste in the residual collection = c.66,800 tonnes; however it was noted that it was unlikely that this full amount would be received in future food waste kerbside recycling for the same reasons as with glass;
- Alternate collection of recycling in green bins provides better recycling results, and results showed the amount of contaminants has decreased between 2015 to 2022
- Black bin analysis shows that the predominant missed recyclates are cardboard and recyclable plastic film. The proportion of garden waste in the residual collection has reduced, probably reflecting the success of the roll out and use of this service (brown bins) in Leeds, helped by it remaining a free service.

Discussions on factors which had driven waste reduction since 2015 noted the following information:

- The sub category of “carrier bags” mentioned in the presentation is all ‘recyclable plastic film’ (it is sometimes referred to as ‘carrier bags and refuse sacks’)
- The total waste arisings for the Leeds area had risen due to the increase in household growth, however the type of household growth presented a complicating factor to the data – flat/apartment development exceeded house building in 2021/22 and flat dwellers often display a different attitude to waste.

In acknowledgement of the draft status of the results of the analysis and the breadth of the topic, it was agreed that the next presentation would proceed with the Working Group to consider the issues in detail at a future meeting.

### **Carbon footprint/impact of LCC Environmental Services – baseline and future options:**

- The Council engaged Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd to create a baseline carbon footprint for all the waste management functions across Environmental Services, to appraise options for reducing CO2 emissions related to the Council’s waste activities, and to create a carbon assessment model to allow for further appraisal of options and future annual performance monitoring. It was again noted that the data produced was still being checked and verified and was to be treated as draft.

- Analysis of the draft data showed where the greatest climate gains could be made across the service. The analysis also provided initial options to consider for the future development of the service and built a carbon assessment model that supports an annual review of the carbon footprint and an assessment of each of the development options.
- 2019/20 was chosen as the baseline year, thus avoiding the skewing impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the Service, and included all waste management services (residual kerbside, flytipping, bulky collections, recycling, food waste pilot, household waste sites and bring sites, street cleansing and grounds cleansing).
- Collection results were inputted into the model which showed a baseline result that the Service has a net carbon impact of -33,323 tonnes (i.e. a net carbon benefit).
- The emissions the service makes mainly through operational functions are displaced by negative emissions /carbon savings elsewhere by how waste is processed/treated and re-used or recycled. The energy generation provided by the Recycling & Energy Recovery Facility (RERF), and the District Heating Scheme both bring a positive impact to the results. All services have a net carbon benefit, with the Household Waste and Recycling Centres contributing the most; however, although the analysis does include the impact of LCC and contractor vehicles accessing sites and transporting materials, it does not include the impact of residents driving to recycling sites. Where analysis is available on this, it shows that the carbon impact of residents driving to sites is relatively small and so whereas it would of course decrease the carbon benefit, it would not make a significant difference, which will reduce even more as vehicles move away from fossil based fuels.
- The analysis has supported consideration of different and new approaches to recycling, including kerbside glass recycling, weekly collections, combined waste alternate collections (ie glass, metal and plastic one week, paper/card the next), source segregated food recycling and mixing garden with food.
- Inputting the different approaches into the model showed the main carbon benefits would be gained from source segregation of food and glass waste. However, the assumptions made in the model when assessing the carbon benefits of collecting garden with food are based on a narrow range of examples, and ones not necessarily comparable to Leeds. Further work is to undertaken to better estimate what the food yield could be in Leeds (ie the percentage of food waste that would be presented by a household if they had the option to put it in their brown bin), and how that would affect the results of the model.

- Mr Woolmer explained that the intention is to develop the Leeds Waste Strategy and associated Waste Management Plan using the impact on carbon reduction as the key performance/outcome driver. This is a move away from measuring the success of greater “reduce-recycle-reuse” by simply presenting the percentage of material recycled according to weight. The need to also consider in the strategy/plan what is practical/deliverable within a diverse city such as Leeds and ultimately affordable was highlighted too.

In conclusion, the Committee noted;

- The way Leeds City Council currently collects and processes waste across the city results in a net carbon benefit of around -33,000t per annum to contribute towards the city’s zero carbon ambitions; but there is a potential to save up to an additional 3700t of carbon per annum;
- Household Waste and Recycling Centres make the greatest net contribution to carbon reduction in terms of waste management;
- There will be a legal requirement to offer kerbside food waste and glass collections from 2025 (subject to the result of consultation to be published by the Government, further delayed from “early 2022”) and this would mean changes to the way residents present waste in Leeds – various collection models are being assessed as part of the carbon analysis work to help inform what the preferred option(s) will be, which will also need to consider what is practical/deliverable and ultimately affordable (the Government has committed to funding all new “burdens”, and is expected to release details on how that will work together with the consultation update).
- The carbon modelling provides another tool to inform service options and collection regimes along with other key factors of finance, fleet and resources. The results of inputting data related to the use of electric fleet, the impact of food waste education campaigns or carbon capture technologies can be taken into account through the modelling.
- The proposed way forward in developing the Leeds Waste Strategy and Waste Management Plan is to move the focus of how we improve what we do/offer and measure success away from a weight based recycling percentage to the contribution it makes towards a zero carbon city.

The Ward Councillor for the Rothwell ward expressed support for the consideration of an option for food waste collection as Rothwell had been the ward for a previous pilot study. In response to a subsequent query about the specified destination (composting, bio-gas generation) and the environmental impact of food waste collection it was noted that current modelling assumes that source segregated collection destination= anaerobic digestion and mixed garden/food collection destination = In-Vessel Composting system. These assumptions will be revisited as more modern techniques come on-line.

In conclusion the Committee noted the significance of the work already undertaken and considered how to progress the work of this Committee, noting that a joint Inquiry by the Environment, Housing and Communities and the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Boards was planned for September.

Members received clarification on the purpose of the presentations to inform and seek the views of CEAC on the proposed direction of the developing waste strategy based on the carbon modelling, the rationale, and future presentations to judge the success/ detail of specific modelling and the benefit/ scale of impact that changing an approach might bring.

**RECOMMENDATION** - The Committee expressed support for the rationale outlined, in particular to move to measuring success/improvement through greater carbon reduction, and agreed that a future discussion on the detail of the final analysis be held at a Biodiversity, Food and Waste Working Group.

**9 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**RECOMMENDED** – To note that the date of the next meeting will be 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022, at 1pm.

## Appendix A.

### Leeds Food Strategy

Our plan to work towards a better food future for all

[Overarching Graphic]

#### 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 innovation.**

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 city 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

[H & W Graphic]

##### Health and wellbeing

Helping people to eat a safe, healthy, and balanced diet to improve Leeds' health and wellbeing.

[Find out more](#)

[FS & E Graphic]

## **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](#)

[S & R Graphic]

## **Sustainability and resilience**

Ensuring Leeds' food system is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan.

[Find out more](#)

## **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 in 2022 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 hard to afford and access, our health and wellbeing suffers. Almost half of adults in Leeds eat fewer than five portions of fruit or vegetables per day whilst five-in-ten adults in the city are classified as living with overweight or obesity. 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 diets 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.

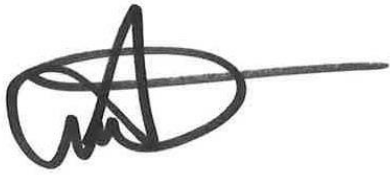
“Until global net zero is achieved, our climate will continue to change and impact harvests everywhere. Climate change will therefore make our economic and health challenges harder to address unless we grow and source foods in a more sustainable and resilient way. British farmers will continue to produce 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 food purchased internally by 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 our commitment to take 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 for its efforts.

“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.

This document is currently a draft version of the Leeds Food Strategy for the purpose of public consultation. This means that its contents may be subject to change based on feedback received. A final version of the strategy will be available from Spring 2023.

Once a final version is published, 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.

In 2022, more than 70 stakeholders from the local food system gathered 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 including food insecurity, the cost of living, diet-related illnesses, and climate change. Attendees also celebrated Leeds' many successes such as community gardens and

farming initiatives, the support of community food aid projects, the vibrant indie food scene and the support for children and families offered through the Healthy Holidays program.

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.

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.

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

## **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.

There are lots of way that you can support this work and help make a difference:

### **Help us shape the Leeds Food Strategy**

The Leeds Food Strategy is currently a draft version for public consultation. We want to know what you think! Whether you like the strategy or think that it could be improved, we want to hear your thoughts. If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions about the strategy then let us know by taking part in our online consultation [URL] or by emailing: [LeedsFoodStrategy@Leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LeedsFoodStrategy@Leeds.gov.uk)

### **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 document with your friends and networks—and encourage more people to have their say and get involved.

DRAFT

# Leeds Food Strategy: Health and wellbeing

Our mission is to help people to eat a safe, healthy, and balanced diet to improve Leeds' health and wellbeing.

[Overarching Graphic]

## Why is it important?

Food is essential for health and wellbeing.

It is estimated that more than 800 lives per year could be saved in Leeds if we all ate diets consistent with the NHS-recommended Eatwell Guide. Eating a safe, healthy, balanced diet is protective of a wide range of health conditions including: malnutrition, obesity, coronary heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and even some cancers.

Knowing what to eat, understanding dietary recommendations, and having the practical skills required to prepare healthy balanced foods are all skills that we believe should be universal.

Food choices are key, but our choices are not made in isolation. Evidence shows that eating well and healthy is influenced by our environment. In practice there are many barriers to eating a satisfying and balanced diet. For some residents, good food is less visible in their daily lives and might be harder to afford or even physically access. These barriers are not equally experienced and are often related to existing inequalities present in our city.

[Infographic - % of Leeds a healthy weight]

Together we can improve health and wellbeing by working with our citizens, and those who care for them, to find solutions and at the same time remove barriers, improve quality of life, and help reduce social isolation through food.

By supporting more residents to eat a healthy and nutritious diet that aligns with the Eatwell Guide, the Leeds Foods Strategy aims to give children in Leeds the best start and help people to live healthy, independent lives for longer.

Diets that are good for us tend to be better for the planet too. Meeting these objectives will accelerate our city's journey to achieving net zero carbon—ultimately helping to reduce the future health impacts that we know climate change will cause.

## **Our plan:**

### **Objective 1: Ensure people of all ages know how to access and eat food that supports their health and wellbeing**

[Icon/Graphic]

The first step to eating a healthier diet 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 a healthy, balanced diet—except where a health professional has advised otherwise. Other tools, such as the School Food Plan and 5 A Day campaign, also exist. Helping more people to understand these recommendations will empower individuals to eat healthier.

In addition to boosting awareness and understanding of dietary recommendations, we can also help individuals to eat healthier by improving their capability and opportunity to do so. For example, working across sectors to teach effective skills like meal planning, budgeting, and food preparation.

#### **Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Working across sectors to improve knowledge and awareness of dietary 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: Change our city environment to help make healthier food more available and appealing**

[Icon/Graphic]

Our environment influences what we eat. In practice, there are many barriers to eating a healthy and satisfying diet. For some residents, good food is less visible in their daily lives and might be harder to physically access. It is important to ensure that everyone can make healthy food choices where they live, work, study or relax.

Organisations and businesses advertising, providing, or selling food have a role in promoting and offering affordable, healthy, and nutritious food more prominently—positively influencing the 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 most 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 safe, healthy, 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.

**Objective 3: Offer targeted support that helps people most likely to develop diet-related diseases**

[Icon/Graphic]

Healthy eating is important for everyone, but some people are more at risk of developing health conditions and require additional support. Malnutrition is a major driver of diet-related ill health conditions including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease (heart diseases) and stroke, and some cancers. Living with these health 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 4: Champion community food initiatives that support healthier eating**

[Icon/Graphic]

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. But they also bring people within communities together which has huge social benefits.

There are already many great community-led initiatives taking place across Leeds. However, many of these projects currently face challenges with funding and co-ordinating their work—limiting their potential impact.

**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 5: Develop a skilled local workforce that works collaboratively to advocate for healthier eating and changes which enable it**

[Icon/Graphic]

Many organisations in Leeds already promote information on eating well, but this can sometimes be complex due to the variety of information sources available and doesn't always take into account the wider role of a person's individual context—such as culture, income, and environment—to influence their food choices.

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 support the local workforce to deliver consistent, holistic, and evidence-based information on healthier eating.



# Leeds Food Strategy: Food security and economy

Our mission is to ensure everyone in Leeds has access to affordable, nutritious food as part of a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant food economy.

[Overarching Graphic]

## Why is it important?

Tackling poverty and inequality and improving the quality of life for everyone who calls our city home is at the heart of the Leeds Food Strategy.

Food security (by which we mean the ability of our residents to fill shopping bags, pay for them, and prepare nutritious meals) is essential to the foundations of a healthy, inclusive, and sustainable economy.

A lack of food security and poor nutrition has been shown to harm an individual's educational attainment, health, and limits their ability to contribute economically, environmentally, socially, and culturally to society.

Unfortunately, across the country increasing numbers of people are experiencing poverty. Leeds is no different. Too many of this city's residents struggle to put food on the table. Food bank use is currently at an all-time high after an unacceptable and unsustainable year-on-year increase.

## [Infographic – 1/10 gone without food]

Local charities and community groups in Leeds—often working in partnership with the council—are already making a real difference every day to help those most in need. Programmes to distribute food aid and give emergency food parcels will continue offering a lifesaving service, but people 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 people can and know how to access, afford, and prepare healthy nutritious food—without compromising their ability to meet other basic needs.

At the same time as the need to improve access to affordable food, there is also a need to tackle food insecurity by doing everything within our powers to help people become financially secure and independent. We can nurture our economy (including our vibrant food sector) to become more successful, innovative, and diverse whilst also making sure that it is fair, pays well, and works for everyone. If we are all able to choose local and regional food producers more often we could help local businesses to create more jobs and keep more money within Yorkshire.

By working collaboratively 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. With our plans, we hope that every resident will soon be able to enjoy it.

## **Our plan:**

### **Objective 1: Tackle the causes of food insecurity**

[Icon/Graphic]

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, pay hadn't been keeping up with the rising cost of living for a while 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 currently spend twice as much of their earnings (19% in total) on food, and this situation is expected to worsen.

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.

## **Objective 2: Improve access to, and inclusivity of, affordable food initiatives to help more people in need of support**

[Icon/Graphic]

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—often working in partnership with the council—are making a real difference to help those most in need. 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. Last year it's estimated that more than 64,000 food parcels were distributed via food aid providers.

We believe that food aid provision could help people further if providers in Leeds were better connected with each other and with other financial advice or support services. We could also help more people if these services were made more inclusive of different cultural and dietary requirements.

### **Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Working collaboratively with city partners to improve access to, and inclusivity of, 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 that local food aid providers should follow.

## **Objective 3: Continue to build a strong partnership approach across all sectors and with the people of Leeds**

[Icon/Graphic]

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 inclusive growth within Leeds' food economy**

[Icon/Graphic]

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 support helping 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**

[Icon/Graphic]

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.

As you'd expect, food is already celebrated in the city. For example, Leeds Indie Food brings together thriving independent enterprises and runs an annual indie food festival, while farmers markets, cookery classes and food pop-ups can be found across the city.

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.

[Overarching Graphic]

## Why is it 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 net zero is achieved.

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 net zero compatible food system by wasting less food, making healthier food choices, and producing food in better ways. Leeds is one of the biggest cities in one of the world's richest countries. Leeds 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 it even leaves the farm gates because of factors like land use change, fertiliser use, and the methane emissions from livestock. Therefore, we must consider what foods are grown and how they are grown—not just how far foods have travelled.

[Infographic – GHGs from food production]

Food production is essential, and the agricultural community 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. By creating a resilient food system and sourcing produce from a wide range of geographically diverse suppliers, we can reduce the impact of supply disruption when it occurs—especially for those in food poverty.

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 residents right now.

## **Our plan:**

### **Objective 1: Empower residents to choose healthy diets by raising awareness of choices that are good for the planet**

[Icon/Graphic]

Some types of food will always be more resource intensive to produce than others. Yet most people are unaware of what impact their food choices have on the environment. Every meal we eat is an opportunity to make a difference.

We recognise that some people in the city struggle to access the right food to keep themselves healthy and the Leeds Food Strategy aims to tackle this food insecurity. Considering how food impacts the planet might seem daunting, but many food choices that are better for the environment can be better for your budget too—such as using local and seasonal ingredients.

Diet is an individual choice. Some people may choose to eat plant-based diets. Others may choose to eat meat, fish and 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 people, this may mean eating less (but better quality) meat and more plants. Simply adopting the Eatwell guidelines is estimated to reduce the average person's carbon footprint from food by almost a third.

Organisations and food businesses can also help by making it easier for individuals to choose healthier, more sustainable foods.

#### **Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Introducing carbon labelling at council food venues
- 2) Raising awareness of the environmental impact of different food choices.

## **Objective 2: Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food**

[Icon/Graphic]

It doesn't matter what kind it is, throwing any food away feeds 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 throws away 196 kgs of food a year? 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.

Retailers, manufacturers, and farmers 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, design, and packaging.

### **Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Promoting ways to reduce food waste, working with partner organisations and businesses.
- 2) Redistributing surplus food to those in need, working with partners 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 3: Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient procurement**

[Icon/Graphic]

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 buys more than two thousand tonnes of food every year. The council has produced a set of food procurement 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 too.



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.

**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 anchor organisations to join Leeds City Council in their procurement commitments

**Objective 4: Support local farmers to transition to resilient and profitable agriculture which improves the environment**

[Icon/Graphic]

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 will be important that we support local farmers as they transition to 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 through lobbying, helping to remove barriers to the agricultural transition faced by local farmers.
- 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 using public procurement.
- 4) Work to make it easier for local farmers to sell produce locally.

## **Objective 5: Encourage and enable innovative and community-led food production**

[Icon/Graphic]

Like many cities, Leeds collectively consumes far more food than we produce. This fact might not be surprising as a major city 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 this 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.

## Leeds Food Strategy

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Report of: Chief Officer, Sustainable Energy & Air Quality

Report to: Consultative Meeting of Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

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 Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee with an introduction to the Leeds Food Strategy.

A copy of the draft Leeds Food Strategy is attached as Appendix A to this report.

The Committee will receive a presentation on the Leeds Food Strategy which will focus on the following key areas:

- Overview of process so far
- Short introduction to Health & Wellbeing and Food Security & Economy sections
- Sustainability & Resilience section
  - Objectives
  - Key actions the Council has committed to
- Consultation

There will be an opportunity for Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee to feed back thoughts on the draft strategy which will be recorded as part of the official consultation.

The Committee will also receive a short presentation from Dr Michelle Morris from the University of Leeds on the Carbon Footprint Calculator which has been developed by the Consumer Data Research Centre in partnership with Leeds City Council. The Carbon Footprint Calculator is an example of the type of work that the strategy will deliver.

### Recommendations

- a) To receive, consider and discuss the presentation “Leeds Draft Food Strategy”
- b) To note that the discussions will provide a steer on the final Leeds Food Strategy

## What is this report about?

- 1 This report provides the Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee with an introduction to and overview of the Leeds Food Strategy. The draft Leeds Food Strategy document is attached at Appendix A for Members consideration.

## What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 Discussions and input from Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee will provide steer on the Sustainability & Resilience section of the final Leeds Food Strategy.
- 3 As currently stands the objectives for the Sustainability & Resilience section are:
  - a) Empower residents to choose healthy diets by raising awareness of choices that are good for the planet.
  - b) Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food.
  - c) Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient procurement.
  - d) Support local farmers to transition to resilient and profitable agriculture which improves the environment.
  - e) Encourage and enable innovative and community-led food production.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 4 The strategy has been built with these 3 pillars at its core, its 3 sections each focused on one of these. See draft Leeds Food Strategy at Appendix A.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: N/A

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 5 The strategy work began with an event in January 2022 to let stakeholders across the city know that this work was being undertaken and that LCC welcomed input from any interested parties throughout Leeds. Another event was held in July as an opportunity for the wider stakeholder group to comment and contribute to the draft objectives which had been worked up in the interim by the 3 working groups (health and wellbeing, food security and economy, and sustainability and resilience). Each of the 3 working groups were made up of representatives of a multitude of organisations.
- 6 Throughout the strategy development the progress and draft objectives have been taken to the following groups:
  - a) CEAC Food and Biodiversity Group
  - b) Leeds Food Insecurity Taskforce
  - c) Healthy Population Board
- 7 Once the strategy has been approved an 8-week wider general public consultation is planned to take place from October 24<sup>th</sup> until Dec 18<sup>th</sup>. This will be an online questionnaire as well as engagement at public events.

## What are the resource implications?

- 8 The strategy development has been managed within current resources.

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

- 9 There is a risk that not all Members are able to attend on October 24<sup>th</sup> to give their input to discussions. By circulating this report, which include the draft Leeds Food Strategy in Appendix A, to all Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee it gives all a chance to comment.

**What are the legal implications?**

10 N/A

**Options, timescales and measuring success**

**What other options were considered?**

- 11 No other options were considered. There were always plans to consult Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee on the Leeds Food Strategy.

**How will success be measured?**

- 12 Level of engagement from Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.
- 13 Agreement from Members on objectives and actions of the Sustainability & Resilience section of the strategy, as these have been created in collaboration with a number of stakeholders across the city.

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

- 14 Timetable for work on the Leeds Food Strategy is as follows:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| October 2022            | Draft Leeds Food Strategy to Executive Board and hosted on LCC website                    |
| October – December 2022 | Wider public consultation taking place  |
| January - February 2023 | Alterations to strategy being made  |
| March 2023              | Final Leeds Food Strategy to Executive Board  |
| April 2023 – March 2024 | First year of Leeds Food Action Plan delivery, monitored by FoodWise Leeds                |
| 2024 – 2030             | Development of annual Leeds Food Action Plan and delivery of workstreams under objectives |

- 15 Comments and discussion from Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee will be taken into consideration when the Final Leeds Food Strategy is being produced.
- 16 Chief Officer of Sustainable Energy & Air Quality is responsible for the Sustainability & Resilience section of the strategy.

**Appendices - Appendix A – Draft Leeds Food Strategy**

**Background papers - None**

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## Leeds Local Plan Update – Public Consultation on Draft Policies

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Report of: Director of City Development

Report to: Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

The statutory Development Plan for Leeds is being updated to help address the climate emergency, improve health and well-being and promote inclusive growth in the District. This includes amending existing and introducing new policies on carbon reduction, flood risk, green and blue infrastructure, place-making and sustainable infrastructure. Consultation on draft policies will begin the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> October up to mid-December. This period provides an opportunity to hear the specific views of a wide variety of stakeholders with key roles to play in planning for the climate emergency.

### Recommendations

- a) That Members of CEAC note the suite of draft policies as set out in the Report to Executive Board of 21<sup>st</sup> September and comment on the policies as part of the consultation period.

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

- 1 The Local Plan for Leeds, including the Core Strategy, is being selectively updated to help address the climate emergency, improve health and well-being and promote inclusive growth in the District. This includes amending existing and introducing new policies on carbon reduction, flood risk, green and blue infrastructure, place-making and sustainable infrastructure.
- 2 The Local Plan Update is now at Draft Policies stage and will be subject to a final consultation period before being submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
- 3 This period provides an opportunity to hear the specific views of a wide variety of stakeholders with key roles to play in planning for the climate emergency. For example: from people young and older about the types of homes and places they want to live, play and move about in, the ways that places can help deliver health benefits and more accessibility to green space; from groups keen to help protect biodiversity, manage water and trees; from developers who will be required to build to improved standards and layout places that are attractive and resilient and investors who can capitalise on innovative and attractive places to live and work.
- 4 Members of CEAC are invited to comment on the proposed policies.

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

- 5 The Local Plan Update will, through the introduction of new and amended policies to the Development Plan for Leeds, have significant impact on the role that growth and new development has for the District's climate targets to mitigate carbon emissions, adaptation to climate change, health and well-being and inclusive growth as follows:
- 6 Overall Approach
  - a) The evidence on climate change mitigation and adaptation warrants a strategic policy in the Core Strategy which works explicitly alongside the other strategic policies to deliver more sustainable development and ensure carbon neutral developments so as to assist in the carbon trajectory of the Council. This policy seeks to provide a strategic underpinning for the LPU1 policies.
    - **NEW STRATEGIC POLICY SP0: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION:** The Policy is a statement of ambition that will drive the aspiration to achieve a reduction of carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, whilst tackling the biodiversity emergency and promoting health and well-being. It will aim to reduce climate change and increase adaptability.
- 7 Carbon Reduction
  - a) The current Development Plan has many effective policies on carbon reduction and renewable energy generation and they have resulted in real improvements in the way development is built and delivered in Leeds. However, they currently don't go far enough to ensure the zero carbon ambitions are delivered by 2030, consequently the Council needs to go further. The Publication draft policies set ambitious but achievable standards, for new development to reduce carbon emissions as far as possible. They do this by:
    - Requiring that most new applications (with stated exceptions) achieve a net zero standard in their operational use, by maximising energy efficiency, reducing energy demand and making use of renewable energy.
    - Requiring that all major applications calculate the whole life cycle carbon emissions of their proposals, to understand the impacts of all stages of development, rather than just its occupation and operation.



- Requiring that all major development meet a sustainable construction standard, therefore allowing for high standards of construction.
  - Identifying opportunity areas for renewable energy generation and establishing criteria for the successful determination of planning applications for such uses, as well as energy storage facilities.
  - Encouraging developments to make use of a range of sustainable energy and heating technologies, where connections to the District Heating Network are not possible.
- b) This will be achieved through the following summarised policies:
- REPLACEMENT POLICY EN1: CARBON REDUCTION: A new strategic policy that requires a) new development to be net zero for operational carbon and b) that whole life cycle calculations of carbon will be carried out by developers.
  - REPLACEMENT POLICY EN2: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION: A new strategic policy that requires new development to meet a high-quality sustainable construction standard of Home Quality Mark 4 or BREEAM Outstanding.
  - REPLACEMENT POLICY EN3: RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION: A new strategic policy that seeks to identify and support opportunities for renewable sources of energy generation and energy storage within the district in the context of national planning policy. The policy identifies opportunity areas for renewable energy on a map and requires that all applications within this area are assessed so that they limit impacts on ecology and landscape.
  - AMENDED POLICY EN4: DISTRICT HEATING: The Amendments to this existing policy prioritise low carbon heat solutions for new developments that lie outside of district heating network zones.

## 8 Flood risk:

- a) As part of the Council's aspiration to make Leeds zero carbon by 2030, the Council is committed to ensure that all communities are resilient to the impact of climate change. Flood Risk is one of the most direct impacts of climate change that Leeds faces. It is therefore necessary that up to date evidence, best practice and guidance are used to avoid, reduce and mitigate that risk. New policy seeks to achieve this by:
- Reflecting the latest Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) modelling and avoiding development in areas at highest risk of flooding, whilst recognising that these are often brownfield sites with existing buildings which are already developed. The policy goes further than the current policy in resisting new development in vulnerable areas based on our updated flood risk evidence.
  - Ensuring that all developments consider flood risk via carrying out a flood risk assessment and to reflect climate change allowances, which are mapped and available for developers to use.
  - Ensuring that in circumstances where flood risk to development is unavoidable, the safety of the development and its users is secured.
  - Ensuring that where areas of the City are protected by flood defences, developers have regard to residual risks associated with a potential breach and overtopping of the flood alleviation scheme or other defence, whichever is the worst case scenario.
  - Requiring that all developments manage water sustainably, through the establishment of a surface water drainage discharge hierarchy.
- b) This will be achieved through the following summarised policies:
- REPLACEMENT NATURAL RESOURCES AND WASTE POLICY WATER 3: FUNCTIONAL FLOODPLAIN: A new strategic Core Strategy policy providing an approach to protecting the functional floodplain from unsustainable development.

- AMENDED POLICY WATER 4: LAND AT INCREASED RISK OF FLOODING: A revised policy amended to incorporate a requirement to consider the impact of climate change on future levels of flood risk.
- AMENDED NATURAL RESOURCES AND WASTE POLICY WATER 6: FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENTS: Amendments require that the latest Government climate change allowances are considered in Flood Risk Assessments that accompany new development
- NEW POLICY WATER 6A: SAFE ACCESS AND EGRESS: A new strategic Core Strategy policy ensuring that safe routes are available for occupiers of development in time of flood
- REPLACEMENT NATURAL RESOURCES AND WASTE POLICY 5: RESIDUAL RISK: A new strategic Core Strategy policy requiring an assessment of residual risk (e.g. of defences failing) for development in defended land
- REPLACEMENT NATURAL RESOURCES AND WASTE POLICY WATER 7: SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE: A new strategic Core Strategy policy associated with the design of new developments and managing surface water discharge via a hierarchy of storage, infiltration and attenuation before any discharge into water courses. It also requires Sustainable Drainage that benefits biodiversity.
- NEW WATER POLICY 8: POROUS PAVING AND LOSS OF FRONT GARDENS

## 9 Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI)

- a) The following suite of policies seeks to further protect, enhance and increase provision of green and blue infrastructure by:
- Requiring planning applications to consider GBI at the earliest stage with the aim of protecting, maintaining, enhancing and extending GBI where appropriate.
  - Requiring applications to include GBI assessments.
  - Enhancing protections for existing trees and hedgerows.
  - Requiring ambitious targets for tree replacement and additional planting to ensure that Leeds overall tree canopy is increased.
  - Requiring a further consideration of new Green Space provision to ensure it is being directed to the right locations and in the right form.
  - Establishing clear criteria for how the quality of Green space should be considered as part of new planning applications.
  - Establishing clear policy on how applications should adequately consider the future maintenance of new GBI provision.
  - Establishing clearer definitions of green space and how it will be protected through development.
  - Requiring local food production and wider encouragement for sustainable food production.
  - Establishing further protections for the Leeds Habitat Network and a locally specific clarification of how Biodiversity Net Gain should be addressed in Leeds.
- b) This will be achieved through the following summarised policies:
- REPLACEMENT SPATIAL POLICY 13: PROTECTING, MAINTAINING, ENHANCING AND EXTENDING GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE: A new strategic policy that sets an ambition for the protection, maintenance, enhancement, and expansion of green and blue infrastructure (including green space networks).
  - REPLACEMENT POLICY G1: PROTECTING, ENHANCING AND EXTENDING GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE: A new strategic policy that requires all new development to carry out a green and blue Infrastructure assessment
  - AMENDED POLICY G4: GREEN SPACE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW GREEN SPACE PROVISION: Amended part of policy clarifies the approach to the provision of

greenspace, explaining the consideration regarding delivery on-site, off-site or as commuted sums.

- NEW POLICY G4A: A strategic policy associated with the design and quality of new green space.
- NEW POLICY G4B: MAINTENANCE OF GREEN SPACE: A strategic policy establishing clear criteria for the maintenance of green space.
- REPLACEMENT POLICY G6: PROTECTION OF EXISTING GREEN SPACE: A new strategic policy associated with the definition and protection of green space.
- NEW POLICY F1: FOOD RESILIENCE: A strategic policy that supports food resilience and food growing opportunities as part of new developments.
- NEW POLICY G8A: PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT SPECIES AND HABITATS: This new policy specifically looks at protecting the natural environment and includes references to the implications of climate change upon the natural environment.
- NEW POLICY G8B: LEEDS HABITAT NETWORK: This policy clarifies the role of the Leeds Habitat Network and establishes the requirements of new development with regard to the protection, enhancement and expansion of the network.
- NEW POLICY G9: BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN: This policy specifically looks at protecting the natural environment and applying measures within the Environment Act 2021, by clarifying how the application of the 10% biodiversity net gain requirement will apply in Leeds.
- NEW POLICY G2A: PROTECTION OF TREES, WOODLAND AND HEDGEROWS: A strategic policy which seeks to retain all woodlands, trees and hedgerows or ensure that their loss has been considered through development appraisal. Recognises the role of trees in capturing carbon as well as amenity and habitat.
- NEW POLICY G2B ANCIENT WOODLAND, LONG ESTABLISHED WOODLAND, ANCIENT TREES, VETERAN TREES: A strategic policy which seeks to protect ancient woodland, long established woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees and avoid loss of irreplaceable habitats. Recognises the role of trees in capturing carbon as well as amenity and habitat.
- NEW POLICY G2C: TREE REPLACEMENT: A strategic policy which recognises the role of trees in capturing carbon and establishes a methodology for calculating and requiring tree replacement (where necessary), based on carbon sequestration.

## 10 Placemaking

- a) The existing Core Strategy has strong policies to encourage development in sustainable locations and to support high standards of design. However, these policies pre-date the climate emergency declaration and the wellbeing impacts of Covid-19, as well as the Connecting Leeds Strategy, with its ambitions for reduced private car dependence. Moreover, national guidance has changed since the Core Strategy was adopted to afford more weight to design largely as a result of what is considered to be poor quality design in many housing schemes. The Council considers that now is the right time to refresh our plan to ensure it is suitably ambitious.
- b) The following suite of policies seek to address these issues by:
  - Establishing a broad consideration of good design to ensure that the highest design standards are being achieved in Leeds.
  - Establishing clear principle for high quality placemaking.
  - Embedding the 20-minute neighbourhood concept into planning policy by defining its meaning in Leeds and requiring that new development be directed to sustainable locations.
  - Ensuring that the wider determinates of health (housing, employment, education, green space, air quality, transport, climate change and social and community networks) are

taken into account in development so as to increase life expectancy and narrow health inequalities.

- c) This will be achieved through the following summarised policies:
- **NEW POLICY SP1B: ACHIEVING WELL-DESIGNED PLACES:** A strategic policy associated with the design and layout of new developments and quality of place achieved through appraisal of environmental, economic, and social matters.
  - **REPLACEMENT POLICY P10: DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES FOR HIGH-QUALITY DESIGN & HEALTHY PLACE MAKING:** This policy established clear and precise requirements for the design of new developments from a development principles and high quality design perspective, for the purposes of climate change mitigation, adaptation and health and wellbeing, as well as environmental harmony.
  - **NEW POLICY SP1A: ACHIEVING 20 MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS IN LEEDS:** This strategic policy relates to supporting the long-term sustainability of communities through encouraging growth in locations that are highly accessible to services including public transport and greenspace i.e. 20 min neighbourhoods. It recognises the role of the provision of key services in serving a key function as well as reducing car use and promoting active travel. The policy complements the current spatial strategy as set out in the Core Strategy 2019.
  - **AMENDED SPATIAL POLICY 1: LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT:** Amendments that clarify the existing spatial strategy for Leeds by potentially reducing the level of development in smaller settlements outside of the main urban area and major settlements, that do not deliver the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods.
  - **NEW POLICY EN9 – DRIVE THRU DEVELOPMENT:** A strategic policy which seeks to reduce 'Drive-thru' restaurants development, outside of town centres to reduce air pollution and encourage active travel.
  - **NEW POLICY P10A: THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT:** A strategic policy which seeks to reduce the causes of ill health and health inequalities by ensuring healthier environments, lifestyles and impacts that development can deliver including access to services. The policy is concerned with the design and assessment of new developments and requires development proposals for large-scale development to be accompanied by a Health Impact Assessment.

## 11 Sustainable infrastructure

- a) As part of our aspiration to make Leeds zero carbon by 2030, we want to ensure that our communities are resilient to the impact of climate change. This includes policies that aid the delivery of low emissions transport and improved digital connectivity, to help reduce journeys by car. This involves policies to:
- Help plan for significant investment in transport infrastructure in Leeds (including supporting the Combined Authority's vision for Mass Transit and subsequent business case to Government), which is proposed over the coming years, by facilitating and supporting these works, and in ensuring that they come forward in a manner with maximises their potential benefits and minimises or mitigates any potential adverse impacts.
  - Enhance digital capability and allow Leeds to realise its potential in moving forward and develop as a modern and future proofed District, that offers its citizens the best digital connections for work, education, access to services and running of a household.
- b) This will be achieved through the following summarised policies:
- **NEW POLICY SP11A: MASS TRANSIT AND RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE:** A strategic policy setting ambition and support for a Yorkshire mass transit system which will deliver improved connectivity by public transport. The policy is supportive of mass transit in

principle and sets conditions to ensure that environmental impacts are minimised, but does not identify a preferred route.

- NEW POLICY SP11B: LEEDS STATION: A strategic policy which supports growth of the station and sets criteria for it to be developed in a manner which is well designed and fits within its surroundings and historic environment.
- NEW POLICY DC1: DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY: strategic policy which ensures that new development is digitally enabled.

12 At the meeting Members will receive a presentation on the policies for the The full suite of policy wording is available as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> September Executive Board papers which are included as Background Papers to this report below.

13 It is noted that as part of the development of the above suite of policies a detailed evidence base and assessments (such as Sustainability Appraisal) has been carried out. As part of that, high level assurance has been provided independently that the proposed changes to policies within the Core Strategy are set out in a way that will not undermine the viability of the development needed to deliver the growth targets of the plan.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

14 There is a clear role for planning in delivering against all of the Council's priorities as established through the Best Council Plan. The LPU contributes positively to the Council's key strategies, as follows:

- Climate Emergency – by managing the transition to zero carbon via policies including: increasing the energy efficiency of buildings, the design of places, the location of development, accessibility to public transport, renewable energy supply and storage
- Health and Well-being Strategy – through policies including the design of places, quality of housing and accessibility to green infrastructure and services
- Inclusive Growth Strategy – through policies including the links between homes and jobs, the location of development, green infrastructure and connectivity

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

15 This is the second main period of consultation for the LPU. The initial proposed scope of the LPU has been shaped with reference to the Council's Climate Conversation and engagement with cross Council services to ensure alignment with strategies such as the Leeds Transport Strategy. It was subject to consultation in September 2021, which fed into the detailed policies.

16 Development Plan Panel and CEAC have closely steered the production of the LPU and it has been discussed at a number of CEAC working group meetings.

17 The consultation on the scope of the Local Plan Update will be subject to an 8-week consultation in line with the recently revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). A consultation strategy for the LPU consultation has been prepared and agreed by the Chief Planning Officer in consultation with the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate. This places an emphasis on inclusion, to ensure that measures are taken to gain the views of all people, including young people, the elderly, minority groups and local community groups. In

addition, a communications strategy has been created through the Council's Communications and Creative Services teams maximising the reach of social media and carrying out local in-person events within the scope of the Strategic Planning Service's resources.

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

18 The preparation of the Local Plan Update and accompanying evidence base is a resource intensive endeavour which incurs additional cost, in terms of evidence base preparation and consultation, at a time of increased budget pressure. In general, costs are met from within existing budgets.

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

- 19 It is recognised that there are risks to pursuing a Local Plan Update focussed on the climate agenda. Changes to the planning system are currently being explored by Government and could signal a change to national guidance which may limit the flexibility that local authorities have on this agenda. In addition, proposed changes to the building regulations may result in local authorities having no scope to prescribe carbon emission rates from new development.
- 20 As outlined in para 12 above, the policies have been subject to a Strategic Viability Assessment required of Development Plan Documents. The outputs indicate that those policies which have an impact on strategic viability are viable at a strategic level. The evidence does, however, suggest a small number of scenarios where viability may be challenging and these will need to be considered as part of the continuing process.

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

- 21 The preparation of the LPU1 as a development plan document is in compliance with the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- 22 As a Development Plan Document, the making of a Development Plan Document (Local Plan Update) falls within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and will be referred to Scrutiny Board for Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth with an invitation for them to make representations.

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

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

23 As required by law, all policies have been subject to a rigorous options process as part of the Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 2). As part of this, the Council must consider and assess reasonable alternatives to all policies. For many policy areas, reasonable alternatives include relying upon existing national guidance or retaining our existing Local Plan policy, however, in the main, the assessment process demonstrates that to do so would not maximise the Council's opportunities to adopt policies that help address the climate emergency which is the objective of the Plan. It is considered that the proposed policies are fully in line with the Government's Net Zero Strategy.

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

24 Success will be measured by the adoption of a sound Local Plan Update 1 which includes ambitious but realistic policies to help address the climate emergency. The Publication draft

consultation is the final regulatory stage of consultation prior to submitting the Plan to the Secretary of State for examination.

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

25 The expectation is that consultation will begin in mid-October 2022. The Chief Planner will be responsible for implementation.

26 Following consideration of representations arising from the Publication draft consultations it remains the intention to submit the Plan to the Secretary of State in Spring 2023. Subject to further consideration by DPP, Executive Board and approval by Council. This would then enable, subject to the availability of the Inspectorate, an Examination before the end of the 2023 and adoption in early 2024.

### **Appendices**

- None

### **Background papers**

- Executive Board Report 21st September 2022  
<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ielIssueDetails.aspx?IId=122694&PlanId=0&Opt=3#A189808>

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